

SUMMER 2025 | ISSUE 5

WESTFIELD HOOTS

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.

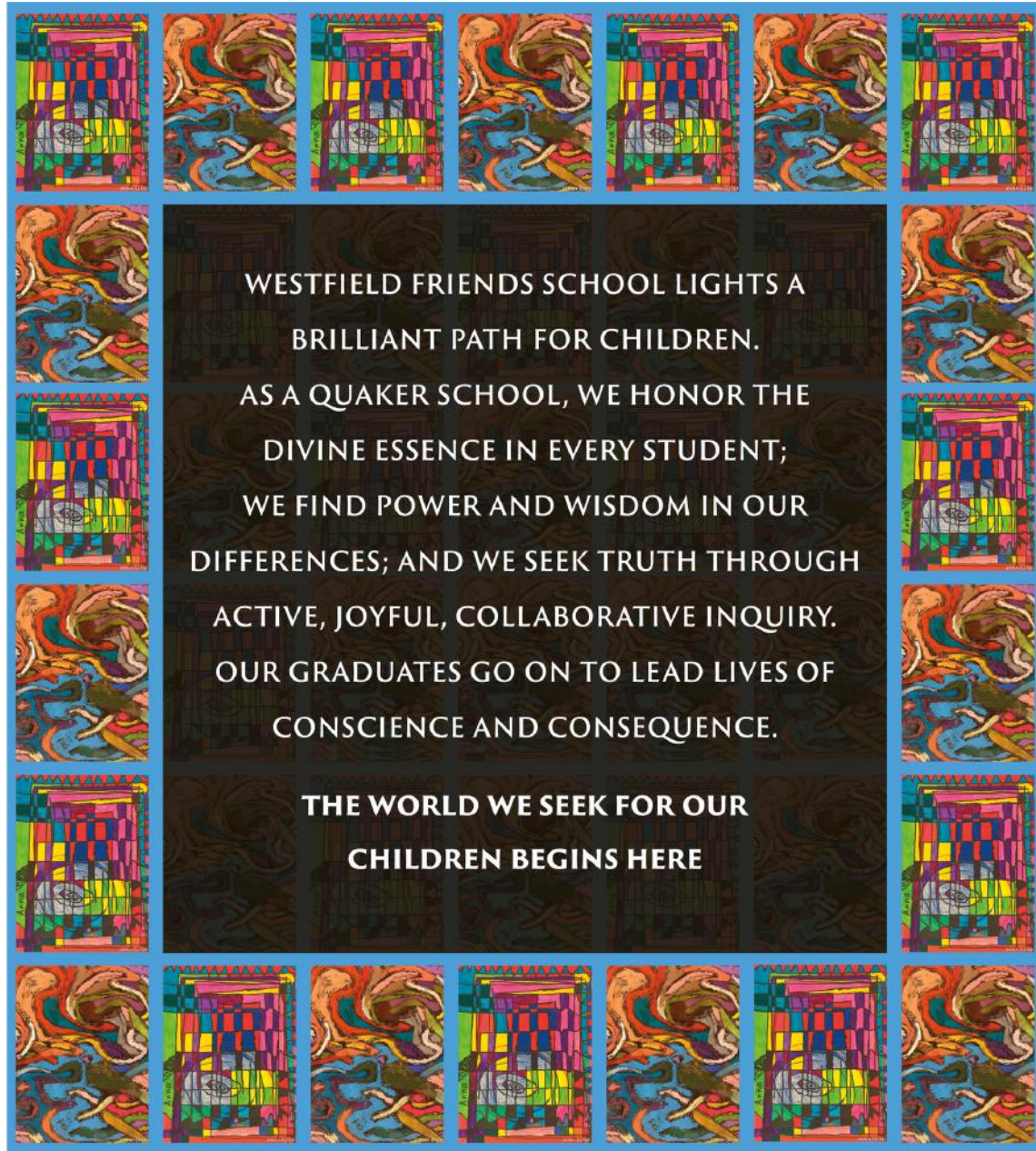


WHY A FRIENDS SCHOOL MATTERS

At Westfield, it is our mission to equip students with the tools to create the world we seek for us all. Rooted in Quaker tradition, we hold a shared truth: the Sacred exists in each of us. Guided by this Light, we nurture the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and social growth of every student. We encourage them to reach beyond themselves, to take responsibility for their communities through spirit-led advocacy, and to embody resilience, equity, curiosity, and compassion.

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Cover photo:
Johnson's Locust Hall Farm fun

Westfield Friends School
2201 Riverton Rd., Cinnaminson, NJ 08077 • (856) 829-0895
westfieldfriends.org/hoots

Westfield, Friends Education, and Cinnaminson

Why does Westfield Friends School (or any Friends School) continue to matter to Cinnaminson and our surrounding communities?

Dear Friends,

I have been reflecting these past several months on why it matters that Westfield Friends School continues to exist here in Cinnaminson, right at the heart of town, where Riverton Road meets Route 130. After all, US News and World Report¹ announced recently that New Jersey's PreK-12 public schools were ranked #1 in the nation. Cinnaminson Township Public Schools, under the leadership of Superintendent Stephen Cappello, are a part of this excellence.

Westfield Friends has been educating children since 1788. The members of Westfield Friends Meeting decided it was important for the children of the meeting to learn useful knowledge - reading, writing, and arithmetic. They were practical people, farmers, craftspeople, and merchants. They were deeply committed to serving God and letting their lives speak of God's love for them through their actions. This Quaker school educated all of the children in the community, whether they were Quaker or not. Now there are public schools. Now, Quaker children are very much a minority in our community. History, past laurels, nostalgia, and longevity are not in themselves reasons for Westfield to matter.

Good public schools serve the public good. They are tasked with graduating useful citizens who will understand and actively participate in our democracy and contribute to the well-being of their communities. New Jersey law guarantees all children the right to a free, appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.

So why should a Westfield Friends School or any Friends' school² exist at all? At the heart of every school week, we set aside the rich and wonderful academic learning in order to have Meeting for Worship. We gather as an intergenerational, interfaith community. We sit together in expectant, worshipful listening (yes, children as young as four will sit quietly for 25 minutes). For that time, we are consciously in the presence of the Sacred. Being in this Presence changes us and reminds us that we are always connected to the Sacred and through the Sacred to each other. As adults, long past their final Westfield Meeting for Worship, our alumni - and the alumni of EVERY FRIENDS SCHOOL - always talk about their Meeting for Worship. They appreciate and continue to make time to meditate, pray, sit quietly, and listen for what comes from the Silence.

In this time of headlines, sound bites, and longform articles providing cognitive whiplash and screaming for our attention, outrage, and allegiance, Friends Schools serve their communities through our belief that there is that of God in every child and adult and that the Sacred is always present. Through standing in the Sacred, we see the world as a whole, not as divided. Westfield Friends School is a place of hope, resiliency, equity, and compassion. Our students, faculty, and families carry this witness into their communities. Our physical presence in the heart of Cinnaminson witnesses to this truth of connection to the Sacred to everyone who enters our campus, drives by our school, or remembers their days as students.

This is why Westfield Friends School matters just as it did in 1788. We need our communities' support now more than ever, just as they need us.

In the Light,



Dr. Margaret Haviland
Head of School



¹ www.usnews.com/news/best-states/rankings/education

² www.friendscouncil.org/quaker-schools

Speaking Their Truth

Our visitors this year shared a wealth of insights and expertise, connecting with our students on subjects inherent to a Friends education: spiritual and personal growth, resilience, environmental advocacy, harmony, fostering a sense of groundedness, curiosity, and spirit-led action.



Quaker Volunteer Service, Philadelphia Fellows

During a Quaker Friday, we welcomed a team of young volunteers from Quaker Voluntary Service Philadelphia who assisted our buddies in creating hearts for Heart for Hospice, read to students in the library, and later engaged with middle school students to discuss the benefits of choosing a service-oriented, community-based, ten-month opportunity at QVS - exploring **spiritual and personal growth through volunteerism** with local Quakers



Corinne Bell, Senior Attorney at Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)



Current parent, Cori Bell, described to 5th-8th grade students how she specializes in water issues, working with states to amend their constitutions to include a right to clean air, water, and soil. She stressed how they, too, can evoke **green action through environmental advocacy** by playing a part in their community - securing a healthy, green, and equitable future for us all.



Dr. Daisy Nelson-Century, Historical Interpreter, Actress, Educator, and Writer

Students were enraptured as she became Bessie Coleman, dressing in character, weaving her story to her audience from birth to death. She engaged her audience, showing that **resilience through perseverance** helped her achieve being the first African-American woman to become a licensed airplane pilot and the first American to hold an international pilot license. Bessie Coleman was a woman who didn't give up.



James Montgomery, AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador

James engaged with students, educating them on the impact of human activities on water quality and inspiring them to take **green action to protect the watershed around them**. He is among approximately 470 dedicated members committed to safeguarding New Jersey's water resources.



Lizzy O'Donnell, Author

Lizzy, who attended Westfield, is a local talent from the Philadelphia area - an illustrator, professor, and now a writer. They were eager to share their writing journey with our students and sign their books! Their sumptuous storytelling delicately demonstrated that we **find true harmony within our communities when we embrace our truest selves**.



Oi Kam

Sifu Oi Kam Acheson joins us throughout the year to lead us through movement and song using her ukelele, yoga, and Polynesian story telling. She calms our minds and bring us joy and a **sense of groundedness through movement**.



Melinda Bradley, Faith and Play Stories

In Meeting for Worship students explored the tale of John Woolman's 1763 trip to the Lennai-Lenape community at Wyalusing. Melinda prompted, "What do you wonder about from the story?". Responses included wondering about the Lenape woman who first encountered him; if he saw snakes on his 200 mile journey; his decision not to carry a gun at a time of war; and why he only went on the journey when he had his family's **spirit-filled support**.



Max Voellinger '12, Electrical Engineer, FlashPCb

Max shared the story of his career journey, highlighting the continuous learning he engages in within the engineering field. He pointed out that while school mainly teaches you how to learn, the bulk of your knowledge comes from practical experience and an ongoing **curiosity in pursuit of expertise**. Additionally, Max expressed his enthusiasm for tackling projects by blending his creativity with his STEM skills.



Catherine Laughlin, Author

Alumni parent to four students at Westfield, Catherine is a writer, editor, and proofreader. She visited the middle school to engage them in conversation over various aspects of writing and creating. Students shared their knowledge while gaining a more in-depth perspective from a seasoned writer - how **curiosity can unlock the power to be creative**.

Impact

Our alumni are reconnecting and understanding the vital role their support plays in helping their elementary alma mater thrive for generations to come—ensuring that today’s students can grow, learn, and flourish in the same special environment that once shaped their own early journey.

OUR COMMUNITY HELPED US EXCEED OUR GOALS

in fiscal year 2024-2025

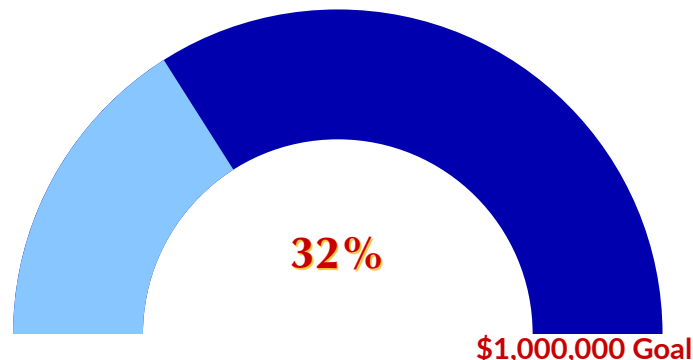
The Fund for Westfield Friends School



We nearly doubled our goal of \$200,000

Donations from alumni, alumni parents and grandparents, and alumni faculty accounted for 82% of contributions to the Fund for Westfield.

William Probsting Scholarship Fund



We exceeded our \$50,000 target!

Reaching our goal of \$1,000,000 will allow Westfield to be more accessible to families who value our mission.

This fund not only supports the responsive tuition program but also benefits our exceptional teachers, who continue the legacy of the remarkable educators Mr. Probsting relied on throughout his forty years of leadership.



Stay tuned for the introduction of our new campaign...

Introducing New Giving Levels

Each fiscal year, community leaders who donate a total of **\$1,000 or more to the Fund for Westfield Friends School or any endowed fund**—including the William Probsting Scholarship Fund—will be celebrated as members of The 1788 Circle. Donors will be recognized in the Annual Report's Donor Listing according to their Giving Level for that fiscal year and will receive invitations to the annual Appreciation Event.



Eastern Screech Owl Level
\$1,000 - \$2,499

Great Horned Owl Level
\$2,500 - \$4,999

Barred Owl Level
\$5,000 - \$9,999

Barn Owl Level
\$10,000 - \$24,999

Snowy Owl Level
\$25,000 and up

Sustaining Member

5+ years of giving to the Fund for Westfield or any endowed fund, at any amount

From Westfield to Retirement: Life Lessons Learned Bruce Feldman '68



Bruce, age 7, standing to the left of his mother

When Dinosaurs Roamed the Earth...

Bruce attended and graduated from Westfield in 1968, back when it was only 1st to 6th grade. He went to Cherry Hill High School West and then on to college, graduating from Yale University in 1978 with a BA in Chemistry and certification as a high school science teacher. "The academic program at Yale was really challenging, but I was blessed to have been able to attend really strong schools, like Westfield, before college. Education gave me the tools throughout life to adapt to my circumstances," he offers. At Yale, he did his student teaching, had a summer research internship, tried his hand at acting, and committed year-round to fencing, a sport he had never tried before. "I tried a lot of things in college and learned that being good at something required focus and personal investment. Those lessons served me well later in life when I chose to journey down new paths." Today, Bruce is married, with three adult children. He is retired from full-time work but teaches classes in artificial intelligence online part-time.

As a student, he always liked math and science. "I remember eagerly waiting for my 1st grade teacher Mrs. Zukauckas (WFS 1953-1972) to lay out worksheets where we had to solve problems that used symbols for unknowns. I was taken with the idea that a symbol or a letter in math could mean something," he remembers. "A few years later, that led me to experimenting with a first-generation programmable calculator in high school, an MS in electrical engineering, and career in satellite communications, and, ultimately, a retirement gig teaching artificial intelligence."

Bruce did his student teaching in college in the public schools in New Haven, Connecticut. During spring break of his senior year, he came back to Westfield for a visit and chatted on the playground with his 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Greminger (WFS 1958-1977). "We were talking, and the whole time she played catch with one of her students. Even with me there pestering her for insights into teaching, she was multitasking for one of her kids," he says.

The Importance of Communicating – Verbally and in Writing

Bruce recognized that his Westfield education taught him how to express himself in ways that made him an effective communicator and collaborator. "There are a lot of great engineers who struggle to communicate. I worked on large, complex projects, and it meant a lot to me that my colleagues knew they could count on me to help them work with words as well as numbers."



Top Row: Marcy Feldman Rost '74, Edward Feldman, Ruth Feldman, Beth Feldman '71
Bottom Row: Richard Feldman '65, Bruce Feldman '68



Bruce's family today
Bruce, his wife Wendy Engelson, younger son Andrew Feldman, older son's partner Bobby Miller, older son Matthew Feldman, oldest offspring Jessica Feldman

Some Words of Advice?

Bruce notes, "We live in a very challenging time, in the aftermath of a pandemic and a world beset by both turbulence and rapid change. Be open to new experiences, know yourself, use but do not become a servant to technology, and commit to values that give your life meaning." He recommends learning what you love but also working hard at foundational things like communication, teamwork, and friendship.



Top row: Charles Simpson teacher, Michael Aquilar, Robert Zawrotny, Reed Glendinning, Bruce Feldman
Middle row: Linda Tursi, Alice Good, Florence Schulmann, Janice Holt, Claire Nelson, Alix DiPiazza
Bottom row: Howard Parry III, Peter Allen, Michael Milburn, Lee Attix, Jim Perrin, Neil Kozarsky, Jeff Feldman

Looking Back at Westfield - a wonderful gift

Bruce recalls, on that same visit when he caught up with Mrs. Greminger, that he went to the morning meeting. "It was a few minutes of introspection at a time in my life when I was constantly on the go. Those few minutes made me stop, take a step back, and think about what's really important. That moment of perspective led to similar moments in other circumstances - a wonderful gift from Westfield."

Class Notes

1958

Judith (Judi) McIlvain Lewis

I joined Westfield Friends School in 4th grade, when my mother, Rebecca McIlvain, accepted a position as the Nursery School teacher. Our family's 15-mile commute on that first morning was quiet—each of us (my mother, my sister, and I) wrapped in our own nervous thoughts. I was coming from a difficult third-grade year elsewhere. I was tall for my age, lived with a mild form of epilepsy, and felt painfully different. I worried I wouldn't make any friends.

But then we arrived at Westfield, and there stood our principal, Miss Diehl, her lovely white hair like a halo, greeting each of us by name with warmth and grace. In my classroom, Mary Kassler welcomed us with her signature energy and enthusiasm, bustling around the room and helping us get settled. Her confidence and care immediately made me feel like I belonged.



During my three years at WFS, I never encountered a teacher who didn't take the time to help each student recognize their strengths while supporting them through their challenges. The environment was safe, encouraging, and rooted in kindness. Westfield gave me the firm foundation I needed—both socially and academically—for all that would follow.

One of the greatest gifts of my time at Westfield was meeting Lyn Buckwalter (now Wargny). We quickly became close friends, and to this day, we remain in frequent contact—a friendship I cherish deeply.

Our 4th-grade class photo still brings back memories. I'm third from the right in the front row, proudly wearing my WFS shirt. Lyn is two seats over, separated from me by Elena K. As a fun bit of history, our father, Bill McIlvain, was a professional square dance caller and called dances for the WFS 5th and 6th grade students from around 1956 to 1971.

Thank you, Westfield, for the welcome, the encouragement, and the lifelong friendships. You helped shape the person I am today.



Judi is in the bottom row, third from the right;
best friend Lyn Wargny (Buckwalkter) is two
seats to the left

1963

James Hershey



Top row: Walter Engle, Jay McVaugh, Becky Fergus,
Beverly Pie', David Good, Teddy Bradley
Middle row: Billy Steagall, Billy Barker, Eddie
Michaels, Todd Parry, Doug Barclay, Cappy Lamon,
Bruce MacAllister, Mike Reed
Bottom row: Jack Parry, Jay Hershey, Vickie Iverson,
Jane Mustard, Carol Beitz, Betsy Ransome, Mike
McVaugh, Rich Stetler

Looking back on a life devoted to public service, I can confidently say it all began at Westfield Friends School. That's where I learned the fundamentals—how to read and write—but more than that, **it's where I first understood the value of community, connection, and quiet strength.**

I went on to serve as a Police Officer, first in New Jersey for 16 months, and then in Arizona for 34 years. I never approached it as just a job or a career. It was always about service: to neighbors, friends, and often strangers. That **sense of responsibility to others, the foundation of it, was laid in those early years at Westfield Friends.**

Some of my clearest memories are simple ones: watching the farmer plow and harvest the fields surrounding the school while I sat in my 1st and 2nd grade classrooms, mesmerized. And like any child, I also learned a few lessons the hard way—like how to protect my hat from being snatched off my head on the playground. Even a harmless scuffle in first grade carried the unspoken lesson that we all needed to look out for each other.

Our Class of 1963 shared a close bond. Though we went our separate ways, different junior highs and high schools—we always remained connected. Over the years, we crossed paths. A few classmates have passed on, but the memory of that togetherness still lives in me.

Family also had a presence at the school. My aunt, Miriam Diehl, was principal until her death in 1959. I remember the comfort and quiet pride I felt seeing her check in on me through the classroom door.

The educators I encountered at Westfield were remarkable, and their influence shaped me in ways I came to understand only later in life. Mrs. McIlvain (WFS 1953-72) in pre-k and Mrs. Stewart (WFS 1943-81) in kindergarten made those first steps into learning joyful. Mrs. Zukauckas (WFS 1963-72) and Mrs. Pearson (WFS 1955-2019) in first grade realized I read faster than I talked, an early clue into how my mind worked. Miss Armstrong (WFS 1943-72) in second grade nurtured my curiosity, while Mrs. Thompson (WFS 1944-68) in third grade saw a quality in me I hadn't yet seen myself, she believed I had a positive influence on others.

Mrs. Gremminger, my fourth-grade teacher, sparked my interest in science and math, subjects that became key in my later work investigating traffic accidents and criminal cases. Mrs. Franz in fifth grade continued to build on that academic confidence. And then there was Mr. Engle, who saw my fascination with the Civil War and fanned it into a lasting interest.

Westfield Friends School didn't just teach me lessons in reading, writing, or arithmetic. It shaped the way I see the world: through the lens of service, empathy, and a curiosity that has never dimmed. The seeds planted there grew into a life I'm proud of. And for that, I remain deeply grateful.

1963

William “Bill” Steagall Jr

Bill continues to exemplify compassion, resilience, and global citizenship through his work with Ukraine Knitting Resistance. In February 2025, he completed his fourth humanitarian mission to Ukraine, delivering over 135 pounds of hand-knitted winter gear and \$5,500 worth of food to frontline communities near Kherson and Mykolaiv.

The sole American team member on this trip, he traveled at his own expense to Romania, where he joined partners to transport essential supplies into eastern Ukraine. The team distributed food and warm clothing to 300 families—most of whom are elderly—living in villages deeply affected by the ongoing war. Despite challenging travel conditions, limited resources, and the threat of nearby military activity, Bill and his team brought warmth, sustenance, and hope to those in need.

His message to villagers was simple but powerful: “The knitters in America do not know you, but you are in their hearts. You are not forgotten.”

Bill is already preparing for his fifth mission, scheduled for September 26–October 4, 2025.

“My years at Westfield Friends (1956–1963: K–6) have stayed with me. When I started Kindergarten in 1956, I learned the trees planted along the pipe-rail fence on Riverton Road were less than 100 years old. They were planted to celebrate the peace at the end of the Civil War. That was a message of peace sent through time to us.”

Bill’s life and work continue to carry that message of peace forward. We are proud of his inspiring efforts and grateful for the light he brings to those in need. His commitment reminds us that while no one can do everything, everyone can do something.



HELP SUPPORT BILL'S MISSION

Knit

Contribute handmade hats, scarves, or other warm items. Every stitch offers comfort.

Donate

Monetary donations help purchase and transport food and supplies to areas of greatest need.

Join the Team

Bill is seeking two additional volunteers to travel with him (must cover their airfare and be prepared for modest, sometimes difficult conditions).

Spread the Word

Share his story with your network and help raise awareness.

Email Bill directly

ukraineknittingresistance@gmail.com

Send donations

Ukraine Knitting Resistance
1028 S. Walter Reed Drive, Unit 819
Arlington, VA 22204 USA

1996

Alex Hoffmeier



Alex with wife Sarah and sons Max and Calan on a trip last fall to Montreal, QC

Next year will mark three decades since graduating from Westfield Friends - a humbling fact and one that offers perspective on my life. Undoubtedly, the ten years I spent at Westfield laid a foundation that has carried through my personal and professional life, trying to navigate the world with compassion, respect, and humility.

My passion and love for the natural world and working with my hands can be traced back very directly and honestly to sixth grade. It was Mrs. Chesson (WFS 1988-2004) and our class trip to PEEC (Pocono Environmental Education Center) that inspired me to pursue environmental science as an undergraduate at Dickinson College and later in graduate school for ecological landscape design at the Conway School.

Based in central Vermont, for the last ten years (along with my wife and fellow landscape designer, Sarah), I have owned and operated an ecologically focused landscape design and construction company called Ecolibrium, LLC - Landscape Rooted in Design. I do my best to instill in my two kids (Cal and Max, ages 10 and 12) the values that were ingrained in me during my time at Westfield. Thanks, Mrs. Chesson, and thanks to Westfield Friends for all the inspiration!



Alex with his son Max on a recent hike near their house along the Worcester Range, VT

Class Notes

2000

Lisa Imperiale



Lisa is a graduate of Intermountain Christian High School and Moore College of Art and Design, where she received an MBA Degree. She is a founding member of BYO Print, a cooperative printmaking studio, co-founded by women artists with the mission to keep artists printing on their own time within a reasonable budget. Lisa serves as their Secretary of the Board of Directors. She is a long-time resident of Philadelphia, where she is actively involved in her neighborhood and the arts community.

The collaborative is celebrating 15 years in Philadelphia, promoting a partnership among artists and the public. It educates about printmaking, provides studio access, and conducts artist residencies, internships, and public art exhibits.

As an artist-led nonprofit, BYO Print emphasizes collaboration and equal voice in decision-making. It serves as a sanctuary for marginalized artists and printmakers, promoting equity and diversity while intentionally uplifting one another through collective efforts.



2011

Eliza Marris

Advancing Social Justice through Architectural Interventions

Eliza was part of a Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) project whose focus is on health and wellness, affordability, and community engagement.

RISD students in the Interior Architecture studio Habitat for Justice worked with Justice Assistance, an RI-based nonprofit that provides legal and social support to first-time offenders. The students reimagined Broad Street in Providence, RI, as a hub for community engagement, job training, and affordable housing.



Graduate student Eliza Marris MDes '26, together with undergrad Kylee Hong '26 IA, worked to create a 27,000-sf site featuring three programs: a culinary school and café, a community business incubator, and healthy, affordable housing. The team drew inspiration from organizations like the Hackney School of Food in London, the Johnson and Wales University Food Innovation and Design Lab, and Domus Houthaven in Amsterdam, all while considering access for trucks, storefronts on Broad Street, and new builds in the same style as the existing ones.



2015

Ava Claire Setter



I recently just completed my 1 year anniversary with Amazon, and I am in transition to a new role either within Amazon Corporate at their headquarters in Arlington, VA, or at a fulfillment center in the DC metro area.

2020

Olivia Neri



Olivia, second from left, with her Westfield field hockey teammates

It was at Westfield where I learned about my passion for writing, particularly for writing poetry. As a result, my poem in Ursinus College's 2025 edition of their literary magazine The Lantern was chosen as the runner up for their official Poetry Prize—as a freshman, I was told that was something to be proud of! Only here was I able to go from practicing Haikus and poems about middle school drama to seeing the fruits of my labor in genuine publications. Furthermore, I accepted an editorial internship with Sunbury Press, a 100% remote book publishing company where I find myself learning how to not only reflect on my own work more deeply, but also that of others in a way that is considerate and constructive.



Olivia, second from right, with her Westfield classmates

When it comes to Westfield's impact on me, I don't think a day goes by that I'm not practicing the values I have learned here. People say you are a reflection of the people you have met, and I find my teachers, former classmates, and even transferring substitutes and principles in every decision I come across. There is no better way to express what I have learned than simply telling someone what the SPICES are—although I am not a Quaker, I truly believe these are values I try my best to live by. I would not be who I am without my Westfield education.

Alongside these opportunities, I have taken on a job as a summer counselor for Westfield's 2025 Summer Camp; I am grateful for this job because I have been able to enter a space that means so much to me in a manner that allows me to create the positive change for others that I felt in myself.

Westfield until 3rd grade

Grace Gardner



Grace, a former Westfield student and 2020 graduate from Moorestown Friends School, completed her senior project interning with our Team PreK.

She joined Teachers Heather Marrazzo and Gianna Hoffman's PreK classes for the month of May. Moorestown Friends students are required to participate in off-campus, pre-professional service projects, allowing students to delve into their interests, potentially guiding them toward future careers.

Grace will attend James Madison University in the fall, and her intent is to one day be an occupational therapist.

Grace fondly remembers spending time with this very sailboat during her days as a young student in the PreK classroom.



Teacher Marrazzo was thrilled to welcome Grace back into her classroom—she used to be one of her PreK students (you can spot her in the bottom row wearing a red dress)!

Graduating Class Speeches: Where Spirit Meets Voice

As tradition holds, this year's eighth-grade students crafted and recited speeches for their graduation. Without fail, every year, the impact of this Friends education - whether experienced for one year or all ten - shines clearly through in their words

There's hardly a dry eye in the meeting house during a Westfield graduation ceremony, and this year was no exception. Graduates' narratives, their truths, served as windows into their spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and social journeys of growth. These reflections serve as a powerful reminder of the supportive community that has shaped them into resilient and compassionate individuals. **With these young people, and through interactions with older alumni, we see firsthand how Westfield empowers students to create the world we seek.** We invite you to explore these speeches and witness the incredible influence Westfield has had on their lives. Perhaps, if you are an alumnus, you may reminisce about your own graduation ceremony and speech. westfieldfriends.org/grads

SPIRITUAL and PERSONAL GROWTH, RESILIENCE

As a Turkish Muslim, coming from an Islamic school, Arda was apprehensive about joining Westfield in sixth grade, wondering if he could navigate all of the new experiences ahead. He found comfort and stability in the practice of meeting for worship. To his surprise, he embraced public speaking, overnight trips, and various Westfield traditions. He valued the inclusiveness of the community, and how **Quaker principle "values and embraces all religions and cultures"**, aligning with his own core beliefs. He found joy in his journey and felt supported by everyone, even learning that he could be a role model - a powerful discovery.

SERVICE and PERSONAL GROWTH

Charley gained valuable insights from the time spent bonding with her PreK Buddies. "My experience... has truly made me grow...How to **care for all the people around me, to look on the bright side, be patient with those who might need extra help**, and most of all, how to be the best version of myself". She also cherished the service projects they engaged in together such as Hearts for Hospice, and supporting local nursing homes.

COMMUNITY, COMPASSION, and INTEGRITY

Friendships nurtured at Westfield have taught Maya "that you're part of a **community that... values your authentic self**". She has also come to understand that the Quaker spice, **Integrity, serves as the "moral compass** leading you through school and life". Maya has discovered how we can learn from each other, become more compassionate, and more curious about the world. For her, Westfield has been like a family.



COMMUNITY, EMOTIONAL GROWTH, and EMPATHY

Gabe realized that school, including all of its challenges, has been instrumental in shaping the person he is becoming. At Westfield, he discovered that "social activities, interests, and friendships are just as important as academics, and **empathy is just as important as knowledge**". He is aware that he needs to keep working hard to reach happiness and peace.

CURIOSITY and CONNECTION

Ethan has been at our small school for eight years. Moving to a much larger high school environment, he's learned how important it will be to make connections. The class trips he went on revealed to him how exciting it can be to try new things and explore. "The trip taught me... **adaptability... responsibility, and independence, but most importantly, friendship**".

INTELLECTUAL and EMOTIONAL GROWTH

"Change feels slow in the moment, other times it feels as if you are going down a race track. If you don't **pause, appreciate yourself and the progress you've made**; if you don't see the time and effort it took to get to this point, then what's the point in pursuing changes"? Mark recognizes that he has grown: he has developed a fondness for chemistry and physics, and has improved his study skills; he understands that **being grounded is essential to appreciate and embrace change**.

EMOTIONAL GROWTH and GROUNDEDNESS

Nyia knows that the decision is yours: "**You get to choose whether you are happy or sad**". Her experiences during meetings for worship allowed her "to sink into your thoughts and slow down when your day is running ahead of you—essentially, to **live in the moment**". Her classmates felt like family to her.

Our graduating students are heading to a variety of different first-choice high schools this year, including Burlington County Institute of Technology, Camden Catholic, Doane Academy, Gloucester County Institute of Technology, Moorestown Friends School, and Paul VI High School. We wish them all the best and feel confident that they will create the world we seek.

Summer Camp 2025

From the middle of June to mid-August, campers enjoy themed weeks filled with creative games and adventures, sporting challenges, and fun and crazy art projects.



Alumni Spotlights

Congratulations to our Westfield alumni who graduated Moorestown Friends School this year



1. Esha Acharya '21 2. Grace Gardner (transferred to MFS for 4th grade) 3. Rachel Barr (transferred to MFS 6th grade) 4. Rebecca Liu '21 5. Logan Shields '21 6. Jack Cranmer (transferred to MFS for 6th grade) 7. Noah Frizell (transferred to MFS for 3rd grade) 8. Ted Tarter (transferred to MFS for 7th grade) 9. Jadin Figueroa '21 10. Joshua Carroll '21



Esther Pearson, Alumni Faculty
(WFS 1955-2019)
Nancy Turner '62 (nee Kriebel)



Alumni Gatherings

Mark your calendars to join us every May for Field Day and Alumni Picnic

Maddie Urbano '15, Cindy Choyce '96,
Josh Ormond , Nancy Turner '62, William
Steagall Jr '63, Esther Pearson
Maraina Adams '09, Jennifer Pope '97 (not in
photo)

Esther Pearson began her career at Westfield as the 1st grade assistant to Sue Zukauckas in 1955, took over Gene Chambers as the PE teacher 15 years later, and retired in 2006. She continued to sub and was in x-day until Covid hit.

Esther recently marked her 90th birthday with a grand celebration in Medford on July 10th. The occasion was a joyful gathering of friends, family, and former Westfield students. She leads a vibrant life, staying active through exercise, swimming, gardening, and even bowling during the winter months. Community is very important to her; she enjoys daily interactions with friends and remains actively engaged with her church. Westfield holds a special place in Esther's heart.



Getting ready for the foot race



Friday, November 14th 6:00-8:00pm

Look for your special email invitation this fall
RSVP @ westfieldfriends.org/alumni



These milestones are a
great reason to get
together!



CLASS OF 2017 - You've graduated college!
CLASS OF 2021 - You've graduated high school!



Stay informed about news,
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(856) 829-0895

STAY CONNECTED



Share your news
throughout the year
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Simple Acts of Kindness

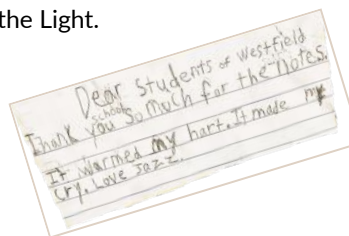
This year, wildfires swept through parts of California, impacting communities across the state, including two Quaker schools in the Los Angeles area. One school, Whittier Friends, located safely south of the fires, remained largely unaffected and serves children from Preschool 2 through 6th grade.



Friends Western School, in Pasadena, a K-6th-grade school, was much closer to the danger zone, resulting in a temporary closure. As part of our Quaker values of community and care, Westfield students wrote and decorated cards for the children of both schools. Some sent letters introducing themselves, sharing favorite things about their school, and letting their fellow students in California know they are being held in the Light.

Heartfelt responses were received in return. Through these simple acts of kindness and connection, our students are reminded that we are part of a wider Quaker network and that love and support can travel any distance.

Students also raised close to \$1,000 at a Dance-a-Thon for the LA Foodbank



In Memoriam*

George Krusen '40

Kathleen Livingston Mertens '58

David Beal

Alumni Parent of Christie Beal '86 and David Beal '89

Carol Shields

Alumni Parent of David Shields '88

Alumni Grandparent of Logan Shields '21

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

Westfield Friends School
2201 Riverton Road
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

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