Our Community Query: How can we live more simply and moderately every day?
- Middle School TASQUE (Teachers and Students for Quaker Understanding and Education)

Among Friends
Friends Academy Monthly E-Letter | October 2017 >> www.fa.org

K-5 Delegates attend first LS constitutional convention to build norms and grow...

A delegate brings one of his class norms to the first Lower School constitutional convention.

Also Inside

FA Family Night & Fall Fair Preview
Where to get your bracelets, Athletics line-up and more!

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Over the past several weeks I have written to you following deadly protests in Charlottesville, catastrophic natural disasters across our country, and just yesterday in the aftermath of the unfathomable shooting in Las Vegas. While my hope is that I can provide a small measure of reassurance and comfort, I worry that my messages will come with such frequency that they will begin to lose meaning and impact and that we might find ourselves asking “is there a reason to be hopeful?”

I tell you that there is – and in difficult times it is important to remember that it lies at the heart of our Friends Academy mission and the work that we do with your children every day. They are learning the critical skills of civil discourse, resolving conflicts peacefully, serving others and intentionally building a school community where understanding and respect for difference must be at the very heart of what we do, not on special days, not only when tragedy strikes, but embedded in the daily life on our campus – in the language that we use, in the curriculum we teach, in the norms we live by. My optimism stems from here, that your children, guided by a Friends education will bring these habits of heart and mind with them in all they do, here and beyond our walls.

In this issue of Among Friends you will learn about how our Lower School students came to the rules by which they agree to live this year. One fourth grade class posits that our school should be, among other things, peaceful, kind, and safe. Is this not our hope and prayer for the world?
Fall Fair & Homecoming!

FRIDAY, OCT. 13TH & SATURDAY, OCT. 14TH

Family Night parking passes for Friday, Oct. 13th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. were mailed home recently. Don’t forget your parking pass! Parking is limited, so please plan to come with one car per family. Siblings not enrolled are welcome!

FA Family Night!

How You Can Get Involved:

- Volunteer at one of our many booths; Donate baked goods to Quaker Baker; and purchase Fall Fair mums and flowers at the Fair!
- Stock up on FA Wear (Oct. 12, 10 to 4 pm; Oct. 13, 10 to 8 pm) and Purchase Discounted Ride Bracelets (Oct. 12 - 10 to 4 pm; Oct. 13 - 10 to 4 and 5:30 to 7:30 pm) in the Dolan Center Atrium
**Fall Fair Athletic Schedule**
(All games are home games.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>WHERE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOYS JV SOCCER</td>
<td>vs. North Shore HS</td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIRLS VARSITY &amp; JV FIELD HOCKEY</td>
<td>vs. North Shore HS</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOYS VARSITY SOCCER</td>
<td>vs. North Shore HS</td>
<td>12 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER</td>
<td>vs. Mepham HS</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOYS VARSITY FOOTBALL</td>
<td>vs. North Shore HS</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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**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

Enjoy the rides!

Rides for all ages – the Zipper, Round Up, Super Slide, Fire Engine Speedway and more.

New this year...

Extreme Dance Party, Bungee Run Inflatables and Inflatable Bull.

Call all foodies:

Schultzys Seafood (best lobster rolls!), Gourmasian, Masala Stop, Italian Food, Greek Salad, Caribbean delicacies, French Fries and more! Sample our specialties from around the world. Leave room for dessert because Quaker Baker, Smores, Ice Cream and more are back too! We promise you won’t go home hungry!

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 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday Shuttle Buses: Shuttle buses will run between Frost Hall and St. Patrick’s Church in Glen Cove from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

FA Theater Costumes & Halloween Costumes on sale
at Fall Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
How do you take 200+ students, 25+ teachers mix them together and create comfortable, joyful and safe learning spaces? You work intentionally and explicitly with students from the moment they step through the door. You ensure that students are an active part of the process; that rules aren’t done to them but that they create the rules.

In the Lower School, we use a Responsive Classroom approach to building our community. What does that mean?

That means that classes spend much of the first weeks of school discussing what a classroom should look like. In first grade they read texts such as *No David* by David Shannon and *Me First* by Helen Lester and Lynn Munsinger. There are some examples of outlandish behavior in both of these books which prompts rich discussion about why we have guidelines and what a classroom and a student should look like and act like. Students follow a very similar procedure in 2nd grade. In 4th grade they brainstorm rules under four categories: how we treat each other, use of materials, how we work and how to be safe. Then the class discusses all the guidelines that have been brainstormed.

In third and fifth grades,

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students follow the CARES model. CARES stands for Cooperation, Assertion, Respect, Empathy and Self-Control. Under Cooperation one third grader wrote, “I think it should feel happy and look neat and sound peaceful.” Under Respect another third grader wrote, “I think the biggest rule should be kindness.”

After the guidelines are discussed and agreed upon, students sign a document, much like adults do to acknowledge their agreement. “They were clapping for each other when each child signed our agreement to our rules!” said fourth grade teacher Mrs. Soscie. “I love that we have four succinct things: treat each other kindly, thoughtfully and with respect; take care of our classroom and materials; work hard; have self-control and be safe,” she added. It is much easier to hold each other accountable when the guidelines are clear, explicit and owned by all.

In first grade, students also create a class motto, which varies between the two classes. Mrs. Waterhouse’s motto this year is, “Be Kind. Try

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Hard.” Children across the grades are asked to share their hopes and dreams because it is important for our teachers to understand what each and every child wants to learn, to do or to become.

In 5th grade, in the second week of school, some kids had a hard time agreeing to the rules of a game. That is part and parcel of any school playground. However, the teachers were able to call a community meeting afterwards to discuss how this might have veered from their guidelines and how they could solve it together. Children have a voice at every step of this process.

This year, I also held our first annual constitutional convention.

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At the end of the Convention (and two lunch periods), the delegates had whittled down K-5 class norms into a list of four. Next step? Print, sign and post.

Students from K-5 met with me during lunch. They came prepared with one or two guidelines from their classroom that they thought was important enough to go into our shared spaces (dining room, hallway etc.) guidelines. We discussed, found similarities and eventually settled on the following for our school-wide guidelines:

1. Be respectful, caring and kind
2. Take care of our school and help each other to keep it nice
3. Make safe choices
4. Try hard to follow the guidelines

Our final step is to print a large document that all students and teachers will sign to show that they are in agreement.

And so that is how you build a comfortable, joyful and safe learning environment for every Friends Academy Lower School student.
Are you reading *Inside FA* each week?

It’s what you need to know this week at FA... in one bulletin... at the start of every week... delivered to your inbox.