

WINTER 2024 | ISSUE 2

WESTFIELD HOOTS



Westfield Hoots is a bi-annual magazine distributed among the Westfield Friends School community sharing updates on the people and programs that connect and make up Westfield Friends today.

Traditions, new and old

What do alumni recall about their time at Westfield?

Ask any Westfield alum to recall a memory from their time here and they are bound to share a story that brings a smile to their face. Be it Field Day, the *Looking at Art* presentations with Mr. Probsting, making the NJ cake in 4th grade, or the grounding meetings for worship, these traditions hold a special place. While old traditions persist, new ones like our mascot, Hootie the Owl, have emerged.

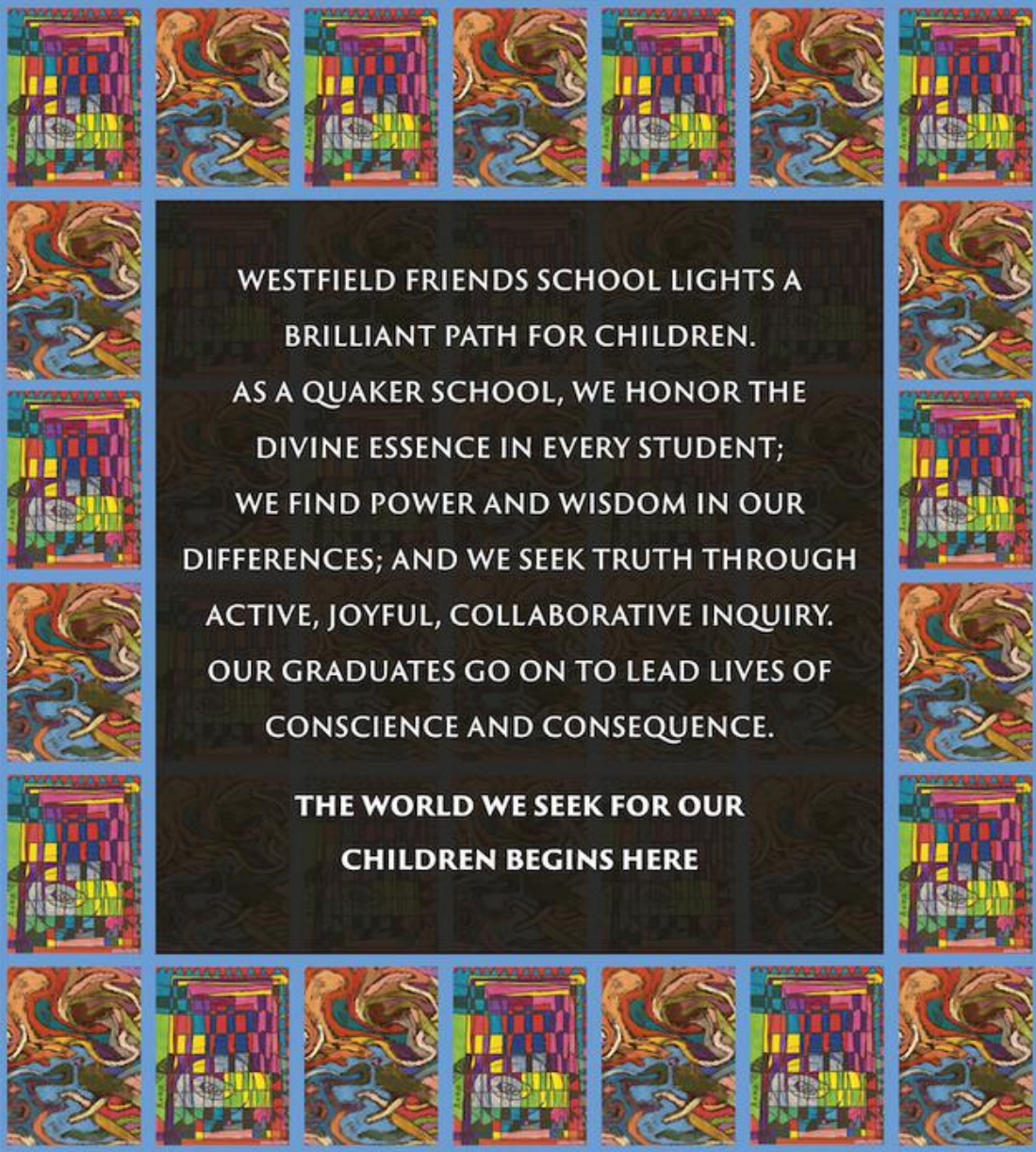
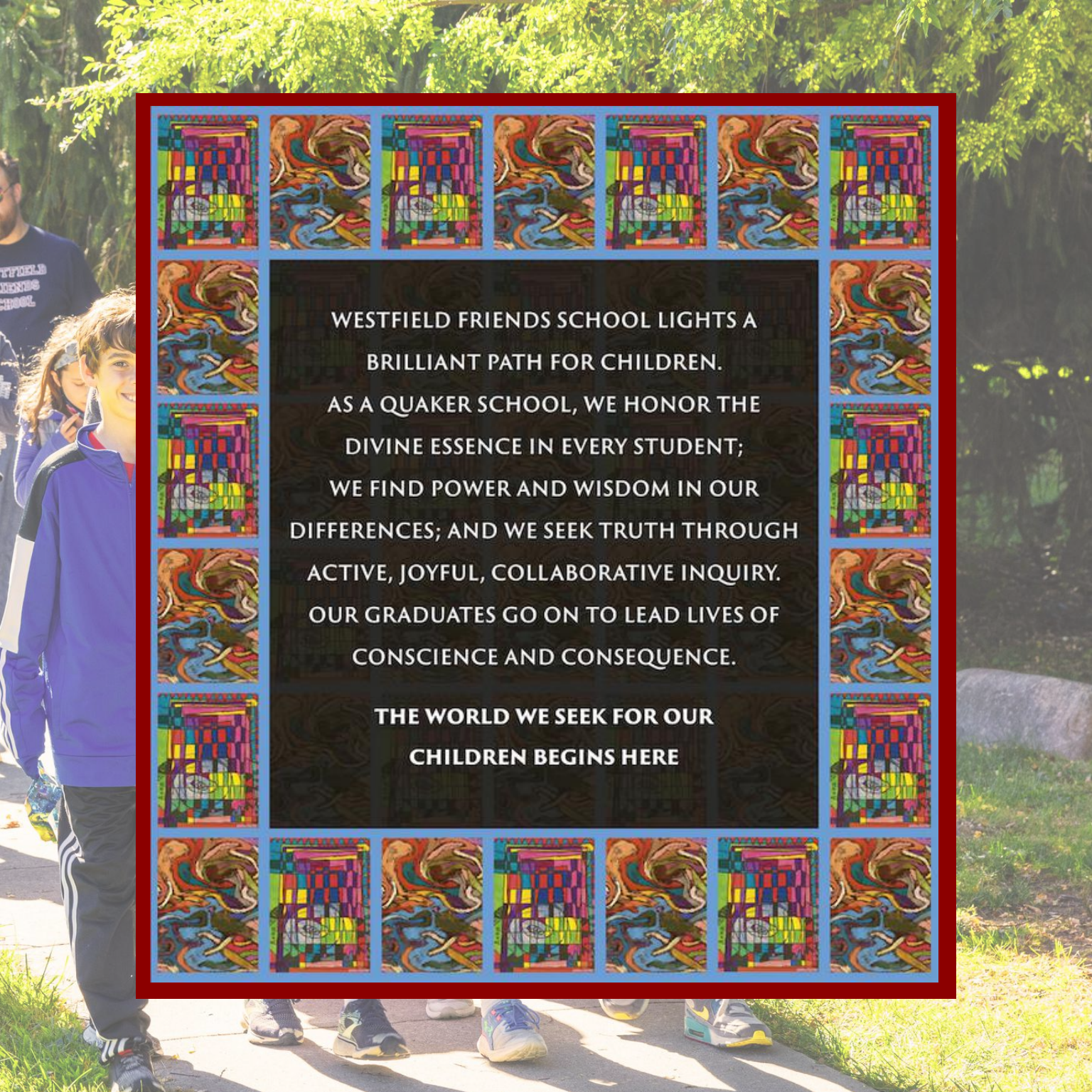
Explore this issue centred around alumni and let us add extra light to your day.

Margaret Haviland
Head of School



FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

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WESTFIELD FRIENDS SCHOOL LIGHTS A
BRILLIANT PATH FOR CHILDREN.
AS A QUAKER SCHOOL, WE HONOR THE
DIVINE ESSENCE IN EVERY STUDENT;
WE FIND POWER AND WISDOM IN OUR
DIFFERENCES; AND WE SEEK TRUTH THROUGH
ACTIVE, JOYFUL, COLLABORATIVE INQUIRY.
OUR GRADUATES GO ON TO LEAD LIVES OF
CONSCIENCE AND CONSEQUENCE.

**THE WORLD WE SEEK FOR OUR
CHILDREN BEGINS HERE**

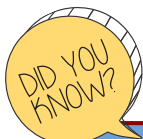


Westfield’s development team has been hard at work searching for alumni to grow our Westfield community. We are actively exploring the internet and reaching out to parents, classmates, and teachers with the aim of rekindling connections.

Share this magazine with your classmates or children and ask them if they are connected with their elementary alma mater. They’ll be delighted to learn that the Westfield traditions and values which played a significant role in shaping them as individuals and members of society, are still intact. The shared Quaker values have always been ingrained in the fabric of our school, playing a vital role in fostering a collective identity and sense of belonging among past and current students.

Many changes have been occurring at Westfield. Reach out to us and we’d be happy to tell you all about them, or come visit for a tour! Alumni are encouraged to drop by, and some have even returned as guest speakers, offering valuable career insights to our students (find more information on page 6).

Speaking of visiting, save the date for our upcoming Field Day Picnic Alumni Gathering on May 17th. Watch the races, picnic with us, and go on a school tour.



Although many are aware of the addition of 7th and 8th grades in 1980, did you know that Westfield now offers Preschool 2 and Preschool 3 programs, and that we have a new building on campus? The former Bayard’s Chocolate House on Rte. 130 has been renovated for the Preschool 3 program, while the building across from the Meeting House, once housing PreK, now accommodates Preschool 2 students. PreK has transitioned to the main building to be more involved in the daily activities of K-8th grade.



The Rushmore House - new home to Preschool 3

Alumni Search Project

We need your help

Stay informed about news, events, and alumni gatherings by visiting westfieldfriends.org/alumni

Call or visit any time
(856) 829-0895

Connect via email
alum@westfieldfriends.org



**Field Day Picnic
Alumni Gathering**
Friday, May 17, 2024

11:00 am Races
12:00 pm Picnic Lunch
1:00 pm Alumni Tours

RSVP
here



Traditions

Old and new abound



WASHINGTON 1996



WILLIAMSBURG 2001



PEEC 1999

FIELD TRIPS
then and now



1999



FIELD DAY



today



1964





HOOTIE the OWL
our new MASCOT since 2016



PERFORMANCES
today



and in 1999

HALLOWEEN GUESSING

then



and now



4th Grade
NEW JERSEY CAKE



Teacher PAIGE in
2000 and TODAY

Impact

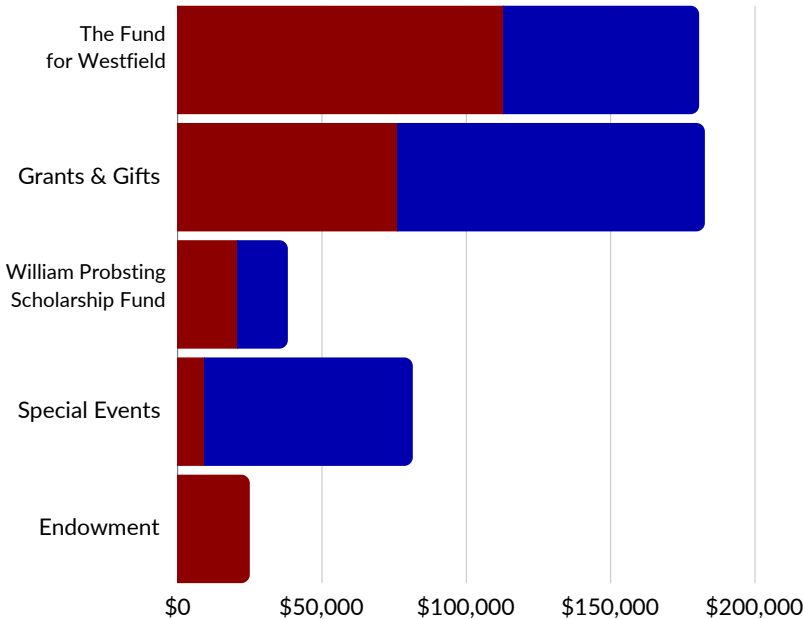
Alumni generosity is immeasurable, but we can try.

All donations support students and faculty, ensuring that future generations can experience the same academic and value-driven environment at Westfield that our alumni have enjoyed. Gifts include those to the **Fund for Westfield**, sponsorships and donations to our **special events** (Golf Outing in the fall, and A Taste of Our Towns in the spring), **planned giving, grants and gifts** from donors and granting bodies, including gifts to our **William Probsting Scholarship Fund (WPSF)**.

All Gifts to Westfield Friends School

Fiscal Year 2022-23

■ Alumni Giving ■ Other*



* Other constituencies, including Alumni Parents and Grandparents, Current Parents and Grandparents, Friends of Westfield, and Granting Bodies

westfieldfriends.org/donate
for all ways to give

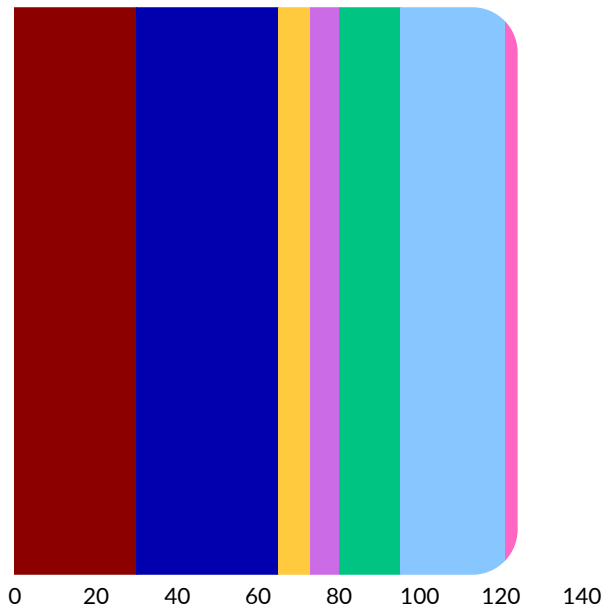


Remember that matching gifts from your employer can grow your impact. Visit westfieldfriends.org/MatchingGift

Alumni Gifts to all Areas by Decade**

Fiscal Year 2022-23

■ 1950's ■ 1960's ■ 1970's ■ 1980's
■ 1990's ■ 2000's ■ 2010's



** Alumni gave 125 out of the 633 gifts to the Fund for Westfield, Grants and Gifts, Special Events, Planned Giving in fiscal year 2022-23

Why I Give to Westfield

“WFS is a special place and has now educated 3 generations of our family. We are grateful for instilling the Quaker values of kindness and peaceful coexistence in our young people.
Kathy Andreola '67 and James Mullin

“Compassion and kindness are integral to a good education. They are two qualities that Westfield provides for its students.
Scott Chambers '58

“I give because both our sons had a wonderful ten years there.
Frank Beideman and Mindy Holman, Alumni Parents

“This school set the foundation for the rest of my life; it taught me how to be patient, open, and curious. I hope Westfield continues to provide students with a second home for years to come.
Katie Kasperson '13

“If everyone had a Westfield Friends School to attend, the world would be a better place!
Judy '64 and Robert '64 Cope

“Westfield made me who I am today!
Ranna Jaraha '04

“In memory of Bill Probsting who inspired me with his dedication to service and stewardship and started my (and I'm sure many other students') love of art history.
'06 Alum

“Mr Probsting was the most influential teacher in my life. And, the scholarship fund keeps his commitment to education alive.
Ms. Emily Garrigle Leonard '83

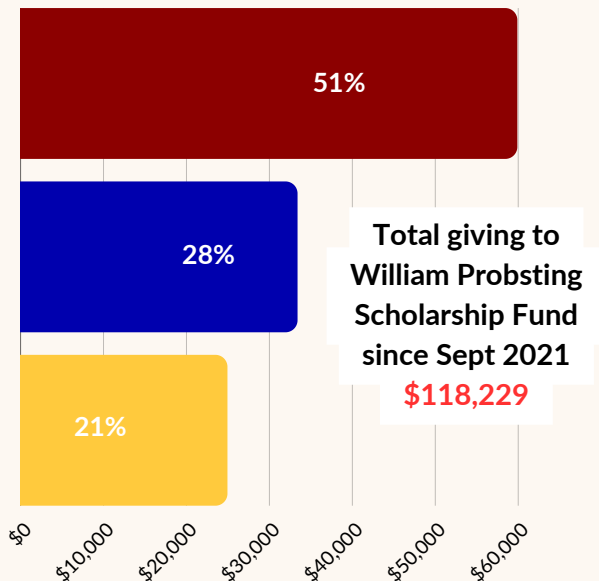
“Mr. Probsting's firm and caring guidance still plays a role in my life 35 years after graduating.
Robert F. McFadden, M.D. '87

“Bill Probsting was a source of light and inspiration for our family for almost 40 years. He led a life of peace and service to others, and his generosity and concern for others was ever-present. ...He created many wonderful traditions at Westfield; to know him was a true joy. ... He will be greatly missed.
Jack '63 and Valerie Parry

“Mr. Probsting made a lasting impression on our daughter as she looks back fondly on her 10 years at WFS. We are grateful for all he did for her and the WFS Community.
Steve and Connie Kasperson, Alumni Parent

Contributions to the William Probsting Scholarship Fund since September 2021

- ALUMNI
- ALUMNI PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, FACULTY*
- OTHER**



* Includes Alumni Parents and Grandparents, and Alumni Faculty who are not Alumni

** Includes Current Parents and Grandparents and Friends of Westfield

Since the passing of Mr. William Probsting, on September 20th, 2021 there has been an outpouring of tributes and support for the William Probsting Scholarship Fund that was started at a Gala upon Mr. Probsting's retirement in 2013. Many alumni and alumni parents and grandparents expressed gratitude for his dedication to children's Quaker education.

In July of 2022, a friend of Westfield presented a challenge to our community to help grow this Fund. At this stage, we are in Tier Two of the challenge, where any donation up to \$4,999 will be doubled. To read all the details of giving, visit westfieldfriends.org/donate.

CHALLENGE ENDS
June 30th, 2024



Make a Gift to the WPSF

Alumni Voices

Former students are returning to Westfield as guest speakers to impart career insights and knowledge to current students.



She also sang for and with Prek-8th grade students in our Friday Meeting for Singing time.

Vedra Chandler '94 is truly making a difference in Camden, NJ and beyond. She shared her exciting journey with us and explained how Westfield helped pave her way.

She presented to the Middle School students about her work helping to bring the *New View Camden* exhibit to life.



Middle School students enjoyed learning about fictional blogging from Westfield alum, **Brad Beideman '08**. Brad, an actor and writer, is based out of Los Angeles. Together with co-creator Rachel Crowe they podcast *Barjory Buffet: The Cruise Detective*.



Will Coleman '99 came to speak with 5th through 8th grade students on his work as curator of the Wyeth collection.

Will shared how his joy for art and art history began at Westfield during the *Looking at Art* presentations. He described how it's possible to follow your passions and make it into a career.

The students eagerly shared their thoughts on the Andrew Wyeth artwork they were presented with.



Alumni parent, Lorna Frizell-Johnson joined us to talk with Middle School students about the power of film as a vehicle for storytelling.



Alumni faculty, Dr. Peter Wilf started his career teaching Middle School science at Westfield. Following a summer exploring the plants in the New Jersey Pinelands, Dr. Wilf went to graduate school to pursue his loves of Geology and Botany. These combined passions have taken him all over the world. His presentation here showed how his own students found fossils in Wyoming, Montana, Chili, and Brunei. He shared his love of fossils and what they can teach us about life and evolution. He clearly loved his work and provided an example of what it looks like to follow one's interests. Who knows maybe we have a budding paleontologist in our midst.



Class Notes

Sharing news with your classmates

You classmates want to know what you've been up to. Whether it's getting married, the arrival of a little one, moving across the country, a recent trip, a fresh job opportunity, or doing service for others, we're eager to hear all about your latest adventures!

1953

Clark Hobbie

"I left Westfield at the end of fourth grade, ... -- but I remember my years at Westfield quite fondly. Went on to graduate from Moorestown Friends, then Williams College for a BA and an MA from Northwestern University.

Hit a couple of speed bumps healthwise last winter, but am doing well now. My daughter decided I shouldn't live alone, and uprooted me from Mount Pleasant, NJ to move to Half Moon Bay CA (across the bay from San Francisco) which is a bit different: we're a block from the Pacific Ocean and the temperature is generally in the high 50's all year.

Hope all of you are well!"

1953

David Landgraf

"After graduating from WFS in 1953, I went to Palmyra Junior High and High School. ... I went to college at Wesleyan in Connecticut and law school at the University of Chicago. I clerked for a year for a federal District Court judge in Chicago, and then taught from 1967-1970 at the University of Georgia Law School in Athens, Georgia. Met my wife at Georgia... and married in 1969. I took a leave of absence from teaching for two years, 1970-1972, and served in the environmental section of the Illinois Attorney General's office in Chicago. I returned to teaching in 1972 at Rutgers-Camden Law School. In 1974, I joined the law department of a corporation with offices in Philadelphia and practiced in the area of environmental law permitting and compliance with respect to facilities and sites across the U.S. and internationally for 37 years, retiring at the end of 2011.

I have lived in Cinnaminson since 1977. I have two children... both of whom went to WFS, and then Cinnaminson High School. My son and his family live in Barnegat, NJ, and my daughter and her family live in Frederick, MD. Three of the four parents are teachers in public high schools or elementary schools and my daughter works for a federal agency in the DC area. I have five grandchildren, ranging in age from 19 to 10. I try to visit both families regularly, either in Barnegat or Frederick or in Cinnaminson. My wife died in January 2012. I still live in the house that we bought in 1977.

I have been taking at least one major trip each of the past 8 years (except during the years affected by the pandemic)...Last August, the family (10 in all) went to three national parks in the southwest. With the oldest grandchild now a freshman in college, and summers for the others filled with sports and other events, this may have been the last time this will be possible for all 10."

1958

Judith (Judi) McIlvain Lewis

"My name is Judith (Judi) McIlvain Lewis. I loved my three years at WFS in about 1956-58. In looking back at my old class photos, I still remember everyone. **Lyn Buckwalter Wargny** and I have maintained our friendship for these 65 years. I wanted to go to MFS with most of my class and was sent to public school near us between Rancocas and Mt Holly. I went to George School for HS and Wilmington College ...all Friends' schools. Loved WFS.



Miss Deihl and I had a very special connection. We keep up with Rancocas Nature Center, which is situated on our old chicken farm where we grew up, and I am glad to be in touch with WFS.

My husband, Donovan Lewis, and I spent 40 years teaching in Rhode Island. I was the Director of Library Services for Moses Brown School, also a Friends' School. In 2009, we retired and moved to the wonderful Gulf Coast city of Bradenton, Florida where I teach pool aerobics and serve as secretary for a busy condo association.

Greetings to all of my WFS buddies. looking forward to hearing about y'all in our class notes."

1958

Lydia Hunn

Lydia is "teaching reading skills to 2nd graders at Nebinger Public School and busy maintaining a 156 year old townhouse in Philadelphia."

She is a Professor Emerita at Drexel University, working in Design and Fine Arts.

1960

Jane Surran Mason Pyne '60

Jane shared with us that she continued her education at Moorestown Friends School, then graduated with a BA from University of Maine. For grad school, she received a Ph.D. at the University of Maine School of Law and is currently a retired attorney.

1961

Robert Abramowitz

"Happy to post that I am currently on the Board of Trustees for Westfield Friends School."

1963

William Steagall Jr

“My current activity is an upcoming trip to Ukraine to buy food and deliver it, along with knitted hats and scarves to the cold and hungry citizens of Ukraine on the Eastern front. From 3/24 to 4/2, I will be traveling at my expense and taking with me \$3,400 raised through a GoFundMe [*Food and Knitted Items for Ukraine*] to buy 200 boxes of food. It is my second trip.

Fifteen months ago (Nov 2022) I organized “Ukraine Knitting Resistance” (on Facebook) which has grown to 121 knitters, most of whom I have never met, but who heard about the group and wanted to do SOMETHING. In this case, something peaceful and non-violent.



The first photo attached is one I took on my first trip. Note the bullet riddled wall behind this small group of residents of Mykolaiv area.



I was able to meet some school aged children, as seen in the second photo.



The last photo is a long shot of the first place we stopped.

The town of Prybuz'ke (Pre Bus Key) which shows the damage to the town: every roof was ruptured, every window was broken, there was no electricity, no cooking gas, no running water.

No one can do everything that Ukraine needs, but everyone can do something.”

2008

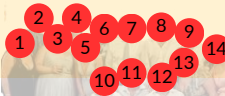
Cliff Burgess

Close-knit alumni gathered in Cape May September 9th, 2023 to celebrate the wedding of Cliff Burgess '08 and Caroline (Orem).



Did you know that groomsmen Brad Beideman, Sam Flagler, Zach Cope, and best man, Michael Woodley are all pals from Westfield and graduated together in 2008? And, the groomsmen have known each other since Pre-K at Westfield Friends School!

Congratulations also to alumni parents Janet Stevens and Peter Burgess!



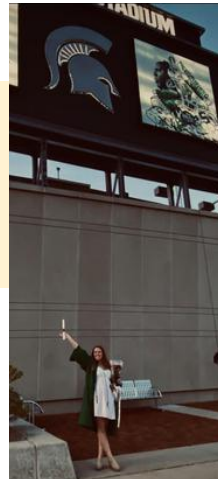
1. Sarah Martin '05
2. Joshua Cope '83
3. Morgan Burgess '04
4. Paige Henderson (Martin) '04
5. Kailey Burgess
6. Christine Stopyra '03
7. Cliff Burgess '08
8. Zachary Cope '08
9. Bradley Beideman '08
10. Michael Woodley '08
11. Joseph Beideman '11
12. Samuel Flagler '08
13. Virginia Flagler
14. Julie Martin '04

2004

Morgan Burgess

Morgan Burgess class of '04 and Zach Gardner welcomed Isla Stevens Gardner in August, 2023.

She is a happy, healthy baby and her proud parents love to watch her grow.



2015

Ava Setter

HS: Walt Whitman High School
College: Michigan State University

“I am currently still on the job search but I have decided to move to North Carolina this upcoming August to live with my long-term boyfriend Tommy of almost 1 year! Also another update you can include is that I have hit over 1000 followers on tiktok!”

COLLEGE GRADUATES!



Spotlight

Featuring some of our Westfield alumni
graduating high school and college this year
[Visit westfieldfriends.org/spotlights](http://westfieldfriends.org/spotlights) for their full stories

Top row: Justin Patel, Jeremy Girgis, Zachary Kowalski, Matthew Stone, Eric Sabato, Ishaan Mediratta, Jalen Patel, Philip Malitas
Middle row: Kira Mackinnon, Talia Lee, Amy Mulholland, Samantha Bastien, Alexandra Kinsey, Jessica Cerasaro
Bottom row: Connor Reed, Isabelle Chevalier, Catherine Tatum, Jackie Barr, Catrina Laughlin, Ben Graham



Ben '20 and Jeremy '16 Girgis

Jeremy Girgis '16

Memories: "Here and there I think back on Westfield and how grateful and blessed I was. In the moment you never really realize it, because I was so young. I just really enjoyed my time."

Advice: "To really give in to the community and the love around you, and to build a friend group and build a connection with the teachers. That sense of community was just really important. ... You don't think it does, but it really does. The lessons you learn when you're younger are definitely building blocks for the future."

Alexandra Kinsey '16

Memories: "I definitely always looked forward to Quaker Fridays, especially when it got to be 8th grade and we got to lead the groups."

Advice: "... I was just thinking way too far ahead of it, so I would just say live more in the moment and just enjoy your childhood while you still have it.."



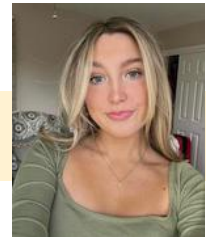
Zachary Kowalski '16

Memories: "Field Day! That was the best day of the year."

Advice: "Notice and appreciate the values they're teaching you there. The values of being open to other people's perspectives and being patient with other people was something they taught a lot at Westfield—just being good to other people. That skill alone has opened so many opportunities for me and led me on so many adventures—being patient with other people, giving other people a chance, being accepting."

Catrina Laughlin '16

Advice: "Appreciate the closeness that the school gives you and the values it teaches you—I feel like I learned a lot of values from that school too. Looking back, it definitely gave me a great foundation growing up."



Ishaan Mediratta '16

Advice: "You don't realize how good it is until you're done with it. I look back on it now and I am so happy I got to go there."

Connor Reed '16

Memories: "Favorite Westfield traditions involved holidays—Christmas play, Nativity, Christmas tree—though these celebrations fostered a sense of community."



Matt Stone '16

Advice: "Take it all in and slow down. Life gets even realer after you graduate. Take the time to enjoy it and not worry about other things; just have fun."



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!



Top row: Valerie Parry, Julia Brown, Wentworth Smith, Olivia Arnold, Jackson Mahoney, Anya Kazemi, Olivia Arnold, Noah Johnson, Ian Morley, Silas Canelas
Bottom row: Lorenzo Rizzieri, Nilyah Williams, Grace Ward-Gallagher, Landon Smith, Aurelia Harp, Benjamin Girgis, Genevieve Urbano, Nicole Yung, Adrian Harder. Absent: John O'Connor



Olivia Arnold '20

Memories: "My favorite tradition was probably Field Day or the Easter Egg Hunt. I also enjoyed going to Meeting for Worship every Wednesday."

Advice: "Enjoy your time with your friends and make a lot of memories with your class before you move onto high school."



Julia Brown '20

Advice: "Take advantage of the small community and make friends with everyone because it really goes a long way, especially as you get older and enter into bigger communities."

Silas Canelas '20
Memories: "Field trips to Williamsburg and Washington D.C., making chains for Christmas, and Pre-k buddies."

Advice: "Appreciate the education you're getting. You'll be prepared for high school. Take advantage of the education you're given."



Aurelia Harp '20

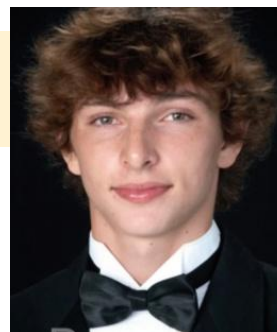
Memories: "I really liked our school trips in Middle School and our Middle School dances; I thought that was a fun way to bond with a smaller groups of people rather than the entire school."

Advice: "cherish your time there because it may seem like its taking forever to be an 8th grader, but really it goes so fast."



Ian Morley '20

Advice: Take everyday as it comes, even if you feel stressed out about school work. Just remember that it all goes by so fast



Landon Smith '20

Memories: "When we did labs in science class, that was fun. All the teachers were really nice."

Advice: "Stay friends with each other when you go to high school. Even though you're in Middle School, school work still matters. Maybe figure out what you want to do—see what subjects you like a lot and what you want to do in the future. "

Alumni Gatherings

Keeping our Westfield ties strong



Paige Henderson (Martin) '04,
Morgan Burgess '04 & Zach Gardner

In January, 2024, alumni met up at local Brewery Thirty-Three to share laughs, catch up, and reminisce about their joyous Westfield memories.



Victoria Lorenz '15, Patrick, Maddie Urbano '15,
Valerie Parry, Lauren Cates '15



Valerie and Jack '63 Parry, William F Steagall Jr. '63



Cliff Burgess '08, Mike Woodley '08



Field Day Picnic Alumni Gathering

Friday, May 17, 2024

11:00 am Races
12:00 pm Picnic Lunch
1:00 pm Alumni tours

Join us for our upcoming gathering set amidst one of Westfield's cherished traditions, **Field Day!**

Come cheer on our Pre-K through 8th grade students as they race, hop through obstacles, and give it their all to defeat the Garnet or the Blue in the annual Field Day Races.

Following the last race, an all-school picnic awaits. You'll enjoy our special packed lunch on a blanket under the shady branches of our alma mater.

Afterwards, alumni are welcome to join guided tours to explore the growth and changes at Westfield.



RSVP
here

RSVP with this QR code or reach out to alum@westfieldfriends.org to confirm your attendance.

Your partners and children are welcome to this event!
Looking forward to hosting you all.



ALUMNAE/I

1930s

Richard Hollerith '38
May 23, 2022

1940s

Anne "Nancy" Ritschard Hall '42
January 28, 2024

1960s

David Wilson '60
May 25, 2023

Victoria 'Vickie' Iverson '63
October 10, 2023

2000s

Sarah Quickel '05
December 6, 2022



Sarah Quickel '05



Mildred Lippincott

In Memoriam*

STAFF, FACULTY, and BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Ann Beal
Substitute Teacher, Alum Parent
February 14, 2024

Suzanne Day
Westfield Friends School Board Member, 2011-2024
January 16, 2024

Mildred Lippincott
Alumni Faculty
October 14, 2022

William Probsting
Alumni Head of School
September 20, 2021

William Schmidt
Finance Committee Member, 2016-2023
November 22, 2023

* If we are missing someone on this list, kindly contact us at alum@westfieldfriends.org so that we may update our records.

Alma Mater

Among the leafy branches of slender forest trees
We see the dear old schoolhouse and floating on the breeze
The stars and stripes above it, to which we'll all be true
Hurrah, Hurrah!
For Westfield and the Garnet and the Blue.



When from these walls departed
In the paths that we may take
Let us ever upward striving
Be true for thy dear sake
And be honest men and women, whoever will be true
To Westfield, dear old Westfield
and the Garnet and the Blue.

Throughout the coming ages, of all eternity
May this early Alma Mater, a memory ever be
Of days and hours of pleasure
in all that we e'er do
May we always be an honor
to the Garnet and the Blue.

