

# March Pioneer Press

F R E S T A V A L L E Y C H R I S T I A N S C H O O L

## FRESTA VALLEY STUDENTS WIN IN REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CONTESTS

By Katherine Fisher

Recently, two Fresta Valley students were recognized for their talents in speech and writing. Senior, Daniel King, and junior, Pierce Hanson, have both won prestigious contests. Daniel King has participated in the Rotary's oratorical contests. In the first level, he competed against two other contestants, one from Highland and the other from Fauquier High School, where he placed first, winning a thousand dollars. He then moved on to the regional level where he also placed first against a student from Orange County and won a hundred and fifty dollars. In the final stage of the contest where he can win another thousand dollars, Daniel will be competing in the District finals

which will be held March 14, 2009, in Fredericksburg.

Pierce Hanson has been recognized in an essay contest titled "Being An American." Pierce's essay earned him an all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. on March 29-31. Mrs. Hailey, his history teacher, will accompany him on this trip where they will meet with students and teachers from every state in the nation. On Monday, the students will go on a tour of the White House, Supreme Court, and the National Archives. Then they will preview an IMAX movie called *We The People*. On Tuesday Mrs. Hailey, Pierce and one of his parents will be going to the Capitol for lunch, taking a tour of the capitol and

attending the awards ceremony in the evening. At the ceremony the keynote speaker will be Clarence Thomas of the Supreme Court Justice and the Master of Ceremonies will be Juan William of PBS and Fox Five news. It is at this ceremony where Pierce will learn whether he won one of the top prizes of five thousand, twenty-five hundred dollars, or twelve hundred dollars. Since Mrs. Hailey is Pierce Hanson's teacher, she is also eligible to win the prize money that Pierce wins. Congratulations to both of them. Be sure to keep these young men in your prayers as they prepare for the last phases of these memorable opportunities. We are sure they will represent Fresta Valley well.

## ROBOTICS ROCKETEER By David Arthur

The Fresta Valley Robotics team (1731) is in its fourth season and having fun! The robotics club, which offers a hands-on learning experience for 9th-12th graders, is part of the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition in Science and Technology) international program that offers a way to get young people interested in the fields of science. This year's robotics team has worked hard for the required six weeks it takes to build their robot, and as a result, has made "Rocketeer," named appropriately for its many fans that were incorporated in

the design. At the regional tournament, held at the Washington, D.C. convention center on Feb. 26-28, the team won the Xerox Creativity Award for this design.

Congratulations are due the three Fresta Valley students (Danny King, David Ross, and Sarah Buckley) and five homeschoolers (Levi Leppke, David Hogan, Melissa Hogan, Ben Heine, and Bailey Bierhuizen) who make up the team. They are now preparing for the national competition in Atlanta over spring break. Good luck robotics team!

**VARSITY BASEBALL**

By Troy McArtor

It's that time of year again. Spring is right around the corner and that means it's time for baseball. Head coach, Clark Fries, has Fresta's Varsity Baseball team practicing in preparation for their upcoming season. They already performed well in their scrimmage against Quantico on March 9, at home. The weather delayed the home opener scheduled for March 16th, but the team is looking forward to their first game on Thursday, March 19th vs. Evangel at home. We look forward to seeing you there cheering on our team with the first pitch at 4:30. They hope that this will be the start of a great season which will end with winning the VACA state tournament at the end of the season.

**JV BASKETBALL**

By Troy McArtor

On February 20, the JV Boys had their VACA regional tournament. They made the long journey down to Ridgeview to play Roanoke Valley in the semi-finals. The anticipation was building the whole bus ride as they prepared to play their most important game of the year. Their entire season could be over after this one game. With high hopes of bringing home the championship trophy everyone was excited. The boys played a hard fought game and it was close the whole way. Unfortunately the team came up just short losing by a final score of 52-48.

**NEW COACH FOR VARSITY SOCCER**

By Evy Papadopoulos

This spring the FVCS varsity girls' soccer team welcomes its new coach: Coach Robert Patterson. Mr. Patterson has a long history of coaching while living in New York: he coached girls' varsity soccer and fast pitch softball at Northstar Christian Academy. He is also a deeply spiritual man, putting to use the principles that he acquired as a deacon at

First Bible Baptist Church on the soccer field for twenty years. He does enjoy winning above losing but, as he puts it, "If [the girls] look back and just remember that I was a good coach then I have failed. I want this to be a ministry." We are all looking forward to welcoming him to the Fresta Valley family.

**VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL**

By Evy Papadopoulos

The arrival of the spring sports' season marks the farewell of the winter sports' season. The girls had a tremendous season, with a final winning record of 16-8. The team collectively scored an incredible 1,349 points! All the ladies are sorry to see the season end, especially captains

Nicole Fortunato and Alexis Clark. The team had a good season. Most importantly the team grew in skill and unity. Any final thoughts about the season? Rebekah Alexander summed up the team philosophy concisely: "Every single minute, everything you have, don't leave anything for the end." Alexis

Clark ended her 4 year varsity career with a record 955 points scored. That is the most points scored by any male or female player in Fresta Valley History. Congratulations to the entire Varsity girls team!

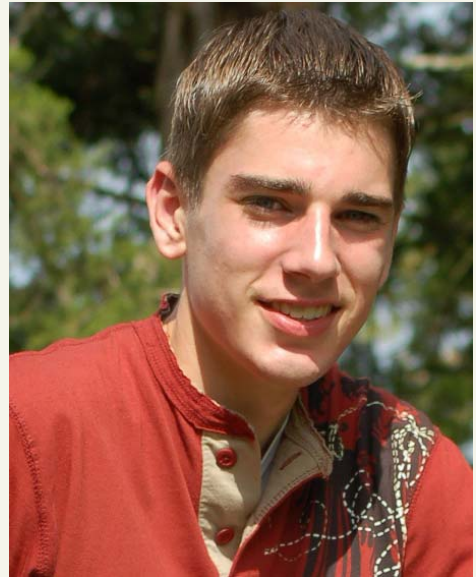
**HELP WANTED**

Do you enjoy creating? Can you cut? Can you glue? Can you simple stitch? Do you paint? If your answer is "yes" or "maybe..." to any of these questions, you are perfect for the role of "Cinderella" costumer or set designer! This spring, May 21-23, the beloved fairy tale comes to life onstage at Fresta Valley Christian School. YOU can be a part of this. NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY, though any is welcomed. Contact Diane King at (540) 364-1929 or Kristie Beals at (540) 349-1276 for more information. And remember, **any** few minutes you can give are a blessing to this production.

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT – JOHNY MATICS

By Tyler Phillips

Johnny Matics is eighteen years old in his first year at Fresta Valley Christian School. Although he has been homeschooled his entire life, he has adjusted well to school life. He met a lot of the students over the summer in the soccer camp and made his mark by playing stopper for the varsity soccer team. He is participating on the Bible Quiz team and has found success in that area. "I like Bible quiz because instead of a conventional Bible class, you learn in a competitive environment," he said. He has made a lot of friends throughout the year and enjoyed hanging out with the senior class and playing laser tag on senior day. Although he is unsure of what he wants to do after high school, he knows that he has enjoyed Fresta so far this year and can't wait to graduate.



The Pioneer Press needs your help. What would you like to see in future issues of the press. Please put all ideas in Mrs. Mercer's box and note Press on your ideas!!

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT – TROY MCARTOR

By Sam Alger



Troy McArtor is this month's senior to be featured in the senior spotlight. Troy is one of the few students who have attended Fresta since kindergarten. He has played basketball, his favorite sport, every year since the sixth grade. As of right now, Troy is not sure what college he will attend, but he has a few choices in mind. He would like to attend Virginia Tech, George Mason, or Longwood with plans to major in finance.

### FEBRUARY'S OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

K 3

Joey Rogers,  
Chloe Clark

K 4

Isaac Shollenberger,  
Brooke Worsham

1st

Jada Dudley

2nd

Natalia Barrera

3rd

Abby Schefer

4th

Amanda Maskell

5th

Katie Shollenberger,  
Sami Hailey

6th

Ben Freer, Rachel  
Keithley

## MRS. BUDD PUBLISHED

By Daniel Thoburn

Now that this reporter's 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher has finally been published, she seems to be quite a star around Fresta Valley. Shrugging off the compliments and acting like it's no big deal won't last for long though. This reporter decides to investigate.

### How does it feel to finally be a published author?

It is the beginning of fulfilling a lifelong dream. It's really thrilling and exciting.

### What was the process to get your work out there?

The process of getting published?! Well, it involves looking through the Writers Market (book) to find possible publishers, writing letters to those publishers, sending the letters and manuscripts out, and waiting a very long time. It involves many trips to the mailbox. It involves receiving many rejection letters (I could paper a whole wall with mine). I just kept revising my stories, sending them back out, and hoping (and praying) for that break. For awhile, I thought I was just a "wannabe"- then, the break came. And now, I'm continuing that same process - writing, revising, mailing, waiting, and praying - and plan to keep it up. Right now I probably have 10 stories out there that I'm waiting to hear back from publishers about.

### Are there any Incentives?

Not sure what you mean.....but if you mean money, I'm not quitting my day job.

### What's behind the story "What's in the Barn"?

Originally "What's in the Barn?" was a contest entry (I didn't win) I revised, revised again, shortened it, changed more stuff, and shared it with Karen Collart and others, revised again.... And sent it to Stories for Children Magazines; they rejected it. I revised it again and sent it back, they accepted it - with a couple more revisions. I learned that success is in the rewriting, not the writing.

### Last but not least, is there anyone you would like to thank or dedicate your success to?

I'd like to thank all the little people who believed in me...just kidding!

Linda Worsham and Karen Collart helped me a lot with believability and word choices.

Sid and Kelly- for putting up with papers everywhere! Some of my students for believing I could do this- you know who you are!

### Enjoy a WordFind for Spring!

Find the following hidden words:

Easter  
Celebration  
Jesus  
Spring  
Life  
Sunshine  
Flowers  
Resurrection



C B F G N I R P S Q Z V  
R E S U R R E C T I O N  
S L L K R R A F M Q S A  
U C F E W E L F C U U V  
S Z K L B O T P Q N N U  
E L L M W R G S L W S E  
J K P E R A A E A H H S  
C Y R E Q F B T R E I O  
K S F Y W Q F O I I N R  
F I P G Z B V S O O E U  
L M F V V B R F U E N M  
O W W W B H Y T H E U I

**WHAT'S IN THE BARN?**

By E. A. Budd

"Let's play in the barn," said Mia. Mia and Sophie skipped into the barn behind Mia's house.

It was warm inside the barn. They passed Mia's volleyball back and forth, trying to keep it in the air. Suddenly, Sophie stopped. She looked over her shoulder. "I hear a noise. Do you?" she whispered.

Mia nodded. She looked over her shoulder, too. The barn looked empty.

"Maybe it's the chickens," Mia said.

The girls ran to the barn door. They looked outside. The chickens were still out in the yard, pecking corn.

"Maybe it's the llama," said Sophie.

They turned around and raced to the other end of the barn. They looked out that door, too. There was the llama, chewing his cud.

"I bet it's my new calf," said Mia. "Let's go see."

They peeked in one stall. Mia's calf was asleep in the corner.

"Shh. I hear it again," Sophie whispered. "It's in there." She pointed to the next stall.

They tiptoed to the stall. Sophie slowly opened the door. Mia was right behind her.

Something jumped out. "Meow!" it cried

Something else jumped out and pounced on Mia's shoelace. "Meow!" cried this one, too.

"Kittens!" they shouted, laughing. Each girl picked up a black and white kitten.

"I was really scared," said Sophie. She hugged her kitten. "Were you?"

"Yeah," answered Mia, hugging the other one. "I guess we were both scaredy-cats!"





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# March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	Booster Club Meeting <b>5</b>	Grandparents Day <b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	Forensics Banquet <b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	Winter Sports Ceremony <b>12</b>	Elementary Fine Arts Fair <b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	Parent Teacher Conferences No School <b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	Spring Pictures <b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	3rd Grading Period Ends <b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				