



AMONG FRIENDS



FOUNDED 1876

2017-18 FAMILY DIRECTORY



Make sure your information is correct in next year's Family Directory.

1) Log onto [MyBackpack](#) (accessible through your [Parent Portal](#)) to make changes.

2) Notify your divisional administrative assistant as soon as possible with any changes.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

If you have a change to your Directory listing, it is important that you notify the appropriate divisional administrative assistant as soon as possible. In addition, it is important to notify your local school district of an address change.

PIX PICK

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



AMANDA FISK | FRIENDS ACADEMY

Community groups make physical and verbal connections with each other during a recent all-school activity.

QUICK LINKS >> CLICK ON THE UNDERLINED TOPIC TO QUICKLY NAVIGATE TO THAT TOPIC

[From the Head](#) – Becoming “of” the community... [PAGE 2](#) (BY ANDREA KELLY)

[Lower School](#) – What goodbye can mean. [PAGE 4](#) (BY DEBBY McLEAN)

[Middle School](#) – End of year: A pledge to stay focused. [PAGE 6](#) (BY DEBORAH SCHOMAN)

[Upper School](#) – The cycle of school: In the end, there is the beginning. [PAGE 10](#) (BY MARK SCHOEFFEL)

>>VISIT EACH DIVISIONAL SECTION TO PREVIEW UP-TO-DATE APRIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

[Development](#) – You’ve done so much for us, now it’s your turn. [PAGE 3](#)

[Sustainability](#) – Hone your sense of place. Think you’re up to the LI Scavenger Hunt? [PAGE 3](#)

[Diversity & Multicultural Affairs](#) – “Are you aware of your impact?” [PAGE 8](#) (BY SHANELLE ROBINSON)

[Think.Laugh.Learn.](#) – Parenting for serenity. [PAGE 9](#) (BY JOHN SCARDINA)

[Textbook procedures](#) – Information about when and how to return textbooks. [PAGE 12](#)

[Parent Council](#) – Volunteer appreciation. [PAGE 15](#)

[The Arts](#) – GSS Visual Response class travels to Ireland; Spring concerts take center stage [PAGES 14, 16](#)

MAY/JUNE QUERY – LOWER SCHOOL TASQUE

Since the school year is almost over, what are ways in which you can appreciate your teacher and school faculty?

AMONG FRIENDS

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

SEPTEMBER 2017 DEADLINE

To include information in the first *Among Friends* issue of the 2017-18 school year, please submit information to the Communications Office by **Monday, August 21, 2017.**

EDITOR:

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

DOWNLOAD THE FA APP

Available for iPhone, download the Friends Academy App from the Apple App Store. Access the public Parent Info Hub, private Parent Portal, MyBackpack and Magnus Health.
(App Store/FriendsAcademy)

Log in and stay logged in.



FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Friends,

Since returning from spring break last Monday, those I meet are inclined to congratulate me on the near completion of my first year as Head of School at Friends Academy. I am beginning to wrap my mind around the inevitability of the school year coming to a close. And while I will certainly welcome the slower pace of work in the summer months, frankly, I feel a bit disappointed that I don't have more time in my first year.



ANDREA KELLY
HEAD OF SCHOOL

It needed to be longer.

We place strong emphasis on the first of any experience – first steps, first date, first job, first-time parent, and those experiences are often indelibly etched in our memories, as I know this first year at Friends Academy will be for me.

I came to Friends Academy as a stranger. At Meeting one day, Upper School Visual Arts teacher Joy Lai enlightened us with the work of German sociologist George Simmel. In his essay, *The Stranger*, Simmel introduces “the stranger” as a unique sociological category. Unlike the wanderer who comes today and leaves tomorrow, the stranger comes today and stays tomorrow.

Many have asked me how the first year has been. “Do you feel at home?” “Are you used to things now?” To that I would say – yes, and that there is still so much more to know.

In *The Stranger*, Simmel compares differences in being and belonging: “... the stranger is perceived as being in the group but not of the group.” At this point in time I would say I feel firmly rooted in the community, and making my way to become “of” the community. Of course, to become “of” a place, especially one as rich and complex as Friends Academy takes more than just a few months, or even a first school year.

One way I have marked my time is how I have crossed the boundary between simply being “in” the FA community and being “of” it.

When I first arrived at Friends, Meeting for

Worship caused me a good deal of confusion. Questions surfaced. Should I sit on the facing bench? Am I expected to speak every week? As time passed and I became more “of” the community I saw more clearly that this Meeting belongs to our students. It makes perfect sense to sit among them and to make way for their leadings to be heard. Now as I descend the hill to the Meeting House each week, I feel my heart rate slow, my thoughts steady, and my body ready itself for contemplation and meditation. I don't simply sit in the Meeting House, I am more of the Meeting and feel no pressure whatsoever.

The same is true of the people. I've met scores of parents this first year. Quick chats and scripted entry interviews have given way to the deeper conversations more characteristic of friendship: hopes and fears for our children, the future of education, and the difficulty of parenting in challenging times.

I've made strong connections with colleagues who have demonstrated incredible patience and empathy for this stranger with new ways and new ideas, and the never-ending habit of asking why, and why, and why do it this way?

And then there are the students. Just last week I was sitting in a line-up between two student-speakers prepared

to deliver remarks at our recent Founder's Day program. I became one of the gang as we shared tips for quelling nerves while speaking in front of such a large crowd.

I am grateful to all of you who have extended yourself during a year of transition. Your generosity has made all the difference in crossing the bridge from “in”... to “of.”

While I know there is so much more to do and experience as I make my way across the bridge from being the stranger who arrived in the community to becoming one who is “of the community,” I know, that like Simmel's stranger, I have the time of tomorrow.

My very best to you during these last few weeks of school. Please enjoy this final bit of time together at Friends.

Andrea Kelly

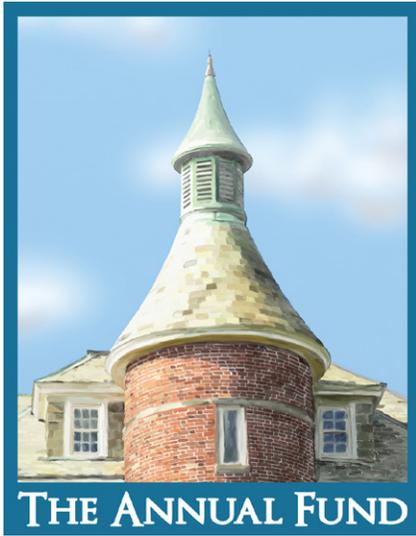
ALL-PARENT PRESENTATION

“Andrea Kelly's: A Reflection of FA: Where We Go From Here”

**Monday, May 8th, 7 p.m.
Helen A. Dolan Center Theater**

DEVELOPMENT

MAKE YOUR GIFT TO THE ANNUAL FUND



BY JUNE 30TH!

Participation in annual giving is critical to the success of our school.

Your class needs your help to reach 100% participation! Please take this opportunity to impact the lives of 780 Friends Academy children.

Your gift matters. [Click here](#) to donate today.

Contact Diane Biolsi, Director of the Annual Fund at diane_biolsi@fa.org or your class representative, if you have

any questions.

[Click here](#) to see the latest class participation results.



Please e-mail Diane_Biolsi@fa.org to RSVP.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Dan Kriesberg, MS Science teacher

**Get a sense of your place:
Try our LI Scavenger Hunt**

Stewardship requires awareness and knowledge. Awareness comes from our five senses that give us the ability to gain knowledge and appreciation for the world around us. There are two other senses that are also needed, a sense of place and a sense of wonder. A sense of place is an awareness and understanding of the place in which you live. It is an awareness of where you are. A sense of wonder is an awareness of the



amazing, incredible, wonders of the natural world. It is an awareness of the WOW in the world. Using all senses increases the awareness needed to gain the knowledge to become a good steward of the land. Awareness without knowledge can only go so far. Knowledge without awareness puts a limit on what can be understood. With knowledge and awareness can come action. It is action that will keep Long Island special.

Long Island Sense of Place Scavenger Hunt:

1. From your house where is the nearest nature preserve? *Go there.*
2. From your house where is the nearest body of water? *Go there.*
3. From your house what is the native vegetation? *Draw it.*
4. From your house what was going on there 100 years ago, 500 years ago?
5. What birds can you see in your backyard? *Keep a bird identification book near your window.*
6. When are the town meetings in the place you live? *Go to one.*
7. Sit silently in your backyard for at least 10 minutes.

Awareness can only go so far. See if you know the [Five Things Every Long Islander Should Know About Long Island](#).

FROM THE LOWER SCHOOL

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

What goodbye can mean

The birds are chirping, the days are longer and the flowers are blooming. We are thoroughly in the midst of spring. I have spent my adult life in schools where it is abundantly clear that spring leads to summer and time to relax and play endlessly and swim. So, students should all be happy and calm in the spring, right? Not exactly.



DEBBY MCLEAN

If we start with the fact that days are longer, it becomes much easier for us to break routines. It often doesn't feel quite as late as it is, so we let our kids stay

up a little longer. Why not loosen up a bit as it's almost vacation. Yet, they still need to awaken early for school. I know that my 16-year-old has tough days when she doesn't get enough sleep, even if she can't pinpoint tiredness as the issue.

Summer also signifies the end of the school year and the end of this particular classroom community. Your kids have developed close and loving relationships with their teachers. They have forged new friendships and solidified old ones. Though they may not be able to express their feelings, they know change is coming.

I speak often about my love for my summer camp and how I am still in very close touch with the women who made that patch of land so special. My group had the same counselor for a number of years. Toward the end of the summer, we would start to fight more with each other, over seemingly unwarranted things. We would then ask ourselves "how could we fight when we knew we were leaving soon?" This counselor, who is currently an administrator at a school that is lucky to have her, shared with us that we were fighting BECAUSE we were leaving. Wouldn't it be easier to

| | | |
|--------|----|--|
| Fri. | 5 | Dress Down Day |
| Thurs. | 11 | Plant Sale – 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Dolan Center) |
| Fri. | 12 | Plant Sale – 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Dolan Center) |
| Tues. | 16 | Lower School Parents Mtg – 8:15 a.m. (Jackson House) |
| Thurs. | 18 | Lower School Art Exhibit – 5:30 p.m. (Art Gallery) Lower School Concert – 7:00 p.m. (Theater) |
| Fri. | 19 | Lower School Grandparents & Special Friends – (Classrooms) |
| Thurs. | 25 | Fifth Grade Outdoor Ed Trip |
| Fri. | 26 | Early Childhood Picnic – 11:00 a.m. (Early Childhood Courtyard) Fifth Grade Trip Returns |
| Mon. | 29 | Memorial Day – School & Offices Closed |

AHEAD IN JUNE

| | | |
|-------|---|---|
| Fri. | 2 | Dress Down Day Grades 2-5 Field Day – 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Track) |
| Mon. | 5 | Early Childhood and Grade 1 Field Day – 8:45 a.m. (Fieldhouse) |
| Tues. | 6 | Grade 5 Moving Up Ceremony – 9:00 a.m. (Meeting House) Last Day of Lower School Classes – Full Day of School |

***** DATE CHANGE: LSPC Meeting changed to May 16 at 8:15 a.m.*****

say goodbye if we were mad at each other rather than admitting that we were going to terribly miss each other?

You may find the same type of behavior with your children. A disagreement with a friend that would have taken up very little energy or thought may become more important to your child. Recognize it for what it is. Change is hard. As of now, they don't have a clear for vision for what will be a close and loving community in next year's classroom. They do know, in their hearts, they are going to miss this one and it's hard to say goodbye.

“...We were fighting because we were leaving. Wouldn't it be easier to say goodbye if we were mad at each other rather than admitting that we were going to terribly miss each other?”

Spring/Summer Programs for all ages

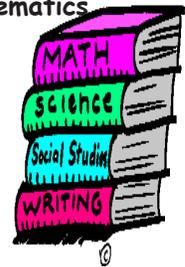
| May Programs: Ages 5-15yrs | May. 6 | May 13 | May 20 | May 27 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| <u>TENNIS</u> 5-7yrs (1-2pm) \$20/day | | | | |
| <u>TENNIS</u> 8-15yrs (1-4pm) \$70/day | | | | |

| June Programs: Ages 3-15yrs | June 13-15 | June 20-22 | June 19-23 |
|--|------------|------------|------------|
| <u>TENNIS</u> 5-7yrs (11-12pm) 3 Days \$50/session | | | |
| <u>TENNIS</u> 8-15yrs (9-12pm) 3 Days \$175/session | | | |
| <u>GOLF</u> 8-13yrs (9-12pm) 3 Days \$195/session | | | |
| <u>ACTIVE GAMES</u> 5-12yrs (1-4pm) 3 Days \$175/session | | | |
| <u>MINI-WONDERS SCIENCE</u> -3-5yrs (9-12pm) \$350/week | | | |

Our **Summer Academic Program @ FA** makes learning fun by providing interesting, challenging and creative activities which stimulate and motivate students. Supportive teachers help students gain greater confidence and self-esteem. **The program is available to children in K-8th grade. July 10-Aug. 17**

New York State certified teachers with diverse backgrounds offer instruction in reading, mathematics, and the development of writing skills. With information supplied by the parents and the child's home school, the This program is a wonderful opportunity for students to review and enrich skills from the previous academic year as well as introduce concepts to be learned in the upcoming academic year.

- Practice strategies for New York State Assessments in reading, writing, and mathematics
- Expand critical thinking skills
- Perform problem solving activities
- Promote and develop higher-level thinking skills
- Complete assigned summer projects
- Reinforce concepts from the previous year
- Introduce concepts for the upcoming school year



www.fasummercamp.org

High School Programs and Mini Sports Camps

Summer Driver's Ed program: July 5-Aug. 9th (5 week program) Tu-Thurs.

Lifeguard Certification Course: June 16-20th, June 21-25th (4 courses)

Mini Sports Camps: 4 day camps (Mon-Thurs) 10-2pm. Lunch included.

CAMPS: Yankee Baseball Camp, Elevate Girls Lacrosse Camp (K-12th), Millon Boys Lacrosse Camp (3-8th), Gold Coast Soccer Camp (K-5th), Hoopology Basketball Camp (3-8th), HITT Tennis Camp (5-10th).

For more information on any of our programs, visit our website at **www.fasummercamp.org** under **Programs & Activities** or please feel free to call us at **(516) 393-4207**

FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

End of year: A pledge to stay focused

As we enter the spring season, it can be challenging for students to sustain their academic focus. As I said recently to the student body at our weekly assembly, with the final weeks of school ahead, it is important to maintain a regular routine, avoid unnecessary absence from and lateness to school, and sustain a commitment to nightly class preparation.



DEBORAH SCHOMAN

The teachers will be completing the curriculum, end-of-year projects and for the 8th grade, providing

opportunities for final exam review. 8th graders will be reminded to gather and organize their past assessments and class notes so that they have in hand what they will need to study for their finals. Their teachers will be taking the opportunity to discuss and share best exam preparation practices with the students – get organized now, avoid procrastination, put in your best effort, and finish the school year on a positive note. Please pay close attention to the end-of-year calendars that the 6th, 7th and 8th grade teams will be sharing with the classes and will be e-mailed to you in May. There special end-of-year events are unique to each grade level and you will want to mark them on your personal calendars.

Hopefully students purchased their summer reading requirements at the annual Book Fair. Students can also purchase copies on their own if they prefer digital copies. The Summer Reading list will be uploaded to the Parent Info Hub and the KW Wang Library site. I can't emphasize more the importance of encouraging reading over the summer months. Please be sure your child has selected more than just the required books! Reading is the foundation upon which all literacy skills are built. These es-

| | | |
|--------|----|---|
| Wed. | 1 | MS Earth Week begins |
| Tues. | 2 | 9th Grade Orientation (rising 9th grade and all new to FA students) – 6:00 p.m. in the Quad |
| Thurs. | 4 | 7th Grade RETREAT DAY - no regular classes |
| Thurs. | 11 | Middle School Parent Meeting – 8:15 a.m. (Jackson House) Middle School Concert – 7:00 p.m. (Theater) |
| Fri. | 12 | ISE 7th Grade Dance – 7:00-9:00 p.m. (East Woods) |
| Wed. | 17 | Special Meeting for 7th Grade Parents – 7:00-8:00 p.m. (Location TBD) |
| Fri. | 19 | Middle School Walk-a-thon – 12:00-3:00 p.m. |
| Wed. | 24 | Welcome to the Middle School Parent Coffee (for parents of rising 6th graders and all new students) – 8:15 a.m. (Jackson House) |
| Mon. | 29 | Memorial Day School & Offices closed |

AHEAD IN JUNE

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Mon. 5 & Tues. 6 | Middle School Book return |
| Wed. | 7 Middle School Field Day Last day of classes for the Middle School dismissal – 1:00 p.m. |
| Thurs. | 8 8th Grade Meeting for Worship/Reception 10:30 a.m. (Meeting House) 8th Grade Celebration – 12:00 p.m. (Brookville Country Club) |

sential skills will support them through the Middle and into the Upper School. Read! Read! Read!

A special reminder to all students who obtain their textbooks through “Textbook Central” – please take note of the textbook return dates: June 5th and 6th. All textbooks must be returned to Mrs. Tobia. Students must turn in the correct textbooks, which were checked out (using a barcode system) to them in the fall. All books, including library books, must be returned by June 7th at the latest. Bills for unreturned books will be sent at end of June.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all the parents; committee chairpersons and class representatives with whom it has been

my pleasure to work this year. I would like to give special thanks to **Michele Cagner** (Middle School Vice President), **Susan Carden** (Assistant Vice President), **Natalia Good** (Secretary), **Rita Afzelius** (Parent Council President) and **Amy Schamroth** (Executive Vice President) for their work leading the Parent Council this year. They have been incredibly supportive of the students and faculty in the Middle School, and approach their work positively and professionally.

I look forward to the special Moving Up Ceremony and celebratory gathering for the Class of 2021 on Thursday, June 8th.

Enjoy all the excitement of the end of the year, and have a wonderful summer!

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

MAY HIGHLIGHTS

ADMISSIONS



A NEW STYLE OF OPEN HOUSE MIDDLE SCHOOL, LIVE!

Admissions held a new style of Middle School Open House in Late April. Several Middle School teachers opened their classrooms to visitors for 20 minutes, which gave our guests a deeper understanding of Middle School life. Thank you Deb Schoman and the Middle School Team!

We are still accepting applications for the Lower and Middle School and encourage all in our community to spread the word to their friends. We schedule personal tours and provide our visitors with in depth conversations and information. Thanks for your help in reaching out to those who would like to explore the Friends Academy experience.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
2017-18 ADMISSIONS,
PLEASE CALL 516-393-4244



STRONG MINDS.
KIND HEARTS.

FROM OUR KITCHEN TO YOURS

Banana Break Pudding with Caramel Sauce (To be featured mid-May)

Makes about 12 servings.

Ingredients:

¼ c. butter
1 qt. White bread, cubed
3 sprays of cooking spray
3 eggs
2 c. whole milk
½ c. sugar
2 tsp. vanilla extract
½ tsp. ground cinnamon
½ tsp. ground nutmeg
½ tsp. kosher salt
1 c. bananas, sliced

3 Tbs. salted butter
1 Tbs. cornstarch
¼ c. light corn syrup
¾ c. whole milk
2 Tbs. sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. spray pan with non-stick cooking spray.
2. Melt butter and pour over cubed bread.
3. In a medium bowl combine eggs, milk, sugar, vanilla extract, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt until incorporated. Add cubed bread and sliced banana. Pour into prepared pan.
4. Bake for 40 minutes or until a knife inserted into the center comes out clean.
5. For caramel sauce: In a saucepan combine butter, sugar, cornstarch, milk and corn syrup. Cook over medium heat, stirring frequently until mixture comes to a boil. Boil for 1 minute, remove from heat, stir in vanilla extract. Pour sauce over the top of warm banana pudding while still in the pan. Let sit for at least 10 minutes prior to cutting to allow sauce to soak in.

Slice each into 12 equal slices.



Eat. Learn. Live.
A mantra for a better life!

DIVERSITY & MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

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

**“Every action we take impacts the lives of others around us.
The question is: are you aware of your impact?”**

— ARTHUR CARMAZZI, LEADERSHIP COACH/WRITER/SPEAKER

Intent and impact exist in relationships everywhere we look. Perhaps naturally, we tend to focus on how well-intentioned we are that in the event someone becomes offended by our words or actions,



SHANELLE ROBINSON

we may find ourselves saying, “That wasn’t my intent!” or, “I’m sorry you took it that way.” Our expectation is that others inherently know we are a good person and, therefore, they

should overlook how they were negatively impacted by what we said or did and focus instead on what we intended in that given moment.

When we talk about intent vs. impact, we focus on the intent of our own communication (what we want to communicate) rather than thinking about the impact it may have on others (how the communication is perceived). By definition, intent means ‘purpose;’ it is the state of a person’s mind that directs their actions, whether consciously or unconsciously. Impact, on the other hand, means ‘to influence, affect or alter something.’ Intention vs. impact is always operating in our relationships: people can hear things via their own filters, and messages can become misunderstood. So what do you do when the way in which you are communicating (your intent) doesn’t necessarily send the messages and signals you wanted to convey (the impact)?

We can employ the following protocol: REFLECT, INTERNALIZE and IDENTIFY. When we become aware that our



The 2016-17 Diversity Club: Joey Horne, John Lawrence, Brianna Taylor, Madison Daal, Taye Holder, Amberlin Mott, Mya Guiler-Papin, Christian Nesfield, Luke Baskind, Alex Campbell, Daniel Tauter, Kat Emlock, Julie Xian, Stephen Popoola, Matt Sgaglione, Sydney Walker, Ife Anyoku, Yusra Azaz, Kyla Graham, Kayla Scott-Tolbert, Jon Sgaglione, Bailey Hughes, Laura Greene, Kaitlyn Hardy, Jackie Walzer, Vanessa Quinland, Charlie Andolina and Andrew Marsh.

best intentions may have left a negative or undesirable impact on another, instead of becoming defensive (“That’s not what I meant”), we can pause and reflect on the situation and how and why it may have been perceived the way it has. Being empathetic with the other person’s experience of the situation allows us to internalize what that person felt and how it may also feel to us if the shoe was on the other foot. Lastly, reflection and internalization of the inci-

dent can help us identify where there may be gaps in how we see ourselves (a well-intentioned, good person) vs. how others may perceive us. When it comes to diversity and the intersection of people’s lives and identities, the impact of our actions can be profound and wide-reaching. And, that’s far more important than the question of our intent.

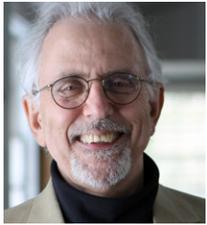
As someone who started my diversity career in higher education, I find this particularly matters in the context of colleges and universities. Similar to my role here at Friends Academy, working as director of a university Office of Diversity Programs, I was charged with creating and sustaining a campus environment in which everyone felt included and welcome. Albeit valuable and necessary, I couldn’t help but wonder how different my undergraduate students would have been had they developed the ability to deftly navigate the complex strata of diversity in the face of changing demographics and societal values before they reached our campus. My desire to engage students in diversity dialogues much earlier on in their education brought me to Friends Academy. The ability to effectively communicate with others across the diversity spectrum is a skill that can only pay dividends for all students as we prepare them to confront a future that will be marked by an intricate pluralism.

As another school year draws to an end, I bid farewell to our graduates and hope we have done all we could to inspire them to be good citizens and focus on what it takes to have a positive impact on their college and university campuses – and the world!

Being empathetic with the other person’s experience of the situation allows us to internalize what that person felt and how it may also feel to us if the shoe was on the other foot.

Parenting for Serenity

What does serenity mean for you? Take a moment with a blank piece of paper and sketch what serenity might look like in your life: sitting in meditation; doing yoga with friends; taking a nap with loved



JOHN SCARDINA

ones; painting with watercolors; fixing a lawn mower engine; watching the sunrise from the deck of a sailboat heading to Cape Cod (my personal favorite...).

For many of us as parents (and grandparents), we need to take exquisite care of ourselves if we want to be serene caregivers for our children. An old Values Clarification exercise I used to do with parents had us list ten things we love to do – the goal being that we would try to do at least one of them each day. Serenity is a much needed balm in these busy times.

Serenity also comes with a “right-sized” sense of who and what we are in the greater scheme of things. As the “Serenity Prayer” (Reinhold Neibuhr) reminds us, we must accept what we cannot change – including the innate characteristics of our children. Their lives are their own, and we must avoid the “achievement by proxy” syndrome so prevalent today. Indeed, each of us needs to “let my life speak.”

Quakers use a moment of silence as a transitional time, allowing our Inner Light and the peaceful knowledge of the world we possess a chance to settle before we begin a new task. All families can “take a moment” – be it before a meal, in the midst of a heated discussion, or before you are about to deliver one of those “meaningful talks” to your child.

Rituals – acts which we repeat alone or with others that have specific characteristics and desired results (in this case, serenity for yourself and your family) – are important to creating serenity. Your per-

sonal rituals might include taking a bath, going for a jog, hiking alone, having tea with a friend, prayer, daily readings, and worship. Rituals with your children might include bedtime sharing, a quiet extended hug when they are upset, a morning routine in preparation for school, and special birthday and holiday practices. Rituals for the family might include saying grace before meals, visiting relatives on a regular

basis, planning family vacations, doing community service, worshiping together, a Friday movie night, or watching the news.

Serenity is always in the moment – you cannot save it up for a rainy day, but you can know how to access it when needed. May you structure your life – as a parent – to include opportunities for serenity, especially as well look toward the gifts of summer family time.

QUAKER LIFE AT FRIENDS ACADEMY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING 2017

SPIRITUAL LESSONS LEARNED FROM PARENTING

Our last 2016-17 PQLC meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 3rd at 8am** in the Hospitality room adjacent to the Meeting House. Please join us for an informal discussion about the spiritual lessons learned from raising children and their relation to Quaker tenets/practices. **Note the time change from the glossy calendar.**

Ten Good Ways to Spoil Your Child

By John Scardina

- 1) Don't have them do chores** – they expect you to pick up after them, don't they?
- 2) Bail them out with their teachers** – you know your child better than the teacher, don't you? Johnny couldn't possibly act that way...
- 3) Be inconsistent about consequences** – who can keep track of all those details? Did I ground her for one day or two? Oh, just forget it...
- 4) Make them their own special foods for dinner** – who doesn't want their own chef and server at home?
- 5) Allow them to use poor manners with other adults** – hey, life is too short to be formal, isn't it?
- 6) Allow their friends to be impolite and fresh with you** – you want their friends to like you, don't you?
- 7) Forget about them giving gifts for others** in the family at holiday times and birthdays – they're just kids, right? They'll figure that out someday...
- 8) Allow them to repeat inappropriate jokes** and comments at home without correcting them – they are just trying to fit in with their friends...
- 9) If their friends have a new game system** or the latest phone, just get them one, too – you make good money, so why shouldn't your kids have the best?
- 10) Save a lot of money for your retirement**, because spoiled kids grow into spoiled adults who really won't want to take care of you!

FROM THE UPPER SCHOOL

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

The cycle of school: In the end, there is the beginning

Spring is only a word, yet in it, too, there is eternity. Not “sprung,” but spring, happening now, as all art can live even when finished, for all time. From a spring comes or springs (verb) water, fresh and new; from nothing springs life, and



MARK SCHOEFFEL

from the bird’s song, we hear music as it originates, derives, arises, stems, emanates, proceeds, issues, evolves, comes, as if from ourselves, anew.

The season (noun) follows winter, precedes summer, lies in between, in a place where from nothing comes something, a source of something, the elixir of life, a geyser, or a trickle. The voices of Eliot’s *Wasteland*, a compilation of birds, cracked fragments of crowds, horns, sirens, thunder and countless other sounds, are always crying out for the coming of eternal spring itself, never finding it, but imagining it, as in this verse, sometimes called “the water-dripping song”:

*If there were water
And no rock
If there were rock
And also water
And water
A spring
A pool among the rock
If there were the sound of water only
Not the cicada
And dry grass singing
But sound of water over a rock
Where the hermit-thrush sings in the
pine trees
Drip drop drip drop drop drop drop*

Yet the voice in this poem can only imagine spring, and finds no water. It never finds the feeling, the true liberation of

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

MAY HIGHLIGHTS

| | | |
|--------|----|---|
| Mon. | 1 | AP Exams – Week 1 |
| Tues. | 2 | Seniors only Language final exam – 8:30 a.m. (Main Gym) 9th Grade Orientation – 6:00 p.m. (Quadrangle) <i>In the event of rain: KW Library</i> (For rising 9th & all new to FA students) |
| Thurs. | 4 | Seniors only Math final exam – 1:00 p.m. (Main Gym) |
| Fri. | 5 | Spring Varsity Sports Day & Barbecue – 4:30 p.m. |
| Sat. | 6 | SAT & Subject Tests (Local Test Centers) |
| Mon. | 8 | AP Exams – Week 2 |
| Wed. | 10 | Upper School Parents Meeting: LAST MEETING of YEAR – 8:15 a.m. (Jackson House) |
| Thurs. | 11 | Plant Sale – 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Dolan Center) AP Art Exhibit – 5:30 p.m. (Gallery) |
| Fri. | 12 | Plant Sale – 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Dolan Center) |
| Mon. | 15 | Senior ISP’s begin (through 6/5) |
| Thurs. | 18 | Parent Council General Meeting – 8:15 a.m. (Jackson House) |
| Mon. | 29 | Memorial Day Observed – School & Offices Closed |
| Tues. | 30 | Classes Resume |
| Wed. | 31 | Upper School History Final Exam – 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. |

spring, until too late. Indeed, water is everything for spring. While many of us this past month on Long Island have wandered about looking for sun, we have seen much of the deluge this April, and this should tell us that April is not the cruelest month if it brings spring rain. I walk about and feel the water on my face, watching children who bend to touch the flowers or who laugh as they splash in puddles. This is our joy, our privilege.

In Easter 1916, Yeats, thinking of those soldiers at the front of The Great War and wandering, too, through the empty country villages wrote these lines in spring:

*Hearts with one purpose alone
Through summer and winter seem
Enchanted to a stone
To trouble the living stream.
The horse that comes from the road,
The rider, the birds that range
From cloud to tumbling cloud,
Minute by minute they change;
A shadow of cloud on the stream
Changes minute by minute;
A horse-hoof slides on the brim,
And a horse plashes within it;
The long-legged moor-hens dive,
And hens to moor-cocks call;
Minute to minute they live;
The stone’s in the midst of all.*

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

JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

| | | |
|--------|----|--|
| Thurs. | 1 | Upper School Math Final Exam – 8:05 to 10:15 a.m. (Please note start time is 8:05 a.m.) |
| Fri. | 2 | US Science Final Exam – 8:15 to 10:15 a.m. (Please note start time is 8:15 a.m.) Senior ISP Presentations (all seniors) – 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Senior Lunch – 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. Seniors Graduation Rehearsal – 1:00 p.m. (Starts in Theater) |
| Sat. | 3 | SAT & Subject Tests (Local Test Centers) |
| Sun. | 4 | Seniors/Parents/Faculty Baccalaureate Meeting for Worship – 10:00 a.m. (Meeting House) Senior Brunch for Seniors/Parents/Faculty – 11:00 a.m. (Commons) |
| Mon. | 5 | US English Final Exam – 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Senior ISP Highlights 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Theater) MANDATORY Final Senior Class Meeting – 12:00 p.m. (Theater) Graduation Rehearsal, ONLY IF NEEDED – 12:30 (Meet in Theater) |
| Tues. | 6 | US Language Final Exam – 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. All School Convocation – 10:45 a.m. (Fieldhouse) Upper School Ices on the Quad – Noon |
| Wed. | 7 | Fourth Day Honors – 11 a.m. (Theater) Last Day of Upper School Classes – 1 p.m. Dismissal Pre-Prom Party – 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Varsity Soccer Field) Senior Prom – 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. (The Carlton, East Meadow) Seniors Return to FA – 1:30 a.m. |
| Sat. | 10 | Commencement – 10 a.m. (Varsity Soccer Field) |

You can feel Yeats and the animals he describes diving, digging, searching for the life in the earth, only to tramp upon stone, the stone of graves. Indeed, spring reminds us of both death and life, and just as countless poets yearn to write about bursting buds with joy untrammelled and hearts unbound, yet also we and they must reckon with the fragility of the blossoms that soon fold, the flowers in and then out of bloom in a moment. Spring will come again, yes, but not forever. And so, with time, it becomes even more sweet.

Unlike autumn, spring in schools is not

the beginning, but in some ways, an ending – a funny tradition in our agrarian (still) school calendar. We see what seems to be the end of things, the end of a year and with graduations in particular, the end of a time of life: Our young, looking forward, and then back, at what was and what is still to be. A time of becoming, and, when we hold it close, a time to be, of being itself. In Woolf's *To The Lighthouse*, Lily Briscoe, a painter, finds a definition of the beginning and nature of life, to her, when she remembers how her friend, Mrs. Ramsey, was able to make time stand still: "this was the

nature of a revelation. In the midst of chaos there was shape; this eternal passing and flowing (she looked at the clouds going and the leaves shaking) was struck into stability. Life stand still here, Mrs. Ramsay said." Life stand still here, we can say, in spring, watching the sun rise, hearing the robin's song.

But it is not an end, really, because in the end there is the beginning, too. Later in life, Eliot affirmed this in *Four Quartets*, in some ways his answer to the parched world of *The Wasteland*: "the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time." This is what our graduates may realize when they are standing there in the breeze, and what we, too, should affirm, that hope springs eternal, especially when we see young faces looking out to their futures, to new hopes for life, life piled on life and more life. Larkin's poem *The Trees* holds this cycle in its palm, for us to see and feel:

*The trees are coming into leaf
Like something almost being said;
The recent buds relax and spread,
Their greenness is a kind of grief.*

*Is it that they are born again
And we grow old? No, they die too,
Their yearly trick of looking new
Is written down in rings of grain.*

*Yet still the unresting castles thresh
In fullgrown thickness every May.
Last year is dead, they seem to say,
Begin afresh, afresh, afresh.*

I'm a sucker for that thing Rostand and his Cyrano hold close and never relinquish, what the French call "panache," which I think of as verve, style, a lust for life akin to Larkin's words, "afresh, afresh, afresh," or Lear's clinging to Cordelia and to life, as if to deny what extinguishes and to affirm the life force. The king who until the end holds his daughter in his arms yet still, I believe, believes, knows feelingly, and yearns, always,

Continued on Page 12

Continued from Page 11

for life, to affirm the spring of life. Some of the greatest lines in Shakespeare speak to our seeing life in words, in the “O”s of Lear and in his “Never, Never, Never” denial of the fading of spring, an affirmation of Cordelia (her name stands in some way for the heart of life and light) and of art and life over all things that take spring from us, including death, and hatred and time:

*Never, never, never, never, never.—
Pray you, undo this button. Thank you, sir.
Do you see this? Look on her. Look, her lips.
Look there, look there. O, O, O, O...*

There, where Lear looks on her mortal and still lips, he still sees and hears breath. Mad, you say? Perhaps not.

We, too, have our spring. Cordelia is still mostly right, though she lives no more in the play. Hers, the answer to the challenges

before us is always, “Love, and be silent.” We must speak it, though, and live it, for her and all those forgotten or unheard, in honest words, few, and then affirm in our lives the gift of life, seen in our celebrating and honoring the passing of time, which we do a lot in schools. A good thing, too, when we do it right.

Praise to each of our kids and for what is good in all of them. Amen to that.

Happy summer to all.

ALL STUDENTS!

TEXTBOOK PROCEDURES

PROCEDURES FOR 2016-17 RETURNS AND 2017-18 ORDERS

BOOK LISTS AND TEXTBOOK INFORMATION:

Book lists and guidelines for ordering textbooks for the 2017-2018 school year will be available soon on the [Parent & Student Info Hub](#) and in divisional offices. Please read the guidelines carefully to be sure that you follow the procedures specific to your district.

Below is an outline of the procedure:

A. For students in Suffolk County and those served by Textbook Central, which includes ALL Nassau County districts EXCEPT Seawanhaka, Farmingdale, and Oceanside, it is not necessary to submit a book order form; your books will be provided through the school. You will receive more information over the summer about how and when these books will be distributed.

B. If you live in Seawanhaka, Farmingdale, and Oceanside school districts, you will need to complete a specific book order form. These districts generally request that forms be submitted to districts offices by May 15th. Given the timing of our scheduling process, we realize that this may not be possible. We do ask, however, that you turn in your forms to your district office as soon as possible. If you wait until August, districts may not be able to fill orders in time for the start of school.

C. If you live in a borough of New York City, a few of your books may be provided by the city. Typically, families receive very few books through this system due to budgetary constraints and the process is quite cumbersome. We try to provide some books from our inventory for these students. Please be aware that you are responsible for ensuring that your child has any books not provided by New York City by the start of the year.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about textbooks, please contact Laurie Fleming at Laurie_Fleming@fa.org or Carol VanAuken at Carol_Vanauken@fa.org.

TEXTBOOK CENTRAL BOOK RETURNS:

We plan to use the following schedule for book returns:

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Grade 12 | May 1-June 6* |
| *Books can be returned after each AP or final | |
| Grade 9-11 | May 1-June 6* |
| *Books can be returned after each final | |
| Grades 6-8 | June 5-6 |
| Lower School | Before June 6 |

Please be aware that all textbooks must be returned by June 6th. The library is closed for the summer and textbook replacements are ordered in June.

HELP US WITH RETURNS:

Students and their families are responsible for the return of all textbooks and non-consumable books at the end of the school year. Students are not permitted to write or highlight in these books. **Student accounts will be charged for any missing and damaged books.**

COMMENCEMENT: SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2017 AT 10 A.M.

GRADUATION PHOTOS



ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY will be the official photographer for Commencement on Saturday, June 10, 2017. They will be taking the full Graduation Class of 2017 group photo, as well as the picture of each student receiving his/her diploma.

In addition, Island's photographers will be available before and after the ceremony to take quick, casual family pictures. There is no charge to have any pictures taken and no forms are due on or before Graduation. Instead, all photos will be posted on a password-protected, online gallery on Island Photography's website, IslandPhoto.com, approximately 48 hours after Graduation. A pin number and a link to view your images will be e-mailed to each graduate. In addition, Island Photography will mail a hardy copy order form displaying the graduate's images as an additional convenience.

BEFORE THE CEREMONY

8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Individual and Family Photos

■ Come early and have any combination of family pictures taken – just make your requests upon arrival! Photos are very quick, taking just a few minutes

■ **Location:** Outside in the Main Quad area

Note: Arriving as early as possible is STRONGLY advised – it will be worth the extra few minutes to guarantee time with a photographer.

OFFICIAL CLASS PHOTO

9:00 a.m. sharp

■ **Location:** Outside, on the Kumar Wang Library steps (if rain, inside Main Gym)

GRADUATES REPORT TO AUDITORIUM (Holding area)

9:15 a.m.

■ Photographers will take formal portraits of each graduate.

PROCESSIONAL & CEREMONY (Holding area)

10 a.m.

■ **Location:** Varsity soccer field

DURING THE CEREMONY

Photo of each student receiving his/her diploma

■ Candid photos during the Procession and Recession (as time and opportunity permit)

Note: All pictures taken during the ceremony will be candid shots (unposed) and will be automatically taken. No parent or student requests are needed.

AFTER THE CEREMONY

Family photos

■ Quick, informal pictures of your family will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis on school grounds immediately after the ceremony.

■ **Location:** We'll be roaming in the general location of the Varsity soccer field. Just find one of our photographers and request any pictures you need.

ORDER YOUR GRADUATION VIDEO OF THE CLASS OF 2017 COMMENCEMENT

This year's commencement will be professionally recorded by Renaissance Studio Ltd. We encourage you to order a copy of this professionally done tape or DVD, and...

LEAVE YOUR VIDEO CAMERA HOME.

Please [fill out the order form](#) soon and mail to:

American Multimedia Yearbooks
3 Casey Court
Newtown, PA. 18940

Price: 1 DVD: \$41; 2 DVDs: \$79; 3 DVDs: \$117 (includes \$3 shipping & handling)

Questions? Please contact Jeff at (609) 716-0261 or e-mail him at getthere40@aol.com.



THE ARTS AT FRIENDS

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

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



The GSS Visual Response class in Ireland: (from the left) Abby Weir (class of 1999), Victoria Zhu, Jocelyn Cedeno, Leila Baadarani, Michael Abruzzese, Christine Capobianco, Joy Lai, Allison Doherty, Frank Abruzzese and Rosie O’Gorman

GSS VISUAL RESPONSE CLASS TRAVELS TO IRELAND

During spring break, the GSS Visual Response class travelled to Ireland to participate in a week-long artistic residency at Cow House Studios, located in rural County Wexford. Co-directors Frank and Rosie led students through a series of art-making prompts, fed us delicious home-made meals, and generously shared their time and expertise.

Students and chaperones spent their time in the art studios responding visually to the surrounding green, lush environment, which included a pond, several waterfalls, and deep woods.

Quiet farm lanes offered unlimited walking and photographic possibilities, while areas close to the studio allowed

time and space for al fresco sketching or painting. During the week, the group traveled to Dublin for a day in museums, a visit to an artist’s studio and a bit of shopping. Another morning was spent exploring the nearby sites of a Norman motte (a raised earthwork fortification surrounded by a ditch), a 7th century abbey, and a still-functional woolen mill, all located along the River Barrow.

All too soon, our time in Ireland was over, and artwork and suitcases had to be packed for the return to JFK.

To see pictures and read more, check out <http://www.cowhousestudios.com/friends-academy-global-studies-scholars/>

AP ART RECEPTION

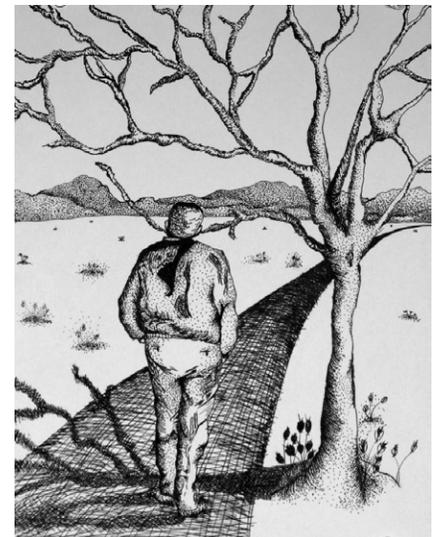
THURSDAY, MAY 11 AT 5:30 PM

Featuring the work of the following student-artists:

- Gabrielle Bauer
- Lauren Bell
- Brooke Chartash
- Katherine Emlock
- Hannah Goldblatt
- Kelsey McEvoy
- Caroline Miller
- Ellie Schoeffel
- Gabrielle Scordio
- Daniel Tauter



Brooke Chartash



Caroline Miller

PARENT COUNCIL

Volunteer Appreciation



Daniel Tauter



Gabrielle Scordio



Kat Emlock

It's hard to believe that the school year is almost over. Seems like it was only yesterday we were planning the Fall Fair. Time flies when your having fun!

As this will be our last *Among Friends* issue for the school year we would like to extend a special "Thank You" to the many Parent Volunteers that have dedicated their time and endless energy to the various Parent Council events throughout the year. To honor our parent Volunteers, the Development Office will be hosting their Annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception, to be held at Nassau Country Club on Wednesday, May 3rd at 6:00 pm. We will also be honoring our outgoing Senior parents that have generously given their time and energy throughout the years. Please plan on attending this important event.

The end of April was a very busy time for Parent Council. Jr. Prom, Gideon's Attic, Book Fair and Wind in the Willows Café all happened within a two-week time span.

Thank you to **David Miller** and **Alicia Scanlon** for chairing the Jr. Prom. A fun time was had by all! The Spring incarnation of Gideon's Attic was a huge success. Thank you to **Lisa Crowley** for chairing this amazing event and **Michelle Statfeld** for arranging the entertainment for the children, which was donated by Great Neck Games. Last but not least, thank you to our Book Fair and Wind in the Willows chairs, **Janeen Stellato**, **Barri Savasta**, **Gina Oh**, **Michelle Cagner**, **Natalia Good** and **Julie Kalimian**. I also want to give a big shoutout to all the parent, student and staff volunteers who gave their time and energy. We could never do it without you!

May is also proving to be a busy time for Parent Council. Our First event is the US Spring Sports Day and BBQ. Students and visiting teams will be treated to a wonderful BBQ. So come and support our teams and grab a burger while your there. If you would like to help with the BBQ, please contact **Rita Afzelius** at razzy427@aol.com. Next up is the Plant Sale. Once again **Julie Riviezzo** will be chairing this event. Please contact Julie at julier1@optonline.net if you would like to volunteer. It will take place May 11th & 12th, 8:00 am to 4:00

pm, in front of the Dolan Center. Thank you to Julie and all the parents who roll up their sleeves and help with this event. Our last event in May is LS Grandparents and Special Friends Day, which takes place on May 19th. Thank you **Natalia Good** and **Jen Adoni** for chairing this special event.

Mark your Calendars for the end-of-the-year General Parent Council Meeting, to be held on Thursday, May 18th at 8:15 am in the Jackson House. During this important meeting we will be recognizing outgoing members as well as announcing next year's Parent Council Slate of Class Representatives and Executive Parent Council posts. A special thank you to **Laura Semlies**, Nominating chair and her committee for working hard to manage this important activity.

On to June. It's hard to believe it's almost time to bid farewell to the class of 2017. Each of the Senior events committees has been meeting and planning since January to ensure that each of these events is special and memorable. Thank you in advance to Senior brunch chairs **Tina LeoGrande** and **Liz Richter**, Pre-Prom chairs **Carole Anne Cottone** and **Cathy Barakat**, Prom chair **Lynn Koufakis**, and Graduation Chair **Margret Hutzel**.

I would like to take this time to thank the Parent Council Executive Board; **Amy Schamroth**, **Randi Hoyt**, **Kim Broder**, **Roseann Martin**, **Carolyn Mott**, **Michelle Cagner**, **Susan Carden**, **Lynn Koufakis** and **Janine Lostritto**. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with these intelligent and dedicated women. Thank you for your support. I would also like to recognize the many parents who volunteer their time. Your selfless actions and involvement set a wonderful example and enrich the lives of all the children here at Friends Academy.

In closing I would like to thank the community for allowing me the opportunity to be the President of the Parent Council. It has been an awesome experience and I'm truly sorry to see it come to an end.

Have a wonderful summer and we'll see you in September!

– Rita Afzelius, President
Amy Schamroth, Executive VP



2017

SPRING
CONCERT
SERIES

Upper School Concert

Thursday, April 27th at 7:30pm

Middle School Concert

Thursday, May 11th at 7pm

AP Art Exhibit Reception at 5:30pm

Lower School Concert

Thursday, May 18th at 7pm

Lower School Art Exhibit Reception at 5:30pm