



E-News

November 11, 2016



Next week at BFS

11/12 PAT Service Learning Day at the Quaker Cemetery, 10am-4pm
11/15 Preschool Parents Info Session and Tour of Lower School, 8:45am
11/16 Preschool Open Forum Coffee Hour, 8:30am | Math Workshop for Gr. 3/4 Parents, 8:30am
11/17 Lower School Evening Coffee Hour on Bullying, 6:30pm
11/18 Mock Newbery Party for Gr. 4, 5, 6, 3:30pm
11/17, 18, 19 *Into the Woods* Musical, 5pm Thurs; 7pm Fri & Sat. [Tickets](#)
Details on all events at brooklynfriends.org/calendar

Top Stories

The Election

From Head of School Larry Weiss: This week, in response to questions, concerns, and feelings following the presidential election, the BFS faculty from preschool through grade 12 created opportunities for students to talk, provide mutual support, and share concerns on an individual and small-group basis. In middle and upper school, Meetings for Worship and extended advisories enabled students and faculty to have dialogues in a trusting and mindful environment. In the younger grades faculty engaged students and communicated directly with their parents, sharing resources for talking with their children about the election. On Thursday, BFS provided a Meeting for Worship opportunity for parents at the Schermerhorn Street Meeting House. The worship-sharing was well attended and characterized by moving and meaningful messages. Such examples reflect the way our values-centered Quaker learning community optimally functions, and I more gratified than ever to be a part of, and lead, such a caring, thoughtful, and exceptional school.

At the Upper School's **Community Issues Conference** on Nov. 10, keynote speaker (and BFS parent) **Errol Louis** gave a focused and insightful talk about the election and shared specific ideas that students could take with them on how to engage in the political process and become change-makers. A veteran journalist, Errol is a columnist for the *NY Daily News*, political anchor for *NY1 News*, and host of the nightly program *Inside City Hall*. He also was a moderator in one of the Democratic primary debates held last spring.

[Errol's keynote speech may be viewed here.](#)



Into the Woods

Raise your spirits, channel your inner child, and experience virtuoso performances by



middle and upper school students at the fall musical, *Into the Woods*. With music by Stephen Sondheim and story by James Lapine, this now classic Broadway musical is a delight in every way. Tickets are free but need to be reserved in advance.

[Online box office.](#)

Announcement from the Head's Office

As our school has grown by more than 250 students over the past six years, BFS has made significant increases in numbers of faculty, staff, and administrators to serve our student body. Our priority last year was to ensure that the academic divisions had sufficient administrative support; and consequently excellent Assistant Heads were appointed, one in the Middle School and two in the Upper School. The final step in such structural growth is the revival of the **Assistant Head of School** position that has been vacant since 2015. I will be conducting a search for an Assistant Head of School whose job will begin in July, 2017. The search will begin on Nov.15, 2016 with the goal of an appointment being made by Jan. 16, 2017. – *Larry Weiss*

[Read more here.](#)



Your BFS Podcast

The spotlight this week is on the **senior legacy gift** that will support the Upper School's many **student-led activities**. Hear from students, volunteer leader Louise Whittet and Kathryn Collins, Associate Director of Advancement. [Listen and learn more now.](#)

School News You Can Use

Lockdown Drill Scheduled for Mon. Nov. 14

A reminder that the first lockdown drill of the school year will be held on Monday. [Read the letter](#) that was sent to parents, faculty and staff earlier in the week.

Important Parent Workshop on Thurs. Nov. 17

Dr. Jamie Howard of NYU's Child Mind Institute will provide a workshop for all Lower School parents on Thurs. Nov. 17, 6:30 to 8 pm on the topic of bullying. An expert in this field, Dr. Howard provided important professional development and information to the Lower School faculty earlier in the school year about effective and practical strategies for identifying, intervening, and reducing bullying and other mean behaviors in school. [Listen to an interview](#) with Dr. Rachel Maldonado, Lower School psychologist, about her work at BFS and how the workshop will offer parents ways to model kindness and empathy with their children. **Childcare will be provided. Please sign up with Cheryl by Wed. at 12noon.**

Autumn Sing on Tues. Nov. 22

The Preschool and Lower School traditional **Autumn Sing** is coming up on **Tuesday, November 22, 2016** at **The Schermerhorn Street Meeting House** (110 Schermerhorn Street at the corner of Boerum Place). We will hear songs our children have been learning in school, sing songs together, and to join in Quaker Silence.

[Schedule.](#)

Looking Ahead to the December Music Concerts

The Middle and Upper School Music Concerts take place on Dec. 6, 7, 8. There are a lot of details, expectations, and schedules, so parents of students participating should please [check out this announcement](#).



Young Book Lovers, Unite! Mock Newbery Party Takes Place on Nov. 18

The BFS Lower and Middle School Libraries will be hosting a Mock Newbery Party for **4th, 5th, and 6th grade** students on Friday, Nov. 18th from 3:30pm to 4:45pm in the Library. Brooklyn Friends School students will be joined by their peers who attend Brooklyn Heights Montessori, Packer Collegiate, and Saint Ann's School who participate in their school's Mock Newbery projects. The event will include Newbery Medal trivia, refreshments, and special guest, **Krishna**

Grady, a Children's Librarian at Darien Library in Darien, CT, who is currently serving on the Newbery Committee.



Your Weekly Health Tip

Mornings: Kids are drowsy and slow, shoes are misplaced, coffee's not made... and yet! Skipping breakfast just prolongs that bedraggled feeling. Children often express hunger through irritability, lack of focus, and vague tummy-aches--not a great combination for the classroom. So, do you know about breakfast in the school cafeteria? This is one of the nicest, most unsung aspects of our community. Give it a try -- BFS breakfast is a gift of nourishment and camaraderie, a great way for us all to start the day.

Advancement Report

What Does the Brooklyn Friends Fund Support?

Look all around you and you will see the individuals, activities and programs that the Brooklyn Friends Fund supports. Some of these -- like the fall musical, *Into the Woods*, the parent workshops with expert guests and our own teachers, and special library programs -- are taking place next week. They are a testament to the extra mile our school goes to in order to enhance every area of school life for our children. So when a Brooklyn Friends Fund volunteer calls you soon, please respond positively. Many parents and friends have already made their gifts and others can do so easily [online](#), by telephone (718-852-1029 x 243) or by visiting the Advancement Office on



the first floor of Pearl Street.

Senior Parent Gathering on Mon. Nov. 14

We're looking forward to our Senior Class Parent Cocktail Party on Monday evening at the home of Larry Weiss and Wendy Aibel-Weiss. More than 40 families will gather to toast their children's accomplishments, plan for senior-year milestones, and help BFS secure a vibrant, thriving future. The Senior Class Legacy gift to support Upper School Student-Led Activities will also be launched. [Learn more.](#)

PAT Update



One Month to Go 'Til WinterFest

The WinterFest Gift Wrap Design Contest open to Middle and Upper School Students has been extended to today, Friday, Nov. 11! Winning designs will be made into custom gift wrap and sold at this year's WinterFest on Sat, Dec. 10 from 11am-5pm. This year's WinterFest will feature four floors of handmade crafts, holiday shopping, a book fair, and fun activities for kids of all ages, plus great food and live music. WinterFest also coincides with the PAT Winter Book Fair so come on out

and make a family day of it! Visit BrooklynFriends.org/WinterFest.

Saturday in the Park

Many families have signed up for the Service Day at the Quaker Cemetery in Prospect Park. Thank you; we look forward to seeing you. [Information.](#)

Quaker News

Save the Date for Quaker Meeting

The Spiritual Life Committee will hold Meeting for Worship for parents and caregivers on **Dec. 1**. Our November Meeting was well-attended and feedback was positive -- many thanks to all who were involved. Details will come closer to the date.

Sports Section



Let's Hear It for Our Panther Runners

Congratulations to 8th grader **James Griffin Frankel** (*pictured with Coach David*), who medaled in second place overall in the ISAL Middle School Boys Cross-Country Championship, setting a new school record by beating his own record from the previous year. Last year, James brought home the 1st place trophy for ISAL Middle School boys.

Looking Forward to the Winter Season

We're saying goodbye to a spectacular fall and gearing up for a dynamic winter season

of basketball and indoor track. Middle and upper school athletes are already in training, and Coach Steve Fagan of Felician University led a clinic for basketball players on Monday. There's still time to ***Join The Team!*** See Links below:

[Winter Season Team Links and Schedules](#) **and** [Inside Sports at BFS](#) **Any questions?**
Don't hesitate to reach out to Athletic Director David Gardella, ext. 234 or [email](#)

Guided by the Quaker belief that there is a Divine Light in everyone, Brooklyn Friends School cultivates an intellectually ambitious and diverse community that celebrates each individual's gifts. We challenge our students to value and embrace difference as they develop critical thinking skills and apply their knowledge and intelligence both in and out of the classroom. In this rich learning environment, we inspire all members of our community to voice their convictions, to discover and pursue their passions, and to seek truth. Our graduates are compassionate, curious, and confident global citizens who let their lives speak in the spirit of leadership and service.

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