

OUR OCTOBER COMMUNITY QUERY: As we settle into the new school year, it is a time full of new opportunities.

Who are the people who inspire us to be our best selves? Equally, how can we be a source of inspiration to others?

— UPPER SCHOOL TASQUE (TEACHERS AND STUDENTS FOR QUAKER UNDERSTANDING AND EDUCATION)

# AMONG FRIENDS



STRONG MINDS.  
KIND HEARTS.

FRIENDS ACADEMY MONTHLY E-LETTER | OCTOBER 2019 >> [WWW.FA.ORG](http://WWW.FA.ORG)

VIDEO COVER STORY



(Click to play)

Conservatory Day at FA –

Professional musicians play

instrumental role in Grade 4-12 growth

Click image to watch



## ALSO INSIDE

### Bridging learning and life

Head of School Andrea Kelly discusses the introduction of Entrepreneurship. [PAGE 2](#)

### What is your talk and how do you walk it?

Peer inside the Middle School with Principal Christine Saunders. [PAGE 5](#)

### Go Quakers!

Cheer on FA at this year's Homecoming, during Fall Fair. Check out the schedule of games. [PAGE 12](#)



# AMONG FRIENDS



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

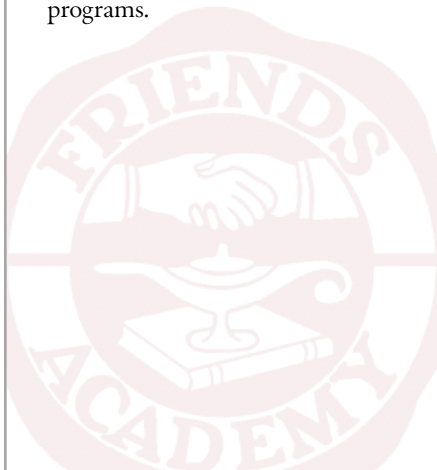
---

## EDITOR:

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



## FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

As I write this from the sofa in the Jackson House, the train whistle is sounding out of the Locust Valley station. The sound of a train whistle seems to be one of the few things



ANDREA KELLY  
HEAD OF SCHOOL

that hasn't changed many times over the years. It is familiar and comforting and reminds me that there were simpler times in life when train travel was the norm and facetime was just that – true face-to-face

interaction with another human being in real-time. One of many resolutions I will keep this new school year is to continue to create facetime with parents, students and Friends Academy alumni, to deepen those relationships and to make progress on the reciprocal goals of hearing firsthand the experiences of the members in our community while sharing updates and current progress on FA's Strategic Plan. Beyond facetime, read my column in Among Friends each month for strategic plan updates.

In Strategic Priority Two, Real World Learning, we realize promise by "bridging learning and life."

Our strategic plan states, "We understand the power of partnerships to provide our students with opportunities to engage in real-world problem solving, by piloting, testing, and establishing long-term partnerships with outside organizations." We have taken deliberate action on this goal of establishing partnerships to build bridges of learning beyond our campus walls while strengthening and supporting our educational mission.

In the spring semester, we offer our first elective course in entrepreneurial studies for juniors and seniors. One may hold a healthy skepticism around terms

like Entrepreneurship, Experiential Learning, or Project-Based Learning or worry that new methods will overshadow essential skills taught in core subjects of critical thinking, reading for deep comprehension, writing with clarity and purpose and reflection. But, for Friends Academy and the Korda Institute for Education, it's all about the teaching and the essential skills for success in school and life.

While entrepreneurship is a relatively new field, the Korda Institute's approach to this work stands on a foundation of essential skills including analysis of discipline-specific research, critical evaluation of claims, team-based collaboration, and identification of creative alternatives. These cognitive acrobatics are already part of the instructional repertoire of several courses in the Upper School. In History, for example, students

engage with primary and secondary sources to not only leverage written argument, but also debate with peers the ways in which the context of those sources impact their merit.

Entrepreneurship positions students to

practice these habits of the humanities but also elevate them: In the course, students, working in teams of three or four, will be charged with synthesizing and then discerning multiple sources of market-specific data to devise actual solutions for local business people. The cycle concludes with the teams presenting their findings before the very stakeholders who would be implementing them. In short, it's up to them. The stakes might feel high, but that's why it matters and that in turn, inspires motivation, commitment, empowerment and drive, education with a purpose, something we want for all of our students at Friends.

My very best,

*Andrea Kelly*



## PARENT COUNCIL

The school year began with an amazing energy! On Tuesday, Sept. 10, Parent Council hosted the first General Meeting, which was well attended and informative.

Over 40 families attended our annual New Parent Gathering. We enjoyed a beautiful Meeting for Worship at the Matinecock Meeting House, followed by a very nice reception at the Jackson House, home to Andrea and Tim Kelly. It was great to see so many new faces welcomed into our FA community.

### Looking ahead to October

If you purchased mums and fall flowers they will be available to pick up on Thursday, Oct. 3 from 8 am-4 pm outside of the Dolan Center. Many thanks to all who donated mums to decorate our campus. Please take note of the festive environment you have helped create.

We will have our annual FA wear sale on Thursday Oct. 3, from 10 am-4 pm in the Atrium of the Dolan Center. It is an opportunity to purchase clothing with our FA logo. Be sure to stop by and stock up! Middle and Upper School students may charge items to their school accounts with permission from parents. Our younger friends in Lower School will need a parent to purchase items.

Family Fun Night is Friday, Oct. 4 from 5:30-7:30 pm. Please join us to kick off the Fall Fair. Family Fun Night is open to all FA families to come together, and is an opportunity for our children and families to enjoy complimentary rides and delicious BBQ, finished off with our annual Bonfire. It is a great time to connect with other parents and just enjoy

our beautiful campus for a few hours. You should have received a parking pass in the mail to be used on Friday night. Parking on campus is available. Please refrain from parking along the main roads; carpooling is encouraged!

Fall Fair is Saturday, Oct. 5 from 11am-5pm. Join us for a fun-filled day on campus that includes carnival style rides, games and craft activities, and of course our famous international food court! Being present is the best way to support the Fair. There will be athletic games during the day so come out to cheer our Quakers on!

The Fair is 100 percent run by parent volunteers, so please consider donating a two-hour block of time to this wonderful community endeavour. I assure you it will be time well spent. You can volunteer by clicking [here](#). There are still sign-up slots available.

Please mark your calendar for our Parent Council divisional meetings during October.

Please refer to your glossy Calendar for dates regarding Parent Connections, which are meetings for your specific grade. Discussions may include information about outdoor ed trips, curriculum, and social issues.

I encourage you to make your best effort to attend these informative and social events. Participation is the best way for you to be aware of what is happening both in and outside of the classroom.

Sincerely,  
**Lisa Sutherland, President**  
**Rachel Zuckerbrot,**  
**Executive Vice President**

## OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

Fri.	5	Fall Fair Family Night & BBQ – 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Sat.	6	Fall Fair – 11 am - 5 pm
Tues.	15	Middle School Parent Council Meeting – 8:15 am (Middle School)
Tues.	22	Lower School Parent Council Meeting – 8:15 am (Jackson House)
Tues.	29	Upper School Parent Council Meeting – 8:15 am (Jackson House)

## EARLY CHILDHOOD

Kristin Minuto, Director

Early Childhood students have been discussing the change of seasons and making observations in nature. Through our nature walks on campus, exploring acorns under the oak tree at the Jackson House, noticing the leaves beginning to change color



KRISTIN MINUTO

on many of our beautiful trees, and picking apples from our very own apple trees here at FA, the Early Childhood students have been learning about the miraculous changes in nature taking place. Often, items such as acorns, pinecones, apples, branches, seeds and sticks are collected by the students. We bring these items back to the classroom for further investigation. The students will then sort the items they found and often create artwork using these materials. This is characteristic of our nature-based, Reggio Emilia-inspired program, in which our curriculum is child-centered, guided by experiential learning as the foundation upon which the children learn and grow as life-long learners.

Providing opportunities for children to explore, play and learn through experiences with nature helps them foster a value for all living things and facilitates a connection to the natural world. As the weeks and months continue, the EC students will continue to explore the changes taking place in nature with the change of seasons, and they will discover and learn about the many animals, plants and trees that are common and prevalent in our local environment. Our very own lush campus provides acres and acres of possibilities for exploration and the children are excited to see what they will discover!

# FROM THE LOWER SCHOOL

Dot Woo, Lower School Principal | Divisional Assistant: Gail Lucidi, 393-4230

## What does it mean to be our “best selves?”

When I think of these two words I immediately think about my core values and if I am living them to the best of my ability from the time I wake up to the time I fall asleep. I reflect nightly about how I will approach the next day as I work toward trying to get closer to



DOT WOO

this goal and who the people are that I can turn to for inspiration (and a reality check!).

My children. My students. My friends. My family. My colleagues.

My acquaintances. Those whom I have yet to meet, and those whom I will never meet.

There are people whose inner lights shine bright and inspire us to live our values and work toward the minute-to-minute goal of being our best selves. However, I also can't help but think of those who I disagree with, those who I let push my buttons and what it means to remember to want to be your best self in the face of adversity, fear, and frustration. Being your best self walks hand-in-hand with intrinsic motivation and character. We must ask ourselves, “Do I do the right thing when no one is looking?”

I walk through the halls and see our teachers and students strive to be their best selves, every day. I see this in the way our teachers approach new curricular initiatives, honor student thinking, and model our Quaker testimonies and ethos. I see our students notice and emulate this modeling, find courage in their own voices, self-advocate, respond positively to feedback and sometimes grapple with the difficulty of accepting feedback.

The “best self” is not a published state. The best self is a statement to be revised.

Last week, I received a letter from a small group of students who wanted to meet with me to share an idea. I wrote them back, and we set up a date and time to sit in the Lower School Conference Room. It turned out

Wed.	2	Spirit Week Begins
Fri.	4	Fall Fair Family Night, BBQ, & Homecoming - 5:30 pm
Sat.	5	Fall Fair – 11 am - 5 pm
Mon.	7	2nd Grade Parent Connections – 8:15 am (LS Library)
Wed.	9	<b>Yom Kippur – School &amp; Offices Closed</b>
Fri.	11	Kindergarten Grade Parent Connections – 8:15 am (LS Library)
Mon.	14	<b>Indigenous Peoples' Day/Columbus Day - School &amp; Offices Closed</b>
Tues.	15	All-School Photo Retake Day Lower School Parent Math Night – 7 pm (KW Library)
Wed.	17	1st Grade Parent Connections – 8:15 am (LS Library)
Fri.	18	3rd Grade Parent Connections – 8:15 am (LS Library) FA Blood Drive
Mon.	21	FA Parent Ed Series presents Michael Thompson – 7 pm (KW Library)
Tues.	22	Lower School Parent Council Meeting – 8:15 am (Jackson House)
Thurs.	24	Lower School Parent Conference Night – 4 - 8 pm
Fri.	25	<b>Lower School Parent Conference Day – No Classes</b>
Sat.	26	Family Community Service: Sandwich Making – 10 am (Commons)
Tues.	29	School Safety Presentation for Parents – 7 pm (Choir Room)
Thurs.	31	Lower School Halloween Parade – 8:30 am (Quad)

the students wanted to set up a nonprofit “business” where they would collect used, worn out clothing, and repurpose it so that others who were in need of clothing had things to wear. I was shown a sample – a skirt that had been turned into a shirt. (However, I was told that it couldn't work at Friends because it was out of dress code.)

The students presented their sketches to me of the clothes they wanted to design and their equitable system of choosing whose plan to go with as they rotated through each other's ideas. They were currently thinking about their schedules and the times and places where they could do their work outside of school, how they could raise

money for additional supplies, and how they needed to research charitable organizations that would accept the finished products.

All they needed from me was permission to put a box in the lobby to collect used clothes.

It turns out, this idea caught on to others whose gears have started turning.

Part of being our best selves is being in service to others. We can inspire initiative, creativity and community amongst each other. If we can remember the “best self” does not live in isolation from others, but invites others into our inner conversation, then we have started the life-long journey already. It has been for decades.

## OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS



# FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Christine Saunders, Middle School Principal | Divisional Assistant: Marian Tobia, 393-4239

## Where inspiration meets integrity

**A**s I write this, several FA community members are heading into Manhattan to attend the Global Climate Strike, with several thousand attendees anticipated in our region.

Currently, 16-year-old Greta Thunberg is one of the most visible activists for global climate care. Greta has quickly become a face of environmental stewardship, in part because of her famous zero-emissions trans-



CHRISTINE SAUNDERS

Atlantic sail crossing, and in part because of her youth. We opened our school year shortly after Greta arrived in New York Harbor. At our opening middle school assembly, I offered Greta as an example of both inspiration and integrity – a changemaker who “walks her talk” while simultaneously bettering our world.

Before young people change the world, there are questions for them to consider: What is your talk? And then how do you walk it? How will you walk your walk alongside others’ walks? Under what circumstances can a walk be shared? September provided many opportunities to launch these questions.

In 8th grade English and history classes, students used Refugee by Alan Gratz to launch a cross-curricular unit on identity, family, choices, the Holocaust, and fleeing from oppression. Students examined their own identities in English class, while also interviewing family members as part of history class. Students explored the historical concepts of “us” and “them” in the Holocaust and World War II, and also the stories in Refugee. Classes used tools and language from the organization Facing History and Ourselves (FHAO). As the organization’s name suggests, FHAO resources explore the intersections of

Thurs.	3	7th Grade Parent Connections – 8:15 am (Jackson House) Spirit Week Begins
Fri.	4	Fall Fair Family Night & BBQ – 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Sat.	5	Fall Fair and Homecoming – 11 am - 5 pm
Wed.	9	Yom Kippur – School & Offices Closed
Mon.	14	Indigenous Peoples’ Day/Columbus Day – School & Offices Closed
Tues.	15	Middle School Parent Council Meeting – 8:15 am (Middle School) All-School Retake Day
Thurs.	17	Honors Concert – 7 pm (Theater)
Fri.	18	FA Blood Drive
Mon.	21	8th Grade Parent Connections FA Parent Ed Series presents Michael Thompson – 7 pm (KW Library)
Wed.	23	7th Grade Outdoor Ed Trip to Greenkill
Fri.	25	ISE Middle School Halloween Party at East Woods – 6:30 pm
Sat.	26	Family Community Service: Sandwich Making – 10 am (Commons)
Tues.	29	School Safety Presentation for Parents – 7 pm (Choir Room)

identity, history, choices, and impacts. “People make choices. Choices make history.”

After three weeks of cross-curricular learning, students visited the Nassau County Holocaust Museum and Tolerance Center. There, they had the opportunity to meet and learn from docents whose families members were Holocaust survivors, and also speak in depth with a survivor about his experience. The HMTC visit reinforced our fundamental standards of empathy and integrity, in addition to extending our literature and history studies.

Beyond the classroom, I found myself inspired by students as well, specifically at lunch! In Middle School, our particular lunch period spans six grades’ worth of students, with staggered arrival times over the course of an hour. Similar to most schools, lunch presents a busy,

choreographed dance of eating, socializing, and leaving the Commons clean as we transition to recess.

Dissatisfied with initial “flow” and seating assignments, our eighth-grade students used their own open community meeting to explore options and alternatives, with the goal of maintaining maximum choice with minimal chaos. They shared a variety of worthy ideas; two students then presented a summary proposal to teachers at our opening middle school faculty meeting. I was inspired by the students’ thoughtful and thorough reasoning, their confident and clear presentation, and their receptivity to clarifying questions and feedback. I was equally inspired by our teachers after the students departed; faculty spent nearly an hour reflecting upon students’ offerings with great respect and care.

BUY DISCOUNTED BRACELETS!

# FA FAMILY NIGHT & BBQ

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup> – 5:30 TO 7:30 PM

The Fall Fair Committee, co-chaired by **Stacey Daal** and **Bettina Saad**, 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 4TH

To kick off the weekend's events, all FA families & siblings, faculty and staff are invited to enjoy the Fall Fair rides for an hour, followed by a barbecue and bonfire. **From 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.**



## PARENT COUNCIL FA SPIRIT WEAR SALE

THURSDAY, OCT. 3 FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM & FRIDAY, OCT. 4 FROM 5 TO 7:30 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.



WATCH OUR **FA FALL FAIR** PROMO VIDEO!







# FALL FAIR & HOMECOMING

SATURDAY, OCT. 5<sup>TH</sup> | 11 AM TO 5 PM

## PURCHASE DISCOUNTED RIDE BRACELETS

### Pay-One-Price (POP) Bracelets Pre-Sale Savings

Want to ride Cliff-hanger all day Saturday? Then you'd better get your Pay-One-Price Bracelet! Advance sale POP Bracelets are on sale [online](#) for \$30 and in person on Thursday, Oct. 3 (10 am-4 pm) and Friday, Oct. 4 (10 am-4 pm) in the Dolan Center Atrium and at the FA Family Night (5:30-7:30 pm). Don't miss this opportunity! Bracelets will be \$35 the day of the Fair.

### SATURDAY

#### Enjoy the rides!

Rides for all ages including Pharoah's Fury, Round Up, SuperSlide, Fire Engine, Speedway, Cliff-hanger, Tornado, Happy Swing, to mention a few.

#### Calling all foodies!

Schultz's Seafood (best lobster rolls!), Barbeque, Vegan Fun, Masala Stop, Italian Food, Greek Salad, Caribbean delicacies, French Fries and more! Sample our specialties from around the world. Leave room for dessert though because Smores, Ice Cream and more are back too!

#### Cheer on the Quakers (See Page 12)!

Friends Academy fall sports teams will be in action all day Saturday!

- 1 pm - Boys JV Soccer vs. East Rockaway
- 2 pm - Varsity Field Hockey vs. Oyster Bay
- 2 pm - Girls Varsity Soccer vs. Oyster Bay
- 4 pm - Boys Varsity Soccer vs. East Rockaway

### SATURDAY

## FALL FAIR PARKING

General on-campus parking available on a first-come, first-serve basis on Saturday. Additional parking available at St. Patrick's in Glen Cove from 11 am to 5 pm.

**NO PARKING ALLOWED:** Please do not park on Duck Pond Road, Piping Rock Road or in the Meeting House parking lot on Friday or Saturday.

**PARKING FOR SATURDAY ATHLETIC GAMES:** If you are dropping a student to attend the Fair or to participate in one of the games scheduled for Saturday, please do so in front of Frost Hall and then proceed to park your car if you plan on staying for the day. **Stay tuned for weather related parking updates!**

**SATURDAY SHUTTLE BUSES:** Shuttle buses will run between Frost Hall and St. Patrick's Church from 11 am to 5:00 pm.

■ Police will assist with parking during the Fair. For the safety of our families and visitors, please follow directions when you arrive on campus.

#### Directions to St. Patrick's Church (from FA)

- Travel west on Duck Pond Road for 1 mile (away from Piping Rock, toward Glen Cove)
- Cross the railroad tracks and make a left at the first light.
- Go 1/10 of a mile and make a right into the St. Patrick's parking lot
- Follow the Fall Fair Parking signs to the parking area.

# FROM THE UPPER SCHOOL

Mark Schoeffel, Upper School Principal | Divisional Assistant: Maddie Clark, 393-4215

## The need for principled action

As the year opens, I see teachers making a difference in the lives of our students. I'm out on the freshman outdoor retreat, and new and returning students are chanting Andrew Geha's name like a battle cry as they launch their rafts out onto the lake; Jeff Burt had



MARK SCHOEFFEL

students balancing on his feet as they tried to beat a low ropes course record in a game of "don't break the ice." Back at school, students flock to Jen Newitt and Casey Reed's office, where science

problems and puzzles of all kinds are discussed, modeled out on the white board, and laughed about, while the homemade cookies help it all be extra enjoyable. Mr. Baskind is talking to his running back in the office while Ms. Loizides is having a heart to heart up in her classroom. The halls are buzzing with bodies, and now is the time of year when relationships are rekindled, and others fade as new ones form. At the center of much of this is the quiet radius that our teachers form as they walk through their busy lives, and it is a circle that is expansive, and ever changing, always alive. Especially as young people are exploring to find new parts of themselves and discover who they are and can be, the students are watching. Teachers have always been people who have inspired me, and two come to mind as I think of this query.

Gerry Mabin was my grade one teacher in 1970, coming over from England to Canada in the late sixties to teach at the Institute of Child Study, the University of Toronto's lab school. Guitar on her knee, she sang us songs from the Beatles and Cat Stevens, and we read Roald Dahl and wrote our own illustrated stories long before it

Wed.	2	10th Grade Parent Connections – 8:15 am (Jackson House) Spirit Week Begins
Fri.	4	Fall Fair Family Night, BBQ, & Homecoming – 5:30 pm
Sat.	5	Fall Fair – 11 am - 5 pm
Wed.	9	Yom Kippur – School & Offices Closed
Fri.	11	11th Grade Parent Connections – 8:15 am (Jackson House)
Mon.	14	Indigenous Peoples' Day/Columbus Day – School & Offices Closed
Tues.	15	All-School Retake Day
Wed.	16	PSATs for all 10th and 11th Graders
Thurs.	17	12th Grade Parent Connections – 8:15 am (Jackson House) Honors Concert – 7 pm (Theater)
Fri.	18	FA Blood Drive
Mon.	21	FA Parent Ed Series presents Michael Thompson – 7 pm (KW Library)
Sat.	26	Family Community Service: Sandwich Making – 10 am (Commons)
Tues.	29	Upper School Parent Council Meeting – 8:15 am (Jackson House) School Safety Presentation for Parents – 7 pm (Choir Room)

was in vogue. Most of all, she looked us in the eye and treated us like we each were the most important people in the world. She was and is a great listener, someone who observed and heard each child, and found strengths. More than anything, her sense of joy and promise – her spirit of positive belief in each child – was like a sunrise to us all – blazing with light, energy, and song. When I, too, became a teacher, I met Sam Harding, a mentor, at the Lawrenceville School. Tall, trim, and agile for his years, Sam filled every space with his smile and positive spirit, teaching Russian and coaching crew



on the side. He was not the charismatic star; his was a steady low beam. No task was too small for him; no student got anything less than his undivided attention. He had been a housemaster – living with students, both boys and girls – for his entire time



there, twenty-five years, and raised his family on the campus while helping out with everything that needed doing: building the ropes course, leading trips to the Soviet Union in the days just after the Cold War ebbed, you name it. Sam treated everyone as an individual, and was careful before making decisions or judgments. A servant leader – pitching in beside students, never talking down to them, always being there as a partner in learning and community – Sam did the details well; he followed up in conversations after reflecting, and asked the difficult and brave questions in respectful and polite ways. His wisdom was in his example; he was never casual with any relationship, and yet his ease with everyone let them truly trust his judgment

Both these teaching lives were extensions of flaming, caring, steady spirits. And at Friends Academy, I see those fires burning in so many ways, too – for they are fires that breathe into hearts and minds, and light new flames. We see these lights come on each fall. While October is seasonally a time of falling leaves, and hibernation, in schools it is a time of birth, of dawning promise and budding relationships, like a spring in waning light. Our theme this year is integrity, and teaching is a daring act of bold giving, a life demanding truth and integrity at each turn. Teachers are bold givers who believe in people and in the world. The best ones are listeners, caring about everyone who they are with, believing in the best in us,

bringing the hope that each of us has so much to give, and give we must. Their faith and love come through in their lives; they lift us up.

When Camille Edwards leads us

Mrs. Clark to become the best individuals they can be. October is a time of twilight matches for championships, or final games of seasons, a time for Shakespeare on stage and honors concerts in the night hours.



**While October is seasonally a time of falling leaves, and hibernation, in schools it is a time of birth, of dawning promise and budding relationships, like a spring in waning light.**

in the All-School gathering to honor International Day of Peace, the voices of students around her echo her spirit and example, in their own courage to speak and sing. As students stand up and seek passage to join others in a call for immediate action to end climate change ahead of the UN Climate Summit in NYC, they have

learned from John Scardina and others the power of an individual voice, and the need for principled action in our time. As we lean into October in the heady days of high school, another class of seniors will

be shepherded by Mr. Dugger, Ms. Dice, Ms. Lapointe, and coaxed and carried by

But at the center of the autumn bustle in schools are human relationships that can fundamentally deepen each of us as human beings, if we are open to and cultivate them with love. I hope we all can let our teachers and those closest to us know how much they make us better, just by being who they are.

An elder retired FA Music teacher met me in the parking lot up in Sharon, Connecticut, by chance, as I was taking a rest stop in a school bus, on my way back to campus after the freshman retreat. We had a wonderful conversation, and her eyes sparkled. She shared that her own children, educated at the school, had been blessed by the teachers at Friends, who had inspired them to live lives that give back. I waved goodbye to her before I wrote this down.

Be well in the dimming, brimming fall light! It burns anew.

# QUAKER PRACTICE THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Quaker Practice ≈ Diversity, Equity & Inclusion  
Service Learning & Community Engagement ≈ Health & Wellness

## Our Quakers-in-Residence on “letting our lives speak”

Quakers believe every person has the Light of God within them, we are called to continually seek Light in each other as well as to let our light shine brightly such that we are, as George Fox said ‘letting our lives speak.’

QUAKERS-IN-  
RESIDENCE



JEN CORT



JOHN SCARDINA

When I think about this month’s query “As we settle into the new school year, it is a time full of new opportunities. Who are the people who inspire us to be our best selves? Equally, how can we be a source of inspiration to others?” I realize, sometimes I don’t realize someone had that impact until much later, causing me to wonder how can I be better at recognizing it?

The Quaker saying

I love and struggle with, the most is “be where you are” and my theory is that to be in the moment, to truly listen, and to seek

out knowledge of others might be a way to recognize the inspiration of others and to be a source of inspiration ourselves.

The busy pace of our lives can get in the way of our ability to be in a moment with someone to allow ourselves to learn from, and be inspired by, them. Consider what would the impact of your experiences be if you paused and counted allowed a moment before responding when someone is talking and before responded, asking ‘what can I learn at this moment?’ Similarly, if we seek to impress or inspire, we may get lost in that desire and actually appear less impressive or inspiring, appearing to be trying too hard. ‘Letting our lives speak’ is often interpreted as living simply, authentically, and intentionally such that others may better see the light within us. Strategies for talking about these ideas with children include asking kids how others might see their light by their actions, and how others might hear their light by their words. Parents might consider their actions are modeled for their children at all times. Taking a few minutes to listen, learn, reflect on impact messages their importance and benefits parents as well.

Best,

Jen Cort

Quaker-in-Residence

## WELCOME NEW STAFF!

**Kevin Crespi** is joining the Friends Academy community as the Director of Brand and Marketing. He is a market-



ing team leader and brand builder with an ability to creatively solve problems and get things done. Kevin worked at two of the

world’s largest advertising agencies. Kevin was at Young & Rubicam for four years as the Colgate North America lead and McCann-Erickson for 11 years, working on a range of brands including Intel, Johnson & Johnson and Reckitt Benckiser. In each instance, Kevin developed long-term brand strategies and global campaigns, which successfully ran for several years. Kevin has always personally believed in the incredible power of education as a lifelong tool. However, that only increased after he initially took on a passion project to bring innovative educational programs to the South Bronx. First as a founding team member of the Heketi Community Charter School and then as a turnaround agent for the New York City Montessori Charter School, which is the only public Montessori school in New York City. Both schools are currently providing vital education philosophies and opportunities to wonderful young minds. Kevin is very excited to join the Friends Academy team and help build our brand and showcase the amazing work being accomplished here.

**Jessica Harvey** is excited to join the Friends’ community as the Upper School Attendance Coordinator. Born



and raised in Locust Valley, Jessica Harvey joins Friends Academy as our new Attendance Coordinator. After studying at C.W Post Jessica started

a 10-year career at Jetblue Airways. With more than 20 years of customer service experience in the hospitality and travel industry, Jessica decided to return home to work and raise a family in the town she grew up in and loves.







FRIENDS ACADEMY

## OPEN HOUSES



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>  
**UPPER SCHOOL**  
 GRADES 9-12

.....  
 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>  
**LOWER SCHOOL**  
 EARLY CHILDHOOD - GRADE 5

.....  
 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
 GRADES 6-8

ALL EVENTS BEGIN  
 PROMPTLY AT 8:30 AM  
 KINDLY RSVP AT 516-393-4244



STRONG MINDS.  
 KIND HEARTS.

## ADMISSIONS

Open Houses are  
 coming up!

It has been wonderful to see our new students and families on campus as we begin another new Admissions Season. We look forward to meeting and greeting our new applicants as we begin tours, Open Houses, and Admissions events. Kindly let us know if you have a friend who is interested in Friends.

Your children and our families are our best ambassadors.

As I reflect on 10 years of my time here at Friends, I am grateful for the relationships that we have formed with our families and for the sincere words of affirmation we often hear from parents.

One of the best declarations we heard recently was "My children came here as good people and have become even better people through their time at Friends."

Thank you to all in the community who are part of Team Admissions.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**  
**Upper School Open House**  
 Tuesday, Nov. 5th

**Lower School Open House**  
 Thursday, Nov. 7th

**Middle School Open House**  
 Tuesday, Nov. 12th

**All begin at 8:30 a.m.**

On another note, we are working with a new software system for applications. To apply or inquire, you can follow the links on the Admissions page of the website or create an account at [Ravenna-Hub.com](http://Ravenna-Hub.com).

Let us know if you have any questions.

Warmly,  
**Nina Waechter**  
 Director of Admissions



# CHEER ON THE QUAKERS AT HOMECOMING!

## FALL FAIR ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

**Saturday, October 5th**

**1 pm** - Boys JV Soccer vs. East Rockaway

**2 pm** - Varsity Field Hockey vs. Oyster Bay

**2 pm** - Girls Varsity Soccer vs. Oyster Bay

**4 pm** - Boys Varsity Soccer vs. East Rockaway



### **PARKING FOR SATURDAY ATHLETIC GAMES:**

If you are dropping a student to attend the Fair or to participate in one of the games scheduled for Saturday, please do so in front of Frost Hall and then proceed to park your car if you plan on staying for the day. Stay tuned for weather-related parking updates!