

# FOCUS



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## Hoff In the Meeting House

By ISABEL NARDI '14

Recently, I enjoyed the privilege of meeting with our new head of school, Ms. Joanne Hoffman. I could not be happier to have had this opportunity. She was very genuine, easy to relate to, and intriguing. We both share a love of team sports; we have similar hobbies, and even have some of the same musical tastes. I would encourage every student to introduce yourself to her. It will allow you to get on the same personal level that I did when I conducted the following interview.

**FOCUS** - What are your hobbies?

**Ms. Hoffman** - I love to kayak and canoe. My husband and I used to white water canoe and race. We also mountain climb near our cottage in the Adirondacks. I really enjoy sailing. I play the piano and sing. I would consider my grandson one of my hobbies too. I adore him and spend a lot of time with him.

**FC** - Which sports team are you a fan of?

**HOF** - I love baseball. I know the Phillies are phenomenal; however my

team is the Boston Red Sox. I am a crazed Boston fan. I've been going to spring training for twenty years. I also love basketball so I am excited to see Friends' Central play. I'm a Patriots fan too. I'm a big fan of all sports. I feel that athletics center a community. I truly care about team sports and the same goes for the arts.

**FC** - What C.D is currently in your car or what radio station is on?

**HOF** - WHYY Philadelphia, public radio. I enjoy it because it allows me to learn so much about the world. The talks are more in-depth. As far as music goes I would choose classical music. I love Beethoven. Otherwise my musical tastes would lean towards the blues and also Eric Clapton and Jack Johnson.

**FC** - What was the last book you read?

**HOF** - I am currently reading *Train* by Pete Dexter. I read *The Other Wes*



New Head of School, Ms. Joanne Hoffman  
Picture from <http://friendscentral.org>

*Moore* and I hope everyone here will read it at some point. The FCS faculty read it over the summer. I love reading, and I usually read multiple books at once.

**FC** - Have you ever lived in another country?

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## A Peace of Friends' Central

By SOPHIE MACFARLANE '15 AND ARYANNA POLLACK '15

Peace.  
A word recognized around the world, in many different languages and cultures. Peace has become such an important part of life for everyone. All around the earth, everyday, people stand up for peace in many ways. Ten years ago, the General Assembly declared an International Day of Peace, after it had been celebrated every year since 1982 without recognition. Now every year on September 21, the entire world participates in a day of peace. This day brings rival communities together, enables medics to distribute food and medicine to war stricken and dangerous areas, and helps bring the world together as a whole.

The Friends' Central community has been celebrating Peace Day for many years now. Annually, something is planned to celebrate the day and raise awareness. For the past few years, Friends' Central has been hosting assemblies or having clubs to contribute something to the day. This year however, Mr. MacFarlane and Mrs. Richmond wanted Friends' Central to make a special contribution to Peace Day and have a bigger celebration than before. They discovered the organization, One Day One Goal, which is an organization that supports Peace Day in one of the most universal ways possible: playing soccer. One Day One

Goal has had many events go on all around the world every year on September 21.

This year as well, we had an opportunity to connect to a South African Community through the CTC 10 foundation. This foundation was made to honor the memory of a former student, Chris Campbell, whose love of soccer and love of the world still lives on today through a field in South Africa and the community that surrounds it. To support our day of peace this year and the soccer that correlated with it, every homeroom made peace flags beforehand, and on September 21 they were hung all around the campus. There were also booths set up in the oval where you could buy things, have a juggling contest, or even take a shot at your favorite teacher. It was the biggest Peace Day that Friends' Central has had so far, because of its 10th anniversary.

When talking to Mr. MacFarlane about his view of peace, and why Peace Day is important, he said, "It's important because it demonstrates what is possible. It gives a glimpse, a very real glimpse, of what's possible with the



Friends' Central Peace Day Flag  
Photo by Bobir Atakhanov '13

combined will of the world to solve our problems." He also said that "the 10th anniversary has been something that we've set our sights on, understanding that the 10th International Day of Peace fell coincidentally in the same month as the 10th anniversary of 9/11." Overall, this Peace Day was an amazing success, a great opportunity to connect to different communities around the world, and a way to show what peace means to us. ❖



# Starting Off on the Right Note

By DANIEL BANKO ‘13

Our beloved Mr. Davis retired as the chorus director last year, but this year we have an awesome new chorus director. While she plans to keep chorus the way it was, she is also providing some exciting new opportunities for singers. Below is an interview I had with Mrs. Zuckman last week on her experience at Friends’ Central so far. Mrs. Zuckman moved here from Lambertville, New Jersey to join our school community.

**Daniel Banko:** First off, how have you liked Friends’ Central so far?  
**Mrs. Zuckman:** It’s been great, I’ve gotten so much welcoming support from the faculty and students. My three year-old daughter is now going to the FCS Preschool, and I was shocked to see how nice the other three year-olds were to her. She was really scared and started to cry, but they were understanding and very friendly.

**Q:** Did you know Mr. Davis before?  
**Mrs. Zuckman:** No, I did not. The first time I spoke to him was when he called me for an interview! However, I was friends with Mr. Ramsey in high school, and we still sing together in the Princeton Singers choir.

**Q:** What were your first impressions of our school and students?  
**Mrs. Zuckman:** It felt different from other places, a lot like a family, although I know that sounds cliché.

**Q:** What do you like about the chorus right now and what do you plan to change?



Mrs. Zuckman  
Photo by Bobir Atakhanov ‘14

**Mrs. Zuckman:** I like how many students are involved in it; it’s something truly unique about this school. Right now, I don’t have any dramatic changes planned, Mr. Davis has done a great job with the chorus the way it is. I want our chorus to continue to be a good ambassador to the school, such as at our upcoming concert at Carnegie Hall!

**Q:** Can you tell me more about this exciting trip to Carnegie Hall?  
**Mrs. Zuckman:** Sure, a friend of mine from Pepperdine University notified me over the summer that he is organizing a chorus to sing at the world premiere of James Eakins’ *Flowers Over the Grave of War* during President’s Day weekend 2012, and he is inviting me to bring 20 students to participate in this event! This is a first for Friends’ Central, and I hope it is not the last!

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# Senior Door: An Underclassman’s Perspective

By PETER DISSINGER ‘14

Remember Middle School, when the back of the cafeteria was typically off limits and was pretty much for high school use only? I was so scared out of my wits of that place that I don’t remember going back there once. Then came freshman year and all of sudden, rumors began swirling about this shortcut door to the cafeteria that only seniors used. Few dared to used it.

Student Council tried to debunk the “senior door” myth at the first assembly, but I still wasn’t sold on using it. It probably took me a couple of months to finally feel comfortable around High School and that’s when I said, heck, might as well try using the door. As soon as I stepped through the door, I thought I had made a mistake. The seniors were staring at me like I was committing a crime; I practically ran through the cafeteria. Soon enough however, I learned that the “senior door” was just a door, nothing else.

Except when the upperclassmen give you those looks. ❖



By Marielle Greenblatt ‘13

# Perspectives On Schedule Changes at Friends’ Central

## Pros

By SAOIRSE HAHN ‘15

With a new school year upon us, students are adapting to many changes at Friends’ Central. One of the most predominant changes this year has been the new schedule, which now includes double blocks of a different subject everyday (sometimes two), one skip day for each class per week, as well as new additions to the schedule (White and Blue blocks). Although some students returning to the Upper School don’t particularly like the changes, many find it better compared to the previous schedule. Ironically, for freshmen the new schedule wasn’t quite as daunting as it was to many of the upper classmen. We had all been used to double blocks and skip days from our classes in Middle School, so this schedule was nothing new for us.

One of the things that a lot of the upperclassmen were afraid of were the double blocks. Although they can be tough to sit through at certain times of the day, as one student pointed out “it provides a good time for test-taking, so you don’t feel rushed and are given a fair amount of time if you’re a slow test taker.” Double blocks of study hall or free periods also provide a perfect opportunity to meet with any teachers for help on an assignment, or to get some work done.

As for the skip days, they provide a chance to catch up on any work that you could be behind on in a certain class, and also gives you the opportunity to wait a day to do an assignment if you have a particularly large amount of work from other classes due the next day. White and Blue blocks seem to be getting a very positive reaction from the students. You can do anything from quiet study, hanging out, yoga, language/math labs, to various clubs that now have a chance to meet at another time besides before school, which had posed as a problem for a lot of students. There are new options every week, as well as some that stay constant throughout the year. Personally, I find these blocks particularly helpful since they are at the end of the day, so if I need to get some work done (or limber up with some yoga) it provides the perfect scenario.

Judging from the reactions of Friends’ Central students, it seems fair to say that everyone will prefer this schedule once they adjust. ❖

## Cons

By KEIRA SULTAN ‘12

While vocal group singers and the twenty freshman who raced pizzas from the dining hall to their foundations class once a week last year may have jumped for joy at the sight of certain aspects of the new schedule, many others did not have quite the same reaction. But what is it exactly about these changes that have triggered the complaints that were being murmured around campus the first several weeks of school? Is it just a dislike of change, or are there some legitimate arguments being made?

When comparing the two schedules, there are two major changes that immediately jump out, one being the elimination of the Lab/PE blocks in exchange for blue, white and community periods. Nine out of ten times when you ask a Friends’ Central student or faculty member what the great things about our school is, atop their list will be the tight knit community. And one of the things that make this especially true is the strong relationships between students. Not only does this refer to students amidst their own grades and group of friends, but across all the grades. To an onlooker, community blocks in the dining hall may seem essentially the same as Lab/PE’s, only a little less crowded. But in reality, what we have lost is something much greater: the only time in which a large majority of our student body, from across all grades can all relax and intermingle together. Ally Wirshba, a senior, shared her thoughts on this change. “I think the new schedule is taking away the feeling of community and camaraderie we had in past years. As an underclassman I looked up to the grades above me and got to know a lot of them really well. But right now it’s hard to do because of how the schedule is divided up.”

The Blue and White blocks, which replaced the remaining two Lab/PE’s, are certainly an excellent way to accommodate clubs and vocal groups. However, these blocks for teachers and students who are free are far less ideal. While teachers lose some of their free time to work and meet with students since many of them are now supervising various activities, students are frustrated at their loss of independence.

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From **Hoffman** on Page 1

**HOF** -When I was in my twenties I lived in Amsterdam for about six weeks. This summer my husband and I are going to live in Paris so we can be immersed in the life style. This will give us the opportunity to be more than just tourists passing through trying to cram in all the sightseeing. We are currently learning French so we can truly enjoy our time there.

**FC** -Have you ever met a famous person?  
**HOF** -I’ve met Judy Collins. She was a grandmother at Moses Brown, where I was head of school, for a few years. Judy Collins was equivalent to Beyonce. So imagine you were walking on campus and you ran into Beyonce. That’s how it was when I met Judy Collins. Then I really got to know her. She helped out with the chorus, and it was so remarkable watching her work with the kids. Here’s somebody I listened to growing up and there she was walking on campus. I also had the privilege of being in Arne Duncan’s (the current Secretary of Education) cabinet. It was an incredible experience.

**FC** -If you were to invite 2 famous people to dinner, who would you invite and why?  
**HOF** -Zora Neale Hurston. She wrote *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. I would love to just be able to talk to her about her metaphors. I’m also very interested in her life experiences and how she created her art. I would also invite Leonard Bernstein because he is such a brilliant musician and a risk taker. He was the classic intellectual who was always thinking ahead.  
**FC** -What stands out to you about FCS so far?  
**HOF** -So far at FCS I have seen a very bright, eager, vibrant, intellectually curious community on both sides - the faculty and students. I’ve fallen in love with Meeting for Worship. The meetings we have had are among the finest I’ve ever seen. The connection between the students and faculty is so centered on learning; not just rote learning on the surface but knowing in depth about a topic. The wonderful principles here are so clear and demonstrate the Friends’ values so well. ❖

From **Zuckman** on Page 2

**Q:** Have you been a chorus teacher before?  
**Mrs. Zuckman:** Yes, in fact this will be my ninth year teaching high schoolers. I taught at Lehigh Valley Charter School, and I have been doing private vocal lessons for a long time. I’m still the director of the Unity Chorus of Hopewell Valley in New Jersey.  
**Q:** How has working with Mr. Ramsey been so far?  
**Mrs. Zuckman:** It’s been lovely! He is the same guy you see inside and outside of Chorus, but he is not as scary or grumpy as people might think!  
**Q:** What types of music do you like most?  
**Mrs. Zuckman:** I like Blue grass and folk style music, but I like to live by the saying, “There are only two types of music: good and bad.”  
**Q:** Are you excited about your first chorus concert this winter?

**Mrs. Zuckman:** Yes! I hope that it will be a concert that is true to the nature of the chorus and vocal groups. I also plan on doing something that might involve African drumming! So it should be exciting...  
**Q:** Have you been in touch with Mr. Davis recently? Can we expect him at the next concert?  
**Mrs. Zuckman:** He has not said so yet, but I assume so! I still talk to him every so often about questions I have. Sometimes I ask myself: “WWJDD?” (what would Jim Davis do?) You might be able to see him around school, as he works in the FCS archives twice a week.  
*If you want to know more about Mrs. Zuckman, feel free to talk to her in her office! Also, consider joining Chorus! ❖*

# Powell to the People

By BENJAMIN FOGEL ‘13

Every year, Friends’ Central brings a humanities and a science speaker to our school to talk about her or his work. This year, we are privileged to host Eve M. Troutt Powell, a professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania and Jibreel Powell’s ’(12) mom. Jibreel was excited about his mom’s upcoming speech. “I’m really excited about her coming, and I think her speech is going to be great...I’m looking forward to working with her in a professional context and interacting with her in a different way. The work that she does has always fascinated me, and I love to learn about it.”  
Ms. Troutt Powell is an expert in history of Northern Africa and the Middle East and recently has been exploring the roles of slavery in those regions of the world. She has given many lectures and written numerous papers about this issue and on November 9th, she will deliver a talk in the Shallcross auditorium entitled, “Other People’s Help: Exploring Slavery & Servitude in Other Cultures.” Additionally, a “core team” will be working and preparing with her prior to her lecture. The core team is a group of Friends’ Central students who choose to study her publications as well as other related material to learn more about her area of expertise, in particular the history of North Africa, the Middle East and the role of slavery in those areas.  
This year, the core team will be meeting with Jim Rosengarten (W-32), and anyone who is interested in joining should e-mail him for more information. Eve Troutt Powell’s insight on the Middle East and North Africa should be especially interesting considering current issues going on in the Middle East and North Africa such as the “Arab Spring.” For her upcoming lecture, she will be speaking about the role of servants in the Middle East which, as Jibreel pointed out, will be especially interesting considering “...

all of the attention the book and film *The Help* has gotten recently.”  
Ms. Troutt Powell received her B.A, M.A., and Ph.D. from Harvard University. Before she started teaching at Penn, she taught for ten years at the University of Georgia. Eve Troutt Powell has been a fellow at the Institute for Advance Study in Princeton and at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. Additionally, she has received fellowships from the Social Science Research Council, the American Research Center in Egypt and in 2003 she was named a MacArthur Foundation Fellow.  
When she’s not teaching or giving presentations, “Jibreel’s Mom” spends time with her entire family, which includes her husband and two children, Jibreel (a current 12th grader at FCS) and Gideon (a current 4th grader at FCS). Jibreel told me, “She loves to embarrass me but she’s a great mom, so I’m confident that embarrassing baby pictures won’t show up in the PowerPoint (presentation).” The whole school and FCS community is invited to come out November 9th for Eve Troutt Powell’s presentation on the role of servants in the Middle East, and I encourage everyone to attend this exciting event, even if there won’t be any baby pictures of Jibreel. ❖



# Council’s Corner: October 2011

By HANNAH ALBERTINE ‘12

Welcome to the year’s first installment of Council’s Corner: a column where you can get up-to-date progress reports on the happenings of Student Council from yours truly (Hannah). Stud-Council has already put on a range of assemblies; from Minute To Win It to a....rave? We brought back Screen on the Green and had an amazing turn out! We handled the rain for the club fair with a record breaking 48 student groups.  
Additionally, we plan to hold monthly town hall meetings during Blue and White blocks to discuss your issues, such as the schedule change, the dining hall, and the cell phone policy. Our hope is to hear feedback from the community in those meetings and then assess the information in our weekly Student Council meetings. In conjunction with REGROUP, we

would like these conversations to promote the student voice.  
In the upcoming weeks we have the crowd favorite, Freshman-Senior Sibling Assembly (October 21st), French Dancing with Madame (November 11th), and more!  
If you have any suggestions for assemblies, topics for discussion, or events, please let a Student Council member know! Make sure to “like” the FCS Student Council page on Facebook. Student Council meets on Tuesdays at 7:45 in the Drama Room! Come! We have food! I know that this is going to be a great year, and I can’t wait to see what we can do! ❖



# Club Craze

By EMILIA WEINBERG ‘14

Each year as the Club Fair rolls around, students prepare to sign up for The Quake, Student Council, *Focus* and other major school clubs. However, this year some new clubs took center stage.

First, the Food Club enticed potential members with delicious mousses made by one of its leaders, Jake Bessen. When asked about the future plans for the group, Jake said, “As a club, we intend to do food tastings, take field trips, share recipes, discuss food, and also try to get together and have huge homemade family meals.” Food Club meets Wednesday (although they are thinking about changing it to Thursday) mornings in Mike’s room

So you think you can dance? Mike Nguyen, co-founder of the new club Swag Attack, describes the club as “a dance club that focuses on teaching others about hip-hop dance styles such as popping, locking, isolations, boogaloo and more”. Added Mike, “Not only are we going to teach the moves themselves, but we’re also teaching the history behind them.” Swag Attack welcomes all interested students no matter their experience or skill level and meets Mondays during Community block.

Even though Mandarin Chinese is not an offering of Friends’ Central’s language department, students now have the unique opportunity to begin to develop their Chinese skills through the new Mandarin-Chinese Club! “We’re going to start with basic language skills such as hello and goodbye, and then we will lead into language patterns and add in vocabularies. My aim is to spread Chinese culture and to help people learn Mandarin,” says co-founder, Emma Xu. Mandarin-Chinese Club meetings are held during White block in Ms. Morton’s room.

*If you are interested in starting your own club, contact Mr. Dankoff or Mr. MacFarlane. To learn about these new clubs and more, be sure to visit the Student Council Facebook page or your Google Docs for the complete club list. ❖*

# imedia: Friends’ Central Joins the Apple Craze

By JULIA STERN ‘15 AND JESSICA MILLER ‘15

A new facility at Friends’ Central this year is the Media Lab. Located on the third floor of Shallcross Hall, the media lab serves both middle school and upper school students, providing workspace for Photography, Media Studies, and Middle School music and Media Literacy. The collection of equipment and software provides the opportunity for classes to create various types of digital media, varying from photography, video, and music composition. Although the lab is only open to scheduled classes, it is available to other classes that may be doing media related projects.

Friends’ Central stopped using the darkroom when the photography class went all digital last year. The next step was to convert the empty space into a digital lab. After the idea was proposed by teacher Josh Weisgrau himself, senior administration decided that they wanted to pursue the idea in general. “The design was then modified to account for things like fire codes, storage and office space.” After that, it was the responsibility of the business and development offices to find the money to make it happen. The development department found donors to pay for much of the cost and the renovation was completed over the summer. While Josh wrote up the initial proposal a few years ago in consultation with the arts and technology, the maintenance of the lab is the responsibility of the technology department.

There is always the library and the FCC in which to use computers, but with the media lab you have more opportunities to focus on projects of the media. The lab was not created for word processing documents, so it has different software than other labs do on campus. This software includes Apple media programs, Aperture, Photoshop, and Noteflight. Macs are used in the lab because they are used in production, and could

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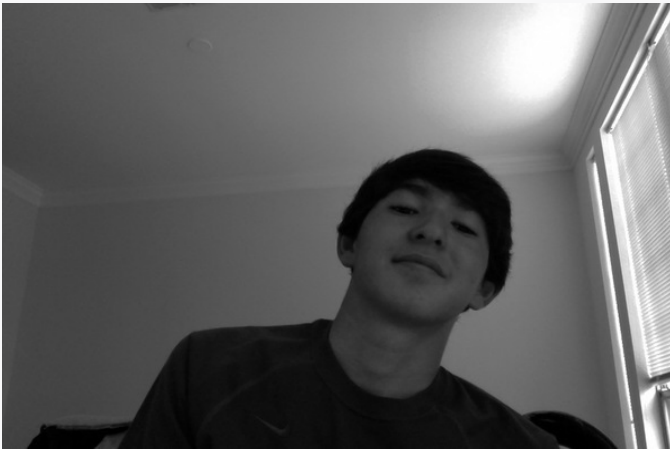
# A Tale of Two Countries

By BEN FOGEL ‘13

This year Friends’ Central was excited to welcome two new students into our FCS community:

Bobir Atakhanov has recently joined the class of 2013. Bobir, or Bob, has only been living in the USA for the past two months, but has quickly adapted to life here. He recently made the trip from his hometown in Russia and currently lives with his Uncle Sharaf (’99). Sharaf graduated from Friends’ Central 12 years ago and is currently hosting Bobir at his home in Havertown. Sharaf originally comes from Uzbekistan, where Bobir was born.

Emma (Xinyue Xu to her friends and family back home) is a new 10th grader at Friends Central who has joined the class of 2014. Originally from Beijing, China, Emma is currently living with Haley Pogachefsky and her family and will return home after the summer. Emma will have the opportunity to return back to Philadelphia and live with different host families over the next two years, to continue her schooling at FCS and graduate with the rest of her class.



From *Schedule* on Page 2

An important aspect of high school is learning to balance the increased freedom that comes along with gaining more responsibility-a skill especially important in preparing for college. Since those who are free must now be constantly supervised during those times, students have lost some of that privilege and no longer have as much of an opportunity to practice time management.

It is no doubt that the greatest adjustment to the schedule is the double blocks-something that definitely has its pros and cons. While students can’t complain about 80 minutes of their favorite blocks, or 4 classes worth of homework a night, the double blocks do have their set backs. Dr. Graham explained to me how as a result of only giving four nights of homework a week, breaks between blocks, and the rule that teachers can give students a double class to complete a test but cannot design a test to take both blocks, the teachers have lost 20-25% of their teaching time. For example, at this time in the year, her previous Modern European history classes were about 1/3rd of the way through studying the French revolution, while her current class has yet to start learning it.

For now, even for the most adamant protesters of change, there is nothing else to do but to adapt to the changes of the new schedules. But we hope that in years to come, certain concerns among the teachers and students that were listed above will be taken into consideration. ❖

Come See MIDDLETOWN!  
Friday October 28th and Saturday October 29th  
7:30 PM Shallcross Hall



From **Media Lab** on Page 4



Photo by Emma Xu '14

benefit students in the future if we learn how to use them now. When dealing with media, it is really useful to have the software that is in the lab because it “expands what [we] can do in our classes when we are dealing with media.” So, the lab is neither more or less of what other labs on campus are, but it is based on media projects. ❖

## Perspective on Veracross

By **EMMA XU '14**

Veracross is SOOOO COOL! This year, our school has introduced us to a new computer system, Veracross. Although it has caused many different reactions, as far as I’m concerned, it’s a great system.

As a brand new student to the FCS upper school and to the computer system, I think Veracross is a successful organizer for school information. After six weeks of using Veracross, I found it convenient and easy.

On the front page of the student portal, Veracross gives a clear view of what we have for class that day. We can check our homework assignments according to either the subject or the due date, which is quite convenient. Class resources and needed information are posted by the teachers, and we can check on them everywhere we go. In fact, the teachers can adjust the assignments eas-

ily. (Mr. Morris showed us how he can change a date for the assignment in class one day; it’s quite fast for teachers to push the due dates a little further.) Veracross links us up with teachers and parents, leading to better communication between family and academics.

I had trouble with Veracross the first week I got here. My schedule didn’t show up on time until a three day delay, and I was freaking out because I was so new and didn’t know what to do at all. But as soon as everything went on its way Veraross became an important part of my life here. It helped me so much with arranging my free time and I haven’t forgotten a single assignment yet.

As time goes on, I believe everybody will adapt well to Veracross. And as Veracross gets integrated into our daily lives, we will find how many advantages it has. ❖

## What’s All the “Yap” About? - Kiwi Yogurt vs Yapple Yogurt

By **HANNAH KAMINSKY '15**  
and **MARISSA GRATZ '15**

Currently a popular food trend for teens is frozen yogurt, more specifically Yapple and Kiwi. We decided to take a look into why these places attract so many teens and what the differences between the two are. When we talked to the employees of Yapple, at the Wynnewood shopping center and Kiwi Yogurt in Haverford square, they both said that frozen yogurt is so popular due to the ability to self serve, and its nutrition factor. While we were looking at each frozen yogurt establishment, we discovered some differences between the two and also surprisingly many similarities. We decided to check out these places to find out what made this new delicious frozen treat so irresistible.

When we talked to the employees at Kiwi they said around 3:00 to 3:30 smaller children buy yogurt with their parents, but from around 5:00 to 10:00 college kids are the majority there. We noted that not very often do high schoolers or middle schoolers stop at Kiwi Yogurt as much as we thought. When we asked Yapple what the age range which mostly came into their shop

was, they stated that around 3:00 to 3:30 middle schoolers are mostly purchasing yogurt. After that time period they see a range of ages from 14 to 21. When looking at each of the yogurt shops’ locations we decided that Yapple’s location is geared more towards younger kids, especially “tweens”, as opposed to Kiwi that seems to attract college students. In Wynnewood, where Yapple is located, there seems to be much more of a variety of shops and eating places to choose from, which has a lot to do with the age range that they experience there.

Unlike Wynnewood, Haverford (where Kiwi is) doesn’t have a ton of places to go to or at which to eat. When we asked both yogurt places, they responded saying that they have freshly cut fruit being replaced as often as possible. When we observed the toppings bar at Kiwi, we noticed that there isn’t as much of a variety as Yapple, but the way that toppings are served is more convenient. Instead of having every single topping scooped out of a tin, there are about ten or so containers that you put your cup under and turn a dial to dispense the toppings of your desire. While visiting

the two yogurt shops we got to taste chocolate frozen yogurt from both of them. The chocolate at Yapple was much richer than the one at Kiwi; however Kiwi’s milk chocolate was very creamy. Although both chocolates were very delicious, it is definitely based on what you prefer: dark or milk chocolate? So, try Kiwi...and Yapple!! ❖



Photo by Hannah Kaminsky '15

## Pranksbook

By **OLIVER GOODMAN '13**

“Yo Oliver, do you know what a ‘Paloma’ is?”  
“No Idea”

In an academically competitive school like Friends’ Central, it seems people will do anything to get into college. This of course, includes many students changing his or her Facebook name so colleges can not find them. My sisters and I often make light of this situation and change our Facebook names to Deborah Leibel, the name of our mom. In addition to changing our names, we change our profile pictures to whichever family photo Deborah has chosen as hers. Then, Rachel, Molly, and I write on her wall, poke her, and “like” her pictures, sending a storm of notifications and emails to her smart-phone. While gathered around the family computer giggling, we hear a series of loud, “Owws” from Deborah, downstairs, receiving emails from Facebook such as, Dear Deborah Leibel,

Deborah Leibel has commented on your profile photo. Some of our best pranks have included changing Deborah’s name to Rosa Parks, sending a wave of notifications from her Facebook Friends, thanking, “Rosa, for all you did to advance our society.” In addition to the name changes, we set Deborah up in a Facebook Relationship with Sam Silver’s dog, Roxy.

However, these pranks seldom go one way. Often I come home to find that Deborah has changed my Facebook name to something as crazy as “Aunt Pitty-Pat Hamilton,” Scarlett O’Hara’s favorite aunt in the novel, *Gone with the Wind*, and she in turn had updated my status to say something along these lines: “Thanks mom, for continuing to change my diapers even though I’m 16!”

Let this be a lesson to parents and children everywhere, never leave your Facebook page up on the computer. ❖

## Stopping in With Dwayne

By **ANNA SORENSEN '15**

Staff member Dwayne Wilkerson has been working at Friends’ Central for almost 10 years now, and he feels it’s “the place to be!” When he first started, Dwayne worked in the Lower School, and after a year he switched to the Upper School. He has been directing traffic in the morning for three years, loves working outdoors and likes making the outside of our school as clean as it can be. To all, he seems genuinely happy every morning and when asked what his secret was, he replied, “It’s just me. I don’t have a secret.” Dwayne couldn’t imagine working anywhere other than Friends’ Central because the atmosphere is great, the kids are respectful and there is a real sense of community. In the mornings, Dwayne waves to everyone who passes and says hi. He says he hopes that this bit of morning cheer makes people’s days go by a little bit better: “I want folks to have a good day!” ❖



# Phoenix in the Phast Lane & Artist in the Spotlight

By DAN YAHALOMI ‘14 and NOAH SILVESTRY ‘15

## Yorito Nakata— Cross Country



By Marielle Greenblatt ‘13

Yorito Nakata, a dedicated runner, always works hard to improve himself and his team. As captain of the cross-country team this year, Yorito has helped the team get out to a 3-1 record.

Men’s Cross Country Coach Ed Soto sees a lot of potential in Yorito. Soto said, “Yorito was appointed the team captain this season by his coaches. He has worked hard running year round. For cross country especially, he put in a lot of time over the summer running lots of miles anywhere from 50 - 65 miles per week. He is dedicated to improving himself as a runner and has begun running 3 miles in the early morning

hours before school to get in extra work. Although Yorito is a very quiet individual he is a very important part of the success of this year’s team, as not only is he our top runner, but a leader in his actions. He ran a season best time of 18:32 at Belmont Plateau a few weeks ago. He is looking to improve on that time, as he will run that course two more times for FSL Champs and again for the PAISSA (Independent Schools State Championship race.”

Coach Soto believes that Yorito is a very talented runner and thinks that “if he peaks at the right time, he is a candidate for 2nd Team All State and FSL 1st Team.”

## Tess Wei— Girls’ Soccer



Tess Wei, just a junior, is a captain on the Friends’ Central girls’ varsity soccer team. This is her third year as a varsity player, playing the midfield position. Her speed allows her to blow by defenders, while her superior ball handling skills are some of the best in the league. The girls’ record to date is 2-1-1 but with a strong contribution from Tess, they are 1-0 in

league play. Co-captain Becca Dahle praises Tess as she says “Tess is great at setting the tone for the rest of the team early in games with her 100% effort and aggression.” Outside of school Tess plays on an extremely competitive club team where she hones her skills all year long. The FCS girls are lucky to have Tess...so dedicated to the game.

## Paula Burkhardt— Violinist

A ten year veteran of the violin, Paula Burkhardt ‘12 is an exquisite example of the plentiful diversity of artistic talent at Friends’ Central. Paula began her musical career when her mother enrolled her in a small summer arts camp. She plays predominantly classical music, and when the chance presents itself, she enjoys listening to the contemplative, profound works of Felix Mendelssohn. When approaching a new piece, Paula tries to attach herself to the emotions and ambiance of her work, while applying herself and her impression of the composition in order to achieve emotional accuracy and authenticity.

Paula believes that music can make someone a better person, and uses it to her advantage in relation to academics. The rigorous toil involved in perfecting a musical talent makes schoolwork seem less demanding by comparison. In addition, music has given her the opportunity to open new social doors through music programs and orchestras. For Paula, music is both a positive, eternal presence as well as a unique aspect of her life. “I can’t really think of anything that affects people in the way that music does.”

If passion and awe are what define a true musical talent, then there isn’t anyone more talented than Paula Burkhardt.



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