



NOTES TO PARENTS

July 2008

FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Near the end of this school year, I received a call from Christian Wilson '00, not only one of the school's former students, but a student in my own 8th grade Civics class. He was calling from Manhattan where for the past year he worked in the financial services industry. This represented for him a "year off" from his true ambition: to become a doctor. Christian was calling me to thank Friends School. It is Friends School, he said, where he developed the confidence and ambition to aspire to great things. And the great news that he had to report was his acceptance, on full scholarship, to Columbia University Medical School.

Christian isn't the only Wilson who has made us proud. He has siblings! His sister, Morgan, came to see me about an hour after I had spoken with Christian. She spent a year after high school in China. She is fluent in Mandarin and French. And now that she has graduated from Boston University, she is trying to decide whether to pursue a law degree, or a law degree and an MBA at the same time! And Damon '03, their younger brother, recently signed a professional contract to play for an Austrian soccer team.

I certainly do not think that the school deserves all of the credit; the Wilson kids were raised by their mother, Donna, who managed the family on her own after the sudden death of her husband, the father of her three young children. Donna moved the family to the house of an Aunt. That house stood next to our parking area on High Street, on the neighboring lot where the small, backyard shed still stands. In my mind, the strength of Donna Wilson's character is central to the success of her children.

But I have to admit feeling both humbled and proud when Christian called that day. Humbled that such a terrific kid, an Amherst College and St. Andrew's School graduate, took the time to reach back to a more distant school past to acknowledge our positive influence on his life, and the lives of his siblings. Imagine, I thought to myself, Friends School standing out for Christian, among some of the giants in the education universe, as the most critical to his success.

And, I am proud that one of our own has already achieved so much in his life.

Humble also to work with teachers and staff who have such critical impact upon students. And proud to be counted as one of their number.

All of us hope that the ambition we feel for each one of our students - that they discover their gifts and aspire to their highest potential - is evident in all of our labors with your children.

I hope that the summer has treated all of you well. We look forward to welcoming you back in September!

—Drew Smith—
drewsmith@friendsmh.org

Community Service News

Thanks

A special "thank you" to everybody for their time, efforts, and contributions to our service program. Parents, teachers, students, and friends were involved in many projects throughout the school year. These projects were focused both on local and international issues. At the heart of a Friends education is an opportunity for all of us to help those who are in need.

—Peter Manzelmann
Service Coordinator

Talent Show / Service Presentation

On Friday, June 13, the Middle School held its annual talent show. This year's event also included presentations by each grade highlighting their service work. There was singing, dancing, piano/guitar playing, and skits. It was an important afternoon to have our student proudly stand in front of the entire school to say how they helped "others" this year. There were many heart felt, touching moments and many talented performances. We were also delighted to have two special guests attend the event – Gabe (a consumer from the Paulsboro ARC) and Sonja Pieper (a graduate from the Mannington RDS School). We look forward to having more visits from both Sonja and Gabe next year.

Malaria Nets

As the sixth grade traveled through South America, Africa, and then on to Asia with their rigorous mapping program, they learned about malaria. They learned that each year, malaria afflicts approximately a half-billion people (roughly the population of the United States, Canada, and Mexico combined). Malaria kills more than a million people per year with 90% of those who die being African children. Lastly, every thirty seconds in Africa a child dies of malaria. After studying these parts of the world and learning more about this terrible disease, the sixth grade purchased 16 malaria nets. These nets are specially treated to help prevent contact between families and these nocturnal mosquitoes. Great job, 6th grade!

Did You Know.....

- **Middle School** held a bake sale in September to support a family whose son drowned in the Delaware River.
- **MS Green Club** received a \$500 grant from the Gloucester County Clean Community Program after conducting a 10 hour clean up of the Friends Woodland Preserve.
- **Seventh grader Aileen Denzler** won the Friends peace Essay Contest. She is using her prize money to buy needed items for kids in Dominican Republic.
- **MS Green Club** sold over 200 reusable bags this year. Proceeds went to other service projects (i.e. malaria nets, ARC).
- **Sixth grade** made two visits to the Mannington RDS School to work with children who are mentally and physically challenged.
- **Pre-K** donated canned goods to a food pantry.
- After a talk from a woman from Haiti, the **sixth grade** held a bake sale and donated the proceeds to Doctors Without Borders.
- **Kindergarten** supported a Multiple Sclerosis Bike Trip.
- The **first and third grades** participated in a Scholastic reading program that donated books and preserved the rainforest.
- **Fourth and fifth grades** helped gather non-perishable food from our community and put together 350 box lunches for needy, local children.
- **Fifth grade** made two visits to the Friends Home in Woodstown to visit with the elderly.
- Each **seventh grader** made four visits to the local ARC facilities.
- Our school raised \$1944.95 at the annual ARC Mini-Walk.
- **Second grade** made blankets for hospitalized children who need love and warmth.
- **Third grade** collected pajamas that were donated to a local Woman/Child shelter.
- **Middle School students** helped with the daily recycling chores at the end of each school day.
- **Fourth grade** held bake sales to support a local family after a fire to their home and to donate to the Cedar Run Nature Center in Medford.

From the Principal

When the eighth graders were younger, I was a kindergarten teacher for some of them and a first grade teacher for others. And, to help me reflect on their experiences at Friends School, I wish to use a song that we sang often in those early years.

“Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes”

Head – You are an intelligent, studious class. For many years, you have worked hard in all your academic subjects. You have achieved great things. It is the hope of your teachers that you will continue to thirst for knowledge throughout your life.

Shoulders – You have learned to serve others. You have carried others’ burdens, offered a shoulder for a friend to cry on, lifted others upon your shoulders so they may reach their dreams, and leaned on each other for support. You have experienced what it means to be a part of a community.

Knees – When you were younger, you often fell and skinned your knees, but you never stayed down. You jumped up, brushed yourself off, and went back on the jungle gym. In the future, there will be more skinned knees, continue to rise from these hardships.

Toes – Step out into the world with confidence because each one of you is a unique, fascinating individual. Believe in yourself. Stand strong in your convictions. Try new experiences.

Eyes – Remember the I-to-I conferences. You possess the skills to resolve conflicts peacefully.

Ears - Listen to others’ opinions – just as you did during circle time.

Mouth – Speak the truth and build others up.

Nose – Take time to “smell the roses” and quietly reflect. Be still so that you may be able to hear that small voice inside of you.

Knowledge, service, perseverance, confidence, peaceful resolution, listening, truth, and reflection characterize a Friends School education. They are grand ideas. It may be easier to remember, “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes”.

—Graduation remarks by Patti Sanderson

Eighth Grade Leadership Project



For the last trimester, eighth graders were given an opportunity to participate in a Leadership Project. Each pair of leaders were partnered with a preferred lower school grade level. They had the responsibility to plan a weekly lesson about a topic that they felt knowledgeable. Their ideas were unique!

Kamrin Lattany and **Zach Beauchemin** taught kindergartners “how to’s” - how to tie your shoe, how to make a paper airplane. Second graders participated in conflict resolution activities led by **Carson Puriefoy**, **Ryan Porch**, and **Jesse Petrongolo**. **Natalie Slaughter** and **Amanda Patti** taught a song to third grade girls that they performed at the Talent Show. While **Evan Larsen** and **Eric Burlison** perfected the ping pong skills of fifth graders, other eighth graders led games and tutored younger students. In every session the observing teachers were impressed with the maturity and responsibility of our young leaders.

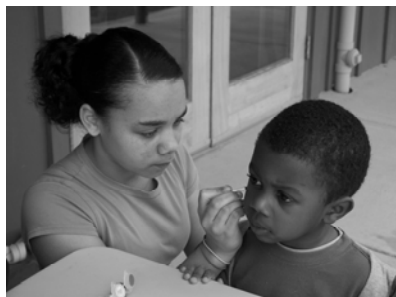
During one of the eighth grade leadership periods, **T. Rhonda** remarked, “Oh, the student that I taught how to read is reading to first graders!” How satisfying it is for teachers to witness the transformation and growth of their students.



Lower School News

Earth Day 2008

On April 22nd Friends School students celebrated their favorite planet, Earth! To



show their spirit, lower school students had their faces painted in eco-friendly designs. Partner classes

participated in stations that planted trees in the Heritage Woodland Reserve, spruced up several Friends' gardens, and prepared a list of the "Top Ten Ways to Save the Planet". At the closing **T. Lesley's** class sang their rendition of "The 3 R's -Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle".



Congratulations!

... to second grader, **Anna Holemans**, for her honorable mention award in the *Hey, Little Ant* Essay Challenge. In Library, **T. Sue** invited the students in Kindergarten through Second Grade to answer the question that appears at the end of the book *Hey, Little Ant*. The question refers to a stand-off between an ant and the kid who is considering squishing it. In response to the question "What do you think that kid should do?", the students drew a picture or wrote an essay of 200 words or less. For her award-winning response, Anna will receive a personalized, signed copy of *Hey, Little Ant*.

Thank You Parents!

Field Day was awesome! We appreciate the help and support from our school community.

Third Grade Poets

T. Megan and **T. Lauren** are thrilled to announce that each student in the third grade had poems selected to be published in the *Young Poets Collection 2007/2008*. This collection is designed to provide an opportunity for children to share their creative work with others and to further the enjoyment that writing can bring to their own life. Poems were selected for their creativeness, use of language, and appearance of the poetry. Kudos to all of our aspiring poets!

Oyster Day 2008

What better way to kick off summer than a celebration of the oyster!



Volunteers from Project Ports (Promoting Oyster Restoration Through Schools) helped students prepare shell bags that will be placed in the Delaware Bay. Older students experienced the act of farming for oysters as they operated the oyster tongs. Younger students were able to identify shells and touch live sea animals.



Middle School News

Reflections of Year One

As I reflect upon my first year at Friends School Mullica Hill, I am filled with two feelings: happiness and anticipation. I am extremely pleased with my first year at Friends School. It took a bit of time for me to adjust to middle school students and a middle school atmosphere. I must admit it was a much bigger change than I had anticipated. It was a joy to watch the students grow academically, athletically, and socially. My favorite moments were the times I observed the students doing service at the ARC Mini-Walk, MLK Day of Service and other events – it was truly inspiring.

As pleased as I am with this year, I am anxious about next year. I have so many new ideas that I can't wait to implement and share with my classes. I think this coming year will be even better than last. The summer is a much needed break, but I am already excited to come back and see my students and colleagues. It was my pleasure interacting with all of the faculty, staff and students this year.

I greatly appreciate the patience and understanding with which the school community received me. Buckle up for 2008-2009!

High School Update

This year's graduating eighth grade class had a wonderful year academically, athletically and socially. All of their hard work paid off in terms of high school acceptances. Every eighth grader was able to attend either their first or second choice of high school. The list of high schools that they will be attending includes: Archmere Academy, Bishop Eustace, Clearview Regional High School, Gloucester County Institute of Technology, St. Augustine Prep, St. Joe's Prep, Tatnall Prep, Washington Twp. High School, Wilmington Friends, and Woodstown High School. The most impressive part of the high school application and acceptance process was the positive feedback about our past and present students from the various admissions counselors. All of the area high schools think very highly of our students!

—Joe O'Brien
Middle School Coordinator

School Supplies for Fall 2008

All middle school students should have:

- 6 notebooks with perforated pages
- 1 three-ring binder stocked with:
 - 7 folders
 - 1 marble composition book (100 pages)
 - 1 Spanish/English dictionary
 - 1 flash drive (at least 1GB)
 - note cards (at least 300)
 - note card storage box
 - pencils and pens

Sixth graders will also need:

- colored pencils
- blue, green, red, and black fine point pens

Spring Sports Round-Up

If we judge strictly by record, the softball had a difficult year in 2008; but, if we judge by effort and improvement, then the season was a total success. Game by game the team managed to score more runs and keep the games very competitive. All of the players return next year, so we expect a better record next season.

The track team had an incredibly successful season. They competed in meets against large, competitive public schools and were able to hold their own. We had numerous individuals win various events this year. Our 4x100m relay team was one of the best around. The team was led by the efforts of eighth graders **Eric Burleson** and **Kamrin Lattany**. Eric set his personal record in the 100m and Kamrin did the same in the shotput. Many of the athletes return next year, so again, we expect to have another great season. Spring sports next year should be very exciting!

Service Award

Graduating eighth grader **Flavia Lopes** received the President's Volunteer Service Award for her efforts at the Glassboro Child Development Center. Each eighth grader completed two service projects during the course of the school year. This pilot program was quite successful and will be continued next year.



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