

January 2017



Greetings from Jon Hall, Head of School

Dear Westfield Friends community,

Welcome back to school and Happy New Year to everyone! I hope you all enjoyed the holidays and had many opportunities to spend good times with family and friends.

December was an exciting and busy month here at Westfield Friends School... my first holiday season as head of school. There were many firsts last month - first trip to choose the Christmas tree at the Kenlin Tree Farm thanks to alum parent Paul May, first Quaker Friday holiday decorating, first Cookie Walk and first time to witness the amazing Christmas Play brought to us by Mrs. Valerie Parry and the 8th grade class, our music teacher Ms. Fay Griscom, and Mrs. Christine Yearly with the 2nd grade Nativity, along with all of our students singing and performing. It was truly magical in every way! Thank you to all who participated in making the holiday season so very bright at Westfield Friends!



First snow of 2017!

January is always a time of fresh beginnings... although we are all still transitioning to our familiar routines, there are many exciting events ahead this school year.

In particular, we will be inviting all of our current families to a reception on **Thursday evening, March 2nd** at the Riverton Porch Club to talk about the Go Westfield Campaign and all of the funds that we are raising to sustain this wonderful school. Invitations will be emailed in a few weeks with all of the details for this event.

Our Parent Council has undertaken a huge effort to plan a lovely Spring Fete, featuring an Art Sale and Auction. This fundraising event is set for **Saturday, May 6, 2017** at the Riverton Country Club. I want to extend my sincere thanks to parents Lily Taylor and Sharla Floyd for all of the time they have spent in planning this event that will help our school tremendously! **A Planning Party is set for Thursday, January 19th at 6:30 p.m.** See additional details below on the efforts underway and a list of committees that have been formed to date.

As we begin this second half of the school year, I want to remind our current families

and our alumni parents and families that **ALL of you are our best marketing tools!** Please help us spread the word about Westfield Friends to your relatives, friends, neighbors, co-workers and to anyone you may know interested in an independent school education. Please take a moment to like or share a Facebook post, invite a family you know to an Open House, or share our website address with a colleague. Your insights, success stories and positive recommendations can help us attract new students and families who can benefit from the strong academic experience and values-based education offered at Westfield. Thank you for helping to make our school stronger!

All best wishes for a happy, healthy and successful new year ahead.

Jon Hall, EdD
Head of School

"Art Under the Stars" Spring Fete Art Sale & Auction ~ Save the Date ~ May, 6, 2017

We hope each and everyone 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!

Here's how each of you can help! Remember-no contribution is too small, be it:

TIME in helping on a COMMITTEE

Help in SPONSORSHIP LEADS (personal, business, or corporate)

PROCUREMENT OF AUCTION ITEMS

Join Us for the Spring Fete Planning Party - January 19, 2017 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. See details below!

Art Under the Stars

WESTFIELD FRIENDS SCHOOL SPRING FETE
AUCTION AND ART SALE

Wine & Cheese Planning Party

Thursday, Jan. 19th

6:30-8:30pm

Children are welcome!

A fun and casual evening to meet and mingle, bring everyone up to speed on developments, and hash out next steps in sponsorship and auction procurement.

**Existing committee members - bring a buddy!
Haven't joined and still want to help? This is the place to be. The more people getting involved, the greater a success we can make this event!**

Graciously hosted by Manuela Morais:
Law Offices of Manuela Morais
101 W Main St., Suite 101 in Moorestown
(lower level of PNC bldg - Parking and entrance in back)

Questions? Contact Lily Taylor (lilytaylor@mac.com)
or Sharla Floyd (floydsharla@gmail.com)

**LET'S MAKE THIS AN AMAZING FUNDRAISER
FOR OUR SCHOOL AND OUR NEW PLAYGROUND**

Please see the list of committees and contact information here:
[Spring Fete Info](#)

To volunteer for a committee or ask for more details, please contact Lily Taylor at lilytaylor@mac.com or Sharla Floyd at floydsharla@gmail.com.

Thank You Annual Fund Donors!



Pre-K and 6th Grade Buddies

Many thanks to everyone who has donated to the 2016-2017 Annual Fund to date! We are hearing from so many families, alumni and new donors this year! In addition to the monetary gifts, we are also having some wonderful conversations with donors about why they support Westfield and some very entertaining stories of past escapades and classroom shenanigans!

Our goal is **100% participation** from our School Board members, staff, faculty and current Westfield families, and an increase in giving by alumni... and we are well on our way! If you would like to donate to this year's annual fund, you may send a check made out to Westfield Friends School or donate online at 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, Westfield's director of advancement at 856-829-0895 ext. 17 or via email at dhojsak@westfieldfriends.org.

The Quaker Queries ***by Michele Lise Tarter,*** ***Westfield Friends Quaker Life*** ***Committee and 4th Grade Parent***

Quaker Query 1:

- 1. Are our meetings for worship held in stilled, expectant waiting?*
- 2. As we worship do we feel drawn together in the silence?*
- 3. Is the spirit of our worship together one that nurtures all present?*
- 4. How do we respond when the vocal ministry seems inappropriate?*



Meeting for Worship at Westfield Friends has become one of my most treasured experiences each week. On Wednesday mornings, 8:30-9:00 a.m., I join the entire school community to worship in silence and expectant waiting. In the longstanding history of Friends (Quakers), Meeting for Worship is a sacred time when everyone gathers in silence to listen to the Spirit. If someone feels moved or "led" to speak, he or she then stands and shares the message that is stirring within. And the most precious, tender messages have flowed from our children at WFS.

They come to the worship prepared to listen, with open hearts. The silence is not daunting to them, but rather a welcome respite from the dizzying pace of our ever-changing 21st-century world. Week after week, this practice of sitting in silence and listening is cultivated and nurtured by the school community. Over the years that I have been attending this Meeting for Worship, children from all grades have shared deeply moving messages, ranging from gratitude for their families to appreciation for their school and concerns for loved ones who are not well. When they speak, they gather enormous support from the community while also finding strength in their voice.

Meeting for Worship offers so much to our children-and to everyone at Westfield Friends. Parents are always welcome. It's just a half hour, but it has lasting effects for

the entire week long. It is such a gift to be able to share this meaningful experience with our children and their peers, teachers, and Friends.

Save the Dates!

January 2017:

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

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

January 19 - Spring Fete Planning Party - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

January 20 - Quaker Friday - 1:30 p.m.

February 2017:

February 10 - Quaker Friday - 1:30 p.m.

February 10 & 11 - "A Year with Frog and Toad Kids" - Moorestown Theater Company and Westfield students production - 7 p.m.

February 20 - President's Day Holiday - School Closed


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


Contact

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"Make New Year's goals. Dig within, and discover what you would like to have happen in your life this year. This helps you do your part. It is an affirmation that you're interested in fully living life in the year to come."

~Melody Beattie