

October
2016



Greetings from Jon Hall

Dear Westfield Friends community,

It's hard to believe that the month of September has passed so quickly! It's been a busy, but very rewarding month. We welcomed our new and returning students to school as well as our families and we are all settling into the new school year... including me!

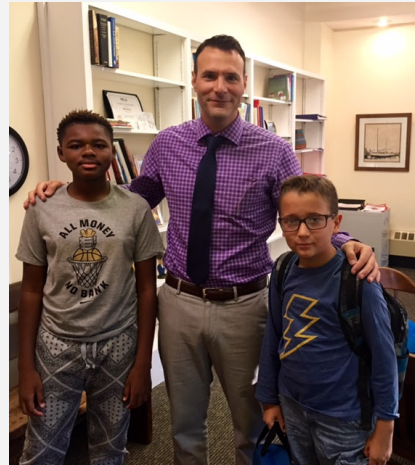
I would like to thank our School Board members for hosting a very nice 'Welcome to Westfield' reception and thanks to everyone who has made me feel right at home and part of the Westfield Friends family already.

I have spent time meeting with many people who love this school and I'm so impressed with the affection that so many have expressed to me about Westfield. From alumni, donors, committee members, and of course our students, faculty and staff... I am learning what a special place this school truly is.

Thank you to many of our new families who joined us for coffee and conversation this week. I look forward to meeting more and more families and Westfield alum as the school year progresses. Please stop by to visit during our students' concerts, plays and special holiday events. We love reconnecting with our Westfield Friends community.

Sincerely,

Jon Hall, EdD
Head of School



Dr. Jon Hall with John J. & Silas C.

October Events

Our sports teams are having a busy fall season... if you have time, please stop by one of the boys soccer or girls field hockey games and cheer on the WFS Owls! The schedules, game times and school

addresses are on our website calendar at:
<http://westfieldfriends.org/news/calendar/>.

A few notes about upcoming events in October...

Quaker Friday, on October 28th provides an opportunity for all ages to work together painting pumpkins in our playground area... our 8th graders lead the activity and parents are welcome to join in.

Halloween Guessing during the morning of October 31st, begins just after 8:30 a.m. in the auditorium. Students and teachers try to guess who is in each costume... and there's always one student who stumps the crowd! Again, parents are welcome to attend and bring your cameras!



Boys Soccer Team

The Harvest Festival scheduled for Saturday, October 29th from 1 to 3 p.m., (rain date is Sunday, October 30th) is hosted by our 8th grade class as a fundraiser for their year-end graduation activities. There will be scarecrow making, apple bobbing, a bake sale and many typical fall games to keep everyone busy. Please visit our website www.westfieldfriends.org for details on all of these fall events and check out the "Save the Dates" below!

Making No Secret of the Lives of Trees

Students in grades 3rd through 6th will be undertaking a year-long study of trees on the Westfield Friends campus, thanks to a generous grant from the Friends Council on Education. Ms. Patricia Lyons, our third grade teacher, had an idea last spring to write a grant for an interactive project that would include students from 3rd through 6th grades. Her \$2,000 grant award will allow teachers to utilize STEAM-based activities with multi-age groups of students to learn about the many trees on our 8 1/2 acre campus.



Ms. Pat Lyons' Third Grade Class along with their parents measure and identify many tree species on our campus

With the help and guidance of Westfield Friends Monthly Meeting members, parent helpers and Ipad apps, students will adopt and identify 45 species of trees, design horticultural tags with botanical information accessed through the use of QR codes and then plan and develop a self-guided and educational Tree Walk on Westfield's grounds.

The yearlong focus on trees will compare how our school community mirrors the tree-

filled grounds of our school. Field trips to Palmyra Cove Nature Center and Morris Arboretum in Pennsylvania, will enhance students' understanding of stewardship of the environment - one of the Quaker testimonies. It is the hope that our students will develop stronger bonds with their multi-age peers and the trees they adopt, as they all grow older together. This is certainly a project that students will remember for many years to come!

Alumni News... Vedra Chandler '94



Westfield alum Vedra Chandler, Class of 1994, is now the Senior Director of Programming for Arts & Education at The Neighborhood Center, Inc. which has been serving the Camden community for over 100 years. Vedra joined their staff after a very successful career in theater and dance.

Vedra is a performer who was born and raised in Camden, New Jersey. Her parents are both retired school teachers. After graduating from Haddonfield High School, Vedra went on to earn a degree in government at Harvard University. She spent time in corporate America at Campbell Soup Company before embarking upon a performance career. She has performed with the touring companies of the hit Broadway Musical "Hairspray," and as the lead Soul Singer on "Kooza" by Cirque Du Soleil.

In 2015, Vedra returned to her roots in Camden with the intention of helping to shape the city that raised her. Her desire to work inside of her community brought her to The Neighborhood Center, Inc. where she brings extensive experience in choreography, stage management and theater production to her position. Vedra is also a member of the Marian Anderson Music Guild and is a passionate supporter of families living in Camden.

Through its programs and partnerships, The Neighborhood Center strives to break the cycle of poverty by empowering Camden's youth. The Center's recent partnership with North Camden Little League is a natural relationship born of a common mission. Vedra co-hosted a film screening in June about a baseball program for kids in a highly distressed neighborhood in North Camden. The film called *Pyne Poynt*, is ultimately about the power of baseball, and sports in general, to give kids alternatives to gang life and a space where they can play baseball, form friendships and just be themselves!

If you would like to know more about The Neighborhood Center, please visit their website at: <http://www.ncicamden.org/>. Thanks to Vedra and her organization's website for helping us share this great news!

Calling all Westfield alum - if you would like to share your stories with the Westfield Friends community, please reach out to Debra Hojsak at: dhjsak@westfieldfriends.org... we love to hear and share all of the good news from our graduates!

Annual Fund News - 100% Participation Campaign!

As with all independent schools, tuition covers a percentage of the actual cost of educating a child. Since we try to keep tuition affordable at Westfield Friends School, our tuition covers about 78%, leaving the balance to be met through other revenue sources. The most significant of these is the Annual Fund.



This Fund provides essential unrestricted revenue that directly impacts daily life here at school. Specifically, donations help to fund need-based and merit-based financial aid, computer equipment, classroom supplies, arts and music programs, professional development for our faculty and so much more.

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.

We are encouraging 100% participation this year - any size gift is very much appreciated - every dollar makes a difference! Many foundations look at our parent, faculty and alumni participation numbers and base their funding decisions on the amount of support a school's very own community provides.

An annual letter will be mailed in the late fall with a return envelope or you can 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.

Save the Dates!

- October 11 - Fire Prevention Day
- October 14 - Flu Clinic - 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- October 20 - Admissions Open House - 9 to 11 a.m.
- October 21 - Palmyra Cove Field Trip (3rd, 4th, 5th, & 6th)
- October 21 - Parent Council Wine & Cheese Reception at 7 p.m. (see Weekly Wire for details)
- October 21 - Mid term of first trimester
- October 24 - Indian Acres Pumpkin Picking Trip (Pre-k, K & 1st)
- October 28 - Quaker Friday - Pumpkins!
- October 29 - Harvest Festival - 1 to 3 p.m. (rain date October 30)
- October 31 - Halloween Guessing - 8: 30 a.m. ~ Happy Halloween!!
- November 2 - Election Presentation - 1:30 p.m.
- November 4 - NO School - Faculty In-Service Day
- November 7 - Parent Council Meeting - 7 p.m.
- November 8 - Election Day - Mock Election



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

Contact

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"Quakers are not 'for peace' but rather know, in the deepest sense of the word, that peace is a holy imperative as part of a just society."

*~ Ben Pink Dandelion in
Celebrating the Quaker Way*