

**February &  
March 2017  
News & Events**



## ***Greetings from Jon Hall, Head of School***

Dear Westfield Friends community,

We survived our first Snow Day on February 9th, always a nervous morning for any head of school considering the impact on our families... the call was made easier since most schools in our region were also closed, but never an easy call, nonetheless.



*Celebrating 100 Days of School in Kindergarten!*

We are well into the school year and heading toward the end of the second trimester already. I have had the opportunity to meet and talk with many Westfield families and I learn something new about this school every day! Thank you to the entire Westfield community for making the first half of my first year so welcoming.

There are several chances to see our students perform on stage in March. On March 2, our third grade, under the direction of teacher Ms. Pat Lyons, will be presenting "The Lorax" based on a wonderful Dr. Seuss book with a strong environmental message for all.

On March 23, second graders in Mrs. Christine Yearly's class will be performing in "Americans All" a play that highlights diversity and the many nationalities that have immigrated to America... a poignant message for our time. Please plan a trip to Westfield Friends to see these plays and support our students and faculty!

Planning for **Art Under the Stars Spring Fete Art Sale and Auction** scheduled for **Saturday, May 6, 2017** at Riverton Country Club is well underway. I'd like to express my gratitude to everyone involved with the various committees, and a special thank you to parents Lily Taylor and Sharla Floyd for taking the lead on this important fundraising event for Westfield Friends. Please visit the event website at:

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

- there are many sponsorship opportunities for businesses and individuals and tickets

can be purchased directly on this website. (see below for more details).

***A special invitation for our current families, faculty and staff ~***

You are invited by our Parent Council to enjoy an evening of fun at the Black & White Party next Friday, March 3rd at 6:30 p.m. This is not a meeting, nor a fundraiser, nor a planning session. This is simply a chance for the adult members (parents, faculty, and staff) of our community to come together for a good time and celebrate our friendships and the Westfield Friends School community!

Fancy cocktails and delicious hors d'oeuvres will be served. If you wish, you may participate in the theme with black and white attire.

The party is being graciously hosted by the Guise Family (parents of Charli in Pre-K) at their home in Moorestown (708 Kimberly Drive, Moorestown, NJ).

Kindly RSVP by texting: (301)-616-8834 by Feb 27. If you received the paperless post invite, you may also use that to RSVP to this event.

Best wishes,

Jon Hall, EdD  
Head of School



***"Art Under the Stars"  
May, 6, 2017***

**We hope each and every one of you can make it to 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](mailto:lilytaylor@mac.com) or  
Sharla Floyd at [floydsharla@gmail.com](mailto:floydsharla@gmail.com)

***Annual Fund News...***

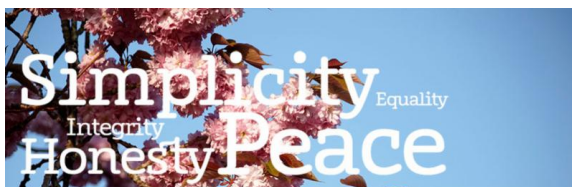
## What does the Annual Fund do for Westfield Friends School?

Funding that comes in through our Annual Fund goes directly to our students, teachers and classrooms! The funds are "unrestricted" which simply means they can be used for whatever the school needs the most! We can purchase classroom supplies, send a teacher to a workshop, buy new equipment for recess or athletics - so many needs can be fulfilled with this annual funding - the list is endless!

Thanks to everyone who have already donated and made a difference at Westfield. There's still time to donate to this year's annual fund, you may either send a check made out to Westfield Friends School or donate online at [westfieldfriends.org/donations](http://westfieldfriends.org/donations). Our fiscal year ends on June 30, 2017.



**Thank you again** - 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](mailto:dhojsak@westfieldfriends.org).



### ***The Value and Power of a Quaker Education*** **Speaker Ingrid Lakey**

**Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 7 p.m.**  
**Westfield Monthly Meetinghouse**

Historically, Quakers have been forerunners in the field of education. Based on their belief that there is "that of God" in all people, Friends have established schools that provide an academically rigorous and a spiritually grounded education for children that has evolved and transformed lives over the past 300 years.

- What is it that differentiates a Quaker education from other private or public schools?
- What is Quakerism's broad and deep foundation on which your child will grow?
- What is the value and power of a Quaker education in today's world?

#### **About the Speaker:**

Ingrid Lakey is deeply committed to Quaker education. She went to Friends Select School in Philadelphia (class of 1989), is the parent of a 2nd grader at FSS and is on its Quaker Life Committee of the Board of Trustees. She is a member of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting. Ingrid is a graduate of Temple University (1994) with a B.A. in Communications. She has been a trainer and a facilitator for 22 years and spent 15 years in the field of public radio working for NPR, local stations and the national program "Justice Talking." She is also a founder and board member of Earth Quaker Action Team, an organization working to build a just and sustainable economy through nonviolent direct action.

*Sponsored by the Quaker Life Committee of Westfield Friends School  
& the Westfield Friends School Parent Council*

# *The Quaker Queries*

*by Peter Taylor, Clerk,  
Westfield Friends School Board  
Westfield Friends Quaker Life  
Committee and 7th Grade Parent*



## **Quaker Query 2: Meeting for Business**

- Is our meeting for business held in the spirit of a meeting for worship in which we seek inspired guidance?
- Are we careful to keep in the spirit of worship each of the concerns that emerge, whether of nurture, of Spirit, of social concerns, of property, or of finance?
- Are decisions directed by prayerful consideration of all aspects of an issue and are difficult problems considered carefully with patient search for truth, unhurried by the pressures of time?
- How do we respond if we notice the meeting has lost a spirit of worship?
- Do we recognize that we speak through our inaction as well as our action?
- Do I regularly attend meeting for business and in a spirit of love and unity?
- If unable to attend, how do I attend to my responsibility?
- Do I consider prayerfully the many concerns that are lifted up on any issue, acknowledging that the search for truth in unity involves being open to personal transformation as the community arrives at the sense of the meeting?

These queries on Meeting for Business invite us to explore how we come together in the spirit of worship and make decisions as a group. Westfield Monthly Meeting is called a Monthly Meeting because it meets each month to discuss the business of the Meeting. A significant part of the business of the meeting is caring for Westfield Friends School. Westfield Monthly Meeting meets for Business at 9 a.m. on the second Sunday of each month. If you ever want to observe or participate in a Friend's Meeting for Business please come. In February of each year, it is Westfield Meeting's practice to consider the query on Meeting for Business.

Compared to Meeting for Worship where we can sit in silence with each other in perfect harmony with all our diverse thoughts and opinions, finding unity and fostering a spirit of worship in a meeting for business can be difficult. These queries help me recognize the difficulty and delicacy of collaboration, the pressures of time, the importance of space, the implications of action versus inaction and the rewards of seeking and finding the unique gifts that each person brings to a meeting. They also remind me of the transformative power of being open to different perspectives and new ideas, of putting myself aside and being uplifted as I join a sense unity and shared vision with others.

### **Query for students:**

How do I settle conflicts, arguments or disagreements in a spirit of friendship, considering both my own, and the other person's point of view?

# Save the Dates!

## February 2017:

February 24 - 100th Day of School Celebration!

February 24 - Quaker Friday

February 27 - March 3 - Celebrate Reading!

- Dr. Seuss Week



## March 2017:

March 2 - Third Grade Play at 1:30 and 7 p.m.

March 3 - Second Trimester Ends

March 3 - Parent Council Black & White Party 6:30 p.m. (see above)

March 7 - Fourth Grade Trip to Trenton

March 9 - Seventh & Eighth Grades Science Fair 7 p.m.

March 12 - Daylight Savings Time returns!

March 16 - Quaker Life Committee Event (see above) 7 p.m.

March 17 - Quaker Friday - 1:30 p.m. and Parent/Daughter Dance 7 p.m.

March 20 - First Day of Spring! Spring Track Begins

March 23 - Second Grade Play at 1:30 and 7 p.m.

March 24 - Third, Fifth & Sixth Grades Visit Morris Arboretum

March 27 - 31 - School Closed for Spring Break

Please see our website for more details - [www.westfieldfriends.org](http://www.westfieldfriends.org)

## Contact

**Jon Hall, EdD, Head of School**

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email: [jhall@westfieldfriends.org](mailto:jhall@westfieldfriends.org)

website: [westfieldfriends.org](http://westfieldfriends.org)

## Stay Connected

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View our videos on **YouTube**

"It was one of those  
March days when  
the sun shines hot  
and the wind blows cold:  
when it is summer  
in the light, and  
winter in the shade."

~ *Charles Dickens*