

Friends Community School Bulletin

December 16, 2011

This Week:

Dec. 19-Jan. 2:
Winter Break
(Ex-Day offered
Dec. 19 & 20 only)

Future Events:

Jan. 3:
Classes Resume

Jan. 3:
1/2 - Fire
Department
field trip

Jan. 5:
6-8 - MLK field trip
Jan. 6:

Jan 12 & 13:
no school

Jan. 16:
no school

Jan. 17:
PA Meeting

Jan. 20:
5 - NSO field trip

Jan. 21:
Admissions Open
House, 9-11am

Quaker Corner

There's giving up
And giving away
There's giving thanks

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A Message from the Head

This week in Big Meeting a member of our student Quaker Life Committee posed the query, "How can I promote peace and unity during the holiday season?" As with any good Friendly query, there is no immediate, right/wrong answer. Children and adults pondered the question; several children and a few adults were moved to speak to the question. Interestingly, the age of the person was reflected in the closeness of the world they described. Younger students focused on immediate and extended families; older students and adults pondered larger issues of sharing, distribution of resources, and giving rather than getting.

A holiday season can become a very busy time of year with the special events that become part of the celebration. However, I hope we all take some time to reflect on this inspiring query. We are told that U.S. troops are leaving Iraq after so many years; how can we prevent their redeployment somewhere else next year. Our country's economic stagnation continues, affecting the peace and security of many of our citizens. Our earth is challenged to provide for the increased demand for resources as countries promote unlimited development. Clean water resources are more and more precious. This year our faculty decided to forego our traditional gift exchange for thoughtful affirmations and support of each other's favorite charities. It is comforting to know that various local, national, and international agencies will benefit from our support in the hopes of making our world a more peaceful place.

Best wishes for a joyous holiday season,

Larry

Important Calendar Change

Due to the Federal Holiday, **classes will resume on**

Giving voice
Giving in
Giving pleasure
Giving birth

For Christmas
Giving up fear
Giving away freely
Giving thanks
Giving ear to others'
voices
Giving voice to
convictions
Giving in to better
ways
Giving and taking
pleasure
Giving birth to hope
Giving joyfully

May your Christmas
be rich with giving!

--Jane Manring,
2010

Tuesday, January 3 (rather than the previously scheduled Monday, January 2).

Philanthropy Matters

Joy Newheart, member of the FCS Board of Trustees and long-time FCS parent, shares some of her reasons for giving to the Green and Growing Campaign

My responsibility as a member of the Board of Trustees is to ensure the long term financial and educational strength of the school. The additions to the existing facilities, in my opinion, expand the educational opportunities at FCS in a way that is consistent with those objectives and responsibilities. Funded through gifts from all parts of our community, and matched by a generous donor up to \$250,000, the project won't burden the school with additional debt, or require tuition increases.

But here's the exciting thing: by creating a science lab for the younger kids, a real honest-to-goodness-full art studio, a middle school classroom focused on science and math, a stage and music area, we are really validating the inquiry and experimentation that they undertake in these areas. It respects their educational process. Having space for these studies affirms the area of study, and the students' legitimacy as burgeoning scientists, dramatists, artists - as thinkers. Art and that aspect of one's psyche is just so important to honor and celebrate.

The opportunity for solar panels is great too. I love the idea of the school reducing greenhouse gases, participating in production of energy and providing a service to the community when we sell back to the grid.

That's why I gave whole-heartedly to the **Green and Growing Campaign**.

Escrip/Giant/Target Sign-Ups

So easy to sign up and raise funds for FCS AT NO COST TO YOU! Try it now:

Giant: #00599

<http://www.giantfood.com/aplus> and look on the right for "Designate your school" Or you can go to www.giantfood.com, click on Our Stores, then A+, and look for "Designate your school" on the right.

Safeway/eScrip: #6505952

<https://secure.escrip.com/jsp/supporter/registration/step1.jsp> and search for FCS by name or with the eScrip #6505952. Or you can go to <http://www.escrip.com/program/about.jsp> and click on "sign up now" about 1/3 of the way down the page toward the left.

Target:

Use your Target card # www.target.com/toe Target rebates work with your Target "Red" credit card or your Target debit card.

Moving Up Night

IT'S TIME FOR OUR MOVING UP TO 6/7/8 NIGHT!

Tuesday, January 10, 2012
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Come to learn about our exciting, transformative, and acclaimed 6/7/8 program, and how it prepares students exceptionally well for high school, college, and beyond. (The event is designed for current 5th and 6th grade parents and students, and includes childcare, with advance reservation.)

R.S.V.P. by Friday, January 6, 2012, to Hilary
(hilary@friendscommunityschool.org). We look forward to seeing you there!

Ex-Day News

The Ex-Day staff is looking forward to spending time with the kids during our Holiday Camp on Monday and Tuesday of next week! We'll be preparing meals for families in need, making holiday cookies, spending time making crafts, and having fun outside playing in the fresh air! Speaking of playing outside, if you have signed your child up to come to Holiday Camp, please be sure to dress your child with a warm coat and hat. Remember that pre-care will be offered from 7:30-9:00, and after care will be offered from 3:00-6:00 on both days.

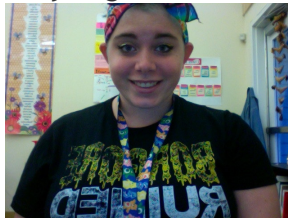
We would like to wish everyone the most joyous and relaxing winter break. It has been our pleasure to work with your inspirational children.

In Peace,

The Ex-Day Staff

Ex-Day Staff Highlights of the Week

Holly Vugrin



I went to FCS for nine years. I loved it--every second of it. I knew that when I was older I wanted to work with kids. I was so excited to hear that I would be able to work at FCS and be back in the place I loved so much as a child. It means so much to me to be back. I love doing art with the kids and I feel like I am really bringing happiness to them. I'm so honored to be back!

Renauta York



Ever since I became a parent sixteen years ago, I found I enjoy being with children--getting to know them individually, encouraging their passions, and appreciating where they are developmentally. I also love education, and have been fortunate to both grow up around passionate and nurturing teachers who loved children, as well as creative parents who enjoyed learning.

Along with raising my own children, 12 and 16, I ran a play-based before and aftercare for five years where the elementary students in my care had an active voice in creating activities, menus, and field trips meaningful to them. Prior to that I spent seven years working as a classroom volunteer for Greenbelt Nursery School, and one year working as a classroom assistant for Jenny Lingelbach's 3/4 class. Along with morning Ex-Day, I am currently working as a substitute in the K-2 classes, and am volunteering in the library 2-3 days a week.

I love working at FCS because it's a place where they actively embody a core belief--the foundation of learning is a relationship. Free from academic demands, I love that morning Ex-Day allows us to provide a space to get to know students individually, provide opportunities for play, and for students to navigate their friendships. We strive for a relaxed, fun tone for the day, where students come to class open to learning, and teachers have continuity for the day.
