

#### 2020-2021

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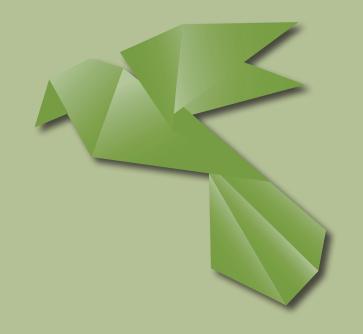
**COPY EDITOR: SUSAN MILLER** 

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION: MEGAN LEITHEISER

Every effort was made to present the information in this publication as accurately as possible. If you notice any errors, omissions, or misrepresentations, please contact advancement@princetonfriends.org.



Drawing on a rich tradition of Quaker values and practices, Princeton Friends School is committed to creating a diverse, vibrant learning community in which young people engage their natural curiosity; discover and express their individual voices and gifts; acquire intellectual, physical, artistic, and life skills; and develop a sense of responsibility for themselves and others. Princeton Friends both prepares students for the world that is and models possibilities for the society that these young people will one day help to create.



# **HEAD OF SCHOOL**



Dear Friends,

Transformation involves a deep shift from what we know and who we are to what we can become. Over the last year, Princeton Friends School has embraced change by deepening our commitment to our mission and facing forward with strength and positivity.

In the midst of a global pandemic, Princeton Friends accomplished the extraordinary feat of completing the entire 2020-21 school year, in-person and on-campus, without a single case of COVID-19. The faculty and staff, in partnership with families, were fueled by a heartfelt commitment to lead with ingenuity, flexibility, and courage.

We provided a transformative learning experience. One that called us to shift our understanding of ourselves and our relationship with other humans and the natural world. We embraced the campus, the woods, and Stony Brook as classroom spaces. We shifted our understanding of power by learning about class, race and gender through the lens of world events. We witnessed injustices and the power of each voice to bring to light the need for systemic change. We consciously chose to alter our approaches to teaching and learning by reaching those in our presence and those at a distance. Most importantly, through the eyes of children we visualized our sense of possibilities for social justice and peaceful conflict resolution and internal joy.

Throughout these pages, you will see the palpable energy and spirit of the community, as we returned to beloved traditions like Blairstown and the spring musical, we invented a new tradition - Arts in Motion, and we celebrated the honor of a Bridge Film Festival Spirit Award. We introduced an outdoor education initiative to transform spaces and formalize our curriculum and program to lead with distinction. Princeton Friends community has embraced change and faced forward with boundless hope for a renewed world.

It is with great pride and enthusiasm I share that Princeton Friends School remains healthy and strong. We have grown our endowment, remained debt-free, increased faculty salaries, and extended financial aid during a time of increased need. We have stewarded our budget and resources thoughtfully and focused on our future.

On behalf of our students, faculty, staff, and trustees, I share sincere gratitude to all who gave so generously to Princeton Friends School over the last year. Your gifts of time, talent, and financial support allowed us to continue to remain steadfast and committed to providing a progressive, Quaker education to a community rich with diversity and promise.

Thank you for transforming lives.

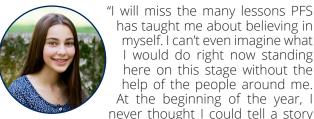
nelissa Carroll

Melissa Carroll, Head of School

transformations

# DEPARTING REMARKS FROM

# **MOVING ON - PFS CLASS OF 2021**



never thought I could tell a story to the whole school, or recite a poem in front of everyone, or even write a speech, but I did."

### **NOOR BENMOUSSA**



"These ordinary things made me. I don't know who I would be without them. And what you realize over the years is that nothing shapes you more than the people you love and little things like this I haven't thought about until now."

## **HONOR WITHERS CARELLO**



"The strong current blows softer and softer, finally letting me stand and change from a seed blooming, unfurling her leaves and spreading her petals, to the seeds across the ground, across the world."

### **BETHIA DEMISSIE**



"There were many moments when I was an eighth-grader: loud, annoying, not caring (as much) about getting into trouble. There were moments where my five-year-old self would have smiled, where she would have been proud. But, I did get a year I will never forget...And now it's time

to stop being an eighth-grader, to walk away from these years of my life, and start a new one. It's time to accept that I am the little boy from "Puff the Magic Dragon," and the part of me that played with dragons is now grown up, leaving painted wings and giant's rings behind."

# **CLARA GRISSOM**





"I have been given the wisdom to measure in love. This has been given to me by my friends, my family, my teachers, and my time at PFS. I am incredibly lucky to have had so many seasons of love right here."

#### **BEATRICE IRELAND**



"I have gotten a lot out of being a student here. I don't want to leave, but I am ready to move on. I am ready to take the help and kindness this little school in the woods has shown me and give it to the world. My perspective has changed so much since that first day in 4th Grade."

# **NATHANIEL MARINARI-FERENCHAK**



For all the time I spent in this school, I have been reminded that kindness is our daily gift. I have been taught to live life by the six SPICES and been told that empathy is the most valuable trait to have. I guess what I am saying is PFS is akin to an underground garden of Eden buried

deep in the ground under a bustling city. Moving on from this place will be like leaving home for me."

## HART LIU NOWAKOSKI



"Princeton Friends is truly unique in the way we all know each other and grow in our own way and at our own pace. Moving on from something can be tough, but it can make you ready for what's next. It may be hard, yet you have to remember something new and exciting will be at the end. Something

I know about myself is I hate transition and changes but I like what comes after the change much more than what was before."

# **STEVEN PINNEO**



"Be grateful, there are always gifts to be found. The fact that PFS was my first real sanctuary is going to make it so much harder to say goodbye. My amazing teacher and students, I can't thank enough for making this place a home."

# **SHYAMA SALEM**





Now, as you too have traveled the 'Forest of Finding Out', crossed the 'River of Wondering Why' and conquered the 'Mountain of Imagining', you move on from PFS. This is just the beginning of your journey, and this is where great responsibility comes. We know that you will share your light and lead by example.

We are infinitely proud of you and are excited to see where your journey takes you. We will be here championing your successes and celebrating your courage and resilience and optimism. You are loved. Congratulations, 8th grade. Take us with you and make this world a better place."

- MELISSA CARROLL, HEAD OF SCHOOL

# leadership





# **BACK TO BLAIRSTOWN**

After a year of virtual learning, it was a triumphant return to Princeton Blairstown Center. This year, the class of 2020 was invited to attend the annual community trip. The 3-day camping trip is a hallmark of the PFS experience. We all felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the ability to be together as a community.









## THE SPRING MUSICAL ROARED ON

The annual spring musical is a beloved tradition known by the community as a right of passage for children of all ages. In a year driven by creativity and innovation, faculty, students, and parents, in collaboration with Pegasus Theatre Company performed an outdoor musical, Lion King Jr. The beloved play structure served as the stage for hand-painted sets, lighting, and sound. The performances exceeded expectations with

choreographed West African dances, costumes sourced from fabric from Ghana, a drum corps, and musical direction from Daniel Potter, PFS Music Teacher.

# SPIRIT AWARD 2021

Last Spring, PFS was honored to receive the coveted, 'Spirit Award' at the Bridge Film Festival. The festival, hosted by Brooklyn Friends School received 26 entries from 10 schools in over 3 continents. Of the 7 documentaries, 9 narratives, 4 new media, and 6 public service announcement entries, Princeton Friends came home with the top prize. The judges evaluated entries based on five criteria - communication skill, creativity, technical



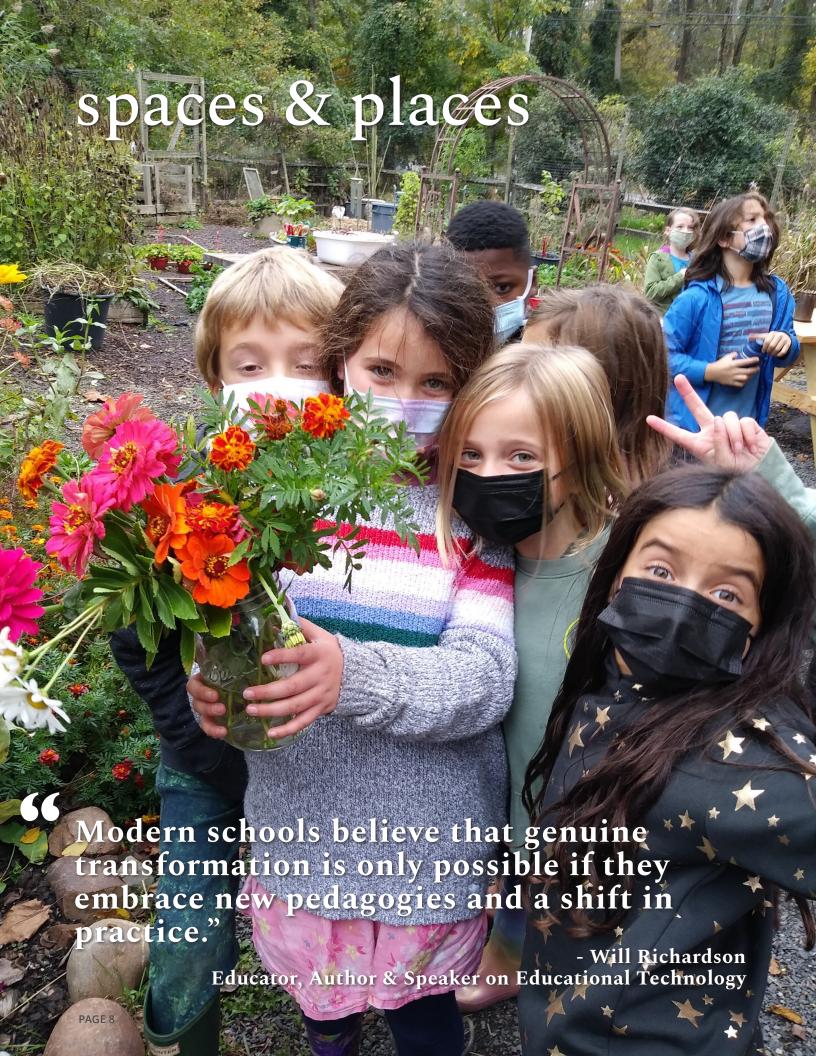
quality, Quaker relevancy, and originality. The film was written, directed, and developed entirely by students with thoughtful guidance from their teachers: Abby Botts, Dylan Fruh, and Bota Temirbayeva.

# **ARTS IN MOTION**

A new tradition was born. The ongoing health and safety restrictions sparked innovation for Art teacher, Dylan Fruh. Under his creative direction, a new event - Arts in Motion - came to be. Arts in Motion combined poetry and transformed the campus woods into a mixed media visual arts exhibition. Families navigated the trails admiring student artwork after they listened in awe as students delivered poetry from the steps of the Meetinghouse. This event served as a beautiful capstone for the Spring, embracing outdoor education and a spirit of resilience.

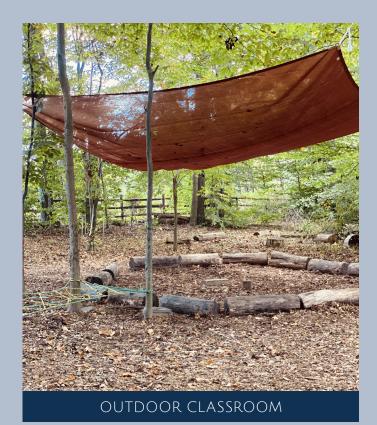






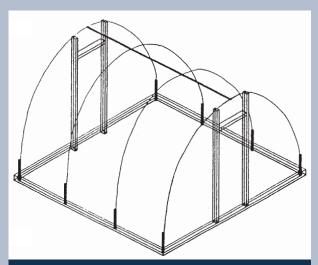


SCIENCE WORKSHOP (UNDER CONSTRUCTION)



# VIRTUAL TOAST SPRING 2021

This year's Family Association event was hosted virtually on Thursday, June 10. Donors, sponsors, and supporters gathered in the spirit of gratitude to celebrate a successful school year and to raise over \$11,000 to support new Outdoor Education initiatives. We look forward to unveiling an updated outdoor classroom, a renovated Science workshop, a hoop greenhouse, and a fleet of bicycles in the coming school year. Thanks to Scout and Cellar for the generous donation of wine and spirits.



GREENHOUSE (COMING SPRING 2022)



# transformational giving

On these pages, we celebrate the generous donors who made gifts to Princeton Friends School during fiscal year 2021 from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. At this pivotal time in our School's history, your gift ensures we can continue to provide an impactful, challenging and progressive education, and support our talented teachers in opening the doors of possibility for every student.



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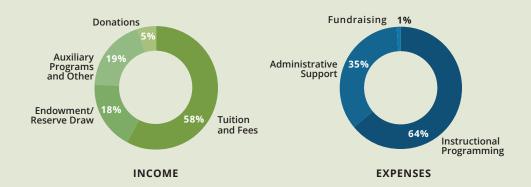
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# **2020-2021 FINANCIALS**



# education

An outgrowth of our Mandarin Chinese program, is an origami elective offered by Yu Chuan (Melody) Tung. Students in 3rd - 8th grades have the opportunity to select from a variety of arts electives offered each week by faculty, staff and fellow students.







# farewell





Margie Mott Hilary Sims Andrea Dechenne Bergman Tom Pinneo



**Salvatore Scafidi**, our librarian of 13 years, retired at the close of the 2021 school year. Sal came to Princeton Friends in 2008, after a long career in public schools, bringing with him the gift of experience and knowledge as a Quaker, an educator, and a board member at other Friends Schools.

Over the years Sal contributed in countless ways:

- Launched the annual PFS Book fair, in addition to various book drives to benefit underserved populations.
- Secured a Friends Council on Education Grant that led to a 4th grade partnership with Paul Robeson Charter School in Trenton.
- Served as a driving force for the redesign of the school library in 2015.
- Transformed upper grade library curriculum to include research, storytelling, and information skills.
- Served on the Educational Technology Committee.
- Shepherded the literature program including collecting, vetting and assessing books.
- Ensured the school was living in ways that are aligned with our Quaker roots by helping children explore the SPICES through literature and library lessons.

While these are remarkable contributions, perhaps Sal's greatest gift has been making even the smallest among us feel comfortable and loved. A colleague shared, "Sal sees children where they are and intuitively has a sense for what might interest them." This has enabled him to really know children and pair books to their personalities, abilities, and interests. When an alum comes back to visit, they often ask about Sal and check in with him. His passion for literature has extended far beyond the classroom walls.

A fellow teacher summed it up best, "When Sal reads he doesn't just travel into the world of the book alone, he brings with him all the people he teaches and works alongside. So he is naturally finding connections between books and people. Whatever he chooses to do in his post-retirement, I hope for the sake of the world that it will include using this gift."

We are so grateful for the many gifts Sal has shared over the years and will miss his kind and gentle heart.





# ın memoriam



# Ann Lee Saunders Brown

was known for her love of education and nature. She was a supporter of many educational institutions in Princeton and her home state of Virginia, notably the University of Virginia and the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

Ann left a transformative gift to Princeton Friends School upon her passing. Her gift will support the school in meeting its mission to prepare students for the world they will one day inherit. We are grateful for her generosity of spirit and we hold her beloved memory and family in the light.



# **Sybil Stokes**

and her late husband, Donald Stokes (former clerk of the School Committee), loved Princeton Friends School. Together they attended many Grandparents Days and supported the school in countless ways over the years. Her family shared, "She was truly delighted to name Princeton Friends as a beneficiary in her will." Sybil is survived by her daughters, Elizabeth Stokes of Princeton and Susan C. Stokes of Chicago, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. The community honored her memory in early October at Princeton Monthly Meeting, and the school will continue to celebrate her wonderful life through her legacy gift.

CARGLINA







www.princetonfriendsschool.org

470 Quaker Road Princeton, NJ 08540

friends@princetonfriends.org (609) 683-1194



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