Our Community Query: How can we as a community sustain a welcoming spirit throughout the year and in what ways can this spirit lead us to embrace new people, ideas, and perspectives?
- Upper School TASQUE (Teachers and Students for Quaker Understanding and Education)
Welcome Back to School! I am delighted to welcome everyone back to Friends Academy for the 2018-2019 School Year. For the first day of school, we displayed our Quaker pride with gusto. Students were greeted with spirit signage, and our Upper School student leaders and several faculty members served as official greeters cheering, high-fiving and applauding for students as they arrived on campus.

For my part, I spent time in front of Frost Hall. As Upper School students exited the car a clear routine unfolded. First, swing the backpack onto the back. Then, out comes the athletic gear and bag, and finally, for some, the musical instrument from the trunk. Shouldn’t we celebrate these wonderful young people who are artists, coders, athletes, scholars and musicians? I believe so.

We’re eager to begin anew, welcoming 114 new students to our community, and preparing to kick off our Strategic Plan. This issue of Among Friends focuses on the meaning of community and belonging. Our Quaker testimony of equity is a principle that compels me to ensure that every Friends Academy family and student feel as connected as they wish to be. I addressed our Parent Council this morning and put it this way – Friends Academy is an important and wonderful school. But, it is our families and our connections that make our school a community. As we embark on a new school year, I invite you to become even more connected to Friends.

Warmly,

From the Head

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.
Welcome New Colleagues!

Early Childhood

Kristy O’Connell joins the Withington House as a two-year teacher assistant. She is working toward her MAT in Elementary Education from Queens College and is fluent in American Sign Language. Previously, she worked as a leave replacement at Vincent Smith School. She keeps quite busy as she is also a freelance writer at News 12.

Joshua Rothstein joins Early Childhood as a Play Group teacher. He is a graduate of Touro College where he received a B.A. in Psychology. He received his M.S. from Hunter College in Early Childhood Education. Most recently he has been a Head Teacher of three year olds at Association to Benefit Children in Manhattan. He is also a private yoga instructor.

Lower School

Sheila Gunther comes to Friends Academy following a successful career at the Marymount School of New York since 2011 and will be teaching 4th grade. She began as a 1st grade assistant teacher and then spent 4 1/2 years as a 4th grade head teacher. Most recently, she moved into a reading specialist position. She, her husband and two year old daughter live in Hempstead. Sheila is a graduate of Marist College where she earned her B.A. in Fashion Design (here may be a Continued on next page
future for her as a helper with costumes in the theater department.) She earned her M.A. in Childhood Education from Adelphi.

**Middle School**

**Ruby Atwal** joins the 8th grade team teaching English and advising. With a B.A. in English, Language, and Rhetoric from Binghamton University and a M.A. in Inclusive Elementary Education from Teachers College, Columbia University, Ruby has been providing academic intervention and ELA support in her current position over the past three years in Smithtown middle school. Ruby will also be supporting the after school homework club and coaching volleyball.

A 2010 graduate of Princeton University with a B.A. in History, **Paul Hernandez** taught for a year as a bilingual social studies teacher in a middle school where students had limited English proficiency and is returning to the middle school after a year of teaching 9th grade Ancient World History and advising at Newark Academy. In addition to teaching and advising in the 7th grade, Paul will also coach middle school football and basketball.

Teaching middle school French and Spanish, advising on the 7th grade team, and advising the middle school yearbook, **Maxime Lavallee** comes to us after having taught all age groups for six years in Canada. Maxime received his B.A. in TESL education from Concordia University and M.A. in Second Language Education from McGill University, Montreal. Maxime has also recently married a Friends Academy graduate!

**Upper School**

Originally from England, **Steve Brennan** moved to the United States to study for a Masters in U.S. History at the University of New Hampshire in 2002. Steve moved onto New York City, where he became a founder member of a Harlem based Charter School teaching history, with the goal of helping establish academic opportunity in an area that had been historically underserved. After several years of increasing rents and shrinking apartments, Steve and his wife moved to Miami where he taught world history, film studies and art history at Miami Country.

**Maddie Clark** joins Friends Academy
and will be working with Mark Schoeffel as the Upper School Administrative Assistant. Maddie comes to Friends most recently from Hills West Architects in New York where she was an administrative assistant. Prior to that she worked as a senior visitor assistant at the Whitney Museum of Art. Maddie earned a BFA from Adelphi University.

**Allen Louissaint** joins the social studies/history faculty in Upper School. An Adelphi graduate with a B.A. in political science and an M.A. in social studies education, Allen was named as a 10 under 10 alumni award winner. He is passionate about students and has loved all his work as a social studies educator, teaching history to grades 6-12 within the North Shore School District and at St. Anne’s School in Garden City. You can find Allen being active with service projects, such as volunteer and missionary work, church youth group, and playing or watching sports in his leisure time.

**Jasmine Narcisse** joins the Upper School World Languages and Cultures department as a French and Humanities teacher. A graduate with a BS from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy, State University of Haiti, Jasmine was also educated at York College and the Graduate Center of CUNY, where she received her PhD in French. Formerly, she worked at the Washington International School, St. John’s University, the Graduate Center of CUNY, and also taught for several of the CUNY colleges, including Queensborough, York and Hunter Colleges. She has taught the IB and elementary courses in French literature and civilization, as well as humanities courses, and has given presentations and written publications on topics such as Haitian History and Literature and Modern Caribbean Literature and has research interests in autobiography and human rights. Jasmine is fluent in English, French, Creole, and is working on her Spanish.

**Arts**

**Laura Backley** joins us from the Cambridge School in Weston, Ma. where she taught Vocal Music and Theater. She has an extensive background in both, and has conducted choirs of all ages. Laura has spent many years focused on Social Justice work, Interdisciplinary work and Progressive Education.

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She has relocated from Boston and will be joining us as part of the Arts Team. She comes to us with lots of fresh new ideas and is ready to jump into the new year!

**Athletics**

Matthew Johnsen joins the Physical Education and Athletics staff. Matthew earned his M.A. in physical education from Adelphi University. He has worked for the past 10 years in the Valley Stream Central H.S. District where he also coached four different varsity sports. Matthew’s time coaching in Valley Stream is highlighted by coaching the 2014 and 2015 Nassau County Class A boys basketball championship teams. At Friends, Matt will teach K-12 physical education and will take over the boys varsity basketball team, coach football and MS baseball.

**Quaker Practice & Community Engagement**

Camille Edwards returns full time to Friends Academy to serve as Dean of Equity and Inclusion. Camille graduated from Northwestern with a BA in communication and a minor in sociology. She has consulting experience in community building, organizational leadership, and working with students and adults to promote wellness, inclusion, and personal and professional growth. Most recently, Camille distinguished herself as an impressive leader in her inclusion work with Friends Academy students and Middle School faculty. Camille’s work with Northwestern, Friends, The Mother-Daughter Project, The Society for Neuroscience and elsewhere will greatly benefit our community.

Deborah Murphy, who served as an Upper and Middle School health teacher and advisor from 2004-2009, returns as Community Wellness and Team Coordinator. Deb will join Christine Botti serving as the primary resource for health education and wellness providing professional development and training in these areas for faculty and staff.

Educated at University of Rhode Island with a BS in Food Science and Nutrition and at LIU’s School of Health Professions with a BS in Dietetics, Deb also graduated from Hofstra’s GSE with an MS in Health Education. Since leaving Friends in 2009, Deb worked as a health education teacher in the Half Hollow Hills and Bethpage School Districts. We are pleased to welcome Deb back to Friends Academy.

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Administration

Please welcome Jen Halliday who joins Friends Academy as our new Assistant Head of School and Director of Academic Affairs. Jen brings extensive experience in many areas of independent school leadership and continues to work with Columbia University Teachers College Collaborative for Spiritual Development. Early in her career, Jen served as a teacher and curriculum coordinator at ACS Hillingdon International School, London, England. From 2005 to 2015, she worked at Hawken School, Lyndhurst, Ohio, where she served as Director of Hawken Middle School and as a member of Hawken School’s Administrative Council. Most recently, Jen was the Head of School of Magnificat High School in Rocky River, Ohio. Jen earned both her B.A. and M.A. from John Carroll University.

Alumni Office

Christine Lunsford joins the Development Office as the Director of Alumni Relations. Prior to joining us at Friends, Christine served as the Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Fund at Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus, the Director of Development at Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University and the Annual Fund Director at the Brearley School. Christine has a BA in Dance and an MBA from Hofstra University. Her husband, Jason is a Friends Academy alum.

Network Ops

Ashish Dandona joins the Technology Department this year in the role of Systems Administrator. Ashish has a BA from Hunter College where he majored in Computer Science. He worked at Schroder’s Investment Management for ten years in the IT Department and more recently with Lincoln Computer Services as a Network Engineer.

Campus Safety

Javier Centeno is one of our two new Campus Safety personnel. He comes to FA with 25 years of experience in law enforcement with the NYPD in Queens. For ten years, he was a Community Affairs Officer, working directly with local elected, civic, and community leaders.

Mike Mercante is one of our two Continued on next page
new Campus Safety personnel. He comes to FA with 20 years of law enforcement experience with the NYPD. In addition, with over 10 years of experience substitute teaching here at FA, he has extensive knowledge of our culture and how we operate and he is a trusted and recognized face for many in our community.

**Part-Time Additions & Changes**

**Jen Cort** joins Friends as a part time Quaker-in-Residence providing direct support and consultation as needed with a goal of building internal team competency in Quakerism and Quaker education. Jen Cort’s career blends her experience as a clinical social worker and Quaker educator. Jen has extensive experience in Quaker Education holding positions as teacher, assistant head of lower school, head of middle school and senior administrator. Jen’s work as a therapist includes serving as a counselor in lower, middle and upper schools as well as in a private practice.

**Mike Mattia**, former FA Director of Music, has been working with us on special projects for many years. Next year he will be expanding his responsibilities to working with our Upper School Wind ensemble, 7th and 8th grade Band and teaching trumpet.

**Yoaldri Messina**, who currently teaches part-time dance, will be expanding her role to include teaching music and movement in our early childhood program. Yoaldri comes to us with a wealth of experience in dance and music.

**Additional Changes in Staffing and Leave Replacements**

**Cathy Philipakos** – Assistant to the Assistant Head of School and Director of Academic Affairs Jen Halliday.

**Ann Marie Tidona** – Director of Finance, Operations and Strategic Projects. In this new role, Ann Marie will oversee the management of all auxiliary programs, campus facilities, and information technology infrastructure and partner on strategic projects.

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Ron Baskind – Director of Student Affairs and Quaker Practice. In this comprehensive K-12 leadership position Ron will provide oversight and direction to service learning and public purpose, inclusion and equity, health and wellness efforts and deepening our commitment to embedding Quaker principles and practices in all areas of Friends Academy.

Deidre Cooper – Dean of Service Learning, Stewardship and Public Purpose. A fourth-grade teacher at Friends since 2013, Deidre also taught third grade, sixth grade, high school, and undergraduate students as an adjunct professor of education at Northampton County Community College in New Jersey, all of this following a career in law. Deidre joined the Service Learning team last year distinguishing herself as one with a deep passion and commitment to service.

Maria Albanese – Assumes the role as our front desk receptionist from 7:30 am-3:30 pm daily.

Doreen Heyman – Beginning the new school year you will find Doreen Heyman working as the administrative assistant in the admissions office. We welcome and thank both Doreen and Maria for jumping in and covering Joanna’s leave.

New Babies!

Chelsea Bertani - Chelsea and her husband Matt welcomed their daughter, Remy

Kelly Zolla - Kelly returns from maternity leave to Upper School History after the birth of her son, Oliver.
Friends Academy
Picture Day

Upper School — September 12th — 9/18 (R)
Lower School — September 17th — 9/24 (R)
Middle School — September 20th — 9/21 (R)
Little Friends Day Care — September 25th
Early Childhood — October 1st
US/MS/LS Retake Day — October 15th
(R) - Rain Date

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

ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY
Questions? 516.767.1234
www.islandphoto.com/schoolportraits
Welcome home! The beginning and end of every school year is celebrated and marked by our all-school Convocation. This Tuesday, it was an opportunity to hear reflections and messages for the new year from our student leaders, recognize the new “seniors” in each of our divisions, welcome new faces – students and adults alike – and start the year as one school and one community.

Near the close of Convocation, one of our seniors concluded his remarks to the student body in this way, “Perhaps the most special thing about the FA community is that whatever you may do, or wherever you may go, all of us will always know we have a home here.”

In my two years at Friends Academy, I have heard repeatedly the primacy we place on being part of the Friends Academy community. Most parents, when asked, shared that they chose Friends because they believe in the mission, the strength of the academic program, and the values and “sense of community” here. Many describe it colloquially as “The Continued on next page
Quaker Piece,” always searching for words to pinpoint that which is not easy to describe. It is the desire for relationship, for belonging, for a spiritual grounding that draws us together, as heard countless times when parents stand in the Meeting House during Moving Up ceremonies to provide testimony to the incredible experience that is a Friends education for their child.

In one of my first-year entry interviews, a Friends parent put it this way, “I came to appreciate the Quaker education and the values it imparted before I even knew how important it would be. In a world where everything is negotiable, an education rooted in spiritual values is more important than ever. It makes parenting easier. We abide by and call upon common sense Quaker tenets every day.”

I very much hope that all members of the Friends Academy community, like our student speaker, feel like they are coming home when they arrive back on campus each year. But, we know that inside the walls of our beautiful campus, and as much as any community, we can risk becom-
ing increasingly disconnected in a fast-paced, busy, and divisive world. And while some may feel incredibly comfortable and a true sense of belonging at Friends, others may not.

I am highly attuned to the fact that we must work intentionally to hold fast and build upon our community of committed, connected individuals and to affirm our mission as a Quaker school built on a long legacy of academic excellence, values, and deep and caring relationships.

During my previous years as a principal, I often found myself saying to parents concerned that their child was not receiving enough individualized attention, “Sam is one among many in the class.” My goal was to both acknowledge the individual child and all that made him or her unique and precious to us, while honestly stating that each child is “among many” belonging to and responsible for the collective community bound by the mission and shared values. The same is true for all.

I encourage all parents, from Play Group to parents of the Class of 2019, to seek us out individually when you need support for your child alone, but also to make a commitment to build upon and strengthen the Friends Academy community through participation, collaboration, and volunteerism. It is Continued on next page
one of the reasons you chose Friends. This partnership is founded upon generations of parents, before us, who committed to, connected with and built this community we call Friends Academy.

With this in mind, we embark on our work this year with the guidance of our all-school theme: Q-mmunity. We will attend to our collective as well as our individual sense of belonging – the one and the many.

A priority on connection
For students and families alike, student health, wellness, and the implementation of cohesive, sequential service learning and advising programs came through as top priorities in our strategic planning process. This year, I am proud to introduce our new Quaker Practice and Community Engagement Team whose primary role is to build a coherent program in all areas of student life and connected to our academic program. Led by the Director of Student Affairs and Quaker Practice Ron Baskind, the
team is comprised of new and familiar faces. Camille Edwards joins us in the role of Dean of Equity and Inclusion; Deidre Cooper, a former 4th-grade teacher, is our Dean of Service Learning and Public Purpose; and after five years we welcome Deb Murphy back to Friends, who serves as our Community Wellness Coordinator. Rounding out this team is School Psychologist, Michael Quinland and Quakers-in-Residence, John Scardina and Jen Cort. For more details about these new colleagues and other new faculty meet our new Faculty and Staff in this issue.

A Community of Parents

We also welcome Jenifer Halliday, who joined the Friends Academy community as the new Assistant Head of School and Director of Academic Affairs. Jen will oversee the review and development of the academic program, and among other duties, will serve as the school liaison to the Parent Council. Under Jen’s leadership, we offer two new programs for parents this year. First, the Connections Program, which is designed for parents and division principals to engage in specific grade-level discussions in an intimate setting on campus and in the Jackson House. Each grade level has a designated Connections program on the Friends calendar. Please note and save the dates.

Secondly, we invite all parents to our year-long three-part evening Parent Education Series entitled, The Science Behind Teaching and Learning. Each stand-alone evening event will bring together national and international experts to help facilitate an interactive evening where parents will learn together how current educational research informs our strategies and approaches as educators and how parents can connect at home.

On Thursday, Nov. 8th at 7 p.m., Dr. Carissa Romero, a pioneer in the scientific research on mindset joins us to present and take questions for our first program in the series. Then on Wednesday, Jan. 8th, Lisa Miller, author of The Spiritual Child: The New Science on Parenting for Health and Lifelong Thriving, will engage our community around the science of...
spirituality as it relates to teaching, learning and life-long success. A third evening on Tuesday, March 12th is still being planned.

Also, new this year, I invite parents to drop and stay! I will be hosting a monthly Coffee with Friends! in our newly redesigned KW Learning Commons, starting Thursday, Sept. 27th from 8:20 to 9:00 am. Stay for a while or just a few minutes. I invite you to visit with fellow parents in the Learning Commons’ new social space. We’ll have the coffee… you bring the conversation.

This Thursday, Sept. 13th at 7:30 a.m. in the Dolan Center, join the Friends Academy Music Department as it launches an exciting, new community group, “Quaker Singers.” Open to students from Kindergarten and up, adults of all ages (that means grandparents too), the group will be

Continued on next page
a multi-generational exploration of music and community.

Finally, how could I not mention and end with our vibrant Parent Council, who comprise all of our parents and parent volunteers every year? This year, the Parent Council offers a variety ways for you to find the sense of belonging in our community.

The Quaker Parent Life and Parent Health and Wellness Committees have joined forces as the new Parent Quaker Practice and Wellness Group, co-clerked by Irem Konur and Lisa Katovitz. Join them for their first meeting on Friday, Sept. 28.

In addition, I invite you to attend both our general and fall divisional Parent Council meetings. Finally, look for the many social opportunities sponsored by the Parent Council, including favorites like our Breakfast & Boutiques on Wednesday, Nov. 14th and our All-School Family Skate Night on Friday, Feb. 1st.

It is an exciting time to be here at Friends and we are so grateful to be in this place and in this space with all of you.
General Reminders:
- Drop off at your youngest child’s location.
- Please do not speed through lots.
- No idling – turn off your car while waiting.
- Please do not drop or pick up students inside bus lane of Dolan Ctr.

Lower School:

MORNING
- K-5: “Drop and Go” – 7:45 to 8:05 a.m. daily. Pull up to the marked areas in the Lower School lot (first lot on the right off of Piping Rock Road). Faculty will greet your child and assist with belongings. After 8:05 a.m., please walk your child to the LS Office for a late pass.
- Early Childhood: New! Classes start at 8:30 am this year. While drop-off is available starting at 7:45 am, the best time is between 8:20 and 8:30 am in the Frost Hall lot.

AFTERNOON
- You have a better chance of finding a spot if you arrive on time for your child’s grade level:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Drop Off</th>
<th>Pick Up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>7:45-8:30am</td>
<td>2:30-2:45pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS</td>
<td>7:45-8:00am</td>
<td>3:10-3:20pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS</td>
<td>7:45-8:00am</td>
<td>3:30 and later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>7:45-8:00am</td>
<td>3:20 and later</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Student Drop-off and Pick up

- No afternoon parking spaces?
  Please exit the lot and enter again.
- Do not double-park or block traffic flow.

Middle School:

MORNING
- Pull all the way up to the left of front steps of MS if you are lead car.
- Leave middle lane open for existing traffic.

AFTERNOON
- Do not come early. Late is great.
- Dismissal times
  6th: 3:20 pm
  7th: 3:35 pm
  8th: 3:45 pm

Upper School:

MORNING
- Pull all the way up past front steps of Frost Hall if you are lead car.
- Form a line in the outer lane of the circle (closest to Frost Hall).

AFTERNOON
- Please do not come before 3:20. After that time, line up in either the outer or inner lanes and stay with your car.
- Pull all the way up past front steps of Frost Hall if you are lead car.
- Leave the middle lane completely open. Do not block EC parking spaces outside Withington House.
THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT INVITES YOU TO...

Under The Lights at FA!

Tuesday, Sept. 25 – Girls Soccer at 5:30 p.m. | Boys Soccer at 7:15 pm
Thursday, Sept. 27 – Field Hockey at 6 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 26 – Football at 6:30 p.m. (Centre Island Beach)
(Note: Parent supervision is mandatory for all students up through 8th grade.)

THE THEATER AND DANCE DEPARTMENT PROUDLY PRESENTS THE 2018-19 SEASON:

“248 Miles”
Nov. 1-3rd
A new play by Andrew Geha
A story about the connections we make and the connections we miss.
And an angel. Because nothing is ever what it seems.

“Working”
Feb. 7-9th
A musical based on the groundbreaking book by Studs Terkel about how America works, in all its many colors, shapes and iterations.
(With music by Stephen Schwartz, Mary Rodgers, James Taylor, Lin-Manuel Miranda and others.)