

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.

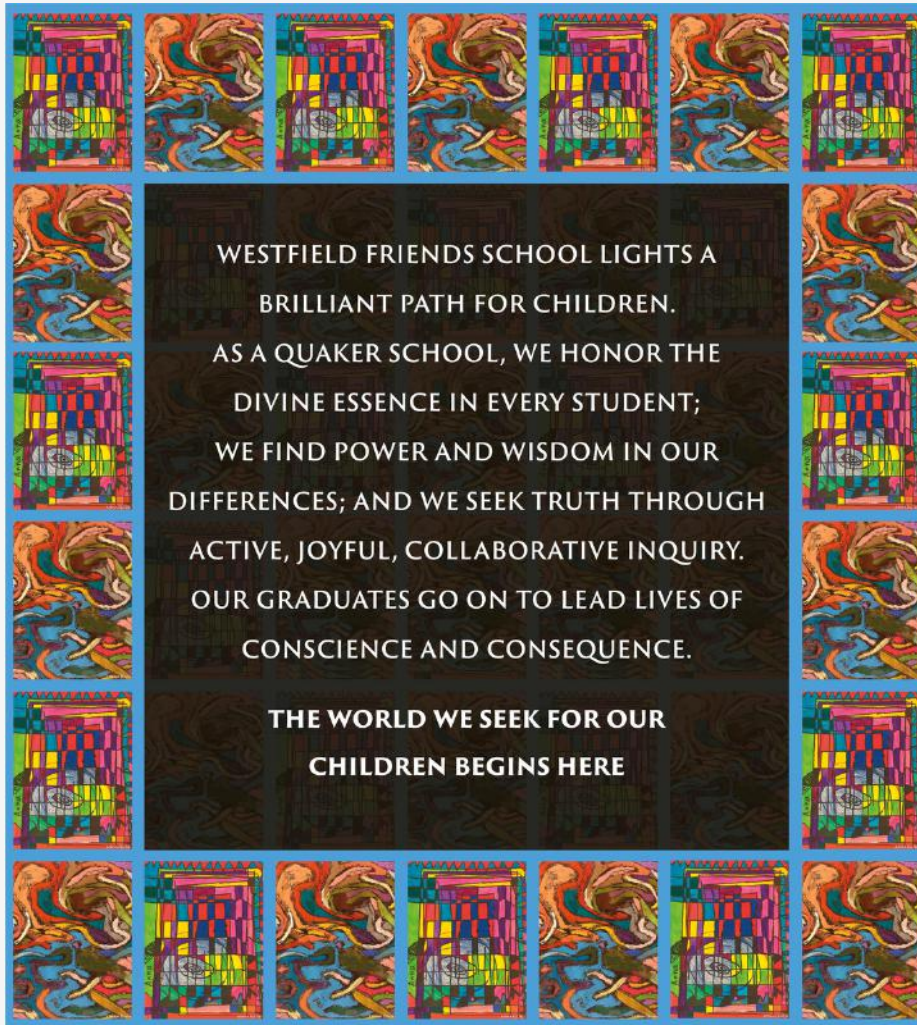


Celebrating our faculty

“—
In classical understanding, education is the attempt to "lead out" from within the self a core of wisdom that has the power to resist falsehood and live in the light of truth, not by external norms but by reasoned and reflective self-determination. The inward teacher is the living core of our lives that is addressed and evoked by any education worthy of the name. — Parker J. Palmer

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Cover photo:

Kindergartener Ben R. with Teacher Josh during buddy time with seventh grade

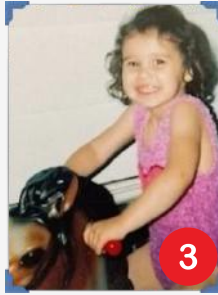
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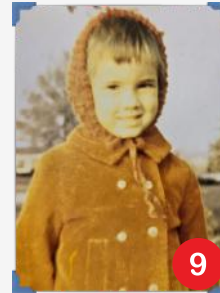
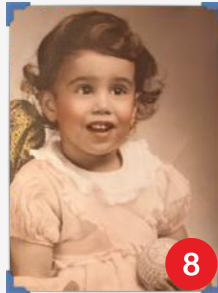
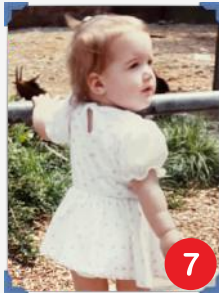
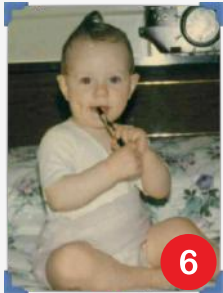
Hoooo's Who?

Guess who these teachers and staff are!

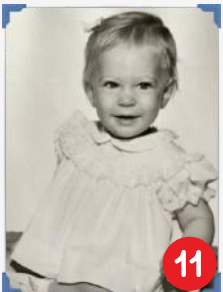
Visit westfieldfriends.org/hoots to check if you guessed right!



A beautiful reminder of the journeys we all take and the potential that lies in every child.



Take a trip down memory lane and celebrate some of the amazing people who have dedicated their lives to Westfield's mission of guiding our students towards leading lives of conscience and consequence.



Q&A with Heather Marrazzo

PreKindergarten Teacher

My Journey

I graduated college after switching majors in May 1993 and started at WFS that August as Valerie Parry's 3rd grade assistant. That year was a gift to learn from Valerie as a young graduate. After that year, I moved into the role of 1st grade teacher and I got married. I stayed teaching 1st grade a few years, we had 2 sons and they started at WFS. I asked Mr. Probsting if I could switch grades [to PreK]. It's here I fell in love with teaching four and five year olds and I've been there ever since. I am now teaching children of former students and it brings me such joy to have this special bond.

Why Choose Westfield

I choose Westfield because of the families, the ability to teach Pre-K in a way that promotes a love of learning, friendship, and the unique connections with our younger and older students.

What or Who Has Influenced You at Westfield

Mr. Probsting inspired me to make connections with students and families. His work ethic was unmatched. Valerie Parry helped me in my first year as a young educator fall in love with teaching. Her class was engaging and full of positive energy. Maureen Matulewicz loved each student and family as they came through our door, including both my sons and ME! I would not be where I am today without my dearest lifelong friend Nicole Cesaretti. I cannot put into words how she helped my family just by being there when we needed it most.

Importance of Giving Back to Westfield

WFS is important to me because this is where it all began for my love of teaching, for the students and families, and for the chance to lay the most important groundwork as young children begin their education.

Hopes for Westfield Students

No matter when students start or finish at Westfield, I hope they go out into the world and know they are special, they are loved, and they can be impactful to others.



Westfield students attending Heather's wedding in February 1995

"These pictures show an outpouring of love for Westfield that's undeniable."



Samantha Szczepkowski '99 and Jacob Brickley '00 wedding in September 2011 -- "This year I will be teaching their third son in Pre-K. "

Also pictured with Heather are longtime retired teachers Liz Martino '62, Bonnie Weeks, and Judy Chase



Heather Marrazzo has been teaching at Westfield for over 30 years.

Q&A with Paige Henderson '04

Fourth Grade Teacher



Paige Henderson is an alumna and this fall will start her sixth year teaching 4th grade at Westfield

My Journey

I attended Westfield from Pre-K to 8th grade and attended Moorestown Friends School for high school. Because of my educational experiences at Westfield, I decided on a career in education. In 2019, I returned home to Westfield, now not as a student but as a teacher!

Why Choose Westfield

I choose Westfield because it is the reason I became an educator! I attended Quaker schools from Pre-K through 12th grade, and the values instilled in me as a student I now see create success in my classroom as a teacher. Westfield Friends allows me to participate in a community of educators who encourage their students to live lives of integrity, be reflective, promote peace, and encourage stewardship.

What or Who Has Influenced You at Westfield

One thing that stands out to me is Westfield's practice in reflection. As a student, you are not aware of the powerful skills that attending Meeting for Worship teaches you, but as an adult, I am grateful that I understand the power of reflection. I know that during my time as a student and now as a teacher at Westfield, I am constantly learning about my own relationship with silence and how I might use it in ways that create a connection to an inner light or an inner voice. Meeting For Worship teaches not only students but teachers how to better connect with both themselves and others in their community.

Importance of Giving Back to Westfield

I give to Westfield because developing critical thinking skills and encouraging living with purpose and awareness are woven into every aspect of a Westfield Friends School experience. Students are taught how to make an actionable difference through stewardship throughout their time at Westfield, and as an educator, that is invaluable to me.

Hopes for Westfield Students

My hope for Westfield students is that they will take ownership of their own learning. I hope students will not only be learners but also teachers! I hope they develop important critical thinking skills that empower them to take on challenges in a confident and intelligible way. I know that Westfield provides an environment that teaches that every person deserves equal respect and that purposeful learning occurs when students can collaborate and embrace one another's differences.



Paige being congratulated by Westfield students at her wedding in September, 2021.

Impact

William Probsting Scholarship Fund Challenge: The Results are In!

The William Probsting Scholarship Fund was started at a Gala upon Mr. Probsting's retirement in 2013. Since his passing on September 20th, 2021, there has been an outpouring of tributes and support for the fund.

This two year challenge was presented by a friend of Westfield to help grow this Fund with a goal of introducing philanthropy to more of our community. The **challenge period has ended**, and we are thrilled to share that the William Probsting Scholarship Fund, along with the generous \$100,000 matching donation, has reached a total of \$257,404!

**HELP US REACH OUR GOALS
FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR 2024-25**

\$200,000

for the

FUND FOR WESTFIELD

\$50,000

for the

**WILLIAM PROBSTING
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Many ways to give

westfieldfriends.org/donate
for more info

Your gift opportunities include:

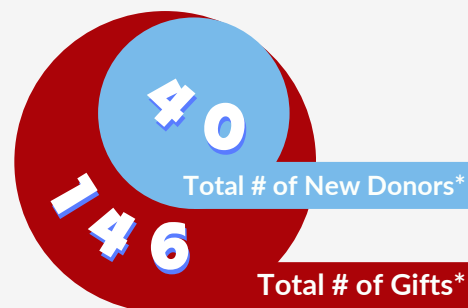
- The **Fund for Westfield**, including the **February Days of Giving**, which supports our wonderful faculty, student programs, and daily operations.
- Sponsorships and donations to our special events** (Golf Outing in the fall, and Taste of Our Towns in the spring) to support our Responsive Tuition Program.
- Planned giving, such bequests, endowments, or donor advised funds.**
- Grants**, including gifts to the **William Probsting Scholarship Fund**.

All of these donations ensure that future generations can experience the same academic and value-driven environment at Westfield that our alumni have enjoyed.

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



*As of publication, August 2024



*From the start of the WPSF, and not including gifts from Gala

Eighth Grade Poetry with Valerie Parry

Nurturing creativity, expression, and imagination

Poetry writing in middle school at Westfield is not just about crafting verses; it's about cultivating a lifelong love for language, developing critical, creative, and independent thinking, and nurturing emotional and social growth - all part of our mission to educate the whole child.

These two poems exemplify the assignment of composing a poem in their preferred format, incorporating at least three poetic conventions discussed in the unit.

Rain

by Kayla C

Shadowed eyes see clouds dark,
Heavy with nothing but bad news.
See the rain splashing the windows.
Their eyes fixed on the ground,
On the mud on their boots,
The plants drooping under the weight of the unwanted water,
The gray, gray sky like a blanket over happiness
Perfectly matching their mood, their hearts
As they stare at the rain, the smothering of joy.

Or maybe the clouds are shimmering with water,
The rain dancing to the ground.
Some see the rain as nature's beauty,
The gift from the sky to the needy earth.
The rain splashing like the song of the wild,
They listen, and see
The plants lifting their leaves to catch the drops,
The sky shining silver,
The earth singing its joy as they splash through the mud,
wet, sinking earth
the same ground the others stand on, looking up with loathing at
the rain.
The same rain is falling,
The same ground is flooding
But when they look up and see the sun through the clouds,
They stand on solid earth.



The walk to graduation. Valerie Parry and the eighth grade Class of 2024.

Palestine Should Be Free

by Zahra M

From the river to the sea
Palestine should be free
From our hearts to our blood
Palestine should be loved
From the mountains to the sand
Missiles should be banned
From the west to the east
Palestinians should live in peace

From the sky to below
Palestine should be known
From the north to the south
Palestine should be heard
From real life to a screen
Palestine should be seen
From the dirt to space
There should be no struggles Palestine should face

Yet why are they still struggling?
Yet why are innocent people still dying?
Why is Palestine fading?

Parent Testimonial

Westfield provides an amazing educational, emotional, spiritual, and social foundation

Teresa and Jerome Grace



Rising first-grader, Jianna, with her parents at Kindergarten's play, *The Mischievous Bugs*

Why did you choose Westfield for your daughter?

We chose Westfield Friends because of the environment and clear dedication to the mission of the school. There had been numerous and at time chaotic challenges we lived through in our daycare and preschool experiences, so selecting the right Kindergarten was a huge deal. We knew someone with children in the school as well as a few WFS alumni. Jianna really enjoyed the ½ day she spent with Mrs Marazzo checking out the class. However, meeting with Jillian, seeing the school, feeling the environment...this is what sealed the deal for us.

What or who stands out as making a difference in Jianna's experience at Westfield?

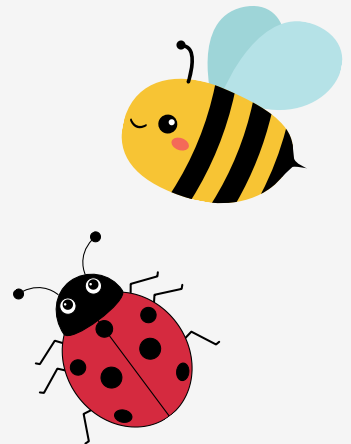
Marina Olsen is the absolute best teacher we have encountered! Her patience, caring, dedication, and ability to motivate our daughter were amazing. Jianna has dozens of inspirational sticky notes from Ms. Olsen from throughout the year proudly displayed in her room. Each note of affirmation meant so much to her and encouraged her to keep working.

Why is Westfield important to you, and why do you give to the School?

Westfield is important to us because it provides an amazing educational, emotional, spiritual, and social foundation in Jianna's life. The mission statement of the school mentions lighting "a brilliant path for children" and it's evident in the curriculum and programming that we have seen. We give to the School because we support the value that the WFS community brings to our family.

What advice do you have for parents thinking of sending their child(ren) to Westfield?

It's not just a school, it's a supportive community!!



Jianna's creative cupcake hair during Field Day Spirit Week's Crazy Hair Day

Parent / Alumna Testimonial

I look back at my 10 years at Westfield in the 80s and 90s with tremendous fondness and gratitude

Jennifer Pope '97 and Gregory Benz



What was your journey after Westfield ?

After Westfield, high school, college, law school and work took me to different cities and countries. And yet, my two best friends to this day are people that I met in Pre-K and Kindergarten at Westfield nearly 40 years ago.

What or who stands out as making a difference in your experience at Westfield?

Westfield was, and still is, a place where children can still be children, where each child is nurtured as an individual and embraced in community activities – from morning meeting to Quaker Fridays. Younger children benefit from Westfield's outstanding early elementary teachers – chief among them Heather Marazzo, who was there when I was at Westfield! Older students enjoy public speaking opportunities and assume leadership roles as “buddies” to younger students. It's fun to see this progression with my older child.

Why is Westfield important to you, and why do you give to the School?

Mr. Probsting fostered an incredible educational environment for generations of children at WFS. Decades later, many of the traditions that he cultivated are still alive and well at the school. I love that my children get to experience them as I did. Giving to the William Probsting Scholarship Fund is a wonderful way to honor the man who gave so much to the school and whose legacy continues.



Annual Pancake Breakfast & Grandparents' Day in first grade



The Benz-Pope family at the Westfield's annual Pancake Breakfast & Grandparents' Day

Student Voices

Current students share thoughts about their Westfield experience



Nora B., at Westfield since PreK, start 7th grade this fall

Nora, a soon-to-be seventh grader who has been a part of Westfield since PreK, points out Teacher Josh as a significant figure for her at Westfield Friends School. She mentions how "he's very fun and I feel like I learned a lot from him." Nora remembers a fascinating graphing project where "he allowed us to choose any topic we wanted as long as it met the criteria. I decided to graph a Pokémon cat." She admires that "he doesn't get upset when you make a mistake. He's kind and excellent at assisting when you're confused." She also mentions, "he

simplifies math concepts in a way that's easy to understand." One of her cherished moments is Pi Day, where "we were tasked with memorizing as many digits of Pi as possible. Some memorized over 500 numbers!" Nora appreciates the small class sizes and the kindness of the teachers at Westfield Friends School, stating, "there aren't many kids here. I appreciate the small class sizes."



This fall, Jordan M. will begin his fifth year at Westfield as he enters sixth grade

Jordan, a soon-to-be sixth grader, has been at Westfield since second grade. He attributes his improved organization and behavior in public to Mrs. DeMarco, his most influential teacher. Reflecting on his experience, Jordan mentioned that his homework became more structured under her guidance. One of his fondest memories is working on a project called "make-your-own-candy bar," where he invented "Carbites," small caramel treats coated in chocolate. Jordan values Mrs. DeMarco's teaching approach, which involved explaining concepts before allowing students to work independently. Although challenging at

times, this method enhanced his understanding of the lessons. He fondly recalls Mrs. DeMarco showcasing his neatly arranged work to his parents, leaving his dad astonished by the tidiness. Jordan particularly enjoys Quaker Fridays at Westfield Friends School, where students participate in various activities like crafting quilts for those in need or joining schoolwide scavenger hunts.



Ethan S., at Westfield since 1st grade, will graduate this year

Ethan reflected on the teachers who have made a difference in his life over the past seven years. Among them, Mrs. Vosbikian stood out as his favorite for challenging him with advanced coursework and Mrs. Yearly in second grade for fostering inclusivity and imparting important values. Mrs. Vosbikian sparked Ethan's interest in math by introducing innovative topics and methodologies. He also cherished a time management lesson through a scaling project with Teacher Josh. Another memorable experience was planting seeds in the garden and celebrating with a feast led by Teacher Molly in fifth grade.



Nora and Jordan, both Westfield Summer Camp CIT's this summer, designed and built water tables for our campers to enjoy.

Summer Camp 2024

Eight weeks of pure summer joy at Westfield



Class Notes

Sharing news

1951

Joy Huston Crippen Parsons

I would like to send best wishes to Ted, Sam, & Bonnie and say that most of us don't or won't travel anymore so our 60th was our last reunion.

"My parents and I lived in Riverton and my best friends were Sandra Coale and Bonnie Ritchie (who's father owned the 100 acre farm that backs up on WFF's property and was all farm land back then. Westfield was wonderful. I was in 2nd grade when I arrived there after WWII from New City, NY, but since I'd come from a small country school and was never a very good student Miss Diehl put me back into first grade. ...I attended Quaker Sunday school...The most excitement we ever had in Sunday School was when our praying mantis gave birth during Sunday School class with jillions of baby PM's all over the glass aquarium!"

Joy attended Moorestown Friends School for middle school before moving to Colorado and returning for 10th grade. Her family then moved to Tripoli, Libya where her father worked with the US State Dept. They lived at Wheelus Air Force Base, meeting people from various nationalities. "It was a fun life and we knew a lot of Brits while there and Polish friends who fled Poland during the war and later made it to the USA (some with my father's help)."

Bill and Joy got married on August 2, 1958 and she did not attend her second year at Katherine Gibbs Secretarial School, in NYC. Bill was a sales engineer who traveled. After living in Nyack, NY for a couple of years, Joy says, "We lived in Princeton for 18 years and in 1977 moved to Atlanta to cover all the Southeastern states." They had three children, Bill, Huston, and Elizabeth.

Joy's parents lived abroad for years, including in Libya and Iran, before settling in a country home near Charlottesville, VA. After their passing, Joy moved to Sanibel Island, FL, where she beachcombed, and enjoyed a humble house with a pool and lake view to watch the sunsets and birds flock to the island trees at dusk, and alligators too. She described it as heaven and lived there for 19 years.

"I spent many years volunteering for C.R.O.W. the wildlife rehab center on the island. ...I drove all over everywhere every Tuesday for years picking up or delivering or releasing wildlife...and even driving turtles up to the Marine lab in Sarasota until we got our own turtle tanks. ...I've run up and down beaches catching birds infected with red tide and done a lot of crazy stuff. ...I've even raised one [possum] my son found in a driveway since moving back to Atlanta. ... In 2011 I reluctantly gave up my home and pool and with my oldest son Bill we drove in tandem, he with my four dogs in his car, and my 7 cats in my car... to live 8 years in Atlanta near Bill and Susan and two granddaughters."

Joy, now 85 and living in Kennesaw, GA, with her two dog and four cat rescues, fondly remembers her childhood in Riverton, "riding my bike everywhere and going to 25 cent Sat. matinee movies on our bikes in Palmyra...we were so free to climb trees and run around the neighborhoods with our dogs...what a



Top: Sandra Coale, Joy Crippen ("wearing skirts we made for Brownies economics class and wore matching outfits")
Middle: Hal Taylor, Henry Fricke, Ted Jamison, Miriam Diehl
Bottom: Mary Lou Thompson, Nancy Klauder, Faith Chambers, Bonnie Richie

wonderful world it was back then. ...Cars sat in the driveways with the keys in the ignitions, trains ran through town daily, we had the July 4th parade and fireworks along the river at night...great memories." Joy revisited Westfield with her daughter and sat on the old steps. She reminisces about her neighbor Phil Lippincott and a reunion at MFS.

"I'm a big TV sports watcher and am enjoying the Olympics right now. Miriam Diehl was a very much beloved headmistress. ...I can still sing the rabbit song from our 6th grade production of Alice in Wonderland...Sandy was Alice and got to wear a cute outfit and I was dressed as the very late rabbit...I'm late, I'm late for a very important date. I can't believe now I had the nerve to sing in front of an audience !!!"

1953

David Landgraf

I have remained close to home in Cinnaminson during the first seven months of 2024. Have had some house projects and otherwise kept busy with lawn care and gardening, and several church-related projects that included a number of trips to and meetings in Ocean City, NJ. My brother Bob who lives in Michigan came in over Christmas and again over the 4th of July. We visited with family and friends, and took in the parade in Riverton. My children and their families live in Barnegat, NJ and Frederick, MD, respectively. Saw them with some frequency, either at their homes or in Cinnaminson. Due to mobility issues which developed earlier in 2024, I have forgone any extended travel. My travel to date in 2024 has been essentially vicarious. My son, Keith (WFS 1985) and his family were in London and Paris, and took in several events in the summer Olympics in Paris. My daughter, Virginia (WFS 1989) and her family were in Vail, CO, and Lake Placid, NY, in June and July for lacrosse tournaments for their oldest daughter, who will be a senior in high school this fall.



Top: Lee Buckwalter, Doug Tyler, Frank Showell, Steve Hoadley, Michael Dixon, Louise Coward, Janet Story
Middle: Miriam E. Diehl, Ora West, Sheldon Graff, Kathy Parry, Lee Lippincott, Rita Bua
Bottom: Stacey Capehart, Alice Russell, Diane Coe, Jeannie Wurster, George Hagstoz, Johnny Coles, David Landgraf

1984

Mark Niebojeski

This year I am completing my 30th year as an educator. My whole career has been in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. I credit my time at Westfield for helping to shape me into the teacher that I am today. Beloved by so many students and still going strong...30 years and still love what I do!!!



This year I began a Scholarship Award for a graduating senior in my Emergency Medical Responder Certification course as part of the Health Science Academy at Perth Amboy High School. It is called the Mark Niebojeski Health Sciences Award.

It is given to a senior who is perusing a career in any field of medical science. This year's recipient is attending Rowan University for Biology/Veterinary Medicine.

2001

Ariyon Fountaine

After years of talking and thinking about it, I visited my fellow WFS alumni Sara Parente in Nicaragua last June. I know this may sound crazy, but even crazier, in 2016, I was interviewing for a job at a Charter school. The principal informed me that they already hired a Social Worker named Sara Parente, to which I replied, "I know her; we went to Westfield Friends School together". As you can imagine, we were very excited to work together. Sara wanted to work on her Spanish and continue yoga training, so she decided to do this in Nicaragua. She loved it so much and decided to extend her trip and eventually move there. Pre-pandemic, we discussed the possibility of me visiting her, but finally, in June of 2023, we made it happen!



Having dinner at one of her favorite spots

2012

Rylee Fennell

My dream of being a speech-language pathologist started in Westfield. That dream became a reality in 2022 when I earned my graduate degree at the University of Virginia. Since then I have been working as a SLP in Florida with high support needs and nonverbal kids [Because You Can, LLC]! I credit Westfield with fostering my drive and independence, both of which have made me who I am today.



2020

Aurelia Harp

Aurelia has graduated from Camden Catholic High School 2024 and will be attending Syracuse University in the fall!

This was such a fun experience. Nicaragua is beautiful. I enjoyed being close to water, eating fresh food, learning more about the culture, and gaining an appreciation for surfing. I hope that this is not the only time I get to visit. I would love another opportunity to revisit this beautiful country.

Fun fact: Sara and I are both graduates of the University of Pennsylvania's Social Work program and currently work as a therapist.



Swimming in Laguna De Apoyo



Sara and I at one of the main tourist attractions, Cristo de La Misericordia

Alumni Search

We need your help



Westfield's development team is actively searching for Westfield alumni to grow our community. We are diligently exploring different channels and reconnecting with parents, classmates, and teachers to revive old connections.

Spread the word about this magazine within your Westfield community to keep everyone informed about current events. The enduring Westfield traditions and values, along with the shared Quaker principles, remain integral to our school's identity.

Come visit for a tour! Alumni are always encouraged to drop by, and some have even returned as guest speakers, offering valuable career insights to our students. What can you share with us?

DID YOU KNOW?

Westfield has received a grant from FEMA's Non-Profit Security Grant Program to replace windows and doors in the school. The new replacements, being installed over the summer, maintain the same appearance but with a fresh update!



Summer campers and staff in front of the new main office doors.



New windows being installed in the administration office and classrooms.



Share your news for the next Westfield Hoots Class Notes

westfieldfriends.org/hoots

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

Call or visit any time
(856) 829-0895

Connect via email
alum@westfieldfriends.org



Alumni Gathering

This Field Day was extra special



Since 1955 Westfield Friends students, parents, and faculty have cherished the tradition of Field Day. This year was particularly memorable as alumni were welcomed to join us under the leafy branches to root for their garnet and blue. Alumni even had the chance to run in the races and score points for their team. Following the activities, everyone gathered for an all-school picnic where alumni had the chance to interact with teachers and explore and tour the school.



Foot race between garnet and blue!



Alumni teacher Esther Pearson with Jeanine Williams '98 and Jennifer Pope '97



Josh Ormond, Cindy Choyce, William Steagall Jr. '63, Maddie Urbano '15, Veda Chandler '94, Josh Birchard '94, Jeaniene Williams '98, Jennifer Pope '97, Nora Sheridan '00
Not in photo, but in attendance: Esther Pearson, Ava Setter '15, Paige Henderson '04



Let's keep this tradition going strong.

Reach out to your classmates and join us
Friday, May 23rd, 2025!

In Memoriam*

ALUMNAE/I

1940s

Gordon Krusen '43

April 10, 2024

Robert Jamison '44

June 2, 2022

1950s

Crystine Tyler Kavalunas '54

June 28, 2023

Mary Loveland Chisolm '58

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