

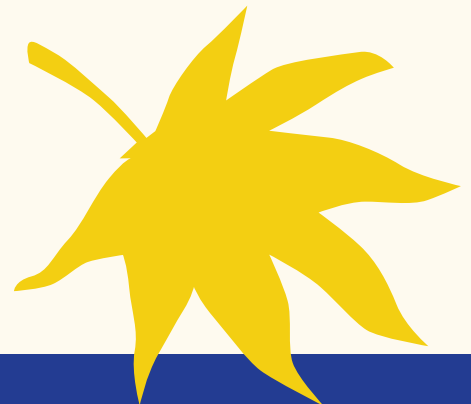


The Stratford Fund

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15



Stratford
Friends School
Grow. Learn. Differently.





About STRATFORD FRIENDS SCHOOL

OUR MISSION

Stratford Friends School educates elementary and middle-school age students with language-based 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 and Harmony, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship
- Providing students with the skills to be successful learners
- Educating the whole child
- Respecting 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 educational research
- Fostering a love for learning
- Never giving up

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Jackie Brady
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HEAD OF SCHOOL

Jill Dougherty
jdougherty@stratfordfriends.org

DEAN OF STUDENTS

Lisa Olsen
lolsen@stratfordfriends.org

DIRECTOR OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Patty Plousis
pplousis@stratfordfriends.org

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Nadia Murray
nmurray@stratfordfriends.org

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Danielle Gallagher
dgallagher@stratfordfriends.org





Letter from the Head of School

DEAR FRIENDS,

What an exciting start to the school year! It has been wonderful, getting to know the students and immersing myself in our wonderful rich curriculum. Every experience in the last few months has really reinforced my view that Stratford Friends School is an amazing place to learn and grow, and I am so honored to be here.

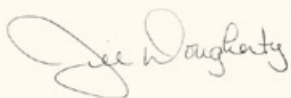
Because we believe in fostering strong independent learners who are ready for the rigors of upper school, we are emphasizing metacognitive learning strategies that will create a strong foundation for a lifetime of learning. We have adopted a common strategy language to teach students to be actively engaged in their learning. Students learn that their metacognitive strategies -- active ways to think about learning -- empower them to know how to process new or difficult content.

At SFS we also understand that skills beyond reading, writing and arithmetic help determine student success. Teachers are providing the classroom structure and are explicitly teaching skills to help students develop their executive function abilities. Executive function skills are the higher order thinking skills that allow us to set and reach goals inside and outside of the classroom. These include the ability to organize both thinking and materials, manage time and plan for short and long term projects.

Our seventh and eighth grade students are getting ready to take on the rigors of their secondary school placement. In addition to academics, Teachers Toni and Taylor are preparing students for their transition to upper school. Students are creating resumes and portfolios that will showcase their academic and extracurricular strengths. They will be documenting the strategies that propel them to success and sharing their goals for the future. As students prepare to visit new schools in eighth grade they will practice interviewing skills with their teacher so they can visit schools with confidence and share with those schools the strengths they will bring to the community.

I feel confident in the success of all of our students here at SFS, and I am proud to be their biggest cheerleader. We are looking forward to a great school year.

Warm Regards,



Jill Dougherty



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* **Bold denotes 5 or more years of consecutive giving**



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* **Bold denotes 5 or more years of consecutive giving**

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Gretchen Vare

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Diane Lewis

Students and Staff of SFS

Austin Keane

William and Louise Keane

Susan Stone

Sandy Howze

Lisa & Brian Litt

Benjamin Litt

Ellen & Daniel Dean

All of Andrew's wonderful
SFS teachers!

Abba & Cecile Lichtenstein

Sammy Lichtenstein

Sara Schrum

Sophia Woodward-Bedrick

Marjorie & Jeffrey Honickman

Scott Booth

Tiffany & Christian Hoyt

Tristan Hoyt

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* **Bold denotes 5 or more years of consecutive giving**



Alumni Return to Summer Spark

Four SFS alumni returned this year to help out with Summer Spark. Aaron (Class of '09), Anna (Class of '12), Sam (Class of '15), and Sheila (Class of '12) were able to join the campers at the pool, help them with their research projects and in the classrooms, and even teach some of the afternoon clubs.

Summer Spark is our 5 week summer camp that is designed to develop 21st century skills in a fun and supportive environment. Campers had a great time as usual. Their mornings were devoted to maintaining and strengthening reading, writing, math, and research skills. During the afternoons, they enjoyed swimming, robotics, art projects, coding, sports, and more.

Aaron introduced a new Minecraft club this year for new and experienced students. In addition to being tons of fun, Minecraft has many educational benefits. When kids play this open ended game, they develop creative expression. Along the way, they face roadblocks which require them to problem solve and collaborate and - just like real life - there are no "instructions," so students must learn as they go.

Sheila told us that she liked helping out at SFS because she got to see Tr. Jill. She also said, "I love to help kids learn and be with them." Anna told us that it's very important for Alumni to help with summer camp, "because each alum at SFS has a story and they can share their story with the students and show them that they too can succeed. They can also spend time with a student, find out what they need help with and show them how to solve the problem. It is important for alumni to remember the help they got and help the new students!"

We are so proud of our Alumni and it is always wonderful when they visit. We hope they all return next year!





S.T.E.P.S.

(SELF, TEAMWORK, EMOTIONS,
PEER RELATIONSHIPS, SKILLS)

S.T.E.P.S. is a curriculum that focuses on building and strengthening students' social, emotional, and executive functioning skills. Aligned with our mission of teaching the whole student and our Quaker values, every student participates in S.T.E.P.S. class. The class was developed by Stratford Friends School and is taught by Michelle Gagliano, our school psychologist, and Barbara Coaxum, our speech pathologist.

Meeting students at their developmental level, S.T.E.P.S. goals include, increasing self-awareness, developing self-advocacy skills, and respecting and recognizing the feelings and perspectives of others. In addition, students learn: social pragmatic skills; skills for making and keeping friends; specific problem-solving strategies; and, self-management, self-regulation and executive functioning skills. Skills progress from the youngest students learning about making friends and managing emotions to the middle school students learning how to become leaders. Mindfulness, meditation and visualization techniques are practiced to help students learn calming strategies and coping skills to deal with stressors and managing emotions.

Skills are directly and explicitly taught in classes through structured activities, such as cooperative games, role playing, problem-solving scenarios, stories, and discussions. Students learn and practice these skills in class with the goal of generalizing their learning to real-life situations. The S.T.E.P.S. program helps students become problem solvers equipped to deal responsibly with daily academic and social challenges both inside and outside of school.

Message from the Clerk of the Board

DEAR FRIENDS,

The past year was one of transitions, bringing both new beginnings and challenges. Last fall, Tim Madigan approached me with the news that every Board Clerk dreads to hear when he informed me that he would step down as Head of School at the end of the academic year to pursue a new professional opportunity. After Tim and the Board shared this news with the Stratford Friends community, we embarked on an intense period of activity as we launched a national search to hire a new Head of School. Thanks to our dedicated and tireless Search Committee and all of the Stratford Friends' stakeholders who took part in the process, the search reached a successful conclusion last spring with the hiring of Jill Dougherty as Stratford's next Head of School.

While the search was ongoing, the school continued to move forward with exciting changes and programmatic enhancements. We saw the inception of the two-hour literacy block and revised academic schedule to include science and social studies curricula. We built the Innovation Center, a state-of-the-art maker-space next to the Library, which is providing students and teachers with new opportunities to use technology for learning and creating. We introduced a new Director of Enrollment Management position that approaches the admissions process from a broad perspective, encompassing both student recruitment and retention. Last November, Stratford hired former teacher and alumni parent Patty Plousis to fill this position, and we are pleased that our all-encompassing approach to admissions is already showing promising results.

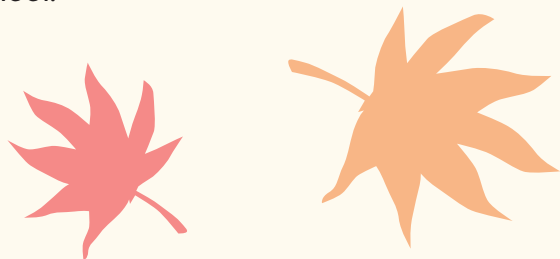
On a sadder note, Gretchen Vare, a beloved member of the Stratford Friends community and Director of Admissions, passed away in August 2014. Gretchen's longstanding dedication to Stratford will always be remembered by those who knew her and will also be recognized in perpetuity through an endowed scholarship fund that has been established in her memory.

Last spring, as we said good-bye to Tim and acknowledged his many accomplishments and exemplary leadership of Stratford, we were also looking forward to welcoming Jill and embarking on a new chapter in the life of Stratford Friends. Your support has been one constant in this year of transitions. Without financial contributions from donors, Stratford would be unable to offer specialized programming and continue its mission to provide the best possible education for its students. I thank you for your generosity to Stratford Friends School.

Sincerely,



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



2014-2015 Summary of Gifts

GRANTS AND GIFTS **\$253,290**

Stratford Fund.....	\$228,356
Parents' Association Events.....	\$24,934

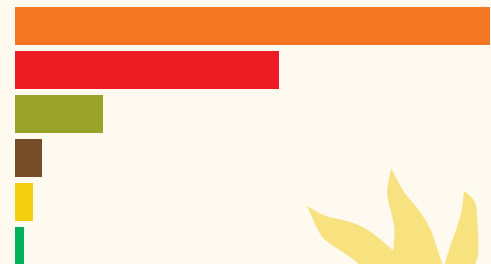
EITC

Stratford Real Estate GP LLC.....	\$2,500
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GRETCHEN VARE SPECIAL EVENT **\$163,919**

GIVING TO THE STRATFORD FUND

Alumni & Alumni Families	54%
School Board of Trustees	30%
Other Donors	10%
Faculty & Staff	3%
Parents & Grandparents	2%
Quaker Community	1%



SFS Endowments **\$1,018,294**

Market Values as of June 30, 2014

SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT..... \$318,370

Financial aid for families with demonstrated need

TEACHER COMPENSATION ENDOWMENT..... \$356,516

To supplement teacher salary expenses

E. MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT..... \$139,645

Financial aid for children of color

TYSON SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT..... \$93,320

Financial aid for Quaker families

GENERAL OPERATING FUND..... \$38,311

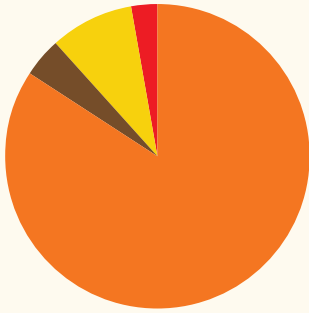
Reserve funds distributed at discretion of School Board

SUMMER TEACHER SUPPORT ENDOWMENT..... \$33,485

For summer projects that enhance teachers' effectiveness

R. HEWITT ENDOWMENT..... \$38,648

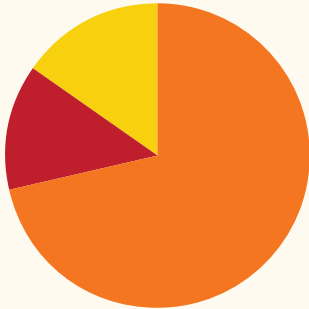
For general operations



Sources of Revenue

\$2,911,589

■ Tuition & Fees	\$2,452,608
■ Auxiliary Programs & Services	\$126,003
■ Grants and Gifts	\$253,290
■ Investment Income	\$79,688



Expenses and Allocations

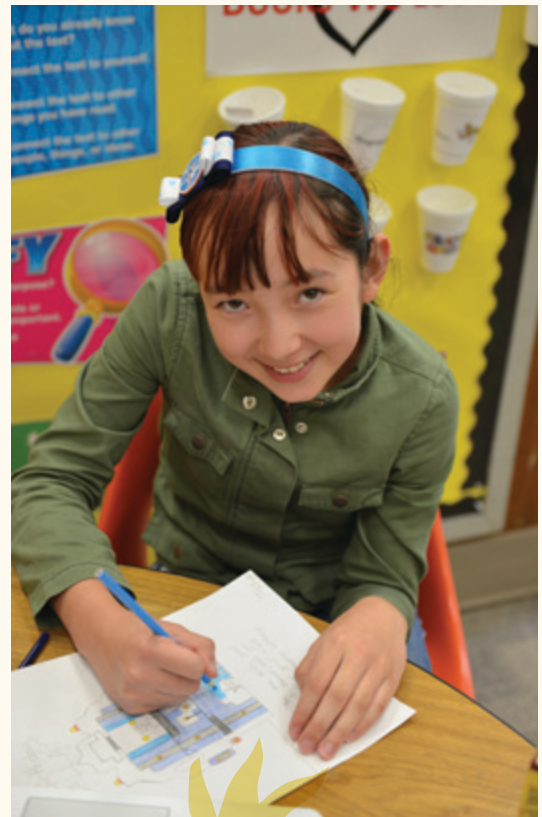
\$2,777,167

■ Education & Auxiliary Program & Administration	\$1,987,757
■ Physical Plant	\$367,737
■ Financial Aid	\$421,673

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.





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