

September  
2016



## ***Welcome Back to School...***

Greetings from Jon Hall, EdD, Head of School

Dear Westfield Friends community,

I could not be happier to be sitting down to write my first message as the new Head of School at Westfield Friends. I am extremely fortunate to have been given this opportunity to lead a school that has had such an impact on so many families over the past 228 years. Our students are with us for almost a third of this critical time in their lives. As a father myself, I realize the tremendous responsibility in that. I do not take it lightly and am extremely grateful for the opportunity.



Being new to a Friends school, I am clearly in the very beginning stages of my education on what the Quaker testimonies look like in a school setting. However, I have found that the testimonies are very similar to the way that most schools try to go about their business and the way that most people aspire to live their lives. The difference is, they are a constant and present reminder here, where the messages can often be forgotten elsewhere. This is very comforting and feels like home to me.

Speaking of "feeling like home," I have met with all of the faculty and staff of the school. There are consistent themes that run throughout everyone's experience here: Westfield feels like a family, and they love the children very much.

We are beginning a new era here at Westfield Friends School. John F. Kennedy once said, "The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining." Despite the enrollment difficulties faced by independent schools nationwide, the sun still shines. But, there is a lot of work to be done, and the "roof" needs mending. We believe very strongly in the experience that we provide for children. Childhood is precious and goes by far too quickly. The line between preparation for life and the joy of being a child has to be carefully walked. I believe the two are not mutually exclusive at Westfield Friends, nor should they ever be. I am humbled and honored to be given the opportunity to lead this wonderful little school in our commitment to provide both.

I look forward to meeting many of you as the new school year begins this week!

Sincerely,

Jon Hall, EdD  
Head of School

## ***Welcome Teacher Ginny!***

Join us in extending a warm welcome to Ginny Mangan, Westfield's new 4th grade teacher!

Teacher Ginny has joined the staff at Westfield Friends School after teaching at the Friends Academy of Westampton for 27 years. During her tenure there, Teacher Ginny taught Kindergarten, 1st and 4th grades and also team taught both 4th and 5th and also 4th, 5th and 6th grades.



Ginny received her undergraduate degree in education from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Potsdam and her graduate degree from the University of California in Pennsylvania (reading specialist).

"I am thrilled to join the Westfield community! I'm really looking forward to meeting my students and their parents and getting started on a new year... it will be so nice to see many familiar faces from Westampton in the halls at Westfield."

Ginny and her husband moved to Palmyra this summer after 31 years in their Cinnaminson home. They are the parents of two grown children, both living in California and grandparents to an adorable one-year old grandson, Nash.



*Cat Baldwin & Scott Kelly*  
Freedom" pin.

## ***Alumni News...***

Westfield alum Catherine (Cat) Baldwin '10 was one of two interns for NASA's history department this summer. Cat wrote daily posts on events in the history of space exploration and assisted with NASA's social media programs. She's pictured here with Scott Kelly at the "United State of Women" symposium at NASA's Washington, DC headquarters. The keynote speaker was Megan Smith, Chief Technology Officer for the United States. When Ms. Smith asked the audience if anyone knew who Alice Paul was, Cat was one of a few who could answer. Cat spoke with her briefly about her love for Alice Paul and Ms. Smith gave her the Alice Paul "Jailed for Freedom" pin.

Cat's interest in space exploration and Alice Paul and the women's suffrage movement goes back to her education at Westfield Friends. Cat will be a junior at St. Johns College in Annapolis, MD this year.

Thanks to proud dad, David Baldwin for story and photo! Cat - we are all so proud of you ... what an exciting summer internship!

## ***Professional Development for Faculty & Staff -thanks to our Annual Fund donors!***

"Cultural Competency Institute for Educators"

In a concerted effort to highlight and fine tune the ways in which Westfield Friends School approaches the needs surrounding our diverse student body, a professional development event hosted by the Association of Delaware Valley Independent Schools (ADVIS) was attended by several of our faculty members and staff.



The keynote speaker at the event on August 25th was Rosetta Lee of the Seattle Girls School in Seattle, Washington. In addition to her role as a middle school science teacher, Lee has served on the faculty of the National Association of Independent Schools Diversity Leadership Institute, and has worked with over 100 independent and public schools across the U.S.

Her presentation focused on several issues affecting schools and their students including cross cultural communication, identity development, prejudice reduction, coalition building, facilitation skills, relational aggression, bullying and gender bias in classrooms.

With humor, warmth, and both personal and professional experiences, Lee shared information which is central to our mission as a Friends school. After the keynote session with Lee, multiple facilitated breakout sessions were attended by the Westfield Friends School group, largely to focus on inclusive classroom practices, teaching tolerance, and integrating an anti-bias framework throughout our school. Of particular interest were discussions surrounding the coming presidential election, and ways in which to help our students from all backgrounds and viewpoints feel supported, protected, and heard.

We are excited about the ways in which our faculty will use the information and resources garnered from this experience to help grow Westfield Friends School, and look forward to supporting our students in new ways. ~ Jillian Stanton, Director of Admissions & Extended Day Program

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### ***Save the Dates!***

September 12 - Welcome back to school!

September 14 - Welcome Coffee Hour in Meetinghouse - 8 to 9:30 a.m. - Parents are also invited to attend our first Meeting for Worship at 8:30 a.m.

September 15 - Welcome reception for Dr. Jon Hall (hosted by our school board)

September 22 - Back to School Night - 7 p.m.

September 23 - Pre-K, K and 1st - Apple Picking Trip

September 30 - Picture Day!

September 30 - Parent Council Cocktail Gathering... more details to follow!

October 5 - New Parent Coffee - 9 to 10 a.m.

## Contact

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

856-829-0895


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


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



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"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

~ Nelson Mandela

