

# Media-Providence Friends School

## *Dragon Tales*

Fall 2007

*Narratives of the Magic of MPFS*

## MPFS' Science Program... Under the Microscope

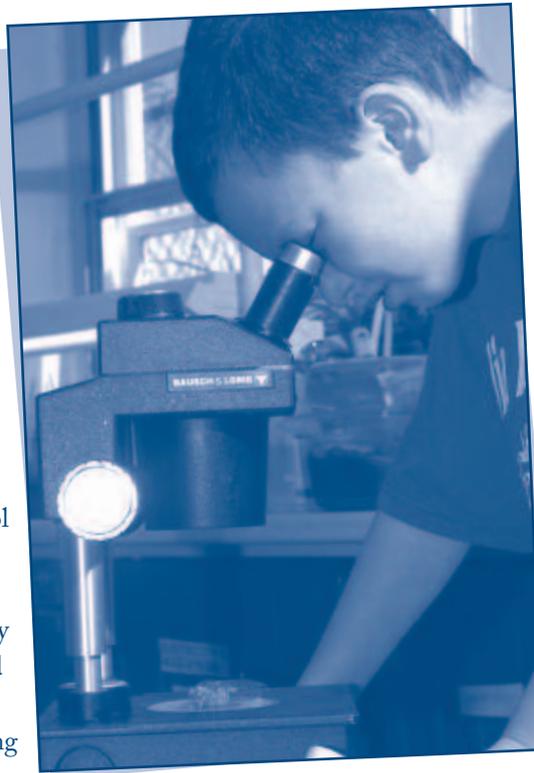
Some of a certain age might recall Thomas Dolby's quirky '80's hit "She Blinded Me With Science" (you know who you are!)... the title refers to a British colloquialism which means "to deliberately confuse someone by giving the impression of highly complex knowledge." MPFS rather prefers "Enlightenment" to "Blinding". Beginning with the PreK-3's and continuing through 8th grade, students explore the ecological, physical, biological, and chemical sciences, developing both intellect and core values such as community responsibility and environmental stewardship.

Although the explicit aim of coursework is to foster critical thinkers who understand and appreciate the natural world, if you ask an MPFS student about Science class, you are likely to hear the word "fun" crop up pretty early on in the conversation. As lower and middle school Science teacher Daryl Ballough says, "Science lends itself to fun... hands-on activities kindle children's natural curiosity and help to explain complex concepts and processes. It's the seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting and touching -- the doing -- that fires those synapses!"

In many schools, the focus on standardized test performance has pushed Science to the wayside. Not so at MPFS. Here, Science is viewed as essential, providing experiential learning that is crucial for expanding children's

capacity to reason – a tool for life, not just for a once-a-year test.

Analytic skills are honed through the encouragement of students' native inquisitiveness and the affording of opportunities to delve deeply and connect concepts. T. Daryl cites the example of a first grader

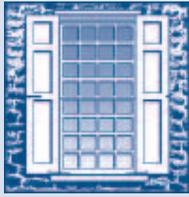


who brought in a large tooth found during excavation in his backyard as the class, all gap-toothed and grinning themselves, was studying teeth. "The class observed the tooth – its size and shape: was it flat or sharp? From this, they could deduce the

size and diet of its owner, hypothesize about the likely candidates, research them, and ultimately determine that the tooth had originally belonged to a horse. Because the children were vested in this exercise, engaged in 'solving the mystery', their interest led them to utilize the scientific method."

Often, making connections involves integrating Science curricula with other subjects as well. An example is the study of human anatomy. Students first take a "global" look, examining illustrations and watching videos before breaking the body down into systems: digestive, respiratory, circulatory, skeletal, nervous and so forth. Next, they consider the various organs that comprise these systems, making their own models to relate each to its function. The models are then used to explore dysfunction (e.g. showing smoking's impact upon lung function, or alcohol abuse on brain function). At this point, the Science class might interact with Health classes taught by T. Laura where children might research particular diseases, nutrition, healthy life styles, and the effects of poverty on health. Studies might conclude in Language Arts class with students using values drawn from Quaker teachings to write to tobacco companies, government officials, or non-profits dealing with nutrition.

These connections with "real life issues" give rise to the kind of curiosity that makes life-long learners.



**MEDIA-PROVIDENCE  
FRIENDS SCHOOL**

125 West Third Street  
Media, PA 19063  
Phone: 610-565-1960  
www.mpfs.org

**HEAD OF SCHOOL:**  
Lynn Oberfield  
loberfield@fox.mpfs.org

**ADMISSIONS:**  
Francy Strathmann  
fstrathmann@fox.mpfs.org

**BUSINESS:**  
Fred Keffer  
fkeffer@fox.mpfs.org

**COMMUNICATIONS:**  
Janice Peterson  
jpeterson@fox.mpfs.org

**DEVELOPMENT:**  
Phyllis Mincer  
pmincer@fox.mpfs.org

Barb Newman  
bnewman@fox.mpfs.org

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES, 2007-08**

Donna Allen  
Jared Darlington  
Nancy Fitts Donaldson '37  
Jessica Eldredge  
Susan Elliott  
Glenn Featherman  
George S. Forsythe '41  
Donn Guthrie  
Brian R. Harris  
Susannah Henderson '88  
John R. James '47  
Eugene Jarrell  
Kenneth Park  
Kia Newman  
Harry Shreckengast, Clerk  
Doris Tirado  
Arthur Weisfeld  
Althea Whyte

This Newsletter is a publication of MPFS.  
If you have moved recently or are planning to  
move, be sure to give us your new address  
so that you can continue to receive  
uninterrupted mailings.

Media-Providence Friends School is a  
PreK – 8 Quaker day school which provides  
a rich educational experience where  
academic challenge is combined with the  
teaching of values.

♻️ Printed on recycled paper.

# Critical Thinking as a Quaker Process

Critical thinking might simply be defined as bringing every asset to bear on a problem in making a decision. When people use all aspects of themselves – intellectual, emotional, spiritual, physical – in thinking about a problem, the focus is powerful. Thinking critically means comparing, contrasting, projecting outcomes, checking reality and research. Whether second grader or seventh grader, the WAY of thinking is crucial to outcome. To find answers or to solve problems of almost any kind, children should have tools that enable them to think both from the center out and from the outside in. Here, we intentionally teach such tools in all grades.

When we ask children to start from the center, we want them to first assess what their truths, values and deeply held feelings might be. To do this, our students must be quiet sometimes; they must hear queries from adults that encourage them to consider issues by seeking inside of themselves first; they must begin to read their own inner compasses and see these truths as part of themselves; and they must begin an exploration of their own spirituality, knowing that it will grow

and even change over time. This, Quakers call discernment.

To think from the outside in, children must be first open to the ideas of others, feel respected, and be trusting of those around them. Gathering lots of ideas requires that teachers be open to a variety of answers themselves and willing to ask open-ended questions; it requires diversity in backgrounds and attitudes in the community; it requires research skills, methods for analysis and a variety of materials; and it requires that we not judge children's progress by standardized tests alone. Quakers call this testing your leadings (sort of like testing your hypothesis in a trusting community). When children can do this, they take more risks in their learning and they learn more.

Then, they are empowered to ACT on ideas. Will students write a persuasive essay or an article, or perform service, or test the math algorithm, or present support for a thesis, or create art or music or poetry? In a school where these avenues for expression are celebrated and where children can be agents for ideas, there is strong support for critical thinking.



# Annual Giving Report • July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007



Media Friends School 1902-1903

*D*ear Friends of MPFS,

Throughout the school year, I sign each thank you letter as it acknowledges every gift made to this little school. I am always overwhelmed though, when I see in aggregate the list of the names, prepared for this Annual Report, of those who gave. People have been thoughtful in considering what to give, have listened to how we spend money, and have reached to support the work generously.

Dragon Tales provides a glimpse into this work that we do, but I wish that all of you could have more than a glimpse. If you were to visit to our campus for a day, or a week, or a month, you would not find students sitting in rows, passively receiving information. Every day, they are engaged in the process of learning, participating in the

process of discovery, reflecting on what they hear, see and feel, making connections between lessons and life. And what they're learning all the while, is that learning itself is a lifetime pursuit.



So, thank you again for your support. It sustains us and enables us to continue infusing values into a very rich academic program, and create a learning community that stands out in Delaware County. You have helped this little Quaker gem to remain strong and vibrant.

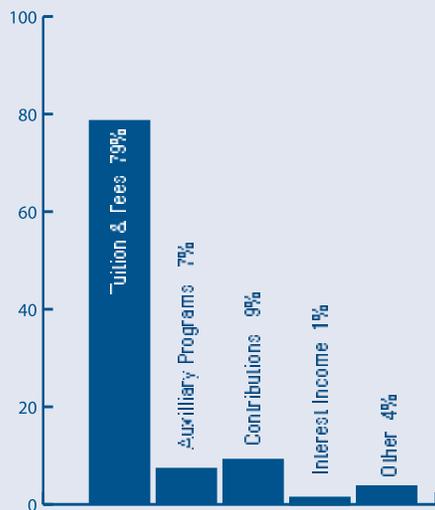
Sincerely,

Lynn W. Oberfield  
Head of School

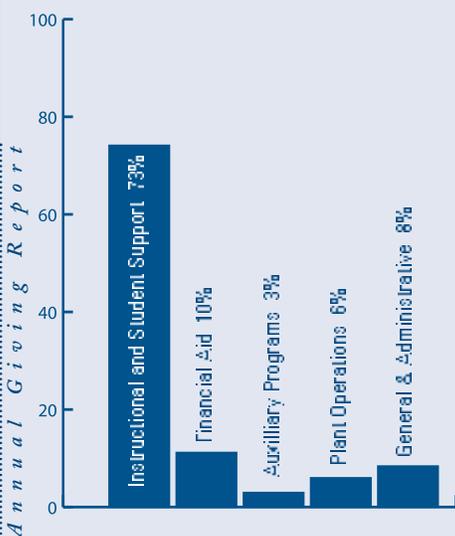
## Your Annual Fund Gift in 2006-07 Provided:

- \$10 Genius Deck-Number Puzzles for 2nd grade
- \$25 1 year's supply of finger paints for PreK-3
- \$50 Weekly Reader subscriptions for each 3rd grader
- \$100 Wordly Wise 3000 vocabulary workbooks for 4th grade
- \$250 Conflict resolution materials for Middle School
- \$500 SynchronEyes software for Technology Lab SMARTboard
- \$1000 Day of assemblies with a visiting educator
- \$2500 New computer and peripherals

### Income



### Expenses



# MPFS Welcomes New Trustees

Long before Jaelynne (1st grade) was born, **Kia Newman** knew that her daughter would attend MPFS. Kia used to



attend school plays and concerts when her cousin Farrah was a student here. As Kia watched her younger relative blossom into a confident, self-possessed woman, she knew that it was due in part to the supportive and inclusive community found at MPFS. It was this environment she was determined to provide for her own daughter.

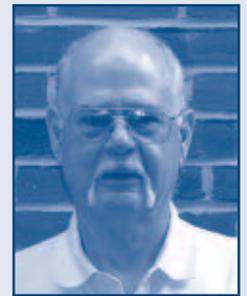
Education was, and is, a high priority in Kia's family. The overwhelming majority of her relatives are teachers, and her mother has taught in the Chester School District for 40 years. Following her family's lead, Kia graduated from East Stroudsburg University in 1994 with a B.S. in Community Health Education, and a minor in counseling.

Kia supervises a staff of 59 as Unit Director of a 34-bed residence for profoundly developmentally disabled adults at Elwyn. Says Kia, "My clients are my extended family. I see it as my responsibility to see that they are cared for as if they were my own." We are so fortunate to have such a compassionate person as part of our school family and Board!

**Jared Darlington** lives with his wife Nancy in the historic 1700's farmhouse his dairy-farming Quaker ancestors built on the parcel of land granted them by William

Penn himself. In recent decades, Jared and his wife oversaw the preservation of much of this original tract along the Chester Creek as open space through the National Historic Lands Trust. Today, residents of Middletown Township and surrounds can enjoy the scenic beauty of the mixed woods and meadows that comprise the property via the Darlington and Cornucopia Trails.

Jared trod these very paths in younger days when he worked on the family farm after graduating from



Penn State with a degree in Agriculture. After a time, he took employment with Wyeth and then ultimately with Scott Paper where he was employed for 24 years. Now retired, Jared stays quite busy taking care of his house and property. He is also an avid baseball enthusiast and lover of books.

As an alum of Friends Central, Jared is the product of Quaker schooling and thus his service on the MPFS Board brings him full circle to his roots. No stranger to old buildings – his farmstead as well as Middletown Preparative Meeting, the one-room, wood-stove heated meeting-house where he serves as Clerk – he did not shy away from adding MPFS' historic grounds to his concerns. We are delighted that he's joining us.

## Profiles In Philanthropy

Susan Garrison's involvement with MPFS began just over two decades ago, when her son Jonathan Mayer entered kindergarten. She joined the School's Board of Trustees while Jonathan was a student, continued to serve even after he graduated, and even now, serves in an Advisory capacity. This involvement led her to Media Monthly Meeting where attending Meeting for Worship "felt like coming home".



With her infectious laugh and winning smile, Susan is a woman who gives new meaning to the term "multi-tasking." A busy attorney with her own law firm, she is also a founder and executive director of The Center Foundation. Located in Media, The Center Foundation aids women in transition. Be they disenfranchised women in the initial stages of gaining independence, or teenage mothers struggling with the difficulties of learning how to be a parent, they are mentored by volunteers through The Center Foundation, which lends support and helps build community.

Susan comes by her compassion and desire to help others naturally. She and her siblings had marvelous role models in their parents, who raised them to give back to society. Susan grew up with the motto, "of those who have much – much is expected."

When asked why philanthropy is important to her, she states philosophically that in addition to feeling very fortunate to have the life she has, she also believes that when you give to others, you are also giving to yourself. Susan and her husband, Michael Campbell, a former MPFS Board member and also the parent of an alum, subscribe to the notion that when you have financial resources available to you, you have a choice: you can simply consume your resources, or you can use your resources to invest in ways that can benefit many. Countless children have benefited from the generous donations of the Garrison family. MPFS students need look no further than the initiation of strong technology at MPFS through the Garrison-Restall Computer Lab named partly for Susan's father. Our present state-of-the-art Technology Center has grown directly from that original lab. For this, and for Susan's constant care, we are most grateful.

## Sustaining MPFS' Future

A school's endowment provides perpetual income, ensuring that its mission and facilities are not wholly dependent upon annual operating income. Presently, the size of MPFS' endowment does not match our rich history, and accordingly, the Board of Trustees has set a goal to strengthen the endowment in the recently approved Strategic Plan, so that MPFS continues to serve as a light in the world.

At present, the following areas of need are supported through MPFS' General Endowment Fund:

**Faculty Salaries and Professional Development:** To attract and retain top notch teachers, we must provide competitive salaries and benefits. We want to work toward being leaders in paying teachers well, aiming for wages commensurate with the contributions they make in the lives of our children.

**Financial Aid:** As an inclusive school community, we want to ensure that qualified children can attend, regardless of their financial circumstances. To that end, we currently distribute 10% of tuition revenue toward need-based scholarships each year.

**Technology:** Technology is continually advancing. It is crucial that we stay abreast of changes to equip students to thrive in the technology-driven environment of the future.

**Facilities and Property:** We must be good stewards of the venerable buildings we share with Media Monthly Meeting and to care for our newer facilities as well.

If you are interested in learning more about helping to sustain the future of Media-Providence Friends School, please contact Phyllis Mincer, Director of Development, at 610.565.1960 x106 or [pmincer@fox.mpfs.org](mailto:pmincer@fox.mpfs.org).

# We thank the following donors for their contributions – unrestricted, restricted and gifts-in-kind – received between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007.

While every effort was made to include all donors, please contact us if we have omitted your name so that we can make corrections in the next issue.

## ALUMNI/AE

Anonymous  
 Anne Johns Barney  
 David S. Binns  
 Rachel Lindley D'Alonzo  
 Tracy Davis  
 Wendy Coopersmith Dignazio  
 Carol Twombly Dixon  
 Nancy Fitts Donaldson  
 Lucretia Wood Evans  
 Garrett Forsythe  
 George S. Forsythe  
 James T. Forsythe  
 Barbara Darlington Garrett  
 John Hannum  
 Cyril H. Harvey II  
 Bill Haviland  
 Susannah Henderson  
 Caroline James Herrin  
 Donald Hoffman  
 Chris Hoover  
 Mark Hoover  
 Jennifer Hunt Horton  
 David D. Houghton  
 Bruce Everett Hunt  
 Martin Hunt  
 Timothy Hunt  
 Eleanor Houghton Hurd  
 John R. James  
 Joplin James  
 Marjorie Hoffman Kerr  
 Joan Baker Krehnbrink  
 Steven Linvill  
 Gwyneth Elkinton Loud  
 Ruth Harvey Mavronikolas  
*In Memory Of Mary Jane Harvey*  
 Ellen Fitts Millick  
 James V. "Tim" Nicholson  
 Jillian Oberfield  
 Zachary Oberfield  
 William F. Porter  
 Emily Richardson  
 Sally Woodward Ross  
 Toby Snedecor  
 Roger A. Sternfeld  
 Ruth Whitson Stokes  
 G. Theodore Wood  
 Clifford Woodbury\*

## CORPORATIONS/ FOUNDATIONS

Anonymous

Bequests Granting Group  
 Boeing Gift Matching Program  
 Brooks Provisions, Inc.  
 Chace Granting Group  
 Elizabeth Taylor Fund Distribution Committee  
 Emlen Institution  
 ExxonMobil Foundation



GlaxoSmithKline Foundation  
 Kellogg's Corporate Citizenship Fund  
 Merrill Lynch & Co. Foundation  
 Philip Rosenau Co., Inc.  
 Roffman Miller Associates, Inc.  
 Teleflex Foundation  
 The MCS Group Inc.  
 Verizon Foundation  
 Warner, Norcross & Judd  
*In Memory Of Hermon Wells*  
 West End Frame Shop  
 Whole Foods Market of Devon  
 Wyatt Wistar Brown Fund  
 Wyeth  
 United Way of Delaware

## FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL

Thomas S. and Patricia P. Amblor  
 Elizabeth Anthony  
 Janet Baker  
 Allen Bonnell  
 Paul and Lyndie Brink  
 Barry and Lynda Brotemarkle  
 Katherine Camp\*  
 Peter and Mimi Chamberlain  
 Jane and Walter Cosinuke  
 Hans and Carla Dietze  
 Geraldine Donovan  
*In Memory Of Mary Ravdin*  
 Merril and John Dutton  
 Marian Elkinton  
 Thom and Sara Eusebi  
 Lucretia Wood Evans and William Elkinton Evans  
 Paul and Jackie Farnschlader  
*In Memory Of Mac Magee*  
 Garrett and Susan Forsythe  
 George and Carole Forsythe  
*In Memory Of Aloysius O'Donnell*

Susan Garrison and Michael J.J. Campbell  
 Joan Havens  
 Bancroft and Dorothy Haviland  
 David and Rosemary Hewitt  
 Donald and Carol Hoffman  
 Patricia D. Hunt  
 Eleanor Houghton Hurd and Alfred Hurd  
 Samuel and Jane James  
 Sam and Denise Jones  
 Barbara Kelly  
 Ruth Kennedy  
 Marjorie Hoffman Kerr and Robert Kerr\*  
 Bruno and Nancy Kersten  
 Eleanor Koch  
*In Memory Of Aloysius O'Donnell*  
 Ernest Lauser  
*In Memory Of Murry Engle Lauser*  
 Eliza Lewis  
 Robert P. and Joy C. Marshall  
 Mrs. George McFarland  
 Barbara Mina  
 Mary Murphy  
 Paul Ness  
 James V. "Tim" Nicholson  
 Zachary Oberfield and Felicia Lin  
 J. Kenneth and Donna Park  
 Anthony F. Pileggi  
 Frederick and Patricia Porter  
*In Memory of Rae Turberg*  
 Vatsala and K. Ramprasad  
 William D. Ravdin  
*In Memory Of Mary Ravdin*  
 Dorothy Reichardt  
 Mary Ann Restall  
 Michael and Genevieve Ritzman  
 Ellen and Steve Rubesin  
 John Scardina  
 William Scull and Becky Martin-Scull  
 Jean Shenberger  
 Mary Anna Trimble  
*In Memory Of George Trimble*  
 Anne and Richard Umbrecht  
 Victoria Viglione  
 Bob Vitalo and Jacqueline Montras  
 Althea and Douglas Whyte  
 Debra Will and Dave Thomas  
*In Honor Of Lynn Oberfield*  
 William and Ann Windsor  
 Suzanne and Darrell Wolfe  
 Clifford Woodbury\*

## GRANDPARENTS

Dr. J. Sydney and Eva Barrett  
*In Honor Of Isabel Barrett and Dr. Doris Tirado*  
 John Michael Berrong and Sally Rich  
*In Honor Of Kyle Vincent and Jonab Berrong*

Marilyn Briggs  
 Alfred and Antoinette Carducci  
 Jean W. Dole\*  
*In Memory Of Murry Engle Lauser*  
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Eldredge  
*In Honor Of Daisy and Pierce Eldridge*  
 Dan and Carol Featherman  
*In Honor Of The Glen Featherman Family*  
 Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Fichandler  
 Jack Fowler  
 Libby Gerlach  
 Eloise and Ernest Giddiens  
 Leslie Glick  
*In Honor Of Elena and Margot Sissell*  
 Dr. Paul Glickman  
*In Honor Of Molly and Rebecca Marcus*  
 Susan Greco  
 Richard and Diane Groff  
 Don and Carol Guthrie  
 Celeste Hand  
 Bancroft and Dorothy Haviland  
 Marilyn and Michael Hendricks  
 Morgan Himmelstein  
*In Honor Of MPFS Faculty*  
 Joan Jaffe  
 Ed and Marge Jenkins  
 Herb and Laverne Kirkwood  
 Barbara Laska  
 Reverends Stewart and Jane MacColl  
 Daniel and Janice Mahoney  
 Vince and Marion Maola  
 David Marcus and Sally Burns  
*In Honor Of Molly Marcus*



Joyce McKay  
 John and Jeanne Musewicz  
 Liz Nepi  
 Angeline L. Nivala  
 Josephine Parham  
*In Memory Of Woodrow Parham*  
 Lyn and Pat Reilly  
 Rev. William and Sherleene Sissell  
 Miriam Stamm  
*In Memory Of Zaida Martin Stamm*

James and Mary Warren  
Bertha Waters

*In Memory Of Maya Bonner*

Albert and Kansadie Weems

**PARENTS**

Mark and Penny Aldrich  
Jason and Tammi Berrong  
Michael A. and  
Deborah K. Biondillo  
S. Geoffrey Botak  
David and Michele Bozentka  
Jennifer Bradley and  
William Gerlach



Keith Brown and  
Patricia Flores-Brown  
Kurt and Carol Brunner  
Robert and Andrea Calabro  
Jack and Lisa Collazzo  
Beth and Alan Collins  
Richard and Paula Cullinan  
Robert and Margaret DeMento  
Carol and Michael Dixon  
Michael Dreyer and Colette Mull  
Jessica and Gifford Eldredge  
Susan Elliott  
Wendell Evans and Allison Kerry  
Glenn and Carol Featherman  
Douglas S. Fischer and  
Maureen E. Reilly  
Randy and Stephanie Gaboriault  
David Gathright  
Sidney W. and Patricia R.  
Gilford  
Donn and Holly Guthrie  
Brian R. and Nancy E.G. Harris  
Linda and David Hart  
Bill and Terry Haviland  
R. Matthew Hendricks and  
Sandra Sage  
Rima and Andrew Himelstein  
Eugene and Tracey Jarrell  
Dawn Kleinman and  
Lori Phillips  
Catherine L. and  
Frederick W. Kohler, Jr.  
William and Suzanne Levy  
Andrea and Steven Linvill  
Michael and Judith Marcus  
Malcolm McHarg and  
Cheryl Harner  
Edward L. and Amy J. Miller

Stephen and Elizabeth Moss  
Therese Musewicz  
Scott and Barbara Newman  
James and Janet MacColl  
Nicholson  
Kandance Weems Norris and  
Ronald Norris  
Anthony and Lisa Palmieri  
Andrew P. and Patricia Panzo  
Janice and Philip Peterson  
Mark Prodoehl  
Mark and Jennifer Rankin  
Susan D. and Michael R. Rhile  
Wendy Mahoney and J. Eric  
Russell  
Blaise Santianni and  
Ramona Romero  
Kenneth Scott  
Susan and Harry Shreckengast  
Earl Sissell and Sonia Stamm  
Robert and Susan Smythe  
Julia Steele  
Doris Tirado and Marna Barrett  
Charles and Diane Zack

**PARENTS OF ALUMNI/AE**

Wilbur and Judith Amand  
Anonymous  
Joseph and Patricia Becker  
Katharine and C.R. Beppler  
Sam and Barbara Rose Caldwell  
David and Margaret Camp  
Selena and Ira Carle  
Ginny Christensen  
Bill Coneghen and Kate  
Thompson  
Dennis and Regis Cronin  
Ismail and Mariam Dairywala  
Nancy DeMis and Bruce Turetsky  
Hans and Carla Dietze  
John and Lois Dyduck  
John and Deborah Ehleiter  
Marian Elkinton  
Lillian Emory  
Pamela Haines and Charles  
Esser  
June Evans

*In Memory Of Wayne Evans*

Tim and Judy Fitzgerald  
William and Ellen Forsyth  
Darwin H. and Judith Frerking

*In Honor Of Lara Frerking*

Gerry and Alison Frey  
Susan Garrison and  
Michael J.J. Campbell  
Scott Gilbert and Anne Raunio  
Daniel and Patricia Hardy  
Sandy Howze  
Connie Hughes  
Samuel and Jane James  
Geoffrey and Deborah Kitson  
Jairo Lora and  
Margaret Wheatley

Charles Lowitz and  
Christina Coia

*In Honor Of T. Margaret*

Robert and Phyllis Manley  
Frank Matarazzo and  
Anita Milici  
George and Betsy McFarland  
Phyllis and Manley Mincer  
Donald and Theresa Much  
Emily Myers and James Lebedda  
Janet Roeser Nordberg  
Joy and Richard Oakey  
Lynn and William Oberfield  
Stan Pelli and Tina Duhaime  
Janice and Philip Peterson  
Vatsala and K. Ramprasad  
Dorothy Reichardt  
Jorge Rogachevsky  
Ellen and Steve Rubesin  
Lynne and Richard Scheibe  
Douglas and Sandra Schwartz  
John and Jane Shaw  
Angeles Sierra  
Scott and Karen Sandlin  
Silverman  
Linda and Robert Small  
David Springer and  
Pamela Rootenberg  
Francy and Fred Strathmann  
Marsha and Jonathan Swezey  
Laura and Ken Taylor  
Anne and Richard Umbrecht  
Sandra and Bruce Vermeychuk  
Arthur Weisfeld and  
Virginia Brabender  
Paul and Rhoda Weisz  
Dr. Craig and Pat Whitaker  
Thomas and Laura Woodward  
Drs. Pratap and Rekha Yagnik



**MONTHLY MEETINGS AND  
QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS**

Chester Monthly Meeting  
Of Friends  
Friends Council On Education  
Media Monthly Meeting  
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting  
of Friends  
Providence Monthly Meeting  
Swarthmore Monthly Meeting  
Willistown Friends Meeting  
Trust

**TRUSTEES**

Donna Noonan Allen  
Michael J. J. Campbell  
Nancy Fitts Donaldson  
Jessica Eldredge  
Susan Elliott  
Glenn Featherman  
George S. Forsythe  
Donn Guthrie  
Brian R. Harris  
Susannah Henderson  
R. Matthew Hendricks  
John R. James  
Eugene Jarrell  
Judith Marcus  
J. Kenneth Park



Harry Shreckengast  
Doris Tirado  
Arthur Weisfeld  
Althea Whyte

**FACULTY/STAFF**

Daryl Ballough  
Bonnie Bellino  
Ann Bridges  
David and Margaret Camp  
Merril Dutton  
Judy Fitzgerald  
C. Frederick Keffer  
Andrea Linvill  
Becky Martin-Scull

*In Memory Of Carroll and  
Lodema Martin*

Phyllis Mincer  
Emily Myers  
Lynn Oberfield  
Betty Peditto  
Janice Peterson  
Emily Richardson  
Carol Sabersky  
Douglas Schwartz  
Calperta Scott  
Angeles Sierra  
Earl Sissell  
Roger A. Sternfeld  
Francy Strathmann  
Laura Taylor

# Alumni News

We are proud to welcome the newest members of the MPFS Alumni Association: the Graduating Class of 2007! Pictured (standing l-r) Molly Schonfeld, Sarah Cullinan, Marcus Bonner, Austin Schoenkopf, Zachary Summers, Calynd Johnson, Andrew Hendricks (kneeling l-r) Sarah Nivala, Rachel Fishman, Mallory Spencer, Samantha Shelton, Asha Deane, Julia Shreckengast and Stephanie Baidokas.



## *Excerpts from our graduates' speeches sum up their MPFS experiences:*

"[MPFS] has helped me to develop a sense of responsibility and the feeling of being part of a community. I will always remember this loving place." *Sarah Cullinan*

"I have the most amazing friends here. [Our] small class size enabled me to know my peers deeply and appreciate their uniqueness. In my new school, I will miss their smiling faces." *Zachary Summers*

"Thanks to all my teachers for teaching me more than just what's in a textbook or on a computer screen. The lessons I learned at MPFS will be the basis of who I am as I grow older." *Julia Shreckengast*

"I leave [MPFS] knowing that this is my world and I can make a difference." *Austin Schoenkopf*

Members of the Class of 2007 have begun high school careers at Agnes Irwin, Friends Select, Springside School, Wilmington Friends School, Akiba Hebrew Academy, Crefeld School, Strath Haven, Valley Forge Academy, Penncrest and Collège du Léman in Switzerland.

---

## Alumni Focus: Stefan Roots



In April 2006, the first edition of The Chester Spotlight rolled off the presses. Inspired by the lack of positive press the city of Chester continually receives, former Media Friends School student, Stefan Roots, a personable man with an easy manner, wanted to publish a newspaper that would highlight the residents, businesses, and youth of Chester.

Currently published monthly, The Chester Spotlight is run solely by Stefan. His many hats include publisher, editor, reporter, photographer, and sales rep. Amazingly, this venture is an avocation, not a vocation. Stefan also works for Sunoco as a Process Operator.

Stefan's hard work and dedication can be traced, in part, back to his early days as a student at Media Friends School. Arriving at MFS in 1967 as a 2nd grader, Stefan entered a world of learning and values that were absent from his public school in Chester. One of only a dozen or so children of color at the school in those days, Stefan was introduced to a world where every individual was respected and treated equally, regardless of race, religion, or nationality. Stefan recounts the May Day celebrations as among one of his favorite experiences at MFS, remembering the inclusion of all cultures in the festivities.

Of course, May Day was only one of a handful of memories that came flooding back as Stefan chatted about his time at MFS and the important part those years played in his life. He fondly shares stories of walking to Glen Providence Park and watching ducks in the pond -- a new and wondrous experience for him. Stefan mentioned Meeting for Worship as another experience he cherished from his time here. An unfamiliar concept to him prior to being a student at MFS, he found that sitting in silence brought a peaceful centeredness to his school day.

His interest in publishing took some interesting turns along the way. In 1982, Stefan graduated from Villanova with a degree in Electrical Engineering. His professional career has led him down numerous paths and through many cities. An opportunity to work for a well-known local newspaper proved to be a pivotal moment for Stefan. Hired as a Classified Display Manager, he was disappointed that the paper appeared to avoid Chester businesses for advertising solicitation, and did not address the positive stories that can be found in Chester's population. Stefan decided to be the voice of the positive side of Chester. After 15 issues, The Chester Spotlight, with former MFS alum Stefan Roots at the helm, appears to be making people take notice.

# The Great Outdoors – Greater Than You Knew...

Whether instructing students in history, Spanish, math, science, art, or English, at MPFS, teachers can often be found outside the four walls of their classrooms, using the outdoors to enrich lessons and to engage different learning styles. “Field work” like this provides students with opportunities to use the inquiry-based methodologies that underpin research skills needed in all disciplines: observation, data collection, analysis, presentation and defense of their findings. Frequently requiring cooperation and collective problem solving, such shared activities with peers outside the traditional classroom also serve to enhance students’ interpersonal skills and build confidence. And let’s not forget the simple benefits that fresh air and exercise afford!

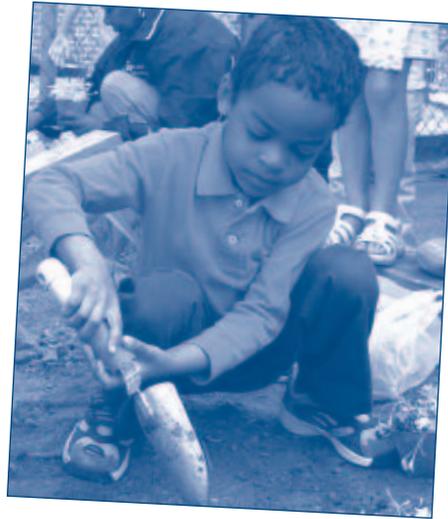
Science, the focus of this issue of *Dragon Tales*, presents ample ground for Outdoor Education applications. Outside, much of the data needed to answer questions is acquired through direct examination. With eyes, ears, nose, and hands,

learners encounter the world and connect to the abstract concepts presented in class. Just what have they observed, and what connections can they make?

T. Daryl asks these questions all the time. First, second and third graders routinely trek with her to nearby

Glen Providence Park to meet the plant and animal inhabitants of the pond there. Equipped with nets, field microscopes and thermometers, they discover for themselves the interrelationships that exist within a typical suburban ecosystem and observe the factors that affect species which call the pond home. Tadpoles, mud, skitterers, flies, grasses, and decaying wood draw students to see a whole system.

Having accumulated knowledge about this particular ecosystem, our upper elementary students go further a-field, overnight, to encounter larger wetlands and watersheds in the region, which, through the water cycle, are in fact connected



with Glen Providence’s little pond. Fourth graders visit Silver Lake Nature Preserve in Bucks County to participate in an unusual evening program about the adaptations of nocturnal bog inhabitants (who knew frogs breathed through their skin?!) and then to get down to work the next morning surveying the diversity of life in Silver Lake. Fifth graders spend three days at Echo Hill Outdoor Environmental School on the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. There they immerse themselves – literally and figuratively

– in beach, bay, swamp, meadow and forest ecosystems, and take part in a variety of community-building exercises as well.

Outdoor experiences like these offer opportunities to explore and shape positive attitudes towards the environment and promote behaviors such as recycling, producing less waste and conserving water. They help develop an appreciation of our relationship to the physical world and society. In helping students begin to gain awareness of their own capacities to make things better, Outdoor Education connects to the core values of MPFS’ philosophy.



# Meet Teacher Daryl - Lower & Middle School Science Teacher



Teacher Daryl Ballough is a woman on a mission – she’s doing everything she can to ensure that kids retain their sense of curiosity. By keeping them engaged in Science, she’s correcting a problem she encountered when she was an adjunct professor at La Salle University where, among other classes, she taught Science to Education majors. In the course of surveying these future teachers, she found that the majority had negative Math and Science experiences as middle and high school students that virtually halted their interest in the subjects. “I decided to go to the root of the problem, by becoming an elementary and middle school Science teacher myself, so that kids would have positive experiences. The world needs more enthusiastic, curious, scientific thinkers!”

Such a thinker herself, Daryl was one of just two women in her class to graduate with a BS in Physics from Millersville University. This is also where she met her husband, Gerry, a professor and neuroscientist. She subsequently received her MS in Bioengineering and Physiology from Penn State University, and worked in applied research labs designing ultrasound transducers for both industrial and medical uses. After starting a family (her sons Dorian and Denny are now teenagers), living in France, and the teaching stint in academia that changed the course of her career, happily, she crossed our path. Now entering her eighth year here, she remarks, “One of my favorite things about MPFS is the mutual respect among my colleagues. It is wonderful that we are all collaborating to empower kids to make a difference.”

Even during summer vacation, Science lessons are never more than a mosquito bite away

(did you know that only the female mosquito bites?). Neighborhood children frequently find excuses to visit “Camp Daryl”-- aka Daryl’s front porch -- to ponder what makes lightening bugs fluoresce, why brain freezes happen, and yes, why only the female mosquitoes bite?

All of us at MPFS count ourselves fortunate that the neighbor kids share Daryl with us for the rest of the year!

## IMPORTANT DATES

Back to School Night – September 27

Pizza and Pumpkin Night – October 12

Grandparents and Special Friends Day –

November 21

*DragonTales*



Media-Providence  
Friends School  
125 W. Third Street  
Media, PA 19063

