

Quaker Education



(Below) Friends School Haverford and Greenwood Friends students introduced themselves through letters. (Right) Plymouth Meeting and Friends School Charlotte 3rd graders cap their study with a trip to Chincoteague.



"These ideas really happen because we know each other through the Friends Council network. Through FCE we establish significant connections and get ideas for sharing resources across schools."

—Brenda Boggess

Learning Partnerships

Creative partnerships in Friends education across schools and with outside organizations in the community and the world are a powerful way for students to experience both the commonality and the rich diversity of humanity in our world.

This issue highlights Friends school partnerships with the goal of honoring these unique connections and inspiring more.

Lifting Everybody Up

The third grade class at **Plymouth Meeting Friends School**, Pennsylvania, partnered with the third graders at newly formed **Friends School Charlotte**, North Carolina, in a year-long, parallel study of ocean and wetlands. The project culminated when both classes met for a 3-day trip to Wallop's Island near Chincoteague, Virginia. Students connected throughout the year through exchanging letters, artwork, and photos. This year's 3rd graders will also collaborate. "As a young school, this collaboration allows us to deliver a program we would not otherwise be able to offer," said FSC head of school David Kern. On the way to Chincoteague, FSC students made more connections by visiting overnight at **Virginia Beach Friends School**, Virginia. Partnerships are more than mutually beneficial, David believes: "This is just a better way to work and to learn: the more connecting that can take place, between different schools, between points of view, lifts everybody up in a good way."

Learning Partnerships

Harford Friends School, Street, Maryland, has many partnership projects, such as creating an intergenerational community garden with a neighboring senior center and developing a sustainable adaptive nature trail with Eden Mill Nature Center. Harford's program includes multiple relationships with organizations in its community, including regular curricular trips, service learning partnerships, and formalized instructional partnerships to deliver music, art and outdoor education programs. "For many of the organizations that we work with, the bulk of their teaching happens after school hours, so our partnership is a natural fit," said head of school Jonathan Huxtable, who sees the partnership approach as a strong example of living the value of community and, in a way, simplicity. "By connecting students to the broader world we are providing them with more of an education than any single teacher could ever offer. The community is our partner in the process of teaching and learning and in putting it all into context."

Joint Environmental Mission

Buckingham Friends School, Lahaska, Pennsylvania, co-founded a global network of school partnerships for environmental action and education, the JEM program: Joint Environmental Mission. "The goal of

JEM is to help children of all nations walk this earth together in balance with the environment," said Scott Baytosh, head. Buckingham teachers collaborated with Soviet teachers to found the JEM program in 1991. BFS has permanent partner schools in Russia, India, China, Australia, Ecuador, Haiti, Hawaii, Africa and France, which engage in yearly home-stay exchanges. Every three to five years, BFS holds an Earth Summit with student and teacher representatives from all of the JEM partner schools throughout the world. "The Earth Summit provides a unique opportunity for the kids to develop patience, cultural understanding and a tolerance for different points of view as they collaborate on Earth Summit projects, engage in simulation games and discuss their fears and hopes for the future," Scott said.

Sharing Costs, Reaping Benefits

- In spring 2009, the 4th grades of **Friends School Haverford**, **West Chester Friends School** and **Goshen Friends School** will share a bus and split the cost of a trip to Harrisburg.
- This fall, **Friends School Haverford** 4th graders took a 3-day trip to **Greenwood Friends School** in Millville, Pennsylvania. Linked to their study of Quaker history, the class joined with GFS's intermediate class for visits to Millville Monthly Meeting, a local farm with hayride, and hunkered down to sleep on the gym floor. FSH students returned the favor, hosting GFS middle school students during their visit to Philadelphia in December. **Greenwood Friends School** head Brenda Boggess says, "Students in rural Friends schools like ours can sometimes feel different from their public school peers. There is real meaning in meeting students from other Friends schools which teach the same values as Greenwood Friends School. It helps them feel confident in where they are, and establish relationships that can continue over time."
- Middle school students from **Greenwood Friends** and **United Friends School**, Quakertown, Pennsylvania, created art pieces that they exchanged through the mail. The students then each did an art piece in response to what they received, and both schools displayed the pieces together. "It was kind of a 'call and response' through the mail," says GFS teacher Cindi Hron. Cindi generated the connection by sending an invitation to art teachers at several Friends schools of similar size as Greenwood.



Global Partnerships



Bolivian Quaker teachers interning in Friends schools this year: Alicia Lucasi (far left) with her class at Carolina Friends School, and Ruben Hilari, painting at Oakwood Friends School.



Bolivian Internships in Friends Schools

A powerful cross-cultural partnership is in progress at two U.S. Friends schools, as Bolivian Quaker intern teachers have joined Friends school communities for this school year. Ruben Hilari, who has a degree in English and Aymara linguistics, is spending the year at **Oakwood Friends School**, Poughkeepsie, New York, where he began by observing classes, and is now teaching. Alicia Lucasi is spending the year at **Carolina Friends School** in Durham, North Carolina.

This term Alicia has taken on full responsibility for teaching classes in the upper school, providing coverage for a teacher who is enjoying paternity leave. Mike Hanas, head of school, says: "The courage that Alicia has demonstrated by coming and engaging so fully provides a powerful example for all of us committed to extending ourselves in the interest of building bridges and nurturing even more inclusive communities." The

success of this partnership is the result of a series of coordinated efforts by members of Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, Durham Friends Meeting and members of the CFS community. More than 40 people have come together in a network of support to provide food and lodging for Alicia during the length of her stay, which has created a special bond of caring across the meeting and school communities.

Ruben Hilari is described by Oakwood Friends School head Peter Baily as a multitalented musician, visual artist, techie, and a linguist, who has fully incorporated himself in many dimensions of school life. "We have learned a great deal about the perspective of someone who comes from an extraordinarily different culture, who is immersed in Quaker traditions that are different from ours. Sharing through language, music, and art, we have learned about our own perceptions

of what constitutes 'normal' in terms of our living accommodations, diets, access to resources, and become more aware that people in different circumstances lead remarkably rich and full lives without necessarily having the same access to the resources that Americans depend on," Peter said.

The intern program, new this year, is coordinated by the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund (www.bqef.org), which supports programs that strengthen Quaker education in Bolivia and create connections with Quakers throughout the world. For more information, contact Andrew Rutledge, BQEF board member and Abington Friends School teacher: arutledge@abingtonfriends.net. Follow along with Alicia and Ruben's experiences through their blogs (in English and Spanish): Ruben: <http://rubenhilari.blogspot.com/>; Alicia: <http://alyluc.blogspot.com>.



*El Misterio de la Reunion de Adoracion: William Penn Charter teacher Jean Taraborelli translated the Friends Council's booklet *The Mystery of Meeting for Worship* into Spanish for use by Bolivian Quaker educators. Available for free download: www.friendscouncil.org. More translation opportunities are available! Contact Sarah@friendscouncil.org.*

George School to Pilot Global Service Program

A grant from the E.E. Ford Foundation will allow **George School** (GS), Newtown, Pennsylvania, to create the new Global Service Program. The Global Service Program is envisioned as an opportunity for students and high school educators from schools worldwide. Plans for the program include two components: a Summer International Program in which students prepare for and participate in an international service trip, and a Service Learning Faculty Institute that provides training for faculty interested in implementing service learning programs. This summer, George School is running two pilots of the program for faculty. The July 2009 Global Service Programs will take faculty to either the Szechuan Province of China, which was devastated by an earthquake in 2008, or Cuba, which was ravaged by multiple hurricanes in 2007.

GS's history of international service began in 1947, when the school took part in post-World War II reconciliation efforts by establishing relationships with two schools in Germany. (See photo on p. 3.) Today, in addition to engaging in ongoing service at local sites, GS students participate in service projects in Costa Rica, France, India, Nicaragua, South Africa, South Korea, and Vietnam, as well as Arizona, coastal Louisiana, coastal Mississippi, and Washington D.C.

For info contact: Pauline Forest: Pauline_Forest@georgeschool.org.

Friends School of Tokyo, Japan,

has partnerships with sister Friends schools for student exchanges with: **Moorestown Friends School**, New Jersey; **Friends School Hobart**, Australia; **Abington Friends School**, Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, and is currently hosting a junior from **Germantown Friends School**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and a teacher exchange with Earlham College, Indiana.



RFS teachers and RFS exchange students: to Sidwell Friends and Westtown School 2007-'08.

Our long-standing affiliations with Quaker schools and colleges in the United States have put to test the mutual benefit of a vibrant exchange program. For over a decade now, schools such as **George School**, **Westtown** and more recently **Sidwell Friends School** and the **William Penn Charter School** have each presented one of our students the opportunity of study at the school for an entire year. These generous scholarships constitute a life-transforming opportunity for students who have lived their entire lives under the duress of military occupation. We have seen them return year after year with bigger and greater plans for their future. Their year in the U.S. gives them a glimpse of what a life of freedom feels like. Upon their return, with passion and excitement they share stories with the entire student body as the impact of their experiences slowly finds its way into our entire community. This rich exchange opportunity signifies an important element of bridging the cultural gap between our two peoples. For many of the U.S. students, teachers and staff, a Palestinian is someone who they have only met in the news, and for Palestinians, an American is either the Hollywood star they see in the movies or the teacher who once taught them in Ramallah.

Our global friendships have improved the lives of so many people throughout our history as they expanded our opportunities and provided hope to a community that desperately needed it. For many more generations to come, our new contacts will develop into relationships and our relationships into partnerships and our partnerships into enduring friendships. Read more about the Ramallah Friends Schools online at: www.palfriends.org.

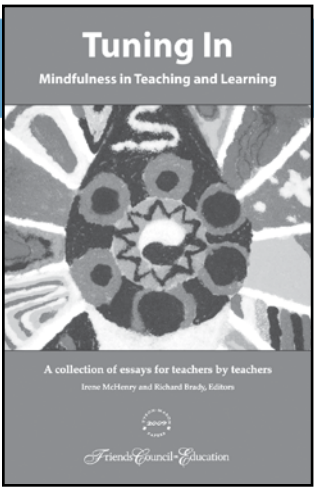
The Essence of Our Mission

By Joyce Ajlouny, Ramallah Friends Schools Director

The story of the **Ramallah Friends Schools** (RFS) is that of success, impact, service and enduring love; a story that would have ended a long time ago if it weren't for our deep-rooted global partnerships that manage to cross all borders.

Heritage Academy, founded in 2004 by **Westtown** teacher Kwesi Koomson (right), is a co-educational primary and junior high school located in Koomson's home village of Breman Esiam in the central region of Ghana, Africa. Heritage Academy has grown from 32 to 450 students in four years, and in July 2008, all graduates passed Ghana's national exams. Every winter two teachers and a group of seniors from Westtown teach and perform a service project at Heritage Academy. A Heritage grad is now attending Westtown. Info: www.scheorkefoundation.org.





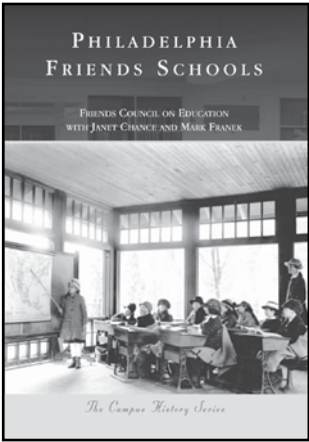
HOT OFF THE PRESSES: ORDER ONLINE: www.friendscouncil.org

“I am delighted that the contributors to this book have come out to share how mindfulness and concentration can be a pleasure to learn, as well as to teach.”
—Thich Nhat Hanh

Tuning In: Mindfulness in Teaching and Learning

Irene McHenry and Richard Brady, Editors

This collection vividly demonstrates that contemplative methods can be used with any curriculum content. Experientially-based vignettes show children, teenagers and teachers using pebbles, mandalas, literature, beanie babies, yoga, journals, homework, artwork to strengthen the core skills underlying all learning: concentration, observation, relaxation, and open, receptive awareness with a positive, curious attitude.



Excerpted from Philadelphia Friends Schools:

Work Camps in Germany:

In response to the suffering created by World War II, Quaker-sponsored work camp programs provided a tangible way to contribute to world peace by offering aid and friendship. Both **Westtown** and **George School** participated in the German work camp movement (1949-1968). This photo (right) shows George School students in Wolfenbittel, Germany, where they joined peers from partner schools in Dusseldorf and Berlin to participate in a work camp near the former East-West border. (Photo courtesy of George School.)



Public School Partnerships

- Friends schools develop working partnerships with public schools, demonstrating the myriad ways communities can explore and grow together.
- **Brooklyn Friends School**, New York, partners with Public Schools 287 and 307 for the Horizons summer enrichment program.
 - **Delaware Valley Friends School**, Paoli, Pennsylvania, partners with Valley Forge Elementary School for the “Eye to Eye” mentoring program for 3rd and 4th graders with learning differences.
 - **Friends School of Portland**, Mackworth Island, Maine, partners with Governor Baxter School of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the REAL School on events and student projects, such as Pinwheels for Peace, a “thanking tree,” collaborative art projects, team building trainings, and student performances. Administrators from the schools meet monthly to plan collaborations.
 - **Friends Seminary, New York**, has these partnership programs: with PS 19, where Friends Seminary (FS) 4th graders teach service learning to PS 19 2nd graders; with Head Start, where FS 4th graders read and play with pre-kindergarten students; with Learning Springs Elementary School, where FS 2nd graders learn about autism and work with LS kindergarteners; with Manhattan Comprehensive Night and Day, where FS students work on language acquisition exchange with students.
 - **Media-Providence Friends School**, Media, Pennsylvania, partners with Media Elementary School, where MPFS 8th graders design and teach a year-long course in conflict resolution to 5th graders.
 - **Moorestown Friends School**, New Jersey, has these partnership programs: with Camden middle schools, where MFS’s Camden Scholars Program provides three students each year with full tuition and assistance with school fees for books and trips; with area public and independent schools, MFS’s Lead for Diversity summer program for high school students including exchange visits during the school year with Haddonfield and Woodbury public schools; with Camden Public School, a robotics team works regularly together and travels to robotics competitions.
 - **Moses Brown School**, Providence, Rhode Island, partners with Hope High School for a joint class exploring local history through drama.
 - **Westbury Friends School**, Long Island, New York, partners with Westbury High School, where WHS students work with young WFS students, and faculty share resources for working with students with special needs.

FRIENDS COUNCIL NEWS

You Lift Us Up!

When economic times are uncertain, people take a hard look at their priorities – which donations will have the biggest impact? As you read about the powerful examples of partnering in this issue of *Chronicles*, consider investing in a partnership of support with the Friends Council on Education. Your dollars make these programs possible:

- peer networks, through which educators connect, explore, and serve as resources for each other;
- the governance initiative, currently focusing on financial sustainability for small Friends schools;
- new online webinars and audiocasts, as well as regional workshops, to increase participation regardless of geographic location.

By giving to the Friends Council, you not only support many valuable programs for all Friends schools, you enter into a meaningful web of relationship among teachers, administrators, and trustees of Friends schools. Together, we are all raised up by every donation, large or small.

Hundreds of caring people have shared their resources through giving to our annual fund so far this year. Please join them by making an investment in the future of Friends education. To find out more, go to www.friendscouncil.org and click on “Make a Gift” or contact Amy Ward Brimmer at 215-241-7245; amy@friendscouncil.org.



Member Notes

Newest Member Schools

- **Harford Friends School**, in Street, Maryland, was welcomed in spring 2008 into full membership in the Friends Council on Education. The school serves 28 children in 6th through 8th grades, and opened in 2005.
- **High Point Friends School**, Greensboro, North Carolina, was welcomed into membership in the Friends Council on Education, fall 2008. Under the care of High Point Meeting (North Carolina Yearly Meeting and United Friends Meeting), the school opened 40 years ago, and has 175 students in pre-school-8th grade. Neighbors of **New Garden Friends School**, HPFS learned a great deal about the Friends Council network through NGFS co-director and Friends Council board member David Tomlin.
- **Friends School of Portland**, Mackworth Island, Maine, was welcomed in January into full membership in the Friends Council on Education. Now three years old, FSP serves 70 students in pre-school — 8th grades.

Expanding Upwards

Three Friends schools are growing along with their students: **Friends Meeting School**, Ijamsville, Maryland; and **Mary McDowell Center for Learning**, Brooklyn, New York, are adding upper school divisions; and **San Francisco Friends School**, California, is adding a middle school division.

Friends Schools in the News

Since the Obama family announced their choice of **Sidwell Friends School** for their daughters’ education, Friends schools have been a frequent subject of news stories and blogs. See the latest at friendscouncil.org> “Obama family Chooses Friends School for Daughters.”

Online NETworking for Friends schools is here!

www.friendscouncil.NET

Friends school faculty, staff, and trustees are invited to join the Friends Council on Education’s new online networking and resource sharing site: friendscouncil.net. Recent topics include: conflict resolution programs, research on reflective education, and the many ways to take part in this year’s Bridge Film Festival.

*A conversation is always better when YOU are part of it!
Register at friendscouncil.net.*

Reflections

The Role of Friends Education in a Democratic Society & a Relational World

The recent news articles about the Obama family choosing a Friends school for their daughters coincided with Arcadia Publishing Company inviting the Friends Council on Education to write an historic photo-documentary of Friends schools in the Philadelphia area (*Philadelphia Friends Schools*, Arcadia Publishing, 2009). These unrelated events spurred me to reflect on the role of Quaker education in preparing children to live as responsible, moral citizens with an optimistic vision of the human spirit and the possibility for a world where peace and justice can flourish.

Reading newsletters from Friends schools I see the preparation for students to fully participate in the global community and work toward a more peaceful world. Whether students are learning about peacemakers or engaging in service, through the Quaker approach they learn to experience all of life as sacred with the goal of becoming informed, compassionate persons engaged in action.

While reviewing hundreds of archival images from Friends schools for the upcoming Arcadia publication, I was moved by photographs of Friends school projects to relieve suffering during and after World War II: schools enrolling Japanese-American teenagers tuition-free during the war; teens working with the American Friends Service Committee in relief work and forming relationships with sister schools in Poland, Holland, and Germany. Friends school communities responded in like fashion to care for children suffering from war in recent



Germantown Friends students serving Meals on Wheels, c. 1954 (Photo courtesy of Germantown Friends School).

decades, making it possible for children to have safe haven and education in the U.S. I am regularly encouraged by news of Friends school students and teachers creating global relationships. A student from North Carolina, writing home from a service trip in El Salvador, sums up the experience: “By looking for the light in others, by searching for what is simply good in a complex world, by understanding that peace can be created and sustained through relationships of mutual respect, any two groups can find common ground to connect, and inspire one another to continue to grow.”

The following excerpt from an article in the *Wall Street Journal*, “Quaker Education for a Socially Just World” (December 9, 2008), echoes the commitment that I have heard from many Friends school parents to ensure an education for their children that will help them contribute to a socially just world.

“If there was one lesson I learned from reporting in Iraq, it was that differences in culture, traditions and even history paled before our commonly held values. Like Americans, the people I interviewed there want their children to eat well, to be safe, to be educated and to live in a just world. I chose a Quaker school for my daughter because I wanted her to understand that there are principles that join us as citizens of the world, and those principles — justice, tolerance and equality — matter.”

Washington Post Foreign Correspondent
Anthony Shadid

These principles have grounded Friends schools since their beginnings more than three centuries ago, when early Quakers had no creed to teach or sacraments to bind them as a group. Then, as now, they taught a way of life that was simple, clear, spirited, demanding and deeply democratic.

Dore McHenry

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 248

Friends Council on Education
1507 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102
215.241.7245 • info@friendscouncil.org • www.friendscouncil.org

WINTER 2009

Learning Partnerships

CHRONICLES OF

Quaker Education

Spirit-Led Professional Development for Friends Schools

Workshops

Educators New to Quakerism, Pendle Hill
February 19 – 20, 2009
May 7 – 8, 2009

Facilitating Quaker Decision-Making in a Friends School, Arch Street Meeting House, Philadelphia, PA
Monday, February 9, 2009

Governance Matters!

Special Focus for 2008 – 09 on Advancement & Financial Sustainability for Small Friends Schools for Trustees, Heads, Business Officers, Development Staff & Volunteers
April 4 — Mary McDowell Center for Learning, Brooklyn, NY
April 18 — San Francisco Friends School, CA

Downloadable Recordings: www.friendscouncil.net
> Heads/Trustees > Governance Matters

Upcoming Peer Networks

Librarians: February 27, 2009, Abington Friends School
March 2–3, 2009, Pendle Hill

Bridge Film Festival: March 28, 2009, Ackworth School, UK
April 16-17, 2009, Sidwell Friends School

Deans of Students: April 20, George School

Elementary Heads, Nursery & Preschool Heads:
April 26 – 28, Chestnut Hill Meeting House, Phila., PA
Division Directors & Assistant Heads: April 27 – 28, 2009, Chestnut Hill Meetinghouse, Phila., PA

Friends Environmental Educators Network (FEEN):
April 29 – May 1, 2009, Friends School Haverford
May 5, 2009, Abington Friends School

Admissions: May 11-12, 2009, Pendle Hill

GRANTS for Student Projects

Deadline: Friday, April 3, 2009

The Friends Council on Education happily supports experiential student projects that are grounded in Quaker testimonies. Each year the Friends Council awards grants of up to \$2000 to Friends schools to fund creative and collaborative projects in Friends schools. See the FCE Grants Gallery to see past projects and guidelines for application for 2009-10 funding:

www.friendscouncil.org.

Past participants of Friends Council programs say . . .

“Every meaningful professional development experience that I have had has been through the Friends Council, because my work is spirit-led.”

Preserving, Inspiring, Strengthening . . . Friends Education