



NOTES TO PARENTS

June 2009

FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

By Ben Herman '09, Chris DiMaria '09, Emily Herman '12
Heads of School for the Day (*with help from Drew Smith, Head of School Most Days*)

One of the most important activities at Friends School is community service. Like last year, every member of the 8th grade class was required to propose and complete two community service projects. As you will read in *Notes for Parents*, all other grades in the school also participated in community service. Some of the projects were organized by students, and some were organized by a whole class, and some for the whole school.

The biggest community service projects this year were: *Pennies for Peace*, the *Feed the Children Dinner*, and the *Take it to the Bank Charity Basketball Tournament*. We are highlighting these projects because these included not only the Friends School community but also members of the public. At the *Pennies for Peace* concert, hosted by the Crescent Moon coffee shop, for example, we were surprised by how many non-Friends School people attended. We raised over \$250.00 at the event to build schools for children in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The overall total we raised for *Pennies*, was over \$800.00.

The reason why we believe that community service is so important is because it provides students an awareness not just of our own community's needs, but also of the needs of people around the globe. At the *Feed the Children Dinner*, the school achieved this by bringing us together to share food from all over the world. These dishes symbolized the countries that would receive the money we raised. These dishes also brought us closer to the people who were suffering; it made us feel like we could actually reach out to help even though we are so far apart.

We think that community service makes us better people. It makes us appreciate what we have in our own lives. It makes you appreciate even more the opportunity to go to a great school like Friends. By helping other people in the world improve their lives, all of us not only achieve a sense of charity towards others, but also a sense of pride in a job well done.

As we mature as students at Friends School, we become more and more of an influence on younger students. Since we as teenagers are influenced by community service, we hope that this will cause younger students to become more interested in performing community service themselves. As three older students at Friends, we hope to see the younger generation as inspired by community service as we have been. We hope this will help make the world a better place, one act of service at a time.

From the Principal

**“Tell me and I will forget.
Show me and I will remember.
Involve me and I will understand.”
Chinese Proverb**

I encourage you to read the *Notes to Parents'* articles through the eyes of this ancient Chinese philosopher. Note the teachers' efforts in not only imparting knowledge for students to remember but striving to reach a level of understanding in them. The variety of service projects, drama productions, walks through the woods, and hands-on classroom projects are well choreographed to require our students to actively participate.

During this school year a team of teachers (Nicole, Kathy, Colleen, Joe, and I) participated in an ADVIS professional development program that explored the use of social networking and its application in education. We learned that how and what we teach our students will need to change in order for them to meet their shifting future. Because *Google* has given us information at our fingertips, what students do with knowledge will be more valuable than having knowledge. Although each of us learned new technology tools (I am so pleased that I now know what Twitter, NING's, and Skype are!), we were constantly reminded by our leader, Sheryl Nussbaum-Beach, that the educational change for our students was not about the tools. It is the need to provide skills and opportunities for our students to learn how to work, share, and produce collaboratively with people from all over the world.

I believe that the activities highlighted in this publication, while remaining true to the basic principles of learning, are also developing skills for the 21st Century. In the drama productions students learned to work with one another, improved their communication skills – most notably public speaking, and developed empathy and understanding of others as they acted in roles different from their own personality. Second graders confidently shared their knowledge of Ancient Egypt as they served as tour guides. Fifth graders discussed themes in a book with a generation much different from their own. And most of the service projects required the input of many for their success. At Friends School children have many opportunities to be involved.

Patti Sanderson



Pine Barrens Projects

This year T. Peter initiated the Pine Barrens Projects for fifth through eighth grades. His goal was to introduce and educate students on the ecology and history of this unique region. Each student in fifth, sixth, and seventh grade went on two hikes, one in the fall and one in the spring, through the Pine Barrens. Eighth graders attended a two-day camping and canoe trip on the Wading and Oswego rivers. These experiences provided an exposure to the natural world, helping students to appreciate the environment and to understand the importance of this region.



Students Beautify the Campus

During the morning drop-off, third grade students can be seen caring for the new planted garden in the front yard of the Hanshi building. Some of the science class periods were dedicated to preparing the garden's soil and planting the flowers.

On Earth Day class partners helped make the playground a safer and more attractive place by picking up many sticks and branches. They lashed some together to make picture frames.

Fourth grade students, T. Shaner, and parents pulled weeds, planted flowers, and painted the seats in the amphitheater. What a make-over!



Community Service News

Friends School Service Projects 2008-2009

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”
Anne Frank

Pennies for Peace – The school wide collection to help build schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan raised over \$800.

ARC Mini-Walk – Friends celebrated their relationship with ARC by holding a walkathon in April and raised \$1113 to help support a summer camp for the challenged adults.

MLK Jr. Day of Service – Many students, parents, and friends volunteered to help clean the school campus, organized Ronald McDonald House donations, visited the elderly at the Friends Home, and helped sort donated clothes.

Take It To The Bank Charity Basketball Tournament – The weekend event collected \$3000 in donations to help support a micro-banking program in Haiti.

Feed the Children Benefit Dinner – A dinner organized by some 8th graders helped generate funds for the *Feed the Children* program.

Daily Recycling – Each middle school student participated in the year long recycling program on the Friends campus.

Pine Barrens Trips – 5th, 6th, 7th graders collected recyclables and garbage on their Fall and Spring hikes.

Middle School Green Club – Received a \$500 grant from the *Gloucester County Clean Communities Program* after a Friends campus and Woodland preserve cleanup.

Seventh Grade - The class made three trips to the ARC Bakery and Chestnut Ridge Center to work with mentally and physically challenged adults.

Sixth Grade – The class made two trips to the Mannington Regional Day School (RDS) to work with and do yoga with mentally/physically challenged children. The class also raised funds to purchase ten malaria nets for African families.

Fifth Grade – The class made two trips to the Friends Home to work with the elderly. The last visit was focused on a novel that both the seniors and the 5th grade had read. The 5th grade also participated in the *Read to Feed* program to raise funds for Heifer International.

Fourth Grade – The class made a monetary donation to the Wharton State Forest while on a trip to Batsto. They collected funds for the *Surfrider Foundation* to help preserve NJ beaches and save marine life. They also collected 60 pairs of jeans for the Jeans for Teens program. This spring the class participated in the beautification of the school’s amphitheatre.

Third Grade – Organized and collected items for the Box Lunch Collection. Over 400 boxes were packed and delivered to the Woodbury Food Pantry to help children on the school lunch program during vacations. The third grade also sold plants to help raise funds for the T. Rhonda garden in the front of the Hanshi Building. Left over money was used to obtain a National Wildlife Habitat certificate for the Friends Campus.

Second Grade – The class made beautiful, colorful fleece blankets (three big bags) that were sent to the Children’s Regional Hospital to help comfort sick and injured children.

First Grade – Organized the *Cam Care Book Drive* in February and collected 660 books to be sent to the clinic at Cooper Hospital.

Kindergarten – The class held a very successful drive to collect clothing, shoes, and games for needy children at the *Cradles to Crayons* program in Horsham, PA. In conjunction with the kindergarten play, funds were collected for the Nature Conservancy to help preserve the *Arctic National Wildlife Sanctuary* (ANWR).

Pre-K – Collected can goods and donated them to Woodstown Food Pantry.



Emily and Maddie, fifth graders, visit with residents of Woodstown Friends Village.

Lower School News

Horseshoe Crabs By Diane Driessen

Second grade students recently completed a cross-curricular project that included science, creative writing, and art. Their study focused on the horseshoe crab, an ancient creature that has lived and adapted for millions of years and is now struggling for survival along the Jersey shore. **T. Rhonda** introduced the students to horseshoe crab anatomy. Did you know horseshoe crabs have six paired legs? Did you know that horseshoe crabs have 10 eyes and can detect UV light?

T. Debbie and **T. Kathy** worked with students on a creative writing project titled: *If you were a horseshoe crab?* **T. Diane** had students create drawings and watercolors that depicted the horseshoe crab in its natural habitat.



As a culminating activity, **Winnie Radalon**, papermaker and horseshoe crab lover, captivated second graders with a horseshoe crab presentation and papermaking. Winnie talked about the life cycle of a horseshoe crab. She also talked about the medical uses and the importance of horseshoe crab conservation.

The horseshoe crab plays an important ecological role in the Delaware Bay food web.

Student artwork and writings from this project were submitted for possible inclusion in the Ecological Research and Development Group's anthology. **Julia Kropiewnicki** and **Shelby Whetstone** had their work selected to appear in *Poems, Tales and Images, 2009*. This year over 400 entries from five states, Japan, Taiwan and Singapore were judged. This year the exhibition of Young Voices will premier at Perkins Center for the Arts in Collingswood, NJ, on June 20th. A reception for the young artists and their teachers will be held. The website is www.horseshoecrab.org.

Transcending the Ages By George Crispin

The students at FSMH are not always confined to the classrooms. They are accustomed to field trips. They go to museums, historic sites, observatories, and even, sometimes, to the fields themselves, as in the Pine Barrens. Last April 23rd the fifth graders journeyed to Woodstown Friends Village, a nearby residence of older people who choose to live in a community of older people. There they joined a class called "Loving Literature", consisting of residents mainly in their 80's, except for one. She is 99. Each week I am fortunate to lead this class and the "Ladies in their Eighties".

In **T. Peter's** fifth grade language arts class, the students were studying a novel, "Stargirl". Upon reading it at home over Christmas break, I thought it would be a good book to study in my class at WFV. The ladies loved it! Then, an idea struck, forged into a plan by T. Peter and me. Why not get the two classes together? They are ages apart and probably have different insights.

Thus, on April 23rd the two classes met, separated in age by approximately sixty years. There were some fears. Perhaps the youngsters would be intimidated. Maybe they could not relate or understand each other. Their experiences in life might present a chasm impossible to cross. All of these unspoken fears loomed.

None of this happened. The two groups, sitting across from each other, warmed to each other immediately. Both groups loved the book. Both thought it had much to teach. Both had insights openly shared and accepted by the other. They talked directly to one another. They shared feelings. One boy cried when relating a painful personal experience.

There was much empathy. The hour went fast.

When their time together was over, one universal feeling triumphed. It was a wonderful meeting, filled with togetherness, sharing, respect, and mutual learning from one another.



Kindergartners Act Up! By Lesley Grill

It was a mere five months ago that a conversation sparked a fantastic idea to lead the kindergarten children on a fantastic adventure. Jump to Tuesday, April 21, 2009, and that idea became a reality! **T. Lesley and T. Lauren's** fabulous young actors and actresses performed in the first ever kindergarten play!!!

We Need We was a play inspired by the children, for the children. The basic concept of the play was "we love our world, we love our friends, but, we need we to be!" Teachers and parents collaborated to bring the play to life. Children worked tirelessly rehearsing, learning their lines and three songs, to boot!

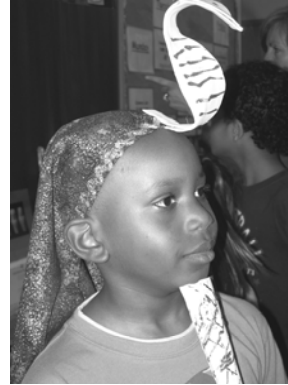
The night of the play was a great success! The Big Exciting Space was brimming with excitement and energy as the kindergartners took the stage! Their costumes sparkled and shimmered! Dressed as birds, flowers, rainbows and farmers...they performed their magic!

Thanks again to all of the teachers, parents and staff for their enthusiasm and creativity! It was a true community effort! We also raised eighty dollars towards the efforts of The Nature Conservancy and The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge!

T. Lauren and I look forward to the day when one of our kindergartners is standing on stage at The Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles thanking their kindergarten community at Friends School for inspiring their winning Oscar performance! Until then...

The Energetic Fourth Grade Learn about Energy

The fourth grade has learned about the environment and ways to protect it. In this spirit they traveled to the Atlantic County Utility Authority's (ACUA) water treatment plant, as well as its landfill and recycling center. The plant houses the nation's first coastal and urban setting wind farm. Not only did the students learn that the ACUA provides all of their own energy through wind, solar panels, bio diesel, and natural gas, but they witnessed bacteria breaking down and neutralizing water before releasing it 98% clean back into the ocean. It was a very educational and "green day" for all.



Second Grade Studies Ancient Egypt By Debbie Rozanski

What would you do with a sistrum? Sit on it, shake it, or feed it to your dog? Ask any second grader at FSMH and they can tell you to shake it – because it is a musical instrument used by the ancient Egyptians. In fact, they learned so much

about the ancient culture that they served as tour guides to the museum which was filled with artifacts created by them.

The second grade classrooms were transformed into galleries that were filled with examples of every day Egyptian life: cartouches, pyramids, jewelry, and crooks and flails. There was a sarcophagus with a "real" mummy, plus a model of the Nile River. Some students even modeled King Tut headdresses. In art class each student designed a cat mummy. In addition to the art projects, students also created Egyptian dictionaries, flip books of gods and goddesses, and a calendar with hieroglyphic numerals.



The museum was a big hit to all visitors—parents, grandparents, and every student and teacher at FSMH. Some comments from these visitors were "The tour was great!", "Thank you for teaching me so much about ancient Egypt", "Awesome!", and "You rock, Second Grade!"



This extensive study culminated with a trip to the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania. The students were able to view real mummies, artifacts and even a huge sphinx.

Middle School News

Middle School Spring Musical

Willy Wonka Jr.



On May 20th the middle school performed its annual spring musical at the Broadway Theater in Pitman. This year, T. Elizabeth directed *Willy Wonka Jr.*, a play that combined scenes and songs from the original book and both film versions. **Olivia Cabry** starred as Willy Wonka and sixth grader **Stephen Byers** made his debut as Charlie Bucket. **Ali Bennett**, as the Candy Man, entertained the audience with her rendition of "The Candy Man". In all, over forty middle school students participated as either cast or crew. The show was attended by over 300 people and was a complete success.

T. Elizabeth and the middle school

students wowed the audience with song and dance set against beautiful scenery. It truly felt like we watching a show on Broadway (NYC, not Pitman)!



Oompa Loompas sang and danced. If you were wise, you listened to them!

Spring Sports Update

This year eighteen athletes (5th – 8th graders) participated on the 2009 Friends track team. The athletes competed in two meets and one invitational all held at the Schalick High School track facility. **T. Peter** served as the coach of the team. Our athletes competed in the long jump, high jump, shot put, short/middle/long distance running events and the relay events. Our students were great school citizens and gave their best efforts against much larger schools – Delsea, Pittsgrove (Schalick), Kingsway, Clayton and against some smaller schools – Hopewell Crest and Gloucester City. At the season ending invitational some of our athletes won ribbons for their excellent efforts.

This year the middle school decided to make softball an intramural program. Thus far there have been two games played and three clinics held. Under the guidance of **T. Shaner** and **T. Nicole**, intramural softball is flourishing. The games and clinics have been well attended by players, teachers, and parents. The games have been great fun and very competitive. The clinics have given the players a chance to sharpen their offensive and defensive skills. There is still one more game on the schedule: June 10th. So it's not too late to come out and watch Friends School's finest.

Some Eighth Grade Service Projects

Friends School requires that each eighth grader complete two independent service projects to meet the graduation requirement. The students' initiation of these projects has developed their organizational and leadership skills.

Eric Karpowicz – collected over 2,000 empty juice pouches for TerraCycle (a company that turns them into school supplies for needy kids and donated \$.02 for every pouch received.)

Ali McCardell – volunteered at the Friends Village to chat and play bingo with the residents.

Theresa Patti – taught CCD at Holy Name Church on Thursday evenings.

Ali Bennett – volunteered at the day care center at her church

Dan Kramer – helped stock the Woodbury Food Pantry, interacted with clients and helped them box and carry food to their cars.

D.A.R.E.

During the past few months, the Harrison Township police officers led the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program for our fifth and seventh grade students. The students learned how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives. At the conclusion of classroom lessons, they wrote essays about what they had learned. **Joseph DiGiovanni, Emily Herman, Miskiyat Jimba, Andrew McGuire,** and **Chloe Patrick's** essays were selected by the officers and read at the closing ceremony. Below are excerpts of an essay.

What would happen if you tried drugs?***By Chloe Patrick***

Life is like a path, and with every path comes forks in the road, choices you have to make. One of those forks, or choices, could be to try or not try drugs. Your life could be great and then one decision could ruin it forever. Going down one path throws away miles of another one, if the decision is bad.

How do you know which path to go down? For example, fifty years ago, people didn't know just how bad cigarettes were for your health, so there was no advisement when choosing which path to go down. Nowadays there are warnings; signs along the path of life advising you what and what not to do.

So why do people still decide to try drugs? Many young people today are pressured into doing things they wouldn't normally do. Some people will try anything to prove themselves as "cool" or be "in" with a certain crowd.

There are different ways companies advertise alcohol and tobacco. They'll use glamour appeal or showing people having fun while using a certain product. They may show beautiful people smoking in order to sell cigarettes when really, cigarettes do not make you beautiful; they turn your teeth yellow, give you wrinkles, and give people lung cancer. You need to be able to see through the ads and make the right decision.

The consequences of doing drugs are very great. Going down the path of drugs will, in the end, ruin your life. One bad decision and your life can be thrown away. This is why you need to be very careful about the choices you make. Whenever you come to a fork in the road of life, you need to make that decision with the end in mind.

Congratulations!

On May 10th, **Lauren Brill** was awarded a certificate of high honors by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth at a statewide awards ceremony. She received the award for her scores on the SAT test taken this year.

National Spanish Exam**By Nicole Donnelly**

In April, middle school students took the National Spanish Exam. This is a voluntary test administered by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. Friends students competed against more than 115,000 students across the country this year.

This marks the third year that Friends School students have participated in the National Exam. It is a difficult exam that measures their cumulative knowledge and is the first of its kind that they take in a foreign language. Our students also compete in an advanced category – that of Outside Experience. This category is for students who have had between three and six years of foreign language instruction *and* for students who are heritage speakers (are exposed to Spanish at home) or whose first language is another romance language. Needless to say, these latter two groups are difficult competition for our students.

Despite the difficult competition, Friends School students have won national recognition for the third year. Eighth graders completed the Level 1 test, in which these students were recognized:

Sydney Tan - Bronze (3rd Place)**Madeleine Scuderi** – Bronze (3rd Place)**Alison McCardell** – Premio (Honorable Mention)

Sixth and seventh graders took the lowest level of the test, Level 01 and the following students placed nationally:

Lauren Brill, 7th Grade – Oro (1st Place)**Daniel Leone**, 7th Grade – Oro (1st Place)**Chloe Patrick**, 7th Grade – Bronze (3rd Place)

Seventh graders **Kyle Robinson, Madison Brown, Elise Lind, Mike Brown,** and sixth grader **Talia Kramer** received honorable mention awards.

In addition to the national standings, two of our students received honors within New Jersey. **Lauren Brill** won second place in the state and was presented with a check for \$75 by AATSP. **Dan Leone** won third place and received a check for \$50. Congratulations to all of our students for their hard work and their accomplishments.



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One School One Book

Read with the Friends School Community

Three Cups of Tea was selected as a school community book for all to read! This selection is unique because the story is told in three different books; a picture book, a juvenile reader, and an adult version. During the 2009-2010 school year, school activities will be constructed around the themes in the book.

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