

OUR COMMUNITY QUERY: WHAT DOES QUAKERISM IN A QUAKER SCHOOL LOOK LIKE?  
- PEACE WEEK 5TH-12TH GRADE STUDENT LEADER TRAINING WORKSHOP

# AMONG FRIENDS

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

ALL-SCHOOL COVER STORY



## What is a **Quaker** Education?

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*Multi-faceted learning takes students in new **directions**.*

ALSO INSIDE

## Get **CONNECTED**

... To FA!

Find out what's going on next month – where and when.

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## FROM THE HEAD

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

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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.



Friends Academy held its inaugural FAMily Night in the Dolan Center last Thursday night. An all community evening celebration as part of Peace Week, this event developed out of this central query, “How can we inspire, honor, and appreciate through a student-driven



ANDREA KELLY  
HEAD OF SCHOOL

celebration of our intentionally and beautifully diverse Friends Academy community?” Camille Edwards, Dean of Equity and Inclusion began with an idea and designed a collaborative process with the Quaker Practice and Community Engagement Team, Student Committee Leaders, and

the Friends Academy Arts Department. Dance, music, a community art installation, an international potluck, and greetings in many languages provided entertainment for the evening. With these dynamic and talented FA educators and students taking the lead, the event was sure to be a success.

The unexpected, however, was the powerful feeling of being transported back to “the neighborhood.” I often lament the disappearance of the neighborhood, both in concept and in actuality. Creating the time and opening a space outside where there are things to do, people to meet, while sparking one big multi-age playdate for the children. This evening captured the spirit of a true neighborhood gathering. The energy was high, the tone convivial and warm. We were all there for the same reason, to celebrate, to appreciate and to honor our fellow FA families, and of course, the

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binding force that brings us together, our children.

At one point I looked down from the art gallery and I imagined this Friends Academy neighborhood as a... town square, piazza, platz, or meydan. A most diverse group of “neighbors” met new friends, told stories and enjoyed plates piled high with delicious international fare lovingly prepared from authentic family recipes. At points throughout the evening a Flamenco dancer, professional African drummer, and student singers entertained the crowd. All the

while the younger children were bobbing and weaving between clusters of teens and adults.

**At one point I looked down from the art gallery and I imagined this Friends Academy neighborhood as a... town square, piazza, platz or meydan.**

Assembled here were families from a dynamic array of unique cultures, races, ethnicities, and traditions, gathering together in unity. It is universal, essential, and for Friends Academy core to our mission.

On this night, we came together. We brought back the neighborhood, one that is diverse, dynamic, and filled with energy and hope.



Over 150 Friends Academy families, colleagues and student filled the Dolan Center as we celebrated our inaugural Family Night on Thursday, January 24th.

# Good morning Inventors and Designers!

How can our ideas lead to change?

How can I invent or design a better world?

What does better mean to you?

ALL-SCHOOL COVER STORY



the define part

DEFINE

Can you clearly define the problem?

Discussion Part 2: Define the problem

## What is a Quaker Education?

By **JEN HALLIDAY**

ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL

**A**s a new member to Friends Academy, I am often asked the reason I chose to join our community. On one level my answer is simple – the Mission. On another level, it's far more complex and not as easily articulated. For me, Quaker Education at Friends Academy is truly the reason I chose to leave the familiar and enter into the unknown, as an educator seeking a truly holistic school, and as a mom wanting the best educational experience for my 6th grade daughters.

About the time I was charged with thinking

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It starts  
with a  
**question.**



deeply about the Friends Academy academic identity, I was pleasantly surprised by two energetic 6th grade girls excited to tell me about...math. They had just been introduced to the Fibonacci Sequence, which is basically where a number is found by adding up the numbers before it. They shared with great enthusiasm what they had discovered about patterns from a 12th century thinker, but also expressed with great joy where the Fibonacci sequence is found in nature. Not only were my children making connections to mathematics, but also to history, biology, and the greater mystery of the universe around them. As I listened to each of them rave about

their learning with great wonder for the world, I couldn't help but question, "Can a math class be spiritual?"



Many schools talk about "holistic development," but not many schools deliver on that promise. Students, and humans for that matter, care about what is real, what really matters. Sometimes, school can feel disconnected and disingenuous. Sometimes students are unable to recognize relevance in the subject matter. What I deeply appreciate about Quaker Education at Friends Academy is our constant quest to ensure learning

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CLICK TO WATCH VIDEO



**VIDEO:** Fifth grade students demonstrate the fundamentals of Quaker education as they link science to inquiry, innovation and social justice. [\[View time - 1:40\]](#)

is meaningful to our students, just as it is meaningful to us as the adults that serve them. At Friends Academy, we seek to do school better. And better means more authentic.

Authentic learning has been a term used in educational circles since the 1990s and has existed in education since the beginning of time. After all, what better way to learn and master a skill than to serve as an apprentice first? With the industrialized version of education that began in the 19th century, we lost our ability to work beyond the classroom. And with that change, authentic learning took a backseat too.

At Friends Academy, we have the capacity through Quaker Education to truly attend to our students – to provide the real world experiences, the connec-

tions to professionals doing genuine work in their fields, and the type of leadership opportunities that call upon both our students' capacity for problem solving and their moral and ethical compasses to be the role models this world so desperately needs.

I am excited and heartened by the collective way our teachers and students continue to work to deepen and expand Quaker Education at Friends Academy. Sometimes, this means a rigorous math class that is also spiritual. Sometimes, it means a service trip into New York City, such as our sophomore YSOP (Youth Services Opportunities Project) that teaches perspective – and challenges our students to more deeply seek to

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Recently The Waterfront Center installed an underwater ecosystem in Lower School Science teacher Meghan Stott's classroom for students for live studies.



Fifth graders worked in groups to target specific needs within their Long Island community and then collaborated to brainstorm a combination of innovation and technology to solve real-life challenges.

understand. Sometimes it's a 3rd grade class investigating a tank filled with organisms like shrimp, crabs and plant-life provided by The Waterfront Center here on our Long Island Sound. Sometimes, it's a multi-year partnership with a farm down the street where students will learn the ins and outs of planting, planning, harvesting, accounting, marketing, and finance.



In fifth grade, students have embarked on an interdisciplinary unit centered around this essential question, "How can our ideas lead to change?" Students first grappled with this question while studying how the Industrial Revolution allowed changes to occur on a larger

scale and affect society in their Social Studies class, specifically in regards to

conditions that led to child labor legislation.

In a complimentary Language Arts unit, these same students are researching about and writing how change can be born from the power of persuasion. Some students are writing persuasive letters to various members of our community about issues



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Earlier in the year, fifth grade students circulated a community-wide survey asking for student and adult input about the use of plastic of campus.

like installing solar panels on campus or reducing the amount of plastic in the lunch room. The entire fifth grade will be reading “Standing in the Light: The Captive Diary of Catharine Carey Logan,” which details the life of a Pennsylvania Quaker girl from 1763. In Science, students are applying Design thinking, a process that starts with empathy and runs through ideation, prototypes and testing, to create final ideas and products that can lead to change. Finally, then through work in their Math classes, students are determining the costs of creating their invention or idea.

Ultimately, we see how this initial question has taken students on a path to collaboratively solve authentic problems within our community and world as

they employ research and innovation to tackle issues related to societal chal-



lenges such as homelessness, equity and inclusion and the health of our oceans.

At Friends Academy, Quaker Education opens up a pathway to fully attend to

the whole child, so that she and he are empowered to use their gifts of intellect, empathy, resilience and kindness to lead in service of others.

For me, that’s what really matters.

As we head into the second half of 2018-19, we are excited about the numerous community-building activities in store for students and families. Check in with all of February's events, coffees and activities below in our Parent Council "Get Connected" Guide.

# Get CONNECTED

## Parent Council – "Get Connected" February 2019

DATE	EVENT
<b>Friday, Feb. 1</b> Middle School Collaborative Space  Beaver Dam Winter Sports Club 99 Kaintuck Lane, Locust Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dress Down Day</li> <li>• 8<sup>th</sup> Grade/Frost Valley Parent Connections (MS, 8:15 am)</li> <li>• ALL-SCHOOL Skating Night at Beaver Dam Winter Sports Club (7:00 – 9:30 pm)</li> </ul>
<b>Monday, Feb. 4</b> Jackson House, 212 Duck Pond Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quaker Practice &amp; Wellness Parent Guided Meditation (JH, 8:15 am)</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday, Feb. 6</b> Jackson House, 212 Duck Pond Road  Dolan Center Commons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower School Parent Council Meeting (JH, 8:15 am)</li> <li>• 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Share (Commons, 7 pm)</li> </ul>
<b>Thurs. Feb. 7</b> Chorus Room, Dolan Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quaker Singers – open to FA community (Chorus Room, 7:30 am)</li> </ul>
<b>Thurs. Feb. 7 – Sat. Feb. 9</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Upper School production of "Working: The Musical" (Theater, 7:30 pm)</li> </ul>

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# Get CONNECTED

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## **Friday, Feb. 8**

Jackson House, 212 Duck Pond Road

- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Connections (JH, 8:15 am)

## **Monday, Feb. 11**

Jackson House, 212 Duck Pond Road

- Middle School Parent Council Meeting (JH, 8:15 am)
- Lunar New Year celebration: All students should wear **RED** in dress down.

## **Tuesday, Feb. 12**

1<sup>st</sup> grade Classroom

- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Learning Celebration (Classroom, 8:30 am)

## **Wednesday, Feb. 13**

Dolan Center Atrium

- Parent Council “Galentine’s Day Coffee” (Dolan Center Atrium, 8:15 am; please bring a donation for The Safe Center, a Long Island Shelter for battered and abused women – toiletries, baby care, small gift cards, Nassau Co. Transportation Metro Cards)

## **Thurs. Feb. 14**

Chorus Room, Dolan Center

- Quaker Singers – open to FA community (Chorus Room, 7:30 am)

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# Get **CONNECTED**

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## **Friday, Feb. 15**

Quaker Practice & Comm.  
Engagement Conference Room  
(ground floor of Frost Hall)

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom

- Quaker Practice & Wellness (QPW) Parent Meeting (QPCE Conference Room, 8:15 am)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Learning Celebration (Classroom, 8:30 am)

## **February 18-25**

- **YOU MADE IT!  
FEBRUARY BREAK!**

## **Monday, Feb. 25 (No School)**

- Parent Council Faculty & Staff Appreciation Luncheon (Drop off nut-free baked goods by 11 am in the Commons)

## **Wednesday, Feb. 27**

Jackson House, 212 Duck Pond Road

Upper School Parent Council Meeting (JH, 8:15 am)

## **Thurs. Feb. 28**

Chorus Room, Dolan Center

- Quaker Singers – open to FA community (Chorus Room, 7:30 am)
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