Drop by a Parent Council Meeting

The 2016-17 Parent Council meetings start the third week of September (in the Jackson House) and all parents are welcome!

Tuesday, Sept. 13 – 9:15 AM
Lower School
* Rescheduled from glossy calendar.

Wednesday, Sept. 14 – 8:15 AM
Upper School

Thursday, Sept. 22  8:15 AM
Middle School

Friends Academy faculty and staff welcomes you to the 2016-17 school year!

Quick Links >> CLICK ON THE UNDERLINED TOPIC TO QUICKLY NAVIGATE TO THAT TOPIC

From the Head – “Friends education... forever places those who come under the spell of its influence in that great group who believe they owe the world a life as distinguished from those who think the world owes them a living.” PAGE 2 (By Andrea Kelly)

Lower School – Embracing differences with Restorative Justice. PAGE 4 (By Debby McLean)

Middle School – Building a trusting relationship between parents and teachers. PAGE 8 (By Deborah Schoman)

Upper School – As this summer ends, focusing on the ‘light.’ PAGE 12 (By Mark Schoeffel)

Visit each divisional section to preview Most Updated September calendar highlights

Fall Fair! – Save the Date for Oct. 14 (FA Family Night) and Oct. 15 (Fall Fair). PAGE 5

Welcome! – Meet our new faculty and staff. PAGE 6

Parent Council – Find out how to get involved in this year’s Fall Fair. PAGE 7

Admissions – FA welcomes 71 new families and 117 new students. PAGE 7

Flik Dining – FA’s new ‘Green Restaurant.’ PAGE 10

The Arts – New Theater pre-season and a call for faculty/staff art. PAGE 11

Diversity & Multicultural Affairs – The bittersweet month of September. PAGE 15

Development – We introduce this year’s Annual Fund Parent Committee. PAGE 16

Think.Laugh.Learn – The gift of a Friends education. PAGE 17 (By John Scardina)

September Query – Upper School TASQUE

How can we stay centered as the school year begins? As we get busy with new commitments, how can we stay focused on what is really important? What does your summer self have to teach your school self?
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 October 2016 electronic issue of Among Friends please submit information to the Communications Office by Monday, September 26th.

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.

FA At Your Fingers

Download the FA App

(App Store/FriendsAcademy)
Log in and stay logged in.

From Our Head of School

Ddrawn to the school by its mission and dedication to Quaker education, it was just over a year ago that I first stepped foot on the Friends Academy campus for my initial interview with the Search Committee.

It was a Sunday morning and the campus was unusually quiet, devoid of the sounds typically associated with a busy school. Nevertheless, I could immediately feel the energy of this remarkable place, sensing that Friends Academy was not just any school.

On my way back to Brooklyn that day, I knew “this could be my new home.” I was hooked – spellbound.

One year later while sifting through folders left behind in the office, I uncovered a document which made reference to a quote by Amy Underhill Willets, Quaker and Friends Academy Board of Trustees member from 1898 to 1915. She held a number of leadership roles within the New York Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends including the “Committee on Advancement of Friends’ Principles.”

At the Reunion Annual Society gathering held in 1914, Ms. Willets praised the benefits of Quaker education. She captured in a short phrase precisely what I felt on campus my first day and have now come to understand as just one of many distinguishing features of the Friends Academy experience.

Friends education . . . is the indescribable spiritual influence which produces greatness of heart, breadth of vision, steadfastness of purpose, tenderness of sympathy, and, in a word, character. It forever places those who come under the spell of its influence in that great group who believe they OWE the world a LIFE as distinguished from those who think the world owes them a living.

These words jumped off the page: vision, purpose, heart, sympathy, greatness, character, life. One hundred years later, these prophetic, powerful words, simple and precise, cut to the heart of what it means to be “under the spell of its influence” as a member of the Friends Academy community.

Just six short weeks have passed since I took my place as Head of School. Since July 1, I’ve conducted over 60 entry meetings with faculty, staff, parents, trustees and alumni. Your stories individually and collectively affirm that the spiritual influence, the vision, the purpose, the greatness, and the character are not just ethereal elements. Rather they are the very real defining features of Friends Academy, and not just any school.

After all, it is not just any school that is compelled by its mission and fiercely committed to its Quaker testimonies – an ethos that is ever more important for children to be successful in today’s complex world. It is not just any school that can boast about the unparalleled dedication of this talented and experienced faculty, experts in child development and scholars of their discipline. It is not just any school where students grow into adults who are recognized as thoughtful and productive citizens in their communities – close to home and in the wider world – whose “lives speak” in enormously powerful ways.

Indeed, Friends Academy isn’t just any school, it’s your school, and now my school, and how fortunate we are to be part of this incredible community.

As school begins, I look forward to meeting all Friends Academy families. If you see me on campus, please come over and introduce yourself!

Andrea Kelly
Head of School

Please join us for a series of special parent gatherings to meet Andrea Kelly

Middle School – Tues. Sept. 20
Upper School – Thurs. Sept. 22
Lower School – Tues. Sept. 27

6 to 8 p.m. at the Jackson House

Please RSVP to Kathy_Dineen@fa.org by Sept. 13th.
A Q&A with Andrea Kelly

Q What drew you to Friends Academy?
A In a phrase, first and foremost is that it is a Quaker school. I recall having been here for a conference 10 years before and I remembered it being a very beautiful place, but when I visited the website, the first thing that struck me was “Strong Minds, Kind Hearts.” Living side by side were “Our Quaker Values” and “Our Academic Program.”

Immediately a certain narrative started to take shape. The school’s message spoke to me. So, when I read through the Quaker Testimonies, and looking back on my experience with other Quaker schools, I knew that this could be the kind of school I would want to come to. I had the sense, pretty much from the start, that I might not be “the” person, but I definitely knew that the values the school espoused and the things I knew about myself as an educator were a good match.

Q What have you learned about Quakerism and what speaks to you the most?
A I started with the Quaker Book of Wisdom – that was new to me. What struck me was throughout history Quakers have always been on the right side of justice. Of course I knew about Quaker involvement in the Underground Railroad and the phrase “Are you a friend of a Friend?” associated with safe passage. That reference and others make sense to me now.

I am an educator who has always been deeply involved in inclusion and in social justice education. Conflict resolution was an early piece of my training when I first came to teach in NYC. You have to be a certain kind of person to stand and wave a banner in front of this school’s mission and its testimonies. I’m reading a book by Leonard Kenworthy about Quakers and I’ve come to learn that there are many different communities of Quakers in the world.

Q What I’m most concerned with is finding the best way or the most practical way to live through these testimonies. How can these espoused values be our expressed values? You can’t put your finger on it until you’re in it.

Q Before you came here, what did you expect to find here?
A I knew Friends Academy was an excellent school with a strong reputation. I expected to find a very loving community and believed that Quaker schools were, by and large, progressive – teaching in ways that were very innovative. I expected to find very dedicated teachers and parents. I knew it was a strong community.

Q What has surprised you the most so far?
A Though not a total surprise, the incredible generosity and kindness shown to me these past six weeks has been staggering. So many people have accepted my invitation to meet – over 60. When the students return, I would love to conduct some small focus groups, because their perspective is paramount. I want to know what is the experience of all students at Friends Academy. Later in the year, I plan to shadow a student in each division for a day to see what it feels like to live in their shoes.

Q What are your goals for the year?
A My primary goal is to deeply learn about and understand the culture of Friends Academy and to build relationships within the community. I have to move from listening and observing to doing the work of forming the strong bonds and relationships that start to create a fabric of trust. A year from now, I will look back and realize how different my perceptions were – “I can’t believe this is what I thought then and what I know now,” because I will have such a deep understanding of this place.

Q What do you anticipate as a challenge in the year ahead?
A I want to ensure that the work we do going forward will strengthen the school and is done with the kind of thought and caring so that it’s secure and that it sticks. The biggest challenge is ensuring that any changes that are made are collaborative and decisive, but also executed in a way that is thoughtful, well-placed and cohesive.

Q What are you most looking forward to?
A Not being new any more! As much as the beginning weeks have been exciting and I have felt the embrace of being folded in, I do look forward to not being the “new” Head of School. It will just be nice to be introduced as, “This is our Head of School.” I’ll be happy not to ask, “Is this how you do it here?” There’s pride in welcoming new people into the community, as a person who holds some of that institutional understanding.

You were at Packer for 20 years? Even though you were in all those different roles… Separating from the community has been challenging. It’s like leaving a family. But I knew for the right school, it would be the right move. Friends Academy is just where I’m supposed to be.

Q My final question is what advice do you have for all the incoming new families, students, faculty and staff?
A We are new together. I’m very excited to meet the new students and new families because it is the one time I will be able to say I’m new here too. My advice to them would be accept the folding in, but, dictate your own experience. Experience the school for yourself. Be patient. And if they have those little moments where they feel unsure? If you feel unsure, come see me. I’m always here.
Embracing our differences through Restorative Justice

Welcome back to school, to our academic year 2016-17. Our theme for this year is “Deepening Awareness to Embrace Differences: Seeing, Asking, Listening, Understanding.” I think this theme is incredibly apropos given the times we find ourselves in. Increasingly, people are recoiling from differences and using language that stirs hate. At FA, we nurture a loving and beloved community where differences are not only accepted but embraced. John Scardina and I have just wrapped up a faculty professional development on Restorative Justice and I think it fits perfectly with our theme.

Schools are messy places as children are growing into goodness. Kids are developmentally moving from self-centeredness to empathy. Developing empathy is at the heart of our theme. We need to see, ask, listen and understand another’s perspective for us to live in a community together. When we come to a disagreement in perspective, we need the time to explore more fully the other viewpoint as well as advocate for our own.

Restorative Justice focuses on developing community and managing conflict by repairing harm and restoring relationships. Here in the FA Lower School we move away from the idea of blame and toward “what harm resulted” and “what needs to happen to make it right?” In order to know what harm resulted, I have to gain a sense of the other person's perspective.

I ask that at home you continue to help your child embrace differences to deepen awareness. If your child shares an incident that happened on the playground or at lunch, probe further to see how the other child or children might have felt. Remember, it’s not about blame, but about healing the harm. And it’s about embracing differences to ensure we live in a loving community.
The Fall Fair Committee, co-chaired by Michelle Statfeld and Nicky Pratt has been hard at work pulling together what promises to be another fantastic Fall Fair! For those new to FA, Fall Fair is an event that brings together the entire school community for a day of rides, food, athletic events, games, community service fundraisers and fun for everyone.

**FA Family Night**
**Friday, October 14th**
To kick off the weekend’s events, all FA families, faculty and staff are invited to enjoy the Fall Fair rides for an hour, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., followed by a barbecue and bonfire.

**Join us for the Fall Fair Kick-off Breakfast!**
Wednesday, September 7th at 8:30 a.m. in the Jackson House. This is a great opportunity to find out all the ways to be involved in the festivities! Please contact:
Michelle Statfeld statfeld@aol.com
Nicky Pratt NSPratt@gmail.com

**Parent Council**
**FA Spirit Wear Sale**
**Thursday, Oct. 13 & 14 from 10 AM – 3 PM (Dolan Center Atrium)**
Be ready for Spirit Day and our Pep Rally and pick up your FA WEAR! New styles and accessories in all sizes.

All clothes are also PE Wear approved.

For more information, visit [FA Fall Fair](#) on our website!
Welcome New Faculty & Staff

Administration

We are happy to welcome Andrea Kelly as our new Head of School. Andrea began her career as a Special Education teacher, and after working as a public elementary school teacher, she became the Director of Maple Street School in Brooklyn. In 1996, Andrea began a 20-year tenure at The Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn. A graduate of the State University of New York at Geneseo, Andrea earned a bachelor’s degree in Special Education and then went on to Nazareth College where she earned a Master of Science degree in Education.

Athletics

The Physical Education and Health Department is happy to welcome Patrick Maguire who will be teaching PE and health and coaching in the football, basketball and lacrosse programs. Patrick’s most recent teaching experience was in Queens United Middle School 289 teaching middle school health and physical education. Patrick earned a BS in Exercise Science from Springfield College, a MS in Physical Education/Human Performance from Central Connecticut State University and MA in Physical Education from Adelphi University.

Upper School

Please welcome Jaclyn Mazur to the Upper School where she will be teaching history, advising and coaching. Jaclyn comes to Friends from the Great Neck Public School where she taught middle and upper school Global History. Jaclyn earned a BS in Education from the University of Vermont and an MS in Special Education from Hofstra University.

Joining the College Guidance Office this year is Jennifer Dice. Jen is moving north from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, FL where she worked in the Graduate Business Programs Office providing admissions support to applicants. In addition to working in the College Office, Jen will also be teaching one semester of Community Service in the Upper School. Jen earned her BS in Media and Information Technology and a MS in Human Resources from the University of Scranton.

Also joining the Upper School faculty is Oren Steinberg who will be teaching Computer Science and 3D printing, advising and supporting the Robotics program. A graduate of Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland, Oren worked as a tutor in math and computer science and served as a counselor and teacher in several Boy Scout camps.

Lower School

The Lower School will be welcoming two new faculty members this year. Colleen Bode who joins Niki Desai in 3rd grade and Cindy Bayne who joins Kim Jennings and Jen Fox in 5th grade.

Colleen comes to Friends from Success Academy in Williamsburg, Brooklyn where she was a third grade lead teacher. Prior to her time at Success Academy, Colleen taught Gr. 4 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Regional School. Colleen has a BA in Elementary Education and Human Development from Boston College and MA in Special Education from Providence College.

Cindy Bayne’s most recent teaching experience was at Whitby School in Greenwich, CT where she taught 5th grade, was an advisor and 5th grade team leader. Before teaching at Whitby, Cindy spent twelve years teaching social studies abroad in Hong Kong. Cindy earned a BA in Secondary Education from West Virginia Wesleyan College.

Little Friends

Our daycare program, Little Friends, is happy have Rachel Dooley as the Head Pre-Nursery teacher. Rachel worked as a part time member of the Little Friends staff in addition to coaching lacrosse in the spring. Rachel will also be the Assistant JV Boys Soccer coach this year. Rachel earned a BS in Human Services-Administration and Family Policy from the University of Delaware.

Additional Changes

Brie Kraska will be our full time Math Specialist in Lower School.

Eden White will be taking on a part-time role in the Music Department in all divisions.

Jaclyn Wirth will serve as math leave replacement for Jillian Chiarenza in Upper School.

At the Front Desk and in Admissions, Kathy Santucci will be filling in for Joanna Kim while she is on a maternity leave. Doreen Heyman will be the full time receptionist and Lynn Carmen will be filling in for Doreen in the mail room and as evening receptionist.

Jennifer Dice

Oren Steinberg

Colleen Bode

Cindy Bayne

Rachel Dooley

Jaclyn Wirth

Carmen Santucci

Eden White

Jill Chiarenza
**Parent Council**

Welcome to the 2016-17 school year!

On behalf of the Executive Board of the Parent Council of Friends Academy, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Andrea Kelly, our new Head of School, and to all our new and returning families.

All Friends Academy parents are members of the Parent Council and are encouraged to attend meetings. Parent Council meetings are held once a month, by division, in the Jackson House. Please refer to the FA Calendar for dates and times. Attending these PC meetings gives you a chance to keep up with your child's activities, meet other parents and helps keep you informed of what's happening in the community.

There are many exciting things happening in September. The first is our Fall Fair Kick-Off Breakfast on Sept. 7th at 8:30 a.m. in the Jackson House. Please come get involved and learn about one of our most exciting and anticipated events.

There will be a New Parent Gathering on Sun Sept. 11th. It begins with Meeting for Worship at 11:15 a.m. in the Matinecock Meeting House, followed by a reception, at noon, in the Jackson House. Everyone is invited to attend and make our new families feel welcome.

Finally there is our first Family Community Service Sandwich Making Project at 10:30 a.m. in the Commons. This is a great event to help support those in need.

Please consider getting involved and volunteering in our many activities. It's what makes our community so special!

We have a fantastic group of dedicated parents on Executive board this year:

- **Rita Afzelius** – President
- **Amy Schamroth** – Executive VP
- **Randi Hoyt** – Secretary
- **Kim Broder** – Treasurer
- **Lynne Koufakis** – US VP
- **Jeannine Losritto** – US AVP
- **Michele Cagner** – MS VP
- **Kristine Kelly** – MS AVP
- **Roseann Martin** – LS VP
- **Carolyn Mott** – LS AVP

Please feel free to email me, or anyone on the board, if you have any questions or suggestions or would like to get involved and volunteer for any parent council committee. All committees and their chairs are listed in the school directory. We look forward to seeing everyone in September!

Sincerely,

Rita Afzelius, President
Amy Schamroth, Executive Vice President

---

**Admissions**

A warm welcome to 71 new families!

Please join Team Admissions in welcoming 71 new families and their respective 84 children to our beloved Friends Academy community!

We are grateful to the community at large who continue to share our program with neighbors, family and friends. Because of this continued outreach and word-of-mouth, we are fully enrolled – 776 students this September! Thank you!

The next Admissions season is already underway with Open House dates set for MS/US on Tuesday, November 8th and for LS on Thursday, November 10th, both starting at 8:30am.

Kindly continue sharing your stories with families who may be interested in our fabulous Quaker community.

It is indeed our community members, programs offered and relations formed that attract more like-minded families. Please keep this in mind as we continue to build our numbers in the Middle School and our current 1st grade.

Much Gratitude,

Team Admissions
Nina, Liz, Kathleen, Doreen & Lynn (and Joanna, on maternity leave)
Building a trusting relationship between teachers and parents

Welcome back to new and returning Middle School families! Whether you have been at Friends for a long time or this is your first year, the start of school and a new school year always stirs up feelings of excitement, coupled with nervousness, and hopes for new experiences and opportunities for our children. There is definitely something magical about the first day of school!

For Middle schoolers, their excitement about a new school year focuses mostly on who their friends will be and what their teachers will be like. While we would like to believe our tweens would be most eager about their new learning opportunities for the new school year, the reality is they are most concerned about these questions, “Who will be my friend?” and “Will my teachers like me?” Happy and trusting relationships built over time are very important for students as it allows them to be more relaxed and able to more effectively focus on their learning.

Relationships among adolescents, not to mention with their parents, change on a daily basis.

If you read my favorite tome on raising a Middle schooler, Learning to Kiss a Frog, you will recall author James Garvin’s thoughts about the growing pains associated with these years. These “egocentric frogs” are learning to manage their rapid physical changes, raging hormones, and intellectual growth spurts. They are trying to figure out who they are and where they fit in their social worlds. As parents of a preadolescent, you can be uncertain how to support the development of your child’s social emotional learning skills and there is no manual that can provide concrete steps to guide you on this roller coaster ride called “middle school.”

Advising is a central component to our Middle School program and supports both the students and the parents. The Middle School teachers love to work with this age group and have chosen Middle School education as their first interest. As the teachers build their relationship with their advisees and the parents, they develop a clearer understanding of the physical, intellectual, social, and emotional growth and needs of their advisees.

As part of the advising program, the advisors actively engage parents as partners, working together to support the child’s development, academically and socially. They are committed to helping ensure a smooth transition experience for students and parents at each grade level. Advisors are central in helping the tweens understand their responsibility as members of a community, helping them make responsible choices and understanding the consequences of their actions.

In the Middle School, we believe in
For Middle schoolers, their excitement about a new school year focuses mostly on who their friends will be and what their teachers will be like.

While we would like to believe our tweens would be most eager about their new learning opportunities for the new school year, the reality is they are most concerned about these questions, “Who will be my friend?” and “Will my teachers like me?”

Building a trusting working relationship between teachers and parents. Together we can help your child navigate the ups and downs of Middle School life, develop self-awareness and problem-solving skills, which will allow them to grow into socially confident, resilient, and caring community members. These non-academic skills are crucial for student success in Middle School and beyond.

This school year marks my 40th year in education and I am very excited about the 2016-17 school year!

The teachers and I look forward to building a vibrant Middle School community and enjoying our journey together.

Wishing you a wonderful school year!

Middle School Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony & Tours
Tuesday, September 13 | 8:15 to 9:00 a.m. | All Parents Invited!

We have transformed our 20th-century Middle School building into a school that can now deliver a 21st-century program. This redesigned learning space will impact how teachers think about teaching and learning and inspire creativity and curiosity for their students. Middle schoolers need educational programs that are designed specifically for their age group because of their uniqueness in terms of intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development. Middle schoolers learn best when they can actively engage in spaces designed for the pre-adolescent to physically move around, engage in project-based learning, ask questions, solve problems, and take risks. The academic program enhanced by the learning space should inspire intellectual curiosity.

Open collaborative learning spaces for each grade level adjacent to the classrooms will increase learning opportunities. Empower students to work with each other collaboratively to explore multiple perspectives, consider alternative solutions, and thoughtfully solve problems. The flexible furniture and access to technology in these spaces will promote social learning and support the teaching and learning of skills needed for the interconnected world of today and tomorrow.

In addition to the renovated science and computer lab rooms, a new makerspace room has been designed where students can gather to create, invent, tinker, explore and discover using a variety of tools and materials. Students will have the opportunity to build a robot, create a project that involves designing, programming, wiring, cutting, sewing, laser cutting, building with a 3-D printer or some combination of these skills.
n the past, the Friends Academy Kitchen and Food Services was always green – from its local, organic salad bar greens to its biodegradable cutlery. But now, it’s official.

On January 29, FA and Flik were officially certified a Green Restaurant by the national Green Restaurant Association after “implementing 40 environmental steps to earn 135.15 Greenpoints in food, water, waste, energy, chemicals and disposables,” declared the certification.

“It was definitely a joint effort,” said Jodi Resnick, Senior Food Service Director for Flik, who oversees the daily breakfast, lunch, snacks and internal catering events for Friends Academy. “The FA Sustainability Committee and Flik worked together over two years to document all our green initiatives. Flik as a whole is very involved in getting all their schools green certified,” she added.

FA’s Director of Facilities, Chris Semlies, and his Maintenance staff worked diligently with Flik employees to satisfy the criteria it took to become green certified.

“The most challenging thing was getting everything documented,” recounted Resnick. “Every chemical, every bill for food, appliance or light bulb had to be considered. We submitted 50 to 60 photos with writeups about each item and where each was located. It’s a very in-depth process,” stated Resnick.

Founded in 1990, the Green Restaurant Association is “an international organization that has pioneered the Green Restaurant movement as the leading voice within the industry, encouraging restaurants to green their operations using transparent, science-based certification and standards.” The organization operates in 47 states, as well as Canada.

The GRA certification is comprised of over 500 environmental standards, including 40 from external science, environmental and governmental organizations.

FA was rated across seven environmental categories including, water efficiency, waste reduction and recycling, sustainable durable goods and building materials, sustainable food, energy, reusables & environmentally preferable disposables and chemical and pollution reduction.

The Kitchen received the highest percentage of points for waste – 46.75. “We use bulk condiments in the kitchen, no trays, all compostable paper goods and we recycle plastics, glass and aluminum,” reported Resnick.

Friends also earned points for campus-wide no idling signs, installing building-wide low-flow aerator faucets & touchless sensors, environmentally-friendly cleaning products, humanely raised handled meat, vegetarian main dishes and on-campus composting.

“I’m most proud of the fact that we were already doing so much that it didn’t take much to get to two stars,” said Resnick, who is already mapping a course to earn 175 points and a 3-star rating. “This certification says we are more than environmentally friendly; it says we go above and beyond in what we serve and the products which we use,” she finished.

Eat. Learn. Live. A mantra for a better life!
The Theater & Dance Pre-Season Debuts This Summer

This year, for the first time, the Theater and Dance Department held a Pre-Season. Our pre-season lasted three days—August 24, 25 & 26. Thirty students in 9-12 grade showed up. Heavily influenced by our sports pre-seasons, we wanted to embrace the same idea of getting ready, so our season included:

**Getting in shape:** Dance teacher and choreographer Kimo Kepano led a series of rigorous workouts focusing on strength, flexibility, agility, stamina and the brain-body connection. This was especially challenging for the students who came straight from their sports pre-season ... or who sat on their couch all summer.

**Working together as a team:** Through a series of activities students got to know each other and established a vocabulary for working together.

**Information:** Throughout the three days, students were given a wide variety of information that will be valuable to them in the upcoming season. Everything from what the season is, to how to pick an audition song, to where we keep the hammers and tape measures!

**Skills Building:** Students ran the gauntlet from learning to hammer a nail, and use a screw gun, to setting up a tall ladder and lifting heavy things. And much more!

**Inspiration:** We saw several shows at the New York Fringe Festival, and discussed them. We laughed together, we shared with each other and we grew closer and got excited for the wonderful things to come this year!

Here are some selected reflections from students who attended the Pre-Season.

"Today at theater preseason we got tours of the entire theater. We also learned about proper spiking technique, how to use a sewing machine, how to properly lift heavy objects in a safe manner, and how to use tools such as a drill. We also had a great conversation about what attracted us to the FATD. I really enjoyed hearing everyone’s perspective on what theater means to them. It has been a blast to be reunited with my friends."

"As a senior, walking in the door this morning was a really bittersweet feeling. It was incredible to be back in the one place on campus that feels like home, but it was also my last first time walking in the door for a new school year. Even though that realization was a little sad, I couldn’t stop smiling for pretty much the whole day because I was so happy to be back with familiar faces, and to meet so many new faces. Getting to explore all the different parts of the space was exciting, and really set a strong tone for how the school year is going to go."

**Call for Artists: All Faculty and Staff Art Show**

October 14 to November 22, 2016

An open-themed, non-juried art show, featuring the work of our community. All works must be framed and ready to hang.

Limit: Three works of art.

Please drop off work in the Dolan Center Art Gallery no later than Friday, September 16.
As this summer ends, focusing on the ‘light’

In the breezes of late summer days, voices speak, or they can, if we hear them. After I had come up for air and shaken the water from me, I sat near a lake one evening, listening to the breeze in the birches, watching the lemon and orange light playing across the waters. I did not feel the calm so deep that Wordsworth saw as he composed his lines on Westminster Bridge, nor the weariness, fever and the fret of Keats’ oft quoted Nightingale Ode.

The sound of the water and the soft light had me filled with gratitude, for the beauty, and also for the stillness, all the life, boundless, within them. I felt a keen sense of life’s precious and delicate tastes and blessings.

And I also mourned how much time I had spent in summer days with my head in my hands, worn down and feeling powerless about such violence and loss in our world. A question kept returning to me in those days: What had I done, really, to help? Yet here and now, in that late summer evening, I was so thankful for the gift of the sun, and the wind, and now, for the voices of children playing just beyond me, out on the water as the day waned.

It has been a hard summer to be so distant and yet also close to the daily stories of grief, terrible loss, and darkness. In America and abroad, in shootings and turmoil, there seemed too many voices and acts of hatred, often spiraling above the quieter voices of support, and strength. Their ascendance could not but shake us, and while I do not have television or social media as part of my connection to news, I was often stopped in my steps, frozen in front of headlines and stories in the paper about families and children in despair, from those who had their beloved ones shot to those who lost them to other terrible acts, seemingly too awful to fathom. The world seemed on edge, and perhaps it is, still.

On the front page of the paper some days ago, the face of a little boy from Serbia looking out in shock, his skin caked in dust and blood, stopped my heart. As I drove to work one morning, the voice of a U.S. doctor on the radio told the story of how, using a phone application while in America, he...
had coached a Serbian veterinarian to help him perform his first human Caesarian to save the lives of two twins and their injured mother. This haunted me all that day, as I wondered what I was doing or what I could do to help stop the pain and violence of this world. What was I doing, here?

These may seem like strange thoughts and feelings, but they were mine. And going through days where we feel both apart from this and somehow deeply shaken by it leaves a daze and a sense of powerlessness, a dea rth, at times, of hope and purpose.

And yet, the gift of these stories, if we can hear them and let them enter us without robbing us of our sense of integrity, is that they should challenge and deepen us as human beings, and demand of us that we be and do more. To become more human, as it were.

I try to imagine how so many people who have had profound loss and who search for meaning, and for a redemptive truth, often alone, can find hope and love. And I believe many may have a resolve as keen as Job’s is when he utters his oath to his friends in Book 27.

When I think of this courage and the faith that brings these families together, often for the sake of their children, their strength of love and belief inspires me. It is transcendent, and endures. Stories of their examples help me stay centered, if that is the word, for I do not feel “centered” as much as seeking rootedness and more truth.

So many people search to find not peace, but instead a truer life of goodness and devotion to what they know and feel is right. It is the right thing to do. Job’s are strong words, yes. He is a “believer.” But his plight, and his answering oath, in a world that appears to be absent of justice, remain relevant for our time. His journey through calamity is humbling and daunting to ingest. It leaves me wondering, in my life of Western privilege, about what is most essential to believe and do, and how I can do it. I do not have answers, but the words come to me these days. I feel more than ever that I need to stay true to my primary allegiances, and the ultimate loyalty is to both what is higher in us and to those around and in front of us, to our families, friends, and strangers, especially those in need.

As I sat by the water that night, I did not think of Job’s argument with his friends, who challenge him to explain why he still holds fast to his belief. He says that all the while that breath is in him, he will strive not to speak wickedness or let his tongue utter deceit. Great challenges met with other challenges. It begins with the tongue, then. And the sounds of the water and the light seemed to affirm his pact: to hold fast, to not remove his integrity, to not let it go. Still, hovering over the beautiful water, then, Job’s words were and are still there.

My summer self is in flux, and yet in the whirlwind, there is also a center, which does not hold, and yet does not yield up despair. Instead, I am forever focused on the light, which is almost greater than hope, listening for the call Eliot says we must strive to hear amidst sound and fury: “Go, said the bird, for the leaves were full of children. / Hidden excitedly, containing laughter.” It is the children and their voices whose laughter contains the path to truth. And that is the summer teaching, for this school self.

It will be good to see all of you.

“Till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me. My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live.

– BOOK OF JOB, 27:5-6

Find out how Friends Academy alumni, students and faculty are bringing our school theme, "Deeping our awareness to embrace differences" to life, inspiring us and changing the world around us.

www.facebook.com/friendsacademyNY
Friends Academy
Picture Day

Upper School  September 13th  9/26 (R)
Middle School  September 15th  9/26 (R)
Lower School  September 16th  9/26 (R)
Little Friends Day Care  September 20th  10/6 (R)
Early Childhood  September 26th  10/6 (R)
(R) - Retake Day

✓ No prepay envelopes, preview your images before ordering.
✓ Look for your child’s portrait proofs shortly after photo day online.
✓ View pose choices before making a purchase.
✓ Great variety of packages!

Questions? 516.767.1234

Digital images will be available for purchase and download.

www.islandphoto.com/schoolportraits
“Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient season. It is today that our best work can be done and not some future day or future year. It is today that we fit ourselves for the greater usefulness of tomorrow. Today is the seed time, now are the hours of work, and tomorrow comes the harvest and the playtime.”

– W.E.B. DuBois, American civil rights activist, leader, educator, and scholar

September has always been a bittersweet month for me. On one hand, as both a person of Afro-Caribbean heritage and a “Labor Day baby” (the year that I was born, I was actually born on Labor Day), I always celebrate my birthday with friends and family amidst New York’s Labor Day Weekend festivities in Brooklyn (i.e. Carnival, J’Ouvert, West Indian Day Parade, etc.). On the other hand, my birthday also inevitably marks the end of my summer season and has always symbolized the start of a new school year. In fact, I feel like radio and TV advertisements have been conspiring against me each year to remind me earlier and earlier that the new school year is coming!

As soon as the calendar creeps past mid-August, I begin to experience a wistfulness that the freedom and fun of summer will soon be over and the reality of routines is about to start. Apparently, I am not alone. A new study, conducted by Explore Learning, revealed that 50% of children surveyed are also dreading returning to school in September. Back-to-School is a time of mixed emotions: uncertainty and change. However, this year seems to carry a bit more weight.

This summer was marred with grief and unrest: the shooting deaths of Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, and police officers in Baton Rouge and Dallas; terror attacks in Orlando, Turkey, France, and Iraq, among others; and the trepidation of the Republican and Democratic Party conventions in Cleveland and Philadelphia. In fact, one might argue that this election season has been unlike any other in modern history.

A survey of teachers conducted by Teaching Tolerance indicated this year’s election is eliciting fear and anxiety among children of color, immigrants and Muslims; emboldening students to mimic the words and tone of the campaign; and disrupting opportunities to teach effectively about political campaigns and civic engagement.

While presidential elections can be exciting for students and should provide an opportunity to discuss a range of issues in the classroom, there is growing concern in the educational community that excitement will be replaced by conflict this school year.

Many educators (and families) are experiencing a “crisis of confidence” when it comes to approaching conversations on this topic. How do we model civil discourse and respect for all viewpoints? How do we uphold our duty to invite diverse perspectives into student discussions while, at the same time, maintaining the dignity and worth of each individual by not repeating vitriolic rhetoric? It is a delicate position to be in, for sure.

However, W.E.B. DuBois reminds us, “In all things purely social we can be as separate as the five fingers, and yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress.” It is okay to have disparate opinions. It is human. But, can we disagree without being disagreeable? I believe we can.

This is the optimism which propels me into this school year. No more pining for Summer ’16. It has come and gone. W.E.B. DuBois pushes me, pushes us, forward into this school year, ready to face the challenges that await us. He says, “Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient season. It is today that our best work can be done.”

I have come to accept the fact that “now” it is back-to-school and I am looking forward to being in community with all of you as we do our best work this 2016-2017 school year!
A message from the Development Office

On behalf of the Development Office, welcome back! We hope your family is looking forward to the start of another amazing year at Friends Academy. The Development Office has been busy preparing for the many activities scheduled in the fall. We truly feel blessed to be part of the wonderful collective body we call the Friends Academy family.

One of our objectives this year is to help you create a truly meaningful experience for your family. Over the course of the next few months, we will provide you with information about all the ways you can get involved at Friends Academy. We invite you to become an active participant in your child’s school life. Your involvement will not only enrich your child’s experience at Friends Academy, but will broaden your own horizons and create opportunities for you to meet and get to know other parents. The simple truth is when our parents support our school initiatives, the entire Friends Academy community reaps the benefits.

This year affords us the opportunity to salute a very special group of our volunteers – the Annual Fund Parent Volunteer Team. This group was formed in the spring of 2012 and worked tirelessly during the 2015-2016 school year to promote the Friends Academy Annual Fund. Thanks to their efforts, led by Marc Hudak, the Annual Fund raised $1,732,048 during the 2015-2016 school year! Equally important, parent participation increased to 83%, the highest level in school history. We applaud their willingness to lead by example and add the role of Annual Fund Parent Volunteer to their already full plates. Please take the time to thank them for their commitment when you next see them.

Lastly, please stop by and visit us. Our doors are always open for questions or for casual conversation!

The Development Office
Jim, Joan, Christine, and Diane

NEW THIS YEAR!

Recurring Gifts
Schedule regular and more affordable gifts.
Click to download the Commitment Form or contact Joan Bruen in the Development Office at 516-393-4251.

Annual Fund Committee 2016-2017

Chair: Marc T. Hudak

Early Childhood
Christine and Marc Pelletier

Kindergarten
Franciska and Nishat Doshi ’98

1st Grade
Deborah and David Shalam ’91

2nd Grade
Aimee and Stephen Roti

3rd Grade
Gina and Steven Jaklitsch
Beth and Ross Labelson

4th Grade
Mia and Patrick O’Shaughnessy

5th Grade
Victoria and James Schultz

6th Grade
Natalia Porcelli Good ’93 and Adam Good ’93
Laura Ann and Chris Semlies

7th Grade
Stacey and Wilhelm Daal

8th Grade
Michele and Evan Cagner ’91
Julie and Morry Kalimian

9th Grade
Beth Green
Michelle and Tim Selby

10th Grade
Nancy Langdon ’85 and Matthew Hickerson
Rachel and Franklin Zuckerbrot ’84

11th Grade
Ellen Field Greene ’82 and Marc Greene
Alexa and Thomas Rice

12th Grade
Randi-Sue and David Hoyt
Sandra and Nick Themellis

Please make your gift or pledge by Dec. 31, 2016. Gift commitments can be funded any time before the close of the FA fiscal year on June 30, 2017.

Thank you for Making a Difference in the Lives of Our Children
As we begin another school year at Friends Academy let us be aware of the blessings of a Friends education. You and your children are once again creating a community with all of us on the staff at FA that is centered on the belief that there is that of God in each person. All of us are to be valued and cherished.

We believe that children are “growing into goodness” with the right mixture of love, challenge, and community. Just as William Penn called his Quaker colony of Pennsylvania the “holy experiment,” we can look at each school year as another “holy experiment” in Friends education.

What do we provide?
• Caring and competent staff members
• State-of-the art facilities
• Developmentally appropriate curricula
• An opportunity to experience Friends worship in Meeting every week

What do we ask of you?
• Respect and trust for what we do
• Full support for our program and guidelines
• A knowing appreciation for Friends values and practices

Since 1689 Friends schools in North America have been providing a quality values-based education for the children of Friends and those “similarly sentimented” (to use the words of FA’s founder Gideon Frost from 1876). You are part of a tradition that is by definition “countercultural” in its emphasis on the Inward Teacher rather than societal norms. Our testimonies of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, service, and stewardship are a blueprint for living that our world could sorely use right now. You and your children are in the right place.

It is our privilege to work with you and your children. Blessings on this school year.
Feeling sick? Thinking of feeling sick? Worried you might be thinking of feeling like you might be getting sick? Dr. Purgon has the answers. From Hypothermia to Hypertension to Hypochondria, the good doctor will cure all that ails you. (Adapted by Oden Gross and Tracy Young)

(UPPER SCHOOL AUDITIONS – September 7 & 8)

A NEW MUSICAL BY ANDREW GEHA
FEB. 2ND-4TH AT 7:30 PM

On an island on Lake Katoa... Maggie finds her brother. Leo finds himself. Cally finds her voice. Felix finds love. But there is no island on Lake Katoa.

(UPPER SCHOOL AUDITIONS – The week of Nov. 14)

...THEATER DEPARTMENT PROUDLY PRESENTS:

THE IMAGINARY INVALID BY MOLIÈRE:
NOV. 3RD-5TH AT 7:30 PM

A series of Upper School original pieces, including plays, musical numbers, dances and monologues.