



Lansdowne Friends School Newsletter is a publication of Lansdowne Friends School.

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2018-2019 SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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ALUMNI PARENTS

Please send or email current contact information for yourself/ your son or daughter to nwerner@lansdownefriendsschool.org

YOUNG ALUMS

ENGAGE with us in the Alumni section of our website!

JOIN US ON THE WEB AND STAY CONNECTED!

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Queries on Community



What does it mean to be part of a community?

What communities are you a part of?

How can we work to take care of our school community?

How does our community take care of you?

How can we take care of our friends in our Worship Sharing community?

One of the most famous things George Fox, the founder of the Religious Society of Friends said was that we should “walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone.”

Among the distinguishing features of Lansdowne Friends School, along with its strong academics, its integrated, theme-, inquiry- and research-based curriculum, its grounding in Quakerism and its diversity, is its emphasis on community. As with everything else at LFS, this emphasis on community is not accidental: it is by design and rests on several foundations. The first foundation is the beliefs and practices of the Religious Society of Friends with its focus on the communal search for truth as a community and a culture of respect and care. The emphasis on community further rests on the principles of the Responsive Classroom. The Responsive Classroom has best practices to build classroom community and its principles include “Teaching social and emotional skills is as important as teaching academic content” and “How we work together as adults to create a safe, joyful, and inclusive school environment is as important as our individual contribution or competence.” Through the building of a classroom community, learning is enhanced. The third foundation for our emphasis on community comes from the medical and brain science which confirms the first two foundations. That research shows positive youth development and resilience are key

More than 90 people attended Homecoming on Saturday, October 19. Current families joined alumni, from as far back as 1950 to our newest 7th graders, alumni families and current and former staff for some fall activities. We started the day with a cross country race and later enjoyed cider-making, pumpkin painting, button making, and tours of the school. Hannah MacLeod, LFS music teacher, led the group for some singing in the Meetinghouse for World Sing day. We look forward to building on this event in the future. The following alumni are included in this photo: Deborah Reeder '50, Ginnie Duthie Allen '58, David Bennett '61, Cindy and Mark Turner '63, Judy Asselin '65, Shannon Suber '00, Maya Taylor '14, Cameron Mack '14, Jose Acevedo '16, Simon Muther '17, Christian Whitfield '17, Noah Boyd '17, Toby Muther '18, Trey Cooke '18, William Edmonds '18, Finn Hilliard '18, Kianna Gardner '18, Sage Szumski '18, Oliver Truman '19, Zander Hodgson '19, Ryan Mack '19, Jordan Coates Ahzai '19, Kaydance Shenberger '19, Nia Curry '19.

Lansdowne Monthly Meeting member, Norman Janes, talked with sixth grade students about lobbying prior to their trip to Washington D.C. They focused on how to best present their appeal.



Grandparents and other special visitors learn about our classes and join us in singing at Grand Friends Day.



During our fall service day, first and second grade students cleaned up around the campus and composted yard waste. Third and fourth grade students picked up trash in Reservoir Park and in Marlyn Park, both in Lansdowne. Fifth and sixth grade students hiked to Pennock Woods and bagged trash there.

Mary Lou Jennings (below) is no stranger to LFS. Students annually take part in Lansdowne's celebration of Arbor Day which is organized by Mary Lou. This past May, Mary Lou visited the 5th/6th grade classroom and taught us about the historic trees on our campus.



In Washington, students met with Congresswoman, Mary Gay Scanlon, and lobbied for gun control.



Our School Community Association May Fair included food, games, music, and the MayPole.



to the education and social-emotional well-being of all people and that a childhood and youth that are enveloped in a supportive community results in healthy, thriving, successful adults. A community can help build tenacity and the seven Cs of resilience: confidence, competencies, connection, character, contribution, coping and control.

It is for all of these reasons that we lift up the importance of community.

There are many kinds of community that we embrace at Lansdowne Friends School. The first and most immediate is the classroom community. We build that community by establishing a classroom culture of trust and inclusion through a classroom set of rules, morning meetings, routines, and regular discussion about and modeling of listening, empathizing, caring and problem-solving.

We also work to establish a school-wide community. We build that community several ways. We gather together every Wednesday for meeting for worship where we learn to listen inwardly and outwardly and every Friday for gathering, where we learn to be a good audience and learn from the class presenting what it has learned. We sing together after meeting and gathering. Once a month, we gather during worship time in mixed-age worship sharing groups of approximately ten children from different grades and two adults. One stays in these

worship sharing groups throughout one's time at LFS, and this builds a closeness and familiarity that approximates a sense of family. Our schoolwide understanding about problem-solving and listening also build a sense of community. Our multi-age classrooms, where first and second graders, third and fourth graders, and fifth and sixth graders have classes together help build leadership and empathy. Our carefully planned set of events foster community. For example, Grand Friends Day is a joyous occasion where grandparents and others of that generation share their experiences, learn about classes and join us in meeting and in singing. Just before winter break, the entire school prepares for and gathers for a pasta lunch. Every grade, every student and every adult has a job to do, from cutting vegetables, setting the tables, cleaning the dishes, baking bread, making pasta, leading the singing etc, and we eat in our worship-sharing groups and conclude with a sing along. The day after the pasta lunch, we invite parents and other members of the community to a community sing that includes songs emphasizing light and peace.

Homecoming extends a special invitation to our alumni to have a cross-country run, tour the school, and get reacquainted with past friends and faculty.

We are so fortunate to have our School Community Association (the equivalent of a PTA in other schools.) Although the SCA raises money

for the school, its primary focus is building community among our families through events and projects. In the early fall, they sponsor a hayride at Linvilla Orchards and an ice skating event in early winter. The pasta dinner in the winter, where the kitchen and auditorium are decorated like an Italian restaurant, and families cook loads of pasta, served by our 5th and 6th graders, is a cherished event. It is very deliberately priced to make sure families can enjoy a night out. The big SCA event is our May Fair and has been a tradition for decades. It includes food, games, the MayPole, and music. So important is this to our community that we have alumni from many years back joining us.

We also seek to have strong ties with the larger Lansdowne community. We do this in several ways. We have many service projects to help keep the Lansdowne Food Cupboard well stocked. We join with the Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra in December in the meetinghouse to have a Messiah Sing-in to which everyone in Delaware County is invited. We have several service days on our calendar where we pick up trash around town and in borough parks. Every Arbor Day we join with friends from the Borough to tend to borough parks and plant a tree.

We also seek to connect to the national and world community as well. One of the most important is the sixth grade trip to Washington DC. There, in addition to seeing the sights of our nation's capital, we work

with the Quaker lobby, the Friends Committee on National Legislation to talk with our representatives in Congress about important issues of concern to Quakers. Last year, for example, the sixth grade spoke with Delaware County's representative in the house, Mary Gay Scanlon, about gun violence. This year, the 6th grade plans to meet with Pennsylvania Senator Robert Casey to talk about climate change. The second grade, integrating math into a service project, raise money for UNICEF around Hallowe'en.

All of these events, practices and activities together help make Lansdowne Friends School to be an experience that our students and graduates carry with them for the rest of their lives, helping them to be lifelong learners who will "walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone."

In this newsletter, we are recognizing and are particularly grateful for all the members of our community, including parents, alumni, alumni parents, current and former teachers, school committee members, grandparents, organizations, other Friends and other members of our wider community, for the tangible and intangible ways they support our school and make all of the foregoing possible.

John McKinstry, *Head of School*

Interview with Philip Graitcer, Class of 1956, and 50s Decade Challenger

by Judy Nicholson Asselin, '65, LFS School Committee Clerk



I had the pleasure of speaking recently with LFS alum Philip Graitcer, who last year created a challenge grant to encourage LFS alumni from the decade of the 50s to support the school. His matching contribution, combined with his letters and phone calls to every alum from that decade for whom the school had current contact information, resulted in 21 contributions totaling \$9,350 to the school. I hope you are as inspired as I was to hear about Philip's experience at LFS and why he supports the school today.

1. How many years did you attend LFS and when did you graduate?

I came as a kindergartener and graduated from 6th grade in 1956.

2. Who are some of the teachers you remember most at LFS?

I remember every one of them! Teacher Gladys Chilton taught first grade and was also Principal (HOS), Teacher Mary, Teacher Catherine, (who moved from second to fourth grades, so we had her twice),

Teacher Pearl, Teacher Marjorie, and Teacher Florence.

3. Who are some classmates you can remember?

Charles Bucky Baxter, Arthur Frost, Eddie Kaufholz, Todd Lieber, Nancy Lee Basehore, and Michael Baldassarre. I remember carpooling to school from my home on Plumstead Avenue with the Ryder family: Jonathan, Jeremy, and Eric. My sister, Elsa, was three years behind me.

Many of my classmates went on to Friends Central after graduating, but I wanted to go to Lansdowne Aldan, the local public high school. My good friend Nancy Basehore did the same, so I had company. We are still in touch, and she now lives in Hanover, NH.

4. Can you recall special moments at the school that stick with you still?

I can remember the quiet discipline of Teacher Gladys in first grade who would settle us down to practice our cursive handwriting carefully for long stretches of time. I have no idea how she managed it!

I remember Thursday morning Meeting for Worship very well. I was not a birthright Quaker, so Meeting was new to me. I recall that there was a group of old men (maybe "elders" of Lansdowne Meeting?) who would sit up on the facing benches. We'd sit, in our rows, quiet as church mice. Maybe we would work up enough courage to say something. I must have stood up and spoken at least once, but those stern-looking men up front sure were scary. In spite of being intimidat-

ed, there was something very calming about the Meeting, and that has stuck with me for 65 years.

5. Are there any moments you would like to forget?

Unhappy moments? I really can't think of any. I suppose there was one time, and I don't even remember the circumstances, when Teacher Gladys had me write something over and over again. That was somewhat uncomfortable. But all of my other memories are positive.

6. What are the lasting values and lessons you took away from your LFS experience?

Lansdowne Friends School made a powerful impression on me - how to get along with

others, how to tell right from wrong. Our teachers taught us that the worst thing you could do was fight, and that belief has stayed with me to this day. It was a radical idea -- that we could grow up in an environment where fighting was never the way to resolve conflict. I wonder if schools and communities could raise kids like that today?

7. Where did life take you after LFS and high school?

After high school, I went to Duke University, and then to Temple University Dental School. By the time I got my dental degree, the Vietnam War was underway, and I did not want to register for the draft. Instead, I decided to spend a year in Africa with my wife Leslie, volunteering to provide health services, dentistry, and nursing care under the oversight of various medical missions. We traveled from Sierra Leone to Cameroon by bus and hitchhiking. When we returned to the States, Leslie and I both got Master's degrees in public health at Harvard University School of Public Health. I registered for the draft at the Media draft board and became a Commissioned Officer in the United States Public Health Service, the country's uniformed medical corps. That led to a career in public health at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, where I worked for over 20 years.

Now I live on St. Simons Island in Georgia, one of the state's 14 barrier islands. I'm trying to help my community prepare and be resilient in the face of sea level rise. It is a challenge, since some of the officials I work with liken climate change to Y2K and are convinced that it will not be the crisis that scientists are warning us about.

8. Why do you support the school now?

Here's what really strikes me: when I think back on junior high, high school, college, dental school, and postdoctoral studies, those twenty years are a blur, and I can remember the names of only a few of my teachers.

That's in sharp contrast to my years at LFS. I remember all of my teachers -- their names and their faces. I could tell you horror stories about my times at my other schools, but I carry only positive memories about Lansdowne Friends School.

Leslie and I have always believed in the importance of charitable giving, even when we were younger and poorer. At the universities and graduate schools that I attended, where a \$50, \$100 or even a \$5,000 contribution doesn't make much of a dent in the endowment, at LFS my contribution is important, and I like to give where I can make a difference.

Thank you, Philip and Leslie, for making a tremendous difference for LFS!



LFS CLASS OF 2019

Congratulations to the LFS Class of 2019, listed left to right with their current schools: Alexander Hodgson, George Washington Carver High School of Engineering and Science; Ryan Mack, Friends' Central School; Jordan Coates, Friends' Central School; Monica Taylor, Friends' Central School; Kayden Shenberger, Media Providence Friends School; Oliver Obeid, Friends' Central School.



The 3rd and 4th graders, who study Water this year, became pen pals with 7th graders in the Watershed program at Radnor Middle School. In November, they got the chance to visit their pen pals, who had prepared experiments that explore different properties of water. The Watershed class also taught the LFS students some of their favorite team-building games. It was a fun-filled day for all!

2018-2019 Giving at Lansdowne Friends School

We thank the members of the Lansdowne Friends School community listed below — parents, alumni, alumni parents, School Committee members, Meeting members, grandparents, current and former faculty and staff, and other friends, for their generous support. Special thanks to our I Heart LFS phonathon volunteers: Courtney Riggat, Maura Leeper, Latesha Colbert Mack, and Courtney Jograj.

Annual Giving 2018-2019

AmazonSmile Foundation (2)
Robert S. Anderson '50
Anonymous (3)
Judy and Denis Nicholson
Asselin '65
The Banashek Family
Christine S. Beck '54
Tara Bledsoe and Kyle Bittinger
Cassie Boland '98
In Honor of Tr. Susie
Marty Von Rosenstiel and Elliot Borgman
Skyler Borgman '00
Nolan Borgman '02
Lynn Ellen Wolf and Eric Braxton

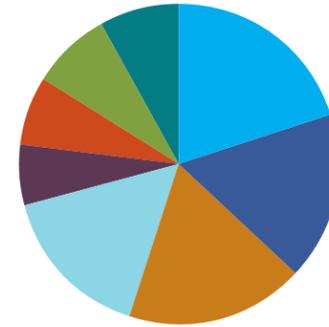
Anastasia Shown and Symeon Braxton

Beverly Braxton
In Honor of Desmond and Samson Braxton
Debra and Tom Breslin
Elizabeth and Michael Breslin
Joan Broadfield
Joe Bullen '53
Barrett Caldwell '74
Dawn Mercurio and Chris Callison-Burch
Children's Scholarship Fund of Pennsylvania
Children's Scholarship Fund of Philadelphia
James M. Cope
Lisa Cozzens

Elaine Simon and David Crawford

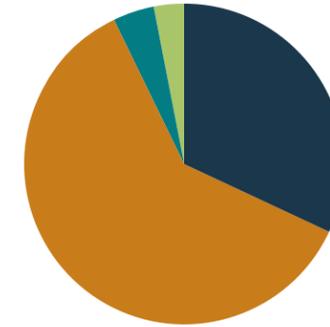
Victoria Wilder Crews
In Honor of Dahra Mshinda
Mary Susan and Charles Crickman
In Honor of John McKinstry
Michelle Crouch
Ellen Dabagian
Lisa and Steve Dainton
Fatima Aitimma and Ali Dar
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Rachael and Harold DeGroat
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Claire and Robert Gilmore
Robert Schnoll and Merry Gladstone
Virginia Mustin Gourlie '61
Philip Graitcer '56
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Beth Kirchhofer Hague '57
Susan and John Hansen-Flaschen
In Honor of Miles Billheimer

Helen Fox and Dave Hardin
Ken and Gerry Hart
Alice Hasbrouck
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Finn Hilliard '18
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Molly and Gary Kaplan
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Virginia Kerr
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Regina Kulick
Beth Labush
Emma Lapsansky-Werner
Sherisse Laud Hammond
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Maura and Brad Leeper
Mina Leeper '18
Dawn and Martin Leeper
In Honor of Naomi Leeper
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Nancy A. LePard '54
Todd M. Lieber '56
Nancy B. Loomis '56
George and Latesha Colbert Mack
Cameron Mack '14
Margery DeArmond Maconachy '56
Jeanne Chang and Joel Mainland
Joan March
In Honor of All My Friends at LFS
Francis S. Markland, Jr. '47
Carol Martsolf



2018-2019 CONTRIBUTORS

- Current Parents
- Alumni Parents
- Organizations/Businesses
- Trustees (100%)
- Grandparents and other Friends
- Alumni
- Lansdowne Monthly Meeting
- Staff (current and former)



2018-2019 GIVING

- Restricted for Scholarship
- Annual Giving
- Fundraising
- Other Restricted Gifts

Abigail and Jessica Martucci
Kathleen and Jerry McAloon
Kendra McCrae
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Denise and Robert McIvor
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In Memory of Julia L. Minick
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Marlene G. Patterson
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Heather Perot
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In Memory of Susan Isard
Diana Khinoy Reed '56
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William Riggat

Courtney and Adam Riggat
Nancy Sleator and Dana Robinson
Lucy Robinson '93
Annette and Joseph Rugnetta
Roberta Russell
Nancy Sarr
School Community Association
School House Pictures
Lee and Richard Schultz
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Gerald and Linda Sena
Fran and Paul Sheldon
Carol Keyes Shillingford '52
Rebecca Smyrl '89
Eloise and Peter Smyrl
Christina and Jason Sorvari
Mary and Paul Staub
Tina and Eric Stein
In Honor of John McKinstry
Chet Pancake and Miriam Stewart
John and Joan Swope '46
T. Wistar Brown Teachers' Fund
Karen Teel
Shan-On Thompson and Nyshawana Francis Thompson
Beverly Uram
Sarah and Joshua Van Dyke
Patricia Vasquez
Emily Vener-Giszter
Norma L. Vogel
Lucille and Leroy Walker
Robert Ward '53
Hanne Weedon
Nancy Werner
Lesley Curtis and Cord Whitaker
Mingh Whitfield
Macheka Williams
Natasha and Akie Williams
Toni Isard Yagoda

Jacqueline Yates
In Honor of the LFS Library
Susan Yemin
Sarah Wood and Daniel Yemin
Alyce Grunt and Jamie Zigarelli
Gifts for Scholarship
Childrens Scholarship Fund of Pennsylvania
Children's Scholarship Fund of Philadelphia
Emlen Institution Fund
Friends Council on Education
Friends Fiduciary
F. D. Hennessy, Jr.
Lansdowne Monthly Meeting
McKenzie Promising Futures Fund
National Friends Education Fund
Playtors Cove Foundation
Quaker Seeds Fund
Cleveland D. Rea, Jr. In Memory of Susan Isard
White Richardson Fund
Wyatt Wistar Brown Fund
The Mustin Fund for Scholarship
Virginia Mustin Gourlie
Other Restricted Giving
Friends Fiduciary
T. Wistar Brown Fund
Tax Credit Giving for Individuals
Lansdowne Friends School is a member of the Friends Education Equity Collaborative, a Special Purpose Entity LLC formed to secure tax credits offered through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC)

programs. The purpose of the Friends Collaborative is to foster the growth of Quaker education by providing funding that makes a Quaker education accessible for more families. The EITC and OSTC programs were previously only open to corporate donors, but with the formation of organizations like the Friends Collaborative, qualified individuals now have the opportunity to receive tax credits while supporting schools like LFS. To learn more about how you can support Quaker education at LFS, please call the school or visit our website.
EITC and OSTC
We are grateful for the donors who support LFS through Pennsylvania's tax credit programs. The Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs provide up to a 90% tax credit to businesses or individuals who make charitable contributions to an approved scholarship organization, like Lansdowne Friends School. EITC and OSTC PA Partners for Education, LLC Waste Management OSTC UGI Storage Company Bridge Foundation EITC - Individual giving through Special Purpose Entities Eric and Tina Stein Marty Von Rosenstiel



Catherine Gilbert Murdock spent a morning at school sharing her wonderful Newberry medal winning book, *The Book of Boy*, with 5th and 6th grade students! Thank you, Catherine.

NAME _____

LFS CLASS OF _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

NEWS _____

Stay in touch! Please let us know what you are doing. Email your news to inquire@lansdownefriendschool.org or mail in your news to Lansdowne Friends School, 110 N. Lansdowne Avenue, Lansdowne, PA 19050.



Sandy Howze, former LFS teacher and co-founder of Stratford Friends School, organized a small gathering at Kendal to celebrate the birthday of Joan Feldman. Joan served as administrative assistant at Lansdowne Friends for 32 years. Pictured here with Joan (seated) are L-R Nancy Werner, Norma Vogel, former Head of School, and Sandy Howze.