

For next week of 10/25/13

*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

Luke 12:34

At the end of September, Nancy Werner and I were fortunate to attend a conference on philanthropy. What was most affirming is that philanthropy, when done right, is not about the bottom line, but about establishing and building relationships. One of the main speakers spoke of philanthropy as a journey.

The great thing about the month of November, the month of Thanksgiving, is that we pause to say thank you for all that we have. I am feeling especially grateful this year because I have the opportunity to serve at this school and all of you.

### **Civic Responsibility**

One of the goals of Quaker education is to have our students graduate with a sense of mission, a belief that that are and can be agents of change for a better world. At the heart of such a mission is the idea of civic responsibility. We are heirs to a great democracy, but our republic cannot thrive if people view politics as a spectator sport. We lift up this theme in our school by talking about the testimonies, especially peace and equality. We also emphasize service.

At home, there are two things you can do that help instill the sense of civic duty. Next Tuesday is Election Day. I urge you to take your child with you to the polls so that he or she can witness you voting. Second, please be a model for your child by reading the newspaper every day. Doing so gives you something to share with your child, helps them learn history in its first rough draft, improves their vocabulary, reading and listening skills, helps them at synthesizing information, and models for them a key responsibility of citizenship.