

FRANKFORD FRIENDS SCHOOL

Spring 2014



Come to the Spring Fair!



SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2014

10AM-3PM

special events:

11am-noon GrandFriend/Grandchild photos
2pm Alumni brainstorm meeting: creating a "history wall" in the Trickey Building
(followed by alumni outing for coffee/drinks)

What's Happening In The Classrooms?

PreK has been learning about our community. We have been discovering different places in our community and the jobs that people have. We visited the Frankford Library and learned about what a librarian does. PreK was also able to check out books! We also visited the Fire Station and learned all about a Fire Fighter's job, as well as fire safety! We will also be visiting our community Post Office. In other news we have planted seeds, and are excited to watch and document them growing!

Kindergarten has just wrapped up our animal unit. Everyone was really excited to learn about an animal of their choice. Ask a Kindergartner to share a fact about his or her chosen animal! Now that spring is finally here, we can't wait to plant seeds, raise butterflies, and learn all about insects!

First graders (below) have been busy working together to solve math problems and writing our class poetry book. We are also learning about plants and trees. We will be visiting Morris Arboretum, April 30th.



PreK with masks they made for their Chinese New Year parade in January



Second grade has been working on Liquid and Solids FOSS kits (FOSS stands for "Full Option Science System), and First and Second grades will be starting on the new Plants FOSS kit when we get back from break. 2nd graders are finishing up our study of the United States. In math, we worked on multiplication and divided by 2. Like all the classes in the lower school, we wrote a book this semester.









Last year's wax museum included Dian Fossey, Jackie Robinson, Abraham Lincoln, & Mumbet (Elizabeth Freeman)



It is almost that time of year in the **Third grade** – the living history museum! The entire school is invited to enjoy the culminating project: a wax museum. Throughout April, children in the third grade read a chosen biography of any famous person, and "sticky note" important parts of the famous individual's life. Next, children write about these moments, telling why this moment is important in the person's life. Then, each child will memorize a minute long speech and create a poster board. On Wax Museum Day, children dress as the famous person, wear a button for visitors to press, and recite the speech! This year, we will enjoy hearing from Mozart, Houdini, and Jane Goodall, to name a few.

Fourth grade has been busy working on publishing a class book, along with the rest of the school. Our talented writers reflected on what they see when they think about peace. Aminah created a fantastic cover (left)!

Fifth grade had a wonderful field trip to Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in early April (right). They saw 16 different species of birds, including bald eagles (one perching, one soaring). They also saw a few snakes, some turtles, and woodpecker holes in an old tree. They learned how to use binoculars and a spotting scope, how to be guiet and listen to bird songs, how to watch for movement in trees, and how to walk quietly. It was a great trip. It was led by Chris Petrak, grandfather to Julius, Celia and Oliver. Chris is a longtime bird hobbiest; writes a weekly birding column for his local paper; has written two books about birds; and updates his bird photography blog/website regularly. He has also presented assemblies about birds to the whole school for the past three years.



A VISIT FROM GUNTER HAUER

"I was eye to eye with Adolf Hitler"

The speaker was 95-year-old Gunter Hauer. He was talking to Frankford Friends middle school and fifth grade students, describing his life in Nazi Germany in the 1930s.

He first heard Adolf Hitler speak at a rally in 1929, and could not believe what he was hearing. Then in January, 1933, Hitler came to power and Gunter's life began to change. Within a few short years, he was no longer allowed to sit on a public park bench or go to the movies.

Five years later, Gunter's teacher regretfully told him that he could no longer come to school because he was Jewish. Gunter described his feelings when the class stood and saluted him and wished him well. After all, some of them had been his best friends. He described meeting them some time later on the street, but by now they were wearing the uniform of the Hitler Youth, and could no longer talk to him. This story made a big impact on Frankford Friends students, who found it



Sixth grade students research the 1930s after Gunter's visit.

hard to comprehend being separated from their friends by ideology. Gunter described his feelings when he walked out of his house one day to be confronted with a billboard saying, "Juden Raus! (Jews Out!)."

In 1936, the Olympic Games were held in Berlin, Germany. Hitler took advantage of this event to try to showcase the superiority of Germany, and the "Aryan" race. Gunter gave us a thrilling description of the scene. By chance, a friend had given him a spare ticket for the Olympic Stadium. He was sitting opposite the VIP section where Hitler and his henchmen were seated.

"I was sitting eye to eye with Adolf Hitler," said

Gunter. He went on to describe watching black American runner Jesse Owens win a gold medal.

Gunter also gave a dramatic description of escaping arrest by hiding in a disused bathroom, when the Nazis searched his family's business. On September 1st, 1939, Gunter



Gunter Hauer

managed to escape with his immediate family on the last boat leaving Germany. Two days later, on September 3rd, World War II began. He had escaped just in time. Many family members were left behind. He never saw them again.

Gunter's amazing adventures continued. He spent some time in a refugee camp in Shanghai, and got married, before making it to America with his wife, where they traveled across the country to California, and back to Philadelphia in 1947, where he worked in the music industry. Beginning by packing records, he worked his way up to becoming an executive at Atlantic Records promoting concerts and events. One day, at a radio studio, he met Jesse Owens, and they talked about the time they had both been in the presence of Adolf Hitler at the Berlin Olympics.

Middle school teacher Jonathan Clifton described Gunter's visit as "the most important assembly of the year for our older students. It's all too easy for the Holocaust to become just another genré of book on the Young Adult shelves. To actually meet someone who was part of the story brings it alive in a memorable way. For one afternoon, our students touched a part of history."

Gunter really made me think about how bad it must have felt to be a Jewish person in Berlin at that time. —Jesse, Grade 6

I began to think about how hard it must have been for him when he was told to leave his school because he was a Jew.

-Isabella, Grade 6

It was so sad that Jewish children couldn't play in the park. Playing is what children do.

-Kayah, Grade 6

Thanks to Phil Holtje, Program Director of the Holocaust Awareness Museum, for helping to organize this visit. For more information visit

www.holocaustawarenessmuseum.org

LEARNING TO CARE, CARING TO LEARN

By Jonathan Clifton

In the FFS middle school, academic subjects are interwoven with the most important life lesson: caring for others.

While studying globalization, and learning about the way our clothes and consumer products are made around the world, students discovered that many people are exploited in order to provide us with the products we enjoy. People from developing countries often leave their families for months at a time to risk dangerous working conditions and even piracy on



7th grader Jayden works with her partner

container ships that bring those goods to us.

In December, middle school students collected personal items for seafarers trapped in Philadelphia over Christmas. Many of them had few possessions. and had no visas,

so they couldn't leave the ship. Students collected toothpaste, soap, and combs, as well as woolly hats and warm gloves. They packed five large boxes, which teacher Jonathan Clifton delivered to the Seamen's Institute in Philadelphia.

More recently, students have been following events in Syria. They invited Alexa Firat to come in and talk about her personal experience in that part of the world. The eighth graders were so moved by her description of the thousands of people, mainly women and children, who are now living in refugee camps that they decided to



Calina and Raul pack diapers to ship to Syrian refugee camps

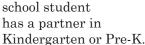
help. They researched the most pressing needs of the people in the camps. These included food like rice and grains, but also personal items like soap, diapers, underwear, pads and tampons. Eighth graders even found an organization willing to deliver our items directly to the refugees. Middle school students taught classes about Syria to the lower grades, and answered their questions, planning



A Kindergarten student rushes to hug her 6th grade partner Isabella.

their talks so they were appropriate for each age group. Each class was then invited to collect a different item on the list of supplies. The middle school students carried all the items to the gym, where they sorted and packed them in large boxes ready to be shipped.

But middle school teachers believe that empathy and caring are learned through personal experience, which is why every Friday our oldest students spend time with our youngest. Every middle school student





Simone and Siona pack rice and vegetables

Each week they read books, do craft projects, or simply play together.

The younger children obviously adore their "big friends" and usually arrive with drawings they have made for them. Partnering also helps the older students develop a sense of responsibility. Recently, a sixth grader had a dentist appointment on Friday, but insisted that her mother drive her back to school for the last 30 minutes of the day, so her Kindergarten buddy wouldn't be disappointed.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SHAKESPEARE PROJECT

By Jonathan Clifton

Each spring, middle school students study a play by William Shakespeare. This year, there was an extra reason to celebrate. April 23rd was not only St.



Middle school Literature teacher Jonathan Clifton was born in England and worked as an actor in London. He has been sharing his knowledge and experience of Shakespeare and the Globe Theatre with students for many years.

George's Day, England's National Holiday, but also the 450th Birthday of Will Shakespeare.

Many people are surprised that I teach Shakespeare in middle school. The truth is that children love it. Every day, they come rushing in asking, "Are

we doing Shakespeare today?" For children brought up on texting, the quality of the language is a revelation. Children love puns and wordplay, which is what Shakespeare is all about. Will Shakespeare invented the knock-knock joke. Words like Want-Wit and Spilth have entered the middle school vocabulary.

In many schools, students are forced to read Shakespeare in class, with a teacher providing a literal translation. I cannot think of a more boring way to introduce children to Shakespeare! His work was meant to be spoken. Indeed, his audience spoke of going to the theatre to "hear" a play. As Shakespeare said,

Speak the speech, I pray you, as I pronounced it to you, trippingly on the tongue!

The play comes alive when students experience the joy of speaking that wonderful language. Each grade in middle school shared their interpretation of the play for the other grades to watch. It also stimulated the most extraordinary discussions. In particular, the eighth graders' essays on "Who is the Real Villain?" were provocative and thoughtful.

Is the play racist, because the central character, Shylock, is Jewish, and is badly treated by the other characters? Or is he the villain because he plots to murder Antonio? Shylock's daughter, Jessica, evokes sympathy, because of her father's treatment of her ("Our house is hell"), but we lose sympathy when she elopes, taking her father's money.

The students concluded that Shakespeare never shows his opinion. He cleverly lets his characters speak for themselves. and allows us to understand something of the complexity of human relationships.

Shylock has a wonderfully moving speech, in which he describes how Antonio treats him:

> [...because] I am a Jew. Hath not a Jew eyes? Hath not a Jew hands. organs, dimensions, senses, affections,

passions?.... If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not



ppeth as the gentle rain from en upon the place beneath: it is

on blood it blessooth him that or

In addition, this particular play, "The Merchant of Venice," affords us the opportunity to discuss themes like loyalty, money, politics, and the role of women. Shakespeare has many strong women in his plays, but perhaps no one more so than Portia, whose intelligence and wit as a lawyer resolves the central court case and whose words on the subject of mercy and forgiveness have become classic:

The quality of mercy is not strained.

It droppeth as the gentle rain from Heaven, upon the place beneath.

It is twice blessed. It blesseth him that gives, and him that takes.

HOW WE'RE GROWING

By Amy Silver O'Leary, Director of Development & Alumni Relations

A Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast will be hosted by the FFS Administrative Staff on Friday, June 6, from 8:30-9:30am in the Multipurpose Room, so we can thank all of our wonderful volunteers who do so much to keep the school running! If you worked on the School, Library, Facilities, Finance, Garden, Quakerism, Winter Brunch & Auction, Development, Strategic Planning, or any other committee this year, or helped with the Book Fair, Rummage Sale, Farm Share, Home & School, field trips, office, classrooms, kitchen, grounds, or in any other way whatsoever, please attend this special event!

The Outdoor Classroom and Greening of the Campus

Thanks to a \$40,000 "Growing Greener" grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, a stormwater engineer will work with a landscape architect to develop a concept plan for the campus with elements like rain gardens, stormwater planters, and porous pavement. Once built, the new landscape will not only be greener, but it will help protect our waterways by managing stormwater runoff, improving water quality and keeping pollutants out of our streams and rivers.

The team will also design stormwater elements into the Outdoor Classroom that will be built across Orthodox Street, and will handle all the necessary permits from the city. Once that process is complete, we can begin soliciting proposals for construction of the Outdoor Classroom. Sitework and fencing will be first. When topsoil has been brought in and the site is ready for planting, we will be looking for a lot of volunteer help!

AN ANONYMOUS DONOR HAS PLEDGED
TO MATCH ALL GIFTS FOR
THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM, UP TO \$50,000,
NOW THROUGH JUNE 30!

See enclosed envelope or visit www.frankfordfriendsschool.org to give.

Strategic Plan

The School Committee has approved the 2013-2016 Strategic Plan, now posted on the school's website. Many of the first-year goals have been accomplished or are well on their way! Examples include: "Establish a parent/staff focus group to consider ways to improve school-home communication," "Seek Accreditation by the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools," "Provide more equipment for the science program, including FOSS kits," "Establish a Facilities Committee to evaluate and plan for repair, replacement, restoration and attractiveness of property and help develop the capital plan for buildings and grounds," and "Design and fabricate new signage for the entire campus" (the last goal is nearing completion).



The Home & School Association Rummage Sale was a huge success, earning almost \$1700 for special programs, classroom supplies, and financial aid! Just as importantly, we got a chance to meet some neighbors and help the larger Frankford community. Kudos to Linda Richie, Patrice Gammon, Vera Schorr, Lisa Handy, Tyra Duhan, and a long list of adults and students who helped make this year's sale a wonderful success in so many ways. At one point we had volunteers carrying boxes of items to the home of a neighboring family in need. Two fourth graders, Emily and Helania, helped in so many ways. And finally, our middle school students not only assisted the customers during the sale; they bagged sweaters, hats and coats to be donated to Syria! Thank you Isabella, Ally, Cameron and Phillip! We could not have done it without the help of so many people.

FFS Alumni And Community News

Thomas and Patricia Ambler, members of Germantown Monthly Meeting and long-time friends and supporters of the school, wrote last winter, "We think it is a fine Friends' School doing a very good job of complete Friends' education – body, mind, and spirit." We were very sad to hear that Tom Ambler passed away in March.

We spoke with **Elizabeth (Betsy) Kennedy Hewitt '32** on the phone recently. Betsy shared, "As I cut back on my donations, FFS is not going to be one I am going to cut out. My years there were very short but very, very memorable and very happy. I will always remember it — though it was a long, long, long time ago. I still can see myself back there and remember the names of my classmates.

Betsy continued, "My son took me by a couple of years ago to see it, and the inside of the schoolhouse had changed quite a bit. The relationship of the schoolhouse to the meetinghouse of course hadn't changed much. But I still remember everything.

"Tll tell you a funny story," Betsy said. "One of my early days there, the teacher said, 'Say your name last name first.' I didn't understand what she meant, so I said to the boy next to me, 'What did she say?' And he said, 'Say your name backwards.' My name was Betsy Ann Kennedy, so I said, 'Kennedy Ann Betsy,' and they called me Ann Bets or Annie Bets the whole time I was there."

Betsy was a professor of English Literature for more than 20 years. She shared, "I was 15 years out of undergraduate school before I went to graduate school, got my degree, and my four children and I went to Binghamton, NY, where I taught for 20+ years at SUNY." Betsy is retired and living in North Carolina.

Lou Metzger writes, "Both my sister, Janet, and I attended FFS a few years ago, roughly 1941 to about 1946. Can I really be that old? I started in kindergarten and left in 3rd grade to attend Penn Charter. My sister started in kindergarten and left to attend Lankenau. Janet must have been in kindergarten about 1941. While reminiscing about our experiences at FFS, Janet mentioned how she particularly admired or bonded with one teacher. This Kindergarten teacher, a French woman, whom Janet only remembers addressing as 'Mamselle,' was so generous of spirit that she left an indelible mark on my sister. All this is to lead to a question which I wonder if you would be so kind to research. Namely, what was 'Mamselle's' name and what can you tell us anything about her history?"

We shared Lou's question with some of his contemporaries and heard back from Jane Lundeen Taylor '47. Jane wrote, "Mamsell's last name was Lowie...not sure of the spelling but that is what it sounded like to me at age 5. She was our French teacher. I have, in a box somewhere, my 'text book,' 'Toddlers French.' The Kindergarten teacher in the 40s was Miss Tither...again that's the name sound as I remember. Miss Tither lived with her parents across the street from us. I adored both teachers!"

Ways to Stay Connected to Frankford Friends School:

VISIT! We love to show visitors around the campus and introduce our wonderful students and teachers. Contact Amy O'Leary to schedule a visit (her contact information is below).

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST – for GrandFriends, aunts and uncles, alumni and their families, and all other supporters (usually one or two emails per month). Visit www.FrankfordFriendsSchool.org to sign up on the home page. Unsubscribe at any time. (Current Parents, this is not your list—you sign up by emailing Lisa.)

EMAILS NOT ARRIVING IN YOUR INBOX?

Supporters *and* current parents, if you are not receiving emails, please check your spam or junk folder and make sure FFS emails are not landing there.

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK at www.facebook.com/FrankfordFriendsSchool. You do NOT need to be a member of Facebook to

browse our photo galleries, see student artwork, and view news and events. If you are a member, hover over the "Liked" button and check "Get Notifications" to make sure you will see our posts.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST – receive *Reflections* twice a year, invitations to events, and occasional other mailings. You can also add your adult son or daughter, grandparents, or any interested person to the list. Send name and address (including address changes) to Amy O'Leary by mail or email.

ALUMNI, EMAIL YOUR NEWS for Reflections to Amy O'Leary!

For news, signups, questions, or visits, contact Amy Silver O'Leary, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, at 215-533-5368 x120,

<u>development@frankfordfriendsschool.org</u>, or write Amy at the school address.

John van der Water '54 writes, "Still looking for news of my classmates. We were 13: Peggy, Sue, Patty, Henrietta, George, Teddy, Bobby, David, Milton, Howard, Roy, John (me), & Ivan (now deceased). Our 6th grade teacher and principal was the adorable Mrs. Reba Lammey." John is a member of the Sacramento (CA) Friends Meeting.

Jon Hoffmeier '58 writes, "We are now the proud grandparents of Calan Hoffmeier of Monpelier, Vt. We make as many trips north as we can to see him. He's a real blessing." Jon dedicated his Annual Fund gift to the FFS class of 1958.

Vicki Mager '61 writes that she is retired.

Lillian Gross writes, "As former faculty and parent of five former students, I am an enthusiastic supporter of Frankford Friends School. I love the innovative programs and the loving support of the faculty."

Many thanks to **Jesse White '89** for donating several pieces of her artwork to the FFS Auction this year! Jesse serves as the Arts and Spirituality Teacher at Pendle Hill, a Quaker center welcoming all for Spirit-led learning, retreat, and community. An expressionistic artist and poet, art therapist and teacher, Jesse also directs Pigeon Arts, an organization that offers transformational art programs to a wide audience. Her paintings, altered books, and photography have been exhibited throughout the greater Philadelphia area, North Carolina, and London, England. Her poetry has been included in several local and national publications.

Laura Hricko '99 married Christopher Kline on June 3, 2013. She is Special Projects Manager, Continuing Studies at Tyler School of Art, Temple University, writes her mother Diane.



Matthew Bryant '01 (left) and Paul Bryant III '98

Lisa and Paul Bryant
Jr. write that Paul
Bryant III '98 received
his Bachelor's from
King's College in 2008
and his Master's from
West Chester University
in 2010. He is currently
a Counselor at Olney
High School. Matthew
Bryant '01 received his
Bachelor's in 2011 and
his Master's in 2012, both

from West Chester University. He is a police officer in Washington, D.C.

We heard from **Justin Barr '00**, who received his bachelor's degree and is an Accountant in the Philadelphia area. Four members of the class of '04 attended the 2014 Winter Brunch and Auction and graciously accepted our invitation to speak about how their Frankford Friends



education served them in the ten years since graduation. They wowed the audience, many of whom were moved to tears. The speakers were (photo, L to R): Richard George, who graduated from Temple University and is a Season and Group Sales Representative for the Philadelphia Phillies; Vivien Souders, who graduated from the University of Charleston and is a Producer and Editor at CCI Communications; Anna Matus, who graduated from the University of Connecticut and is working in retail; and William Rachuba-Hortman, who graduated summa cum laude from Alvernia.

There was a lovely item in the *Frankford Gazette* about **Jennifer Mohr '08**, who graduated from the Charter High School for Architecture and Design and has recently moved to Frankford. Jennifer sells her silver jewelry, crocheted items, and other crafts at 2nd and Market Streets on First Friday. Jennifer's two siblings, Alex and Amanda, now attend Frankford Friends School.

We were sad to hear that Gerald Olkus, the grandfather of **Max Olkus '11**, passed away. We appreciate Gerald's family for asking that memorial contributions be made to the FFS Scholarship Fund.

Helene Kantor wrote us about **Jason Kantor '12**. "Jason is a sophomore at Lower Moreland High School. He transitioned smoothly and consistently gets A's and B's. Tr Jenn and Mrs. Amaro would be proud to know that he has an A honors Spanish!! Of course, he'd be annoyed that I'm bragging about him. LOL.

He played on the varsity tennis team last year and hopefully will make the team again this year.... I am so appreciative and thankful for the great academic foundation he received at FFS. He's become a respectful, thoughtful, kind, inquisitive young man. You'll always feel like family."



Maritza Javian Yepremian (left) and Jeannie Breig Hamilton Hawkins, class of 1961, sent us a photo of their "reunion dinner" last fall.



Photos by John Hadfield and Brigette Valenzano Fuscia

2014 Winter Brunch & Auction

THANK YOU EVERYONE for a wonderful event, held again at the beautiful Knowlton Mansion! Because of your generosity, we raised nearly \$10,000 for the Annual Fund again this year! SPECIAL THANKS to our auction item donors, to auctioneer extraordinaire Tom Judd, to Teacher Victoria, to the volunteers, to members of the class of 2004 for their wonderful presentations, and to our generous sponsors!

LIVE AUCTION SPONSOR:



SILENT AUTION SPONSORS:

The O'Neill-Dietel Family



SUPPORTING SPONSORS:

BHG Consulting Inc. **Engineers**



The Fineman Family

Many thanks to our very generous auction item donors for their support of Frankford Friends School! Please take the opportunity to thank these businesses and individuals:

Ruben Amaro. Jr. '77 Tom Judd

Steve Baris Bob Logue.

Federal Donuts/Bodhi Coffee Alice Childs

Mary & Frank Maimone, Fritz Dietel

Rustica Darling's Diner

Ellen McAllister Shannon Dougherty & Liz

Modo Mio Petersen North Bowl Marie Elcin

Erin Owen The FFS 5th grade class

Christina Fuoco & Chad Society Carnahan,

WAG Philadelphia

Tatiana Garcia Granados & Mary and John Schmelzer

Haile Johnston.

Delaware Valley Farm Share

Brad Guigar

Rob Harris,

Copabanana/Redwood

Kiki Gaffnev Judd

Marta Sanchez

The Pennsylvania Horticultural

Silk City Diner

STARR Restaurants

Jesse White '89

Kelley Hughes Wohlfarth, The

Parlour Salon

FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL ARE MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE THROUGH THE SUSTAINERS CIRCLE!

At Frankford Friends School, as at most private schools, tuition alone does not cover the cost of educating students. Lacking an operating endowment, the school bridges the gap between tuition income and the real costs of providing a Frankford Friends education through the Annual Fund.

The Sustainers Circle enables more of those who care about the school to make a real difference in its financial sustainability by expressing their commitment to give monthly in any amount for at least one year. Begun just last September, there are already 16 Sustainers for the 2013-2014 school year! These donors are having a significant impact on the Annual Fund. The list of Sustainers is published online and in the Annual Report. Please see the attached donation envelope for more information, or visit www.FrankfordFriendsSchool.org and click on Giving/Sustainers Circle.

HELP MEET THE CHALLENGE MATCH! FFS PARENTS WHO HAVE NEVER GIVEN TO THE ANNUAL FUND, YOUR GIFTS WILL BE DOUBLED (UP TO A TOTAL OF \$1,600).

This challenge was generously provided by members of the Annual Fund Committee.



Upcoming Events Spring 2014

May 15, 12:30pm Spring Concert
May 16, 9:30am Spring Concert
May 17, 10am–3pm Spring Fair!

11am-noon GrandFriend/Grandchild

photos

2pm alumni "history wall"

brainstorming meeting

3pm alumni group outing

June 6, 8:30–9:30am Volunteer Appreciation

Breakfast

All volunteers are invited!

June 12 Last Day for PreK-5th Grades

June 13, 10am Graduation

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