



# Bulletin Board

Week of March 28, 2011



## ***Carnevale comes to FSMH***

Last week, Denise Pastino joined her sons and their classmates to instruct students about *Il Carnevale di Venezia* or "The Carnival of Venice." The students enjoyed making their own masquerade masks and learning the unique history surrounding this Italian festival. Thanks Mrs. Pastino for sharing!

### **Mark your Calendars for Upcoming Events and Updates:**

**Monday, March 28th Internet Safety Presentation 7:30pm** Presented by the Gloucester County High Tech Crimes Unit and the local Harrison Township Police Department at the St. Stephen's of Mullica Hill Parish Hall. The program is for adults and will cover issues such as social networks, internet fraud, and children on the internet. For more info see [www.netsafetyprogram.info](http://www.netsafetyprogram.info).

**Tuesday, March 29th 5th grade trip to Pine Barrens 9:00am - 2:30pm**

**Wednesday, March 30th 1st grade trip to Walnut Street Theater 9:30am - 12:15pm** The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley.

**Wednesday, March 30th Language Arts Showcase - Make it New 6:00pm** See details below.

**Friday, April 1st Multicultural Network 3:15pm in the library**

**Tuesday, April 5th Admissions Open House for Prospective Families 9:00am - 11am**

**Friday, April 8th 2011 Spring Auction The Westin Mt. Laurel 6:00pm - 9:00pm**

**Thursday, April 14th Moving-Up Evening 5:00pm - 6:00pm** See details below.

**Thursday, April 14th State of the School 6:15pm in the Library** See details below.

**Saturday, April 23rd Annual Egg Hunt, Mickleton Friends Meetinghouse 11:00am** Come out rain or shine for the annual egg hunt and bake sale. See [egg hunt flyer](#) for complete details.

## What's Happening on Campus

### Moving UP Time and State of the School

#### **Moving UP Evening: Thursday, April 14th 5:00pm to 6:00pm**

Have questions about your child MOVING-UP a grade next year? Join us for a Moving-UP Evening, where you'll have a chance to learn more about the upcoming grade level. From 5:00pm to 6:00pm on Thursday, April 14, parents are invited to come to school and meet with teachers to get a picture of what is planned for your child's next grade. A detailed list of grades, rooms and teachers will be available on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **State of the School: Thursday, April 14th 6:15pm in the Library**

Following the Moving-UP program, parents and teachers are invited to gather in the Library at 6:15pm to hear Head of School Bruce Haines and members of the Board of Trustees discuss the important work done this past year and our plans for the future. Come away feeling informed and energized!

### **Spring Photos**

All students who were photographed by Lifetouch will receive a portrait package. Parents may choose to purchase the entire package or selected photographs. All photographs that are not purchased must be returned to the school. (There is no obligation to purchase photographs.)

### **NJ Math League Results**

In February the grades 6th through 8th participated in the *NJ Math League Contest*, a challenge test administered across the state. The results are in and our **6th grade students scored 4th in county!** We celebrate this great achievement! Congratulations to all the students who participated! To find out more information about the NJ Math League and view the results visit their website at <http://www.themathleague.com/>

### **Join FSMH volunteers and "Go Green" with the Phillies June 9th, 7:05pm Phillies vs Cubs**

On June 9th, take part in the "Phillies Go Green" event and volunteer to collect recyclables during the game. Before heading to Citizen Bank Park, kick off the event with the **Parent/Teacher softball game** at FSMH from **3:00 - 4:45pm**. From **4:45 - 5:45pm** join us for a **tailgate BBQ** before departing the school at **5:45pm sharp** for the Phillies game. For complete details and a permission slip see the ["Phillies Go Green" flyer](#). Participation is on a first come, first served basis!

### **Open Basketball Night - LAST ONE OF THE YEAR!!!**

#### **Wednesday, APRIL 27th, 6:00 - 7:30pm**

The last open basketball is for **parents and teachers ONLY** to play pick up games of basketball. *"The Sandlot"* will be playing and there will be a homework room available for any students who would like to come while the adults play.

The **2011 Spring Sports Schedule** is being finalized and will be available next week in the bulletin and on the sports page of the website!



## What's Happening on Campus

### FSMH Academics in *ACTION!*

**Want to SEE evidence of our Academic Programs?** Mark your calendars now for a few upcoming exciting events that will present FSMH academics and students in action! This is your opportunity to gain additional insight into our curriculum and programs - by experiencing the results first hand.

#### **Language Arts Showcase Wednesday, March 30th 6:00pm**

This evening will highlight the elements of our enhanced language arts program. Throughout the halls, students' writing pieces will be displayed, with special attention to a cross-grade writing project. Parents and students will partake in writing workshop activities and may choose to add to a chain story. This evening not only demonstrates how Friends School teachers teach writing, it also fulfills the reason to be a good writer: *to share your thoughts and ideas with others*. Please join us in the Hanshi Building at Friends School for this wonderful evening of reading, writing and listening!

The schedule of events is as follows: **6:00pm Reception**  
**6:30pm Writing Workshop**  
**7:15pm Poetry Slam**

Please see the [Make It New](#) information sheet and response form for additional information and RSVP by **March 18th** to attend this event.

**Il Carnevale di Venezia at FSMH!** Students learn about "The Carnival of Venice" with Denise Pastino and make their own masquerade masks.



## What's Happening on Campus

### 2011 Summer Camp Preview



#### **Week 2 June 27th through July 1st Theme: Olympic Games**

This week campers will learn about the various sports that make up the summer Olympics in anticipation of the 2012 summer games.

Both individual and team sports will be incorporated for campers to learn about and participate in. Campers will also learn about the countries that participate in and host the Olympic Games. Our field trip will take us on a sporting adventure to River Winds Community Center! Visit their website for more information: [River Winds Community Center](http://www.riverwindscommunitycenter.com).

Check out this new convenient link to access camp information: [FSMH Summer Camp Program](http://www.fsmh.org/summercamp)

Enroll in weekly sessions, Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 4:00 pm daily, with an early room beginning at 8:00 am and extended day option until 5:00pm at an additional cost. Campers will engage in creative, recreational and enriching activities, each around themed weeks and special field trips! Some of our weekly themes will include: Medieval Times, Around the World in 5 Days, Pirates, Planes, Trains, Automobiles, Theater, Sports & more! For more information contact: 856.478.2908 ext.356 or email [ksaia@friendsmh.org](mailto:ksaia@friendsmh.org) or [summercamp@friendsmh.org](mailto:summercamp@friendsmh.org)

**Auction updates.....please watch this space for weekly auction updates and news!**

### **2011 Spring Auction**

We are only two weeks away from one of the most exciting nights of the year for FSMH! Please RSVP as soon as possible to ensure you are a part of the fun! We accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, Cash and Checks! (Sorry, but American Express is NOT accepted at the event.)

Remember every Friday leading up to the auction, members of the Auction Committee are available prior to 3pm pick-up to answer questions and preview different baskets up for bid. Look for us outside and come see the new baskets on display for this week!

More exciting items have arrived including an antique, F.H. Cowden Harrisburg Stoneware crock, at least as old as the year 1880 - if not older! Ladies, we also have some highly fashionable bags up for auction including the likes of Juicy Couture, Coach, Dooney & Bourke and Lucky Brand.

Our gorgeous Auction catalog is currently at the printer undergoing final review. Once printed, each family will receive a copy to preview the items prior to auction night.

Also, a sneak peak at the Pre-K Live project reveals a precious hand-painted, child-size table & chairs in the theme of "The Four Seasons". All the Pre-K students have signed and used their thumbprints and creativity in clever ways to decorate this one-of-a-kind set. The Second Grade project is now in the hands of Unique Image Photography and promises to be truly spectacular. We are excited to share with you all of the Live Class Art Projects as soon as they are complete.

If you have any questions regarding the 2011 Auction, please email: [auction@friendsmh.org](mailto:auction@friendsmh.org) with the Subject line: **Question**.

To preview a copy of the 2011 Auction Catalog, please visit the [Auction Catalog Preview](#) link. This can also be viewed on the 2011 Spring Auction page of the Friends School website. Follow the [2011 Spring Auction](#) link to view.

## What's Happening on Campus

### FSMH Teacher Feature - Getting to Know the Friends School Teachers

#### T. Colleen Fitzpatrick



T. Colleen earned her BA in Secondary Education and English at La Salle University. She also has completed 15 credits toward her Developmental Reading Certificate at Rowan University and received her Masters in Library Sciences from Rutgers University. At FSMH, T. Colleen is a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher and a Battle of the Books Coach.

T. Colleen became a teacher for the “opportunity to witness children **living life** every single day. Working with them keeps me focused on the truly important things in life. It is such a gift to get paid to do something that brings me so much joy.”

When asked why she chooses to teach at Friends school, T. Colleen replied, “I taught for twelve years in public school, and although I enjoyed it—I knew something was missing. Friends School is a much better fit for me because of the focus on Quaker values. I love that we encourage each student to follow his or her conscience, and that we provide opportunities for students to consider the value of integrity and simplicity...two things that are too often undervalued in our society.”

Having been a teacher for many years, T. Colleen brings a wealth of skills to her teaching arsenal. She believes the expression, “Experience is the best teacher.” In fact, she draws daily on her many years of teaching experience. “I also lean heavily on the knowledge and skills gained in my undergraduate and graduate studies. I embrace technology and strive to find educationally appropriate ways to integrate it into instruction in all subject areas.”

In the classroom, T. Colleen relies on organization and structure. She feels her students benefit from routine. “They know what to expect, and they know how to meet the expectations. I hope it gives them a feeling of security and safety, so they will be more apt to take risks with their learning.”

Aside from routine, T. Colleen strives for patience and flexibility with her students. “I try to be a good listener. I get to know each child’s personality—their strengths, interests, and idiosyncrasies. Children, like adults, need to feel accepted and loved. I try to develop a supportive relationship with each child, and his or her parents, so we can all work together toward the child’s highest potential.”

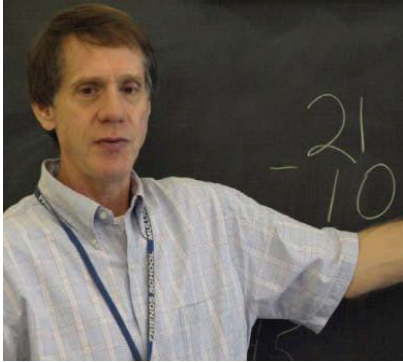
When asked what inspires her, T. Colleen shared, “I have faith, and I try to stay focused on God’s will. I believe He reveals Himself in many ways on this earth—through nature, art, literature, music, and most importantly, through the people and relationships He puts in our lives. I look to all of these things for inspiration.”

T. Colleen and her husband John (a rower, a drummer, and an Ultrasound Account Executive for Siemens) have been married 18 years. Her son, Jack, is a third grader in T. Glenn’s class and her daughter, Molly, is in T. Meredith’s first grade. T. Colleen enjoys reading and talking about books with her book club. When asked about the last book she read, she replied, “Right now, I am re-reading *“Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban”* every night before bed with Jack and Molly. We love Harry Potter! The best book I read recently was *“The Help”* by Kathryn Stockett.”

T. Colleen’s favorite way to spend downtime is with her family, some of whom live at the shore. They spend time on the beach, the boardwalk and the water parks. “I love to sit on the porch and eat crabs with several generations of my family spending time together. Being near the ocean makes me feel like all is right with the world.”

T. Colleen also shared these parting thoughts, “I am constantly impressed, inspired & humbled by my coworkers. I am looking forward to learning even more about what makes each one of them special.”

### T. Glenn Parker



T. Glenn grew up in a Quaker family, attending Meeting for Worship every week. He attended Westtown, a Quaker boarding school for high school. For his senior project at Westtown, T. Glenn served as an assistant teacher for the school's third grade. He went on to earn his B.A. at Haverford University, a Quaker university.

When asked why he became a teacher and why he teaches at FSMH, T. Glenn replied, "I became a teacher because of my strong personal connection with Quaker education, and because of my belief that in this small setting I could have a far-reaching effect on the life of every student." He went on to add, "I believe that good teaching, like good parenting, requires the ability to

model behaviors and to offer guidance, and then to step back and encourage the children to become independent, self-motivated learners and creators. I'm inspired by watching the joy with which children explore their world and grow in every moment of every day."

The book T. Glenn is currently reading is "*Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void*" by Mary Roach, which is about the science of how astronauts prepare for space travel. T. Glenn also loves music and is a self-taught drummer. He enjoys watching movies with his wife Lisa and his daughter Rebecca, a sixth-grader at Friends. T. Glenn and his family live on a small farm, thus he reports "lots of my hobbies revolve around working there: gathering firewood, growing hay, repairing tractors, etc. I enjoy working outdoors and being surrounded by the beauty of nature."

### T. Debbie Rozanski



T. Debbie comes to FSMH by way of the Midwest. She was born and raised in Ohio and graduated from Kent State University with a B.S. in Education. She taught for two years in Ohio before moving to the East Coast and settling in to a teaching position in Audubon, NJ where she would teach for the next 34 years in varying grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>. While in Audubon, she was the Safety Patrol Advisor (28 years), Student Council Advisor (27 years) and served as a member of the Instructional Council (30 years) writing curriculum.

T. Debbie became a teacher because, "I love to learn, explore, experiment and share ideas with both children and my peers." When asked why she decided to join the teaching staff at Friends, T. Debbie replied, "The grass is always greener... after retiring

from public school in 2008 I realized how much I missed being with kids. Their enthusiasm and constant curiosity inspires me and keeps me young. FSMH offers me the freedom to explore new ideas in academic areas while emphasizing character education." At Friends, T. Debbie teaches 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and is a Battle of the Books Coach.

T. Debbie believes that besides the knowledge of curriculum and educational strategies, the most important quality a teacher needs is compassion. "I can still remember many of my school experiences (good and bad) that had lasting effects on my personal life as an adult. My philosophy is very simple. When former students reflect upon the time they spent in my classroom, it is not a math skill or reading lesson that I hope they remember. Rather, I would hope that they recall how they felt when they were in my care; respected, important, unique, and loved."

When asked what inspires her, T. Debbie shared, "I find inspiration by seeing the light in a struggling child's eyes when they finally achieve a goal, or overcome an obstacle." She added, "My goal as a teacher is to teach my students to teach themselves by using their curiosity to constantly seek new knowledge."

T. Debbie enjoys baking, gardening, spending time with friends, traveling, reading and shopping. Her latest read: "*In the Sanctuary of Outcasts*", a memoir by Neil White. She also highly recommends "*House Rules*" by Jodi Picoult. T. Debbie resides in Woolwich Township with her husband, David. She has two step-daughters, Tara, a graduate student at the University of Delaware and Stephanie, a second grade teacher in Florida. She also has one granddaughter, Kelli.

### T. Kathy Saia



T. Kathy is a South Jersey native, growing up in Cherry Hill with her mom and brother. Her father passed away when she was 11 years old. Upon graduating from Cherry Hill West high school, she received a nursing degree from Camden County Vocational/ Technical School becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse specializing in high tech pediatric home care. She earned her B.S. in Elementary Education and Psychology from Rowan University by returning to college part-time while working as a nurse. She has also taken advanced classes working toward her Masters as a Reading Specialist. At FSMH, her responsibilities include, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, Summer Camp Director, Technology Committee Member and teaching a technology class to second graders.

When asked why she went into teaching, T. Kathy replied, "I was working as a private duty nurse caring for my patients in a school setting. I spent a majority of my day in classrooms and found that I loved the energy of a classroom; I loved watching students experience all of those "aha" moments; I loved interacting with a variety of students." With regards to working at FSMH, she responded, "When I heard that Friends School was hiring I immediately began doing research on the philosophy of the school. It became evident, this was a place I could flourish. At my interview, I toured the school and my initial reaction was confirmed. The school's commitment to community service mirrors that of my own life, serving others has always been a high priority for my life. I also value the deep sense of community that allows me to build long standing relationships with both my students and their families." Her commitment to service has led her to undertake several mission trips. In Camden, NJ she stayed at a family center, worked in a soup kitchen and cleaned up the property. In Guatemala, she and her daughters stayed with local Guatemalan families and helped build a school.

T. Kathy finds her own educational experience gives her a unique perspective in her classroom. She confided that school was not always easy for her. "As a young child I struggled learning new concepts and was often frustrated in the classroom. This experience helps me relate to some of my students. I work very hard to try to view each of my students as an individual and meet them where they are. Whether a student struggles academically, socially, or emotionally, I try to understand their needs and fulfill them." She also feels being a mother gives her another perspective of her students and the lives they lead. "I realize that the day does not end at 3pm, for many that is just the beginning!"

T. Kathy draws inspiration from two families whose children struggle with serious medical conditions or permanent disabilities. "They always look for the good in life and are fighting everyday to make a difference in the world. Their trials and tribulations have showed me how easy I've had it, and they've taught me that no matter how tough the going gets, there is always someone else who is in a worse position. It has inspired me to always do what I can for those who don't have the opportunities and abilities I have been blessed with."

T. Kathy enjoys reading, walking, biking, watching her daughters' sports and watching pro sports. Her favorite sports team is the Phillies! The last book T. Kathy read was, "*How to Bake a Perfect Life*" by Barbara O'Neal; a great story about family relationships.

T. Kathy's husband, Dan, is a history teacher at Washington Township High School. He has taught Friends School alumni and finds "they are some of the brightest students he has ever taught." T. Kathy's daughter Katie is 17 and a junior in high school. Katie just started driving, is a member of the National Honor Society and a competitive swimmer. She swims all but 3 weeks a year, competing once a month and travelling to competitions 4 times a year. Katie is currently looking at colleges where she hopes to major in biology and swim at the D1 level. T. Kathy also has a 14 year old daughter Kelsey. Kelsey is a freshman in high school, involved in ROTC and hopes to go to the Air Force Academy. She plays many sports, but her focus is her club soccer team. This team has T. Kathy travelling the tri-state area every weekend from March to June and August to November.

When asked how she likes to spend her downtime, T. Kathy laughed, "What downtime???" On those rare moments, she likes to play with her puppies. Bailey is a one year old yorkie/bicho mix and Tobi, a corgi, is an oversized lap dog!

Despite her very full schedule, T. Kathy also finds time to serve as the president to the parent association for her daughters' club swim teams. Those responsibilities include organizing events and meets for the team of 220 swimmers.

**T. Rhonda Pennington**



T. Rhonda earned her B.A. at Glassboro State College. She began teaching at FSMH in 1985, teaching 1<sup>st</sup> grade for many years and then 2<sup>nd</sup> for several years. Her current responsibilities include teaching Science for PreK through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Yoga and she is the Director of Extended Day. Her two daughters, Tara and Jenna attended FSMH.

T. Rhonda believes she has always known that she would be a teacher. "I started playing "teacher" with my dolls when I was a very young girl. As soon as I was old enough to work, I was employed by my township as a recreation counselor for summer camp."

T. Rhonda came to Friends School Mullica Hill by attending an Open House. "Instead of being a prospective parent, I was looking to see if I wanted to teach here. The rest is history - I've been here for 25 years."

To the classroom, T. Rhonda brings this perspective, "I am a perpetual student myself. Always seeking, wondering, and trying new things. I hope my joy of learning is infectious to the students." She also shares her own elementary school experiences, "I remember well being an elementary student myself. In some subjects I performed well, the concepts and skills were easy for me. In other subjects, I struggled to grasp the content. As a teacher it is easy for me to relate to students and the joys and challenges they face in their studies. I try to use my past experiences as a student to help guide them in their learning in my classroom."

T. Rhonda finds inspiration in nature. "I am happiest pursuing outdoor activities and leisure, often having my best teaching and/or creative endeavor ideas when I am exploring nature." She is also inspired by traveling. "New places, faces, and cultures spur me to new hobbies or to read further about the places I've been."

Embracing nature means T. Rhonda enjoys a varied assortment of outdoor activities: skiing, kayaking, hiking, and gardening. Indoors she enjoys reading and yoga (although she was quick to point out, during the summer, she does her daily yoga session outside!)

T. Rhonda spends her downtime or "quiet-time" relaxing through reading or gardening. She just finished Mark Twain's "*A Tramp Abroad*" on her Kindle. She offers this insight on the book, "Twain traveled to many of the same places I've been, although more than a hundred years ago. To read his accounts of the villages and people from his perspective and from another era was fascinating. His tongue-in-cheek tall stories kept me chuckling throughout the book."

T. Rhonda and her husband Bob have a large family base in her hometown. "A lot of my weekend time is spent at family gatherings. I also enjoy my pets: two Australian Shepherds- Fiona and Kobi; and two cats - Miss Print and Q. Indoors they are my constant companions. Outdoors they follow me about as I putter in the garden."

**Look for more in-depth "Teacher Features" in the upcoming weeks of the Bulletin. You can also find these featured profiles on the [Faculty Profile](#) page of our website.**