

# Thumbprints

*West Chester Friends School*    *Founded in 1836*    *Winter 2021*

## Moving Through The COVID Year at WCFS



Third graders now have class in the newly refurbished gym.



Above: Lawn tents are an integral part of our outdoor learning. They have sides for cooler weather

Below: Fourth graders are settled into the former lunchroom area



When faculty, staff and students at WCFS left for what we thought might be a slightly extended spring break last March, we had no idea that our campus would ultimately be closed by COVID-19 for the remainder of the school year! Yet, with very little notice, our faculty and staff, students and parents worked together to move into the Connected Classroom setting nearly overnight. Students were originally to return from spring break on Tuesday, March 23rd; with flexibility, excellent communication, patience and commitment from all, we were able to re-open virtually on Wednesday, March 24th, missing only one day of school.

During these months, teachers provided learning in the whole-class setting, as well as within small group and individual student meetings, providing academic growth and continued, additional focus on social-emotional learning. Connections for families to the WCFS community continued, through Monday morning Gathering, weekly Meeting for Worship, and Meeting for Singing. At Teacher John's Parent Talks, parents spoke openly about the distinct learning and working challenges presented by COVID, as well as the ways in which they found pockets of positivity around having family at home. Parents were pleased with the Connected Classroom program. "I thought it wouldn't be easy to move to online learning, to get it all together very quickly" said one. "But Connected Classroom is a fantastic program and works very well! The kids are learning new things, not just staying at the same level."

Others noted the commitment of teachers as the core of Connected Classroom's success. "We are amazed at how special area teachers have translated their hands-on arts and



## *A Letter from the Head of School:*

# The **GREAT JOY** of Being Together Again

Dear Friends,

I hope that this finds you and your families happy and healthy. We have had a remarkable fall here at WCFS, as we returned to campus and in-person learning after an uncertain spring and summer. Not long ago a Friend from my Quaker meeting spoke about a sign that was spotted at a bingo game that said, "You must be present to win." She spoke about being present in the moment, showing the capacity to be there for others, celebrating tiny joys, and really listening to others. We have been present, both literally and figuratively since late August and it has been a great joy to be together again. Our faculty and staff have been steadfast in their commitment to make sure that children are having the best experience possible, and they have shown amazing creativity in working under unusual circumstances. Our students and families have demonstrated their gratitude and have given us tremendous support.

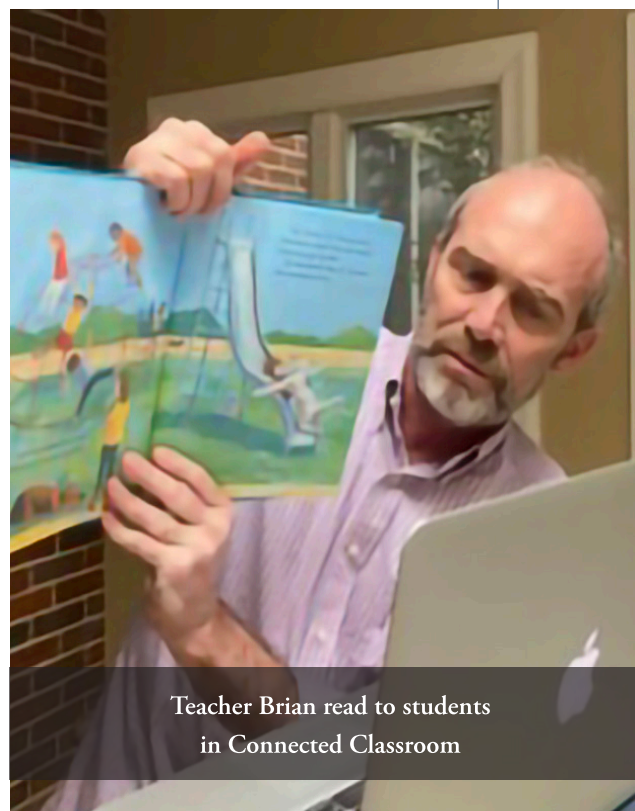
We have made some extraordinary arrangements this fall in order to return to campus safely, including using the gym, the lunchroom and the social room of the Meeting House as classrooms, teaching many classes outdoors in tents, and adhering to mask wearing guidelines throughout the day. All of those preparations have allowed us to build community and engage in joyful teaching and learning.

We were inspired over the summer by the calls for social justice to redouble our efforts to examine issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in our community. Our all-school unit was focused on indigenous people of North America and I was so impressed with the thoughtfulness and engagement of the teachers and students. Some truly wonderful work was done. We are also using an assessment of inclusivity and multiculturalism from the National Association of Independent Schools that will provide us with direction for moving forward. And we continue to partner with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Community Collaborative, an initiative of a dedicated parent group. Lastly, we have joined the Greater Philadelphia Diversity Collaborative, which will give us the opportunity to work with, and learn from, other schools and scholars in the region.

As always, there is a lot of exciting news to report. On behalf of the faculty and staff, I want to thank you for your ongoing support and all that you do to ensure that we can be present here each day.

In friendship,

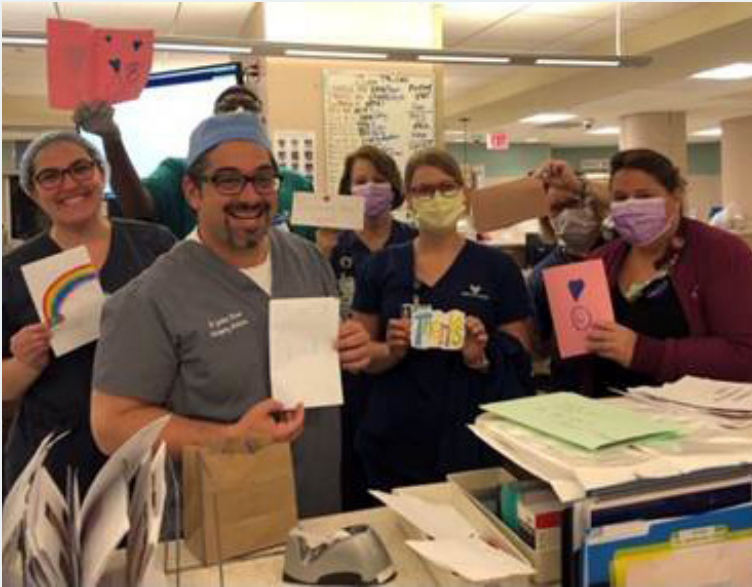
*Teacher Brian*



Teacher Brian read to students  
in Connected Classroom

# Moving Through The COVID Year at WCFS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Area health care workers were happy to receive cards of thanks from our students!

science program into something that works in an online environment, and how classroom teachers have made themselves available day and night for questions and support.”

Although our usual Summer Programs were cancelled, we were able to provide students with Connected Camp in the areas of gardening, science and pottery. Parents picked up their “Camp in a Bag” materials prior to the beginning of each camp week, then met two or three times each week with the teacher virtually, for strawberry planting, making rockets and handbuilding and painting clay projects!

As the summer moved forward, Head of School Brian Fahey and the administration team worked

through plans to both continue in Connected Classroom and to open in person depending on state requirements. A WCFS Health and Safety Plan was written, incorporating the guidelines of the World Health Organization, Center for Disease Control and the Chester County Health Department, then reviewed by the WCFS Board of Directors and the faculty and staff. Once it was clear that WCFS could manage all of the required and recommended mitigation, including the relocation of a few classrooms to provide ample social distancing, and maintenance of the strict cohorts among students, the decision was made to open in person, beginning two weeks early, on August 24th.

Certainly the school year looks and feels different, and has required adaptation from everyone. Yet some lovely existing aspects of the WCFS program have been enhanced, as well. Always a part of the WCFS day, outdoor learning has become central to the program, an exciting development for all! Tents for classroom gathering were installed on the lawn, and all of the beautiful spots on our campus--the pretty porches, grassy little hillsides, gardening areas and natural play spaces--are now frequently and effectively used for learning. Our littlest friends in the Play School now have their own play area, nestled around the sycamore tree, where they paint, play and enjoy movement and yoga classes. Teacher Leslie's Citizen Science activities are thriving with observation walks and outdoor experiments and Teacher Catharine and students have expanded process art to new areas, including making their own charcoal for drawing!

While the Connected Classroom remains open for families who prefer continued learning from home, we are pleased to have remained open on campus for in-person learning since the beginning of the school year. We are grateful to faculty, staff and families who have brought so much cheerful commitment, creativity and compassion to the goal of continuing in person the joyful learning for our students.that is the hallmark of a West Chester Friends School education.



# Quaker Hill

1. At-home projects using natural materials were a feature of art in the Connected Classroom.



2. Teachers enjoyed treats from the WCFS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Community Collaborative on the first day of the 2020-2021 school year.

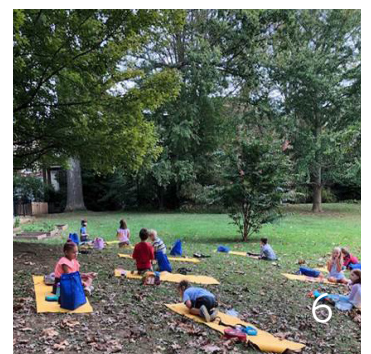
3. Students found creative ways to get together during virtual learning, including Zoom Checkers!

4. Fifth graders, including Aneesa, presented a virtual Indigenous Peoples Gallery featuring student-created work in the manner of a Native American tribe.

4. Zoe (left) and Isabelle, fourth grade string students, treated us to an impromptu afternoon mini-concert.

5. The garden beds are in the capable hands of pre-kindergarten!

6. Students enjoy lunch outdoors on their yoga mats!





## The 2019-2020 Report of Giving

### Board of Directors

Sese and Lola Abbulimen  
Mimi Blackwell  
Jonathan '66 and Ann Marie Burton  
Phil Cooke  
Jordan Fischer '99  
Lauren and Eli Hastings  
Sojung Kim and Jonghyuk Song  
Celia and Chris Lang  
Ron and Liz Anne Madden  
Paige Norris '06  
Linda M. Phreaner  
Leslie and John Spangler  
Robert and Lisa Vosburgh  
David Wickard and James R. Fairburn

### Faculty and Staff

Michele Blauk  
Alyson Caro-Caron and Jason Caron  
Anne Difiore-Will and Larry Will  
Amy and Jeff Domenick  
Brian and Rebecca Fahey  
Toni and Wes Fritz  
Sally Hall  
Nancy Hiro  
Judy Houdeshel  
Francis and Karen Iacobucci  
Michelle and Stephen Lozowski  
Catharine Maloney  
Karen Martini  
Rege and William McAden  
Bonnie McLennan  
Susan McCardell  
Nan and Matthew McGinty  
Barbara Rowe  
Pam and Paul Sapko  
John Scardina  
Samantha and Jason Shoemaker  
Annmarie and Rich Stigale



Drew is a close observer on a nature walk during science class.

### Former Board Member

Jonathan '66 and Ann Marie Burton  
Kevin Ferris  
Gerri and Chester Gibson  
Shane '93 and Theda Hadden  
Dawn Pahl Haley  
Francis and Karen Iacobucci  
Deborah and Randall Lyons

Barbara and Larry Wheeler  
Deborah and Stephen Novak  
John and Doris Rudibaugh  
Leslie and John Spangler  
Debra and Robert Sparre  
Cathy Toner and James Tobin  
Christopher and Kirstie Wills  
Christopher and Kathy Witman

### Alumni

Martine '62 and Vadim Andrews  
John '48 and Parmer Battin  
Cindy Sullivan Bedwell '73  
Dulany Ogden Bennett '56  
John '76 and Katie Bielski  
Georgia '58 and Olin Blanton  
Clementina Brown '74  
Jonathan '66 and Ann Marie Burton  
Jeffery A. Carlow '68  
Linda '58 and David Caughey  
Stephany '57 and John Davidson  
Robert De Saint Phalle '91  
Dayton Sinclair Deordenave  
Jordan Fischer '99  
Shane '93 and Theda Hadden  
Ian Haley '96  
Alexander Horne '06  
Francis Iacobucci '97  
Kristin Iacobucci '95  
Madeline Iacobucci '00  
Stacey Shreiner Kley '68  
Brian R. MacNeill '00  
Melissa Grafton Marino '94  
Paul S. Mory '54  
Paige Norris '06  
Cornelia Knowles Pearce '57  
Joseph Rue '09  
William S. Sargent '64 and Nancy Wischhusen  
Sylvia Schneider '67  
John S. Shea '77  
Alec Spangler '92  
Jack Spangler '90  
Kyle Stigale '13  
Catherine T Tobin '15  
Abigail Tobin '13  
Auden Vosburgh '18  
Rodney T. Waters '66  
Scott Zukin '75

### Parents

Sese and Lola Abbulimen  
Anita and David Bromage  
Alyson Caro-Caron and Jason Caron  
Carrie Cheung and Thomas Hanson  
Laura and David Chisholm  
Kerri and Sean Conte  
Amanda and Brian Daley  
Romana and Gregory Del Nero  
Jeremy Diantonio and Jillian Scavell  
Laura and Rob Eckhart  
Marggy Escoria  
Fran Farrell and Bruce Tassone  
Courtney and Justin Finneran  
Michelle and Mike Fisher  
David and Michelle Gambill

Monica and Robert Gorney  
Joseph Gregorio and Ilene Wong  
Lauren and Eli Hastings  
Garrett and Rachael Hogan  
Kristin Iacobucci '95  
Stephanie Kadingo  
Susan Kelly  
Dan and Terri Kessler  
Sojung Kim and Jonghyuk Song  
Jenny and Peter Kusters  
Shane '93 and Theda Hadden  
Elizabeth and Michael Masiello  
Lisa and Tait Norden  
Jennifer and Andrew Potts  
Bradley and Catherine Roeder  
Jill Seitz  
Samantha and Jason Shoemaker  
Katherine Tatom  
Daniel and Michele Robins  
Joy and Kortney Wawrzyniak  
Michelle Whitman  
Derrick and Meredith Wozniak

### Alumni Parent

Nancy and Mark Alloway  
Amy and Jon Altshul  
James and Melissa Arthur  
Frank and Jean-Marie Barch  
Kathy and Karl Barth  
Kimberly and Nicholas Bay  
Jennifer and Jon Beckman  
Floyd and Elaine Bielski  
Elin and Mahlon Bierly  
Melinda Wenner Bradley and Matt Bradley  
Anne and Jim Brooks  
Henry Brown  
Jeffery A. Carlow '68  
Lynn Childs  
James and Nancy Cotterman  
Lisa and Robert Crane  
Jeffery and Meredith Davis  
Frank and Joanne DiBella  
John and Martha Diffey  
Pam and Robert DiFilippo  
Amy and Jeff Domenick  
Gladys and Edward Dunlop  
Reverend Faith and John D'Urbano  
Paul Eitner and Denise Roy  
Kevin Ferris  
Connie and Jay Fischer  
Adam Fontecchio and Tia Malkin-Fontecchio  
Glenn Fresch  
Maria and Josef Gabelberger  
Susan and Thomas Giangulio  
Gerri and Chester Gibson  
Paul Goldbecker and Kim Stack  
Ronald Granieri and Jennifer Vance  
Dawn Pahl Haley  
Jean and John Hall  
Johanna Halsmith-Weisser and Wesley Weisser  
Martin and Victoria Helmke  
Gregory and Vanessa Horne  
Francis and Karen Iacobucci  
Dan and Terri Kessler  
Jennifer and William LeFebvre  
Bruce and Kathi MacNeill



The Quaker Leadership team has led Spirit Week and has many service projects underway.

Elizabeth and Michael Masiello  
Rege and William McAden  
Kathy A. McAnelly  
Karen Murphy  
Dinae and James Norris  
Deborah and Stephen Novak  
Thomas and Kim Pakradooni  
Charlotte and Frank Reilly  
Daniel and Michele Robins  
Frank and Pamela Root  
Mark and Tammy Rue  
Deborah Rush  
Henrike and Marc Scharisg  
Geeta Shive and Dan Schatz  
Daniel and Jill Scully  
Mrs. Charles W. Shreiner Jr.  
Leslie Somers  
Leslie and John Spangler  
Debra and Robert Sparre  
Annmarie and Rich Stigale  
Cathy Toner and James Tobin  
Robert and Lisa Vosburgh  
Constance and Steven Wheeler  
Christopher and Kathy Witman  
Erica Young  
Janet Zeis and Norm Shirk  
Scott Zukin '75

### Grandparents and Alumni Grandparents

Liz and John Abraham  
Dorothy A. Baeder  
Joseph and Mary Bergin  
Janet and Thomas Brooks  
Edwin and Kathleen Crombie  
John and Lynne Easton  
Alberta Dale Guarneri  
Sally Hall  
Dorrette L. Harris  
Ronald and Shelley Hastings  
Ann and Joseph Kadingo  
Deborah and Walter Marm  
Anne and Robert McCool  
Babe and Charles McGugan  
Gerard and Margaret Michaud  
Jennie Mount  
Barbara and Michael Moyer  
Viatcheslav Pismenniy  
Dorothy and William Ray  
John and Doris Rudibaugh  
Bonny Rue  
Joan and John Zeis

### Friends

John and Sandy Abernethy

William Bunch  
Richard Cairncross and Marylin Huff  
Aron and Debbie Cogswell  
Romana and Gregory Del Nero  
Anna Fahey  
Luke Fahey  
Kathleen Fahey-Hosey  
Krisly Flynn  
Gerri and Chester Gibson  
Brandon and Leslie Groff  
Johanna Halsmith-Weisser and Wesley Weisser  
Reverend Faith D'Urbano and John D'Urbano  
Mary Beth and Walt Hempel  
David and Sallie B. Jones  
Edward and Melissa Kelliher  
Ola Kopacz  
Deborah and Randall Lyons  
Melissa Grafton Marino '94  
Margaret Marvin  
Kathy A. McAnelly  
Kathy McClellan  
Tim and Meg Nilier  
Debbie Reinhart  
Katherine Rupp  
Jenny Rupp  
Elizabeth Rupp  
Schoolhouse Pictures  
Richard Schramm  
Bridget and David Smith  
Donald Smith and Cal Brackin  
Terry Ann and Charlie Spadoni  
Jeanne Van Alen  
Nancy van Arkel  
Nathan Volpi

### Organizations

Bradford Monthly Meeting of Friends  
Friends Fiduciary Corporation  
PTO, West Chester Friends  
West Chester Monthly Meeting

### Businesses, Corporations and Foundations

Benevity Community Impact Fund  
Chanelle T. Bishop-Gilyard and Kenneth Gilyard  
Dance in Balance, LLC  
Dorset Connects  
Exelon Foundation  
Friends Fiduciary Corporation  
Iovance Biotherapeutics, Inc.  
Pennsy Corporation  
Rencourt Foundation, Inc.

# Report of Giving



Kindergarten students love Big Toy!

## Businesses, Corporations and Foundations cont.

Robert Half  
Strategik Insight Global LLC  
Treehouse Yoga for Children  
Vanguard Group Foundation

## 1836 Society

Reverend Faith D'Urbano and John D'Urbano  
Paul Eitner and Denise Roy  
Deborah and Randall Lyons  
Leslie Somers  
Robert and Lisa Vosburgh  
David Wickard and James R. Fairburn

## Education Improvement and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Contributors

Sese and Lola Abbulimen  
Advanced Rail Technology  
Advanced Truck Systems Corporation  
BB&T  
Kelly and Jean Bley  
John and Linda Braceland  
Bryn Mawr Trust Company  
DNB First  
Edwards Business Systems  
Fran Farrell and Bruce Tassone  
First Resource Bank  
Greater West Chester Chamber of

Commerce Educ. Foundation  
Brandon and Leslie Groff  
Ramona and Frank Gwynn  
William A. Hutchings III  
Francis and Karen Iacobucci  
Valerie Ann Hayes Jester '72 and Craig Jester  
Celia and Chris Lang  
Ron and Liz Anne Madden  
Davis Menya  
Meridan Bank  
National Bank of Malvern  
Pennsy Corporation  
John and Doris Rudibaugh  
Richard Schramm  
Carey and Greg Schuster  
UGI Storage Company  
Utica National  
Robert and Lisa Vosburgh  
Elizabeth and Rob Witmer  
Scott Zukin '75

## In-Kind

Alyson Caro-Caron  
Phil Cooke  
Romana Del Nero  
Dorset Connects  
Noah Fisher '16  
Krissy Flynn  
Melissa Marino '94

Brian McDermott  
Pam Sapko  
John C. Shea  
Robert F. Sparre

## March Madness Gym Improvements

Dorothy and Craig Atwater  
Dorothy A. Baeder  
Veronica Balassone and Kirby Tirk  
Kira Barteneva '96  
Kathy and Karl Barth  
Jennifer and Jon Beckman  
Anita and David Bromage  
Anne and Jim Brooks  
William Bunch  
Jonathan '66 and Ann Marie Burton  
Murray Campbell '58  
David and Laura Chisholm  
Kerri and Sean Conte  
Phil Cooke  
Dance in Balance, LLC  
Diane DiRocco  
Jenee Easton and Jonathan Siu  
Brian and Rebeca Fahey  
Fran Farrell and Bruce Tassone  
Courtney and Justin Finneran  
Jordan Fischer '99  
Susan and Thomas Giangulio  
Monica and Robert Gorney  
Shane '93 and Theda Hadden  
Ian Haley '96  
Jennifer and Mike Harris  
Lauren and Eli Hastings  
Francis Iacobucci '97  
Karen and Fran Iacobucci  
Jack and Kathy Kelly  
Susan Kelly  
Celia and Chris Lang  
Hayoung Heidi Lee and Domink Weiss  
Jennifer and William LeFebvre  
Randy and Deborah Lyons  
Ron and Liz Anne Madden  
Susan McCardell

Colleen Meiswich  
Perk Musacchio  
Lisa and Tait Norden  
Jessica and Ricardo Perez  
Dorothy and William Ray  
Sharon Reinhard  
Sandy and Joe Riper  
Carole and Tom Roberts  
Michele and Dan Robins  
Mark and Tammy Rue  
Pam Sapko  
John Scardina  
Dan Schatz and Geeta Shivde  
Chris and Melanie Schmidt  
Jill Seitz  
Elizabeth Smith  
Leslie and John Spangler  
James Tobin and Cathy Toner  
Jeffery W. Vautier  
Robert and Lisa Vosburgh  
Joy and Kortney Wawrzyniak  
Michelle Whitman  
David Wickard and James R. Fairburn  
Derrick and Meredith Wozniak

## Classroom Support

ECT Incorporated  
Fran Farrell and Bruce Tassone

## Class of 2020 Gift

Kyan Arthur '20  
Lily Arthur '20  
Connor R. Beckman '20  
Luke Brooks '20  
William Darwon '20  
Victoria Helmke  
Jonah Kessler '20  
Amare Larue '20  
Reese Masiello '20  
Turner Vosburgh '20

## Axe Throwing for the Arts

Carrie Cheung and Thomas Hanson  
Laura and David Chisholm  
Romana and Gregory Del Nero

Tara Giorgio  
Shane and Theda Hadden  
Johanna Halsmith-Weisser and Wesley Weisser  
Francis and Karen Iacobucci  
Madeline Iacobucci '00  
Carol Jun-Roberts and Doug Roberts  
Daniel and Theresa Kessler  
Melissa Grafton Marino '94  
Susan McCardell  
Pancoast & Clifford  
Andrew and Jennifer Potts  
Re/Max DIRECT  
Daniel and Michele Robins  
Bradley and Catherine Roeder  
Pam Sapko  
Chris and Melanie Schmidt  
Aimee and Michael Speerscheider  
Maria and Shawn Weede  
David Wickard

## Caroline Prutzman Fund

Donald '63 and Betsy Prutzman

## Endowment Fund

David Wickard

## HVAC Improvements

Quaker Buildings & Programs,  
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

## Performance Space Improvements

Jeremy Bradford and Ivy Schlesinger

## Quakerism Workshops

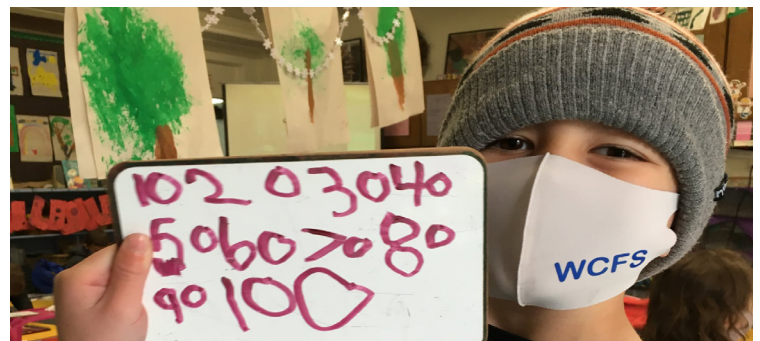
Sue Thomas Turner Quaker Education Fund, Baltimore Yearly Meeting

## Scholarship Fund Bequest

Marianne S. Potts



Making comic books in the fresh air!



Students learning to count by 10 in kindergarten.





Will Parker '60 in the Ithaca Festival Parade



Max Collins and Aidan Norris Class of 2012 now at Boston University and Franklin Gear '12 now at Northeastern University



Left: Abigail Tobin '13 sporting the name of her new school. Right: Alyssa Young '04



Left: Troy Larsen '11 moderated the alumni panel at the Virtual Reunion. Right: Devon Schindler '05

# Alumni News

We love hearing from Alumni of all ages!  
Send your news to [development@wcfriends.org](mailto:development@wcfriends.org)  
and look for it to appear in our next newsletter!

We need your help in keeping your contact information--including email address!--current, so please take a moment to update us at [development@wcfriends.org](mailto:development@wcfriends.org). Send your news, too! We love hearing from you!

We are happy to hear from **Dulany Ogden Bennett '56!** "I returned as a school head at Oregon Episcopal School in 2007 and as a clinical psychologist in 2010. I live at Kendal now where I am involved in many Quaker projects with the New England Yearly Meeting. My most exciting years were at American Friends Service Committee."

**Stephany Davidson '57** says, "I am retired after having taught at the elementary school level for 28 years. My husband and I are the parents of two sons and one daughter, all of whom are married. We have nine grandchildren. I keep busy serving on church boards, serving as chairperson of the fellowship/fundraising committee, participating in two book clubs, participating in activities of Delta Kappa Gamma, playing golf and tap dancing."

Great to hear from **Bill Sargent '64**, with an update on himself and his mother, former **WCFS teacher Dorothy Sargent!** "I have very fond memories of the experience I had at Friends. It provided a great foundation for my subsequent education," says Bill. He remembers many of his teachers, and quite a few classmates including Kyle Kimes, Allen Dodd, Fletcher MacNeill, Louise Hoffman, Frankie, Virginia and Bill Hayward.' After graduating from Princeton, Bill received his PhD from CalTech. "After I received my Ph.D., I joined Hughes Aircraft as a satellite systems engineer and have been fortunate to work on a wide array of satellite programs, including DirecTV and GPS. In 1999, Boeing bought the satellite portion of Hughes, so for the past 21 years, I've been a Boeing engineer. I really enjoy the work and the people, and hope to keep working for at least a few more years."

**Dorothy Sargent** taught at Friends School from 1957 through 1964, primarily in first grade. Bill thinks his mom would love to hear from former students! She currently resides in the Skilled Nursing Facility at White Horse Village, 535 Gradyville Road, Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, and would be happy to receive mail!

**Sylvia Schneider '67** is currently employed at Delaware County Memorial Hospital as a Registered Nurse in the Endoscopy Unit, and will retire soon.

**Dr. Thera Crane Ringhofer '92** continues her work as a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Linguistics Research Department of the University of Helsinki, Finland. She and her husband John, and children Jack, Finn and Lily moved into their own house in Helsinki.

**Francis Iacobucci '97** received his graduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy and Practice and accepted a position as primary psychotherapist



Turner Vosburgh '20 has opened a new Etsy site, Yarn it! I Need a Hat! He has been making hats since his time in Teacher Michelle's Baby Hats Knitting Club, and now makes scarves, as well. For every item he sells, Turner stitches up and donates a newborn hat to the babies born at Chester County Hospital.

at Penn Medicine Princeton Health Center for Eating Disorders Care. He is continuing his work in Seattle, with his fiancée, Katie. They split time between families in West Chester and Bozeman, Montana.

**Jake Bierly '99** is with Voya Investment Management, Real Estate. He lives in Wayne with his wife, Marsha, and three boys (13, 4, and 10 months).

**Emmalee Bierly '01** is an owner of the West Chester Therapy Group. She lives in Chester Springs with her husband, Aaron, and their little daughter, Melania.

Actress, model and writer **Lauren Carter Reilly '05** is working increasingly in films. She has appeared in *Marvelous Mrs. Miesel*, *The Deuce*, and in photo work in Italian Vogue. She fondly remembers the wonderful concerts she participated in at WCFS.

**Greg Miller '07** graduated from Bucknell University in May of 2018 and has been working in Washington, D.C. for Accenture since July of 2018. He loves the DC area and is still active in music and running!

**James Leo Walkergoutal '09** graduated from Bennington College with a degree in Writing and Visual Arts. During his college time, he studied in Australia for a Study Abroad with The New York Film Academy (Australian branch), and each year, did an internship during Winter Term (January and February): in New York and in Los Angeles "Four full, enlightening and happy years!" says James.

**Maddie Barth '10** graduated from Gettysburg College in the spring and will continue her education at Villanova University.

**Sophie Adler '12** is studying education at St. Joseph's University.

**Abbie Barth '13** started at Fairfield University in the fall. She was accepted into the Egan School of Nursing.

**Ben Grear '13** graduated from Westtown and is now at the University of Miami, Herbert Business School.

**Abigail Toner Tobin '13** is continuing her studies at Franklin and Marshall College.

## The First WCFS Virtual All-School Alumni Reunion!

Alumni from 31 classes, from the Class of 1954 to the Class of 2020, gathered virtually in November for the very first West Chester Friends Schools Virtual All-School Alumni Reunion! Under the direction of **Director of Development Pam Sapko**, former science teacher **Dotti Atwater** and alums **Jordan Fischer '99**, **Madeline Iacobucci '00** and **Paige Norris '06**, helped to plan the event. A live welcome and WCFS update from **Head of School Brian Fahey**, were included, as well as live alumni and faculty conversations and highlights and break-out rooms for each decade, where alums and faculty caught up with one another!

# Alumni News

Participating in the alumni group were:

**Devon Schindler '05**, Software Program Coordinator at Boston Consulting Group and ambassador to the People & Organization Fellowship at BCG's Think Tank. Though delayed by the pandemic, Devon has been chosen as the first woman and youngest BCG ambassador for Artificial Intelligence in Paris.

**Troy Larsen '11** is currently a junior at Washington & Lee University, pursuing a B.S. in Mathematics and Classics. He is a member of the W&L University Singers, a peer counselor, and serves as the chair of the First-Year Orientation Committee. In the future, Troy intends to pursue a doctorate in either Pure or Applied Mathematics.

**Robert de Saint Phalle '91** is an Interdisciplinary design strategist and innovator. Robert lives in Massachusetts with his family and has worked on a range of unique, exciting projects including for NASA, Harley-Davidson and Lady Gaga! To see more of Robert's amazing work, visit his website at <https://robertdsp.myportfolio.com/>

**Alyssa Young '04** graduated from Westtown School and Bryn Mawr College, and is a fourth grade teacher at Frankford Friends School in Philadelphia.

Pre-event film clips were posted to the alumni pages on the WCFS website and include a welcome from **Head of School Brian Fahey**, **Teacher John Scardina** (singing "Circle of Friends"), longtime fifth grade teacher **Bonnie McLennan**, and a great "Then and Now" video, produced by WCFS art teacher **Catharine Maloney** and narrated by **Jon Burton '66**, who is also a WCFS trustee.

We are happy to have update videos from **Billy Broderick '02**, currently a PhD student in the Center for Neural Science at New York University, **Emma LeFebvre '10**, a third year at the University of St. Andrews, and **Jordan Fischer '99**, the Global Privacy Team leader at Beekun, a professor of law at Drexel University, a lecturer at University of California Berkeley School of Information, and a WCFS trustee!

The reunion was wonderful! All are excited for the next time we will reconnect with one another and with West Chester Friends School!



Brian Fahey, Walt Hempel, Mary Beth Hempel, Kayta Curzie, Gajdos. No Shown: Phil Cooke, Trustee



# *The Class of 2020 Graduates*

Originally scheduled for early June, the Class of 2020 was happy to be able to graduate at last when the county was declared “green.” The group gathered on June 26th for a beautiful, outdoor ceremony on the historic Quaker lawn. Although attendance was limited to the graduates’ immediate family and WCFS faculty, all were masked and socially distanced. Teacher John Scardina and Teacher Jeff Domenick performed some of the students’ favorite songs. Head of School Brian Fahey welcomed all to campus, and called students to the podium one by one to receive their diplomas and make remarks. It is a WCFS tradition for the kindergarten students to sing to their buddies; in a very special surprise for all, each of the kindergarten children recorded their songs, which were then presented via zoom at the graduation.

In their speeches, each student noted the challenging aspects of their fifth grade year, as well as the milestone events that they dearly missed, including finishing the year with their kindergarten buddies, field trips including their culminating trip to Washington, D.C. and on-campus leadership projects. But each graduate also noted the remarkable way in which their class rose to the challenges of virtual learning, and that all felt that their closely knit class had become even more bonded through their experiences. They thanked Teacher Bonnie McLennan for her unwavering, enthusiastic support, as well as their families and friends and other faculty at WCFS.

The Class of 2020 will continue their education at a variety of middle schools including Collegium Charter School, Delaware Valley Friends School, Fugett Middle School, Patton Middle School, Peirce Middle School, and Westtown School.

## **The Class of 2020**

**Teacher Bonnie McLennan**

**Kyan James Arthur**  
**Lily Jane Arthur**  
**Connor Rae Beckman**  
**Luke Gerard Brooks**  
**William B. Darwon, Jr.**  
**Meghan Lorelei Helmke**  
**Natalia Anna Kaitz**  
**Jonah Noone Kessler**  
**Amare Nathaniel LaRue**  
**Reese Katherine Masiello**  
**Chase Reitelbach**  
**Harold Turner Vosburgh**  
**Kadence Williams**  
**Rose Fuyi Zukin**



The immediate families of graduates gathered in socially distanced groups on the lawn.



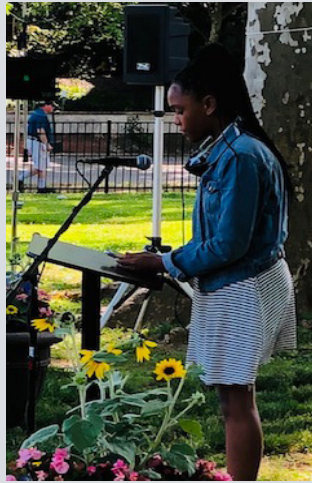
# Graduation



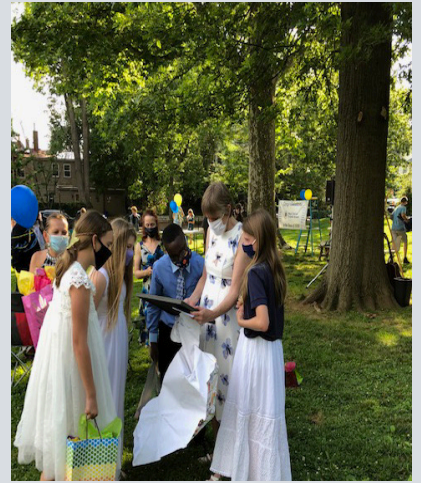
William



Reese



Kadence



Fifth Grade teacher Bonnie McLennan opens a gift from the Class of 2020



Left - Graduates received lawnsigns for their homes that celebrated their accomplishments.

Below - Teacher Jeff and Teacher John played at the Class of 2020's graduation.





# Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Community Collaborative Update

One of the very last events at WCFS before our campus was closed was a celebration of the Lunar New Year coordinated by our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Community Collaborative (DEICC). Classroom teachers and specialists spent the weeks before the event teaching about the history and expression of these annual festivities, then parents put together a fun, celebratory evening of crafts and games, a delicious buffet, an exhibition from OpenSource Wushu and--the highlight!--a performance from the Philadelphia Sun Lion Dancers!

Throughout the spring and summer, the DEICC, including parents, faculty and staff, met for supportive conversation, while DEICC Book Groups met to discuss a number of books, including *How To Be An Anti-Racist*. One evening focused on readings from the parents in our community who have written books, including Amanda Daley (*Satya*), Andrew McIntyre (*Giants*) and Ilene Wong (*This is My Brain In Love*).

Upcoming activities include Teacher John Scardina's 2021 Parent Talk focusing on supporting LGBTQ+ children and their families, with special guests Dr. Ilene Wong and Dr. Emilia Casas, parents and active members of the DEICC. In the spring, WCFS will welcome author Cynthia Levinson, whose book, *The Youngest Marcher*, is the choice for the WCFS One School, One Book event! Levinson will virtually visit with students in the morning, reading and participating in relevant activities with them. In the evening, DEICC will present a panel, including Levinson, to discuss the history of non-violent peaceful protest, including the participation of children. Watch for details!



## Welcome Back

### Paige Norris '06 Joins the WCFS Board of Directors

Paige Norris, a senior consultant with Protiviti, has joined the Board of Trustees at West Chester Friends School. "We are delighted to welcome Paige, a 2006 graduate, to the board," says David Wickard, Clerk of the WCFS board. "She is a very accomplished young person, and a committed alumna of our school. We look forward to her unique perspective and valuable input."

Paige currently works in Protiviti's Philadelphia office. A former Division I student athlete, Paige graduated Cum Laude from Saint Joseph's University with a major in Finance and a minor in Business Intelligence and Analytics. At Saint Joseph's University, she received the Trailblazer award which recognizes female students who have demonstrated exemplary achievement in a field in which women have historically been under-represented. She also served as the Vice President of two honor societies, Alpha Iota Delta and Omega Rho, as well as the Vice President of Professional Operations for the Zeta Pi chapter of Delta Sigma Pi. "I am very happy to join the WCFS board and have the opportunity to give back to my first school," says Paige.



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## Mark Your Calendar!

Cynthia Levinson Virtual Visit and Panel  
**Tuesday, March 29th**

Commencement for the Class of 2021  
**Tuesday, June 8th**



In third grade science class, students  
studied, raised, then released beautiful  
monarch butterfly

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(610) 696-2820; [development@wcfriends.org](mailto:development@wcfriends.org).

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Head of School  
Brian Fahey  
Associate Head of School  
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