

September 12, 2014

Dear Lansdowne Friends School Families,

This has been a great first full week of school. Everything is running smoothly. Students are busy in every conceivable activity. I, myself, have coached two cross-country practices with 24 runners signed up, and the team is hard-working and fast.

Quakerism 101

The faculty at its first regular meeting on Wednesday had a discussion led by Emma Lapsansky, a member of Lansdowne Meeting, the member of our school committee, and a professor at Haverford College. The discussion was on Quaker decision-making. It was a fascinating look at how Quaker theology works in conducting business, and explained why our business meetings operate in a way quite different from Roberts Rules of Order.

Most of you have an understanding of how, in a similar way, our Quaker beliefs influence how we operate our school. If however, you wish to have a deeper understanding, please know that the school and the Lansdowne Meeting will be offering a Quakerism 101 program for parents and other community members for three consecutive Sundays. There classes will be held from 9-10 am, on October 19 and 26 and November 2. Childcare will be provided and there will be a light breakfast also available. I will lead the first session on the 19th on Quaker origins and beliefs. The next two will be on Quaker service and decision-making. We set it at the time to allow families who so wish to also attend Meeting for Worship at 10, and then have Sunday afternoon available for family time. I hope many of you can make it. Please let us know so we can have enough food, but if you need to show up at the last minute, that is also fine.

Service

An important part of our program is service. For any person, engaging in community services encourages one to be part of their larger community, helps one acquire skills and knowledge and gives a person psychological benefits such as life satisfaction, better self-image and reduced stress. Service is also important because it teaches all of us what are the needs in our community and in society

One on-going part of our service program at LFS is cooking for the homeless. On the first Friday of each month, a different class cooks for the homeless, as Teacher Linda explained in Gathering today. Other classes have additional service projects. This year, we are adding three days of service: October 2, January 16 and March 12. On the first day, Thursday, the 1st through 6th grades will do various projects from 1-3. The 5th and 6th grades will be working with the Darby Creek Valley Association taking care of local street trees. The 3rd and 4th grades will be cooking for the homeless. The 1st and 2nd grades will plant bulbs on campus and pick up trash on campus and around town. If you are able, we would welcome volunteers that day to help with this important projects.

Members of the School Community Association may be contacting you to see if you can help.

Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

John McKinstry
Head of School