

November 2016



Greetings from Jon Hall, Head of School



Thanksgiving Concert 2015

Dear Westfield Friends community,

As the Thanksgiving holiday fast approaches, I wanted to share the special events and opportunities here at Westfield Friends that teach our children the meaning of gratitude.

Traditionally, Westfield marks the Thanksgiving holiday with outreach projects to help friends and neighbors locally. The School families have generously embraced the spirit of giving to others. Again this year, we are asking our students and their families to bring in non-perishable foods for families in need. We hope that you have time to do this as a family and include your children in the

selection of the foods. It is important that they understand and appreciate the value of their participation and contribution. Your family's gift can make a big difference to another local family.

We are asking that the non-perishable foods be brought to Meeting for Worship on **November 16** (this enables the food to reach the families in time for Thanksgiving). Our Thanksgiving Meeting for Worship and the Thanksgiving Program will be on **November 23**. We hope you can join us for all three!

For Wednesday November 16, each child is asked to bring a contribution of canned goods or staple foods, (Apples, oranges, flour, potatoes etc.) with them to Meeting. Food certificates or Turkeys are also accepted as gifts. Pre-K will make their contributions in their classroom. The collection of food is given to the Bread of Life Food Pantry in Palmyra on that day for distribution.

On Wednesday November 23, there will be Meeting for Worship in the Meetinghouse at 8:30 a.m., followed by the Thanksgiving Program at 10 a.m. The play is always wonderful with singing by every class. Many alumni students and their parents also join us for this holiday event!

Reminder: SCHOOL IS OVER AFTER THE THANKSGIVING PROGRAM. THERE IS NO EXTENDED DAY ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 23rd.

On Tuesday, November 29, we will embark on our annual tree cutting trip to Kenlin Tree Farm. Every class randomly selects one student to join two faculty members and me to select and cut down a Christmas tree for our school. I would like to thank alumni parents Paul and Linda Mays for their continued generosity in providing the Christmas tree to Westfield every year.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday with your families. We all have a lot to be thankful for.

Sincerely,

Jon Hall, EdD
Head of School

A Westfield Engagement!

On Thursday, November 10, we were all delighted to be part of a very special occasion!

Our first grade teacher, Kristin Hoffman became engaged to Taylor Parry, Westfield Class of 1994 and son of Valerie (7th & 8th grade teacher) and Jack Parry, Class of 1963!

Kristin joined our faculty in September 2014 as the third grade assistant and then took over our fifth grade class later that school year during Kristen Gold's maternity leave. Upon the retirement of longtime first grade teacher, Terri Gallagher, Kristin began her tenure in first grade during the fall of 2015.

Taylor, in addition to being an alum and part of the Parry Family (who's involvement at Westfield goes back many generations!) is also our volunteer director of technology. He helps keep our school up to date with all areas of technology - from internet service, wifi connections and he was instrumental in setting up our school information service, RenWeb.

Taylor's sisters, Vanessa and Madison, are also Westfield graduates, Classes of 1990 and 2010! As well as many aunts, uncles and cousins... a true Westfield family tradition!

We could not be happier for this wonderful couple and we wish them many, many happy years together! Congratulations Kristin and Taylor!!



She said YES!

Middle School's Election Play & Mock Election



"See How They Run"

The Sixth and Seventh grade classes entertained the entire Westfield community with their play "See How They Run" on November 2nd. The students had to learn all aspects of the election process and portray the presidential candidates in a mock debate. Their commanding grasp on all of the details of the history of the United States electoral process and their stage presence was simply amazing! Many thanks to Molly Cope, Eva Peak, Fay Griscom and all of the students who worked so hard

on this wonderful performance!

On Election Day, Eva Peak's eighth graders organized a great voting experience for students and faculty at all grade levels. The results at our school's mock election were very different from the outcome of the actual election, but all had a good time learning about the voting system we use to elect our national leaders and the importance of exercising the right to vote.



What Is The Annual Fund?

Gifts to the Annual Fund support the classroom teacher who taught you how to think for yourself, your child's art or music teacher who is opening their world to new beauty, or the mentor who set you on your foundation for life.

We are encouraging **100% participation** this year - any size gift is very much appreciated - every dollar makes a difference!

Annual Fund gifts can be spent as they come in and are directed wherever the need is greatest, creating opportunities for learning and discovery, providing scholarships for students who need them, and giving Westfield Friends the flexibility to take advantage of emerging opportunities and to respond to unanticipated needs and challenges.



The Annual Fund is conducted during the school's fiscal year, running from July 1, 2016

through June 30, 2017. A pledge or gift may be made at anytime and are **100% tax deductible**. Gifts made on or before December 31, 2016 are eligible to be claimed as a current year tax deduction. Plan your donation on **Giving Tuesday**, a special day set aside for charitable donations on November 29th this year!

You can make a donation by check made out to Westfield Friends School or donate online at <http://westfieldfriends.org/donations>. Online donations are processed through PayPal. Thank you to everyone who contributed last year - it was our best year ever!

If you have any questions, please contact Debra Hojsak, Westfield's director of advancement at 856-829-0895 ext. 17 or via email at dhojsak@westfieldfriends.org.

Annual Poinsettia Sale! **Order by November 28th!**



The Parent Council announces the annual poinsettia sale - open to everyone in the Westfield Friends community! These beautiful plants make wonderful home decorations or thank you gifts for family and friends. Please see the attached order form... there are several sizes and colors available for purchase. Proceeds from this annual fundraiser go to our Parent Council, and in turn help our school!

Orders are due by Monday, November 28th and delivery will be on Monday, December 12th. If you want to preview the poinsettia colors and sizes, there will be a display in the atrium (outside of the auditorium) on Wednesday, November 23rd before the Thanksgiving Play!

[Poinsettia Sale Order Form 2016](#)

Save the Dates!

November 2016:

November 16 - Meeting for Worship Food Donations - 8:30 a.m.

November 16 - Barnes & Noble Book Fair & Bertucci's Dining for Dollars

November 22 - Dress Rehearsal for Thanksgiving Play - 1:30 p.m.

November 23 - Meeting for Worship - 8:30 a.m. and Thanksgiving Play & Concert at 10 a.m. - School Dismisses at 12 noon (No Extended Day)

November 24 & 25 - Happy Thanksgiving (School Closed)

November 28 - Kickoff of Parent Council Coat Drive (warm coats, mittens, hats and scarves too) until December 16

November 29 - Christmas Tree cutting at Kenlin Tree Farm

November 29 - Giving Tuesday! (Make a Donation to our Annual Fund!)

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



December 2016:

December 2 - Quaker Friday - Holiday Decorating!

December 5 - Playground Brainstorming Meeting (instead of Parent Council Meeting) - 6:30 p.m. - all are welcome!

December 8 - Holiday Shoppe for Pre-K to 4th Grades - 8:30 to 11 a.m.

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 to 10 a.m., Meeting for Worship - 8:30 a.m., Holiday Play & Concert - 10 a.m. and School Dismisses at 12 noon (No extended day)

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

Contact

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"Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings."

~ *William Arthur Ward*