

April 2017
News & Events

WESTFIELD
FRIENDS SCHOOL
est. 1788
A foundation for life



Dr. Hall reading to our first grade class

Greetings from Jon Hall, Head of School

Dear Westfield Friends community,

We are anticipating a wonderful evening at our upcoming fundraising event, **Art Under the Stars Spring Fete Art Sale and Auction on Saturday, May 6, 2017** at Riverton Country Club. I'd like to express my gratitude to our event co-chairs, parents Lily Taylor and Sharla Floyd

and to the members of every committee who worked tirelessly on this important fundraising event for Westfield Friends. Tickets are still available. Please visit the event website at: <http://westfieldfriends.org/fete/>. We also thank each and every sponsor who are helping to make this event a great success. I'm looking forward to meeting many Westfield Friends alumni and families to celebrate this special school.

April and May are certainly busy months at Westfield Friends School. The middle school students and teachers are embarking on their class trips to the Poconos, Colonial Williamsburg and the metro areas of Washington, DC and Baltimore during the week of April 24th. There are also several opportunities to see our students on stage in the coming months. In addition to our **Variety Show on April 20th**, (thanks to parent Kelly Cardillo for organizing our talented students) the **Kindergarten and First Grade will be performing their play on May 17th at 7 p.m.** And, the much-anticipated **Pre-K Art Show is set for Friday, May 12th.**

Our Parent Council is hosting the annual **Pancake Breakfast on Friday, May 19th** beginning bright and early at 7 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. We are also holding our first **Grandparents and Special Friends Day on May 19th.** Starting with breakfast (pancakes, of course!) at 9 a.m., followed by visits to classrooms and a special musical presentation under the direction of Ms. Fay.

Please join us for one or more of these Westfield events! And, please invite a neighbor, relative, co-worker or friend to join you to see first-hand what a wonderful school we have here at Westfield Friends. Our current parents, alumni and their families are the best marketing tools that any school can ask for!

Best wishes,

Jon Hall

Jon Hall, EdD
Head of School



Art Under the Stars

***May 6, 2017
6:30 - 10:30 p.m.***

Please join us for this special evening!

This fundraising event will bring together our current parents, our friends, family, and alumni for an evening of dinner, dancing, an art sale, and live and silent auctions. Especially exciting is the art sale, which will feature works not only by professional artists, but also unique pieces by our very own students!

Event website:

<http://westfieldfriends.org/fete/>

Event Chairs:

Lily Taylor at lilytaylor@mac.com or
Sharla Floyd at floydsharla@gmail.com

NEW Pre-K Options

Westfield Friends School will offer a few NEW OPTIONS for our Pre-K class starting in the 2017-2018 school year.

Many families have requested either a shorter three-day option or five half-days to accommodate work and family schedules. Please visit our website for details on our new options at:

<http://westfieldfriends.org/>

Mrs. Heather Marrazzo's dynamic



Pre-K Art Show - May 2016

pre-kindergarten program will continue to provide opportunities for socialization, kindergarten readiness and lots of indoor and outdoor playtime. The special classes such as Spanish, art, music and technology will still be incorporated into the various schedules.

Plan a visit to our Pre-K class by contacting Jillian Stanton in our admissions office at: admissions@westfieldfriends.org or call 856-829-0895.

Celebrate Westfield Friends' Teachers



Ms. Pat Lyons & Mrs. Chris Fennell

Make a gift to our Annual Fund during National Teacher Appreciation Week May 1st - 5th

Please consider a gift to our Annual Fund during the first week of May to honor or remember a favorite Westfield teacher.

Our faculty is the heart of Westfield Friends School and always the first people who alumni return to visit.

Thanks to the many parents, grandparents, alumni and alumni parents from many decades who have already donated and made a difference at Westfield. Our fiscal year ends on June 30, 2017, so there's still time to make a gift. Either send a check made out to Westfield Friends School or donate online at westfieldfriends.org/donations.

Thank you! We appreciate all donations, no matter the amount! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Debra Hojsak at 856-829-0895 ext. 17 or via email at dhojsak@westfieldfriends.org.

Creating Ecosystems ***5th Grade STEM Activity***

As a culminating project to 5th grade's ecology unit, Mrs. Molly Cope's students designed their own bottle biomes! The biomes had to support both animal and plant life, and students had to consider all the resources that were needed to keep everything alive! Students used soda bottles, soil, water, stones, string and also added a small fish to the biome. They learned that everything on Earth is connected and how to establish an ecological balance in a bottle for all organisms to thrive and survive.



Rosie and Olivia



Ian, Noah and Julia

The Quaker Queries

***by Patricia Lyons
Westfield Friends School
Third Grade Teacher***

**Quaker Query 3:
Spiritual Nurture, Ministry, and
Religious Education**



Westfield Friends Meetinghouse

- Does our Meeting encourage the ministry of both word and deed?
- How does our Meeting recognize, develop, and nurture the gifts of our members and attenders of all ages?
- Does our Meeting prepare all its members and children for worship and for a way of life consistent with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends?

A time for reflection is afforded to and valued by every student at Westfield. In Pre-Kindergarten, daily worship consists of the children sitting together in a circle and sharing their thoughts and feelings, while they are guided by their nurturing teachers. Kindergarten students have seventh grade partners hold their hands as they enter the Meeting House every Wednesday morning for worship. These upper school role models teach our young students how to settle in and make the most of Meeting for Worship. During this Meeting, fourth grade students escort and take care of first grade buddies, while eighth grade students sit on the facing bench and serve as a reminder of their many years of spiritual growth and development within our community.

All children during Meeting time are encouraged to look within to gain clearness, consider their faith and reflect on their personal journey of spirituality. They feel safe to rise and express their thoughts aloud if they have a calling to do so, and they know that they are supported and loved by our community. These quiet moments are beneficial to each and every student, teacher, and parent who attends Meeting, as we think through challenges we may face or reason through issues. Our worship service begins with a song and ends with a song and a handshake. We may sing out our celebrations of faith, humility, service, social justice, or friendship. The handshake and songs bind us as a community and have the power to stay with our students for a lifetime, as they carry their joyful Light and messages of kindness out into the world.

The inner calm that comes from this time transcends the walls of the Meeting House and easily connects with the rest of our day. The Light of God that is within each child in our care is also nourished in the classroom, as they are guided to incorporate the Quaker testimonies into their everyday interactions. They learn to practice peace in times of struggle, harness integrity in work and play, recognize that we are all equal in God's eyes, and become an energetic presence in generous service to our community. From the simple and quiet Meeting House to the lively hallways of our school, the seeds of spirituality are gently sown and cultivated with care at Westfield Friends School.

Save the Dates!

April 2017:

April 21 - Third Grade Trip to Arden Theater

April 24-28 - Middle School Trips - (6th PEEC/4/24 to 4/26 - 7th

Williamsburg 4/24 to 4/27 and 8th Washington DC and Baltimore 4/24 to 4/28)

May 2017:

May 1 - 5 - Standardized Testing Week

May 5 - Quaker Friday Spring Clean Up - 1:30 p.m.

May 6 - Art Under the Stars ~ Spring Fete at Riverton Country Club - 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.

May 9 - Fourth Grade Trip to Ellis Island & Statue of Liberty

May 11 - Barnes & Noble Book Fair & Bertucci's Dining for Dollars

May 12 - Pre-K Art Show!

May 19 - Pancake Breakfast (7 - 8:30 a.m.) & Grandparents/Special Friends Day (9 - 11 a.m.)

May 20 - Parent Council Roller Skating Party - 6:30 p.m.

Please see our website for more details - www.westfieldfriends.org

Contact

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856-829-0895

email: jhall@westfieldfriends.org

website: westfieldfriends.org

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"In the spring
I have counted one
hundred and thirty-six
different kinds of weather
inside of four
and twenty hours."

~ Mark Twain

