



# AMONG FRIENDS



FOUNDED 1876

## ADMISSIONS 2017-18

Online re-enrollment contracts were released on **Wednesday, March 1st.**

**They are due back with a deposit by March 15th.**

Several grades have wait-lists, so please return your contracts promptly.



## VOLUNTEER FOR 2017-18 PARENT COUNCIL!

Executive Vice President

Assistant Treasurer

US, MS or LS Asst. VP

US, MS or LS Secretary

Class representative

Questions?

E-mail Nominating chair  
Laura Semlies at  
[semliessfam@me.com](mailto:semliessfam@me.com).

**Final nominations are due by Friday, March 17**

PIX PICK

CATCH OUR WEEKLY SLIDESHOW OR [CLICK HERE](#) TO SEE PAST PHOTO GALLERIES.



AMANDA FISK | FRIENDS ACADEMY

Head of School Andrea Kelly discovers the big power of Little Bits at the fifth grade Invention Convention.

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## MARCH QUERY – MIDDLE SCHOOL TASQUE

*Often, we have a lot more in common than we think with people whose views are different than our own.  
What are the benefits of trying to make connections with people with whom you disagree?  
How can you seek to find common ground and mutual understanding?*

# FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

## AMONG FRIENDS

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

### NEXT MONTH'S DEADLINE

To include information in the **April 2017 issue of *Among Friends*** please submit information to the Communications Office by **Monday, March 27, 2017.**

#### EDITOR:

Andrea Miller – Director of Communications and Marketing  
Phone: (516) 393-4295  
E-mail: [andrea\\_miller@fa.org](mailto:andrea_miller@fa.org)

### CAN'T SEEM TO FIND AN E-MAIL?

Log in to the password-protected Parent Portal and click on the ENotify Archive on the left-hand side. **Find past e-mails** from division principals, the arts, athletics, Parent Council and more...

LS eNotify Archive

MS eNotify Archive

US eNotify Archive

Arts eNotify Archive

Athletics eNotify Archive

Parent Groups eNotify Archive

FRIENDS,

Middle School TASQUE offers us a simple and thought-provoking Query upon which to reflect.

*Often, we have a lot more in common than we think with people whose views are different than our own. What are the benefits of trying to make connections with people with whom you disagree? How can you seek to find common ground and mutual understanding?*



ANDREA KELLY  
HEAD OF SCHOOL

*What do we have in common?*

As members of the Friends Academy community we are bound together by our Mission and the Quaker testimonies that are firmly rooted in over 325 years of

Quaker education. We are parents, students, and educators who agree that we are more alike than different, each one of us drawn to Friends Academy for shared and individual reasons. Above all, fidelity to our mission is our common purpose. Our mission states...“We are also committed... to an understanding that every life is to be explored, celebrated and enjoyed in the spirit of the Religious Society of Friends. These words, “every life is to be explored, celebrated and enjoyed...” resonate. They reflect a most basic human need – to be seen, to be heard, for our lives to matter enough to be explored and more fully understood.

*What are the benefits of making connections to those with whom you disagree?*

There is a saying that goes like this, “If everybody is thinking alike, then someone isn’t thinking.” To that I say, divergent thought is alive and well at Friends Academy. While uncomfortable interactions or disagreements may lead to conflict, they can also lead to discussion and learning. Provided one is willing to engage in discussion, it is likely that learning about an opinion or perspective different from one’s own will broaden one’s understanding of an issue. As uncomfortable as disagreements can be, let’s consider the alternative.

Susan Jacoby author of the *Age of American Unreason* (2009) posits, “Americans today have become a people in search of validation for opinions that they already hold, demonstrating a strong reluctance to give a fair hearing – or any hearing at all – to opposing points of view, wanting to hear only an ‘echo’ of themselves.”

This is not a new idea. Philosopher and “Father of the Scientific Method” Francis Bacon (1591-1626) stated, “The human understanding when it has once adopted an opinion draws all things else to support and agree with it. And though there be a greater number and weight of instances to be found on the other side, yet these it either neglects and despises...”

If Jacoby (now) and Bacon (then) are correct, by nature we are not particularly inclined to want to hear an opposite view. In fact, the more we are presented with facts that are contrary to our opinion, the more likely the opposite will occur – we will feel that our misconceptions are deliberately being diluted and consequently, feel more confident we are right. Over time, we become less skeptical of likemindedness.

A mentor once told me to ask myself two questions before making any major decision. The first is “What if I am dead wrong? And the second, “What if I did the exact opposite of what I am thinking right now?” I have found this to be an important exercise, forcing me to be more discerning, more willing to question my assuredness, and occasionally, to take more time and review a matter more carefully. On occasion I have even changed my mind – or taken a different course of action.

*How can we seek to find common ground and mutual understanding?*

I believe that seeking common ground and mutual understanding is one piece of the way forward. We might also ask, “How will we use common ground and mutual understanding to work with and through difference and grow through that work?”

Our challenge will always be to work with the inevitable human response to protect our own views. We must take equally seriously our commitment to open discourse and a respect for different points of view, even those we may individually find uncomfortable. Above all, our role is not to proselytize or politicize; it is to help our students unpack complex issues – a task that requires a range of informed viewpoints – and to think through them deeply. Quaker pedagogy calls us to do this through inquiry, exploration, reflection and active listening. I recently came upon the minutes from the Northern Yearly Meeting in April of 2014. The notes contained a most powerful reflection on “truth,” “conflict,” and being known.

Can the truth be scattered through differences? Can we live in harmony with conflict? Can we wholly listen to others the way we hope others will listen to us? I challenge all of us – students, teachers, parents and community members to reflect on these questions.

In the coming weeks, I look forward to sharing ideas about how we can offer our students opportunities for dialogue and inquiry that maximize their learning, growth, and sense of agency. I have been in touch with several colleagues in other Friends schools about ways we may join together to deepen our understanding of these complex issues, hear from experts, and expand the conversation for all of us here at Friends.

*Andrea Kelly*

# 25

YEARS OF  
CELEBRATING  
WITH  
FRIENDS!

## AUCTION SNEAK PEEK!

Auction Sneak Peek! These are only a few of the unique experiences that will be available at the FA Auction. Coming soon to your inbox...

### SHADOW PACKAGES AND INTERNSHIPS

- The Friends community has generously donated incredible opportunities for our students to explore the worlds of **architecture, business, fashion, law, science, interior design and medicine** to mention a few. Experiences range from one-day to a month-long internship.

### UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

- **Pilot for a Day!** Spend a day at LaGuardia Airport... Visit American Airlines Operations and Ramp Tower. Go inside an airplane and tour the cockpit with a pilot. Visit the maintenance facility and ask as many questions as you want!

- **Beekeeping and Brunch at La Selva.** Learn about the art and science of keeping bees during this private talk with urban beekeeper Andrew Cote at La Selva, a historic Italian Renaissance villa set on over 24 acres in Upper Brookville. Mr. Cote is the founder of Bees Without Borders and the New York City Beekeepers Association. Coming from a long line of beekeepers, he has appeared on virtually every American news source.



Enjoy this unique experience of bees and brunch.



- **Organic Cooking Class at Rustic Root, Woodbury.**

Enjoy a cooking class with friends with Food Network Champion Chef Tom Gloster at Rustic Root, Woodbury.

### FASHION FUN

#### AMERICANA MANHASSET

- Treat your 10 bffs to a **Shopping Spree and Lunch** at the Americana, Manhasset.

### VACATIONS

- Enjoy an unforgettable summer vacation in the small **winemaking village of Vergisson in Burgundy, France.** This spectacular 4-bedroom home sleeps 10 and is set along the hillside looking down on the Macon Valley, filled with Pouilly-Fuisse vines. The home is blessed with a beautiful view of geological wonders – La Roche de Vergisson and la Roche de Solutre. Mutually agreed upon dates. *Expires 8/1/17.*



- Make your plans for the 2018 Presidents' Week Break now! Enjoy a one-week stay at the **Founders Lodge in Stratton Vermont.** This 3-bedroom, 3-bath condo sleeps 6-7 people. *Valid February 17-24, 2018.*

**Reminder!** Please **RSVP** by Friday, March 20th.

Back by popular demand! The Friends Academy Online Auction will take place on Mon. March 19th to Sun. March 26th.

FRIENDS ACADEMY DINNER & AUCTION | MARCH 30, 2017

# FROM THE LOWER SCHOOL

Debby McLean, Lower School Principal | Divisional Assistant: Gail Lucidi, 393-4230

## Looking at the world through a Global Day lens

It's March. The expression "in like a lion and out like a lamb" is frequently attributed to March. The weather often turns from beastly to docile during this month. However, in the Lower School our thoughts aren't so much on the weather but on a celebration of our global learning. Yes, we think and discuss the world around us



DEBBY MCLEAN

all the time. However, after the holiday vacation, our thoughts turn to expanding our global understandings. How are people in other places similar or different to us? How does the land affect

where and how people live? From what countries did our ancestors come?

Lower School Goes Global started off six years ago as a relatively small project. The goal was to deepen every child's understanding of the world around them. Many thanks go to **Kim Soscie**, 4th grade teacher, for endeavoring to create this meaningful work across the entire division. Every grade level takes on a different continent. The teachers expertly guide the children to look at that continent and its countries from a variety of lenses. Early Childhood has perhaps the most difficult continent, Antarctica. However they use this as an opportunity to compare the extreme cold on that continent to the tropical warmth of Hawai'i.

This year, our school-wide theme is "Deepening Awareness to Embrace Differences: Seeing, Asking, Listening, Understanding." The theme guides us as we read and research faraway places. We learn about games children play and about art work and of course, about food.

Chef Kurt has been visiting our Friday gatherings each week to talk about food from various continents. He then chooses special menus to highlight that continent. The children decorate the lunch room, with

Fri.	3	Dress Down Day
Sat.	4	Family community Service: Sandwich Making – 10:00 a.m. (Commons)
Tues.	7	LS Goes Global Event: EC – 8:15 a.m. K,1,2 – 9:00 am
Thurs.	9	LS Parent Conference Evening – 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. (Classrooms)
Fri.	10	<b>LS Parent Conference Day – No Lower School Classes</b>
Tues.	14	Lower School Parents Meeting – 8:15 a.m. (JH)
Fri.	24	LS Goes Global Event: 3rd to 5th grades – 9:00 a.m.
Thurs.	30	Friends Academy Dinner & Auction – 6:30 p.m.
Fri.	31	ISE Chess Tournament – 4-7:00 p.m. (Portledge)

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

## MARCH HIGHLIGHTS



Kindergarten parents celebrate the Chinese New Year with the Kindergarten class.

care and pride, for their continent.

Global has grown in six years and continues to grow as we look at the future of the Lower School. We want to further deepen our understanding of other places and people as well as strengthen our own identities. In the coming months, teachers will engage in curriculum work around social studies and diversity with our LS Goes Global learning at the very heart.

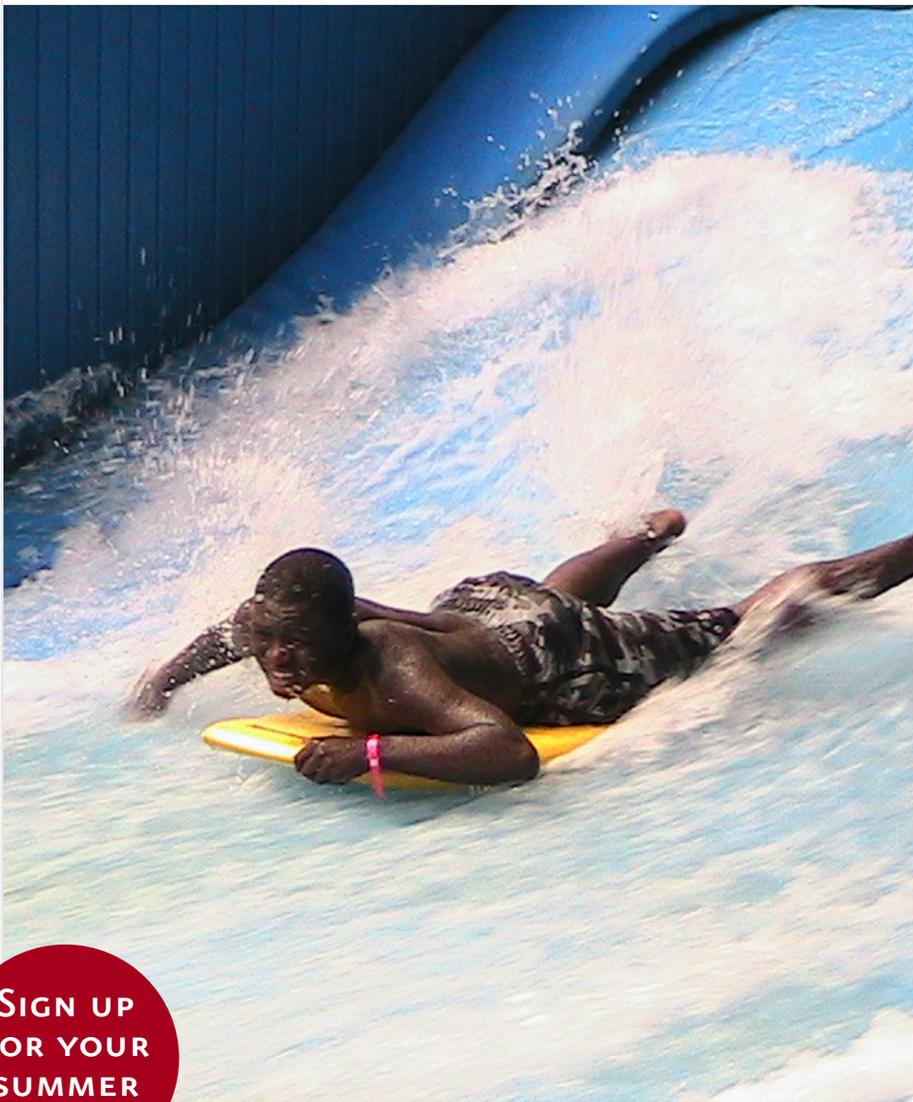
In March, we invite you to learn about our learning. We present an "informance" that allows you to see the richness of this division-wide study. Early Childhood will share their learning on **Tuesday, March 7** at 8:15 a.m. K-2 are also on the same day beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the classrooms. **Friday, March 24** is our global "informance" for grades 3-5, also beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the classrooms.

# FA SUMMER CAMPS

## ENJOY SPRING & SUMMER FUN!

Sign up for Spring-into-Summer programs. Choose from Tennis, Golf, Active Games or TRAVEL (Clinics scheduled Sat. in May and weeks of June XX/XX)

Visit our website at [www.fasummerncamp.org](http://www.fasummerncamp.org) or call (516) 393-4207 for more details.



**SIGN UP  
FOR YOUR  
SUMMER  
TODAY!**

**WE OFFER OVER  
30 PROGRAM  
CHOICES  
(AGES 2-15 YRS)**

Junior Camp (2-5 yrs)  
Intermediate Camp (6-7 yrs)

Baseball Camp	STEAM Camp
Basketball Camp	Musical Theater Art
Lacrosse Camps	Marine Science
Crossfit Camp	Stop Motion Animation
Soccer Camp	Coding With Scratch
NFL Flag Football	Studio Design
Performing Arts	Visual Storytelling
Tennis Camp	Robotics Camp
Golf Camp	Minecraft
Gymnastics	Chess Camp
Horseback Riding	Woodworking
Sailing Camp	Baking School
Multi-Sport Camp	Travel Camp
Track/Speed & Agility	Academic Program
Dodgeball Camp	Swim Club
Dance School	Acting/Improv

### **New Mini-Camp Programs: (Mon-Thurs, 10-2 p.m., includes lunch)**

■ Elevate Girls Lacrosse Camp:  
(K-12th) July 24-27th

■ Millon Boys Lacrosse Camp:  
(3-8th) July 31-Aug. 3rd

■ Gold Coast Soccer Camp:  
(K-5th) Aug. 7-10th & Aug. 14-17th

■ Hoopology Basketball Camp:  
(3-8th) Aug. 7-10th, & Aug. 14-17th

■ HITT Tennis Camp: (5-10th)  
Aug. 7-10th & Aug. 14-17th

■ Gatti Baseball Camp:  
(K-5th) July 17-20th

# FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Deborah Schoman, Middle School Principal | Divisional Assistant: Marian Tobia, 393-4239

## Longtime tradition still pushes students to new levels of deduction

“The Sludge Lab” is almost an eighth grade rite of passage at Friends. Sounds ominous and scary, but the students find the experience to be “so cool,” “not as hard as expected,” “really rewarding” and yes, “challenging.” Friends Academy 8th graders have been doing this science project for a very long time. When I asked Selina Collier, our 8th grade science teacher,



DEBORAH SCHOMAN

how long “sludge” has been a part of the science program, she said it pre-dates her start at Friends, although it has evolved a lot in her 30 years here. Kim Jennings, 5th grade teacher and FA graduate of the class of 1988 performed this lab when she was in Middle School!

What is sludge? It is a mixture of 4 or 5 substances (liquids and solids) and only the teacher knows the recipe. The students are assigned lab partners and this group of 3-4 students work together for a full day, performing a wide array of lab tests that include boiling, burning, filtering and analysis tests; in all 12-15 tests that enable them to separate components and, ultimately, figure out the specific ingredients in their unique mixture.

The Sludge Lab is a wonderful example of project-based learning. It is an authentic problem-solving experience that requires collaboration, critical thinking and self-management. The project involves an active, in-depth process in which the students generate questions, use prior learned knowledge, new information, each other and the teacher as resources and ultimately develop their own answers. The important scientific skills of observation, note taking, planning, methodical experimentation, data

collection, graphing and making diagrams, and developing logical explanations are all needed. Finally, students are expected to demonstrate understanding in the development and presentation of their poster, where they illustrate how the identities of the ingredients were revealed.

In polling the students about what they learned doing the sludge project, they shared the following insights:

- “I learned how to communicate with people better.”
- “We had to learn how to work well with people who we don’t really talk to usually.”
- “I loved the independence, which allowed me to explore different options.”
- “It was really challenging, but fun, trying to figure out how to separate everything

and then figure out the ingredients.”

- “Discovering the results was really satisfying.”
- “I realized that I knew the procedures better than I thought.”
- “Do not procrastinate! I had to manage my time well, submit a draft and get feedback so my final product was my best effort.”

Hands-on experiences like this help students to develop important skills that will serve them well in high school, college and beyond.

Maximizing student engagement improves retention of key skills and content, and promotes curiosity and responsibility for learning.

I would imagine the students had some interesting things to report when their parents asked, “What did you do in school today?”

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

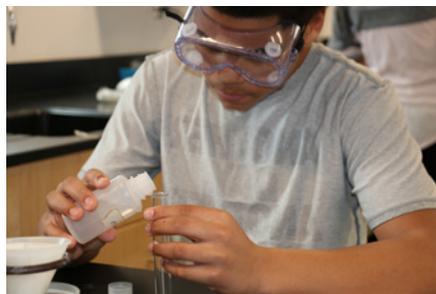
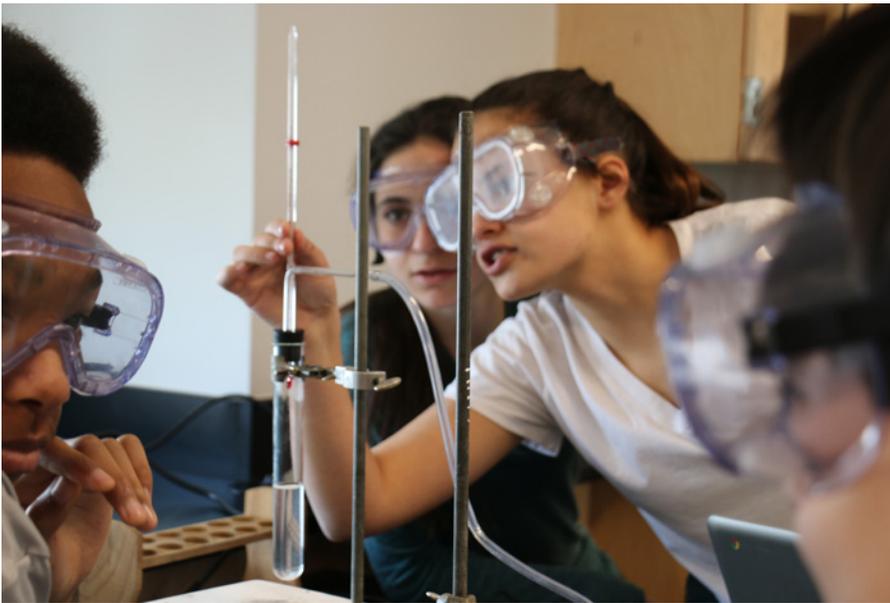
## MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Wed.	1	8th Grade to Frost Valley
Thurs.	2	7th Grade Parent Coffee – 8:15 a.m. (Jackson House)
Fri.	3	Frost Valley Returns around 4:00 p.m. Jazz Concert – 7:30 p.m. (Theater)
Fri.	10	MS Sports Night – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (Field House)
Thurs.	16	MS Parents Meeting – 8:15 a.m. (Jackson House)
Thurs.	23	MS History Night for grades 6-8 – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (Classrooms)
Fri.	24	MS 3rd Quarter Ends/Mid Semester 2 Ends
Tues.	28	MS Math Pathways Parent Meeting – 8:15 a.m. (Jackson House) MS Spring Sports Begin
Thurs.	30	Friends Academy Dinner & Auction – 6:30 p.m.
Fri.	31	ISE Chess Tournament – 4:00-7:00 p.m. (Portledge)

# SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Dan Kriesberg, MS Science teacher

## UNLOCKING MYSTERIES IN "THE SLUDGE LAB"



JOSH SUKOFF '22 FOR FRIENDS ACADEMY

In teams of three and four, eighth graders measure, detect, heat, boil and filter to try and deduce the mystery liquids and solids in their "sludge."

## 6th Grade 'Consumer Report'

The sixth grade students are proud to share their findings from the Science Share. The goal of this project was to show students, through their own research how science works.

With observation and experiments scientists draw conclusions

based on facts and share what they learn.

With this information the public can make informed decisions ranging from what paper towel

to purchase to what medicine is effective and how best we can protect the environment. The students learned that science is not opinion. Another aspect of the Science Share is to look at the products we use through the lens of environmental sustainability. All the stuff we use has an impact on the environment. What we need to do is design and use products so that there is less harm to the environment.

For more information on making healthy and sustainable decisions regarding the products you purchase, check out the [Environmental Working Group website](#). They have rankings and reviews of hundreds of household products.



Product  
Recommendations  
The Class of 2023

Click to read the sixth grade recommendations.

## PARENT COUNCIL

### March planning for April events, from Gideon's Attic to the Book Fair

**W**elcome back! I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable break.

At the end of break, Parent Council hit the ground running with the Faculty and Staff Appreciation Luncheon. A huge thank you to **Jennifer Adoni** and **Franciska Doshi** for chairing this special event and to the volunteers that gave their time and energy to help make this a special day. In addition a big thank you to all the families that donated the wonderful desserts.

The Nominating committee is continuing to work on filling positions for the 2017 – 2018 school year. If you haven't done so already, please [sign up](#) or nominate a friend for one of the many Executive Board, Class Rep or Committee positions. It's a great way to be involved in your children's school life! The deadline for signing up is March 17th.

Please remember Gideon's Attic, which takes place April 22nd, when you are doing your spring cleaning. We will be accepting donations from 4/19 – 4/21. If you would like to be a part of the Gideon's Attic committee please contact **Lisa Crowley** at lac4@optonline.net.



March will continue to be a busy month for Parent Council as we plan for the many upcoming events for spring, such as Junior Prom, Senior events, Book Fair and Sports BBQ. If you would like to be involved in any of these events please contact the event Chairs.

Thank you for your continued support of Parent Council.

– Rita Afzelius, President  
Amy Schamroth, Executive VP

Start putting your gently used items aside for our newly renovated Gideon's Attic... debuting on Saturday, April 22.

## SAFETY & SECURITY

### Update on programs, hardware and events

**I**t has been some time since our November emergency management forum, so we wanted to share some updates:

During the February In-Service day, Friends Academy hosted the FBI School Safety Consortium. This was an all-day seminar open to all Nassau County public and independent schools covering best practices in active shooter protocols and other emergency management topics. There were approximately 200 attendees, including members of FA's Incident Command Team. It was led by FBI Supervisory Special

Agent Andrew Pachtman '91, a graduate of Friends.

The following include a few other safety & security programs from earlier in the year:

■ In February, Officer Sharon Galvin of the Nassau County Police Department gave a presentation to parents on "Cyber-bullying, Internet Safety & Sexting."

■ On March 2nd, we also had our third of four required lockdown drills of the academic year.

■ We are working on expanding our security camera network on campus; we expect to have them installed this spring.

■ We have also provided access to the live security camera feed to more locations on campus.

■ Friends Academy enabled a texting feature in its Alert Now calling system, which allows parents to personally manage their emergency contact information.

– Chris Semlies  
Director of Facilities

# DIVERSITY & MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

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

“Education is learning what you didn’t even know you didn’t know.”

– DANIEL BOORSTEIN, AMERICAN HISTORIAN

On April 19th, parents, faculty and staff are invited to come together to hear author Debby Irving discuss her impactful book, *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*. At the beginning of the school year, FA faculty and staff were invited to read her book, and next



SHANELLE ROBINSON

month Debby Irving will be here at FA leading a discussion about how we can become more informed and authentic in our race relations. Similar to the way in which

Ta-Nehisi Coates walks us through the course of his life in his memoir, *Between the World and Me*, Debby Irving’s *Waking Up White* is her personal literary journey of racial identity, self-awareness and revelation vis-à-vis a critical exploration of America’s racial history.

*Waking Up White* is Irving’s memoir of her self-described privileged life as a white woman from a predominantly white, upper middle class community in Massachusetts, and discovering things she never knew, questions she didn’t know to ask and truths that were hard for her to bear. She describes her book as her “...story of racial ignorance.” “I really didn’t think white was a race,” she confesses. “I thought it was just normal...You see things only the way you know things, which doesn’t enable you to challenge your beliefs.”

Her ‘a-ha’ moment came at age 48 in graduate school when she took a course in “Race and Cultural Identity.” What she learned in that course changed her life. “I expected the course to teach me about ‘other’ races and cultures so I could better help students of color. I supposed I thought I’d get some tips, some ‘do’s’ and ‘don’ts’ that would keep me from offending students and parents,” she recalls. “Much to my surprise, however, the

**YOU’RE INVITED:**  
**Wednesday, April 19th**  
**6:30 to 8 p.m.**  
**Dolan Center Choir Room**

## Presenting Debby Irving

Author of *Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, and a former classroom teacher, Debby Irving offers a fresh perspective on bias, stereotypes, identity and acceptance. Debby now devotes herself to working with white people exploring the impact white skin can have on perception, problem solving and engaging in racial justice work. Her book tells the story of how she went from well-meaning to well-doing.



### Read with us.

Pick up a copy of “*Waking Up White*” at the Kumar Wang Learning Commons.



course asked me to turn the lens on myself. I had never thought to look within for solutions to a problem I imagined as outside of myself, and what I found shocked me.” In fact, analyzing the background she took for granted (her ancestry, family values, and the affluent lifestyle she had growing up) was the first step in her “racial learning journey” that required her to step out of her comfort zone and closely examine the beliefs she internalized growing up in a monoculture of whiteness.

In an excerpt from her book, she writes, “*Waking Up White* has been an unexpected journey that’s required me to dig back

into childhood memories to recall when, how, and why I developed such distorted ideas about race, racism, and the dominant culture in which I soaked...my story of transformation is an intimate one. In order to convey racism’s ability to shape beliefs, values, behaviors, and ideas, I share personal and often humiliating stories, as well as thoughts I spent decades not admitting, not even to myself. Unless adults understand racism, they will, as I did, unknowingly teach it to their children.”

*Waking Up White* offers many opportunities for self-reflection by the reader through discussion questions posed at the end of each chapter, converting an otherwise passive practice into an experiential one by encouraging readers to become thoughtful and active participants in the reading process. In addition, Irving provides a list of excellent references for starting conversations about racism on your own, and suggestions for how to move beyond the anxiety and ineptness you may feel when trying to talk about race.

If you haven’t already read the book, copies of *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* are available for loan in the Kumar Wang Library, and are also available on Amazon.com (Kindle and paperback). I hope you will join me on **Wednesday, April 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the Dolan Center Choir Room to welcome Debby Irving to Friends Academy!**

This is another wonderful opportunity for members of our school community to come together to continue the discourse about equity and diversity, raise awareness, have open and honest dialogue, and attempt to impact positive changes in our collective behavior.

Debby Irving invites us to use her story to uncover our own, “...so that you too can discover your power to make the world a more humane place to live, work, and thrive.”

# FROM THE UPPER SCHOOL

Mark Schoeffel, Upper School Principal | Divisional Assistant: Cathy Philipakos, 393-4215

## A childhood of, sometimes, uncomfortable listening

When I was younger, my house was often filled with professors and graduate students, many of whom had strong opinions. My parents seemed to run a local salon. I can't think of a time when there was not someone else at our table, joining us for some good discussion and food (graduate students are notoriously hungry and professors are, most



MARK SCHOEFFEL

of the time, pretty frugal, or used to be). No matter what time of year, there were plenty of conversations that went on into the late hours, and those who were not used to hearing such interchanges sometimes left thinking of them as unpleasant or overly contentious. It could get feisty.

Certainly, I can remember my old grandmother, no stranger to these affairs, on more than one occasion raising her eyebrows or silently looking down into her plate, patiently enduring someone's edgy comment or holding back her discontentment with the rising voices beside her.

She was patient then, and I knew as I watched her sometimes that she did not always approve or agree with the dinner table my mom had usually brought into being, but I also knew that she was smart enough not to enter into the fray since she might very well end up in an encounter that would be all too confrontational for her gentle nature. She was a strong woman, but she did not like brash people, and she learned to bear with them.

Brash people they were, many of them. Sometimes unkempt, often tardy or staying too long, they were not always educated in manners. Not always rude, they still did often overstep general boundaries, most of them, in pursuit of truth, or understanding.

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

## MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Wed.	1	9th Grade Parent Coffee – 8:15 a.m. – Jackson House
Fri.	3	10th Grade Parent Coffee – 8:15 a.m. – Jackson House Jazz Concert – 7:30pm – Theater
Mon.	6	Upper School Spring Sports begin (Lacrosse, Track, Softball, Baseball, Crew)
Thurs.	9	10th Grade YSOP Trip to NYC (leaves 2 p.m.-return Fri approx. 6 p.m.)
Fri.	10	Upper School Mid Semester 2 ends
Sat.	11	SAT & Subject tests – Local Test Centers
Mon.	13	Upper School Boys Tennis & Boys/Girls Golf begin
Wed.	15	Upper School Parent Meeting – 8:15 a.m. – Jackson House
Fri.	17	Upper School Art Exhibit & Reception – 5:30 p.m. – Art Gallery Original Works – 7:30 p.m. – Theater
Fri.	18	Upper School Art Exhibit & Reception – 6:30 p.m. – Art Gallery Original Works – 7:30 p.m. – Theater
Wed.	29	11th Grade Parent Coffee – 8:15 a.m. – Jackson House
Thurs.	30	10th Grade YSOP Trip to NYC (leaves 2 p.m.; return Fri approx. 6 p.m.)

## AHEAD IN APRIL

Mon.	10	Spring Break – School Closed
to Mon.	17	
Tues.	18	Classes Resume 8:05 a.m.
Fri.	28	Last Day of Classes for SENIORS

Some wanted to be right; others wanted other sorts of affirmation; most just loved a Samuel Johnsonish tavern where the food and drink were free and the center of everything was the free exchange of ideas, whatever was most important. They could go all night. They did not watch TV in the evenings, but debated if Plato's Republic was the answer to our contemporary

educational and spiritual crises (defined by them).

Sometimes it was a current movie that they wanted to skewer or hold up under the light. Always, there were words like "noble" and "the people," abstractions that were at times jarring, and I moved from being a listener, to an acolyte, to a participant, to (at times) a skeptic, but I never stayed

**I moved from being a listener, to an acolyte, to a participant to (at times) a skeptic...**



Claire Sweeny as Cally is mired in her anguish in a scene from the recent original FA musical, "Standing in the Current."

really in one of those spaces. I was always given more to think about and ponder at the table, and I never decided just to shut out the noise or be a "convert" to one or all of their attitudes. It was a feeding ground, and I tasted, and fed, on ideas.

I now consider myself fortunate to have been raised in this rather chaotic, ever-changing dynamic space of people "coming to the table" to stay for hours, sharing differences and openly disagreeing, disputing, conferring, rationalizing, expounding, you name it. I learned to tolerate ambiguity and to manage my own urge to dismiss or discount someone with a completely different perspective than my own. I learned that these were all people, with their flaws and foibles, like and not like me, but genuinely still forming what they believed and in turn who they are. They were quirky but not fixed, at least most of them were not. Truth was elusive; that they knew.

Occasionally one would burn the bridge with my family and not be invited back. I recall one night when a curly-haired Dylan Thomas twin, joined us. The debate between philosophy and poetry was thrust upon him by one particular unshaven zealot. The soft-spoken poet in kindness engaged in a long session of patient listening to this man's argument that Aristotle's *Ethics* was the answer to all of our contemporary ills, including his own, and I thought that conversation seemed to be going well, until we discovered the poet was suddenly gone. We found him in my brother's room, expired on the bed from

the intensity of the one-sided conversation with the philosopher (it was no dialogue). He was almost catatonic, having fallen into a deep, dark place.

Apparently the philosopher had been so demagogic that the poet no longer believed in his own vocation and he was questioning what the point of going on with his existence. The philosopher dismissed him as too weak to engage in the debate between philosophy and poetry. "If only he had read the *Ethics*..." We got the poet up on his feet finally, and eventually out of the house, but he was never the same, apparently. I always remember that time as both

**We are in a time when listening is a lost art. Speaking with a patent desire to understand and be understood is increasingly difficult...**

*Continued on Page 12*

# FROM THE UPPER SCHOOL



Junior Drew Donner plays Emerson, an inhabitant of a mysterious island, who is looking for someone to love.

*Continued from Page 11*

a sign that there can be a danger in ideas, too, and also that some deference to the demeanor and situation of those around you was needed when you shared your thinking. The goal was not victory. The poet and the philosopher left, and they were never again at our table. My dad did the dishes well into the night.

I was young, then; now I am older. We are in a time when listening is a lost art. Speaking with a patient desire to understand and be understood is increasingly difficult with all the noise and distraction surrounding all of us; ideas are, well, becoming platitudes or screeds, not pathways to understanding of differences or ways to seek common ground. When I read or talk with others, I hope to listen, learn and share, even if it is uncomfortable. We need the time for this serious work and wonderful play, the building of meanings together. The dinner table, with its bounty and open places set for those who come to it, is a metaphor for our space to do this work. This is a true education. When I go home at night and see the old mahogany table in the dim moonlight, it gives me comfort, and hope.

## 2017-18 SCHOOL CALENDAR

<b>TUESDAY, AUG. 29</b>	New Families of Color Orientation
<b>THURSDAY, AUG. 31</b>	New parents Gr. K-5 and all new 5th Gr. students All Gr. 6 students & parents New Gr. 7-8 students & parents All Gr. 9 students & parents New Gr. 10-12 students & parents
<b>TUESDAY, SEPT 5</b>	First Day of Classes – 8:05 am
<b>THURSDAY, SEPT. 21</b>	Rosh Hashanah – No School
<b>MONDAY, OCT. 9</b>	Columbus Day – No School
<b>FRIDAY, NOV. 10</b>	Veterans Day – No School
<b>TUESDAY, NOV. 21</b>	Thanksgiving Break begins after last commitment
<b>MONDAY, NOV. 27</b>	Faculty/Staff In-Service Day – No School
<b>TUESDAY, NOV. 28</b>	Classes resume at 8:05 am
<b>TUESDAY, DEC. 19</b>	Christmas/Holiday vacation begins <u>after</u> last commitment
<b>TUESDAY, JAN. 2</b>	Classes resume at 8:05 am
<b>MONDAY, JAN. 15</b>	Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observed – No School
<b>FRIDAY, FEB. 16</b>	Winter Vacation begins after last commitment
<b>MONDAY, FEB. 26</b>	Faculty/Staff In-Service Day – No School
<b>TUESDAY, FEB. 27</b>	Classes resume at 8:05 am
<b>THURSDAY, MARCH 29</b>	Spring Vacation begins after last commitment
<b>MONDAY, APRIL 9</b>	Faculty/Staff In-Service Day – No School
<b>TUESDAY, APRIL 10</b>	Classes resume at 8:05 am
<b>MONDAY, MAY 28</b>	Memorial Day – No School
<b>SUNDAY, JUNE 3</b>	Baccalaureate Meeting for Worship/Senior Brunch
<b>TUESDAY, JUNE 5</b>	Last Day LS Classes ***Full day***
<b>WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6</b>	Fourth Day Honors Last Day MS/US Classes – Dismissal at 1:00 pm
<b>SATURDAY, JUNE 9</b>	Commencement – 10:00 am

THE 2017-18 VACATION CALENDAR CAN ALSO BE FOUND ON THE [PARENT INFORMATION HUB](#) AND ON THE MAIN [CALENDAR PAGE](#).

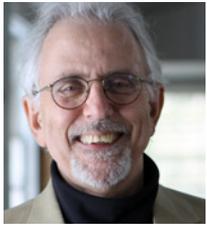
# THINK. LAUGH. LEARN.

John Scardina, Quaker-in-Residence, john\_scardina@fa.org

“Let Us See What Love Can Do”

– WILLIAM PENN

**Y**ou and I have chosen to be part of a school community that has at its core a faith-based set of principles that embody Quakerism. These principles are central to our mission as a Friends school. We state that we are committed to... “service and ethical action, and to an understanding that every life is to be explored, celebrated and enjoyed in the spirit of the Religious Society of Friends.”



JOHN SCARDINA

The question arises, then, about our participation in the world around us. Are we a community unto ourselves, or do we have a responsibility to share our “service and ethical action” in the world at large? When we say “every life” does that mean every life in the FA community or every life on the planet?

Clearly our service projects involve the wider community – sandwich making, preparing a meal for the Glen Cove Men’s Shelter, and participating in Habitat for Humanity home-building projects. These are good example of “what love can do” in our nearby communities.

But what about the global perspective – how do we as a school confront issues like the Syrian refugee crisis, the annexation of property by nations around the world, hunger at home and abroad, and the continuing debate about fossil fuels, climate change, and energy conservation?

One Peace Week assembly in the Upper School was a student-led presentation on the Syrian refugee crisis that was informative and passionate. It was especially timely that a speaker that was to come and address our MS and US students – a doctor from Syria whose NGO has been providing medical services for refugees – was detained in Turkey and was further delayed as a Syrian under the travel ban

initiated by executive order. Our students got to experience first hand what unanticipated events such policy changes can create in the world community. Let’s hope it was a good lesson.

There is always an opportunity for informed debate about Israel and the Palestinian occupation. Quakers started a Friends school for girls in Ramallah in 1869 and thus have a long history of involvement in the region. Might we use our collective wisdom as a community of learners to debate both sides of the challenges present in the West Bank and Gaza with civility and mutual respect?

Hunger Awareness Day is now a valued part of our Peace Week activities. Our in-house food pantry has grown, and bringing food to school to help restock local food pantries is a visible and effective part of our experience. Is there more we can do?... Continued good work with the Flik staff

in our dining services to minimize food waste, school-wide composting as a model of improved food security techniques, and sustainable agriculture projects on our spacious campus that would also provide some of our own food needs?

Many schools – Quaker and otherwise – have divested from companies involved with generating fossil fuels. Is this a prudent path for Friends Academy to take? And could such a move be based upon student-generated research in our science courses that would provide hands-on education involving real world problems?

These are opportunities to see “what love can do” in the world. We are a Friends school with the privileges of an excellent staff, a well-endowed campus, and a talented student body. Might we embody our mission statement’s commitment to “every life” so that we include “the whole world – no exceptions”?

## QUAKER LIFE AT FRIENDS ACADEMY

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS WINTER 2017

#### LUNCH WITH TEACHER JOHN

Bring your coffee or tea and come prepared to learn about yourself and others in a Friendly environment: “Why a Friends School? How I chose a Friends school education for my child”

Thursday, March 2 at 12:15 p.m. (Frost Hall Conference Room)

#### FINAL FAMILY COMMUNITY SERVICE SATURDAY

Sandwich Making in the Dolan Center Commons at 10 a.m.

Saturday, March 4

(Bring a loaf of white bread and pound of lunchmeat or cheese and **NEW!** a bag of fruit – bananas, apples, oranges.)

Donations will be given to Part of the Solution in the Bronx.)

# THE ARTS AT FRIENDS

Tracey Foster, Director of Arts | Divisional Assistant: Pia Fleischmann, 393-4289

Welcome to The Arts page, where each month we will be sharing updates and musings from our studios and stage to keep creativity alive at Friends!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO FA'S SCHOLASTIC AWARD WINNERS

Ten Upper School student-artists captured a total of 16 awards in the Scholastic Awards for visual arts. Four Gold Key winners will be considered for national-level recognition which will be announced in mid-March.

According to the organization, "submissions are juried by luminaries in the literary and visual arts, some of whom are past award recipients. Panelists look for works that best exemplify originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision."

### Award winners:

#### Gabrielle Bauer

Honorable Mention, Photography – *Blue*

#### Brooke Chartash

Honorable Mention, Mixed Media – *Graffiti Panel*

Honorable Mention, Mixed Media – *Nail bed*

**Gold Key**, Mixed Media – *Torso 1 and Torso 2*

Silver Key, Mixed Media – *Graffiti Chair*

#### Karly Eberly

**Gold Key**, Digital Art – *Nature's Eye*

#### Hannah Goldblatt

Honorable Mention, Photography –

*Chain Reaction*

#### Mei Cheng Lu

Honorable Mention: Drawing and Illustration –

*Two Worlds*

#### Caroline Miller

Honorable Mention: Drawing and Illustration –

*The Wanderer*

#### Caroline Miller

Honorable Mention: Mixed Media – *Carousel*

#### Eleanor Schoeffel

**Gold Key**: Mixed Media – *Drifting*

#### Gabrielle Scordio

**Gold Key**: Digital Art – *Undine*

**Gold Key**: Digital Art – *Shelter*

Silver Key: Digital Art – *Foliage*

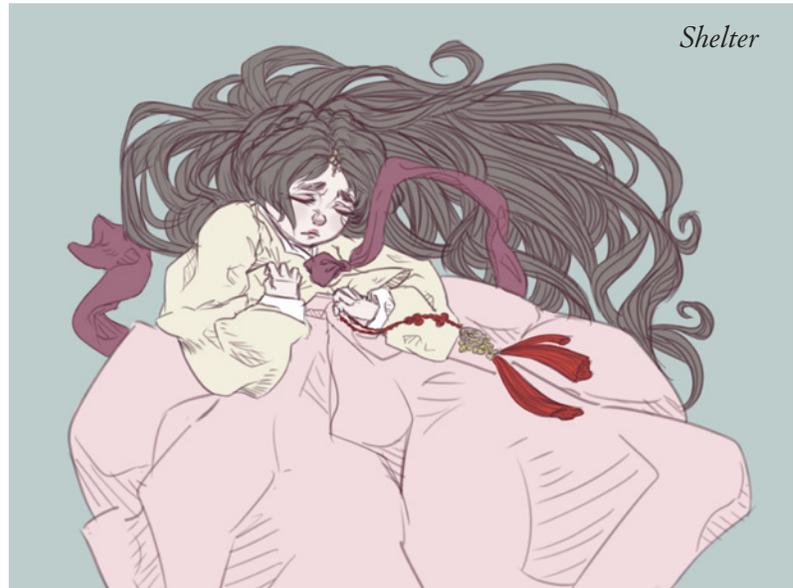
#### Heather Wang

Honorable Mention: Mixed Media – *Camo Culture*

#### Victoria Zhu

Silver Key: Drawing and Illustration –

*Portrait of Richard in Japanese robe*



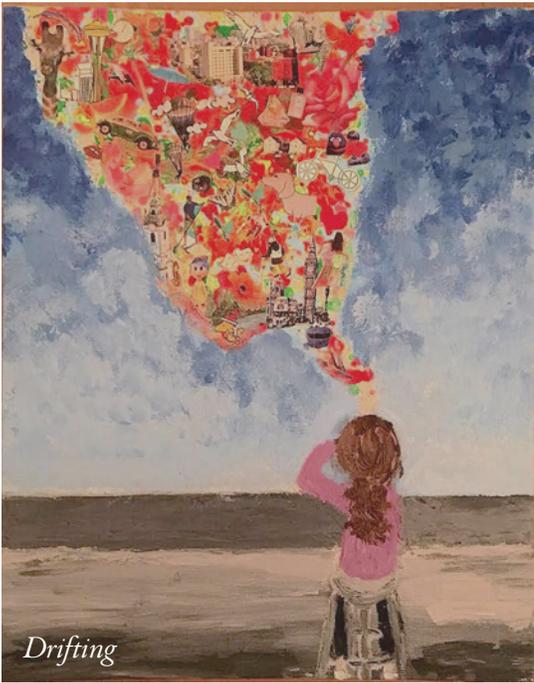
## MIDDLE SCHOOL PLAY FEATURES ORIGINAL STUDENT WRITING

If it is March, that means we are working on the Middle School Play! This year's production is *This Is The Greatest Middle School Play Ever Written!* (working title) a brand new production written by our own Middle School Playwriting Team! 19 Middle School Students came together in January and wrote a series of short plays

about the foibles, frustrations, fun and funny aspects of being in Middle School. Alums **Ryan Dobrin '14** and **Julia Newitt '15** designed and led writing workshops with them and mentored them individually. The scripts these student wrote will become the play. Sign ups happened in February and Auditions are February 28th and March 1st. Rehearsals begin March 6 when the cast will receive their scripts and dive into the material that has been written by their peers!



*Undine*



*Drifting*



*Nature's Eye*

### **Jazz Concert This Friday**

Other happening in March include the Middle and Upper School Jazz Concert. This year's concert is Friday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. Students have been working hard and are excited to share what they have learned. In January when Wynton Marsalis visited the school he gave a master class to the Upper School Jazz Band and worked with them on one of the songs they will be playing in the concert.

It promises to be a night of great music, so bring the whole family and join us!



### **ORIGINALWORKS18 – A SHOWCASE OF STUDENT WORK**

On Friday, March 17 at 7:30 Upper School students will present Original-works18. Yes, this is the 18th year of this wonderful night, which showcases student work from our playwriting, dance, film and composition students.



# THE 2017 JAZZ CONCERT

**March 3rd, 2017 at 7:30pm in the Helen A. Dolan Center  
Presented by the Friends Academy Music Department**