

WINTER 2024 | ISSUE 4

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.

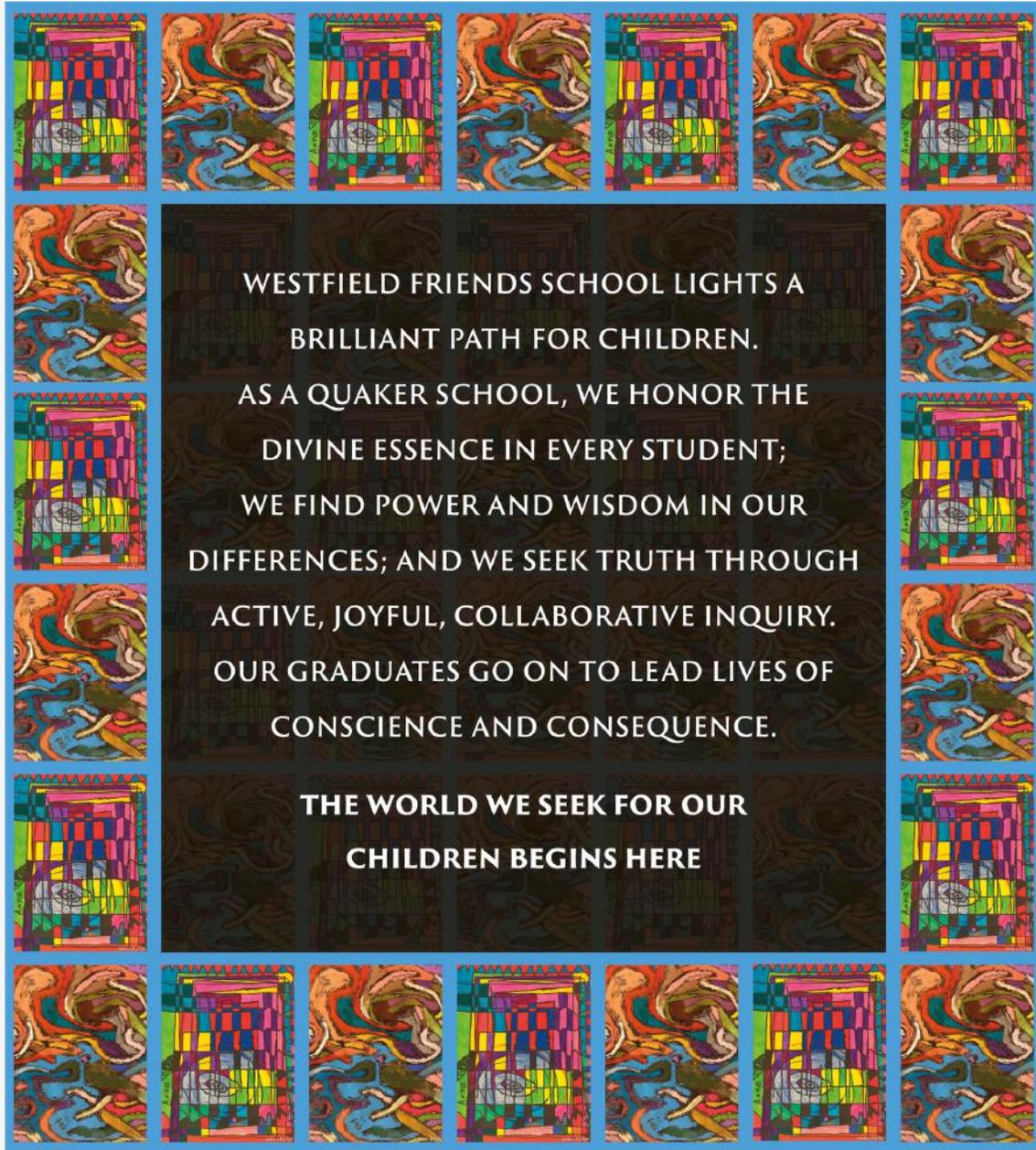


MAKING AN IMPACT

Westfield graduates carry values and principles that empower them to push boundaries, embrace challenges, and strive for excellence. They become leaders, innovators, and compassionate citizens, ready to make a positive impact and contribute to a brighter future for all.

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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**

Cover photo:
Snow play

Students embrace the challenge of financial responsibility

Eighth Grade Curriculum: Building Financial Literacy and Responsible Decision-Making Skills

As part of the third-trimester 8th-grade curriculum, students explore fundamental economic principles, including supply and demand, scarcity, opportunity cost, and the role of incentives. They dive into topics that include market systems, distinguishing between market, command, and mixed economies. As the unit progresses, students develop a foundational understanding of personal finance, covering budgeting, saving, investing, and financial responsibility. Through interactive simulations of these essential skills for their future, they learn how they can leverage these systems to achieve their personal and professional goals, applying them in real-world scenarios.

Their final project requires them to research job opportunities, create budgets, and plan essential expenses such as housing, food, and vehicle ownership, preparing them for and cultivating a mindset geared towards innovation and strategic thinking.

Overall, they learn how to manage their finances responsibly, paving the way for financial independence and success, potentially empowering them to start their own businesses.



Teaching our students about philanthropy is an essential aspect of their financial education. They learn that making donations holds equal significance to service, even for those with limited disposable income. It nurtures a sense of community and empathy from an early age, prompting students to consider the well-being of others and the difference they can make, regardless of how small. By weaving philanthropy into the curriculum, students are motivated to become engaged, thoughtful members of society, eager to offer their time, skills, and resources for the common good. In fact, all Westfield students take part in community service throughout their time here. This foundational exposure to giving and community engagement can foster a lifelong dedication to creating positive change in the world.

Cover/ Project Requirements		
Section 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Project is placed in binder/presentation folder❖ Project has section/organization tabs❖ Project Cover is decorated, neat etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ 10❖ 10❖ 10
Section 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ A completed MY FUTURE CAREER worksheet❖ Print-out of Job posting(s) with description (1-2 postings)❖ A completed MY FUTURE INCOME worksheet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ 10❖ 10❖ 10
Section 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ A completed MY HOUSE worksheet❖ A printout of apartment/house rental❖ A completed MY FOOD worksheet❖ A completed MY CAR worksheet❖ A printout of car with purchase price❖ A printout of car insurance quote❖ A completed MY WANTS worksheet❖ Printout for 1 "Want" (cell phone coverage, cable etc.)❖ A completed MY MONTHLY BUDGET worksheet❖ A completed MY INSURANCE worksheet❖ A print-out of insurance quote	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ 10❖ 10
Section 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ A completed What is Credit? Worksheet❖ A completed MY CREDIT worksheet❖ Credit Card offer print-out # 1❖ Credit Card offer print-out # 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ 10❖ 10❖ 10❖ 10
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ A completed REFLECTION worksheet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ 10

Grading scale for each assignment:
10 points = Excellent, neat, all criteria met
8 points = Above Average, majority of criteria met
5 points = Average, missing half of criteria
0 points = Below Average, incomplete, less than half complete

Total Score Earned : 230 / 230



A project-based learning presentation in the style of 'Shark Tank' where students learned how to calculate a business value, find a target demographic, and calculate a profit, all while vying for a win with their middle school teacher investors.

Westfield Alumni Making Their Mark

Improving themselves, their careers, and the world around them.

Honoring the accomplishments of Westfield alumni, which include both entrepreneurs and industry experts. Their achievements embody our commitment to fostering students' intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual growth.

From Westfield to Engineering: A Graduate's Journey

Max Voellinger '12

Finding His Path

After graduating from Westfield, Max attended Saint Joseph's Prep and later Drexel University, where he pursued a five-year electrical engineering program. The program, which included hands-on



internships, proved invaluable.

"I cannot express my support for that enough because it's just so great having actual work experience," he shares.

Internships allowed him to refine his career path, avoiding the common pitfall of students who graduate only to realize they dislike their field.

His interest in engineering was sparked early. "I was always into Legos, video games, and science—just understanding how the world works," he recalls. A high school robotics program reinforced his passion, allowing him to work on real-world engineering challenges.

After graduation, Max worked in a corporate environment but quickly realized he craved the flexibility of a smaller team. Now, he works at a small startup, [FlashPCB](#), a company he joined through connections made in Drexel's co-op program. "My brain needs air to breathe," he says, emphasizing his need for creative problem-solving in an open work environment. The company is growing, having recently invested in new equipment and secured National Science Foundation grants.



The Value of Communication

Beyond technical skills, Max credits Westfield for instilling teamwork, patience, and communication—especially writing. "You can be the smartest person on Earth, but if you cannot communicate your intelligence, does it really matter?," recalling how crucial strong writing skills have been in his engineering career.



Advice for Current Students - our Future

Professionals

Stay open-minded. "People say, 'Do what you love, and you'll never work a day in your life.' But sometimes, passions should stay passions. Instead, think about what you enjoy and what gives you satisfaction." He stresses the importance of adaptability, as career paths often evolve with each job experience.

Fond Memories

Among his favorite Westfield memories is the Williamsburg trip, where historical reenactors brought the past to life. He also enjoyed the Washington, D.C. trip. "It felt like the first time I really felt more like an adult," noting that even learning to get along with roommates was an important life lesson.

From childhood curiosity to a dynamic engineering career, Max Voellinger's story is one of growth, exploration, and the willingness to embrace change.

From Westfield to Regenerative Farming: An Alumna's Journey to Reviving Chestnut Orchards

Rachel Tarvin (Cope) '99

When Rachel Cope graduated from Westfield Friends School in 1999, she never imagined she'd one day be at the forefront of a growing movement to revive chestnut farming in the United States. Her journey—from coaching gymnastics to teaching yoga and eventually transforming her family farm into NJ Nut Farms with her husband—is a testament to adaptability, passion, and a deep-rooted commitment to sustainability.

Growing NJ Nut Farms

By early 2020, the first chestnut seeds were planted, and NJ Nut Farms was born. When the Covid -19 lockdown hit, they were already in motion – expanding operations, planting more trees, and fine-tuning their sustainability farming practices.

“Since then, we have planted over 2,000 trees, expanded to a second farm, and even moved to Chesterfield,” she says. “In 2024, we had our first major chestnut harvest – over 500 pounds from the trees we planted in 2020!”

In addition to chestnuts, their farm also grows asparagus, pawpaw, elderberries, comfrey, and blueberries. Each summer, visitors can pick their own blueberries in Chesterfield – a tradition that has brought in friends, family, and even old classmates.

“It's so nice to see familiar faces,” she says. “One of my WFS friends even helped us plant hundreds of trees in the early years. Others came out last summer for blueberry picking – it's been amazing to reconnect.”

Giving Back Through Ethical Farming

Beyond growing a successful business, NJ Nut Farms remains deeply committed to giving back. “We use organic farming practices and avoid harsh chemicals to protect ourselves, the earth, and our customers,” she explains. “We also host free blueberry picking events for nonprofit groups and donate picking experiences to organizations like Westfield.”

For this alumna, it's about more than just farming – it's about creating a business that nurtures the land, strengthens the community, and promotes positive relationships.

“We want to spread good in the world,” she says. Being involved and aware helps businesses stay in tune with people's needs – and that's something I learned early on at Westfield.”



The Influence of Westfield

Reflecting on her time at Westfield Friends, Rachel credits the school with instilling a love of learning and a strong work ethic. One teacher, in particular, left a lasting impression.

“Mr. Probsting stands out the most when I look back,” she shares. “He was so much a part of the school, from art history slides on Monday mornings to 7th & 8th grade math. I can still hear him saying, ‘Oh boogers!’ when he found a mess the students made.”

Even now, Westfield Friends remains important to her family. “Both of my daughters attended the preschool program. If Chesterfield were less than 40 minutes away, they'd still be there!”

For Westfield Friends students looking to start their own businesses, she offers valuable insight: “Identify a place where there's a need that you can fill. What can you make easier, better, or more efficient? Make a game plan and start working toward that goal. And be ready to rework it when needed – adaptation is not failure.”

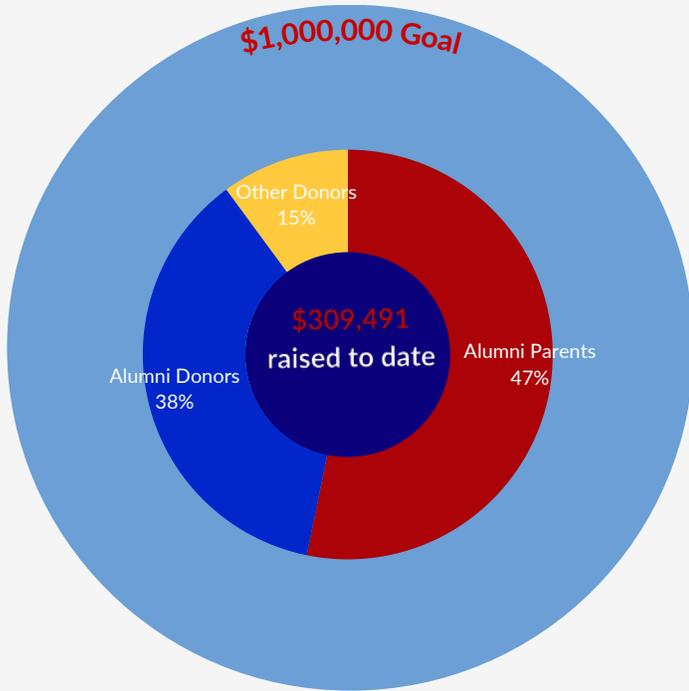


Impact

As we look to the future, the continued support of our alumni community will be pivotal in ensuring that Westfield remains a place where students can grow, learn, and thrive. Giving from *all* donors leaves an enduring impact.

William Probsting Scholarship Fund

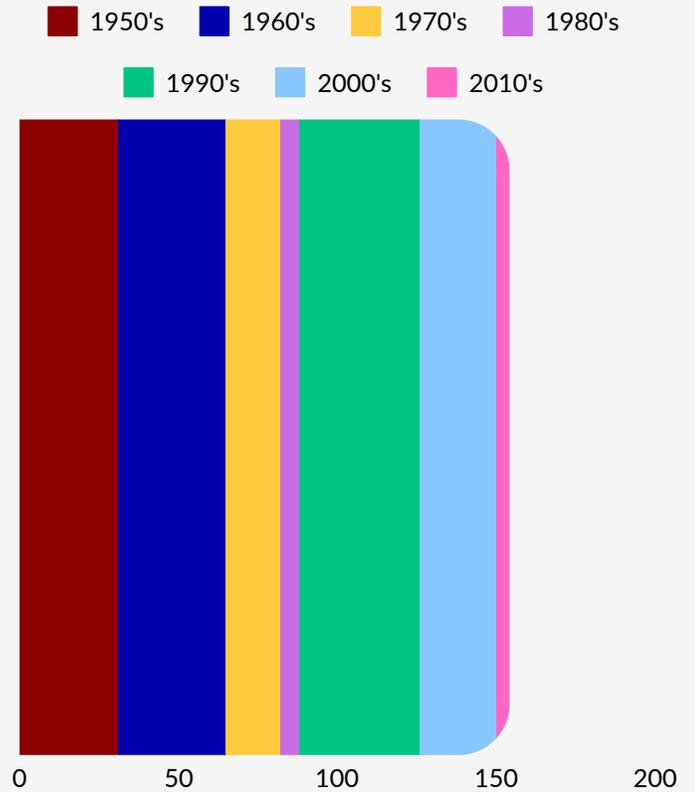
Achieving our goal of \$1,000,000 will enable Westfield to become more accessible for more families who value our mission. In addition to supporting the responsive tuition program, the fund also benefits our exceptional teachers, who carry on the legacy of the outstanding educators Mr. Probsting depended on during his forty years of leadership.



In addition to the donors who contributed at the 2013 Gala honoring Mr. Probsting, there have been 178 gifts made in his memory from 132 different donors. Notably, 46 of these are new contributors!

Alumni Gifts to all Areas by Decade

Fiscal Year 2023-24



Each year we hold two fundraising events to support our Responsive Tuition program - the spring A Taste of Our Towns restaurant event held at Westfield, and the fall Golf Outing held at Riverton Country Club.



We encourage, and even challenge, our alumni to unite as a class and consider sponsoring one of these events.

Mark your calendars for our next event on April 26th.

Explore the available sponsorship opportunities at westfieldfriends.org/springevent.

Donor Appreciation Event



Westfield recently hosted An Evening of Gratitude and Artistry, at our Rushmore House. It was a heartfelt celebration of our generous donors and the vibrant creativity within our community.

A highlight of the evening was the recognition of longtime art teacher Deborah Moss Marris, whose dedication has shaped the Westfield art program for years. She shared the journey of the program's growth and its impact on students, along with Westfield's beloved *Looking at Art* presentation, offering guests a glimpse into the school's rich artistic tradition.

We were also honored to welcome alumnus William L. Coleman, Ph.D. '99, the Wyeth Foundation Curator of the Andrew and Betsy Wyeth Collection and Director of the Andrew and Betsy Wyeth Study Center at the Brandywine Museum. Will shared how his time at Westfield influenced his journey. Offering reflections on the transformative power of art in shaping communities left a lasting impression on us all.

Our donors' support ensures that creativity and learning continue to flourish at Westfield Friends School.



Will Coleman '99 presenting to our donors.



Head of School, Margaret Haviland thanking our donors and introducing art teacher, Deborah Moss Marris.



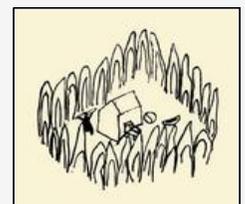
Johnnie Martin '02
The Battle of Christine Todd Whitman
Oil on canvas



Kailey Burgess
Westfield Alumna
Red Chili Pepper
Acrylic on canvas



Lizzy O'Donnell
Westfield Alumna
Snow Day Piggy
Gouache and crayon



Lydia Hunn '58
"Things are not well arranged."
(Chinua Achebe)
Discarded drawing photocopied on rag paper, mounted on rag board and wood.

Parent Testimonials

Amber Gomes

Why did you choose Westfield for your children?

Year after year, we continue to choose Westfield Friends because the mission aligns with our core family values. Specifically, we truly embrace "find[ing] power and wisdom in our differences." WFS, much like our family, is a beautiful melting pot of cultures. Acknowledging those nuanced differences and celebrating them is what builds a strong community where all are heard, respected, and loved.

What or who stands out as making a difference in you childrens' experience at Westfield?

Our eldest son, Pierson shined brightest in Heather Marrazzo's Pre-K Class. It was in that program, his love of art flourished. Even now, one year removed, his first after-school activity is art-focused. Giving the children guidance in expressing their feelings, emotions, and observations through art is one of the many ways her program forever changed our son. Our youngest, Zoë, is thriving in Teacher Micheal's Preschool 3 class. Teacher Micheal's gift of celebrating the uniqueness of each soul brings us so much joy to witness.



Zoë (PS3), Pedro, Amber and Pierson Gomes

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

If nurturing the light within your child is part of your core family values, then your search has ended. Take the tour, ask the questions, and do whatever is best for your family.

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

Westfield is important to us because it consistently demonstrates its unwavering commitment to diversity and inclusion. We give to the school because of how it has touched the lives of our children, our legacy. We hope that all families have the opportunity to experience such a welcoming, inclusive education.

Kate Yingling

Why did you choose Westfield for your children?

Our family has a multigenerational history of attending Quaker schools, and deeply appreciates the values of a Quaker education. We were also looking for a preschool program that was actually an academic and developmental school, and not just a daycare. WFS is the perfect combination of these goals for our children's education.

What or who stands out as making a difference in you childrens' experience at Westfield?

The teachers in preschool and Pre-K have demonstrated such a passion for our children's education. It is very evident that this is not a profession, but a calling. You get individualized attention for your children's unique needs, a supportive community of teachers and parents, and a learning environment that promotes continuous growth and curiosity.



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

We give to WFS to help ensure that the school can continue to provide the same education and experiences for other children as they have provided to our children.

Parent Testimonials

Nikki Beden

Why did you choose Westfield for your children?

Choosing the right school for our children was a very difficult but incredibly important decision, and we couldn't be happier that we chose Westfield for our daughters' formative elementary years. Living in Philadelphia, our local public school wasn't the right fit for our family, so we explored multiple private school options. We ultimately chose Westfield because of its small class sizes, strong sense of community, and emphasis on kindness—and it has exceeded our expectations in every way.



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

If you're exploring schools for your child, our advice is to think beyond just academics and consider the overall environment. We wanted a school where our children would be nurtured, challenged, and encouraged to grow—not just as students, but as people. Westfield has provided that and more. It's a place where kids feel safe, supported, and truly known.

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

The small class sizes allow for individualized attention and create a true sense of belonging. Every student knows each other, and the relationships extend beyond grade levels. It's been heartwarming to see older students genuinely interact with and care for younger ones. Instead of standing off to the side on their phones, teens and pre-teens actually engage, encourage, and include the smaller children, which is something you don't often see on playgrounds of other schools. Our children often talk about friendships and connections with kids (and teachers) across different grades, which speaks volumes about the culture of kindness and inclusivity that the school fosters.

The teachers at Westfield go above and beyond to support students in ways that align with their unique strengths and needs. They genuinely care about the students and also about making learning fun. And, it shows; our girls genuinely enjoy going to school. The school celebrates individuality, ensuring that each child feels seen, valued, and empowered to be themselves.

Westfield also excels at building confidence in its students. From Project-Based Learning presentations to school plays and the variety show, children are given opportunities to express themselves, develop public speaking skills, and gain confidence in their abilities.



Alumni Spotlights

Congratulations to our Westfield alumni graduating high school and college this year

Elias Braddock '17

Highschool: St Joseph's Prep
College: Drexel University
Grad School: Drexel University
Grad School Degree: M.B.A. Degree
Industry/Field: Technology
Position or Title: Software Engineer

"Quaker Fridays are something I look back on fondly from my time at Westfield. I loved gathering with other students to participate in Field Day, carve pumpkins, and decorate the school for the holidays. It gave me a sense of community, which is something I've brought with me throughout high school and college."



Thanks to my education at Westfield, I've been able to pursue many opportunities throughout high school and college. I'm in the BS/MS dual degree program at Drexel, studying Computer Engineering and Machine Learning Engineering. I'm also involved in several student organizations on campus as president of the rugby team and as a member of the IEEE-HKN and Tau Beta Pi engineering honor societies. I'm looking forward to finishing up my time at Drexel by returning to Comcast for my final co-op as a software engineer this spring and summer, and graduating in June 2026."



COLLEGE GRADUATES!



Back Row: Sadi Gomez, Udai Singh, Salvatore Rizzieri, Kristopher Malitas, Seamus Quinn, Donald Smith, Elias Braddock
Middle Row: Alexis Rogers, Ricki Phillips, Jalyn McRae, Alana Rogers, Hannah Davis, Madalena Hughes
Front Row: Genevieve Messina, Patrice Horne, Cassandra Bracero, Ria Shukla, Isabella Galasso, Aditi Bangad

Seamus Quinn Jr. '17

Highschool: William Penn Charter School
College: American University
Degree: BA in Business Administration with a concentration on marketing and economics



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!



Class Notes



Julie Martin '04 and Sean Denson
welcomed Miles Denson to the world, September 2024

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

Call or visit any time
(856) 829-0895

Share your news
throughout the year
alum@westfieldfriends.org



Westfield Friends School
FIELD DAY
ALUMNI PICNIC
Let's keep this tradition
going strong.
Friday, May 23, 2025



Reach out to your classmates and join us for this timeless tradition.
Sit among the leafy branches and root for the Garnet or the Blue!
A bag lunch will be provided for all alumni and their guest.
Tours will be offered after the picnic.



In Memoriam*

Charles H. Carpenter Jr. '46
February 13, 2024

Charles Miller Biddle 4th, MD '50
October 13, 2024

Dr. Lee Buckwalter '53
2024

Jesse Hayes '93
September 11, 2024

William "Bill" Beetle (Westfield Monthly Meeting member)
January 23, 2025

Barbara Lewis Davis (Westfield Monthly Meeting)
December 1, 2024

Edward Feldman (Alumni Parent, Alumni Grandparent)
May 10, 2024

Ruth Feldman (Alumni Parent, Alumni Grandparent)
September 8, 2024

Myradean Ransome (Alumni Grandparent)
July 28, 2024
September 8, 2024

Eleanor Jessup Stevenson (Alumni Parent, Alumni Faculty,
Westfield Monthly Meeting member)
February 2, 2025

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