

Headlines

October 16, 2009

What a difference a week makes. Last Saturday I was fitting the last bricks into a small patio in my backyard and this Saturday I will be shoveling snow off that same patio.

Field Day – Monday's weather was cloudy and cool but the overall feeling was sunny and warm. While the weather put a damper on water games, our annual Field Day was a resounding success. I saw many happy faces and bodies on the ground (a sure indicator of fun for kids). Thanks to all the upper school students who were the planners and leaders of the festivities. They put on a wonderful program. Pictures are posted on the bulletin board in the front lobby.

Field trip to Pattee Library – This past Tuesday, I accompanied Teacher Barbara (Social Studies-Upper School) and the 5/6 class on a short field trip to Pattee Library to see a traveling exhibit of the winners of an annual art contest held by the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC. The 5/6 class went to see these drawings and paintings as part of their study of Native American cultures. I wish you could have seen how well our students behaved. Their assignment was to write a reaction to the piece they chose. They took the time to look at all the pieces in the exhibit and then picked one to examine more closely. Once they found their piece, they found a place at the study tables and got to work writing out their reactions. The class was engaged in the task at hand despite the new environment which featured many college students and other distractions. I love the fact that our students have learned how to manage themselves in many different environments and I thank their parents and all their previous teachers for helping to nurture this ability. It makes field trips a fun learning experience for all.

A chance meeting – Last week I had the opportunity to meet and hear Andrew Jones speak to a small gathering of community leaders. Andrew is in his junior year at Penn State and a member of the PSU men's basketball team. Andrew is also a graduate of Abington Friends School near Philadelphia. He was at this meeting to talk about the basketball program and then answer questions from the audience. I was impressed with how well this young man spoke and carried himself in a situation that would cause anxiety in others. He gave answers that were honest and thoughtful. When asked about his transition from high school to college and what the most difficult change was for him, he did not hesitate to answer the amount of practice and focus on basketball. He went on to say that the academics were easier for him because of his experiences at Abington and that his

situation was probably unique among his teammates who usually struggled with the increased academics. Throughout his talk, I could not help but think that I was looking at someone who was going to be successful no matter which path he chose.

Reminders

Save the date! - Friday evening, October 23 will be our first all-school community social event of the year. This will be a relaxing evening for the whole family, a chance to meet new members of our community and greet old friends, have some good food, listen to some music, and more. Children are welcome and we'll have several different activities for different age groups. Please RSVP to Beth Giles at the school (814) 237-8386 or by email, bgiles@scfriends.org.

Picture day – All school picture day is Wednesday, October, 28th. A photographer will be at the school to take classroom and individual pictures. While there are no specific requirements for dress, please remember everyone will be in the classroom pictures.

Snow days and school closings – We were caught a little behind in getting school closing information to you this year; who would have thought we needed to have it by October 15th? Anyhow, on days when snow or other severe weather conditions might make travel hazardous, parents should check local TV and radio for news of school closings or delayed openings. Information can also be found on many TV and radio websites. Look and listen for announcements specifically naming 'State College Friends School'. You can also call the school directly and listen to the recorded message. We usually follow the decisions made by the State College Area School District since so many of our students ride State College busses. In the event of an early dismissal, parents are notified in advance via phone or email. If school closes early due to weather, parents who drive their children are responsible for arranging early transportation home.

Please enjoy your weekend.

Warm Regards,

Dan