

December 2016



Greetings from Jon Hall, Head of School

Dear Westfield Friends community,

I would like to thank everyone for your generous support of our November and December service projects. The Thanksgiving food collection was extraordinarily successful thanks to your caring. Your kindness towards others is deeply appreciated by the entire school and meeting community.

We are in the middle of a very busy, yet exciting time of year! Our Parent Council Coat Drive ends on December 9th and they have collected many gently used coats that will greatly help local families, schools and other non-profit organizations in need. The Hat and Mitten Tree is located in our atrium and is brimming with hats, gloves, scarves and mittens to be donated to Emergency Services of Catholic Charities on December 15th.

The entire school is also participating in the "Adopt a Family Program" through Volunteers of America in Collingswood. Each class adopts a local family and fulfills a wish list of gifts for every child.

We are all looking forward to the Christmas and holiday traditions this month. We made the annual trek to the Kenlin Tree Farm in Edgewater Park and send our gratitude to Paul May for a beautiful evergreen tree again this year! Last week, during Quaker Friday, our students "decked the halls" under the guidance of their 8th grade leaders. And, this week, our faculty and staff decorated the auditorium and our tall Christmas tree.

We also welcomed Madame Marcy Partnow to help us celebrate Hanukkah at Meeting for Worship this week. Our Holiday Program is entitled "A Dickens of a Christmas" and we thank Mrs. Valerie Parry, the 8th grade class, Ms. Fay Griscom, Mrs. Christine Yearly and the 2nd grade class, and all of our students and teachers for their help in preparing a wonderful play and concert to share with everyone in the Westfield community.



Christmas Tree Cutting at Kenlin Tree Farm

Thank you again for all that you do to support our school, and the causes we undertake. Service to others is a big part of what we do at Westfield, and we could not do it as well without your help.

Best wishes for the holiday season,

Jon Hall, EdD
Head of School



Second Grade Says Thank You!

The Pajama Program ***Scholastic donates one book for every set of pajamas collected!***

Mrs. Christine Yearly's second grade class involved the entire school in the "Scholastic Book Club's Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive" this year. Her class collected 113 new pajama sets (all sizes from newborn to adult) during the last few weeks. The Pajama Program is

celebrating it's 15th year and has already donated over one million pajamas and books to children in need - especially those living in group homes, shelters, orphanages and in foster care. The second grade class thanks everyone for their thoughtfulness toward others in need, especially during the holidays.

End-of-Year Giving to Westfield Friends School

Our Annual Fund is off to a great start! We have already surpassed last year's total donations at this time by \$10,000!

As you decide what gifts you will make at the end of 2016, please consider a donation to Westfield's Annual Fund. All gifts help each and every student and teacher in our school.

This year, we are encouraging **100% participation** from our School Board members, staff, faculty and current Westfield families. And, we are hopeful that many of our alumni families will also make a big difference by making gifts to their "old" school.



Giving Tuesday was a big success this year with an additional \$3,000 in donations on that one day! Thanks to everyone who donated on November 29th!

You can make a donation by check made out to Westfield Friends School or donate online at westfieldfriends.org/donations. Our fiscal year ends on June 30, 2017. However, all gifts dated before December 31st are eligible for a 100% tax deduction on your 2016 taxes!

Thank you to everyone who has donated this year or who will donate before the end of this year. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Debra Hojsak, Westfield's director of advancement at 856-829-0895 ext. 17 or via email at dhojsak@westfieldfriends.org.

Amazon Smile Program ***Help Westfield while you shop!***

Westfield is now participating in the Amazon Smile Program to help with fundraising for our school! The Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible purchases at smile.amazon.com.



Tens of millions of products are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for Amazon Smile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible to generate donations.

Remember, only purchases made at smile.amazon.com, (not www.amazon.com or the mobile app) generate Amazon Smile donations! Many thanks to Lily Taylor and our Parent Council for organizing this effort!

Gift Guide Link:

<http://smile.amazon.com/gp/charity/homepage.html?orig=%2Fgp%2Fbrowse.html%3Fnode%3D12745394011&ein=20-0994702>



The Quaker Queries ***from the Westfield Friends Quaker Life Committee***

The work of the Quaker Life Committee focuses on keeping the principles and practices of the Religious Society of Friends central to the life of Westfield Friends School and on keeping a lively and vibrant connection to Westfield Monthly Meeting.

These principles and practices differentiate a Quaker education from that of other educational institutions.

Through the daily life of the school, many of the practices of Quakerism (such as a moment of silence before events and our weekly Meeting for Worship) emphasize the importance the Religious Society of Friends places on the necessity of first listening to the Light Within before walking in the world.

By their diligent commitment to Quaker testimonies, our faculty and staff infuse the ideals of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship ("SPICES") into the fabric of the school. We see the evidence of the SPICES in the working life of the school—from our newly refurbished main hall to our school's artwork, book displays, curriculum, plays and musical performances, and community service projects.

Beginning in January 2017, the Quaker Life Committee wishes to introduce a longstanding tradition of Friends to the school community: the Queries. The Queries are questions prepared by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and published in the Society of Friends' Faith and Practice. Each Query focuses on an aspect of community life—such as Meeting for Worship, stewardship, and outreach. The Query seeks to promote contemplation, reflection, and evaluation of each topic for the individual and for the community.

Currently, Westfield Monthly Meeting reads a Query each month at its Monthly Meeting for Business. The Committee most aligned to the spirit of the Query then makes a report about it, and members can speak to either the Query or the report afterwards. These Queries, as a tool, remind Friends of the ideals they seek to attain; they can be utilized in a variety of ways to enhance a Quaker way of life.

In order to align Westfield Friends School worship and reflection with that of Westfield Monthly Meeting and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Dr. Jon Hall will read the monthly Query at the first Meeting for Worship of the Month. We hope this will provide a focus for the students during their time of worship.

The Query will also be published in the school's monthly E-newsletter. Since the students will be hearing and reflecting on this Query each month, we are hoping that parents will participate in this practice. That is, we hope that the monthly Query will inspire conversations within your families about ways that these Quaker values live out in our daily experiences. In the newsletter each month, we will also be including a short piece written by a school community member (a teacher, a Board member, the Head of School) who reflects upon the Query and how it inflects upon his or her life.

The Queries are intended to reach our entire school community: teachers, staff, students, and families.

We believe the Queries can become a very meaningful way of connecting the children's school life to their experiences beyond Westfield Friends School. We realize how very busy everyone is, but we want to express to parents and families that we are here, should you want to discuss this further with any of us.

Sincerely,
The Quaker Life Committee

Joan Spagnoletti, Peter Taylor, Michele Tarter, Joshua Cope, Sue Ellis,
Ruth Tatum and Deborah Moss Marris

Save the Dates!

December 2016:

December 8 - Holiday Shoppe for
Pre-K to 4th Grades - 9 a.m. to
noon

December 9 - School Closed for Parent/Teacher Conferences

December 15 - Dress Rehearsal for Holiday Play at 10 a.m. & Classroom
Parties

December 16 - Cookie Walk - 8 a.m., Meeting for Worship - 8:30 a.m.,



Holiday Play & Concert - 10 a.m. and School Dismisses at 12 noon (No extended day)

January 2017:

January 1 - Happy New Year!

January 2 - New Year's Day Observed

January 3 - Classes Resume

January 6 - Arden Theater Field Trip (Pre-k, K, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd grades)

January 12 - National Geographic Bee

January 16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - School Closed

January 19 - Admissions Open House - 9 to 11 a.m.

January 20 - Quaker Friday

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

Contact

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"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart. Wishing you happiness."

~ *Helen Keller*