

STEAM WEEK 2018: Students Build Prosthetic Hands for Children in Need

Students from preschool through 8th grade at Media-Providence Friends School participated in an annual STEAM Week, an intensive five-day cross-curriculum program emphasizing 21st century skills. MPFS' yearlong theme of Windows into Health: Finding a Healthy Balance informed the activities and programming for this project-based, immersive learning experience. During STEAM Week, students took part in activities around finding balance both physically (with the food we eat, how we move through the world) and mentally (with activities around mindfulness and meditation.)



Middle school students Tommi (left) and Hope (right) display the 3D-printed hands they assembled during STEAM Week.

With a focus on engineering and service learning, 5th-8th grade students worked together to build twenty 3D-printed prosthetic hands, which are in the process of being donated to children in need. Students in preschool and lower school worked with simplified versions of prosthetics and also read *Winter's Tail: How One Little Dolphin Learned to Swim Again* about a dolphin who lost her tail in a crab trap but learned to swim with a prosthetic. The youngest MPFS students helped design and build "prosthetics" for "injured" wind-up toy animals missing limbs. In preparation for their

STEAM activities, students learned the history of prosthetics, the anatomy of the hand, as well as exercises around empathy for people who are differently-abled. Faculty led discussions and lessons on what makes a person "whole" and how to find balance both physically and mentally to create happier selves.

Working with designs from the e-NABLE Community, over the course of this week, 5th-8th grade MPFS students worked tirelessly to assemble and test the twenty prosthetic hands. According to their website, the e-NABLE Community is made up of "...individuals from all over the world who are using their 3D printers to create free 3D printed hands and arms for those in need of an upper limb assistive device." MPFS technology teacher Donna Svinis went through the process to become "electronically badged" to print and distribute the prosthetics. In the months leading up to STEAM Week, MPFS' 3D printers were running constantly. To print the parts needed for one hand took approximately 40 hours of continuous printing.

Once students had studied the anatomy and mechanics of the hand, they began working to assemble their prosthetics. After "cleaning" the individual pieces of the 3D-printed prosthetic hand, using small tools to trim and file down the excess plastic edges, students assembled the "bones" of the hand. Then, using elastic string and fishing wire to mimic the tendons of the hand, students created enough tension to ensure an effective grip. Though the process for students was often tedious and frustrating, and involved a lot of trial-and-error and adjustments, their motivation throughout held strong because they knew each prosthetic hand would be going to help a differently-abled child in need.

MPFS partnered with University of Delaware seniors Andrew Dirk and Claire Paddock, both biomedical engineering majors and co-founders of Empowered Technologies, to find homes for the 3D-printed hands. Dirk and Paddock have been

This special issue includes our 2017-18 Annual Report of Giving

STEAM WEEK 18... | [Continued on page 2](#)

LETTER FROM The Head of School



Earl Sissell, Head of School

Dear Friends,

We hope you're enjoying a wonderful summer spent with family and friends! We have a lot to catch you up on from a busy school year. In this issue we are happy to spotlight the Quaker testimony of Community at MPFS. From our service-oriented, collaborative STEAM Week programming outlined in our feature story, to the hard work our faculty and staff put into our PAIS Self-Study for Accreditation, to the generosity of our donors to the 2017-18 annual fund: this issue explores every facet of the MPFS community across constituencies.

When we talk to alum, parents of alum, or friends of the school about their experience here, it probably won't surprise you that we most often hear about "the wonderful, little community" that is MPFS. Though small, this community has enriched the lives of many over its 142 years in deep and meaningful ways rooted in the Quaker tradition. Read on to learn more about what Community means to us. And, if you have news to share with the MPFS community about your family, your experience at MPFS, or your students', we hope you'll tell us your story at mpfs.org/share-your-story.

In Friendship,

W. Earl Sissell
Head of School

STEAM WEEK 18... | *Continued from cover*

working with two young children named Mya and Jack, who were both born with symbrachydactyly, a congenital abnormality that results in the absence of some or all of the bones typically in the fingers or toes. The goal for Jack and Mya is to be able to safely ride their bikes with the use of prosthetic hands. The weekend after STEAM Week, Jack and Mya were fitted with their 3D printed prosthetic hands assembled by MPFS students. After all of their diligent work, it was gratifying for students to see the fruits of their labor helping real kids, just like them. "Being able to help someone, a kid, do something they might not be able to otherwise, that makes me feel really good," says sixth grader Samantha Ernst.

Dirk and Paddock also visited with students at MPFS to talk about their own prosthetic projects, how they became interested in biomedical engineering, what classes they took in high school and college to prepare them for their ultimate careers, and more. Students had the opportunity to ask questions and voice their own interests in the sciences.

In the past decade, growth in jobs that require this kind of collaborative, interdisciplinary thinking have been growing at three times the rate of non-STEAM fields. "The purpose of STEAM Week is to expose students to possible careers, things that maybe new to them that they hadn't seen or considered (and) to see how science works in the real world and how it affects people's lives," says Teacher Donna Svinis. With yearlong, school-wide STEAM programming, along with our intensive STEAM Week, MPFS students are prepared to solve the problems of today and tomorrow.



Mya (left) and Jack (right) wearing their new 3D-printed prosthetic hands assembled by MPFS students.

Accredited and Renewed in 2018

In February 2018, Media-Providence Friends School was recommended for re-accreditation by the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS) as well as for renewed membership in Friends Council on Education (FCE), of which we have been a member since 1931. We received formal certification of continued FCE membership in April and PAIS accreditation in June.

Every 10 years, independent schools that are members of PAIS complete a self-study to reflect on and critically explore every aspect of the school, including program, governance, finances, facilities, and community life. All of our reflection is done in the context of our mission, vision, and philosophy of education.

During this cycle we also conducted our FCE membership renewal process (MRP). This is a new process that asks us to explore many of the same areas, but with a focus on the Quaker nature of MPFS. It is FCE's hope that when Friends schools participate in this reflective process we can celebrate our successes and discover new ways in which our schools can be places "rich in love, challenge, collaboration, fruitful conflict, and a generative sense of what is possible in the classroom, in the community, and in each other", thereby fulfilling William Penn's vision for what Quaker education should be.

Our self-studies encompassed 18 months of work starting in 2016 by members of various school constituencies, with the overarching process co-chaired by MPFS Assistant Head of School for Admissions and Program Angela DiMaria and Teacher Emily Richardson with Teacher Lisa Dainton chairing the FCE MRP committee. That process, however, actually began the previous year with our strategic planning effort, which included an even larger cross-section of our school community. The result of that input and long-term planning was essential in guiding the completion of our studies.

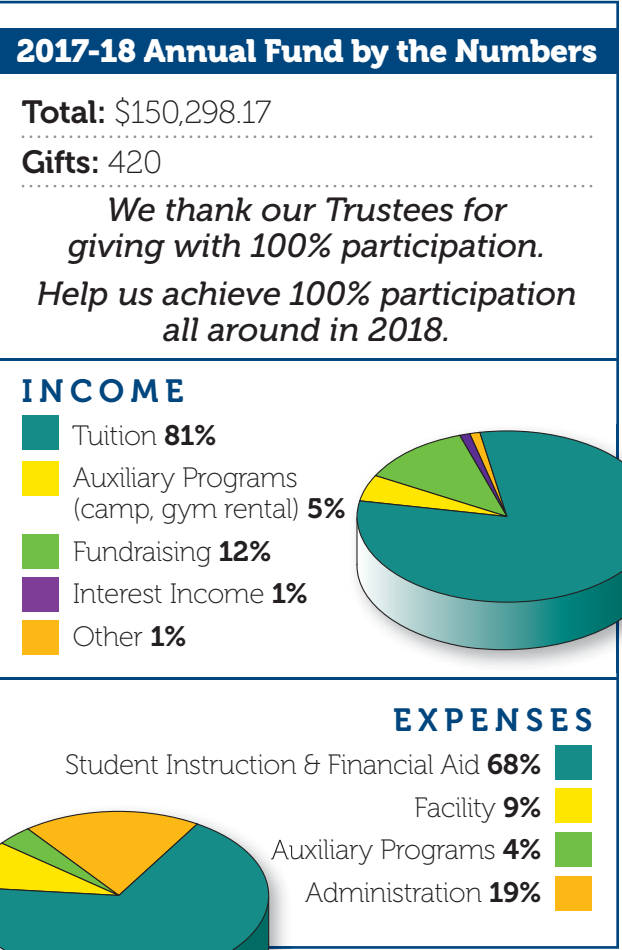
The PAIS and FCE teams visited our campus February 11-14. During their visits they observed in classrooms; met with faculty, staff, students, parents, and trustees; reviewed curriculum and program materials; attended Meeting for Worship; toured and inspected the facilities (including the furnace room); and watched a fire drill, morning recess, and parent and bus drop-off and pick-up.

The team members are administrators and teachers – representing small and large Quaker and non-Quaker schools – who have collective expertise in every area of school operations. While here, they measured us against what we reported in our self-studies. At the end of their assessments, both teams recommended that MPFS be accredited for the coming 10 years. The formal accreditation and membership renewal reports offer both commendations for the school and recommendations regarding areas

in which they feel we can improve that, along with our strategic plan, will help guide us as we look forward to the next five to 10 years of Meaningful Learning to prepare our students to lead a Purposeful Life. In the case of PAIS, there will be an interim visit in five years to check on our progress regarding the recommendations.

Throughout the visit both PAIS and FCE representatives commented on how happy and engaged the students were, the dedication of the faculty and staff, the safety and use of the facilities, and the quality of our academic and social/emotional curriculum. Members of the teams repeatedly referred to MPFS as a "gem of a school."

"I can't say enough about all of the work done by everyone involved in preparing the self-studies and for the visits," says MPFS Head of School Earl Sissell. "Everyone played a role in the successful visits and the teams took note of the level of preparation and the hard work that happens here every day on behalf of our students..."



ANNUAL GIVING REPORT

We thank the following donors for their contributions – unrestricted, restricted, and gifts-in-kind – received during the last academic year, between July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

ALUMNI

Leslie Archard '01
Anonymous
Robin Morley Bernstein '73
Jennifer Payne Conway '86
Rachel Lindley D'Alonzo
Blythe Danner
Tracy Kathryn Davis '79
Wendy Coopersmith Dignazio
Nancy Fitts Donaldson '37
Peirce Eldredge '14
George S. Forsythe '45
James T. Forsythe '41
Alex Garfinkel '04
Leslie Duff Goldsmith '71
Eric Gravely
Monica Green '96
Donn Guthrie
Cyril H. Harvey II '37
In Honor Of George Forsythe
Bill Haviland '72
Christopher Henderson
In Honor Of Susanah Henderson and Ryan Dunne
Susannah Henderson
Nandita Yagnik Hogan '85
Dr. Susan Holak '69
Frederick R. Hood III '59
Chris Hoover '69

Suzanne Egli Maughan '53
Marcia McCabe '67
Anita Covert McNamara '80
Paul Menta '84
Ellen Fitts Millick '39
Lexi Mincer '01
Matthew Oakley '83
Jillian Oberfield '93
Josh Oberfield
Zachary Oberfield '90
Kathleen A. Ogilvie Greene
Christopher Palmieri '14
Evan Palmieri '11
Cristina Perachio '01
Tracy Peterson '78
Emily Richardson
Katrina Rogachevsky '99
Hillary Rubesin
In Honor Of Teacher Chris Gillen and Teacher Nancy Kirsten
Paul Scheibe '96
Anonymous
Peter C. Sontag '84
Martha Chamberlain Stiles
Elliot Strathmann
Kate Strathmann
Luke Strathmann
Will Strathmann
Jacob Weisfeld

Philip Rosenau Co. Inc.
PNC Bank, N.A.
Schoolhouse Pictures
Steve Kurtz
The Media Rotary Foundation
The Nina Abrams Fund
UHS of Pennsylvania
Utica National Insurance Group

FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL

Donna Noonan Allen
Adaeez Atanmo
Anonymous
Liz Best
In Memory Of Karington J. Corbin
Mollie Boulware
Sally Braffman
Ann Bridges
Paul and Billie Brink
Teri Buda
Muriel Chapman
Mayland Crosson
Richard and Arlene De Cosmo
Paul Diefenbach
Paul Farnschlader
In Memory Of Jackie Farnschlader
Carole Forsythe
In Honor Of George S. Forsythe '45
Mark Forsythe
In Honor Of George and Carole Forsythe
Leslie Friedman
Olga Greto
Mr. and Mrs. Lon Homeier
In Honor Of Maria Santos
Bruce Everett Hunt &
Kathryn Mehan
Michele E. Hutchinson
In Honor Of Edythe and David Thomas
C. Frederick and Nancy Keffer
Scott Lombardo
Will Scull and Becky Martin-Scull
Paul Ness
Kathleen A. Ogilvie Greene
Holly and Jeff Markovitz

Brett Oslen
Betty and Frank Peditto
Jo Ann Proietta
Beth Rakoff
Laurie Rourke
Wendy Rourke
John Scardina
Robin Seiz and Mindy Hall, PhD
In Honor Of Katie Gephart-Hall
Robin Schneider
Dorothy Sharrocks
In Memory Of J. Garrett Forsythe
Donald B. Stamm
White Horse Village Residents Association
Sunday Night Hoops Group
Anonymous
Victoria Viglione

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

Jacqueline Montras and Bob Vitalo
Pat and Ann Walsh
Betty Ward
Paula and John Wehmiller
Carl Williams
Michelle and Paul Scheibe '96
Sharon R. Zolna
In Honor Of Parker Jimenez



GRANDPARENT

GP Day 2017 Anonymous Gifts
Bob and Joan Angiulo
In Honor Of Chase Angiulo
Fran Bartocci and Shelly Sherman
Bonnie and Robert Bellino
Jean Boardman
Cathy Brady
Michael and Barb Brandreth
Sam and Barbara Rose Caldwell
In Honor Of the Henderson/Dunne Family
Charles and Carol Coffman
Margaret DelPrato
Bill and Natalie Deveney
Frank and Sandy DiMaria
Karen and William Evans
In Honor Of Emma Ombam
Jill Fingerhood
In Honor Of Jewel Trayah
Gwen and Paul Fuhrman
Thomas and Susan Giangiulio
In Honor Of Chase Angiulo
Dr. Paul Glickman
Gary and Bonnie Graham
Donald and Carol Guthrie
Ken and Frankie Hall
In Honor Of Katie Gephart-Hall
Dorothy Haviland
Bob and Ann Hays
Annette Hearing and John Wenderoth
Nancy and Neil Hoffmann
Ingrid Hudak
Chintha Kuruppunayake and Gary Atkinson



Mark Hoover '66
Herschel D. Horn '83
Jennifer Hunt Horton '67
Dana Houghton
Bruce Everett Hunt
Martin Hunt '79
Timothy Hunt '70
Eleanor Houghton Hurd '46
John R. James, Jr. '47
Joplin James '78
Caroline Little Keeler '81
Ellee Koss
Samuel M. Laird '56
Martha Frescoln Lambertsen
Catherine Lathwell '83
Gwyneth Elkinton Loud
Anonymous
Rebecca Marcus '06

CORPORATIONS/FOUNDATIONS

Alpin J. and Alpin W. Cameron Memorial Fund
AmazonSmile Foundation
BHC Holdings, Inc.
Boeing Gift Matching Program
Bryn Mawr Trust Company
Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia
DNB First
Elizabeth Taylor Fund Distribution Committee
Energy Income Partners
FEEC - Friends Educational Equity Collaborative
Hawkins Technologies LLC
Iron Workers Bank
Kyle & Associates Inc.

Anonymous
Don and Gwen Lehman
In Honor Of Simon Muther
Bernard and Barbara Lehrman
In Honor Of Madelyn, Ian and Stella Lehrman
Ursula McLean
Roberta and Ted Meier
Patricia and Joseph Menig
In Honor Of Evangeline Watkins
Sally Newport and Ken Shackman
Adrienne O'Neill
Albert and Sharon Riess
In Honor Of Parker Riess
Jackie Sigel
Rev. William Sissell
Carole Smallwood
Amy Solipaca
Stewart and Sidney Spahr
Bonnie Templin
In Honor Of Kiley and Reagan Bernet
Joann and Joseph Townsend

MEETING MEMBERS

Donna Noonan Allen
In Honor Of Ann and Bill Windsor
Anonymous
Paul and Billie Brink
Sam and Barbara Rose Caldwell
David and Margaret Camp
Michael JJ Campbell and Susan Garrison
Jane Cosinuke
Lisa Dainton
Anjali and Paul DelPrato
Nancy DeMis and Bruce Turetsky M.D.
Nancy Fitts Donaldson '37
Susan Elliott-Johnson
Dorothy Flanagan
Donna Forsythe & John W Risinger
In Memory Of J. Garrett Forsythe
Carole and George S. Forsythe '45
James T. Forsythe '41
In Memory Of Jesse Garrett Forsythe '40
Gray and Janney Goodman
Bruce and Prudence Haines
In Honor Of Earl Sissell
Brian R. and Nancy Harris
Cyril H. Harvey II '37



Dorothy Haviland
Terry and Bill Haviland '72
Christopher Henderson
Susannah Henderson and Ryan Dunne
Peter and Peggy Hewitt
Donna Hope and Gregory Gleichman
Jennifer Hunt Horton '67
Dana Houghton
Eleanor Houghton Hurd '46
John R. James, Jr. '47
Joplin James '78
Alex Kendrick
Eliza Lewis
Robert P. and Joy C. Marshall
Will Scull and Becky Martin-Scull
Cynthia and Brian McGoff
Ellen Fitts Millick '39
Ann Murray
Jillian Oberfield '93 and Ben Fenwick
Josh Oberfield
Lynn and William Oberfield
Zachary Oberfield '90
Ken and Donna Park
Tracy Peterson '78
Janice Kirkwood and Phil Peterson
Dorothy Reichardt
John and Jane Shaw
Parker Snowe
Rhoda Weisz
Debra Will and Dave Thomas
In Honor Of Lynn Oberfield
Claire Wilson

PARENT

Andrea and Matt Angiulo
In Honor Of Chase Angiulo
Laurie Arnold

Ngozi Atanmo
Kristin and Henry Bernet
In Honor Of Kiley and Reagan Bernet
Brittany and Timothy Bowen
Yvette and Bernard Boyd
Tameka and Thomas Claiborne
Marianne and Brian Coffman
Astrid Cottrell
Danielle Cunningham
In Honor Of Gage Cunningham
Anjali and Paul DelPrato
Angela DiMaria and Matt Lane
Amy Francis and Eric Derk
Greg Gephart and Michal Hall
Erin and Evan Gold
Jose and Flory Gonzalez
Kelly and Nat Graham
Daryl Guar and Iris Paltin Guar
Benjamin and Tricia Hall
Susannah Henderson and Ryan Dunne
William Johnson and Hiele Hodnett
Holly and Richard Hoffmann
Rick and Deborah Irwin
Kathryn Jones and Julie Millward
Vanessa and Christopher Keenan
Anonymous
Machele and Ron Kortum
In Honor Of Lux and Cash
Allyson and Jeffrey Lehrman
Dawn and Charles Manley
Kathy and Caleb Maskell
Cynthia and Brian McGoff
In Honor Of Sean and Shannon McGoff
Lesly and Marc Merlin
Denise and Mendy Morrison
Nicole and Erik Muther
Nancy and Don Nicely
In Honor Of Cheyenne Nicely '19
Charles and Kathryn Ombam
Ann Marie Park
In Honor Of Giovanna Vetri
Gianie Perez and Daniel White
Gillian and Aaron Pierre
Deborah and Albert Riess
Maria Villanueva and Oscar Santos
Dana and Kevin Severance
In Honor Of Ben & Matthew Severance
Elizabeth Sheldon and Kevin Hardy
Kathleen McCullough and Christopher Shuster
Matthew and Christine Sigel

Toni Smallwood
Kevin Regan and Julie Snow-Regan
Diana and Cameron Spalding
Cabrina and Nicholas Stanek
Christine and Ben Suplick
Alex and Trang Svay
Constance Cottman-Thomas and William Thomas
Jaime Tomosky
Jennifer Trayah
Scott Trayah
Tony and Meagan Watkins
In Honor Of Evie and her classmates
Zora and Wojtek Wolfe
Jared and Heidi Young

PARENT OF ALUMNI

Joseph and Patricia Becker
Jean Boardman
Kelly Bradley-Dodds
Kurt and Carol Brunner
Barbara Rose Caldwell
David and Margaret Camp
Michael JJ Campbell and Susan Garrison
Peter and Mimi Chamberlain
Anthony P. Checchia
Denise Chiolo
Ginny Christensen
In Honor Of Katrina ('99) and Aaron ('02) Rogachevsky
Kent and Shannon Davidson
Nancy DeMis and Bruce Turetsky M.D.
Wendy Coopersmith Dignazio
Michael Dreyer and Colette Mull
John and Deborah Ehleiter
Earl Ekas and Mary Platt
Susan Elliott-Johnson
Pamela Haines and Charles Esser
June Evans
Judy and Tim Fitzgerald
Randall and Stephanie Gaboriault
Anne Raunio M.D. and Scott Gilbert
Sidney W. and Patricia R. Gilford
Dawn Greenlaw and Shawn Scully
Colleen and Joseph Grellis
Donn and Holly Guthrie
Bruce and Prudence Haines
James and Philitsa Hanson
Adam Preset and Tiffany Hanulec
Daniel and Patricia Hardy
Gopal Subramanian and Raelyn Harman



Continued on page 8

Development Update:

CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL TAX CREDITS FOR TUITION AID

Businesses, partnerships, and S-corp shareholders doing business in Pennsylvania have a win-win opportunity to get all the credit—all the tax credits, that is. By participating in Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs, these businesses can reduce their Pennsylvania state tax liability (up to \$750,000 per year) and gain a charitable giving deduction on federal taxes by making a donation to support need-based scholarships for MPFS students.

Eligible Taxes to which credits can be applied are:

Personal Income Tax (tax credits can be distributed through more than one level of pass through entities as well as spousal participation), Capital Stock/Foreign Franchise Tax, Corporate Net Income Tax, Bank Shares Tax, Title Insurance & Trust Company Shares Tax, Insurance Premium Tax (with exclusions), Mutual Thrift Tax, Malt Beverage Tax, and Retaliatory Fees.

MPFS has benefited from business participation in the EITC and OSTC programs since 2005 (see All-time Corporate Tax Credit All Stars). Until recently, these programs were open only to corporate donors. Now, with the formation of organizations like The Friends Education Equity Collaborative, qualified individuals also have the opportunity to receive tax credits while supporting schools like MPFS. MPFS is one of the founding members of The Friends Collaborative, a Special Purpose Entity LLC formed in 2016 and currently comprising eighteen Quaker schools and the Friends Council on Education (FCE). The Collaborative's mission is to foster the growth of Quaker Education by providing funding that makes a Quaker education accessible for more families. Since its inception, The Friends Collaborative funded over \$2,000,000 in need based scholarships for Quaker education across Pennsylvania.

Qualified individuals who join The Friends Collaborative have the ability to direct all or some of their Pennsylvania state income tax liability to MPFS. Participants agree to make a set contribution to The Friends Collaborative roughly equal to anticipated state annual income taxes plus 10 percent, for two consecutive years. They receive a tax credit equal to 90% of that contribution to The Friends Collaborative. In some cases, the entire contribution to The Friends Collaborative may be a federal income tax deduction. These benefits make a large gift very inexpensive to make.

On the receiving end, The Friends Collaborative makes a gift of donated funds to FCE, which distributes funding to MPFS and other member schools. On the receiving end, The Collaborative makes a gift of donated funds to FCE, which distributes funding to MPFS and other member schools, then sends participants a K1 allocating the state

income tax credits. Our school uses gifted funds to provide critical financial aid to students in need.

Please contact Cynthia McGoff, Development Director, at cmcgoff@fox.mps.org or 610-565-1960, ext. 106, to pursue corporate or individual participation in these programs and discuss involvement in an upcoming round of funding. Please note, The Friends Collaborative seeks participants with a tax liability of \$3,000 or more who are willing to participate for two years.



The Friends Collaborative Participants

Dental Arts on the Square - Phyllis and Manley Mincer

Donald and Carol Guthrie

Donn and Holly Guthrie

Allyson & Jeffery Lehrman

Linvilla Orchards

All-time Corporate Tax Credit All Stars

Contributions from the following corporations and businesses through the EITC and OSTC programs have enabled MPFS families to receive more than \$983,302 in financial aid since 2005. We are grateful to each and every one!

Alliance Business Systems

Aqua Pennsylvania

Brandywine Brokerage Company

Brooks Provisions Inc.

Bryn Mawr Trust Company

Delaware County Community Foundation

DNB First

Haverford Systems Inc.

Hawkins Technologies LLC

Iron Workers Bank

J.M. Doyle & Associates

Keystone Health Plan East/ Independence Blue Cross

Meridian Bank

Merrill Lynch

Michael R. Rhile Carpentry, Inc.

Phelan Hallinan Diamond & Jones, LLP

Philadelphia Insurance Companies

Philip Rosenau Co. Inc.

TESTIMONY SPOTLIGHT: Community at MPFS

In the last three issues of *Dragon Tales*, we have shined a spotlight on a different Quaker testimony (also known as the SPICES), and with help from faculty, staff, and students, we'll explore how each testimony is put into practice at MPFS.

The Quaker testimony of Community aspires to respect every individual and compels Friends to foster open, mutually caring and enriching relationships. At MPFS, our definition of community extends beyond the close-knit, welcoming feel that lights all corner of our cozy campus. Faculty and staff are committed to continually seeking knowledge and understanding through the diversity of our students, faculty, staff, families, and community.

We actively include everyone and their differences. We strive to bring out the best in each other and ourselves by intentionally teaching children to celebrate their unique selves. This includes their families, their lives, their accomplishments, and equally as important, the unique lives and accomplishments of others. By listening, responding, being open, and seeking out differences we all learn from, and with each other.

One of MPFS' biggest strengths, and what makes the community-feel of the school so rich, is the diversity of our families across race, religion, and socio-economic background. For our students, this diversity is also represented through academic interests, skills, and learning styles. "The diversity is what makes it meaningful and good," says Teacher Angela DiMaria, Former 4th and 5th grade teacher and incoming Director of Admissions Angela DiMaria. "We need all different kinds of brains in the room – it's true in the real world and it starts here."



Students help plant trees at Glen Providence Park as part of a day of service honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.



Students smile for the camera on the playground sporting their MPFS gear with pride!

Teacher Angela goes on to reflect on the way the testimony of Community shines in the classroom saying, "We teach our students that their differences are their super powers and really thinking about...what do you need within this community to be successful? That's going to be different for everyone. Because of our school, and because of what we know about how education works, we can do all kinds of flexible grouping. That flexible grouping is just as much about community as it is about the academics that they're learning."

In addition to the intentional community building that goes on inside the classroom at MPFS, community involvement and service learning play integral parts in school programming, cultivating responsibility within students and connecting them with the larger world. Our local community, its businesses, leaders, and geography help to enrich the mission and culture of our school. Through these many activities in downtown Media, students are learning about the helpers in our community, and local and small business economies. From spending time with seniors at Sterling Nursing Home, learning about the importance of environmental sustainability with the Friends of Glen Providence Park, cooking meals and delivering donations for local soup kitchens and the Media Food Banks – students are exposed to the larger community of which they learn they can play an active role.

Inside and outside of the classroom at MPFS, community building is a part of everything we teach our students and everything we hope they will take with them into the larger world. Diversity among our student body and our unique location in downtown Media offers students the opportunity to see themselves as both individuals with something to contribute to the classroom intellectually and to the world around them as agents of change.

UPDATE ON THE CLASS OF 2014: Looking Ahead

We're also celebrating the recent high school graduation of the members of the MPFS Class of 2014 and we wish them well as they embark on new adventures. After spending the last four years at Archmere Academy, Friends' Central, Penncrest, Strath Haven, or Westtown, here's what they have planned for higher education:

Zach Dainton is heading to Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA, where he'll pursue a Nursing degree; **Peirce Eldredge** will continue his education at Emerson College, Boston majoring in Communications, and will play lacrosse and soccer for the school; **Cole Gaboriault** is planning a Physics major and a Linguistics minor at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, which offers a program through which he can earn his bachelor's and master's degrees in Physics possibly in four years; **Quinn Guthrie** will be at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, as a Fashion Merchandising major, and is considering a Math minor; **Will Jarrell** will study at the University of Delaware, Newark, DE; **Lucy Jones** is enrolled at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, as a Journalism/Women's Studies double major and Spanish



(From left to right) Cole Gaboriault, Lucy Jones, Dan Marcolongo, Christopher Palmieri, Will Jarrell, Quinn Guthrie, Elena Sissell, and Summer Peterson

minor; **Janet Kelsey** will pursue a degree in Computer Science at West Chester University, West Chester, PA; **Dan Marcolongo** will study Sports Management and play soccer at Delaware Valley University, Doylestown, PA; **Gia Matika**, in September, along with a few classes at Delaware Community College, she will be starting a seven month leadership course with Landmark Worldwide; **Christopher Palmieri** will major in Business Administration at St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia; **Aidan Peterson** will pursue degree studies – and his music, undoubtedly – at The New School

(Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts), New York; **Summer Peterson** will head to Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA, as a Communications Design major; **Matthew Rhile** will work toward a Bachelor of Science at Babson College, Wellesley, MA, where he can choose two academic concentrations and has chosen Entrepreneurship as one of those; and **Elena Sissell** will be at Clark University, Worcester, MA, as a Community, Youth, and Education Studies major with plans for a fifth-year master's degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education.

ANNUAL GIVING REPORT DONORS | Continued from page 5

Brian R. and Nancy Harris
Terry and Bill Haviland '72
Dorothy Haviland
Annette Hearing and John Wenderoth
R. Matthew Hendricks
Kathryn and Edmund Homa
Christine and Bruce Howells
Eleanor Houghton Hurd '46
Eugene F. and Tracey Jarrell
In Honor Of William and Olivia Jarrell
Sage Kelsey
Karen S. Koziara
Eliza Lewis
Michael Kostal and Ina Li
Jairo Lora and Margaret Wheatley
Sumana Madhav and Madhav Gopal
Robert and Phyllis Manley

Michael and Judith Marcus
Robert P. and Joy C. Marshall
Philip and Hoa McLean
Katie and Russ Miller
Phyllis and Manley Mincer
Kandance Weems Norris and Ronald Norris
Joy and Richard Oakey
Lynn and William Oberfield
Stan Pelli and Tina Duhaime
Martin Pepper and Jennifer Camp
Janice Kirkwood and Phil Peterson
Tina Polletta-Smith
Dorothy Reichardt
Rossano Acchione and Laurie Sbrolla
Richard and Lynne Scheibe
Kenneth Scott
John and Jane Shaw

Earl Sissell and Sonia Stamm
Lisanna Stotts
Fred and Francy Strathmann
Sue and Charles Summers
Marsha and Jonathan Swezey
Doris Tirado and Marna Barrett
Joann and Joseph Townsend
Marcella Tsikata
Anne and Richard Umbrecht
Sandra and Bruce Vermeychuk
Arthur Weisfeld and Virginia Brabender
Rhoda Weisz
Pat Whitaker
Dr. Pratap Yagnik
Charles and Diane Zack
In Honor Of Aaron Zack '09

QUAKER MEETINGS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Chester Monthly Meeting Of Friends
Friends Council On Education
Friends Education Equity Collaborative
Friends Fiduciary Corporation
Haverford Friends Meeting
Haverford Quarterly Meeting
Media Friends Meeting
Providence Friends Meeting
T. Wistar Brown Teachers' Fund
Taylor Community Foundation
The Thomas H. and Mary W. Shoemaker Fund
Wyatt Wistar Brown Fund

OUR NEWEST ALUMNI: CLASS OF 2018

Congratulations, Graduates!

On June 8, eight 8th graders graduated to become our Class of 2018 alumni. Congratulations to Amber, Austin, Julian, Nick, Sander, Sean, Tommi, and Zuri! Each will head off to high school with an MPFS toolkit of academics, values, and sense of self and community. Below are just a few gems from their sparkling graduation speeches along with their high school plans. For more about our newest alumni, check out our “Get to Know Your Grads” Q&A profiles on our website (mpfs.org/news).



(Back row, left to right) Sean, Julian, Austin, Nick, Sander;
(Front row, left to right) Amber, Zuri, Tommi

“Overall, what I will take away from MPFS is the sense of community and friendship everyone brings and [that] although people have different opinions, everyone’s voice can be heard.”

– Nick, Archbishop John Carroll High School

“At this school, not only did I have great experiences, but I also learned important life lessons. ... This school has taught me that everyone needs a support system. ... I have been [given] many opportunities to practice advocating for myself [whether that’s] in academics or social issues.”

– Zuri, Germantown Friends School

Thanks to all the teachers because you “encouraged us to be ourselves.”

– Austin, Penncrest High School

Trained as a Peer Facilitator by T. Laura, “I was taught skills that I’ll need my whole life by a person [who] helps anyone in need.”

– Amber, Bayard Rustin High School

“I would like to thank MPFS for giving me a sense of pride when I was at my highest and supporting me to get back on track when I was at my lowest.”

– Julian, Springfield High School

“My friends also were there for me through thick and thin. ... I will never forget this school and I always wish to be connected.”

– Tommi, Ridley High School

“I am so grateful for this experience, but at the same time, I am definitely ready to have a new one now.”

– Sander, Ridley High School

“Leaving MPFS, I feel that this school has taught me much more than Spanish conjugations and math formulas. It has taught me how to develop my character and as Coach Ryan put it, [to] ‘be mindful of your habits.’”

– Sean, Friends’ Central School

TEACHER/STAFF

Syreeta Bacon
Daryl Ballough
David Camp
Heather Chamberlain
April Chester
Lisa Dainton
Miriam Dawson
Angela DiMaria
Ryan Dunne
Dawn Greenlaw
Holly Hoffmann
Cynthia McGoff
Lisa Morales
Joe Payne
Cristina Perachio ‘01
Emily Richardson
Calperta Scott
Shireen Singh
Earl Sissell

Clare South
Michael Spellman
Francy Strathmann
Kristen Thomas Clarke
Jennifer Trayah
Claire Wilson

TRUSTEE

Ngozi Atanmo
Michael JJ Campbell
Jennifer Payne Conway ‘86
Susan Elliott-Johnson
Greg Gephart
Donn Guthrie
Bruce Haines
Alex Kendrick
Ina Li
Ann Murray
Josh Oberfeld
Martin Pepper

Christopher Shuster
Parker Snowe
Meagan Watkins
Debra Will

AUCTION 2018 SPONSORSHIPS

Garden State Consolidating
Posture Interactive
Moore Brothers Wine Company
Pinocchio’s
The Center Foundation
Garrison Law
Alrez Family Dentistry
D. Pileggi & Sons, Inc.
Friends Select School
Senior Community Services
Westtown School
Wilmington Friends School
B & E Sportswear
Forwood & Christie Orthodontics

Hawkins Technologies, LLC
Linvilla Orchards, Inc.
Rose Valley Asset Management
Shipley School
The Stamm Consultancy
Willis Towers Watson

THE FRIENDS COLLABORATIVE PARTICIPANTS

Dental Arts on the Square -
Phyllis and Manley Mincer
Donald and Carol Guthrie
Donn and Holly Guthrie
Allyson & Jeffery Lehrman
Linvilla Orchards

**deceased*

MEET Teacher Shannon Hohl

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Glenside, Pennsylvania in Abington. I currently live in Plymouth Meeting with my husband and baby.

I met my husband on New Year's Eve in 2009. We got married in 2014. He is just so wonderful. He is a good balance. He keeps me on my toes and he helps me be my best self. I don't know what I'd do without him. And Miss Emily Marie will turn one this August. She is just the light of our lives! She looks like both of us, which we both get a kick out of.

What are your hobbies and interests outside of MPFS?

I love to bake. I'm constantly looking up different baking recipes in my free time. Collecting gadgets and various kitchen tools. I'm slowly running out of room! My favorite thing about baking is being able to share with other people. I think I got that from my grandmother. Whenever I went over to her house I was always in the kitchen with her. She was always happy to share and make food for others.

Tell us about your education?

I went to the University of Pittsburgh for undergrad and I have a bachelor's degree in Applied Developmental Psychology with a certificate in Children's Literature. And then I went back to Pitt for graduate school for my master's in Elementary Education. It was an accelerated program so it was really intense. It definitely involved a lot of work and research and projects. So, having to experience a full year of students teaching I think prepared me for teaching full time. I really got to see how to set up a classroom in August and different strategies for welcoming that community and also see the growth and development with the same class for an entire year. You don't always get to see that.

Have you participated in any recent professional development?

The summer before last, Teacher Laura (MPFS' school counselor) and I went to a workshop on cultural competency. The goal of this professional development opportunity was to help teachers be mindful of individual students' culture that they bring with them into the classroom and our job as teachers is to help them manage that. And to have a community feel in the classroom that acknowledges all cultures, backgrounds, lifestyles, and socio-economic statuses. But the great thing about this was we got different resources and did different mini-workshops on how to incorporate different and more diverse literature in



the classroom. Making sure students can find themselves either in authors or pictures of the literature. It was really wonderful in reminding us to be as mindful or as powerful in celebrating different students in your classroom.

Why did you choose teaching as a profession?

I have always wanted to be a teacher. In my 6th grade yearbook, my response was that I wanted to be a 2nd grade teacher so I'm not far off in my 6th grade hopes and dreams. I love working with kids. I love their ideas. I love how creative they are – more creative than I'll ever be! I love their energy. It is inspiring to be around young people and know that I have this tiny snippet of their life story.

My goal is to help them grow and to have some kind of impact that they get to leave with to carry on throughout the rest of their life. My goal as a teacher is to help them be their best selves, to help bring out their passion. There's nothing else I'd rather be doing. I'm very passionate about helping students be whoever they are meant to be, or whoever they are today, or whoever they are tomorrow.

Why did you choose MPFS?

I don't know if it was me choosing MPFS or MPFS choosing me. Once I got into the culture of a Friends school, it really felt like it matched my own personal values and beliefs. The community aspect of teaching at a friend's school is unique. Having had one year of public school teaching experience, I learned you are kind of isolated in your classroom doing that rigid curriculum. But teaching at a

TEACHER SHANNON... | Continued on page 11

Friends school, there's collaboration, there's celebrating as a school community with different classes in different ways, and partnering with different classes. Again, teaching at a Quaker school and at MPFS in particular, it's all about being able to work with each other and collaborate. Having the opportunity to put on a play with 4th-5th graders, Teacher Angela and I have done that the last two year's and that's been really fun and exciting and engaging. MPFS is, I think, special in that way. The kind of flexibility to collaborate is really special.

What are MPFS' greatest strengths?

I think MPFS' greatest strength is trusting and valuing what I, as a teacher, can bring to the classroom. Being able to make and write and constantly tweak a meaningful curriculum for students. It's not the same every year. It's never going to look the same. I really get to appreciate that. Even if it's a similar thing...with passion projects for example, every year it never looks the same because the kids are active participants in that. They are part of writing that story which is so valuable.

What are some of the ways you prepare your students for the next level in their education?

(We teach) small things like having a homework planner and having students think about how they want to plan their time. Having students think about time management now is foundational for when they'll really need that skill in middle school, high school, and college.

Other ways we prepare our students is through working on projects that involve a lot of different skills. They will read about a topic, write about it, do experiments, and then they have to put that knowledge to use. I think these are great skills looking forward. These practical skills will come in handy when thinking about completing projects in the real world, and having to use what they know to do what they need to do.



Middle school students performing Peter Pan, Jr. for the annual spring musical

PNC Bank
 Priority Express Courier
 Republic Bank
 Roffman Miller Associates Inc.
 Rose Valley Asset Management
 The Friends Education Equity Collaborative
 The Hub, LLC
 The MCS Group Inc.
 UGI Energy Services, Inc.
 Universal Health Services, Inc (BHC Holdings, Inc.,
 Pennsylvania Clinical Schools, UHS of Fairmount Inc.,
 UHS of Pennsylvania, UHS Recovery Foundation)
 Unbound Medicine
 United Savings Bank
 Utica National Insurance Group
 Verizon
 Zoll LLC

"Come explore with us!"



[instagram.com/mediaprovidencefriendsschool](https://www.instagram.com/mediaprovidencefriendsschool)



[facebook.com/media.providence.friends](https://www.facebook.com/media.providence.friends)



twitter.com/mpfs



Students study a chrysalis with Teacher Holly before releasing butterflies on the playground this spring



Friends School

125 W. Third Street
Media, PA 19063

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

IMPORTANT DATES:

Back to School Night
September 27

Pizza Pumpkin Night
October 5

Fall Open House Dates
October 12 & November 9

Grandparents & Special Friends Day
November 21

Winterfest
February 1

610.565.1960
mpfs.org



Teacher Heather, lifelong Patriots fan, poses with her kindergarten class full of "Eaglets" in celebration of the 2018 Superbowl