

**February 21, 2014**

**John Alston**

We were so fortunate to have Dr. John Alston, director of the Chester Children's Chorus share his music with us this morning. It was a rare treat to hear him sing and to have him teach us his songs. We sang "Hey Louis!" about Louis Armstrong, "Go 'Head With Your Bad Self!" about Abraham Lincoln, Rosa Parks and Frederick Douglas, and "Harriet Tubman." As Dr. Alston noted, our students are remarkable singers. He has a remarkable vision for the City of Chester. He founded the Chester Children's Chorus twenty years ago to "encourage children to nurture their spirits through artistic expression and to develop the self-discipline that promotes achievement in music, school, and life." Dr. Alston established The Chester Fund for Education and the Arts in 2005, and in 2008 established The Chester Charter School for the Arts. I encourage you to attend one of the Chorus's concerts. They are a moving experience. The next ones are on March 1 in Springfield, and on March 7 in Wayne. If interested, please see their website: [www.chesterchildrenschorus.org](http://www.chesterchildrenschorus.org).

**Quakerism 101**

Starting this Sunday, we will have the first of three one and one-half hour sessions of Quakerism 101, a brief course offered by members of Lansdowne Meeting to help members of our school and meeting community gain a better understanding of Quakerism. This Sunday, at 11:30 in the Lansdowne Meeting house, Max Muenke and I will lead a discussion on the origins of Quakerism, Quaker belief and worship, and meditation. On Wednesday, March 5, 7:00-8:30 pm, Emma Lapsansky will lead a discussion on Quaker business practice and decisionmaking. On Wednesday, March 12, at 7:00-8:30 pm, Paul Sheldon will lead a discussion on social action. We hope this will help you understand the origins of Quakerism, and the culture and belief system that define and enrich our school.

**Conferences:**

We will have our parent conferences coming up on March 6 and 7. This is a great opportunity to learn more about your child's progress in school. As with our report cards, the conferences provide rich detail, and illustrate the quality and care in our program and our teachers. Please try to keep to the schedule set by the teachers so that every set of parents can have a full and enjoyable conversation.

Have a great and warm weekend.