



*This special issue includes our Annual Report of Giving*

# Media-Providence Friends School

## *Dragon Tales*

Fall 2010

*Narratives of the Magic of MPFS*

## Why Diversity Matters

Despite universal acknowledgement that children learn in very different ways, the prevailing teaching and learning model in most U.S. schools is “one size fits all”. Students study the same content using the same curriculum and materials on the same schedule and are then assessed with the same tests. Uniformity is the name of the game. There’s no room for individuality.

Ever “counter culture”, MPFS is a learning community which celebrates the reality that children perceive, gain and interact with knowledge in different ways and honors their individuality. Each day, a range of kinesthetic (physical), linguistic, logical, visual/spatial, interpersonal, intrapersonal, musical and naturalistic cognitive styles and strengths are tapped within classrooms by way of instruction that is intentionally differentiated. MPFS teachers strive for variety in curriculum, classroom management and assessment, allowing students to exercise choice, and providing them time for reflection so that they discover more about themselves as learners.

Cognitive styles represent just one aspect of diversity... MPFS embraces diversity in all its many forms: economic, religious, cultural, ethnic, racial, gender and family composition. We agree with Jean Snell, clinical professor of teacher education at the University of Maryland, who notes, “There is a richness that comes from students working side by side with others who are not of the same cookie-cutter mold.”

It’s more than simply putting students who come from different backgrounds together in a classroom, though... decades of research have shown that mere contact with people who are different isn’t enough.

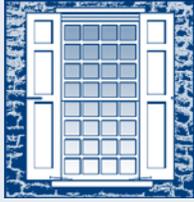


It takes teachers who are experts in creating a safe environment of mutual respect and tolerance — who purposefully build a classroom community that supports intimate, meaningful interactions between students — for those students to truly learn to appreciate people who have different points of view. MPFS teachers believe that every voice has something to impart, and that, in order for true learning to take place, EVERYONE needs to be “part of the conversation”.

That conversation can be quite complex in a milieu as diverse as the one MPFS has crafted. But it’s this very complexity that demands students’ concentration as they work to comprehend what’s unfamiliar. According to developmental psychologist Jean Piaget, this “disequilibrium” is “the optimal learning situation”. It challenges students to think and act in new ways, ultimately fostering cognitive growth.

So, what are the outcomes of an educational experience where students bring their own individual approach, talents, interests and perspectives to their learning; are taught by teachers who know them and who create opportunities/ structures that are responsive to their needs; and can truly engage diversity in an environment where everyone is valued? MPFS graduates are independent, active learners who have depth. They have an outward orientation, think in more pluralistic ways, and appreciate both group differences and commonalities. They understand that difference need not be divisive, preferring discourse over conflict. In short, they’re just the kind of citizens our increasingly multi-cultural world needs.

It’s interesting to consider that biologists measure an ecosystem’s health by the diversity it contains. That’s because the more diverse an ecosystem is, the more life it supports and the more resilient it is. Biologists would find Media-Providence Friends School in fine health indeed!



## **MEDIA-PROVIDENCE FRIENDS SCHOOL**

125 West Third Street  
Media, PA 19063  
610.565.1960  
www.mpfs.org

### **HEAD OF SCHOOL:**

Earl Sissell  
esissell@fox.mpfs.org

### **ADMISSIONS:**

Francy Strathmann  
fstrathmann@fox.mpfs.org

### **BUSINESS:**

Fred Keffer  
fkeffer@fox.mpfs.org

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

Janice Peterson  
jpeterson@fox.mpfs.org

### **DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT:**

Cynthia McGoff  
cmcgoff@fox.mpfs.org

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES, 2010-2011**

Donna Allen  
Michael J.J. Campbell  
Nancy Fitts Donaldson '37  
Jessica Eldredge  
George S. Forsythe '41  
Donn Guthrie  
Cheryl Harner  
Brian R. Harris  
Susannah Henderson '88  
John R. James '47  
Eugene Jarrell, Clerk  
Ann Murray  
Kia Newman  
Kenneth Park  
Lisa Slager  
Ken Scott  
Harry Shreckengast  
Parker Snowe  
Doris Tirado  
Arthur Weisfeld

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.

# Metacognition: A Fundamental Skill

In recent years, we've devoted considerable space within Dragon Tales to explaining how Friends education equips students with skills for success in the 21st Century. We spend time in dialog with students about these skills too, because we seek to develop their metacognitive abilities... their capacities to think about how they think. This awareness is what helps them to identify their strengths and weaknesses and to know when and how to use particular strategies for learning.

That's why, every week last year, T. Roger asked his Middle School Math students to write about how they personally employed the seven 21st Century skills in his classroom (yes, we expect students to write in Math class!). On their final exams, he posed the following question: "Among the seven skills for the 21st Century, in which area do you think you've grown the most in Math this year? Which one do you think you most need to become better at in the future. Explain."

Here's a sample of their responses:

"I think the area I've grown the most in is **Initiative & Entrepreneurialism**. I really started taking the initiative to work hard to understand things that didn't make sense and to study for tests. As you become older, you need to be more independent and start and finish things for yourself."

"**Curiosity & Imagination**. In the beginning of the year I wanted to find the answer and move on. Now I want to see why the answer is the way it is."

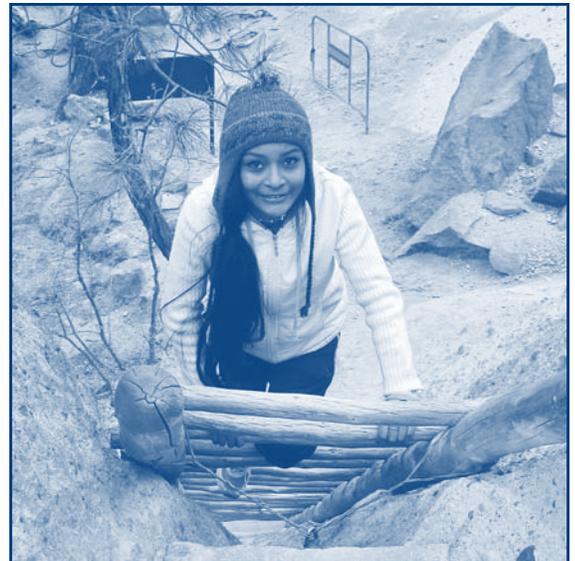
"The survival skill I would like to work on is **Critical Thinking & Problem Solving** because in real life... I will need to think outside the box."

"I think I've gotten better at **Accessing & Analyzing Information**. By putting more thought into things, I've been making more connections."

"I need to work on **Written & Oral Communication** because I have trouble explaining, which is essential when asking a question."

"**Collaboration Across Networks**. I used to not like working with other people, but I noticed this year that it helped to work with different people who had different ideas."

In responding to T. Roger's exam question, students were reflecting honestly on who they are as learners... a skill fundamental to learning itself.



# Annual Giving Report



MFS circa 1945



Dear Friends of MPFS,

In one of life's happy coincidences, as I was reading the summer issue of *Dragon Tales* which recounted a "Day in the Life" of this extraordinary school, I was handed the list of donors to be included in the Annual Report which follows... donors who sustained Media-Providence Friends School every day over the course of last year. Not for the first time, I wished that we could provide more than an 8-page glimpse into our existence to those who reach to support our mission. While donors can (and I hope do!) visit our website to browse photo albums and read about current school events, stay connected through our Facebook page and Twitter feed, and elect to receive our weekly e-News broadcasts, nothing compares to being on campus amidst the energy, enthusiasm and purposeful activity to see the great things that go on for children here.

On any given day, you might find 4th graders engaged in lively conversations (in Spanish) with peers in Mexico via Skype video conference; 8th graders preparing to teach conflict resolution skills to Media-Elementary 5th graders; Kindergarten stewards collecting classroom scrap paper



with 7th grade partners to deliver to a nearby recycling center; 3rd graders connecting Guidance, Math and Language Arts lessons as they present research reports to 2nd grade peers about food insecurity around the world; or preschoolers sorting and counting gently-used children's clothes for new immigrant families in Kennett Square.

Day in and day out, for 134 years, this little Quaker school has been nurturing the characters and intellects of young people, empowering them, in the words of Mahatma Gandhi, to "Be the change they wish to see".

So, again, I thank you whole-heartedly for investing in this vital learning community. I hope that you will come see the good work you help to accomplish here every day!

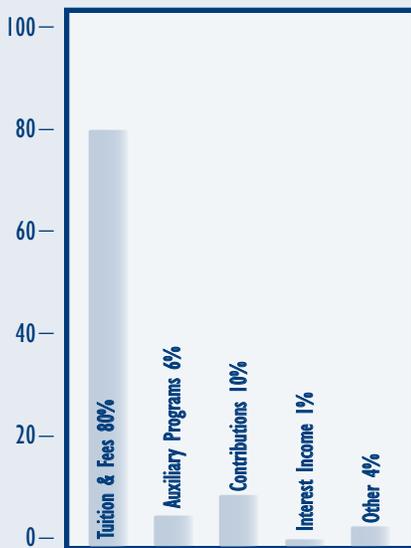
In Peace,

Earl Sissell  
Head of School

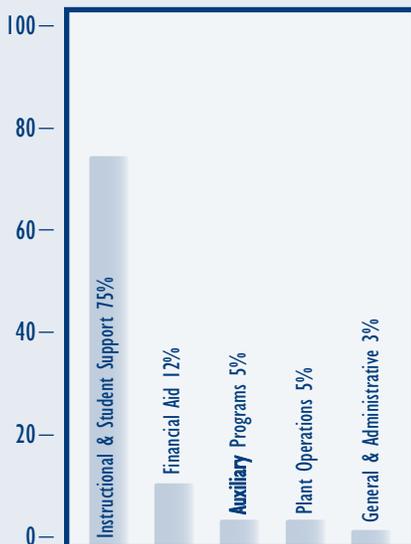
## What your 2009-2010 Annual Fund gift bought:

\$25	1 roll oversized Art paper
\$75	15 Weekly Reader subscriptions
\$125	10 sheep brain dissection kits
\$250	15 recorders and books
\$500	25 lower school student chairs
\$750	1 PreK playground table
\$1,250	1 Video-capable lab computer
\$2,500	1/2 of a SmartBoard

## Income



## Expenses



# Changes Board of Trustee Leadership

In its final meeting of the 2009-10 school year, MPFS' Board of Trustees recognized outgoing **Clerk Harry Shreckengast**, **Assistant Clerk Nancy Donaldson '37** and **Treasurer Arthur Weisfeld**, as well as **Trustee Committee Clerk Susan Elliott-Johnson**, who concluded her 12 year term of service. During their tenure, the Board updated the school's strategic plan, oversaw a smooth leadership transition, and initiated over \$1.7 million in capital investments, restoring MPFS' historic schoolhouse building, constructing the new 1st and 2nd Grade building, installing the new Art Studio, Technology Lab and Library, and renovating the Social Room and Stage. In his closing remarks, Harry acknowledged his fellow Trustees, saying "Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as Clerk of this Board and to be part of such an outstanding group of dedicated, caring, hard-working and talented people. I feel honored to be associated with you all." It is the school's great fortune that Harry, Nancy and Arthur will continue to serve as Trustees until the conclusion of their terms and that Susan remains part of MPFS' community as a parent.

The Board also confirmed the nominations of incoming **Clerk Gene Jarrell**, **Assistant Clerk Jessica Eldredge** and **Treasurer Lisa Slager**, all parents to current MPFS students. Lisa has played an instrumental role on the Finance Committee, helping to guide the selection of the school's new auditor, while Gene and Jessica have respectively Clerked the Board's Property and Advancement Committees, overseeing recent years' campus improvements and the campaigns to fund them. The new executive team brings a wealth of experience and perspective, an abundance of energy, and great commitment to MPFS to their new roles.

## Board Welcomes New Trustee

**Parker Snowe** is new to MPFS' Board this year, but is no stranger to Quakers or education. First introduced to the Religious Society of Friends at Haverford College, he immediately recognized a model of living that was compelling. In the early 80's, while pursuing his masters at George Washington University and coordinating government-sponsored foreign exchange programs, he formally became a Friend himself.



In the years since, he's spent his professional life working at Quaker or Quaker-affiliated institutions. He managed international programs for MBAs at Penn's Wharton School for 15 years. Recently, he returned to his alma mater where he took on a position which marries his professional and personal interests. As executive director of the College's Center for Peace & Global Citizenship, he works with faculty and undergraduates to support academic and field work in peace and social justice both in the U.S. and abroad.

A passionate advocate for sustainable living, Parker is a past Board President of the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia. Putting his "legs where his mouth is," he regularly bikes to and from work and has enjoyed bicycle touring vacations with his wife Leslie and grown daughter Megan in locations near and far, including the Delmarva Peninsula, the San Juan Islands and Czech Republic. He also was Board President of the local chapter of Hostelling International and has just recently stepped down as Clerk of Providence Meeting (source of the "Providence" in MPFS's name).

As an MPFS Trustee, he hopes to contribute to the deepening of the relationship between the school and Providence Meeting, seeing many opportunities to engage each other's communities. Parker also looks forward to helping the school to maximize its visibility and share its story with the world. We're excited to have him "on Board"!

# Profiles in Philanthropy

## In Memoriam

A dear member of MPFS' community, F(f)riend **Marian Dunham Elkinton** died on June 13, 2010 at the age of 98 after less than a month's illness. Beloved "Teacher Marian", a passionate advocate for early childhood education, taught Kindergarten in our "little building" from 1959 to 1971. She presciently believed that it was crucial for children to develop an interest in learning and a curiosity about the world from the very beginning of their schooling in order for them to be able to achieve their potential.

This belief informed her work as a teacher and guided her subsequent philanthropy. She and her husband David were integral supporters in the building of the middle school and gym in the 1980's, and lead donors in the campaign to expand and renovate our campus in 2000. Through the Mary B. Elkinton Cultural Enrichment Fund, the endowment fund David established in his mother's honor, they helped fund visiting educators, field trips and curriculum to broaden the scope of student's experiences. Marian was also a founding member of the 1876 Society, MPFS' planned giving community.

Knowing of Marian's great love for Media-Providence Friends, her family requested that memorial donations be made to the school.

The following individuals have made contributions to date:

Margaret & David Camp  
Nancy Fitts Donaldson  
Calista Dunham  
Jay & Elsa Efran  
Chris & Melissa Elkinton  
Joan C. Frank  
Joan Baker Krehnbrink  
Margaret Macneale & Gary W. Cohen  
Neil & Ellen Macneale  
Joan C. McIlvaine  
Dorothy Reichardt  
Charlotte Sibley & Leif Magnusson  
Edward & Janet Smith  
June C. Smith  
Lawrence Weisberg & Rebecca Johnson  
Althea & Doug Whyte



## All About Endowment

As an independent school, MPFS doesn't receive funding from local, state or federal taxes. Instead, we cover the cost of programs through tuition revenue and voluntary financial support from our community. This support comes mostly from annual and capital giving, but also includes small grants from corporations and foundations, as well as income from MPFS' modest endowment.

Endowment funds are comprised of gifts and bequests made by donors who have stipulated that their gift principal be preserved and invested to create a source of income for the school. The interest from these investments, be they named funds "which serve as a permanent tribute" or general endowment funds, can be used to finance MPFS' mission, supplementing the school's annual operating budget in the following areas of need:

- **General:** The ability to launch new programs, adopt new curriculum and take advantage of emerging opportunities enables MPFS to offer a truly distinctive education.  
– *Mary B. Elkinton Cultural Enrichment Fund*
- **Faculty Salaries and Professional Development:** Competitive salaries, benefits, and professional development enable the school to recruit exceptional teachers who are passionate about primary education and who inspire students.  
– *Mary Herndon Ravdin Fund*  
– *Faculty Fund*

- **Financial Aid:** We are committed to having an economically diverse student body because we know that it enriches the education of all our students, developing in them a deep respect for the differences of others.  
– *Murray Engle Lauser Fund*  
– *Euphemia M. Parker Fund*  
– *Tuition Aid Fund*
- **Technology and Library:** It is imperative that we stay abreast of technology to advance our academic goals and to prepare students to thrive in an environment of ever-evolving technology. Closely intertwined with technology are library resources, both traditional and electronic, which underpin a strong academic program.  
– *Bob Vitalo Fund*
- **Facilities and Property:** We must be good stewards of these grounds and buildings to maintain a beautiful, secure environment in which students can grow and learn.  
– *Buildings A, B and C Funds*  
– *Building Our Future Fund (middle school building)*

By establishing a named endowment fund or contributing to a pre-existing fund, donors ensure that MPFS continues to shine in a world which very much needs it. To learn more about gifts to endowment, bequests and/or planned gifts, please contact Phyllis Mincer, Director of Planned Giving at 484-431-4631 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, 2009 and June 30, 2010.

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  
 Rachel Lindley D'Alonzo  
 Tracy Davis  
 Carol and Michael Dixon  
 Nancy Fitts Donaldson  
 David P. Elkinton  
 Lucretia Wood Evans  
 Garrett Forsythe  
 George S. Forsythe  
*In honor of Andrew, Nancy,  
 Garrett, Sue, Jim & Susie Forsythe*

James T. Forsythe  
 Barbara Darlington Garrett  
 Joseph E. Hampel  
 Cyril H. Harvey II  
 Thomas Haviland  
 Susannah Henderson  
 Richard Hoffman  
*In honor of Nancy J. Hoffman*

Donald Hoffman  
 Chris Hoover  
 Mark Hoover  
 Timothy Hunt  
 Bruce Everett Hunt  
 Eleanor Houghton Hurd  
 John R. James  
 Joplin James  
 Susan Linvill Jochum  
 Lucy Haviland Lane  
 L. Eldon Lindley  
 Steven Linvill  
 Gwyneth Elkinton Loud  
 Ruth Harvey Mavronikolas  
*In memory of Ruth Thorp Harvey*

Derrik R.G. Morris  
 James V. "Tim" Nicholson  
 Jillian Oberfield  
*In honor of Lynn Oberfield*  
 Zachary Oberfield  
 David Platt  
 Emily Richardson  
 Aaron Rogachevsky  
 Erica Shippen  
 Ruth Whitson Stokes  
 G. Theodore Wood  
 Paul Scheibe  
 Roger A. Sternfeld

## CLASS OF 2010 (100% Participation)

Lianabel Aguilar  
 Isabel Barrett  
 Isabella Botak  
 Kate Bozentka  
 Scott Collins  
 Noah Gilford  
 Jordan Harris  
 Billy Haviland  
 Molly Marcus

Gaylen Martin  
 Blake Miller  
 Alex Mull-Dreyer  
 Caroline Shreckengast  
 Harry Smythe  
 Peter Subramanian



## CORPORATIONS/FOUNDATIONS

Acme Markets  
 Alliance Business Systems  
 B & E Sportswear, LP  
 Boeing Gift Matching Program  
 Brandywine Brokerage Company  
 Bryn Mawr Trust  
 Dental Arts on the Square  
 DNB Bank  
 Elizabeth Taylor Fund Distribution  
 Committee  
 ExxonMobil Foundation  
 General Mills  
 Grainger Matching Charitable Gifts  
 Hawkins Technologies, LLC  
 Kellogg's Corporate Citizenship Fund  
 Merrill Lynch & Co. Foundation Inc.  
 Pennsylvania Clinical Schools  
 Philip Rosenau Co., Inc.  
 Schwab Charitable Fund  
 SMART Tuition  
 Target Stores  
 Teleflex Foundation  
 The MCS Group Inc.  
 UHS of Fairmount, Inc.  
 Unbound Medicine, Inc.  
 Unique Maintenance  
 Universal Health Recovery Center  
 Vanguard Group  
 Verizon Foundation  
 William Penn Charter School

## FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL

Donna and Bob Noonan Allen  
 Thomas S. and Patricia P. Ambler  
 Anonymous  
 Melissa Bishop  
*In honor of T. Quinn Burke*  
 Allen Bonnell  
 Ann Bridges  
 Paul and Billie Brink  
 Mary Kay Burke  
 Sam and Barbara Rose Caldwell  
 David and Margaret Camp  
 Jane Cosinuke  
 Doreese Cuff  
 Hans Dietze  
 David Dimeglio

Merril and John Dutton  
 Marian Elkinton\*  
 Thom Eusebi  
 Lucretia Wood  
 and William Elkinton Evans  
 Jackie and Paul Farnschlader  
 Garrett and Susan Forsythe  
 George S. and Carol Forsythe  
*In memory of Alice DeCosmo*  
 James T. and Susan F. Forsythe  
 Parker Snowe and  
 Leslie Friedman  
 Barbara Darlington Garrett  
 Rosamond J. Hannum  
*In memory of John M. Hannum*  
 Cyril H. and Judith Harvey II  
 Joan Havens  
 Sylvia Haviland  
 Dorothy Haviland  
 Thomas and Margaret Haviland  
 Jennifer Heath  
*In honor of the Dainton boys*

Susannah Henderson  
 and Ryan Dunne  
 Robin Herman  
 David Hewitt  
 Peter and Peggy Hewitt  
 Donald and Carol Hoffman  
 Sandy Howze  
 Bruce Everett Hunt  
 Patricia D. Hunt  
 Margot Hunt  
 Eleanor and Alfred Hurd  
 Jane James  
 John R. James  
 Joplin and Alison James  
 Ruth Kennedy  
 Lucy and Michael Lane  
 Ernest Lauser  
*In memory of Murry Engle Lauser*

Sarah Willie-LeBreton  
 and Jonathan LeBreton  
 L. Eldon and Kathleen Lindley  
 Robert P. and Joy C. Marshall  
 Ruth and Christopher Mavronikolas  
 Mrs. George McFarland  
 Jacqueline Montras and Bob Vitalo  
 Mary Murphy  
 Ann Murray  
 Emily Myers  
 Paul Ness  
 James V. "Tim" Nicholson  
 Lynn and William Oberfield  
 Jillian Oberfield and Ben Fenwick



Zachary Oberfield and Felicia Lin  
 Andrea Packard and Jay Dahlke  
 Ken and Donna Park  
 Aidan Peterson  
 David and Helen Platt  
 Sonia and Luis Ramos  
 William D. Ravdin  
 Dorothy Reichardt  
 Mary Ann Restall  
*In memory of Paul Restall*  
 William M. Ross, Jr.  
*In memory of Sally Woodward Ross*  
 Ellen Rubesin  
 Carol Sabersky  
 John Scardina



John and Jane Shaw  
 Ruth Whitson Stokes  
 Victoria Viglione  
 Paul and Rhoda Weisz  
 Althea and Doug Whyte  
 Debra Will and Dave Thomas  
 Claire and Glen Wilson  
 William and Ann Windsor  
 Mary Lou Zanich  
 Jo-Ann Zoll

## GRADUATED PARENTS

Anonymous  
 Anne Johns Barney  
 Katharine Bepler  
 Letitia C. Biddle  
*In honor of Phyllis Mincer*  
 Andrea Boos and Kas Jaunzemis  
 Kurt and Carol Brunner  
 Sam and Barbara Rose Caldwell  
 Karen and Geoff Carbutt  
 Agatha Carducci-Kuhn and Paul Kuhn  
 Selena and Ira Carle  
 Peter and Mimi Chamberlain  
 Ginny Christensen  
 Bill Coneghen and Kate Thompson  
 Dennis and Regis Cronin  
 Robert and Margaret DeMento  
 Nancy DeMisi and Bruce Turetsky  
 Hans Dietze  
 Carol and Michael Dixon  
 John and Deborah Ehleiter  
 Lillian Emory  
 June Evans  
*In memory of Wayne Evans*  
 William and Ellen Forsyth  
 Gerry and Alison Frey  
 Susan Garrison and  
 Michael J.J. Campbell  
 Pamela Haines and Charles Esser  
 Daniel and Patricia Hardy  
 James L. Hardy, Jr.

R. Matthew Hendricks and Sandra Sage  
Sandy Howze  
Connie Hughes  
Margot Hunt  
Patricia D. Hunt  
Tony Jochum and Susan Linvill Jochum  
Jairo Lora and Margaret Wheatley  
Robert and Phyllis Manley  
Robert P. and Joy C. Marshall  
George and Betsy McFarland  
Phyllis and Manley Mincer  
Donald and Theresa Much  
Heesun and Robin Newlin  
Janet Roeser Nordberg  
Joy and Richard Oakey  
Lynn and William Oberfield  
Claire and John Olsen  
Stan Pelli and Tina Duhaime  
Larry and Pam Phelan  
Lori Phillips

*In honor of Lynn Oberfield*

Drs. Pratap and Rekha Yagnik  
Sonia and Luis Ramos  
Anne Raunio M.D. and Scott Gilbert  
Hugh and Eileen Richards  
Jorge Rogachevsky  
Ellen and Steve Rubesin  
Douglas and Sandra Schwartz  
Kenneth Scott  
John and Jane Shaw  
Angeles Sierra  
Scott and Karen Sandlin Silverman  
Linda and Robert Small  
Francy and Fred Strathmann  
Marsha and Jonathan Swezey  
Anne and Richard Umbrecht  
Sandra and Bruce Vermeychuk

*In honor of Peter Vermeychuk  
PSU '09*

Kandance Weems Norris  
and Ronald Norris  
Arthur Weisfeld and Virginia Brabender  
Paul and Rhoda Weisz  
Pat Whitaker

*In memory of H. Craig Whitaker, M.D.*

Charles and Diane Zack  
*In honor of Aaron Zack*

#### GRANDPARENTS

Anonymous  
Mary Boas  
Peter and Valerie Bradley  
Ivor and Shirley Collins  
Leonard Deane  
*In memory of Carole Ann Deane*  
Buzzy and Rich Diamond  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Eldredge  
*In honor of Peirce & Daisy Eldredge*  
Bruno and Lynn Fedele  
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Fichandler  
*In honor of Peirce & Daisy Eldredge*  
Guy and Joanne Garrison  
Eloise and Ernest Giddiens  
Leslie Glick

*In honor of Elena & Margot Sissell*

Dr. Paul Glickman  
*In honor of Molly & Rebecca Marcus*  
Bob and Leonor Gloistein  
Donald and Irene Greenhall  
*In honor of Emily & William  
Chressanthis*



Richard and Diane Groff  
Donald and Carol Guthrie  
Celeste Hand  
Dorothy Haviland  
Bob and Ann Hays

*In honor of Sean & Shannon McGoff*

Sandy and Sue Heath  
Nancy and Neil Hoffmann  
Ed and Marge Jenkins

*In honor of Chris Levy*

Janet Kelsey  
Herb and LaVerne Kirkwood  
Barbara Laska  
Jim and Shirley Love

*In honor of Drew Slager*

David and Sally Marcus  
*In honor of Molly Marcus*

Joyce McKay  
Stephen McLoughlin  
Jeanne Musewicz  
Joe O'Neill  
Josephine Parham

*In memory of Woodrow Parham*

Norman and Lois Schwartzman  
Michael and Doris Sherr

*In honor of Alex Pollard*

Rev. William Sissell  
*In honor of Elena & Margot*  
Miriam Stamm

*In memory of Martin Stamm*

Rada and Vukan Vuchic

#### PARENTS

Rossano Acchione and Laurie Sbrolla  
Anonymous (2)  
Fari and Michael Azad  
Nancy and Jerome Blank  
S. Geoffrey Botak  
Parris Bradley and Valerie Joyce  
Kelly Bradley-Dodds  
Keith Brown and Patricia Flores-Brown  
Valerie Cavanagh  
Cheryl and Patrick Clarkin  
Beth and Alan Collins  
Brian and Katherine Crouner  
Lisa and Steve Dainton  
Jessica and Gifford Eldredge  
Susan Elliott  
Vickie and Gerrit Fedele  
Wayne and Lori Ferrier  
Randall and Stephanie Gaboriault  
Anne Garrison  
and Michael Magoolaghan

Sidney W. and Patricia R. Gilford

*In honor of the Class of 2010  
& Terry Haviland*

Mateo and Crystal Gloistein  
Dawn Greenlaw and Shawn Scull  
David and Michele Guthrie  
Donn and Holly Guthrie

Michael Hanrahan  
Brian R. and Nancy E.G. Harris  
Linda and David Hart  
James and Lisa Hawkins  
Rima and Andrew Himelstein  
Holly and Richard Hoffmann  
Christine and Bruce Howells  
Nadine Hughes

*In honor of Brandon Hughes*

*In memory of Mary Hughes  
and Wilbert Miller*

Eugene F. and Tracey Jarrell  
Mary Kelley, Judea and Marcia White  
Sage Kelsey  
Allison Kerry and Wendell Evans  
Michael Kostal and Ina Li  
Mary Lazar and John Armando  
Sarah Willie-LeBreton  
and Jonathan LeBreton

*In honor of Lynn Oberfield*

Suzanne Levy  
William Levy  
Andrea and Steven Linvill  
*In honor of Terry Haviland,  
Jessica Eldredge & Althea Whyte*

Paul and Michele Marcolongo  
Michael and Judith Marcus  
Cynthia and Brian McGoff  
Malcolm McHarg and Cheryl Harner  
Philip H. and Hoa Le McLean  
Heather and Vince McLoughlin  
Edward L. and Amy J. Miller  
Marla and Gary Moyer  
Kevin and Lisa Mullarkey  
Rudy and Kathleen Newlon  
Barbara and Scott Newman  
Kia E. Newman  
Paul Null and Sarah Updegraff



Noreen P. O'Neill and Richard Weber  
Andrea Packard and Jay Dahlke  
Anthony and Lisa Palmieri  
Dimitri Papatheoharis  
and Kristen Clarke

*In honor of Charlotte Papatheoharis*

Janice and Philip Peterson  
John Pollard and Susan Sherr-Pollard  
Mark Prodoehl  
Satheesh and Brinda Raja  
Susan Renz and Catherine Stevenson  
Maribel and Jason Rodriguez  
James San Antonio and Olena Jacenko

*In honor of Sean McGoff*

Blaise Santianni and Ramona Romero  
Susan and Harry Shreckengast

*In honor of Caroline  
and Julia Shreckengast*

Sunka Simon and Michael Hayse

*In honor of Sean McGoff*

Earl Sissell and Sonia Stamm  
Chris and Lisa Slager

Gopal Subramanian  
and Raelyn Harman  
Doris Tirado and Marna Barrett  
Geoff Veith  
Cheryl and Kenny West

#### MONTHLY MEETINGS AND QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS

Chester Monthly Meeting of Friends  
Friends Council on Education  
Kennett Monthly Meeting  
Media Monthly Meeting  
Moorestown Monthly Meeting  
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting  
Providence Monthly Meeting  
Springfield Monthly Meeting

#### TRUSTEES

Donna Noonan Allen  
Michael J.J. Campbell  
Nancy Fitts Donaldson  
Jessica Eldredge  
Susan Elliott  
George S. Forsythe  
Donn Guthrie  
Cheryl Harner  
Brian R. Harris  
Susannah Henderson  
John R. James  
Eugene F. Jarrell  
Ann Murray  
Kia E. Newman  
Ken Park  
Kenneth Scott  
Harry Shreckengast  
Lisa Slager  
Doris Tirado  
Arthur Weisfeld

#### TEACHER/STAFF

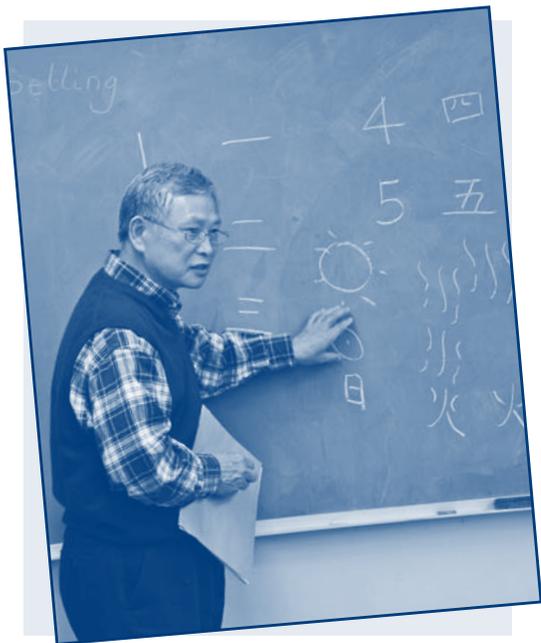
Anonymous  
Erica L. Baechtold  
Daryl Ballough  
Quinn Burke  
David Camp  
Karen Carbutt  
Lisa Dainton  
Merril Dutton  
Vickie Fedele  
Olga Greto  
James L. Hardy, Jr.  
Christine Howells  
C. Frederick Keffer  
Becky Martin-Scull  
*In memory of Carroll & Lodema  
Martin, Wesler & Marion Scull*  
Cynthia McGoff  
Heather and Vince McLoughlin  
Jean Menaldino  
Melissa Min  
Phyllis Mincer  
Barbara Newman  
Betty Peditto  
Janice Peterson  
Emily Richardson  
Michelle Scheibe  
Douglas Schwartz  
Calperta Scott  
Angeles Sierra  
Earl Sissell  
Roger A. Sternfeld  
Francy Strathmann  
Cheryl West  
Claire Wilson

\* deceased

# We Get By... With A Little Help... From Our Grandparents!

Where would we be without grandparents? The literal answer to that question, of course, is nowhere! We wouldn't exist! The need for forerunners aside, we know that our existence at Media-Providence Friends School would certainly be much less rich without our students' grandparents.

Those who are local can be found in the parent pick up line at 3:00 (in their case, the grandparent pick up line!), in the gym at 4:15, or the front hallway at 5:00, lending a hand to their sons or daughters in shuttling grandkids home after school, intramurals or enrichment classes. It wouldn't be odd to see them in the classroom during the year, either, sharing their knowledge, perspective, talents or culture. Grandparents volunteer at the school too, helping students to create beautiful auction projects, serving on Board committees, and even providing assistance in the Business Office. Lots more come to enjoy their grandchildren's concerts, theatrical performances, and sporting events.



We see the most grandfolk at our annual Grandparents and Special Friends Day on the day before Thanksgiving. It's one of the best days of the year for our students – they enjoy showing their elders (who also include aunts, uncles and neighbors) all the amazing things they do each day. Even those who aren't hosting a grand visitor have fun, with their friends' grands always glad to “adopt” another grandchild for the day! Meeting for Worship on Grandparents Day is especially heartwarming. Every seat in the Meeting room is filled and from the silence, visitors might recall their days as school children and remark on how meaningful it is that their grandchildren are a part of MPFS' community.

MPFS grandparents aren't just generous with their time and talents. They are among those who've supported our recent capital campaigns, and, as a group, they're significant contributors to the Annual Fund each year. An amazing number who have the means also quietly help to underwrite their grandchildren's tuition.



Grand in so many ways, these grandparents of ours!

# A Friendly Influence

Those of us fortunate enough to work with T. Emily are aware of her many talents. A wonderful teacher and accomplished fiber artist, Emily has exhibited her artwork at Gross McCleaf Gallery in Philadelphia, as well as in Santa Fe, NM. Last September, Emily had her largest exhibition to date, comprised of 32 pieces at the Visions Art Quilt Gallery in San Diego, CA. What made this event even more special for Emily was the fact that her two sisters accompanied her. During their trip, the three of them got to talking about how Friends schools had influenced them all in different and positive ways.

The youngest in the family, Lisa Richardson entered Providence Friends, a Quaker high school then at Providence Meeting on the other side of Media, as a freshman in 1974. She credits PFS with sharpening her critical thinking skills and honing her ability to articulate social justice issues. Of her experience, Lisa states, “The model of Quaker Meeting and the practice (inside and out of Meeting) of speaking truthfully had a great impact upon me.” The lessons learned in Quaker Meeting inform Lisa’s professional life as a social worker today. She tries to “tune-in” to her inner voice and speak only when she believes she has something truthful and authentic to add to the conversation.

Anne Richardson Stevens was a senior at a local public high school in 1974. She would venture over to Providence Friends in the afternoons to tutor students in math and French. Anne says, “The enthusiasm for and enjoyment of teaching and learning in the creative, interactive, experiential environment at PFS was compelling and significantly higher than at my school.” She was influenced by the Quaker philosophies that were integrated into the classroom, and witnessed the respect students and teachers had for one another. Her experience tutoring at PFS inspired her to enter the field of education and teach in an individualized setting. Today, she is a speech therapist and teacher of English to non-native speakers. Anne believes that her experience with a Friends school taught her that education should be a nurturing, respectful venture.

Meanwhile, Emily has noted in prior issues of *Dragon Tales* that, having taught in public schools before MPFS, she values the way MPFS faculty, administration and students perform as a community. She remarks, “The climate that exists here – that of respect and regard for every individual – is wonderful. It permits the best to happen.”

All three sisters share the belief that the experiential learning opportunities and close relationships that students encounter in small independent school classes result in a meaningful education that encompasses mind, body and spirit. We concur!



# Alumna Shares Experiences “en Espanol”

Seven years ago, she sat at the very same desks her audience occupied. Now a senior at Villanova University where she’s majoring in Psychology (and minoring in Spanish and Business), **Maija Taylor** ‘03 returned to MPFS’ middle school to share her recent study-abroad experiences with T. Angeles’ sixth, seventh and eighth grade Spanish students – entirely in Spanish.

Meija spent last Fall taking courses in Spanish in Chile’s Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso, including 2 Psychology classes, a Poetry class, and a Chilean Culture class. While there, she took advantage of opportunities to travel around the country as well as to neighboring Argentina and Uruguay.

Her enthusiasm for learning and using a second language was apparent as she shared photos and anecdotes about her ventures and the many people she met during her stay over the course of her three interactive 40-minute presentations. Students took notes as they listened to Meija’s Spanish-language presentation and had many questions about her experiences.

At the end of her presentation, by way of a thank you, Maestra Angeles served helado de Dulce de Leche, to the classes – an ice cream flavor Meija encountered in South America.

Muy Bueno Meija!



*Middle school classes were treated to a Spanish-language tour of Chile, Argentina and Uruguay as last year came to a close when Maija Taylor ‘03 came to visit to share her recent study-abroad experiences.*

**Kate Strathmann** ‘98, freshly back from a year in India, gave a facelift, literally, to our playground mural this Summer. Her own work can be found at the Art of This Gallery in Minnesota, as well as online at [www.katestrathmann.com](http://www.katestrathmann.com). Coincidentally, Kate’s now managing communications for our partner, Greener Partners! (See related article on page 11.)



**Amanda Silverman** ‘06 returned to us for three weeks last Spring to intern with T. Karen and the MPFS Development Office as part of her Delaware Valley Friends School senior year service project. Amanda’s now begun her first term at Earlham College.

To parents of Alumni: If your son or daughter has a new mailing address, please send or email us current information for our records. Our email address is: [info@fox.mpfs.org](mailto:info@fox.mpfs.org)

# Growing Greener with Greener Partners

Classrooms around school have been collaborating with visiting educators from Greener Partners, a local organization committed to increasing sustainable agriculture in the area and to promoting forward thinking models of viable food production and distribution. It's a school-wide initiative which arose from the faculty's Green Committee and is grounded in both organizations' interest in cultivating critical thinking in young children where health and the environment are concerned.

Each Greener Partners' classroom visit conveys important sustainability concepts and features an age appropriate hands-on activity to reinforce the concepts. For example, Kindergarteners learned some astonishing facts about how long it takes compostable/recyclable items to decompose when sent to a landfill instead of being recycled:

## Item - Estimated Decomposition Time:

Newspaper - 6 weeks

Apple core - 2 months

Wool sock - 2-5 years

Plastic grocery bag - 10-20 years

Tin can - 50-100 years

Aluminum can - 80-200 years

Glass jar - 1 million years

Styrofoam cup - NEVER

As this particular visit occurred around the winter holiday times, students considered the packaging that accompanies many holiday gifts they give and receive. As a "countermeasure", each student made a natural, package-free gift to take home that could ultimately be composted to help replenish the relatively small bit of land we have on earth to grow food. Using clementines and cloves, students made fragrant pomanders to hang in their homes for the holidays. Afterwards, they celebrated with a healthy "Green Smoothie" featuring hardy swiss chard from the Greener Partners instructor's own garden while learning that eating locally sourced food helps reduce our use of fossil fuels. The smoothies were a hit all around, receiving the following high praise: "It's super awesome!", "MMMMMmmm!" and "Tastes great!"



In the Spring, in tandem with their year-long exploration of Environmental Sciences, Sixth Graders visited Greener Partners' Hillside Farm at Elwyn every two weeks with T. Daryl to learn first hand about seed-to-table sustainable food systems. Supporting specific curriculum, the fortnightly visits engaged students in actively considering how their choices impact our world while positively influencing their perceptions about eating nutritious foods at the same time.



As when Greener Partners visited school, each trip to the Farm combined an activity with a delicious, nutritious snack. Early March saw the Sixth Graders starting collard and kale seeds in flats of organic compost mixed with a sterile seed starting mix and then getting a taste of kale sneakily blended into a delicious frozen organic fruit smoothie. By mid-April, the collards were ready to transplant to the field, so, trowels in hand, the students proceeded to do just that under the tutelage of Farmers Marcy and Meg, concluding their "labors" with a drink of juiced-before-their-very-own-eyes whole carrots and apples.

As they worked, observed, pursued questions (and snacked!), students applied classroom lessons about biomes, biotic and abiotic environmental factors, photosynthesis, food energy, food chains and food webs. They saw for themselves that the connections between and among all living things are tangled and overlapped, cementing their appreciation for the fact that we are not isolated entities, but rather inextricably interconnected with our environment.





## Media - Providence Friends School

125 W. Third Street  
Media, PA 19063

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Media, PA  
Permit No. 842



## Meet Teacher Merrill, PreK-3 Teacher

Seen walking on the playground from her classroom to the gym with her young charges, Teacher Merrill Dutton

resembles nothing more than the quintessential “mother hen”. As her flock follows her, she pauses to draw a little one distracted by a colorful leaf on the ground back into the line, and then, when another excitedly points out a bird nest high up in the basketball pole, to make a connection with their unit of study on eggs.

Bucolic imagery notwithstanding, studying is the operative word. Merrill’s students are not “day-care-ees” but pre-schoolers who encounter a nurturing classroom which includes opportunities for play and multi-sensory learning. They don’t know it (they’re only 3 after all!), but every experience Merrill crafts is designed to cultivate curiosity in

math, language, the sciences and arts, build social skills and support physical development. She’s laying the foundation for a lifetime of learning!

Merril is consummately prepared for the task. Ultra-organized and bursting with creativity, she brings over 2 decades of teaching experience to her role, not to mention a degree in social work, production management proficiency, parenting know-how, artistic talent, and yes, chicken-raising expertise! Merrill grew up on a small family farm in southern Missouri. She met her husband John during a college internship in Kansas City and moved east with him as they began their careers together at the Institute of the Pennsylvania Hospital. After taking time to raise daughters Ashley and Allison, she worked as a production manager for a kaleidoscope designer before returning to her first passion: working with children. She directed Oak Lane Day Care for 14 years prior to joining MPFS’ faculty 13 years

ago as a Kindergarten teacher, and moved into her current position four years ago.

Merril appreciates MPFS’ close-knit and inclusive community, saying, “The richness of diversity here helps all of us – teachers, students and parents – to appreciate that we’re part of something bigger. We all learn from each other.” She is especially interested in learning about her students’ cultural customs and religious traditions and has welcomed their parents to class to share Diwali, Seollal and Hina-matsuri celebrations, among others.

A resident of Media for 30 years, Merrill also enjoys seeing her students and former students out and about in town and at Providence Meeting where she is a member. Her hobbies include hugging her grandson, sewing, reading and water color painting. Her favorite subject to paint, you ask? Chickens!

It’s no wonder she’s got the mother hen thing down pat!

**IMPORTANT DATES:** Cornerstone Breakfast: October 27  
Grandparents & Special Friends Day: November 24