Dear Friends,

Often as I have written about Stratford Friends and the education of our students, I have used a construction analogy—Stratford Friends School sets the foundation for students’ future success. The teachers and students work together to place individual bricks as the foundation gains strength. This analogy simplifies but clearly illustrates the relationship our students and teachers have, and the work done every day at Stratford Friends School.

However, none of that work can be done without a broader foundation. That foundation is your support. Like most independent schools, Stratford Friends relies on annual giving to close the gap between the actual cost of educating a child and the tuition we charge. Without your support, our foundation would not be stable. Right now, we are strong. That strength comes from numbers. There are many of you that give, and we thank you for that. In fact, our annual fund continues to grow. This is a testament to the feeling and sense you have for what we do at Stratford Friends. You recognize the importance of our program; the importance of meeting the needs of our students.

With growth often comes complacency: some may think their gift is not necessary since so many others give. Nothing could be further from the truth. In order for Stratford Friends to continue to provide the state-of-the-art program we do, we need everyone's support.

Our students receive 120 minutes of literacy instruction (integrated reading and writing) everyday. No other school does that! Our Innovation Center provides a technology workshop for students to research, build, and code like never before. These are just two examples of the great things happening at Stratford Friends that are made possible through your support. Your gifts directly impact our students every day.

Think about it, what greater gift can you give than that of an education to a child who otherwise might slip through the cracks or never reach his/her full potential? Stratford Friends opens doors to students’ hopes and dreams, enabling them to achieve on a level they didn’t think possible, but that we always knew was possible. There is no sense of “can’t” here. Our students can and do. This is through the dedication of our teachers. They work tirelessly to provide educational opportunities and character development, so our students not only build up areas of need; they also strengthen who they are as people.

It’s not easy. It’s even a little messy sometimes, but the fruit of the labor is in the successes of our graduates. Many have gone on to become doctors, scientists, lawyers, and college professors. All recognize the importance of the foundation set here at Stratford Friends.

As you turn the pages in this report, look at the faces, read our accomplishments. Think about all that’s possible, because you give. Look at what you can do. You are the strongest brick in our foundation. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Timothy P. Madigan, Ph.D.
Head of School

Our teachers work tirelessly to provide educational opportunities and character development, so our students not only build up areas of need; they also strengthen who they are as people.
ABOUT STRATFORD FRIENDS SCHOOL

OUR MISSION
Stratford Friends School educates elementary and middle school students with language-based and similar learning differences through a structured, multisensory program that celebrates students' strengths, builds self-esteem, and develops self-advocacy. Guided by Quaker principles, the school provides individualized attention and instruction in an intimate, caring environment.

CORE VALUES
At Stratford Friends School, we believe in:

• Finding that of God in everyone
• Our Quaker values (Simplicity, Peace & Harmony, Integrity, Community, Equality and Stewardship)
• Providing students with the skills to be successful learners
• Educating the whole child
• Respect for individuals and their learning styles
• Teaching students to advocate for themselves
• Providing children with a voice in our community
• Supporting children's creativity
• Keeping up with current education research
• Fostering a love for learning
• Never giving up

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
John Barbis
Bill Belanger
Scott Booth
Jackie Brady
Heather Potts Brown
Kate Kidder Doerr*
Ed Driscoll
Bob Krick
Susan Larson
Madge Rothenberg
Paul Ryan*
John Schmader
Julianne Sullivan

* We thank our departing Board Members for their years of dedicated service.

HEAD OF SCHOOL
Timothy P. Madigan, Ph.D.
tmadigan@stratfordfriends.org

DEAN OF STUDENTS
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DIRECTOR OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT
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DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & OPERATIONS
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Valerie Yoder
val@valyoderdesign.com

PHOTOGRAPHY
Andrea Cipriani-Mecchi & SFS Staff
andreamecchi@gmail.com

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14
FOUNDERS' CIRCLE
$5,000 or more
Steven Berger & Laurie Loevner
Robert & Elizabeth Krick
Lucky Star Foundation
Lisa & Gary Olsen
Reuben & Mollie Gordon Foundation
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HEAD'S CIRCLE
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Lucretia & Dennis Murphy
Chester Quarterly Meeting
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David Hennessy
Kruskal Hewitt
David Hewitt
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Edith A. Pearce & Todd B. Seelig
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Sharon Wilkie & Lynne Viscio
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FRIENDS' CIRCLE
$250 — $499
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Karen Henry
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Deborah & George Koutsiourobas
Susan Larson
Sharon Levy
Little Nest Portraits
Madsen Mechanical Services
Susan McCarter
Tiffany Miccoli
Nadia R. Murray
Wendy Pecorella
Andy Poth
Shannan & Reid Schuster
Deborah T. & Leroy E. Simpson
Ed & Liz Spencer
William A. & Susan Strong
Cesiley & Scirocco Watson
SUPPORTERS’ CIRCLE
Up to $250

Anonymous
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Sam Nosratbakhsh & Meg Backus
Jeremy & Irene Bamford
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Alice & George Chittenden
Betsy Christopher & Charlie Murphy
Steven Mark Clott
Barbara Coaxum
Ben Cohen
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Jeffrey & Barbara Culbert
Kelly Cunningham
Linda Cortese & James Curtis
Letty Lee Dahme
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Richard & Lee Schultz

*Bold type denotes 5 or more years of consecutive giving.*
IN MEMORY OF

> Eleanor Z. Wallace
  K. Shannon Spencer & Richard Wallace

> P. Victor Sencindiver
  Joanne Sencindiver

> John (Jack) Keane
  Austin Keane
  Mr. & Mrs. Patrick
  Leo Hanley
  Mr. and Mrs. John P. Keane

> Stephen L. Strickland
  Daniel & Cheryl
  Strickland

> Emma Raymond
  Lucretia & Dennis Murphy

IN HONOR OF

> Kate & Rachel Roomeberg
  Jane Roomeberg

> Katje Wurzel
  Joan & John Wurzel

> Robert Kaiser
  Judie & Alan Robbins

> Clark Randall '01
  Roger & Mary
  Randall

> Anne Pedrick, alum
  Catherine Marshall & Michael Pedrick

> Jennifer Culbert, alum
  Carol Corson

> Students & Staff
  of SFS
  Diane Lewis

> Matthew Lachs, alum
  Laura & Gerd Naydock

ACADEMIC SPOTLIGHT – ROBOTICS AT STRATFORD FRIENDS SCHOOL
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics are the elements of the acronym STEM, which has become a hot topic of discussion today, from education forums and political arenas to family dining rooms. In 2010 President Obama said, “Leadership tomorrow depends on how we educate our students today – especially in science, technology, engineering and math.”

Sadly, only a fraction of American high school seniors are proficient in mathematics and express interest in a STEM career. Experts believe that the solution to this deficit lies in introducing and supporting STEM fundamentals early in a student’s education. It has been proven that educational experiences that focus on hands-on learning increase student engagement, interest and achievement in all areas of study.

We at Stratford Friends School agree! We’re developing a Program that will provide all SFS students with an introduction to STEM skills through the study of Robotics.

At the start of the 2013-14 school year, a student in our Orange Team shared his interest in Robotics. After discussions with his teacher, the student’s family donated two LEGO Mindstorms Robotics EV3 kits ($349.95 each).

These kits combine the versatility of the LEGO building concept with advanced technology. Students construct and control functional robots using interactive servo motors, color, touch and infrared sensors and an intuitive icon-based programming interface. The Mindstorms kits were incorporated into curriculum for the Orange Team and a combined 7th and 8th Grade math class.

Student response to Robotics was overwhelmingly positive. We happily discovered how well Robotics helps our students practice their collaborative learning skills while gaining valuable insight into STEM principles.

LEGO Mindstorms Robotics EV3 kits are designed for students working in groups of two to four. Because response to Robotics was so great, we stretched the size of our groups to five or six students per kit and limited our After School Robotics Club to twelve students. Interest in Robotics continued to grow throughout SFS. In May we received a grant of $2,000.00 from Friends Council on Education to expand our Robotics Program.

Our first step in expansion was the purchase of two LEGO WeDo kits ($219.90 each), designed for children aged 7-9. WeDo is a simple-to-use, cross-curricular tool that enables students to build models featuring working motors and sensors, then program their creations using intuitive drag-and-drop software. They were a huge hit with our Summer Spark students. We’re anxious to include LEGO WeDo projects in the classroom for our Red and Green Teams and in our Afterschool Robotics Club as well.

Another exciting event this spring was the return of SFS Alum Miranda Klimas, who is enrolled at Delaware Valley Friends School. Miranda brought the materials to help SFS students build two Underwater SeaPerch Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs). Students were engaged in the project and shared the testing phase of their studies with everyone. Miranda’s interest in and excitement for Robotics was “contagious” and increased fascination with STEM, especially among SFS girls.

Quaker values shine through our Robotics projects. Respect for the perspectives and talents of others and bridging differences reinforces equality. Taking responsibility for one’s self and working toward positive group outcomes builds integrity. Working out peaceful solutions can be seen as a springboard to moral growth.

Robotics engages students’ minds and their hands. They are inspired to think and question. They strengthen their communication, problem-solving and conflict resolution skills. Through these interactive activities, students learn about the role of STEM in Robotics as well as the career possibilities in those fields.

Future plans for our Robotics Program include the purchase of additional WeDo and Mindstorms kits, as well as Vex Robot Starter kits ($399.00 each). These kits include everything needed to design and build fully-functioning autonomous robots using programmable Cortex Microcontrollers and a host of sensors. Classroom curriculum allows educators to tailor projects to their students’ interests and abilities.

Watch for highlights of our Robotics Program in upcoming communications!
SUMMARY OF GIFTS 2013-14

VOLUNTARY SUPPORT $196,058*
Stratford Fund..................$142,880
Parents’ Association Events.........$19,730
Special Events ..................$23,448
Strafford Real Estate GP, LLC (EITC)......$2,500
Bank of Republic (EITC)...............$2,500

GIVING TO THE STRATFORD FUND
Alumni & Alumni Families ........30%
Other Donors ....................22%
Parents & Grandparents ........18%
Faculty & Staff....................12%
Quaker Community...............11%
School Board of Trustees ........8%

SFS ENDOWMENTS $1,020,603
(MARKET VALUES AS OF JUNE 30, 2014)

SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT ............$319,091
Financial aid for families with demonstrated need

TEACHER COMPENSATION ENDOWMENT ........$357,324
To supplement teacher salary expenses

E. MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT ......$139,962
Financial aid for children of color

TYSON SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT ..............$93,531
Financial aid for Quaker families

GENERAL OPERATING FUND .............$38,398
Reserve funds distributed at discretion of School Board

SUMMER TEACHER SUPPORT ENDOWMENT ......$33,561
For summer projects that enhance teachers’ effectiveness

R. HEWITT ENDOWMENT .................$38,735
For general operations

OPERATING INCOME $2,523,969

OPERATING EXPENSES $3,210,144
Dear Friends,

As the parent of a student, I witnessed first-hand the benefits of a Stratford Friends education through my son’s academic progress and growing self-confidence. In that role, I also developed a deep appreciation for the extraordinarily dedicated teachers and staff, who work tirelessly to address the specific needs of each student in their care. I also welcomed being part of the supportive and active parent community.

Since returning to Stratford Friends six years ago as a member of the Board of Trustees, my perspective has broadened beyond that of a parent. My fellow Board members and I are charged with supporting the mission of the School and ensuring that Stratford Friends has the resources necessary to implement its visionary educational program compatible with that mission. As a Board member, I work on a new level with faculty and staff that affords me greater insight into the operations and finances involved in running a successful school. And it is now more apparent than ever to me that without your generosity, Stratford Friends would be unable to continue its mission to provide the best possible education for its students. I thank you for your support of Stratford Friends School.

Sincerely,

Madge Rothenberg
Clerk, Stratford Friends Board of Trustees
Parent of Ben Brodfuehrer ’01

GRADUATES SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS ABOUT SFS

The faculty and staff of Stratford Friends School are always beaming with pride when our 8th grade graduates deliver speeches that they have written themselves in front of a huge crowd of people. These students have overcome major obstacles and achieved so much, we know that they will succeed in future endeavors. Here are some quotes from their speeches that really resonated with us.

Stratford was the one school that felt like home to me.

When I first came to Stratford Friends School, I was shy and had no friends. Also I had a hard time talking to kids. Now I have a lot of friends that care about me.

I want to thank my mom for finding this great school. You have always been proud and supportive of me.

When I first came to Stratford Friends School, I did not even want to pick up a book and read. Now I can, thanks to Stratford.

Thank you SFS for the memories and support you guys showed me.

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14
WHAT’S HAPPENING AT STRATFORD FRIENDS SCHOOL

MEET DIRECTOR OF ENROLLMENT PATTY PLOUSIS

Welcome to our new Director of Enrollment Management, Patty Plousis. Patty comes to us with a wealth of experience in the field of learning differences. She is an alumni parent of a Stratford Friends School graduate and served Stratford Friends School as a teacher from 2007-2013.

Most recently, Patty has served as an advocate for parents of students with learning differences. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Marketing from Kean University. Patty also earned her Special Education Teaching Certificate at Penn State University.

Stratford Friends has many friends in our community to thank for their participation in our events this year. We appreciate everyone’s generosity and support to help make these events a success.

Pictured (clockwise from upper left):
1) Honoring the Class of 96’ at the Annual Golf Outing are: Jerry Block, Bill Lehane, Steve Fay, and Bob Krick (past parent and current Board Member);
2) Sarah Schmader (past parent) and Juli Sullivan (past parent and current Board Member) support the Annual Parents’ Association Auction;
3) Lucretia Murphy (Parents’ Association President) with Sandy McHugh and Tiffany Hoyt (Auction Co-Chairs);
4) Development Director Danielle Gallagher presenting awards to our winning foursome (Rex Morgan, Bill Lashner, Mark Pfeffer, Barry Fabius) at the Annual Golf Outing;
5) SFS student enjoying a beautiful day at our annual golf outing.
WELCOME TO OUR NEW TEACHERS

MEET MUSIC TEACHER DR. KELLY GEBHARDT

We are the music makers...the dreamers of dreams. Three defining moments in my life have led me to SFS: discovering my voice and my love for music as an elementary school student, teaching my first elementary school music classes fifteen years ago, and finally, most profoundly, becoming a parent myself seven years ago. My biggest dreams — and what’s the use of dreaming small — are no longer my own; they are the dreams for my children and for the students at SFS. Music making is the path we’ll take to building our reading, writing, math, social and emotional skills — we’ll even throw in some science and history here and there. Oh, and did I mention how much fun we’ll have?

For the past 20 years, I have worked as a professional classical singer and music educator. I’ve sung with both regional and international opera companies across the U.S., and in venues such as the Academy of Music, Carnegie Hall and the Sundance Festival. As an educator, I have taught newborn through college-aged classes, am a licensed Kindermusik educator, and have taught elementary music in urban, suburban and rural settings. Most recently I resided in Skull Valley, AZ, where I taught and wrote music curriculum for multi-grade classrooms. I hold my Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Temple University and my Doctorate of Musical Arts from SUNY Stony Brook.

I’m a seventh generation native of Conshohocken, PA, and returned there after 18 years of mostly music related travel. I’ve had my wings — now I’m growing some roots, raising my two children, Cecilia Clare (C.C.), age 7 and Chet, age 5.

MEET SFS ART TEACHER MARY SAWYER

Stratford Friends School allows me to teach art to students at a different level because of the small class size. Having spent the past five years teaching in public schools, I have seen the importance that art has in the curriculum as well as a therapeutic outlet for students to relax and have fun. Using art to express themselves creatively while relating it to something they have learned in the classroom is an aspect of the job I take great pride in. Seeing the expression on a student’s face when they make that connection is what I live for.

Looking to integrate my loves of the arts with core subjects students are learning in the classroom, Stratford Friends School allows me to teach a diverse population of young minds looking for creative outlets to express themselves. I am constantly looking for exciting new hands-on projects for students to undertake.

I received my bachelor’s degree in fashion design from Philadelphia University and promptly struck out into NYC to make my mark. Little did I know that mark would be made several years later. After working and volunteering with several youth art projects, I came to realize that my path was in education. Returning to Montclair State University, I received my Master of Arts degree in Art Education in 2009.
WAYS YOU CAN HELP TO SUPPORT STRATFORD FRIENDS SCHOOL

- Cash or check
- Donate online at www.stratfordfriends.org
- Gifts of appreciated stock
- Matching gifts from your employer
- Charitable gift annuities & charitable trusts
- Life insurance policy; name Stratford Friends as the beneficiary
- Bequests—Join the 1976 Society when you name Stratford Friends in your will
- Make a United Way Pledge, Southeastern PA #4793
- Participate in the PA EITC Program

For more information, call the Development Office at 610-355-9580 or visit www.stratfordfriends.org.

SAVE THE DATE! MARCH 14, 2015
SFS Annual Parents’ Association Auction at Citizens Bank Park

2 Bishop Hollow Road
Newtown Square, PA 19073
Phone: 610-355-9580
www.stratfordfriends.org