

Halloween at Friends - This week it was possible to feel the excitement build among the students as today approached with the anticipated arrival of Baba Zsa Zsa and the transformation of our school into a haven for ghouls. For our teachers, this day couldn't come soon enough either; but for a different set of reasons.

As I write today, I have already witnessed the havoc that this holiday wreaks on the school. Children are running and screaming in the halls, green worms are being eaten and Baba Zsa Zsa cannot stay out of the classrooms. I would say this year was another success. Thanks to all the parents who helped with this celebration and to Teacher Mary for coordinating the event. It was enjoyed by all.

Wedding Smiles - Congratulations go out to Tr. Dorothy and John Tait. Last Saturday afternoon the rain clouds parted and the sun shone down as they married in a traditional Quaker wedding ceremony. During Meeting for Worship last Friday, students were asked to close their eyes and think of a time that Tr. Dorothy made them smile and return that energy to Dorothy. Within a minute, the room was filled with a hundred smiling faces. We all felt the energy of those smiles in the room and I hope Dorothy did too.

The Newsletter is Here – Our first edition of the school newsletter is attached to this email and headed home in the backpack express. In addition to news about upcoming events and pertinent information, our newsletters will have features about our teachers and news about our alumni from the past thirty years of Friends School. Please take the time to read this today.

Thank You - Thank you to all who helped prepare for and attended our *Autumn Evening at Friends School*. Great music, food and company were enjoyed by all. Please visit our website to see the current list of community offerings available.

Reminders

Theme Week - November 12-16 is our all school theme week and this year's theme is Food. Theme week is a tradition at Friends School. During theme week, the school comes together to study a topic of interest in a truly integrated fashion. We place students into mixed age groups that attend the various theme based activities offered by all of our teachers.

BMX – I got my tickets. I am very excited about getting a tour of the Camp Woodward and a show from school parent and champion BMX rider Kevin Robinson. See the newsletter or website (www.scfriends.org) for more information. Send an email to bgiles@scfriends.org or call the school at 237-8386 to reserve your spot!

Conference Days - In addition to teacher conferences, I will be available for conferences with parents. These meetings are open ended and can include whatever is on your mind about the school. I would be

very interested in hearing about what you have to say. Please call the school to arrange an appointment.

Swine Flu – The Flu is here. I speak from personal experience. There are many permutations but the constants seem to be 100°+ fever, congestion and a cough. Despite our best efforts, influenza seems to be spreading in our school. Currently, our absenteeism is higher than normal and much of this can be attributed to “flu like illness”. Our continued vigilance is necessary. This past week we have sent several children home and will continue to do so when the following symptoms are present:

- Students with a fever of over 100° will be sent home.
- Students with a temperature of 99° and other observable symptoms will also be sent home.

Parents, I am again asking for your help to minimize the spread of flu in our school. In addition to good hygiene, please have a plan in place if a child does get sick. Also, a child must be fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine before returning to school. Personally, I had wonderful time staying home with Anna. It can be a great opportunity to spend quality time with your child even if your job suffers and you find yourself working nights and weekends to catch up. It was for me.

Flu Shots – Distribution of flu shots is going slower than hoped. However, I did learn from health professionals that parents can call their doctors or pediatricians regarding availability of flu shots. School age children are in a high priority group and may be able to receive shots through their physician’s office. If there are no inoculations available, you can call the State Health Service located on Hamilton Avenue (865 0932). They are a provider of last resort and have a limited number of shots available for folks in high risk categories.

That’s all for now. Have a spooky and safe weekend

Dan