



AMONG FRIENDS



FOUNDED 1876

DIRECTORY CHANGES

If you have a change to your Directory listing, it is important that you notify the appropriate **divisional administrative assistant** as soon as possible.

All Directory Changes are now posted on a **page in the Parent Portal**. Please log on as this will be updated as changes are known.

SHOP FOR FA!

Throughout the year, there are several opportunities to shop and send some of the proceeds back to Friends, including right now at **Amazon.com** and **Stop and Shop**.



To access, head to your Parent Portal, and click on **"FA Shop and Give!"** on the left-hand side.

THE PARENT PORTAL

Community Login

SITE LOGIN

Please provide your username and password to log in:

Username	<input type="text"/>
Password	<input type="password"/>
<input type="button" value="Login"/>	

[Forgot your username/password?](#)

Log-on to the Parent Portal for your child(ren)'s classes and schedule, 2011-12 Handbook, athletic schedules, directions to games and up-to-date FA announcements.

[CLICK HERE](#)



AMANDA FISK | FRIENDS ACADEMY

Nine of the roughly one dozen teachers, who participated in the "Movember" moustache-growing fundraiser. The faculty of Movember grew their moustaches, beards and goatees in support of men's health issues and to raise money for research about male-specific cancers. To date, the team has raised over \$700 to be donated to LiveStrong and the Prostate Cancer foundation. [Click here](#) to see their moustaches grow!

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VISIT [WWW.FA.ORG](http://www.fa.org) AND CATCH OUR WEEKLY SLIDESHOWS, UPDATED NEWS AND MORE!

AMONG FRIENDS

An informational e-newsletter published monthly for Friends Academy parents, faculty/staff, trustees, former trustees, and the Alumni Board.

NEXT MONTH'S DEADLINE

To include information in the January 2012 electronic issue of *Among Friends* please submit information to the Communications Office by **Friday, December 9.**

EDITOR:

Andrea Miller – Director of Communications and Marketing
Phone: (516) 393-4295
E-mail: andrea_miller@fa.org



Friends Academy admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities available to students at the school. Friends does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, financial assistance program, athletic and other school-administered programs.

ON THE WEB



Congratulations to all the Fall Sports teams for a terrific season!

[CLICK HERE](#) to see a wrap-up slideshow.

DECEMBER QUERY

FRIENDS,

We have so much to be thankful for at Friends Academy. Whether we gather to make sandwiches for the hungry on a Saturday morning or Hunger Awareness Day or witness a group of young women and coaches form lasting connections to each other and win a state championship in soccer, we understand the difference that



BILL MORRIS
HEAD OF SCHOOL

individuals of good will and commitment can make when they join together for common cause.

As we begin the holiday season, with its joyful celebrations of different faith traditions and expressions of love through gift giving and gatherings, let us remember our individual and communal obligations to honor and respect each individual and to serve others.

As the winter solstice approaches in December, we awaken and return home in darkness, not the most uplifting of experiences, but one that offers a time for us both literally and metaphorically to explore our inner lives. This month seems especially apt for drawing together around the hearth with mirth and merriment, but also with reflections about the year passed and resolutions for the year to come.

In this context, our Query raises a number of vexing challenges for each of us. We need to have self-awareness to acknowledge when we are wrong and then summon the courage to do what is right, rather than choose an easier path and compromise our integrity. Further, we need to discern if our moral compass is sufficient to help us find our way, or if we need to seek wisdom from a trusted friend, teacher, or family member. How do we develop the self-awareness,

courage, and judgment in order to find the way when we do wrong?

Self-awareness is the starting point and comes from a high expectancy that the truth about right and wrong is knowable and gives unique meaning to our lives. From this expectancy, we derive an insistent desire to seek the truth through reflection, self-discipline, persistence, patience, and collaboration with others. We need to see ourselves as moral creatures whose decisions and actions affect others and can change the world from what it is to what it ought to be. Then, we need to test our understandings about moral truths through experience. Through reflection about those experiences, we strengthen our moral core. As this process of experiencing, reflecting, and learning continues, our courage, judgment, and integrity

grow. You may think this path arduous – it is – but it is the one we ask your children to follow at Friends each day. We seek to have your children enter into a life-long moral apprenticeship, illuminated by the belief that the inner spirit – the Light or that of God in each of us – opens the way.

QUERY

Oftentimes we struggle to accept when we're wrong; is that the proper reason to compromise moral standards? Should we determine for ourselves what is right or look to others?

– Upper School TASQUE

In so doing, we are giving them the skills and confidence to face the conundrum our Query poses. Would you choose anything else for your children, or yourselves?

Whether you celebrate Hanukkah to commemorate the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem over two millennia ago; or Kwanzaa to honor African-American culture, in the spirit of the Swahili tradition recognizing the first fruits of the harvest; or Christmas, by awaiting the arrival of St. Nicholas and remembering the birth of Jesus with his message of peace, hope, love, and forgiveness, Sue and I wish you all the blessings of the season. Let us resolve in the New Year to support our children and each other in our moral apprenticeships.

Bill Morris

DIVERSITY & MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Shanelle Robinson, Director of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs | (516) 393-4284

'As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.'

– John F. Kennedy

People have given thanks for the bountiful harvests for thousands of years all over the earth. Historical records exist of the ancient Egyptians giving thanks to their gods for the Nile River floods that provided needed irrigation for their crops. The Chinese gave thanks



SHANELLE ROBINSON

to their gods and honored their ancestors. The Romans and Greeks celebrated with feasts, pageants, and revelry. Across Europe, India, Africa, North America and South America, and the rest of the earth over the millenia, there have been commemorations and feasts of thanksgiving.

Native Americans of North America had harvest celebrations for centuries, praising the “Earth Mother.” Although these harvest celebrations differed for each tribe across North America, there was still a common belief amongst Native Americans that a “spiritual” being or force had blessed them with life and longevity.

Nearly 70 percent of all crops grown today were originally cultivated by Native American peoples. The Wampanoag people are the tribe that first had contact with the English. Wampanoag means “land where the sun comes up first” and they are called “People of the First Light” because they would actually see the sun first. At the “first Thanksgiving” it was the Wampanoags who provided most of the food and signed the treaty which granted the Pilgrims the right to the land at Plymouth.

However, in retrospect, it is said that many of the Wampanoag people view the feast of Thanksgiving in the fall of 1621 as a significant but sad event, which led to the settlement of their land by English settlers. The Wampanoags shared their knowledge

of the land and sea around them with the Pilgrims. Among many Native American peoples, showing that you can give without holding back is the way to earn respect. It is believed that by giving there would be enough for all. This should have been

the beginning of an honorable, mutually beneficial collaboration between two disparate peoples from different parts of the world but, as history chronicles, it did not happen. A plausible reason for this could have been the real language, cultural and spiritual differences which existed between them. The Pilgrims did not view the Native Americans as equals, and instead viewed them as savages. Were the differences between them (religious, ethnic, cultural, linguistic, racial, moral, etc.) that irreconcilable? The bias and bigotry held against the Native American peoples in the 1600’s are not so unlike the societal oppression that exists today. Today there are members of our community who are devalued, marginalized, scapegoated and branded as the “other.” Three hundred ninety years later, how much has changed in the way we view those who are different from ourselves?

There is a Native American saying which states, “We have been given the duty

to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things.” Unfortunately, we live in a society where cultural intolerance and xenophobia continue to exist. As a “nation of immigrants,” it seems as though America has developed a memory

of convenience when it comes to its relationship with newcomers – lacking a mutual respect for both language and culture. One needs only to look at the current policies on immigration in the states of Alabama, Arizona and South Carolina, or the visceral anti-immigrant sentiment on Long Island, which has been on the rise as the immigrant population has grown, as a testament.

I choose to celebrate Thanksgiving as a feast day on which I thank the creator for all the things that have been given to me and my family throughout the year. And, in Native American spirit, I also give thanks for the unknown blessings already on their way. There is always a time for gratitude and author Melody Beattie

writes, “Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.”

What are you thankful for?



On Wednesday, Nov. 16, the FA community hosted a special film screening and panel discussion of “**Not in Our Town: Light in the Darkness**,” a one-hour PBS documentary about the town of Patchogue taking action after anti-immigrant violence devastates their community.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see more photos.

ALSO ON THE WEB

Genealogy:

www.genealogyforum.com

Dismantling Thanksgiving myths:

A Native American story.

www.capecodtoday.com



CHESSE AT FRIENDS

ANNUAL INTERSCHOOL CHESS TOURNAMENTS, 2011-12

For students, K - 9th grade

- Friday, December 2 at Green Vale
- Friday, January 20 at East Woods
- **FRIDAY, MAY 18 AT FRIENDS**

All tournaments start at 3:45 p.m. and end at 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY INVITATIONALS

In Lower School (main floor, classrooms and library) from 2 to 6 p.m.

- Sun., Nov. 20th
- Sun., Jan. 8th
- Sun., Feb. 5th
- Sun., March 11th

FRIENDS ACADEMY CHESS FESTIVAL

Sunday, April 22 from noon to 6 p.m.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Dan Kriesberg, Middle School Science Teacher



Tips for a More Sustainable Holiday Season

There are many ways to celebrate the holidays and at the same time act in a more environmentally responsible manner. Simplify for sustainability is the motto. Decorations are one aspect of the holiday that provide many opportunities for conservation. A few less lights conserve electricity without taking away the holiday spirit. Try to avoid one-time use decorations and make some by hand. It is a way to have some quality family time and help the environment.

Gift giving is another place to make a difference. Besides just buying less stuff, families members can, give a gift to the family that helps the environment, for example a compost bin or a bird feeder. Give the gift of time to a loved one, take over a chore for a family member. As new gifts come in, donate the old toys to charity.

Take at least one action to make a statement and share your ideas. Need a start? Head to [Simplify The Holidays Challenge](http://www.newdream.org) (at www.newdream.org) from the Center for a New American Dream.

Health & Wellness Speakers Series

Faculty, Students & Parents – Together Making a Difference

NEXT WEBINAR

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2011, 8:00-9:00 P.M.

**“Your Digital Identity's Net Worth:
From College Admissions to Future Employers”**

To share or not to share? Tag or no tag? The Internet is an open campus with infinite potential. Who influences and accesses our cyber identity? How can adults facilitate healthy decision-making? Dexterous teens easily conceal their digital footprints, rendering the task of instilling responsibility seemingly formidable. Learn how digital dossiers are created and their potential implications. Acquire pointers to mitigate negative repercussions and accentuate the positive. Ensure students are responsible net users and leave impeccable impressions with every login.



HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

1. For registered and new users, [click here](#) for sign-up information and URLs.
2. Once you have registered, you'll receive an e-mail confirmation, as well as, a reminder on the day of the Webinar. These will provide the URL address to click on.
3. The recording of this Webinar will be available to download from the COS online resource center starting **Tuesday, December 6.**

QUESTIONS?

E-mail support@campusoutreachservices or call 888-773-7072

FA SUMMER CAMPS

Dear Parents and Friends,

We encourage you to take the time to explore the many SUMMER CAMP programs that are offered right here at FRIENDS ACADEMY. It is never too early to plan for the summer and secure a spot in one of our 26 programs. Our programs are open to all age levels and range from a variety of activities to more specific areas of interests that include sports, the arts, computers, academics as well as adventure and travel. Visit our website at www.fasummercamp.org to view our many selections and **ENROLL EARLY** to secure a spot and SAVE!!

For more information please contact us (516) 393-4207 or Camp@fa.org. We are looking forward to seeing many more FA students on campus this summer. On behalf of our camp office and summer staff, we would like to wish everyone a Safe & Happy Holiday season!!

- Rich Mack, Camp Director, FA Summer Camps

**"ENROLL EARLY!!
DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR
PROGRAM OF CHOICE!"**



**OPEN
GYM!**

SUN. DEC. 11
1-3PM

Why you should spend the summer with FRIENDS!

- 1 OUR FACILITIES:** Our FA families are familiar with our amazing facilities. Add 3 beautiful pools, a NEW air-conditioned main gym and nothing beats it.
- 2 OUR FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE:** Choose from over 26 programs. Choose the weeks that best fit your summer schedule. Choose from 1-8 weeks.
- 3 OUR PROFESSIONAL STAFF:** Our experienced coaches and teachers get to know each individual camper, which helps build lasting connections.

We are confident your child will find many areas of interest and hopefully explore new areas of interest during the summer months. We expect many programs to fill up fast, so we encourage families to enroll early to secure their program of choice.

DON'T DELAY, ENROLL TODAY!!
(516) 393-4207.

IMPORTANT EVENTS/DATES

OPEN GYM: Sun. Dec. 11th (1-3pm) in our FA Field House. (Camp info. and refreshments will be available.) **BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!** Please RSVP to camp@fa.org with name and age so we can plan accordingly.

FEB. BREAK CAMP: Back by popular demand!! Spaces Limited! Visit our website for details.

Visit us at www.fasummercamp.org and learn more about our Pre-Teen and Teen Travel Programs.

FROM THE LOWER SCHOOL

Deborah McCrimmon, Lower School Principal | Divisional Assistant: Gail Lucidi, 393-4230

The gift of making mistakes

Sometimes as parents, teachers, students, as well as administrators, we think we always have to get it right. Most times we do get it right, but not always on the first try. Betty Ford was a popular public figure until her death and she made huge blunders along the way.

This summer former first lady, Betty Ford (1918-2011) died. Betty Ford did not always get it correct on the first try, but boy, what a legacy she left behind. Betty Ford never thought she was good enough because she did not finish college.



DEBORAH
MCCRIMMON

She was a beautiful and gifted First Lady, in spite of the belief that she was not good enough for a very long period in her life. She married a football star, who

later was a legislator, who became President of the United States. She had lovely and successful children. She was loved. Somehow she overcame her self-consciousness and got over her problems of self-doubt and became an icon.

Betty Ford was a transparent person who sometimes said the wrong things. Regardless of all that, she saved lives by being open about her case of breast cancer and she was open about her bout with prescription drugs and alcohol.

In 1982, she founded the now famous Betty Ford Center for drug treatment and alcohol abuse where countless people have received help for dependency. "Betty Ford's courage to speak out on Breast Cancer and Addictive disease forever changed how these conditions are viewed. She promoted the importance of treatment and access for all (Betty Ford Center Website, 2011)."

What can we do to teach students that it is permissible to make mistakes? How will they learn that sometimes out of mistakes

Tues.	13	Holiday Tag Craft – 3:30 p.m. (Commons) All School Mitten Tree ends
Fri.	16	Lower School Winter Concert – 10 a.m. (Theater)
Sat.	17	Family Community Service Day Sandwich Making – 10 a.m. (Commons)

come great things, chiefly in science and in life lessons? We need to tell them that being wrong sometimes is right. Take a chance, make a mistake and we will forgive you. It is the Quaker belief that everyone is entitled to the same amount of respect to err. As students get it right, a school helps students maintain self-respect. Why should getting it wrong lead to shame?

Schools should not be alone in this acceptance of the incorrectness – parents also have to let their children know that mistakes will be made, and let their children feel comfortable admitting: "That was not correct" or "I made a mistake." It is unconditional acceptance by teachers and parents that promotes the feeling of security that is essential for learning to take place.

If Betty Ford could make mistakes (her name became synonymous with drugs and booze and getting sober, *Time Magazine*, 2011) and come out smelling like a rose, respected and idealized, why can't a child be free to make a mistake? Mistakes are the price we all pay on the road to success.

Betty Ford spent 29 months living in the White House, yet she did not always do things flawlessly; but she got it right in the end. She was a patriot and she was ethical, in spite of her imperfections. That is who we all are, we are all Betty Fords.

No one is perfect, and no child moves through school without making mistakes. Let us remember that when you get that first progress report this year. Let's all go through life willing to be able to make mistakes.

[CLICK HERE: UP-TO-DATE WEB CALENDAR](#)

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

NEW FRIDAY FRIENDS PROGRAM!

Parents may sign up their child with a friend for a supervised afterschool time of crafts, playground, games and fun!
Note: Register as a drop-in.

REGISTER NOW FOR NOV/DEC PROGRAM

Contact Mary Savin at mary_savin@fa.org or Amyrose Lomele at amyrose_lomele@fa.org to register or [click here](#).

Programs & activities offered:

- Social time
- Dress-up
- Blocks
- Free art
- Playground time
- Movie night
- Pizza party
- Arts & Crafts
- Homework help



Hours of Program:

The program runs from 3:30-6 p.m. Children can be picked up at dismissal time or after an enrichment class.

Note: Late fee applied to any pick-up past 6 p.m.

PARENT COUNCIL

WINTER COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS

Students, faculty and parents can work together this winter season to help those less fortunate. This year's toy drive and holiday tag craft event, as well as our Mitten Tree, will be used to help area shelters and organizations.

ALL-SCHOOL MITTEN TREE & TOY DRIVE

When: November 29 – December 13, 2011

Where: LS/MS/US Lobbies

What: New mittens, gloves, hats and scarves
All sizes and types, for infants, youths and adults.
New, unwrapped toys for children of all ages.

Contact: Chair **Rita Afzelius**

LS HOLIDAY TAG CRAFT & TOY DRIVE

When: December 13, 2011, 3:30 – 4:30 PM

Where: Dolan Center Commons

What: Get creative and decorate gift tags for the toys collected in the Toy Drive. Art materials are provided. Bring your imagination and an unwrapped toy for the drive. Refreshments served. Students must be accompanied by parents. **Contact:** Chair **Dawn Kallman**



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED TOWARD THE 2011 FA COAT DRIVE!

A record **413 coats** were collected by Parent Council and distributed to the following organizations:

The Glen Cove Soup Kitchen

The First Baptist Church of Glen Cove

The Inn at Hempstead

Rock Can Roll (who distributes to churches, synagogues and shelters throughout Long Island)

GIVING IS SURE TO WARM YOUR HEART THIS WINTER!

PARENT COUNCIL

Exciting holiday season

Happy Holidays!
The Holidays are here! A clear indication is the beautifully decorated Atrium, Quad, and lobbies throughout campus. More importantly, it can be seen and felt in all the community service activities and projects of the students, faculty and Parent Council.

Please support our senior class by purchasing your Christmas tree, wreath and garlands through Parent Council. While the deadline has passed for pre-orders, extra trees will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis on **Saturday, Dec. 10th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** in the Middle School Parking lot. All proceeds go directly to offset Senior Prom and Graduation expenses. Many thanks to **Susan** and **Jay Goffman** for donating the trees again this year – a true example of what a difference our FA parents make in the lives of all our children.

Another wonderful holiday tradition is our Mitten Tree and Toy drive. All children deserve to have a warm and joyful holiday, and this is a great way to contribute. Hang a set of mittens, gloves, scarves or hat on the tree in any lobby, and see how good you and your child will feel... Speaking of keeping everyone warm, congratulations to **Amy Storch, Tatiana Johnson** and **Natalya Kapoor** for collecting over 413 coats in the Parent Council Coat Drive. Thank you to all who donated; over 413 people in need will be warm this winter because you chose to make a difference. What a great example you are to all our children.

Looking forward, please mark your calendar and join Chair **Lynne Koufakis** at the Dinner and Auction Kick off Party, Tuesday, January 10th 7-9 p.m. at the Jackson House. More info will follow.

On behalf of the Executive Board, have a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, joyful Kwanza and a healthy New Year!

– **Jeanne Sawicki, President**
Evelyn Rechler, Executive Vice President



FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Stephen Rubenacker, Middle School Principal | Divisional Assistant: Marian Tobia, 393-4239

Embracing 21st century change and staying true to committed values

It was great catching up with so many of you at our recent Diversity Night. The night was “electric” with a positive vibe echoing through the halls. As a Friends school, we celebrate Diversity and differences that make us all unique. Every time we do this event, we seem to learn more and more about our community and appreciate how truly blessed we are to be a part of it.

This year, the 6th grade team has worked diligently on incorporating the iPad into their instruction.



STEPHEN RUBENACKER

While the program has been transformed dramatically as a result, we still take a great deal of pride in the way in which the teachers maintained their focus on the aspects of the program

that made it great to begin with.

Their focus on the individual needs of each student is invaluable, and they truly set the stage for the work that continues through curriculum and the advisory program into the 7th and 8th grade. With the success of this pilot this year, there will likely be ongoing conversations about how to keep this momentum going in the other grades.

These are exciting conversations, talks that are truly in line with our emphasis on instilling twenty-first century skills within our student body. However, trust that along the way there will always be a keen eye on maintaining all of the good things that has been a part of the FA culture for so long. A commitment to Quaker values, understanding the sometimes tumultuous lives of a typical middle school student, appreciating them all as individuals and preparing them for the rigors of high school have and always will be our primary focus. “The

[CLICK HERE: UP-TO-DATE WEB CALENDAR](#)

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- Thurs. 1 MS Parent Conferences – 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- Fri. 2 **MS Parent Conference Day, No MS Classes**

- Tues. 6 Middle School Winter Concert – 7 p.m. (Theater)

- Fri. 9 MS Hope Retreat

more things change, the more they stay the same.”

Student-generated goals for advisor/parent conferences

Looking ahead, please remember that December 1st and 2nd marks the annual advisor/parent conferences which will enable parents and advisors to review student progress in the academic, social and citizenship realms. Student generated goals along with parental insight and advisor recommendations will be woven together to form concrete recommendations for the remainder of the school year. Middle School students are encouraged to play an active role in taking the initiative

to attain the goals they set for themselves. The goals most frequently stated relate to time management, organizational and basic study habits.

Recognizing these skills are developed over time, teachers place significant effort both in advisory time and in the classroom working with students to develop responsible habits. The parental role in this regard is to help establish nightly routines that enable students to have adequate time and space to do their daily homework, prepare for assessments and work on research projects.

On behalf of the Middle School faculty and staff, I want to a wonderful winter holiday season!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

AMERICANA MANHASSET CHAMPIONS FOR CHARITY®

DECEMBER 2 - 4, 2011

Register and send 25% percent of your holiday shopping toward the **Friends Academy Diversity Committee Grant Fund.**

To register, [click here](#). And don't forget to choose "Friends Academy, Diversity Grant Fund" as your charity of choice.

CLICK HERE TO GIVE ONLINE 

A QUAKER EDUCATION: A GIFT FOR LIFE

HURRY!

**YOUR GIFT MUST BE RECEIVED BY
DECEMBER 31, 2011 (CREDIT CARDS BY DEC. 29)
TO QUALIFY FOR YOUR 2011 TAX RETURN.**

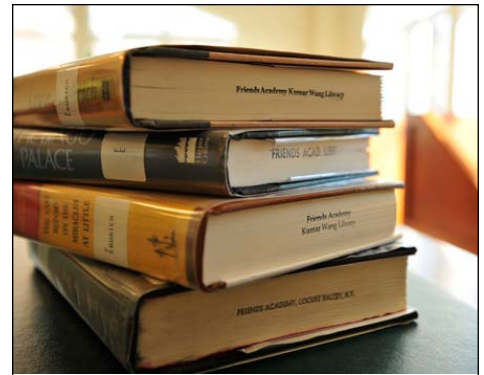
We are grateful to all who choose to support the uniqueness of a Quaker education and the mission of Gideon Frost by making Friends Academy a charitable priority.

Your generosity helps to create a community that is committed to building strong minds and kind hearts throughout our entire student body.



THE ANNUAL FUND

**THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE
IN THE LIVES OF OUR CHILDREN**



THE FRIENDS ACADEMY LIBRARY TRIBUTE FUND

Looking for a way to say thank you to a member of the Friends family? Looking for something special for your child's teacher?

The Library Tribute Fund is a wonderful way to give a meaningful gift that will be remembered for years to come. Any member of the community may give the gift of a book in a person's name. You may request that your gift is used to purchase a particular book or the choice may be left up to the discretion of the library staff.

PAY BY CHECK:

- Include name of person the gift is in recognition and whom it is from.

- **Mail to:**

Friends Academy
Parent Council,
Attn: Kathleen Picoli
270 Duck Pond Road
Locust Valley, NY 11560.

- **Drop off:** Parent Council mailbox on campus

- **Upon receipt:**

A card will be sent to the person who is being recognized and a bookplate with their name will be placed in the appropriate book.

FROM THE UPPER SCHOOL

Deborah Schoman, Upper School Principal | Divisional Assistant: Cathy Philipakos, 393-4215

Technology and education: what makes it work?

There is much energy and momentum around the new tablet technology on campus this year. The Middle School launched an iPad pilot program in the 6th grade in September and the Upper School launched a pilot in the senior English elective Journalism (fall 2011) and Creative Writing (spring 2012). Technology innovations are coming fast and furious and from an educational standpoint we feel strongly that it is important to reflect on the effectiveness of its use in the classroom.



DEBORAH SCHOMAN

Is technology helping students to learn? In an article on *Technology and Student Learning*, author Mike Muir, associate professor of education at The University of Maine and director of the Maine Center for Meaningful Engaged Learning, reports that in schools where teachers have been offered professional development in use of technology and the students have easy access to technology, students "showed positive gains in academic achievement."

Research continues to emerge on this topic but trends indicate that in the right conditions, technology "accelerates, enriches, and deepens basic skills, motivates and engages student learning, strengthens teaching, contributes to positive change in schools, and allows connection to the world." Creativity, collaboration, teaming and critical thinking are skills and qualities that our future leaders will need to demonstrate in this growing global learning environment and workplace and teachers report that that the effective use of

Thurs.	1	Natural Helpers Retreat (Leaves at 2:30 p.m., returns Friday at 6 p.m.)
Fri.	2	Dress Down Day
Sat.	3	SAT & Subject Tests – Local Test Centers
Wed.	7	12th Grade Parent Conferences* – 7 p.m.
Thurs.	8	All Division Student Art Show – 6 p.m. (Art Gallery) Upper School Winter Concert – 7:30 p.m. (Theater)
Sat.	10	SSAT – 8:30 a.m. (Friends Academy Commons) ACT Exam – Local Test Centers
Mon.	19	School Closes for Holiday Break

AHEAD IN JANUARY

Tues.	3	Classes Resume
Thurs.	26	Grades 9, 10 and 11 Parent Teacher Conference Evening* – 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Fri.	27	Grades 9, 10 and 11 Parent Teacher Conference Day – 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. No Upper School Classes

**All appointments will be scheduled online. Information for conferences will be sent via mail and email.*

technology in the classroom can enhance and even help students develop these important 21st century skills.

Several Upper School students have been actively modeling and leading appropriate academic technology use. Junior students **Reed Rosenbluth** and **Raghav Kedia** have presented the values of iPad use to Middle and Upper School faculty, demonstrating how they have benefited from the apps that have enabled them to become more

organized, develop stronger study skills, and delve more deeply into their academic learning experience.

There is much interest in the formation of an Upper School student/faculty technology committee to assess the ways Friends makes use of emerging technology and how it can enhance student learning. We are fortunate to have the resources that allow faculty to engage in tech education to enrich their pedagogy.

Trends indicate that in the right conditions, technology "accelerates, enriches, and deepens basic skills, motivates and engages student learning, strengthens teaching, contributes to positive change in schools and allows connection to the world."



The Friends Academy Girls Varsity Soccer team captured their first state title after a grueling scoreless game against Hoosick Falls HS.

Student-learning outcomes are, and will always be, the primary focus at Friends and whatever the device (tablet or laptop) will be the tool.

Athletic champions, theatrical showstoppers and historic trips

The fall has been an exciting time for Upper School! Hopefully you have been following the results of our athletic teams! (embed link to website?) The Boys and Girls Cross Country teams won the county championships and competed at the State level, finishing 7th (girls) and 8th (boys). Girls Varsity Field Hockey and Soccer teams captured the county and Long Island Championships and both headed upstate for the State level finals! Field Hockey lost in a tough semi-final round (4-1) against an undefeated team. After a grueling scoreless soccer game, the Lady Quakers became co-champions in their first state title! This was truly a remarkable season for our athletes!

Kudos to the members of the varsity chess team who – with one match re-

maining – are in first place in the Nassau County Interscholastic Chess League.

Hopefully you were able to see the fall Shakespearean production *Much A Do About Nothing*, a wonderfully unique and entertaining interpretation that underscored the amazing creativity of director **Andrew Geha** and wonderful versatility of our [student thespians](#).

The fall has been an exciting time for Upper School!

The annual Junior trip to Washington DC was very successful! In addition to visiting museums and monuments, students enjoyed an amazing production of *Othello* at Folger Theatre. They had a great opportunity to bond as a class while exploring potential topics for their upcoming history research paper.

Mark calendar for Upper School Winter Concert

The holiday season is now upon us, as sure as the chill in the air and the hectic quality of our days! We will celebrate the music of the season with our traditional **Christmas and Holiday Concert on Decem-**

ber 8th at 7:30 p.m. This concert is always a great kick-off to the holiday season. Many thanks to the Parent Council for organizing the refreshments for this event.

As we approach the holiday season, it is worth re-emphasizing the school's policy on absences. The school plans the calendar carefully and publishes it early so that families can work around the school calendar for vacations.

We feel strongly that our students should be in school when school is in session. Therefore, we ask families to plan their vacations carefully not to include school days in the vacation plans! Please contact me ahead of time when an Upper School student might miss a school day.

After school student pick-up reminder!

With the darkness of winter setting in before 5 p.m., it is particularly important to be aware of the pick-up location for our students after late-day activities.

There is a teacher on duty in the Dolan Center during late-afternoon bus pick up. Students picked up by car may also wait in this area. Please do not pick Upper School students up in front of the Middle School. This building is locked by 5p.m. and there is no supervision provided for Upper School students in the building or parking area.

Parents are asked to please pick up students by 6 p.m. or make arrangements for them to be picked up as there is no official adult supervision after this time (unless there is a special event planned for the evening and students will be staying through).

Stay current and up-to-date with Ms. Schoman's blog

I invite you to visit [my blog](#) on the FA website to learn more about what is happening in the Upper School!

I wish you a happy, healthy, and peaceful holiday.

HOLIDAY BOOK SUGGESTIONS - 2011

The library staff has assembled this list as a gift to you and your family. It is our hope that members of our school community will find peace, joy, humor, and adventure in the pages of these books. Please remember our motto "Books Make Great Gifts," and as we enter this special time of year, consider giving one of these selections as a holiday gift. HAPPY READING!

LOWER SCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

Baker, Keith. *No Two Alike.* 2011. A pair of birds, while flying around, finds that no two things are exactly alike.

DiCamillo, Kate. *Bink and Gollie.* 2010. Two rollerskating best friends, one short, one tall, share three amusing adventures.

DK Publishing. *How Cool is This?* 2011

The curious-minded child will be captivated by the bright colorful photos and brief descriptions of how some interesting inventions as well as everyday objects work and how natural events occur.

Lipkowitz, Daniel. *The Lego Ideas Book.* 2011

This perfect book for Lego fans offers six chapters of new ideas, including buildings, transportation, and adventure.

The Not for Parents Travel Book. 2011

This fascinating book for older elementary students, is filled with interesting facts and photographs, and dedicates one page to every country in the world.

Ray, Mary Lyn. *Stars.* 2011. The charming tale of how a star can brighten a dark night, but can also be found in your pocket.

Rocco, John. *Blackout.* 2011

A delightful story about the joys of the simple things in life that can happen when the power goes out.

Selznick, Brian. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret.* 2007

Hugo, a young orphan, who lives a secret life in a Paris train station, attempts to solve the mystery of why a toy seller in the station is so angry.

Smith, David J. *If the World Were a Village: A Book About the World's People,* 2nd ed. 2011. An intriguing look at the world as a global village, this book explores languages, religions, food, schooling and possessions.

Smith, Lane. *Grandpa Green.* 2011

A beautiful picture book about a boy whose great-grandfather's life and memories are represented by his garden topiaries.

The World Almanac for Kids 2012. 2011

Fun and fact-filled, with thousands of facts on subjects such as sports, technology, animals, movies and TV, just to name a few.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

Bacigalupi, Paolo. *Ship Breaker.* 2011

This post-apocalyptic story about a boy, survival, loyalty and friendship along the American Gulf.

Falkner, Brian. *The Project.* 2011. The most boring book in the world could be the perfect place to hide a dangerous secret!

Schmidt, Gary D. *Okay For Now.* 2011. Introduces Doug Swietek as he learns to navigate life in his new town with the help of a friend and through the inspiration from a book of James Audubon's bird illustrations.

Selznick, Brian. *Wonderstruck.* 2011

Ben, living in 1977, and Rose, in 1927 with their enchanting parallel stories are woven together.

Vanderpool, Clare. *Moon Over Manifest.* 2010

Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker learns about friendship, loss and redemption while uncovering a mystery in Manifest, Kansas.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. *One Crazy Summer.* 2010

Delphine and her two sisters spend the summer of 1968 with the mom who had abandoned them, and her friends, the Black Panthers.

UPPER SCHOOL & ADULT SUGGESTIONS

Brooks, Albert. *2030: The Real Story of What Happens to America.* 2011

A journey into the future, where cancer is cured and the world is dominated by a "senior population."

Brownworth, Lars. *Lost to the West: The Forgotten Byzantine Empire That Rescued Western Civilization.* 2010

Brings to life one of history's most little known eras. Filled with battles, treachery, and intrigue.

Cameron, W. Bruce. *A Dog's Purpose: A Novel for Humans.* 2010

Explores life's most basic question of "Why are we here?" through the eyes of a dog.

Foer, Joshua. *Moonwalking with Einstein: The Art and Science of Remembering Everything.* 2011

Foer, a chronically forgetful journalist, writes of a year-long journey of memory training.

Hamill, Pete. *Tabloid City: A Novel.* 2011

On the same day that the city's last tabloid stops its presses, a socialite is murdered in her West Village apartment.

Hawking, Stephen. *A Brief History of Time.* 1998

Explores questions such as "How did the universe begin and what made it possible?"

Isaacson, Walter. *Steve Jobs.* 2011. Based on over forty interviews he conducted with Jobs over a period of two years.

King, Stephen. *Full Dark, No Stars.* 2011. Four longish stories explore the limits of greed, revenge, and self-deception.

Martin, George R. R. *Game of Thrones series.* Martin's series is the perfect gift for upper school and adult fantasy fans.

O'Connor, Ian. *The Captain: The Journey of Derek Jeter.* 2011

Derek Jeter's journey, from his humble beginnings in Michigan to becoming NY's most beloved baseball star.

Ward, Jesmyrn. *Salvage the Bones.* 2011. The experiences of the poor, and the black and the rural people of the South.

THINK. LAUGH. LEARN.

John Scardina, Quaker-in-Residence, john_scardina@fa.org

Why Do We Choose A Friends School?

- Friends schools embody a “Circle of Friends” attitude that includes everyone.
- William Penn’s “Holy Experiment” in establishing the colony of Pennsylvania is re-created in every Friends school as we engage in experiential learning and community living grounded in Friends spirituality.
- Children who are “growing into goodness” do best in the nurturing environment of a Friends school.



JOHN SCARDINA

- Human development may be thought of as “continuing revelation” as children realize their individual potentials.
- Meeting for Worship is “the heart” of a Friends school and the core experience of community.

- Education for world citizenship is woven into our curricula and teaches that all peoples are worthy of respect and love.
- We do our best to follow the Testimonies:
 - o Simplicity
 - o Peace
 - o Integrity
 - o Community
 - o Equality
 - o Service
 - o Stewardship
- We speak to the truth of the old Quaker hymn:

*“Dear Friends, Dear Friends,
Let me tell you how I feel.
You have given me such treasures.
I love you so.”*

It is my privilege to work with you and this community.

>>LUNCH: THURSDAY DEC. 1 AT 12:15 PM<<

LUNCH WITH TEACHER JOHN

Bring a bag lunch and join our Quaker-in-Residence for an open question & answer discussion about Quakerism and its practice here at FA. (12:15 PM, Frost Hall Conference Room).

- **January 5th:** Setting Goals for Our Spiritual Journeys
- **February 2nd:** Service – Work is Love Made Visible
- **March 1st:** Developing Optimism and Hope for Our selves, Our Children, and Our Community
- **May 3rd:** Mindfulness – Stop and Smell the Roses

THURSDAYS in 2012:

January 5 | February 2 | March 1 | May 3



PARENT CONCERNS SUBCOMMITTEE

OF THE
QUAKER LIFE COMMITTEE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2011 – 2012

QUAKER-IN-RESIDENCE
JOHN SCARDINA
PARENTING WORKSHOPS

“Celebrating Religious Diversity
at School & Home”
Monday, Mar. 5, 7 p.m.,
Jackson House

FAMILY COMMUNITY SERVICE
SATURDAYS

Sandwich Making in the DC
Commons at 10 a.m.
Dec. 17, Feb. 11, Mar. 17,
and Apr. 28
(Bring a loaf of white bread and pound
of luncheon meat or cheese.
Donations will be given to Part of the
Solution in the Bronx.)

PARENT MEETING
FOR WORSHIP

Gathering at the Matinecock
Meeting House at 2 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 19
(During Peace Week)

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS
January 9, 2012 at 2:30 p.m. in
the Frost Hall Conference Room

Contact Subcommittee Clerk Nina Foley
if you'd like to attend,
at ninaehrlichfoley@gmail.com.

{THE UPPER SCHOOL
WINTER CONCERT}



FRIENDS ACADEMY THEATER & ARTS HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Middle School Winter Concert: December 6 – 7:00 p.m. (Theater)

Upper School Winter Concert: December 8 – 7:30 p.m. (Theater)

Lower School Winter Concert: December 16 – 10 a.m. (Theater)

