

Quaker Education



Media Providence Friends School
eighth grade students mentor fifth graders at
Media Elementary Public School

Public School Partnerships — Making a Difference for America's Children

Common folk, not statesmen, nor generals, nor great men of affairs, but just simple men and women, if they devote themselves . . . can do something to build a better peaceful world.

— Henry Cadbury, 1947 in *Faith and Practice*,
Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

What is the public purpose of private education?

Friends schools engage in partnerships with public schools and institutions serving as a community resource and as community builders in service to others, while living the Quaker values of service, community, integrity and social justice. *"Independent schools contribute to the strength of American education by providing excellence and difference in thousands of communities, by modeling different routes to high educational quality, by being locally focused and by teaching democracy, tolerance and respect,"* (National Association of Independent Schools). Given the enormous needs of the public school system, how are Friends schools reaching out and sharing talents and resources? This issue of *Chronicles of Quaker Education* illustrates the many partnerships that Friends schools have created. These stories and resources model cherished Quaker values in both education and life.

Moses Brown (Providence, RI) sits across the street from Hope High School, a large urban school that is racially and socioeconomically diverse and was cited as one of the most troubled public schools in New England. The leaders of Student Leaders Aiming for Multiculturalism at MB initiated an exchange with Hope HS to increase understanding between their schools and to address biased stereotypes that both schools had of one another. Students at MB are paired with Hope High students and after an initial introductory session, the pairs spend a full day in each other's schools. Hope High students participate in MB's Meeting for Worship, join their student-centered Harkness discussions and help actively in lab experiences. Ultimately, students recognize that both groups are proud of their schools, and realize that the similarities between students and schools are more evident than the differences.

A collaborative partnership between **Friends School of Portland** (Falmouth, ME) and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf, housed together on Mackworth Island, came about as part of a shared lease agreement with the State of Maine. This arrangement provides the opportunity for FSP students to learn American Sign Language and to blend classes with GBSD. The art teachers at both schools initiated combined classes. The schools co-hosted a mime/dancer as a two-week artist-in-residence to do workshops leading to a performance involving students from both schools. This year a combined physical education class for grades 3–5 gives GBSD students an opportunity to play team sports.

For ten years, eighth graders at **Media-Providence Friends School** (Media, PA) have been working with fifth grade students at Media Elementary Public School. The lessons, prepared and taught by MPFS students, are a composite of nonviolence training, mediation skill building and transition preparedness. Students develop a meaningful mentoring relationship over time. Exercises, games and role-plays include affirmation, goal setting, self-awareness, friendship skills, alternatives to violence and teamwork. MPFS has nurtured this exchange because it offers their students an opportunity to lead and to teach peacemaking skills with others in need. Eighth graders strengthen their own collaborative skills and help to develop these skills with their fifth grade partners. The Media Elementary fifth graders give MPFS students insight into the challenges they face and share their ongoing work in conflict resolution between the monthly training sessions. Building personal relationships with particular children at Media Elementary has been one of the best aspects of this partnership.



Friends Seminary fourth grader teaches PS #19 student about cause and effect through pinwheel construction.

A fourth grade class at **Friends Seminary** (New York, NY) is excited to teach first grade student buddies at Public School #19. Each week FS students discuss the goals and strategies for the lessons they will teach and any concerns or particular teaching challenges they have. Since Public School #19 students are learning about cause and effect, each fourth grade student develops a lesson plan where the focus is to teach the cause and effect relationship between wind and movement through constructing a pinwheel. The process of creating a lesson plan forces each fourth grade student to consider his/her behavior and impact on learning from a different perspective. No longer are they the students, but rather, they are now the teachers. The essential question their lessons address is: *What do I need to do in order to effectively convey my lesson and for my buddy to learn?* Whether the goal is academic improvement, personal development, or both, students learn problem solving, critical thinking, communication skills, teamwork, civic responsibility, and what it means to care about and for others.

William Penn Charter School (Philadelphia, PA) is engaged in partnerships with eight different public schools in the Philadelphia school system, including charter schools and one school for children with physical disabilities. Tenth grade Quaker Principles and Practice classes, working with Potter-Thomas School and Wissahickon Charter School, offer particularly powerful learning experiences. PC students begin to define their own position on problems and solutions with regard to public education, and develop strong convictions about social change given the context of these personal relationships. These student-to-student experiences are a perfect way in which testimonies, queries and social action are not only read and discussed, but also experienced. Teachers and students in both schools describe the positive experiences and meaningful relationships that develop from their weekly interactions. In addition, Wissahickon Charter often uses PC sports facilities, and its eighth grade graduation is held in PC's Meeting Room. Another opportunity to build community with neighbors is the Kurtz Center, PC's new state-of-the-art performing arts center, opening its doors to local and citywide dance, music and theater groups and their audiences. In addition, PC has introduced Philanthropy 101 into the curriculum as a direct outgrowth of the public purpose movement. Students question: *Who am I in relationship to my community? In what ways can I give?* as they work with foundations and non-profits in service of others.

Since April 2008, the **Moorestown Friends School** (Moorestown, NJ) Robotics Program has conducted 2000 hours of outreach and community service. As the program has grown, a spirit among the students to provide outreach to other young people gained momentum. Students and faculty have partnered with middle school students at KIPP Freedom Academy and LEAP Academy (Camden, NJ), **Friends Academy of Westampton** (Westampton, NJ), **Orchard Friends School** (Riverton, NJ) and Blankenburg Middle School (Philadelphia) to mentor students and prepare them for competitions. MFS has hosted small competitions on campus and, in December, hosted a First Tech Challenge regional qualifier at which 25 teams competed in hopes of qualifying for state and eventually national competition. The program has also grown to include Lower and Middle School Robotics clubs at MFS. A grant from the **Friends Council on Education** provides funds for MFS to purchase Legos and other materials for construction of the robots.



Creating a Deeper Understanding of One Another

We are much concerned about the whole content of human relationship, about the meaning of "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" in the full range and depth of its implications. Loving means warmth and intimacy, open-heartedness and overwhelming generosity of hand and spirit. It means a desire to know and a courageous willingness to be known.

— Quaker Home Service, London Yearly Meeting, 1961 in *Faith and Practice*, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



Germantown Friends School and HMS students perform their annual musical together.



"I'm scared," whispered a **Friends School of Mullica Hill** (Mullica Hill, NJ) seventh grader as the school bus pulled up to the local Arc, a national organization serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Later that morning, the same student was carefully and comfortably helping an older mentally challenged adult work on a simple craft project. Over the past eight years, students have regularly visited the Arc to work in the bakery and in the adult training center, working hand in hand with the mentally and physically challenged. A mini-walk to help support and celebrate this important partnership happens annually. Members in wheel chairs and with feeding tubes walk in unity with students. These experiences have had a powerful impact on FSMH students, creating an atmosphere of compassion, helpfulness and purpose. Sixth graders partner with a local regional day school that serves mentally and physically challenged children and fifth graders partner with the local Friends Village, a Quaker retirement/nursing home. All three partnerships help FSMH students understand the inner joy that results from helping others. Students stretch out of their comfort zone stepping forward with confidence and desire to help others.

It began 28 years ago from an insensitive remark during a skit about being mentally retarded. Students were asked if the skit had disturbed them and several hands shot up saying *Yes*. It was at that moment that **Germantown Friends School** (Philadelphia, PA) decided that interaction with others who are different from its students was necessary. Guiding students to discover their humanity by looking at similarities and differences with an open heart allowed GFS students to discover new friends through an enduring partnership with children at the HMS School for Children with Cerebral Palsy. Learning to treat those with differences more equally has been a significant teachable moment each year. Early on, an inspirational idea of performing a musical together was born. Over the life of this partnership, eight original musicals have been performed capturing the essence of different people coming together to understand and celebrate their strengths. Throughout the years this musical exchange has transformed lives. Friends have been made and music and movement have created joy and a deeper understanding of one another.

Building Bridges Near and Far

Neighborhood and International Partnerships

Partnerships build community, trust and a deeper understanding of one another. Creating a reciprocal relationship between the one who is serving and the one being served ultimately empowers all those engaged in the act of service. In partnerships, both sides mutually give and benefit. The Quaker testimony of Community speaks to relationships born from mutual respect, equality and the human desire to connect, serve and give back.

Neighborhood Partnerships

West Chester Friends School (West Chester, PA) has an ongoing relationship with the residents of The Hickman, a Friends retirement home next door. Throughout the year, students spend structured and informal time with their elder neighbors, walking across the lawn to The Hickman to present poetry, sing songs, work on joint craft projects and play games. Residents are welcome visitors on campus attending Meeting for Worship, the Book Fair, afternoon concerts, and are a part of the fun on Grandparents and Special Friends Day. These experiences enrich day-to-day life on campus, expand students' sense of neighborhood and community, bridge intergenerational gaps and bring joy to everyone involved!

How does fostering community with our students today make a difference for tomorrow?

Newtown Friends School (Newtown, PA) focuses on developing rich intergenerational relationships with Pennswood Village residents in the hope that the impact will be lasting. Students travel weekly to the neighboring retirement community for Wednesday lunches and Friday Friends community service classes. Twenty resident volunteers commit to once-a-week classroom visits to teach and share time with students. This year programs include: Wii competitions, Holocaust speakers, e-mail exchanges between students and retired professionals, Civil Rights activists, an antiques road show, tap dancing, service projects, bocce and croquet. These experiences enrich the lives of both students and retired friends by providing opportunities for mutual learning, adaptation, creativity and commitment.

Sixth graders at **San Francisco Friends School** (San Francisco, CA) partner with Project Homeless Connect to support their Growing Home Community Garden. The mission of the garden is to increase access to green space, to grow food to serve a struggling population and to build community. Students begin the school year by studying the novel *Seedfolks*, a story of a fictional community garden in Detroit highlighting issues of social justice, equality and stewardship. SFFS contributes non-perishables to the food pantry on-site at the garden and collects supplies to jumpstart a vertical gardening project. Students provide service and learn about homelessness issues in San Francisco. Reducing prejudice and stigma around homelessness, as well as encouraging students to take action in their community, are goals for the collaboration.

Abington Friends School (Jenkintown, PA) enjoys a fruitful partnership with the Whosoever Gospel Mission who provides shelter, education and rehabilitation to the homeless in Philadelphia. Serving together on Martin Luther King Day is a special connection. Partnering happens during the rest of the year when AFS students visit the Mission to volunteer and when the Mission Director visits AFS to talk with students about homelessness and the people they serve. Education is a primary outreach goal of the Mission, teaching that all deserve respect and dignity, a philosophy that aligns well with the Quaker belief in equality. AFS and the Mission work in partnership to build and foster community.

Pennswood residents gather around as Newtown Friends School student shows samples of her digital work.



Buckingham Friends School students visiting their Joint Environmental Mission partners in Kenya.



International Partnerships

Over a span of 10 years, **Friends School of Baltimore** (Baltimore, MD) and Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation (GEDCO) have cultivated a vital partnership that creates ongoing opportunities for both communities to grow and learn from one another. The partnership began with FSB seventh graders visiting Epiphany House, a residential facility for low-income seniors, for weekly brown-bag lunches and conversation. Today, FSB participates in nine different GEDCO initiatives, with students from first to twelfth grade gaining firsthand knowledge about the negative effects of poverty and the importance of community. Each hands-on service activity concludes with a period of worship sharing to deepen students' insights and help them draw connections to classroom studies. It is the shared values — a belief in the dignity and worth of all people and a commitment to serving others — that fuel this symbiotic relationship.

A new course offering at **New Garden Friends School** (Greensboro, NC), *Honors History: A History of Poverty through the Twenty-First Century*, has a significant hands-on component. Students are planning a spring trip to the Dominican Republic to work in partnership with the Orphanage Outreach program, a nonprofit organization that serves underprivileged children in orphanages in the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua. NGFS students will teach, tutor and build at Dominican orphanages. They expect the trip benefits to be mutual. "I just know that I will come off that airplane viewing the world in a new way and knowing that I touched someone's heart, and someone touched mine," one student shared. Students are raising one hundred percent of the trip fees through outreach in the school community and Greensboro business community. Quaker testimonies are realized as NGFS students expand and strengthen their community, serve others and learn in the process.

Stratford Friends School (Newtown Square, PA) students are helping children in rural India stay in school. Upon learning of a bike project that gives children transportation to school, SFS students wanted to help kids receive an education that would ultimately improve their living conditions. SFS students planned an annual fund-raising event and began writing letters to the Indian children. Last year's efforts helped provide 17 bikes for this project, and SFS students plan to continue raising funds and writing letters to their new friends and partners in rural India.

The Joint Environmental Mission (JEM) at **Buckingham Friends School** (Lahaska, PA) was co-founded in 1991 when BFS teachers collaborated with Soviet teachers around the goal of helping children of all nations walk this earth together in balance with the environment. BFS has permanent partner schools in Russia, Australia, Kenya, China, Ecuador, France, Spain and Hawaii. They are exploring partnerships with India and Haiti. Every five years BFS hosts a two-week Earth Summit to share cultures, concerns about the environment, and strengthen friendships in peace. In 2009 BFS families hosted 55 teachers and students from five countries. Last summer 11 students traveled to Australia where they met with JEM students from Hawaii and were hosted by teachers and families. In June, seven BFS students participated in the first JEM trip to Kenya where they attended classes and stayed with their Masai hosts. In October, BFS sent several students to a JEM school in Russia, and in April BFS families will host students from France for two weeks.



Friends Select School second grade students join Academy of Natural Sciences scientists at a private New Jersey paleontological dig site.

University and Museum Partners

The **Quaker School at Horsham** (Horsham, PA) has an ongoing relationship with the University of the Arts graduate Art Education program in which UArts students support TQS lower and middle school art classes, offering novel ideas and new spins on traditional mediums. UArts students benefit from their experience working with a specialized population of students with learning differences. TQS students, who are creative, energetic and interested in non-traditional ideas, are just the right people to inspire emerging art teachers. The UArts students bring different perspectives on teaching and a deeper understanding of teaching methods to both students and teachers.

A renewed focus on technology at **Westbury Friends School** (Westbury, NY) was piloted with the goal of establishing and assessing curricula criteria at different grade levels and increasing tech opportunities in the 2010–11 academic year. This was a direct result of the support given to WFS by Adelphi University in refurbishing the technology lab with generous donations of computers and printers. The newly appointed technology lab provides an environment for Adelphi's interns to practice what they have learned by providing tech instruction to WFS K–5 students weekly. WFS also partners with Hofstra University's Art Travelers program. The faculty and students of WFS collaborate with the staff from Emily Lowe Gallery to incorporate art and art history into their curriculum. Specific to each grade level's needs, the Art Travelers program provides a fully integrated and developmentally appropriate collaborative endeavor.

The city of Philadelphia is quintessential to the **Friends Select School** (Philadelphia, PA) experience and has enabled FSS to create strong partnerships with the city's cultural and science institutions. From PreK–12, FSS students learn to use the city's resources to engage learning in critical and lasting ways. A new educational connection, forged between FSS and the Academy of Natural Sciences, provides weekly lessons to second and third graders at the Academy taught by museum staff and designed in partnership by the Academy's education department and the FSS lower school science specialist. A partnership with the Philadelphia Museum of Art complements the ninth grade study of medieval Europe. Museum curators guide students through their research so that each student can place pieces in historical context, explain aesthetics and understand the importance of the artists. Every spring, the partnership culminates in a public presentation by students. This experience deeply engages students in learning critical research and oral presentation skills, along with art appreciation. This 20-year-old partnership remains a vital capstone experience for FSS students.



Westbury Friends School students work in tech lab refurbished by donations from Adelphi University.

News of Giving and Support

You and Friends Council: A Dynamic Partnership!

Since its founding in 1931, Friends Council on Education has become an integrating force in Quaker education, serving Friends schools in an advisory, consultative, and nurturing capacity, developing mutual understanding and support among its institutions. We cultivate relationships within and across schools, so when you make a gift to Friends Council you become a full partner in this work and the work of our member schools.

Make a Gift to the 2010–11 Annual Fund

Annual giving provides a critical unrestricted resource for our general operating expenses and is a vital source of support for programs and resources such as:

- Educators New to Quakerism workshops, the Leadership Institute, and our new Engaging the Heart seminar
- Resources on Diversity, Governance, and Mindfulness
- Publications both practical and inspirational
- Webinars and podcasts that link our members in a global classroom.

These programs are how we build partnerships with Friends school communities and those who live and learn within them.

One especially effective way to partner with FCE is by joining the Sustainers program — monthly or quarterly automatic deductions that allow you to maximize your gift at whatever level and pace works best for you. 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.

Sowing Seeds of Peace An Interfaith Partnership

Since September 2002, students from **Princeton Friends School** (Princeton, NJ) and **Noor-Ul-Iman School**, a local Islamic school, have been getting to know one another and their school communities. They have exchanged almost-monthly visits to each other's schools, sharing stories and cooperative games, contemplating together in the mosque and the Meetinghouse, singing songs and playing soccer. The partnership started with a simple idea of pen pals and class visits, and grew into a program that now involves every first to eighth grade student at PFS, both hosting and visiting Noor-Ul-Iman. Students are paired, some of who have been partners for many years. Teachers from both schools have become familiar colleagues and friends, sharing ideas and common concerns. There have been challenges that keep PFS defining their understanding of community, continuing to learn about themselves and others, and grappling with differences by seeking common ground. One of the founding teachers refers to the partnership as sowing "seeds of peace."



Students from Princeton Friends School and Noor-Ul-Iman School end their time together in song with hand motions.

A final celebration for graduating eighth graders from both schools.



Moorestown Friends School junior helps Blankenburg Middle School student build a robot for entry into a robotics competition. Legos and materials were purchased with a Friends Council grant.



Resources from the Friends Council on Education

Learn more about Community Building through Partnerships

The Friends Council website has a wealth of information, including programs, job listings and resources. Please visit us at: www.friendscouncil.org > **Resources** > **Links to Other Organizations**

FriendsCouncil.net is a forum for informational discourse among Friends schools. Join the **Service Learning in Friends Schools** group to share ideas and resources. www.friendscouncil.net

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— Friends School of Baltimore

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Grants for Student Projects

Deadline: Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Each year the Friends Council on Education awards grants of up to \$2000 to Friends schools to fund creative and collaborative student projects that are grounded in Quaker testimonies.

Visit the online Grants Gallery to see past projects and Grant Guidelines for application process:

www.friendscouncil.org > **Resources** > **Grants to Schools**



www.friendscouncil.org



Reflections

Friends Testimony on Community

Community is a place where the connections felt in the heart make themselves known in bonds between people, and where tuggings and pullings of those bonds keep opening up our hearts.

— Parker Palmer, 1977 in *Faith and Practice*,
Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (2001)

This winter issue of the *Chronicles of Quaker Education* provides extraordinary snapshots of students living out the testimony of Community in Friends schools, specifically through leadership in community-building partnerships.

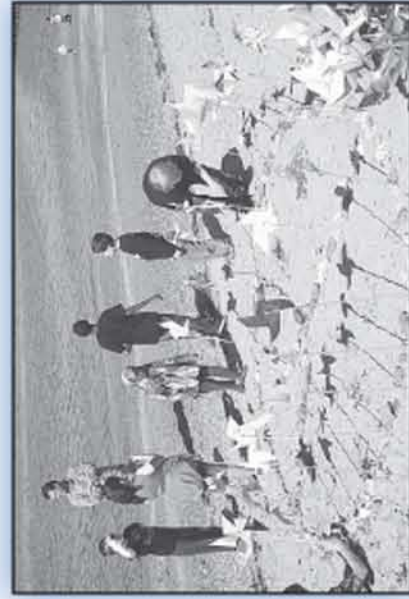
In September, I had the pleasure of meeting with U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. In our conversation, Secretary Duncan noted that people sometimes like to pit public schools against private schools, and he called such distinctions “absolutely artificial.” I assured Mr. Duncan, speaking from my role as president of the board for the Council for American Private Education, that we would continue to ensure that independent and religious schools are working together with public schools toward the common good. Many private school graduates engage in a life of serving the common good. From Secretary Duncan’s perspective, “The diversity and commitment to helping

others are so important. That is why you see so many alums [of private schools] go into public service. We were given a gift, and it’s our responsibility to give that gift to others.” This issue of *Chronicles* points to stories of students in Friends schools reaching out to give gifts to others and to be touched by the gifts of others.

We hope that through these examples of Friends schools building partnerships with public schools and faith-based and civic organizations, we can take heart to keep working together. In so doing, we contribute to building an interdependent web ensuring that our students, alumni, and our schools can be even more effective contributors to the common good, and that this work continues “opening our hearts.”

Irene McHenry

Irene McHenry, Executive Director



Pinwheels for Peace is a partnership Peace project with Friends School of Portland, the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf and the REAL School, an alternative public school, all located on Mackworth Island, Maine.

CHRONICLES OF Quaker Education

Building Community
Through Partnerships

WINTER 2011

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Workshops

Educators New to Quakerism, Pendle Hill, February 17–18, 2011 or May 5–6, 2011
New! Engaging the Heart, June 21–24, 2011, Westtown School

Heads Gatherings

Heads of Schools with Secondary Divisions, April 7–8, 2011, Lincoln School and Moses Brown School
Heads of Friends Elementary, Nursery, & K-8 Schools, May 1–3, 2011, Chestnut Hill Meetinghouse

Peer Network Events

Admissions Peer Network, May 9–10, 2011, Pendle Hill
Assistant Heads & Division Directors, May 2–3, 2011, Chestnut Hill Meetinghouse
Diversity Peer Network, February 28, 2011, Friends Center
Early Childhood Educators, May 16–17, 2011, Friends School of Baltimore
Friends Environmental Educators Network (FEEN), April 27–29, 2011, Brooklyn Friends School
Librarians Peer Network, February 25, 2011, Friends Center

Engaging the Heart

June 21–24, 2011 at Westtown
Reflection, Renewal, Relationship
A Seminar for Educators

Education is heart work. In this seminar retreat, we will engage together in restorative and inspiring explorations of the art and calling of teaching, renewing together the heart, energy, and spirit of our work. Informed by the work of Parker Palmer, Judy Brown, and the Friends Council on Education's Spirited Practice program, using collaborative inquiry, keynote presentations, interactive experiences, film, music, and recreation, we will reignite the spark that enlivens our calling as educators. The residential seminar takes place on the beautiful campus of Westtown School where the forests, streams, lake, fields and gardens are sources of study, recreation and nourishment for both body and spirit.

Register Now! On our streamlined website: www.friendscouncil.org

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