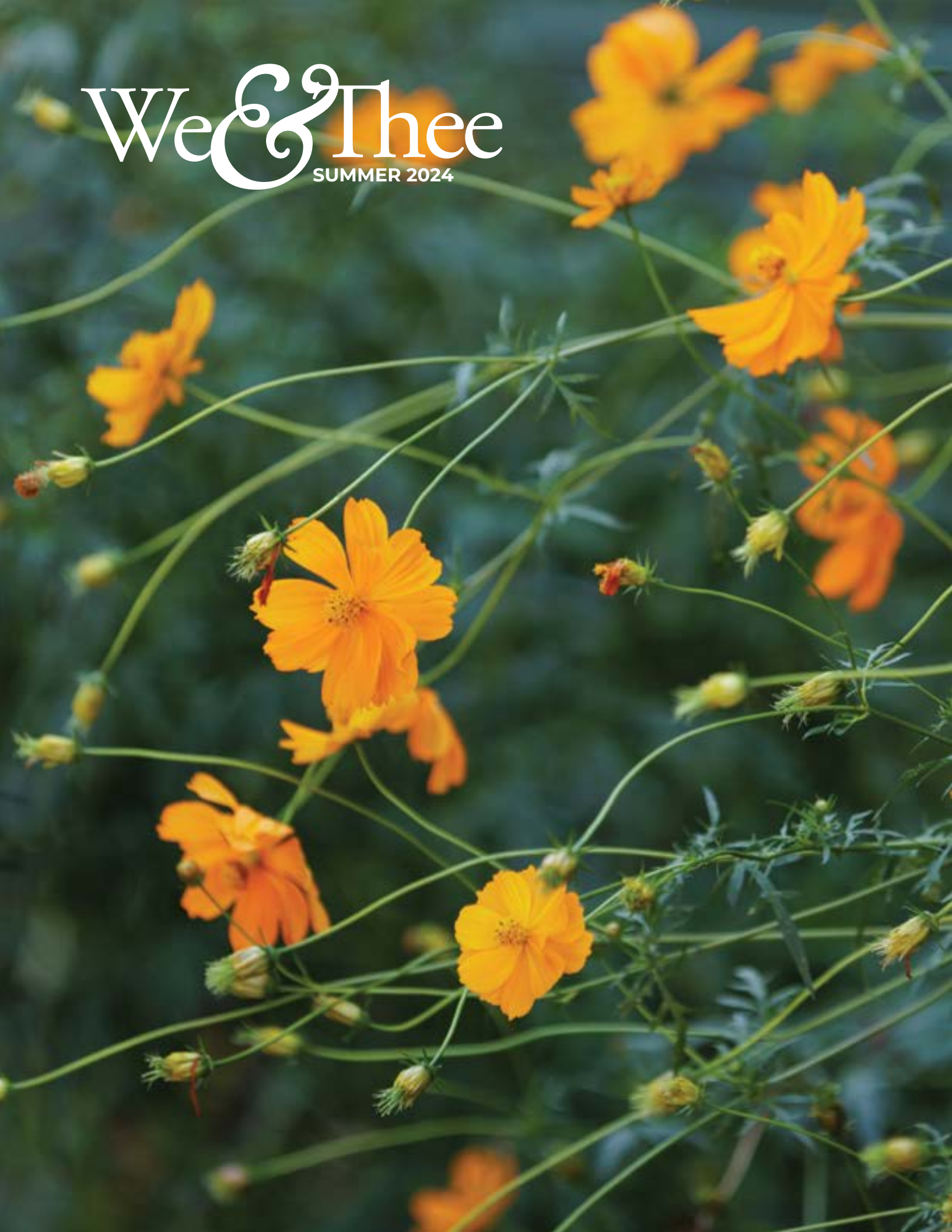


We & Thee

SUMMER 2024



THANK YOU, FRIENDS.

Together, our community raised **$206,318.16** during our sixth-annual Giving Day!

These funds support our students, staff, and programs. **598 discrete donors** helped us exceed our goal! Many thanks also to the 24 matching gift partners who contributed an extra $100 for each donor.

Additionally, **159 individuals** pledged to complete at least one hour of service to support more than 75 community organizations across the globe.

We appreciate everyone who donated, made a service pledge, spread the word, or otherwise supported our efforts.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

Our next Giving Day will occur on **October 24-25, 2024** as part of our 60th Anniversary year of events.

64
alumni

117
staff

204
current parents & guardians

215
past parents & guardians

100
grandparents

26
trustees

Donors may have multiple affiliations.

Carolina Friends School is a vibrant and inclusive learning community empowering students to think critically, creatively, and independently. We foster active exploration and quiet reflection, individual endeavor, and collaborative engagement. Inspired by Quaker values—pursuit of truth, respect for all, peaceful resolution of conflict, simplicity, the call to service—we teach our children that it is possible to change the world.

We & Thee is published by

CAROLINA FRIENDS SCHOOL

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We & Thee

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Congrats to our Upper School Science Olympiad team (above) for winning the Spirit Award at the North Carolina Science Olympiad tournament in Greensboro this spring! This was our school's debut Science Olympiad performance.



A NOTE FROM KAREN

At Carolina Friends School, summer is a time to reflect on the past year and prepare for the year ahead, all while welcoming hundreds of students from schools near and far through our Summer Programs. As we work to welcome a cohort of new staff who will bring fresh energy and ideas, other colleagues are stepping into roles as holders of institutional knowledge and elders in their own right.

Looking ahead to our school's 60th year as a purposefully integrated, progressive learning community rooted in Quaker values, I find myself reflecting on all that remains constant and true since Carolina Friends School welcomed its first students in 1964. One such constant through the years has been our ability to grow and adapt. I've been thinking of the Shaker tune "Simple Gifts":

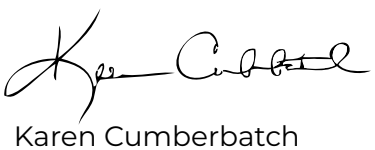
'Tis the gift to be simple,
'tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down
where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in
the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend
we shan't be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning
we come 'round right.

For six decades, we've collectively turned (and turned), and reveled in delight before setting our sights on new horizons. We are, and have always been, a group of truth-seekers.

Truth can be hard to find among competing interests, challenges, and informational "noise." I know everyone has felt the frustration of "spinning one's wheels," but sometimes wheels need to spin to turn us around. Seeking the truth—what is needed of us, how to shine our inner Light, and how to support the community around us—is what can elevate that spinning into a turning to what is right, and what is needed.

In the seven years I have been part of this learning community, I have been privileged to serve with educators dedicated to improvement and to fully seeing and meeting the needs of their students. You can see this reflected in our update on curricular examination and in the professional development highlights of our staff. I am also excited about the ways we are shaping our campus to provide accessible play and learning spaces that will allow our program to thrive for decades to come, as you can see in the new Lower School playground update and our exploration of a new physical home for the Upper School. And don't forget to mark your calendars for next April, when I look forward to officially celebrating our anniversary with as many of you as possible!

In friendship,



Karen Cumberbatch

LOWER SCHOOL PLAYGROUND UPDATE

A New Playspace in the Woods



Pardon the dust – big fun is on the way!
This summer, Beanstalk Builders is constructing our Lower School creekside playground.

The team at Beanstalk specializes in engineering accessible playgrounds and aerial parks that foster an appreciation for the natural world. The platforms they're building are made from strong (and sweet-smelling!) black and honey locust wood. Inspired by sketches from our Lower School students, the design will include intricate, spider-web netting woven beneath the structures.

We recognize the importance of play in the daily rhythms of our Lower School students, and can't wait to see their reactions when they return and see this wooded wonderland in August.

— Erin Reitz Adams



BUILDING A FUTURE

Updates on Our Main Campus Planning Process

One of the goals identified in our last strategic plan, *The Dream That Drives Us*, was to provide our students with "a learning environment for the students of the future, now." In addition to staffing and programmatic resources, this includes examining our physical spaces and their ability to meet the needs of our vibrant, whole-child education. Across our three campuses, it has long been known that the area most in need is our Upper School, where the original log cabin building requires extensive updates.

In last winter's issue of *We & Thee*, we outlined how we had selected Ellen Weinstein and Andy Goolsby of withArchitecture to assist us with our holistic Main Campus planning process, which has included seeking and receiving feedback from current and former families, students, and staff. We are excited to announce that late this spring, the Board of Trustees approved proceeding with a reimagined Main Campus plan that will improve pedestrian walkways, and vehicle safety, create outdoor learning labs, and create new Upper School facilities across the creek from the current configuration. A group of Upper School students this past year served on a planning committee that worked with Ellen and Andy.

The students were asked to think about what environments help them learn best (including lighting, seating, sound, and more), what features make activities during a typical school week easier, and what their greatest hopes and dreams for new facilities might be.

Over the summer, the architectural team will begin synthesizing feedback to create conceptual drawings for new Upper School facilities that will be reviewed in the fall. Student and staff feedback will be prioritized in the continued discovery and discernment process. We're excited to examine how to both carefully steward our financial and environmental resources and be able to provide our incredible community of teachers and learners with new spaces—ones that will accentuate the strengths of our program and help take it even further, for generations to come.

— Katherine Weaver Scott

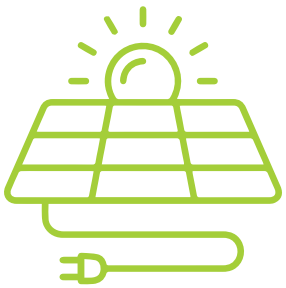
KEEPING IT GREEN!

Sustainability Highlights

Our School's philosophy is inspired by Quaker values and includes six tenets, one of which is our belief in the spirituality of life. This calls us to, among other actions, responsibly steward our resources. Sustainability has long been a cornerstone of our practices, with efforts coming from students, staff, and families. Our long-standing Sustainability Team, consisting of staff from across the School and parent/guardian volunteers, works to help coordinate some of these efforts. Our Shop staff also work hard to maintain and implement environmentally friendly facilities practices, and our curriculum includes many ways students can learn how to be environmental stewards and advocates. Included here are some highlights of our efforts!

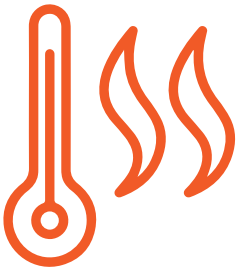


A Fountain Class student during the Climate Change Convention last December.



SOLAR PANELS

- Lower School North and Library Buildings
- Center Building
- Upper School Meeting Hall
- Gym
- Durham Early School



RADIANT HEAT

- Upper School Meeting Hall

GEOTHERMAL

- Quaker Dome
- Lower School North Building
- Performing Arts Center



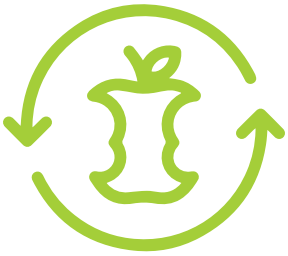
RECYCLING

- Municipal recycling on all three campuses
- Terracycle collection in some units



PLANT SALE

- Annual sale of flowers and vegetables grown in our green house
- Over $2,000 raised for eco-education grants in 2024



COMPOST

- In partnership with CompostNow
- Over 6,000 pounds of compost created in 2023



EFFICIENCY

- LED bulb swaps inside
- Lamp post conversions
- Water-saving faucets

CREATING LEARNING PATHWAYS

Updates on Our Curricular Review

When people step into one of our classrooms for the first time, they often speak of how different the educational experience looks and feels. Deeply relational, connected to the outdoors, and child-centered choices inform our teaching. As a learning community we have been working to make the choices that ground our work more visible.

The creation of the Director of Curriculum position in 2022, filled by Lisa Wilson Carboni, has provided teaching staff with a point person who will listen to curriculum challenges and aspirations and help figure out solutions on an individual and collective level. Lisa says the process so far has "lifted up and made evident the tremendous depth of curricular expertise and knowledge that our staff have" and "provided the means for continuing to accomplish that work with even more intention and support."

With support from our Head Teachers and Assistant Head for Teaching and Learning John Sharon, our teaching staff has made incredible progress in both articulating learning objectives and more intentionally building learning pathways—from year to year and from Early to Upper Schools. We now have "Understand, Know, Do" (UKD) documents for each age level that have been created by teaching staff over the past few years. Throughout the past year, time has been set aside for meetings within and across units to examine the UKDs and to discuss what materials and curricular resources are needed to strengthen and support our teaching. We're excited to share some of the latest developments in this ongoing process.

Science of Reading

Teachers have delved deeply into studying the "science of reading," a collection of cognitive science research that lays a path for best practices in teaching reading and writing. Our use of the Fundations phonics and phonemic awareness curriculum was widened to include even the youngest Early School learners, making it a progressive strategy throughout the Early and Lower Schools. The progress continues to refine curriculum in order to incorporate new understandings of reading comprehension and vocabulary development. Teachers have implemented a new phonics curriculum across the Early Schools and Lower School and piloted materials to support new understandings of reading comprehension. They have loved seeing the students' enthusiasm for Fundations and their playful acquisition of knowledge.

In addition, all Lower School classroom teachers have now participated in a yearlong professional development opportunity on the science of reading through either the Hill Center or The Knowledge Gap.

Subject Area Explorations

Middle and Upper School teaching staff have worked in subject area groupings including visual and performing arts, social studies, language arts, modern languages, science, and social-emotional learning to examine curricular alignment and progression, identify goals, and discuss ways to expand or deepen learning. For some, this has included identifying ways to fill in learning gaps and create supporting structures for students. For others, it has involved asking

for and receiving additional teaching staff or restructured roles and responsibilities to allow for more elective courses or dedicated subject area teaching.

Even as staff ask for and receive curricular resources, Director of Curriculum Lisa Wilson Carboni says “our curriculum is not canned. We’re still relying on the professional expertise of teachers to be curious, integrate knowledge and adapt the materials for classroom use.” Lisa is also excited about the coming school year, when staff will have access to the documented learning objectives for each course available in TODDLE, a learning management system. She points out that this will make the documentation more visible and integrated into daily work, saying “I think we will get to an even greater level of quality by attaching the UKDs into the classroom management system in that way.”

— Katherine Weaver Scott

BELOVED COMMUNITY JOURNEY

MARCH 5-10, 2024

We’re grateful to those able to join us as we explored past and present Civil Rights issues across Alabama and Georgia. Stay tuned for images from this summer’s Quaker Journey and learn about next year’s adult enrichment opportunities:

cfsnc.org/adultenrichment







PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS



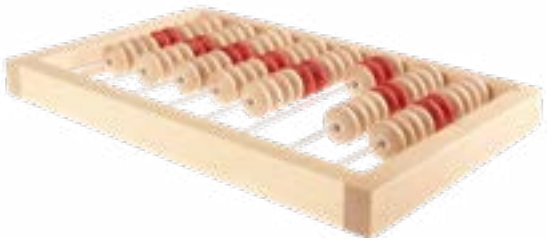
Sara Orphanides
Durham Early School
Lead Teacher

Sara has successfully completed the inaugural **Racial Justice in Early Math Education Fellowship**, a collaboration between Erikson Institute and the University of Illinois Chicago. Through this fellowship, Sara developed a robust understanding of racial justice in early math, implemented racial justice centered teaching practices in her classroom, participated in mentorship and peer support, and contributed to a growing understanding of how early math teaching can further the cause of racial justice. In June, Sara traveled to Chicago for the first National Meeting of Racial Justice in Early Math Education.



Lisa Wilson Carboni
Director of Curriculum

Lisa was selected to be a part of **The Quaker Coalition for Uprooting Racism**'s 2023-2024 cohort. This nine-month co-creative program guides participants in developing skills, knowledge, and experiences to aid them in the dismantling of white supremacy within the Religious Society of Friends and beyond. "I'm grateful to come together with Friends of color and white allies to do this important and challenging work," Lisa shared.







Julia Stivers
Upper School Librarian

This Spring, Julia completed her tenure as the **2023 School Librarian of the Year**, an award granted by the *School Library Journal* and Scholastic to one librarian nationally for their exemplary ability to engage students in fostering multiple literacies. Additionally, Julia has a book coming out later this year! In June, she and her co-authors gave a presentation titled ***Manga Goes to School: Cultivating Engagement and Inclusion in K-12 Settings*** at the American Library Association Annual Conference.



Williette Zigbuo
Campus Early School Lead Teacher

Williette graduated from the Friends Council on Education's **Institute for Engaging Leadership in Friends Schools**. Throughout this two-year program, Williette strengthened her her capacity and skills for the unique role of Friends school leadership. Williette used the insights she gained in her culminating action research project, titled "Fostering Deliberate Engagement in an Early School Environment," to make significant changes to the Campus Early School's playground. These adjustments were made to encourage young learners to rebuild their creativity and self-initiative skills after the pandemic.
To learn more, visit www.cfsnc.org/williette.



END-OF-YEAR EXPLORATIONS

Our Middle and Upper Schoolers took part in experiential learning, service, and community-building intensives in May.

[1] Reclaiming the Land: Social Justice Movements in Puerto Rico

[2] 9th Grade Disaster Recovery in Craven County

[3] Exploring the Adirondacks

[4] Small-Scale Market Farming

[5] Sustainable Fashion

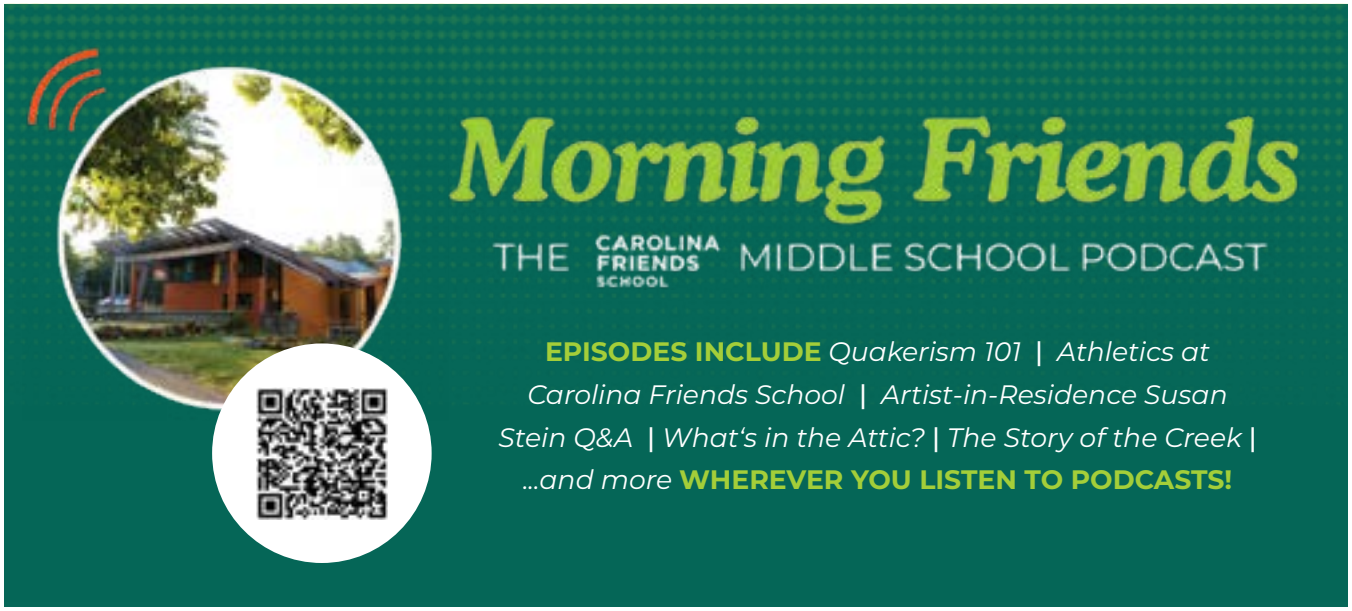

1


2


3


4


5



YOUR NEXT PAGE-TURNER: STAFF SELECTS



EVERYTHING I NEVER TOLD YOU by Celeste Ng

This is a deeply tender and heartbreaking story of the Lee family, a biracial Chinese American family living in Ohio in the 1970s. As the family seeks to understand the disappearance of their middle daughter, they reckon with internalized racism, gender roles, and familial secrets and expectations. This is currently my favorite book to teach; discussions of this book in 11th grade American Literature have been profound and life-giving.

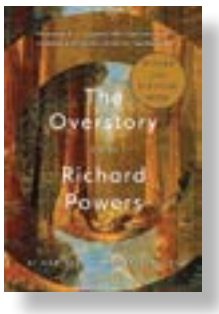
– Holly Jordan, Upper School Language Arts



MY LOVE FOR YOU WILL STILL BE STRONG by Nathan Kotecki

Nathan Kotecki, a local author and friend of mine, has crafted a beautiful character-driven story inspired by and structured around Don Henley's song "Boys of Summer." This is one of the best books I've read, one that anyone who's wondered "Should I stay or should I go?", or "Where do I go from here?" will connect with.

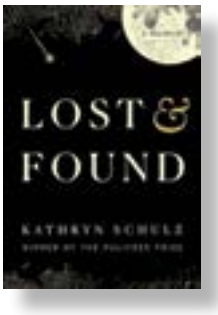
– Mars Nealson, Durham Early School Lead Teacher



THE OVERSTORY by Richard Powers

Powers' novel powerfully explores the interweaving connections of the plant world. We of the fauna need to learn from and love the flora even better.

– Henry Walker, Middle School Teacher



LOST & FOUND by Kathryn Schulz

This book got me through the recent loss of both my parents by helping me locate the gratitude and awe inside my grief. A Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Schulz's memoir about losing her father while simultaneously finding her wife is written with heart-stopping precision, capturing with tenderness how we create, love, and lose our families.

– Katie Faulkner, Upper School Dance



THIS ONE WILD AND PRECIOUS LIFE by Sarah Wilson

This book was incredibly motivating, educational, entertaining, and thought-provoking. Overall, it made me think and feel deeply about our role in preserving the planet (not in a depressing way, surprisingly) and made me immediately want to spring into action!

– Julie Neumark, Chapel Hill Early School Assistant Teacher



EXHALATION by Ted Chiang

This collection of nine tightly constructed sci-fi stories examines themes such as artificial intelligence, determinism vs. free will, and the power and limit of knowledge to change the world.

– Jeff Guilford, Upper School History

PERFORMING ARTS SPOTLIGHT













UPPER SCHOOL ***Mamma Mia!***
MIDDLE SCHOOL ***The Addams Family***
LOWER SCHOOL ***Springfest/The Gruffalo***
Photos by Lissa Gotwals and Erin Reitz Adams

NEW FRIDAY MEETING MEMBERS



ANNA FAATILIGA
Director of Finance and Human Relations

Anna joins us after nearly 25 years of financial management experience, including 17 years at the leadership level in both nonprofit and for-profit industries. Most recently, she served as the chief financial officer of Louisburg College outside of Raleigh, where she was responsible for planning, implementing, managing, and controlling all financial-related activities of the college, including student financial aid.

What are you most looking forward to in your new role?
It's an honor to join an institution with such a meaningful mission, where my passion for accounting and finance intersects beautifully with the field of education. Managing the resources of a school is a responsibility I take very seriously. However, what truly inspires me is seeing students grow and learn. The opportunity to contribute to their educational journey is incredibly rewarding, and I am eager to support Carolina Friends' mission in this capacity. One of the aspects of this role that excites me the most is the prospect of working closely with the staff and families. From what I've experienced so far, Carolina Friends fosters a uniquely positive environment that is rare to find. I firmly believe that a supportive and collaborative atmosphere is essential for both personal satisfaction and achieving our shared goals.



JULEE LAPORTE
Director of Enrollment and Community Outreach

Julee comes to us after 17 years at the Louise S. McGehee School, where her roles have included language instructor, department chair, and summer programs director, and the last six years as their director of enrollment management. While most of her life has been spent in Louisiana, Julee is very familiar with our area after spending two years at UNC Chapel Hill, where she earned her masters of arts in French and francophone studies.

What are you most looking forward to in your new role?
It should come as no surprise that as an educator, I love learning! In this new role, I am most looking forward to learning about the community, the curriculum, and the practices that make Carolina Friends such a vibrant space for students to learn and grow. I am very eager to meet with a variety of folks—students, staff, families, and Friends—to hear more about their experiences at Carolina Friends and to shape how we can share our collective love of the school with the region.



UZMA BOGWANI
Lower School Head Teacher

Uzma Bogwani joins us from the Pike School in Massachusetts, where she has served as director of academics since 2021. Prior to that, she served in Lower School administrative roles at The University of Chicago Lab Schools, Washington International School, and The Sheridan School, where she also was a third-grade teacher. Uzma has extensive experience in elementary curriculum design, implementation, and alignment, and she has also been a Responsive Classroom workshop facilitator.

What are you most looking forward to in your new role?
I can't wait to join the warm, welcoming, and deeply passionate community of Friends. That very much includes the Lower School students, some of whom I was fortunate to spend time with during my visit this past spring. They shared what they loved about their Lower School classes—one quote that stuck with me was, "teachers get to know us, we're flexible here, and we like learning!" I'm looking forward to sharing more about myself, too—from read-alouds I love, like *The Name Jar* and *Phantom Tollbooth*, to why I love a good puzzle or challenge and how that helps my brain grow and stretch in new and fun ways. In addition to spending time with students, I'm really looking forward to partnering with our families and staff, too!



GRANDPARENTS AND FAMILY FRIENDS DAY

March 22, 2024









ATHLETICS UPDATE

With the dissolution of the Triangle Triad Athletic Conference in the Spring of 2022, Carolina Friends School's 33 athletic teams faced an unprecedented challenge: competing outside of an organized athletic conference for the entire year. Under the dedicated leadership of Athletics Director **Kim Sulman**, our department pivoted to ensure our athletes still enjoyed competitive seasons.

"The hardest part about not being in a conference is scheduling," shared Kim. "We didn't have any agreed-upon, pre-planned games with partner schools this year." Each game, meet, and match had to be meticulously arranged by Kim and Athletics Coordinator **Katie Thomas**.

Looking ahead, Carolina Friends School is excited to announce its role in creating the Central Carolina Athletic Conference alongside Cristo Rey Research Triangle High School, The Burlington School, and Burlington Christian Academy.

"What I'm really excited about—even more than having consistent and confirmed games scheduled—is that the other three athletic directors in this new conference are a joy to work with," said Kim. "We're all on the same page when it comes to planning, supporting each other, and growing this new conference."





















On your mark. Get set. Go! In May, the Carolina Friends School community gathered for the unveiling of a new quarter-mile campus track. The celebration included friendly competition and, of course, popsicles!

NCISAA INDEPENDENT ATHLETIC CONFERENCE ATHLETES

Volleyball
Mason Wilkins-Lanier

Girls Tennis
Lydia Coy

Boys Soccer
Ben Bozzo

Boys Basketball
Niley Richardson

Girls Soccer
Eliza Cherry

Boys Tennis
Ken Mori

NCISAA DIII STATE TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS

Sumi Farrell
Ben Popp
Livy Roberts
Mason Wilkins-Lanier



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2024!

Graham Emery Allen-Schindler
Brendan Jude Anderson
Virginia Mason Bolick
Hunter Hart Dorion Bost
Charlie Wheeler Bowers
Joseph Benton Bozzo
Messiah D. Brandon
Lucy Michaela Breschi
Sal Lucille Brinson
James Whitley Chansen
Andrew Shaw Charles
Phoenix Myth Charles
Eliza Connelly Cherry
Piper Reardon Crouch
Eva Catherine Dew
Elizabeth Adair Dobrowski
Shannon Lillian Dolina
Sumi Rose Farrell
Calvin Flynn
Honoria Davenport Frank
Gabe Gehtland
Hazel Stegman Grine
Daniel Hall
Kemi Solomon Heyward-Rotimi
Christopher Holt
Spencer Howard
Tamar I. Kalisher
Kae Nguyen
Chelsea Zora O'Barr
Bianca Cathleen Omonte
Henry William Pittman
Tobias J. Reuland
Kevin Yasser Robles Chavez
Julia Marin Rugani
Margaret Elliott Sandbeck
Jacob C. Seashore
Sam Snider
Clara Ashley Stella
Carson Wells Stinneford
Khalil Suayah
Ianna Asiel Weber
Jack L. Wilcoxen
Ellis Mason Wilkins-Lanier
Cole Jackson Zemon
Roz Zimmerman

Where They're Headed

American University (2)
Appalachian State University (4)
Belmont University
Brevard College
Davidson College
DePaul University
Duke University
Durham Tech
Elon University (2)
Emerson College
Emory University (2)
Haverford College
Marquette University
North Carolina State University (3)
Northeastern University (3)
Oberlin College
Tulane University (2)
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Michigan
University of New Hampshire
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill (4)
University of North Carolina Greensboro
University of North Carolina Wilmington (3)
University of Richmond
University of Vermont
University of Wisconson Madison
Vassar College
Virginia Tech
Williams College

We applaud all graduates on the next stage of their personal and educational journeys!
Photos by Satsuki "Sunshine" Scoville '90 and Trevor Holman









SHINING BRIGHT ON THE SUPER BOWL STAGE

For the past two decades, ***Erick Walls '98*** *has been strumming his guitar alongside some of the industry's biggest stars. His impressive résumé includes two Grammys, an Emmy nomination, and collaborations with Toni Braxton, Alicia Keys, Beyoncé, John Legend, and many more. Following his electrifying performance at the 2024 Super Bowl halftime show with Usher, our community relations coordinator, Camille Berry, caught up with Erick and asked him about how his formative years at Carolina Friends School have been instrumental in shaping his remarkable musical career.*

What do you remember most about your time at Carolina Friends School?

Back during my time at Carolina Friends School, there was a space called the "Music House." My advisor, Kris Whitenack—who is a great friend of mine today—taught classes there that changed my life. He really encouraged me to be creative, and taught me that music could be a creative outlet. I was given so much freedom to explore and express myself.



From the yearbook archives: Erick (R) rocking out in the Music House in 1995.

It makes me wonder what you'd be doing today if the Music House hadn't been there to enable you to experiment and explore!

Exactly! When I arrived at Carolina Friends in middle school, I was young and trying to figure out who I was and what I liked. The support of the whole Carolina Friends School community was so positive and unlike anything I'd experienced in a school setting before. It built me up. As I took music production classes and received encouragement, I remember thinking, "Wow, this is really something I could pursue professionally."

Tell us a little bit about your journey after you graduated.

After Carolina Friends School, I attended Berklee College [a renowned music conservatory] in Massachusetts. I was there at the same time as some really well-known, fantastic musicians today, like John Mayer and Esperanza Spalding. That's where I made a ton of valuable connections.

How did you make the decision to move to the West Coast?

I'd always enjoyed reading album credits and noticed that a lot of music I liked was being made out in California. Of course, I thought about staying on the East Coast, but I just got the sense that California was where I was meant to be.

So, I moved to California on a Wednesday, and one of my buddies from Berklee invited me to do my first gig that Friday. That one opportunity—just three days into living in LA—was literally my introduction to the "who's who" within the music business.

Speaking of the "who's who," congrats again on playing the Super Bowl halftime show with Usher!

Thank you so much. I try to never lose perspective because younger me would daydream about the things I'm doing now. This is a dream come true. And I try to understand the blessing of it all.

There were a lot of Carolina Friends School community members cheering for you that night, so you certainly made an impact on the people here! What lesson from CFS has had a lasting impact on you?

One, Carolina Friends School prepared me for the world. I was introduced to people from different cultures and backgrounds and learned that there is a common thread between all humans. Being a student at Carolina Friends School helped me understand the power of connecting with people—whether it was in advisee groups, school outings, or productive discussions in class where everyone could voice their opinions freely. I just learned that everyone deserves to feel seen and feel like they matter.

In this industry, I encounter so many different types of people, and it's a part of me to approach every relationship with the same respect. Talent only gets you so far in this business. Your talent can get you in the door, but your character will keep you there.

Carolina Friends also helped me become an inquisitive human being.

Educational settings aren't all the same. There's a difference between memorizing information about a topic versus really understanding it and digging deeper into its context and backstory.

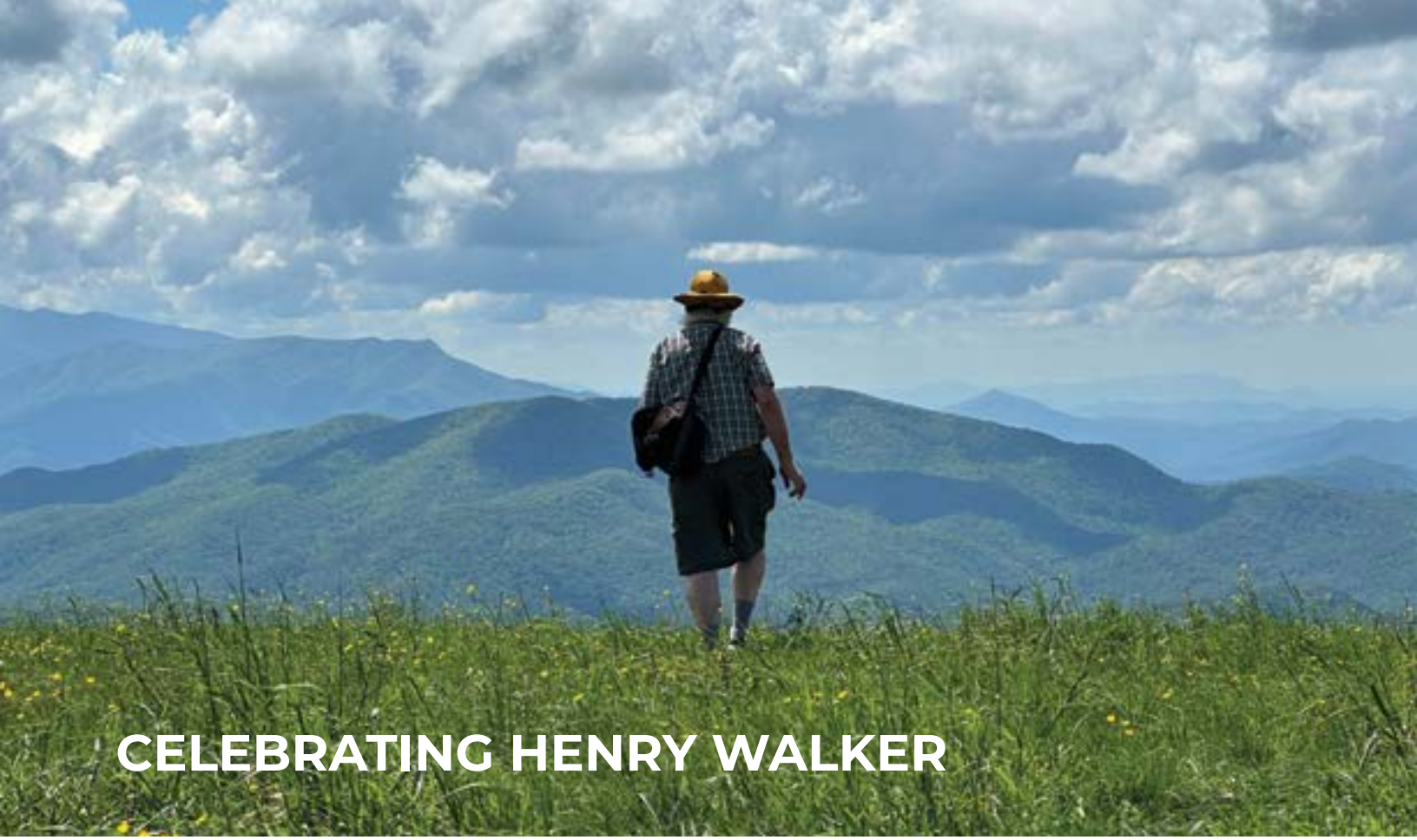
My teachers at Carolina Friends School taught me to really engage with what I was learning and follow my curiosity. Learning this, especially at an early age, is an attribute that I carry with me today. I can't say I was always a fan of school, but Carolina Friends School truly helped me become a fan of learning.



"I'm still basking in the excitement of being involved with this legendary history making event!" Erick Walls '98 shared on Instagram (@iamerickwalls) after performing in the Super Bowl halftime show.

Thank you for your time, Erick. We hope you'll visit soon (and maybe play some music for us)!

Of course, of course. Campus will always have a special place in my heart. It's where I was taught to believe nothing is off limits to me—that there's a world out there that is to be enjoyed and experienced, you know?



CELEBRATING HENRY WALKER

It is hard to believe that Henry Walker—newly retired—has ended his teaching career after more than five decades at Carolina Friends School. For 53 years, Carolina Friends School has benefitted from his brilliance. It is incredibly difficult for most of us (perhaps even Henry himself) to imagine the Middle School without him. A true Renaissance man, Henry has taught across multiple subjects, in addition to expanding our Middle School theater program and instituting traditions such as trips to the Smoky Mountains, celebrating the Vernal Equinox, and sharing with all of us his writing and poetry.

Two constants across generations of students have been the way Henry instilled a love of learning through his soft-spoken demeanor and genuine wholeheartedness, and profound ability to teach and advise. His students feel safe and secure. Whether on a hike or in a classroom, Henry's knack for helping students find their own voices, truths, and passions—in writing, speaking, research, and careers—has let them know that he is on their side.

Henry's transition will be a bittersweet one for the School. He holds so many different elements of Carolina Friends School's life and culture in his daily routines and responsibilities.

We are thrilled he will continue to bring his wisdom as a volunteer next year, heading up our 60th anniversary celebration. Henry's embodiment of the mission and beliefs of Carolina Friends has rooted so many children and staff while they were part of the daily activities here. His willingness and drive to maintain connections to alums and retired staff has kept them strongly connected to the school community. And his many oral history videos with community members have become key historical artifacts.

We will miss Henry and the way he interacts with students and staff, earning their trust, sometimes for a lifetime. We are grateful for the ways he will continue to positively support the community and know that his impact will continue to be visible for decades to come.

NEWS & UPDATES

Nicholas Kitchen '84 was recently profiled in *The Atlantic* for his work decoding annotations in Beethoven's handwritten manuscripts, discovering patterns that revealed a "previously unknown system of dynamics." He is a chamber musician, digital illustrator, and founding member of the Borromeo String Quartet.

Lindsay McKenzie '00 is excited to introduce Trail & Portal, a groundbreaking platform poised to become the world's largest independent sci-fi project! Her artists' cooperative, Geodesic Traveler and Leads Creative, has partnered to create the Trail & Portal project. You can learn more at trailandportal.com.

On July 6, a group of alums met up on the ultimate field at Durham County Stadium, where the Raleigh Flyers and the Philadelphia Phoenix, both professional teams in the American Ultimate Disc League, competed. Playing that day were **Calvin Trisolini '13**, **Sol Yanuck '14**, and **Henry Fisher '14**. Among our other ultimate alumni, **Kate Lanier '18** plays for the Seattle Tempest in the Western Ultimate League.

Cassie Lilley '16 graduated from the NC State School of Veterinary Medicine in early May. She has accepted a job in Woodstock, Georgia.

DEPARTING LONG-SERVING STAFF

Join us in celebrating **Nancy Hayes**, our director of enrollment from 2016-2024, who retired at the end of the school year. Nancy looks forward to settling into her new home in Colorado, where she and husband Jack will be closer to her baby granddaughter!

Jenni Scoggin, who served as a teacher in the Lower School for over a decade before stepping into the role of head teacher in 2022, will begin a new role as Lower School head at Haverford School in Pennsylvania. We wish Jenni and her family the best on this new journey!

Laura Lamberson will begin a new role with Triangle Day School, after teaching at Carolina Friends School since 2002 in the Durham Early School and the Lower School (in Mountain Class, Fountain Class, and as the first-ever Ocean Class teacher). Good luck, Laura!

IN MEMORIAM

Ryan Draper '02 passed away in December 2022. This information was shared by George, Elizabeth, Whitney, and Kendal Draper '07.

Lillie Patterson Watson—mother of alum staff member **Thomas Patterson** and grandmother to **Nia Patterson '99**, **Evian Patterson '98**, **Jmar Williams '02**, **Jazmun Williams '10**, and **Justin WIlliams '14**—passed on Monday, May 13, 2024. Services were held Saturday, May 18, at Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church.

SHARE YOUR UPDATES!

Births, marriages, professional news—whatever you'd like to share. Submit your announcement or update your contact information online:

cfsnc.org/alumnotes

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