



*An Independent Quaker Day School*  
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## PROGRESS UPDATE

Spring 2009

### *In this Issue:*

- Through Our Eyes ... Now On Display at Imagination
- An FCE Grant Well Used: Two Public Forums
- Small Groups for Core Academics
- Congratulations, graduates!
- Transitions: Farewell David and George, Welcome Marla Schoolmeester
- Four ... count 'Em, four ... New Board Members

### **Through Our Eyes: Imagination: A Close Look at a Green Building**

Friends School of Charlotte's Second Annual Photography Exhibit opened May 1, with a meet-the-artist reception. The exhibit is a culmination of the K-1 class year-long study of community. The study included reflecting upon and answering queries; taking field trips to learn about and work beside community helpers; exploring recycling and green-living, as well as visiting Imagination, Charlotte's flagship library branch, to learn about the city's first LEED certified public building. The photo exhibit captures images of Imagination's "green" elements, and the exhibit will be on display at Imagination into the summer.



### **Grant Money Well Used: Two Public Forums**

FSC used a grant from the Friends Council on Education to host two free, public forums about Quaker education. Both events were held at the Independence Regional Library.



- **Attending a Friends School Changed My Life:** Reflections and Testimonies from Friends School Alumni. Held on April 1, this forum brought together three Friends School alumni to share their experiences. Carl King, parent at FSC; Michelle Anderson, teacher at FSC and Jon Wilda, member of the Charlotte Friends Meeting told of their special memories and how the experience and teachings of Quaker education molded their lives, their thought processes and their decision-making abilities.



- **How to Find the Light in Every Child:** Sharing the Magic of a Friends School Curriculum. Held on April 22, this forum was presented by the FSC Faculty explaining how they integrate Quaker SPICES (Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community Equality and Service) throughout FSC's curriculum. Lessons from Michelle Anderson and Shari Blair's Kindergarten and First Grade class were shared including how science, biology and ecology can be taught by incorporating art, English, poetry and music.

FSC was also out in the community on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, represented at Art and Soul (a family-friendly neighborhood festival in South End), and the Children's Festival, a celebration of progressive learning held in Concord.

## Small Groups for Core Academics

In order to serve the diverse needs of a multi-grade elementary student population, in 2009-10 we will offer 2 or 3 small groups in the morning for core academics. These groups will ensure individualized instruction as appropriate. In the afternoons, the school community will be together for special classes in the arts and for school-wide programs. Applications for remaining 2009-10 spaces will be considered on a rolling basis until spaces are filled. Please visit our website or contact the school for details.

## Congratulations, Graduates!

The Friends School of Charlotte has its first graduates! Two of our current fourth graders are moving to other schools next year as sixth-graders. While we are sad to see these children leave our program, we are excited for them and glad that their experience at FSC has prepared them so well academically.

## Transitions

It is with some sadness, but also great love and pride, that we say farewell to our founding Head of School, **David Kern**. David joined FSC prior to the School's opening and has helped us land on solid footing as we navigated the difficult waters of a startup, and developed a strategic plan to carry us through the next five years. FSC is better established. David has decided it is time to transition to a new work environment and has accepted a new challenge as the Academic Dean at another independent school. He continues to wish the very best for FSC, as we do for him and his family.

And it is with great excitement that we announce our Head of School for 2009-2010, **Marla Schoolmeester**. Marla is the Clerk (chairperson) of the Board of Trustees of the New Garden Friends School in Greensboro, a Quaker, and the parent of students who attended New Garden. She is currently Director of the Montessori School of Columbia in South Carolina. Marla will join us in July; we hope you will stop by the School to welcome her to our community.

We also wish to thank **George Fox**, our departing 2-4 class teacher, for his dedication and service to the School.

## Support the School ... Help us Expand our Community

For understandable reasons, charitable giving has declined for all non-profits. We are thankful to those who are planning to give or have supported us in the past. We understand that families must make careful choices during these uncertain times. One way to support the school is to tell friends about FSC and encourage them to make a small donation. Tracey Cain, founding board member, shared that she recently sent out an email to friends and family, giving them an update about the school, thanking them for their support, and asking them to consider making a small donation. Another way to help the school is to make a pledge for the future. We can make smarter decisions in budgeting when we have pledge dollars to depend on. Pledge forms may be found on our website. All contributions, large or small, are deeply appreciated, since tuition payments do not cover the entire cost of educating a child at FSC.

Friends School of Charlotte is a non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible and can be made through our website at [www.friendsschoolofcharlotte.org](http://www.friendsschoolofcharlotte.org), through Paypal, or by check. In addition, gifts of stock may be made. Please make checks to *Friends School of Charlotte* and mail them to P.O. Box 30623, Charlotte NC 28230-0623.



## New Board Members

**Arnie Cann** is a professor of psychology at UNC Charlotte. Arnie received a degree in Accounting in 1971 from Northeastern University. He entered graduate school at Indiana University to study psychology. Upon completion of his Ph. D. in 1975, he took a faculty position at UNC Charlotte. During his tenure there, he has served as Department Chair, and was a finalist for the University's Excellence in Teaching Award. He and his wife, Helene, have two grown children. Arnie grew up in the Universalist Church and has attended Charlotte Friends Meeting for over twenty years.

**Carl King** attended Buckingham Friends School in Lahaska, PA, from 2nd grade through 8th grade, graduating in 1984. He holds degrees from Wheaton College (B.A. in Economics with calculus concentration), University of Utah College of Law (J.D.), and the University of Miami, Fl, School of Law (LL.M. in Estate Planning). Carl is one of eight partners in the law firm of Culp, Elliott & Carpenter (Charlotte's "tax boutique" law firm) where he specializes in estate, tax and charitable planning. Recently, he was named by his peers to be among the top 3% of all trust and estates lawyers in North Carolina. Last year, Carl received the Legal Services of Southern Piedmont Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year Award for his work with the indigent elderly in Charlotte.

**Lawrence Womack** moved to Charlotte almost three years ago from Baltimore, MD. He is a parent of two children at FSC. He holds a degree in Biology from Wabash College in Crawfordsville, IN and a Masters in Molecular Biology and Immunology from the Johns

Hopkins University School of Medicine, in Baltimore. He also holds a masters of divinity from Bexley Hall Seminary in Rochester, NY and is ordained in the Episcopal Church, USA serving at St. Martin's here in Charlotte. Lawrence is very active in non-profit, grassroots, and religious organizations.

**Sharita Womack** moved to Charlotte almost three years ago, from Baltimore, MD. She has two children enrolled at FSC. A graduate of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University in Greensboro, NC, she received her degree in Biology and doctorate in Molecular Microbiology and Immunology from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. She completed her postdoctoral work at the State University of New York at Buffalo and the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, NY. She has also been an adjunct faculty member in the biology department at Buffalo State College and Catonsville Community College, in Catonsville, MD. She is currently an adjunct faculty member at Queens University, teaching in the Nursing program and active in non-profit and religious organizations.

FSC has thirteen members of the Board of Trustees: Shari Blair, Arnie Cann, Tracey Cain, Bill Graves, Beth Griffiths, Beth Hinshaw, Howard Hinshaw, Ashley Joseph, Carl King, Sandy Kohn, Jan Rieman, Lyn Sutterlin, and Sharita/Lawrence Womack. Shari Blair and Ashley Joseph are on leave of absence. Jan Rieman serves as Clerk of the Board of Trustees, with Tracey Cain serving as Assistant Clerk.

**Our Mission.** *Friends School of Charlotte, grounded in the Quaker values of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and service, is dedicated to providing an educational experience that integrates the head, the hand, and the heart, resulting in a unique balance of academic excellence and spiritual depth. It is a learning community where each individual is treated with respect and where his or her uniqueness is honored. Friends School of Charlotte strives to teach students to listen within and to others, to express themselves, to think critically, to take responsibility, and to make a difference in their world. We expect our students to develop the skills, values, and confidence that support a lifetime of learning, leadership, and service.*

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