

...from the Head of School

November/December 2008



Steadfast Vision for the Future

By now, you have all heard the news about the school's purchase of the Greenleaf property on Main Street. We are indeed excited about this acquisition. The Greenleaf is an attractive, well-cared-for property that abuts the western border of our campus and features five handsome buildings. The fact that the Greenleaf is contiguous means that crossing a street is unnecessary to access the property.

There are important historic connections between the two Quaker institutions, including the residency late in life of suffragist Alice Paul, MFS Class of 1901. The building has a personal connection for me; my grandmother lived out her years at the Greenleaf.

The process of providing for the school's need for more classroom space, beginning with the acquisition of the former Acme in 2006 and ending with this purchase, has been a long and complicated one. The purchase of the Greenleaf represents a truly historic moment for the school and demonstrates the bold leadership of our School Committee. The Greenleaf will help to solve our need for classroom and laboratory space, and will provide a number of options to support the MFS academic and co-curricular program in the long term.



In these difficult economic times, this purchase demonstrates our steadfast vision for the school. MFS boasts a history dating back over 200 years. Acquiring the Greenleaf while maintaining ownership of the former Acme (for which we are aggressively pursuing a commercial lessee) positions the school very well for whatever our space needs may be in the future. The School Committee has created a legacy that will serve the school well for the next century.

I also want to assure you that the School Committee and administration are taking the global economic crisis very seriously. We know that this is a difficult time. As many families assess their financial situations, we are confident that they will value even more the importance of the investment of having their children at MFS. In a time of uncertainty, the bedrock values of academic excellence and spiritual and ethical growth become even more important. There is great comfort for parents in knowing that each and every day our students are growing academically and spiritually in a safe, nurturing environment.

We look forward to keeping you apprised of our plans for the Greenleaf, and we are confident that Moorestown Friends School will emerge from the current economic situation even stronger, as we continue to build on our 223-year tradition of excellence in education.

Sincerely,

Larry Van Meter '68, Head of School

News and Notes Inside:

MFS Purchases Greenleaf...National Merit Scholarship Honors...Parent Council Book Fair: Dec. 1-2...MFS Presents *Cabaret*

School Purchases Former Greenleaf Property

Moorestown Friends School has purchased a property that has been home to another Moorestown, Quaker, non-profit institution for more than 100 years: the former Greenleaf Retirement Community.

This purchase addresses the school's need for additional classroom and laboratory space. The lot is a four-acre property abutting the MFS campus near the school's tennis courts and Field House. The school will begin working with architects to modify the structures to serve the school's needs. The first phase will involve the renovation of the South Annex to provide classrooms for Middle School and Upper School students. A footpath is envisioned to connect the current campus to the Greenleaf site.



The Greenleaf Main Building

This purchase will have no impact on current tuition dollars. The Board of Trustees has endorsed interim funding to enable this purchase. In addition, the school will soon be moving into a capital campaign.

The Greenleaf closed its doors on June 30. The Quaker-run retirement community served as a boarding home for elderly and retired Friends since 1896. One special connection that Moorestown Friends and the Greenleaf have shared, even before this historic purchase, is



The Greenleaf South Annex

that MFS 1901 graduate Alice Paul (1885-1977), famed leader of the women's suffrage movement, spent her final years at the Greenleaf.

The school now plans to seek a

commercial tenant to lease the former Acme supermarket at 123 Chester Ave., which MFS purchased in December 2006.

The former Greenleaf property is home to five buildings:

- The Main Building, a large, historic building that is clearly visible from Main Street. The rear part of this building has been renovated considerably over the years. It was built in 1820 by Charles French. It was purchased from Edward Harris, Jr. in 1896 to become a residence for retired Friends.
- The South Annex, a two-floor building that the school hopes to quickly convert to classroom space.
- A split-level house on the back of the property.
- Two historic houses on E. Main St. to the left of the entrance/exit driveway.

MFS Students Recognized in National Merit Scholarship Competitions

Eleven Moorestown Friends School seniors were recently recognized by the National Merit Scholarship® Program.

Nina Samuel was named a National Merit Semifinalist. She is part of a group of approximately 16,000 high school seniors who are now eligible to apply to become Finalists.

Additionally, ten students were named National Merit Commended Scholars **Aubrie Campbell, Sophia Demuyneck, Anya Gelernt, Russell Hensley, Hannah Levy, Matthew Mackowsky, Stephen Neely, Anna Poszmik, Rebecca Salowe** and **Hannah Spielberg**.

Kendra Whitfield was named a National Achievement Outstanding Participant. She scored in the top 5% of more than 140,000 African-American students who took the PSAT in 2007.

Faculty Lead Sessions at NJAIS Conference

The MFS faculty was well represented at the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools (NJAIS) Annual Conference: "Teaching Today for a Changing Tomorrow," held Monday, October 20, at the Pingry School. The purpose of the conference is to highlight the exciting and innovative educational programs taking place in independent schools.

Six of the 75 workshops offered during the day-long conference were presented by MFS faculty. "It is a testament to the excellence and dedication of our faculty that MFS is so well represented at this conference," said Head of School **Larry Van Meter**.

MFS faculty members that led sessions included: **Martha Reilly** (Head Librarian) **Deb Casne** (MS English), **Jackie Zemaitis** (LS Music), **Mike Omilian** (Chair - Mathematics), **Katie LuBrant** (US Math), **Kathi Bernard** (MS Math), **Kim Greeley** (US Math), **Matt Glendinning** (US Director), **Clark Thomson** (Chair - History), **Teri Kaiser**, (First Grade) and **Susan Jackson** (Preschool).

Cabaret at MFS - November 21-23

Fall musical tickets are on sale! MFS presents *Cabaret* on Friday, Nov. 21 and Saturday, Nov. 22 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 23 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased in person only at the in Stokes Hall receptionist desk. Prices are \$25 for Circle of Angels (rows 2, 3, 4 and 5), \$12 for adults/senior citizens, \$8 students/children. MFS faculty and administration get one general admission ticket free. *Cabaret* is recommended for ages 10 and older. This show promises to be a sell out. Get your tickets today!

Submit Student Arts Achievements for Drama Production Catalogs

The Bravo! Club wants to invite all members of the MFS community (students, parents, faculty, staff) to submit information on student achievements in the arts, to be included in the fall and spring drama production catalogs as well as the Bravo! Club page on the MFS website. Please submit recent or upcoming events, honors, awards, participation - anything to do with students in the visual, written, or performing arts outside of MFS. Send a few sentences via email to Cricket Darby at cdarby1@comcast.net by November 15, 2008 for inclusion in the *Cabaret* program.

Thanks to Parent Phonathon Volunteers

MFS is grateful to the following parent volunteers, who made calls for the Parent Phonathon this year: **Robert Andreacchio, Donald and Dawn Augustino, John Boama-Sefah, Tiffany Brown, Edward Carilli, Tracie Chapman, Beth Gonyea, David Harris and Vivian Pressley-Harris, Debbie Hart, Mark Hines and Elizabeth Endres Hines, Michael Joffe, Judy Hurst Loane '71, Samuel Mathew, Kerry Morlino, Anthony Scalmandre, Nick and Annik Smith and Charlene Womack.**

Thanks also go to the parents who made calls for the advance Special Gifts Committee for the Annual Fund, who include: **Stavros Antonakakis, Mel Baiada, Patrick and Kathie Carpenter, Bob Goodman, Meredith Hanamirian, Jonathan and Alison Horn, Ed Hovatter, Debbie Kelly, Kate Latimer, Samuel Mathew, Vivian Pressley-Harris, Janet Stevens '77 and George Styliades.**

Tuition revenue covers only about 85% of the cost of educating each child at MFS - generous support of the Annual Fund from parents, alumni, faculty/staff and others is vital to making up the difference.

Thrift Shop Offers Holiday Discount

The MFS Thrift Shop offers a 10% discount to MFS families, faculty and staff during December. Just show your school ID to receive the discount. Shop early for the best selection. Hours are 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Mon. - Sat. Donations made to the Thrift Shop before December 31 are tax deductible for 2008. The store also offers an ideal way to recycle surplus gifts.

Winter Weather Cancellation Information

In the event that school is closed or opening with a one- or two-hour delay, parents will receive a phone call with that information from the Alertnow Rapid Notification system. The call to parents will be made as soon as the decision is made. As this call will be made in the late evening or early morning, the phone call from Alertnow will only be made to the home phone number (or cell phone if that is listed as the home phone number). Additionally, information regarding a school closing or a delayed opening will be available in the following ways:

- Call the MFS switchboard at (856) 235-2900 and press "1."
- Access the MFS website (www.mfriends.org).
- Listen to KYW-AM 1060 Radio, snow number: 680.
- Check the morning broadcasts on TV channels CBS-3, ABC-6, NBC-10 and Fox-29 or visit the stations' websites.

View MFS Photos on SmugMug

Remember you can view, purchase, or download photos at mfs.smugmug.com.

Recently Added:

Spirit Week

- Upper School Hall Decorating

- Middle School Service Fair

Lower School Grandparents Day

Sports Shorts

Field Hockey Earns Playoff Berths

The varsity field hockey team (9-4-1, 5-2 FSL) earned the third seed in the Friends Schools League playoff. They traveled to Academy of the New Church on October 28 for a semifinal matchup. The team has also qualified for the NJSIAA playoffs. Check the MFS Athletics website for game dates and locations.

Boys Soccer Earns State Playoff Berth/Girls Narrowly Miss

The boys soccer team clinched a state playoff berth with a win over King's Christian on October 21. The team record stands at 9-6. The girls team lost to Audubon on Oct. 24 to fall to 6-8-1, missing state qualification by one game. Check the MFS Athletics website for game dates and locations.

Girls Tennis Falls in League and State Playoffs

The girls tennis team earned playoff berths in the Friends Schools League (FSL) and NJSIAA Non-Public B playoffs. They fell to Friends Central in the FSL semifinals and, in state playoff, lost in the semifinals to Ranney School after defeating Holy Cross in a first-round matchup. The team finished with a 15-10 record.

Cross Country Postseason in Full Swing

The boys and girls cross country teams each finished fourth at the Friends School League Championship Meet on October 21. The teams will participate in sectional championships on Nov. 8 and the state Parochial B championships on Nov. 15 with hopes to qualify for the Meet of Champions on Nov. 22.

Fox Tracks



Fifth graders **Gaelyn** and **Katie Gregory**, and their Medford-based softball team, The Mystics, travelled to Ohio this summer and won the National 10U Pony Softball Championship. Gaelyn played right field/1st base, and Katie played shortstop, driving in the winning run in the championship game.

Quaker Corner— The Examined Life

By Priscilla Taylor-Williams and Lynne Brick

The Examined Life program has four components: critical thinking, openness to the spirit, resilience and ethics. Resilience is something we need as we read the newspapers, watch our children struggle through the loss of a favorite pet, a poor test grade, not being invited to THE birthday party or picked for a team and as they wait for college acceptances. It is "in the moment" that strategies for resilience are learned best, but we try to focus on some of these skills and find a place for them as part of our program at Moorestown Friends School. Research shows that helping others can help us overcome distress. The MFS focus on service provides this opportunity. A silent time to regain emotional equilibrium is provided weekly in Meeting for Worship. A chance to work through our tensions with friends is supported by learning conflict resolution skills. The opportunity to talk to teachers about difficult moments is not common in all schools but forms part of the community fabric at MFS. Having a chance to "lose" ourselves for a moment in something of great interest (sports, the arts, a good book or our favorite subject) all help us gain a sense of perspective. The very nature of the school supports the lifelong development of resilience.

November at a Glance Service Theme: Poverty in Our Neighborhoods

11/3:	MS/US Second Quarter Begins	11/16:	Alumni Phonathon, 6 p.m.
11/3:	Thanksgiving Food Collection Begins	11/17:	No School US/MS, Parent Conferences
11/3-5:	Grade 6 and 8, ERB Testing	11/20:	Thanksgiving Food Collection Ends
11/7:	10th grade trip to Philadelphia	11/21:	No School LS, Parent Conferences
11/9-10:	Alumni Phonathon (Alumni and student volunteers call on behalf of the Annual Fund.), 6 p.m.	11/21-22:	"Cabaret," 7:30 p.m.
11/10:	Red & Blue Club Meeting, 7 p.m., Moriuchi Room	11/23:	"Cabaret," 2 p.m.
11/13:	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Planning Meeting, 7 p.m., MacColl Room	11/26:	Thanksgiving Happening, 11:45 dismissal, buses depart at Noon, No Lunch or Extended Day
11/15:	Admissions Open House, 10 a.m.	11/27-28:	No School, Thanksgiving Break
		11/28:	US Winter Sports Practices Begin

December at a Glance Service Theme: Poverty in Our Neighborhoods

12/1:	MS Winter Sports Practices Begin	12/17-19:	Grade 7 trip to Stokes Forest
12/1-2:	MFS Parent Council Book Fair at Barnes & Noble, 4 - 9 p.m.	12/19:	PreS, PreK, and K Winter Concert, 11 a.m.
12/3	Samaritan Hospice Tree of Life Ceremony, 7 p.m.	12/19:	Grades 1-2 Winter Concert, Noon
12/5:	US Holiday Ball, 7:30 - 11 p.m.	12/19:	Grades 3-4 Winter Concert, 1 p.m.
12/10:	MS Winter Concert, 7 p.m.		WINTER VACATION BEGINS at 3:10 p.m.
12/12:	Half Day, Faculty In-Service Day, 11:45 dismissal, buses depart at Noon	12/22-1/2:	WINTER VACATION
12/12	US Talent Show, 7 p.m.	12/22:	Young Alumni Dinner, 6:30 p.m.
12/16:	US Winter Concert, 7 p.m.	12/22:	Alumni Basketball Game, 7:30 p.m.
		1/5:	Classes Resume

Bold denotes more information provided in the newsletter.

✓ SAVE THE DATE

Parent Council Book Fair: Dec. 1-2

The annual Parent Council Book Fair will be held Monday, December 1 and Tuesday, December 2, from 4 - 9 p.m., at the East Gate Shopping Center Barnes & Noble, near the Moorestown Mall. Parent Council will receive a percentage of all net sales on books, music, magazines, gift items and other merchandise purchased by Moorestown Friends community members.

It's a great way to shop for the holidays and benefit MFS at the same time! Watch your mailbox and/or



check the "Parents" section of the MFS website for information and the full schedule of readers (including MFS faculty) in the children's section. The mailing will include a voucher that identifies you as a member of the MFS community when you make your purchases on the dates specified above.

SAVE THE DATE

Thanksgiving Happening: November 26

Students from Prekindergarten to 12th grade, faculty and staff join together for a unique day of fun and fellowship in celebration of Thanksgiving. Look for more information about the day and food collection leading up to the day on the school website and in MFS E-News.

Yearbook Ordering Deadline December 1

2008-09 MFS yearbooks can be ordered until December 1 by visiting the MFS intranet site (mfsweb.mfriends.org) and clicking on the "order a yearbook" link. Books are \$75 and Dec. 1 is an absolute cutoff for orders. Questions should be directed to **Debra Galler**, Yearbook Advisor, at ext. 229, or dgaller@mfriends.org. Don't be sorry in June...order your yearbook today!

Young Alumni Dinner: December 22

The Young Alumni Dinner, welcoming back the Class of 2008 and other college-age alums, will be held in the Dining Hall/Commons on Monday, December 22 at 6:30 p.m. The traditional Alumni Basketball Game tips off in the Field House at 7:30 p.m. For more information about these events, contact the Development Office.

SAVE THE DATE