



# Newsletter

## September 2011



Welcome to a new school year! We are off to a great start, with teachers feeling refreshed after their summer vacations and children adjusting nicely to the routines of school. During my classroom visits I have observed happy children engaged in interesting activities such as drawing self-portraits, learning to recognize their names and the names of their classmates, sharing family photos, building with blocks and, of course, creating lots of artwork! Outdoors there is always an abundance of laughter as the children run, play, dig and explore in our play yards. New

friendships are forming every day. I have noticed groups of children walking together, hand-in-hand, as they plan cooperative games to carry out in the play structures or search the school grounds for creatures. It is just plain fun learning, playing and working in a school like ours—for children and adults alike!

One of my hopes and dreams for this school year is that all members of our community will communicate openly and honestly with one another. Please know that I, and all of the teachers and staff, welcome your feedback and want to hear your

ideas for helping to strengthen our school. Please stop me in the hall or visit me in the office any time you have a question or a comment to share. I look forward to getting to know more about you and your children as we share this year together.

Warmly,  
Sharon



September 21st was the International Day of Peace. We created Peace flags to celebrate the occasion. Please look for our fabulous flags hanging on the fence in front of the school. Peace to all!

*We gather as a community for songs, stories and a brief period of silence every weekday morning between 9:00 and 9:20. Please feel free to join us!*

## Caring for our Community

As I watched the families bringing their children to Fairville in these first few weeks of school, I was thinking of my own experience bringing my eldest to a small Quaker preschool classroom 11 years ago. I was so nervous, wondering if I had made the right choice of schools and if he would be ok. My fears were quickly quelled as I watched him become a part of the community I had chosen for him. That school, although a Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, was very similar to Fairville, especially in terms of community. I was astonished that in September as I passed through the playground to pick up my son from his half-day program, a middle school boy yelled, "Hold the ball, here comes Eli's Mom." Two things startled me: First, that this middle school boy had the selfless courtesy to stop the ball game for me to pass by, second, and more important to me, this middle school student KNEW my preschooler's name – in September! Just like the children at Fairville, my son was known throughout his school. This was exactly what I wanted for my son.

Not having been a part of an independent school, it took me some time to understand the responsibility that came with being a member of this kind of community. This academically rich, caring, loving, educational environment did not happen accidentally. As parents we were integral members of this community, and we were responsible for adding to its richness by getting involved, by volunteering our time and expertise to benefit the well being of the community. Naturally, being involved in our son's classroom made sense. I had always looked forward to being a present classroom parent. I did not, however, understand the importance and necessity of contributing to the Annual Giving Campaign. I truly thought that beyond tuition, the gift of my time was the only responsibility I had to this community. I was very surprised to learn that tuition covers only approximately 80% of the cost of educating an independent school child. The rest of the money is made up by fundraising, grants and donations to the Annual Fund or Annual Giving Campaign. Generally speaking, fundraising (such as the sale of items) makes up a fairly small percentage of this financial gap. The Annual Giving Campaign at Fairville Friends raises the bulk of the supplemental funds. These gifts from faculty, administrators, Trustees, current families, former families, alum and friends of the school enable our school to offer an exceptionally high standard of educational programming while still keeping the tuition numbers as low as possible. We look, every year, for 100% participation in the Annual Giving campaign. Aside from the obvious benefit, it is also important to have full participation to report when we are applying for grants. Naturally, the grant application evaluators want to know that the people who will benefit from the grant also believe in the school and are willing to support it financially. It is not the dollar amount of your gift that matters, but rather your participation.

I loved being a part of my children's school community and I love being a part of Fairville's school community. And I take the responsibility that comes with sharing in this community very seriously. It is the gifts that each of us bring to this campus that makes FFS the exceptional, loving, happy learning environment that your children joyfully enjoy each day.

Andrea Linvill

## What should my child wear to school?

We love to see children come to school dressed for active, messy play. We paint, play with play-doh, cook, and go outdoors in all kinds of weather, including rain and snow. Sturdy shoes and durable, washable play clothes are the best school attire. Please remember that your child will need rain gear (coats and boots) and, later on, snow gear (hats, mittens, snowpants, boots) every day that there is wet grass or snow on the ground or in the forecast.

At Fairville we ask parents to avoid sending children to school in tee shirts and other apparel with "super-hero" motifs or logos or current fad commercial movie and television theme wear. Military-themed clothing (fatigues, camouflage) are also discouraged as they are counter to Quaker philosophy.

If your child comes home with a smear of paint, glue or mud on their clothing, you will know that they were actively involved in learning– and having tons of fun! We thank you in advance for your cooperation!



## Events Calendar

September 29	Back to School Night 7 pm
October 10	School Closed for Faculty Inservice
	Fairville Families meet at Ramsey Farm 10:30 am
October 23	Fall Festival 3 - 5 pm
November 9	Open House 9 am

## In the Classrooms.....



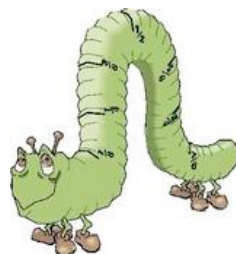
The Ladybug's first theme was "Getting to Know You". They read books about starting school, friendship, sharing, and feelings. The Ladybugs are already joining in our songs and fingerplays at Meeting!



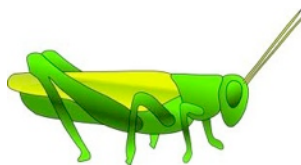
In the Bumblebee room the children are easing into school routines and getting acquainted. They are reading friendship stories, just like their friends in the Ladybug room. Later this month they will be learning about farms and farm animals.



Feeling safe and nurtured at school is an important goal for these first few weeks. In the Firefly room the children are making friends and becoming comfortable in the classroom. They are just beginning a study of apples by examining different varieties, reading apple stories and learning apple poems and songs.



The Inchworms have been busy establishing classroom rules and routines. They have also learned some new songs and brought in photos of their family members to share with friends. The Inchworms have an "I feel \_\_\_\_\_." poster in their classroom that they are using to name feelings. This is a first step in learning how to successfully use conflict resolution strategies.



The Grasshoppers are playing games designed to help them learn the names of the children in their classroom. They are also doing a lot of drawing and painting, including two-person shared painting, individual self-portraits and family pictures. The Grasshoppers enjoy sharing their work with one another at circle time.

## Stay and Play

This year our Stay and Play option is available for all children 3 years old and up. You can sign your child up for a whole semester of Stay and Play or on an as-needed basis, Monday through Thursday afternoons. Please call the office to make arrangements.

## Fun Fridays

Fun Fridays is also offered on a semester or as-needed basis for children 3 and a half or older. A variety of interesting topics will be explored during Fun Fridays classes, such as cooking, music and more!

## Enrichment Classes

The children enrolled in our enrichment classes have been enjoying activities in art, science and nature during the afternoons. If your child is 3 and a half or older, consider joining one of the enrichment classes. This session our Art and Nature enrichment classes are full, but we still have a few spaces open in our Science class. More information on class activities will be included in future issues of this newsletter. Call the office to enroll in any of our enrichment programs. Our second 8 week session begins November 7th.

## Preschool Playtime

Invite a friend with a child 18-36 months old to join our Preschool Playtime class on Tuesday or Wednesday morning from 9:15-10:30. There is one opening remaining in our Tuesday morning session.

## In the Classrooms (continued).....



So far the Butterflies have been working on classroom routines and making new friends. They have already done some writing and dictating this year—notice their work in the hallway outside of their classroom. The Butterflies started the year by reading several books about peace and friendship. They will be making a “Friends” book this week and painting in pairs. They will also continue to practice skills such as cutting and letter identification.

## News from the Kitchen



This month Judy met with each group of children to look at several garden vegetables. The children had an opportunity to examine beets, radishes, carrots, cabbage and lettuce. The children then talked about whether the part of the plant that we usually eat grows above or below the ground. Judy shared the hilarious story, Tops and Bottoms by Janet Stevens, with the children. In the story a hare offers to tend a garden for a lazy bear, letting the bear choose whether he wants to have the top or bottom half of each vegetable. When the bear picks the top half, the hare plants all root vegetables so he can keep the best part of the harvest for himself. At least once a month Judy will be meeting with the children in each class to teach them something related to food (planting, gardening, cooking, kitchen science and more). The children love having an opportunity to learn more about the food we grow and eat – and they are all enjoying getting to know Judy!

OPEN HOUSE

WEDNESDAY

NOVEMBER 9TH

9 AM

BRING A FRIEND TO FAIRVILLE FOR A  
TOUR AND TO OBSERVE OUR  
CLASSROOMS IN SESSION

RSVP TO THE OFFICE AT 610-388-1268

WALK-INS WELCOME

Where are the sheep?

We are all looking forward to having sheep at Fairville again this fall. I have been in contact with Judy Wilson, the woman who lends the sheep to us. Judy is still in the process of deciding which sheep she would like to keep over the winter. Once she has made that decision, she will bring two sheep to spend the fall at Fairville. The sheep will be with us until at least

Thanksgiving, then return to the barn to spend the coldest part of the winter indoors.

We'll let you know when the sheep arrive so you can stop by to say hello!



# All around Fairville...



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