

MPFS lower school students welcome immigrant youth in our community

Service Learning at MPFS combines our commitment to school, local, and far-reaching service with our mission to provide students with the deep understanding and practical skills to address real-world problems toward social justice and change, always rooted in Quaker values.

Our belief that our students are preparing for morally based, global citizenship impels us to utilize the world around us, so they learn that there's a larger community of which they are a part, that they can participate in it helpfully, and that they can influence the lives of others in powerful, positive ways.

At all ages and in every class, our students engage in learning through service and service through action. We

conduct service learning via self-contained campus initiatives and in partnership with local, regional, and worldwide organizations.

Spanish teacher Marina Rendon-Hepler was born and raised in Mexico City. After a career as a Corporate Lawyer in Mexico, the experience of raising a bilingual child instilled in her the interest in learning more about bilingual education and teaching. In the spring of 2022, this passion led T. Marina to connect MPFS students in grades 1-3 with Project Libertad, a local non-profit organization that "empowers newcomer immigrant youth

Annual
Giving Report
Now Available
Online!

mpfs.org/annual-report

SERVICE LEARNING... | Continued on page 6



T. Clare's First Grade students display their completed notes and drawings to welcome immigrant youth in the Phoenixville community in partnership with Project Libertad.

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LETTER FROM The Head of School

Dear Friends,

After the health challenges posed by Covid, the spring of 2022 saw the return of some favorite MPFS events and traditions such as the middle school musical, spring concerts, STEAM Showcase, the culminating Grade 8 trip to New Mexico, and more. We were very pleased to be able to welcome our community back to campus for several of these events including our Class of 2022 graduation ceremony – check out page five to see where our graduates are heading for high school this fall (plus, an update from our Class of 2018 on their college acceptances and decisions!)

Reconnecting with our community has been one of the great joys of navigating this “new normal.” As a Friends school, the importance of stewardship and service is woven throughout our curriculum and lays the foundation for a lifelong commitment to community engagement and an understanding of the many forms it can take. In our cover feature, you’ll find an excellent example of serving and building connections with our local community through a partnership with Project Libertad, a non-profit organization based in Phoenixville, that “serves newcomer immigrant children and their families.”

It is difficult to mention service learning at MPFS without thinking of our recently retired school counselor of 20+ years, Teacher Laura Taylor, who wrote that “for over two decades, MPFS has been at the forefront of teaching young students that they can be leaders and friendly helpers to others.” We hope this issue inspires you to reconnect with your own community, and find new and creative ways to be friendly helpers to others!

In Friendship,

Jon Hall
Head of School



Jon Hall, Head of School

MPFS named a Talk of the Town Favorite... again!

Media-Providence Friends School has been named a 2022 Talk of the Town Favorite by Delaware County News Network in the categories of Kindergarten, Preschool-Grade 8, Day Care, Summer Camp, and Day Camp! At Media-Providence Friends School, we awaken the passion and potential of all individuals



within a welcoming, diverse community led by Quaker values. We believe that a Friends education is preparation for the whole of life: the passionate development of intellectual, physical, spiritual, and social-emotional capacities. If you know of a family that would be a good fit for our community, please encourage them to RSVP to an upcoming open house at mpfs.org/rsvp. Our early childhood program, age 2-Kindergarten, is now full for the 2022-23 school year but there is space available in all other grades through Grade 8.

ANNUAL GIVING REPORT

Philanthropy is about generosity in all its many forms: gifts of time, talent, and treasure. It is because you let your lives speak that our school thrives today.

We are grateful to have you back on campus. We've missed your presence here and hope you will continue to come and see, firsthand, the excellent education we are able to provide with your support. Our success is due in no small part to our passionate, dedicated volunteers helping us realize our goals. Whether you volunteered for the auction, helped facilitate our Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion initiatives, shared the good word about MPFS on social media, spent time assisting with on-campus events, or the stewardship you showed to assist this community financially, all of it made a tremendous impact.

Your financial support is essential to the education of students. Thank you for making the school a charitable priority, even if you were facing personal challenges. Your stewardship for MPFS has a profound impact on the families we serve. You've helped us provide a safe and joyful space where our students thrive. Of the 261 people who donated to the MPFS Fund, 89% of those contributed at a donation level under \$1,000. This is evidence of what we can accomplish when we come together to build a supportive school community.

In our continued effort to save paper and help our environment, the Annual Giving Report is available online: visit mpfs.org/annual-report for a complete listing of all our generous donors!

2021-22 MPFS Fund by the Numbers

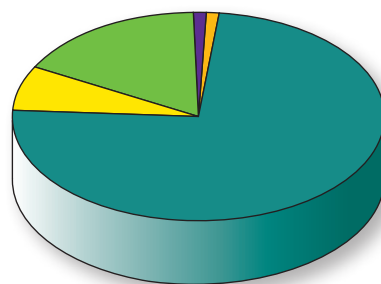
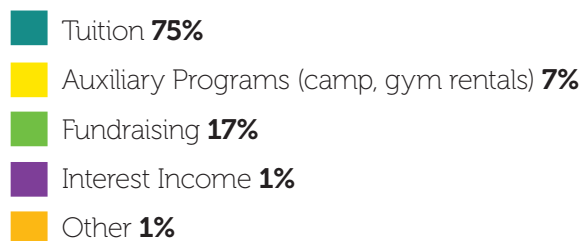
TOTAL: **\$122,548.51** • DONORS: **240** • GIFTS: **385**

*We thank our Trustees for giving with 100% participation.
Help us achieve 100% participation all around in 2022-23.*

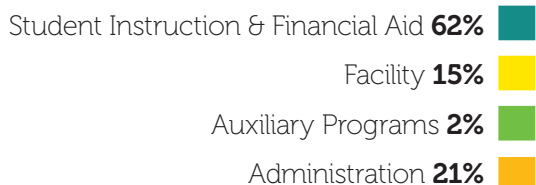
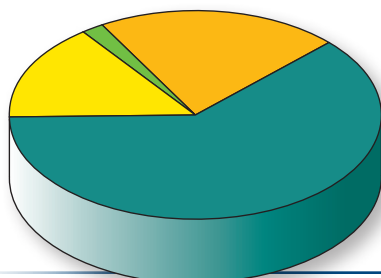
2021-22 Special Donations beyond MPFS Fund

TOTAL: **\$406,847** • DONORS: **62**

INCOME



EXPENSES



CLASS OF 2018 UPDATE

The class of 2018 was accepted to DePaul University, DePaul Law School, Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Albany Law School, Mercer University, Howard University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Albright College, Cabrini, Bowie State, New York Institute of Technology, Jefferson, University of Tampa, University of the Sciences, Morehouse College, Swarthmore College, Villanova University, Drexel University, Haverford College, West Chester University, Saint Joseph's University, Franklin & Marshall, Dickinson, RIT, Rennslear, Seattle University, TU Dublin, Trinity Dublin, Mount St Mary, Marymount, Millersville, Shippensburg, Kutztown, Bloomsburg, Pitt, Penn State, Scranton, Virginia Common Wealth, The University of Virginia.

Class of 2018 College Decisions:

Amber Thomas

Mercer University

Major: Pre-Law, Criminology, Public Health/law (joint), and Criminal Justice

**Sander Simon**

Swarthmore College

Major: Astronomy and Biology

**Austin Atanmo**

Thomas Jefferson University

Major: Premed, Biology, Health sciences

**Sean McGoff**

Trinity College Dublin

Major/Masters: Computer Engineering

**Julian Brown**

Drexel University

Major: Psychology

**Tommi Claiborne**

Penn State

Major: Exercise Science or Kinesiology

**Nick Santos**

Saint Joseph's University

Major: Political Science

**Zuri Abdus-Salaam**

University of Virginia

Major: Kinesiology, Exercise Science, or Biology



Congratulations to the Class of 2022!



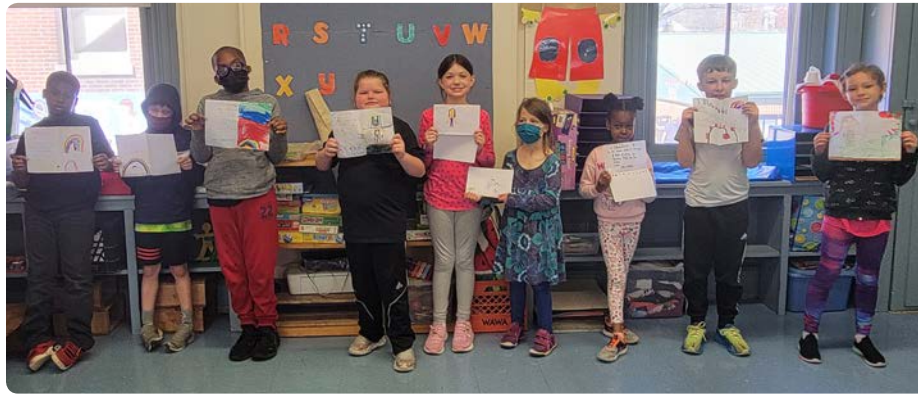
Jonathan Acevedo - Friends' Central School
 Gage Cunningham - Cardinal O'Hara High School
 Parker Jimenez - Springfield High School
 Sajdah King - Cardinal O'Hara High School
 Ruby Lane - Strathaven High School
 Shannon McGoff - Haverford High School
 Cole Muller - The Shipley School
 Eric Sturgis - Haverford High School
 Evie Watkin - Friends' Central School
 Alexander Wolfe - Wilmington Friends School

and their families by providing essential, youth-led, and youth-centered legal and social services.” Project Libertad works to empower newcomer immigrant youth “to have access to the legal services, social services, academic support, and leadership opportunities needed to thrive.”

Through Service Learning at MPFS, students gain a sense of responsibility for one another, their community, and their world, along with self-worth, compassion, and empowerment. As part of the project, T. Marina read the students the book *A Journey Toward Hope* by Coert Voorhees and Victor J. Hinojosa, which narrates the fictional journey of four unaccompanied migrant children who have to flee their home in Central America and come to the United States in hopes of a peaceful and better life.

After the reading, the students had a discussion about the reasons why these children come to the United States and what they can do to make these families feel welcomed and accepted. T. Marina explained what Project Libertad does and that these new friends are getting new school supplies, among other things. It was then that it was decided to make a surprise greeting letter for them.

At MPFS, values are taught, lived, and carried forward by students who continue to demonstrate effective, integrity-filled action personally and professionally. With some guidance students wrote and colored some beautiful greeting



T. Shirley's Second Grade students display their completed notes and drawings to welcome immigrant youth in the Phoenixville community in partnership with Project Libertad.

letters for the newcomers. The handmade greeting cards and letters were put in backpacks with needed school supplies delivered by the organization.

As a Quaker school, students learn about the testimonies of stewardship and simplicity and that Quakers practice their faith through active engagement to take care of their community and affect positive change in the larger world. The testimony of community teaches our students to gain respect for all individuals and to foster open, mutually caring and enriching relationships. We are proud of this partnership with Project Libertad and hope to continue a mutually beneficial relationship with this needed organization. Visit projectlibertad.org to learn more and for volunteer opportunities.



T. Shannon's Third Grade students share their notes and drawings before they are delivered by Project Libertad to immigrant youth.

COME EXPLORE WITH US!



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@mpfs



STEAM Week focuses on water scarcity, pollution, & conservation

During Media-Providence Friends School's STEAM Week, an annual cross-curricular, school-wide immersive week of programming, students focused on solutions to water scarcity and pollution, as well as conservation.

Watershed specialists from the Delco Conservation District visited with our students to talk about local watersheds. Watershed Specialists provide watershed assessment, procurement of funding, technical assistance and the creation, implementation & coordination of work plans and strategies to restore and protect groundwater and surface water resources. Here students are pictured studying macroinvertebrates native to our area.

Students in middle school used the engineering design process to determine the best process for maximizing pure and gray water, minimizing waste water, and reconfiguring filters and pipes in both an average American home and a "harsh environment." Students used a computer simulation to learn how the development of urban areas affects the water cycle, especially aquifers. Then, at Glen Providence Park, middle schoolers studied the chemical water quality of Broomall Run and Glen Providence Park pond. They conclude their week, students in grade 5-8 enjoyed a field trip to



Riverbend Environmental Center to study ecosystems and learn more about aquaponics.

Lower school students read books like *Suman Crosses the Karnali River: A Geotechnical Engineering Story* and *Saving Salila's Turtle: An Environmental Engineering Story* from the Engineering is Elementary Team, both books that address a specific water issue and then explore the problem-solving and design process that led to a solution. Lower school students went on to design, produce, and test water filters, learn about how oil spills affect the environment, and about wastewater treatment plants. Our grade 5 students were shocked to learn that wastewater treatment plants discourage the use of flushable wipes because, after an in-class experiment, students saw that so-called flushable wipes *actually do not disintegrate!*

In our early childhood program, students engaged in discussions about the water cycle, where water travels, why it's important, and things that we can do to help protect these environments. Kindergarten students experimented



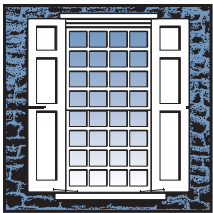
with evaporation, water and sunlight at observation stations using different solutions of water mixed with sugar and various salts (black salt, sea salt, and Kosher salt) to observe the crystals that grow as the water evaporates.

In art, lower school students used coffee filters and markers with water droppers to design and make turtles. Students learned more about the water cycle and made water cycle plates showing the process. Middle school students created water activated art installations on-campus and at the Media Courthouse. Students created stencils of symbols and words to represent ideas for water conservation, and then used a water repellent solution to stencil on sidewalks. When the stenciled area gets wet, the stencil will remain dry revealing the design! Students learned how the naturally water repellent properties of plants like the lotus flower are being used in the creation of environmentally safe water repellent solutions.

Additionally, in lowerschool and middle school Spanish classes, students read *El Agua: Arriba, Abajo, Y En Todos Lados*, learned about water scarcity in spanish speaking countries, and created water cycle posters in spanish. And in Group Guidance, students explored the preciousness of water for drinking, animals, and crops which has always figured prominently in Native American culture.

Through hands-on experiments and demonstrations, readings and in-depth discussions, field trips, and much more, students at MPFS understand how fortunate they are to have reliable, consistent access to clean drinking water, the politics behind bottled water, and ways they can get involved in making a change today.

For questions about this or any of our programming, please contact Director of Admissions & Programming Angela DiMaria. *The MPFS campus and Admissions Office continues to accept applications on a rolling basis for students age 2 - grade 8.* Prospective families are invited to register for our next live Virtual Open House at mpfs.org/rsvp. To learn more, contact Angela DiMaria, Assistant Head of School and Director of Admissions & Academic Program at 610.565.1960 x104.



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Friends School

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IMPORTANT DATES:

International Day of Peace
September 21

Back to School Night
September 22

Admissions Open House
September 30 & October 28

610.565.1960
mpfs.org

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