



FOCUS



BACK TO SCHOOL

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One to One with Schuster

By EMILIA WEINBERG '14 and CHIARA NEILSON '14

Dr. Schuster's office sits on the first floor of the Main Building. The walls are covered in brightly-colored Post-it notes, containing a variety of words, phrases, lists, and math equations. She prefers to keep it this way, as she says that Post-it notes tend to get lost too often on her desk. So what is it that these notes say exactly? They're all for one purpose: to help Friends' Central run more smoothly.

Dr. Schuster is not only new to our community (she just started at Friends' Central this year, having previously worked at The Flint Hill School in Northern Virginia), but her position, Assistant Head of School For Academic Program, is new to Friends' Central as well. Her job focuses on providing Friends' Central with more student support on campus as well as helping

the school get ready to go "one to one" (each Friends' Central student will get his or her own iPad next year). Dr. Schuster, along with many other teachers and faculty, is working to make Friends' Central's students (pre-K through 12th grade) more interconnected. Her goal for the coming years is to help create an even greater sense of community throughout the entire school. Along with her administrative position, she also teaches 6th



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Kobe Finally Meets Xu

By EMMA XU '14

You probably saw it on Facebook. You probably heard from other people. You might have seen it on NBA-China. It was a historical moment when Kobe Bryant met me, his biggest fan, near Beijing Olympic Stadium.

It was a miracle that this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity fell upon me this past August. In my last week of summer camp at Wharton Sports Business Academy, I got a call from my friend who manages my website, KobeChina, with me. She said that Lenovo wanted me to be at their one-day endorsement event in Beijing to work with Kobe Bryant and his team. Every year, Kobe's China tour is the most significant event for my fan club and, as dedicated as I am, I had to make this day the most special of them all. Since Chinese Valentine's Day was the day after the event, what could have been better than

to bring a bundle of 24 red roses?

Throughout the day, as an onsite worker, I had to follow protocols from Kobe's bodyguard. (These rules included no autographs, no pictures and no body contact.) Nonetheless, I hid my roses in a corner at the event and promised myself that, no matter what, I would give them to him. At the very end of the event, as he was walking past me, I raised my flowers and called out his name. I knew for sure that he would not turn down such a gift and, just as I imagined, he walked over and took the flowers from me. I began talking to him about Philadelphia and Lower Merion. He was both surprised and moved to hear that I chose to come to Philadelphia because of him. Kobe said that he knew of Friends' Central and always keeps updated on the schools in the area. In the end, I gave him the biggest hug and said, "I love you," which I had

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Top Ten List: Senior Memories

By PETER DISSINGER '14

The idea of a "Top Ten List" article is a novelty to *Focus*. The inspiration for this idea came from a supplemental application for a university I am applying to: they asked a kind of Top Ten question, and out of all of the prompts I have seen, this one ranked as the most fun and engaging! Eventually, I realized that this would be a great way to celebrate and highlight the seniors at *Focus*; the instructions are purposefully ambiguous, which allows for creativity and variety. After getting the go ahead from my fellow seniors at *Focus*, I started thinking about how I wanted to kick the year off for this column. I decided, after much debate, to dedicate this list to the Class of 2014...Stay C14SSY guys!

1. Echo Hill (7th Grade): A true grade bonding experience. We have so many great memories of that week spent in seclusion: exploring the Chesapeake, milking cows, doing the Flying Squirrel, and even building a hut on the beach "Survivor Style." And, of course, we can never forget the outhouses. You don't know stink until you've been inside this compound. I know I'll be revisiting the Echo Hill video before I graduate - who doesn't love hearing our younger selves talk on camera!

2. Prom 2013: We took pictures, we danced, we had fun and we'll have memories of the awesome time we had that weekend. Hopefully Prom 2014 will be even better!

3. Freshmen "Bench Parties": If you talk to Mr. Darling, he'll tell you that our class loved to hang out on the benches in the middle of the Oval; he might even say we were a bit annoying! We could easily fit 10 people to a bench, and I can fondly remember bonding with a lot of the new students in our grade here.

The class of 2014 at the Philadelphia Zoo for their Earth Force Convention



4. The Animal Farm Music Project (8th Grade): Another sentimental favorite! I loved watching all of the groups perform their "choreography" (using the term loosely here) and sing renditions of our favorite pop hits. My group, "Lady Baba and the Black Sheep," had so much fun performing! It's a shame we didn't win but everyone remembers my classic line: "I know that I want you and you know that I need you." Check out the Facebook video if you want a laugh!

5. Carlos' 9th Grade Party: The party that Carlos hosted in 9th grade was our only "all grade" party. I'm pretty sure almost all of us were there. We crowded ourselves down in Carlos' basement for as long as his parents would have us! We had a fun time that night, attempting to dance (before there was dub-

step!) and awkwardly sitting outside talking about important freshman things! Who could forget DJ Jerome's spot-on job with the music!

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From Top Ten List on Page 1

- 6.** Meeting for Worship at the Beach (Sophomore Year): While it wasn’t the most beautiful day and the bus ride was super long, that Meeting for Worship still resonates for me as our grade’s best. There was a certain calmness and beauty at the beach that is hard to replicate at Friends’ Central. Matt Strahan’s coming out speech set the tone on an uplifting and joyous note, inspiring a lot of us to follow suit.

7. 9th Grade Day at the Ropes Course: Who doesn’t love a good day at a ropes course? I can remember having to hoist almost my entire homeroom through the “Spider Web” on the Low Ropes course. We had more than a few spills during that activity. I also remember doing a “trust” jump, where we strapped ourselves into harnesses and convinced ourselves that it was okay to climb up a tree and then fall backwards. That was not only terrifying, but a good laugh for the entire homeroom. Shout out to the “Big Macs”!

8. Playing Oregon Trail in Computer Class (4th Grade): Of all of the great computer games we played in Lower School, Oregon Trail was definitely the most memorable. This goes way back, and a lot of our grade wasn’t even here then, but when our grade played Oregon Trail, we went hard! We had disease lists, strategies to find food, etc. Every-

- one would go crazy when they finally made it to Oregon, even if it was only on a computer screen!

9. 8th Grade Showcase: Another one of our “bonding experiences” - mediocre singing, clumsy dancing, and Oscar-worthy performances galore. We took Frank Loesser to a whole new level. Who doesn’t remember our rendition of “Big D.” You’re from Big D! I can guess by the way you drawl and the way you dress! Shout out to the art team as well. I’m still wearing my showcase shirt!

10. Junior Year: You can argue that all of the experiences above were bonding ones, but nothing trumps junior year. When we walked out of our last finals, jumping for joy like there was no tomorrow, I couldn’t have felt happier or more accomplished. Junior year was an incredible challenge, but the reward was great. It’s a special feeling that you only get to have with your own grade!

‘Top Ten’ lists are one of the newest additions to Focus. If you have any ideas for a list, or have one of your own, feel free to speak to a Focus staff member!

From Kobe and Xu on Page 1



Kobe Bryant and Emma’s “wedding picture”

been meaning to tell him for seven years. He held my hands and thanked me for all the support and the work I do to serve the fans.

Despite all the craziness, my personal experience and background made my short exchange with Kobe controversial in Chinese society. My learning experience in the U.S. was dug out by media and was I was described as “unpa-

triotic, rich and spoiled.” Many people ignored the hard work I put in to make my dream come true and, instead, focused on the fact that I left China at a young age. Others called me “not filial” to my parents and believed that I loved a foreigner so much that I was willing to study in his hometown at my parents’ expense. I have never been attacked by people like this before, and I realized it’s important to be strong and understanding under this circumstance. After negotiating with the major presses, the rumors stopped and a lesson was learned.

Although the whole event was accompanied by good and bad impact, the five-minute conversation will always be one of the highlights of my life. I can still remember the flashlights, the people around me in shock, and the fans waiting outside the event swarming around me when I came out. Do you ever wonder if dreams really come true? As far as I’m concerned, they do.

From One to One on Page 1

Grade math.

She mentioned that this job is similar to the ones she has had previously, but she was attracted to Friends’ Central when she visited and saw the teacher-student dynamic in the Lower School. She did a good amount of research before she even came to Friends’ Central, but she said that her visit to both campuses “brought it to life.” She was excited to work in a school with an extensive history. Dr. Schuster is not only a Friends’ Central faculty member, she’s also a mother to two boys (one in 3rd Grade at FCS, and the other at Stratford Friends), a lover of Hello Kitty, a fan of The Counting Crows and 80’s alternative music, and a strong believer in taking risks and expanding horizons. We are excited and delighted to welcome Dr. Schuster to the Friends’ Central community. Make sure you stop by her office and say hello; she has a popcorn maker!

Dear Georgia Fox

By HANNAH KAMINSKY ‘15 and SOPHIE MACFARLANE ‘15

This year, Focus has decided to start running a monthly advice column. If you have any questions about Friends’ Central for our columnists, feel free to email them to eweinberg@friendscentral or pdissinger@friendscentral.org

Dear Georgia,

I want to heat up my chocolate chip cookie in the cafeteria, but every time I put it through the toaster it catches on fire! How can I heat my cookie up without it setting off the fire alarm and possibly burning down the whole school?!

Sincerely,
A cookie lover who wants some warm cookies

Dear Cookie Lover,

This is a problem that all of us have faced. I have a couple of perfect solutions to your cookie problem. The first is, instead of putting your cookie in the toaster and putting your own life and others’ lives at risk, put your cookie on top of the toaster for a couple of minutes to warm it up, but make sure you clean off the top of the toaster if any cookie residue is left on it when you’re done. If you’re a waffle lover too, then we have another tip for you! While you are standing around waiting for your waffle to cook and want to have a warm cookie to complement the waffle, you can save time by heating the cookie on top of the waffle maker! Then instead of just getting a yummy waffle, you get a yummy waffle AND a warm cookie in the same amount of time. I hope that I helped you with your cookie issues and made your eating experience at FCS a little bit easier.

Sincerely,
Your friend Georgia Fox

Dear Georgia,

I have this camo cropped spaghetti strap tank top that I just bought and I want to know if I can wear it to school! It would go perfectly with my jean shorts! Is this acceptable to wear to school?

Sincerely,
Confused and Underdressed

Dear confused teenage girl,

Although this outfit sounds delightful, it’s not suitable to wear at FCS. The school dress code bans camo, crop tops, and spaghetti straps, so this outfit would be less than ideal. If you wore this outfit, you would be asked to change into something more appropriate, which would be very awkward. Those jean shorts could be paired with a different shirt, just as long as the shorts are not shorter than the length of your arms. Remember, at school you must dress in a way that is suitable for more conservative events like going to see your grandmother. However, this doesn’t mean you have to change your style to suit the dress code; it just means that you have to change what clothes you choose to wear.

Sincerely,
Your friend Georgia Fox

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Fresh Faces at FCS

By CAROLINE BARTHOLOMEW ‘15 and ANNA SORENSON ‘15

This year at Friends’ Central, we are joined by some new faces: Sarah Garnitz in the Literature Department, our new science intern Allison Bishop, and the new technical director, CJ Keller. Instead of having a simple interview, we asked Garnitz, Bishop and Keller more engaging and entertaining questions so that the rest of the Friends’ Central community could get to know these new teachers better.

CJ Keller



Background: Keller previously worked at Friends’ Select, the Curio Theatre Company in Philadelphia (where he still acts!) and the Walnut Street Theatre. His interest in technical theatre sparked because his dad was a handyman, but also to supplement his acting jobs. Keller has done theatre acting in Philadelphia as well as commercials for products like Campbell’s Soup.

Favorite high school memory?

Running for the track and cross country teams at Lower Merion High School and winning a Central League championship.

First concert?

George Clinton in Parliament P. Funk

Favorite vacation spot?

Popham Beach, Maine

Hobbies?

Golf

Favorite Movie?

One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest

The coolest technological thing you’ve done?

At the Walnut Street Theatre we made an actor appear to be flying using vapor trails.

Sarah Garnitz



Back-ground:

Garnitz spent two years at Ameri-Corps, where she worked with refugees in an after-school

program. She then worked with a non-profit in Boston that inspired kids to write through soccer. Most recently, she worked at Rutgers University teaching undergraduate students while she earned her MFA in creative writing.

What is your favorite restaurant in Philadelphia?

There’s a restaurant in Philly called Modomio and they do family-style dinners on Sundays, so they bring out this incredible amount of food. They pace it so you sit for three hours, and when you think you can’t eat any more, they give you a little time, and they bring out more. It’s fantastic and it’s a really fun place to go.

Do you have any hobbies?

I really like going to concerts and listening to music. I’m a writer so that’s my most time-consuming hobby. I went to school for my MFA (master’s in fine arts) in creative writing, so I just finished my manuscript...That’s probably the hobby I spend the most time doing. I also love traveling and I backpacked through Europe this summer.

What types of music do you like?

I like a lot of different music. Growing up in Atlanta I grew up with a lot of hip hop, so I like hip hop, and I really like indie rock. I just went to a concert called Shovels and Rope, and they’re indie rock and they’re great....I also grew up with a lot of rock and roll, and Motown.

Do you have a favorite book out of the curriculum?

I’ve taught The Things They Carried before and I really like teaching that, so I’m looking forward to that one.

Allison Bishop



Background:

Bishop graduated from Swarthmore University in 2011 and while there, she was an engineering major.

What’s your favorite restaurant?

This place

called Capagiuro in Philly, it’s a gelato place that I’m completely obsessed with. And I like Bobby’s Burger Palace. And there’s a lot of good Ethiopian food around where I live (in West Philly).

What types of music do you like?

I listen to a bunch. Happy, current pop music, whenever I’m in the car. I do a lot of swing and blues dancing so a lot of the music I listen to is ‘30s and ‘40s music - like Ella Fitzgerald back to back with (current day renditions like) Gordon Webster.

What are your hobbies?

There’s four weekly dances at a place called Lindy and Blues in Philly, and I run one of them and help with the other ones. I do pottery - there’s studio in West Philly where I rent space....I really like making mugs.

Do you have any favorite books?

I love John Green’s stuff. I really like Robin McGinley’s books. Also Kristen Britain, and the book Good Omens by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman.

What type of science are you most interested in?

I studied engineering in college so I do a lot of practical aspects of physics. I love growing plants so working with John (Gruber) is really exciting...he tells me all the things about them I never knew.

Days Off ON

By JULIA BARR ‘15

As a junior approaching my final year of Upper School Service, it is bittersweet to realize that this is my last year to participate with the rest of the school in five days of off-campus community service. Every fall and spring, I look forward to Service Days, not only for the break from regular classes, but also the special opportunity to get to know more Friends’ Central students as well as helping out in the broader Philadelphia community. Having participated in two different service projects, I have learned from Service Days to treat every person and place I encounter, regardless of their condition, with respect and integrity.

Last year, when working with Habitat for Humanity, I had the chance to go into houses, houses that I have often passed by without much thought, to meet their owners and to make their houses into homes that they can be comfortable and happy in. The

minute we arrived, the staff of Habitat for Humanity put us to work, cleaning, covering and moving furniture, painting, installing dry-wall and many more tasks. Every day I left exhausted, but excited to return the next day. Although the work was not easy, we could see the progress we were making, and it was satisfying to know that what we were doing was really making a difference in someone’s life.

This year for the first time, the Seniors hosted a Service Fair for new students, underclassmen and anyone wishing to switch service projects. Students were able to discover what projects and opportunities are available to them in the upcoming year and to learn a little more about each service. In the end it proved to be very informative and a good opportunity to discover a new project.

The Focus Staff wishes everyone a fun and productive Service Days.

Meet Walter, A Friendly, Straight-Up Guy

By MAYA ROSENBERG ‘14

Not many know him by his first name, but everyone has seen him at least once in their Friends’ Central career. His name is Walter, and he works behind the plate and silverware slide in the Dining Hall. Walter, who started working at Friends’ Central in the fall of 2010, comes from a huge family; he has 3 siblings and 12 nieces and nephews, with whom he likes to spend time.



One of his favorite things at Friends’ Central is getting to know a student by name, so he says students should not “be afraid to come over and introduce themselves!” So far Walter only knows a few students’ names, so come and increase that number! You can talk to him about anything from sports (Walter played football, basketball, and baseball,) to Dining Hall staff traditions (some of which include an end of the year dinner and a pollyanna) and even your questions concerning the Dining Hall. One of the things that Walter thinks everyone should know about him is that he is a “straight up person, and always treat[s] people the way that [he wants] to be treated.” So next time you put your dishes in the slide, lean your head in and introduce yourself to Walter. You will be glad that you did.

Throughout this year, Focus will run a column highlighting different staff that work “behind the lines” of Friends’ Central, including personnel from the cafeteria and maintenance team.

From Dear Georgia Fox on Page 2

Dear Georgia,
I have been late to every single one of my classes! The problem is that my locker is in the language building and most of my classes are in the Main Building and FCC. Do you have any advice for me?
Sincerely,
A stressed FCS student

Dear stressed FCS student,
I have the perfect solution for you that will ensure that you are on time to each and every one of your classes. Instead of placing all of your books in your locker, just carry a backpack! This way, you will not have to worry about being late to your classes and you will have everything you need with you at all times! If you are worried about your backpack being too heavy to carry around all day, I have two extra little tips for you! Instead of having HUGE 5-subject notebooks for each class, buy 1-subject notebooks for each class to start out with. When you get to the end of a notebook, just put another one in to replace it. If you are more of a binder kind of student, then instead of carrying around a binder for each class, put all of your classes in one binder separated by dividers, or group classes together to share binders. Also, be sure never to leave your backpack under the FCC stairs. You wouldn’t want to prevent your fellow students from escaping in case of an emergency!
Sincerely,
Your friend Georgia Fox

Our New Psychologist

By HANNAH WENCZEL ‘15

One of Friends’ Central’s new faculty this year is Wendy Simkin, our school psychologist. Wearing a permanent smile, her warm and welcoming demeanor allows one to feel very comfortable talking to her about anything Dr. Simkin is from the Philadelphia area and has lived here for most of her life. Since she was twelve years old, she has known that what she does currently has always been her career choice. As a teen, she was a camp counselor, lifeguard and swim instructor; all of these jobs were all centered around working with children and families. Simkin

loves working in schools because you “get to work with teachers, kids and families... and you can make much more of a difference.” When she speaks about her job, the passion she has toward it is clear in her voice. However, she also has a fun side. She spoke of her favorite TV shows—Castle, Bones and Grey’s Anatomy to name a few. She has even dropped in on a few *Focus* meetings to say hello and ask about our upcoming issues. Lucky for the Friends’ Central community, Dr. Simkin hopes to continue her work here for many years to come.



Senior Siblings Assembly: A Bonding Experience

By KATE FORREST ‘14

You’re 14, and it’s your first day of high school. You’ve heard what high school can be like: filled with papers, tests, and presentations. You’ve also heard that the Seniors are super intimidating. You don’t really know what to expect. You walk into homeroom, your teacher seems nice. You wonder what she teaches but you’re too scared to ask.

You walk with your friends to your first class. You pass your first Senior. He looks down on you as you struggle to open the door. You think you hear him say, “freshman,” in an irritated voice. But, when you finally open the door, he gives you a genuine smile and says, “Thanks.” He understands because he was once an intimidated fresh-

man, too. Soon enough, you come to learn what seniors are really like, they are friendly and engaging. You have the occasional PE class together, they lead the club that you’re in and they make you laugh in assemblies.

While Freshmen are widely accepted as an equal part of the community, it’s not very often that a Senior and Freshman interact with each other. But every year, we all look forward to one special assembly where these two polar opposites come together as one. It’s only for those lucky enough to be born into the role, but the Freshman-Senior Sibling assembly is a great community-bonding experience: we’re not all that different, even if a few years separate us.

Edges: The Fall Revue

By ROSE GENDELMAN ‘15

This fall, we are happy to announce that the Drama Department’s play will be Edges, written by a Friends’ Central alum Benj Pasek and his partner Justin Paul. Edges is not your average play; it’s a musical revue. That means there isn’t a continuous plot or repeating characters, and every song is its own scene. However, the play tackles the overall theme of being a young adult. The songs are funny, sad, emotional, touching, and very relatable. Edges is being performed all

over the country, so Ms. Guerin thought we should perform it now, when Benj and Justin can work with us before they become superstars! Their schedules are extremely busy already - they’re being flown all over the country - so we are lucky to be able to work with them at all. We are so excited to perform Edges, so come out and see the play!
Pasek and Paul’s Emmy-nominated musical A Christmas Story is slated to return to Broadway this holiday season.

New Marriages

By STEFAN SULTAN ‘15

Over the past summer, three different members from the Friends’ Central community were married. Josh Weisgrau was married this past August to Kristen Gwynn, in July, Jim Davis and his partner were married on Staten Island, and Mr. Vernacchio married his partner of over 20 years.
The latter two marriages were the direct result of the historic repeal of DOMA, which gave LGBT partners the rights to federal marriage benefits. Of special interest is Mr. V’s marriage, because he and his now husband, Michael, were one of the couples in Montgomery County that got a marriage license from Bruce Hanes, who disagreed with the Pennsylvania law banning gay marriage. When Mr. V found out about the issuing of licenses he said he was delighted. The couple received their marriage license on July 31st and were married on August 14th.
Although a Montgomery court recently barred Hanes from giving out any more licenses, they did not deliver a ruling about the licenses that had already been issued. Therefore, these licenses are still viewed by most as valid, so Mr. V and his husband are technically still married. When asked about the future of marriage equality, Mr. Vernacchio said that he is hopeful that Pennsylvania courts will overturn the ban and that within 5-10 years there will be marriage equality in all 50 states.



Moore on Race

By DR. PATTERSON and MS. PEREZ on behalf of the Upper School Diversity Committee

On Wednesday, November 6, FCS will host Dr. Eddie Moore, Jr., Director of Diversity at Brooklyn Friends’ School in New York. Dr. Moore, or Eddie as he likes to be called, received his Ph.D. in Educational Policy and Leadership Studies at the University of Iowa. During his day with us, he will make time to speak with the student leaders of BSF; to speak with black teachers from all 3 divisions (plus the maintenance dept. and food services on this campus); and to speak with the 11th-grade humanities teachers about texts in the curriculum that use the N-word. Eddie has spoken to high schools and colleges all over the country, including relevant experiences with private schools.
At 9:50 on the 6th, normally MFW time, Eddie will host a conversation with the full student body, pre-

senting and dialoguing about, as he puts it, “issues of diversity, privilege, oppression

and leadership.” Meeting for Worship that day will occur at 11:20, with queries derived from the earlier assembly. After school, Eddie will run an upper school faculty meeting as part of our school’s commitment to exploring and discussing issues of diversity. (Last year the faculty had 2 evenings of training with diversity coordinators from Temple U.)
You can google Dr. Eddie Moore to read about him, his work and credentials. Several teachers and students in the upper school have attended Moore’s seminars and found his work to be stimulating and challenging. <http://www.eddiemoorej.com/>



Help Wanted:

Focus is looking for any 9th or 10th grader with computer skills who can join our layout team. Contact Emilia Weinberg, Peter Dissinger or any Focus Staff member if you are interested.

Phoenix in the Phast Lane

Boys’ Varsity Soccer

By MAX GINSBERG ‘14



The Varsity Boys’ Soccer team during halftime of a recent game. (Ben Kahn, Nate Kennedy, Justin Robson, Andrew DeMichele and Zander Bashaw picture)

The varsity boys soccer team has an unusual look this year. Most high school teams have a couple of seniors on the roster, but his year’s FCS soccer team has a monstrous eleven seniors lacing up the boots! Even more amazing is that the majority of the eleven seniors have been kicking it together as a group since the start of the 6th grade. We have grown up on the soccer field with each other, which makes our final year even more special. Our senior leadership is doing everything that we can to accomplish our collective goal of conquering the league. There have been multiple players that haven’t received a lot of notoriety, but they have stepped up their game this season and have helped to elevate the level of our team. The individuals that come to mind are the defensive back four which consists of seniors Andrew DeMichele, Ben Kahn, Nate Kennedy, and Justin Robson. They do a lot of the heavy lifting that does not necessarily show up in the box score, protecting our goal and making life easier for our senior goalie Jerome Allen, who has been solid for us this year.

Another player that has caught the eyes of many of his teammates is senior striker Zander Bashaw. Coming into the season there were a lot of game minutes up for grabs and Zander has clearly proven why he deserves to be a starter. He has scored four goals for the team this year and has also been very helpful in winning headers in the air. I’ve been impressed by all of the seniors, but those six have quietly and consistently helped the team. We are heading into our league play and will need the leadership and experience of all eleven seniors to lead the team to Friends’ League domination.

Girls’ Varsity Field Hockey

By ISABEL NARDI ‘14



Last year the Friends’ Central Field Hockey program lost ten girls, one short of a full field, including our goalie, with no incoming backup. Going into preseason, head coach Jody Mayer had no idea what to expect. Numbers were definitely going to be low, and recruiting fellow classmates was going to have to begin as soon as possible. The returning players knew this, and brainstorming began. Many names were thrown out, but only four students were roped in: sophomore Maddie Henry, junior Tatiana Franklin, and seniors Julie Levitan and Kate Forrest. These players could not have been more of a blessing to the Friends’ Central field hockey program. Tatiana Franklin has been a huge asset to the junior varsity team, and with her crazy fast speed has managed a few goals with many more to come! Maddie Henry, a former soccer player, is now the starting varsity goalie. Maddie is the only goalie I have ever seen to successfully use her stick in goal. Maddie has shut out every stroke taken on her this year, a huge accomplishment for a first-year goalie. Julie and Kate were thrown right into the sport and have quickly stepped up as leaders on and off the field. The two varsity lacrosse players are learning and mastering all the rules of field hockey. Both have been hooked on the defensive end. Kate has had numerous goal line saves. Julie has been a strong right defender and a solid voice on the field. We are so thankful to have them as an addition to the field hockey family and glad to have Tatiana and Maddie for more than one season!

Artists In the Spotlight

By JESSICA MILLER ‘15

Nate Ulrich, Noah Silvestry, and Dan Nemroff

Photography and videography play a very significant role at Friends’ Central, but we rarely mention the people behind all of that hard work. We recently viewed the Back-to-School Student Council video, which was filmed and edited by juniors Dan Nemroff, Noah Silvestry and Nate Ulrich. Dan, Nate, and Noah are constantly finding ways to incorporate their talents and interests into our everyday community. We value their skills, hard work, and help around FCS. They have awesome goals and projects that they are working on this year! So, we look forward to checking them out in the future!

Outside of FCS, they work on many more projects of their own. Dan Nemroff is filming screenplays and will soon be creating and filming his own commercials. He enters projects in contests with Film Riot, and works with his old camp counselor, a filmmaker in Ireland, to create short films. At school, he has helped film and edit many Student Council videos among other projects.

Nate Ulrich loves taking pictures and videos around Philadelphia and everywhere he goes. He says, “I like every aspect of it-start to finish. Everything from filming the clips to working with them in post production is extremely rewarding. When you have a final product that you can claim as something you made, it gets you super hyped.” Nate looks forward to deepening his work with FCS this year by allowing others in our community to get involved in photography and videography.

Noah Silvestry works as a photographer for *Focus* and Student Council. He also has his own photography company, Silvestography; he really enjoys the idea of seeing through someone else’s eyes. This year, Noah is excited to be “doing a lot of photo and writing work for 88.5 WXPB. I’m also working out a deal with a local clothing brand to shoot a line of clothing of theirs.”

Dan, Nate, and Noah encourage everyone to join the “Imaging Lab” this year. Not only is it a new club, but it is a fun way to learn and explore art by making videos, designing graphic art, and taking pictures. Dan advises that “if you’re interested in photography or video, don’t hesitate to start doing it. Learn what you can from the internet and the people around you. You don’t need any fancy equipment to get started!”

FOCUS

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