



# The Giving Tree



## Richmond Friends School

An Independent  
Quaker School  
Established 1971

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### Faculty & Staff

Nicole Blair  
Interim School Coordinator  
Marie Nicholson  
Interim Development & Admissions Coordinator  
John Sheets  
3-6 Teacher  
Laura Josephson  
1-2 Teacher  
Marianne Cope  
Pre-K/K Teacher  
Michele Stewart  
Pre-K/K Teacher Assistant  
Emily Wilson  
Pre-K/K Teacher Assistant  
Chris Fretz  
Office Manager  
Kay Maurer  
Extended Care  
Melissa Sheets  
Bookkeeper

### Board Members

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Ellen Bennett  
Becky Dimick Eastman  
Patricia Eckert  
Jonathan Graham  
Cheri Jetmore  
Sarah Northrop  
Trayce Peterson  
Kim Tanner  
Marcie Roberts (ex officio)  
John Sheets (ex officio)  
Marianne Cope (ex officio)



Marie Nicholson

It's good to be back at Richmond Friends School!

My involvement with the school on West Main Street first began when I moved "back home again to Indiana" and my children, Katy and Christopher attended the then named Children's School in the fall of 1988. A lot has changed in the school over the past 22 years, but except for the name, much remains the same. Although the school wasn't officially Quaker in 1988, under the guidance of head teacher and founder, Chris Nicholson, those principles and values were certainly taught and were instilled in her students. As Quaker education has been so important to my own children and family (including attendance at Westtown School, Germantown Friends School and Earlham College) and has shaped who we are, it is good to see that the witness of these values and the Quaker testimonies remain intact, and indeed permeate every aspect of Richmond Friends School.

How many children would beg their parents to go to school on a snow day? In a recent conversation with a parent, when it was announced that school was closed and she would have a day off, the child responded by saying, "but Mommy, I **want** to go to school." Yesterday, when I passed through Marianne's classroom, I heard a pre-k student exclaim very excitedly "No, I can read **two** books!", when asked if he had read the one book required that afternoon. Every day I see in the kids, their happiness and joy at being here. I was trying to describe to a friend about my "new job" at the School and realized one thing that makes it most enjoyable is being around kids who receive such delight in the small things:

- the new tether ball on the playground
- the arrival of Snowflake the snake
- wearing pajamas and slippers to school for the pancake breakfast
- sitting with your pen pal at all school Meeting.

It's easy to forget all the troubles in the world and to be present in the moment when being surrounded by the joy, excitement and optimism in the kids I see each day.

I also enjoy bumping into Chris Nicholson, who in her 80's now, is still actively involved in the school, not only through her leadership in the Richmond Friends School stamp club, see article, page 4, but regularly attends our all-community meeting on Wednesday mornings. She was especially present during our Readathon in February through reading stories to the younger children and by helping many students out with pledge money. Thank you Chris and many thanks to all of our Readathon contributors! Together the students read over 2,100 hours and gathered pledges of almost \$11,000, just \$1,000 shy of our goal of \$12,000. We appreciate your support to this special school and community in which I am honored to be a part of, once again.

#### \*\*\*\*\*Fall 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events\*\*\*\*\*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • August 25<br>Benefit Concert<br>Featuring Nick and<br>Aaron Green of<br>Everyday Prophets | • October 14<br>Anniversary Dinner<br>and Auction |
|---|---|

For additional news and events at our school, please see our entertaining and informative monthly newsletters posted on our website:  
[www.richmondfriendsschool.org](http://www.richmondfriendsschool.org)

# A Very Special Thanks to our 2011 Readathon Contributors!

Fred and Cheryl Abbott  
Tomi Amburgey  
Tracy Amyx  
Cynthia Angi and Erkin Ratchford  
Eileen Baker  
Neal Baker and Aletha Stahl  
John Baker  
Martha Barker and Chuck Janzow  
Deanna and Scott Beaman  
Louise Beede  
Nancy Bennett  
Doug and Ellen Bennett  
Nelson and Gail Bingham  
Caral Black  
Mark Blackmon and Tracy Marquette  
Linda and Larry Blair  
Peter and Nicole Blair  
Paul Blair  
Doug and Stacy Brenneke  
Josh and Joyce Brown  
Michael and Louise Buckmaster  
Chris Burton  
Cathy Campbell  
Andy Cecere  
Fred and Andrea Ciske  
Timothy and Dianne Clader  
Elizabeth Clark  
Marty Collis  
Mary Ann Coons  
Hugh and Linda Cozart  
Paul Cozart  
Michael and Stephanie Crumley-Effinger  
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Denise Davis  
Daniel and Angela Dickman  
Bruce and Doreen Dimick  
Louise Dimick and Deepak Dass  
Dan and Angie Dickman  
Sara Dimick Gray and Scott Gray  
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Cindi Goslee  
Beth and Jim Graf  
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Barbara Gregg  
Cathy Grimme  
Welling Hall  
Beth Harrick  
Amanda Harris  
Don Harrison  
Lawrence and Barbara Hart  
Mike and Regina Hawley  
Terry and Edna Hebenstreit  
Ingrid Hinkley

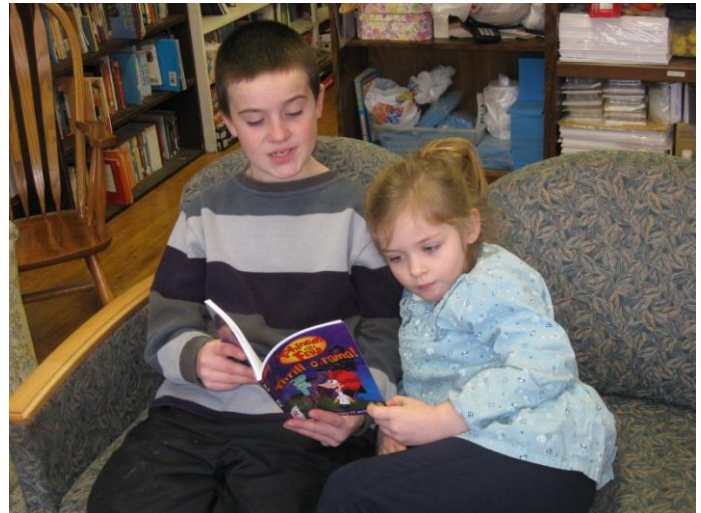
Laura and Scott Hinkley  
Melody Hinkley and Buck Cross  
Susan Hinkley  
Bessie Hogg  
Dia and Kate Hogg  
Ann Holt Hale and Roger Hale  
Crystal Houssain  
Gina Humphrey  
Cos Humphrey  
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Tony and Dawn Sonsini  
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Andi Steidler  
Aleasia and Avis Stewart  
Frank and Charma Stone  
Samantha Stringer  
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Mia Svendson  
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Roy and Jacquelyn Teng  
Anne Thomason  
Gordon and Mary-Anne Thompson  
Robert and Anne Trout  
Helen True  
Florence Wallin  
Thomas Wallin & Ginny Tuckman Wallin  
Ann Walter  
Rick and Chris Walter  
Bob and Annette Warfel  
Bonita Washington Lacey  
Matthew Weaver  
Joseph and Lynn Weisgerber  
Daniel Welbaum  
Alvin and Shirley Wentz  
Geraldine Weyermann  
Karl Weyermann  
Trudi Weyermann  
Carmen and Todd Wilson  
Susie and Terry Wilson  
Leslie and Pat Wilson

# Scenes from Richmond Friends School



Lizzybeth explains her African animal project to Kian during student presentations.



Luc reads to Mary Grace during Pen Pal reading time during February's Readathon.



Michael, Jordan, and Alex preparing pancakes for the pajama party breakfast celebrating the end of the Readathon and a job well done!



Chris Nicholson teaches students the finer points of stamp collecting (See article on page 4).



Students in John's class serve pancakes to the other students to celebrate a successful Readathon.



Students in Marianne's class have some fun testing their hula-hooping skills on the playground.

## Alumni Profile: Nick & Aaron Green

By Jonathan Graham, RFS Board Member

Next fall, as part of Richmond Friends School's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, one the school's most musical families will participate in a benefit concert in support of the school.

Caroline Klemperer-Green and her sons, Nick and Aaron Green, have all made music a central part of their lives. Caroline is well-known in the Richmond area as

co-founder of the Chanticleer String Quartet, which offers concerts in Wayne County every summer. Nick and Aaron are the drummer and lead vocalist/rhythm guitarist, respectively, for Everyday Prophets, a rock-infused reggae band based in Portland, Ore.

All three have agreed to participate in the concert because the Friends School holds a special place in their hearts.

"I made some of my best childhood friends there. I still keep in touch with a couple of them," says Nick. "I'll never forget Chris Nicholson and Sharon Wood, the teachers at the time I attended."

Aaron adds, "the school was fun and encouraged creativity. We got to do a lot of art and free-thinking."

Art and free-thinking has always been important to the Greens. Caroline earned a degree in German at Earlham, and was trained as a violinist at the prestigious Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. She has performed widely with orchestras and chamber ensembles and, with Aaron, ran a summer camp called Fiddle on the Farm on their family farm south of Richmond.

Everyday Prophets have a strong following in Portland as well as Richmond where they offer "Prophets Fest," a summertime music festival on the family farm. The band has released several CDs of upbeat, positive music that has been described by one reviewer as, "the best disco-fried reggae since Eddy Grant [did] 'Electric Avenue.'"

Both brothers feel that RFS shaped their future educational careers. Nick attended a Quaker high school and graduated from Earlham College in 2000. Aaron participated in several experiential education programs and attended Prescott



**Nick (left) and Aaron Green, alumni of the Friend School, and members of the band Everyday Prophets.**

College, a liberal arts college in Arizona, which is focused on social justice issues and environmentalism.

Caroline remains particularly committed to RFS. Although she splits her time between Richmond and New York City (where she is busy as a performer and arts educator), she makes time to visit RFS, offering educational programs that blend music, history, storytelling and theatre.

The Greens are excited to return to RFS as part of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and happy to support the school. It's an opportunity, in Aaron's words, "To help make it possible for other kids to have an alternative education."

## Stamp Club Study Club

By Chris Nicholson, Founder of RFS

"Do we have any mail?" That's often the first thing I hear as children assemble at 3:00 each Wednesday for Stamp Club. It's an exciting time to see what may have come for us. It's also the time when the children bring contributions of postal material of particular interest to other club members.

The Stamp Club consists of 11 children (including Ellie Roberts in New Zealand) who span from ages 5 to 12. We meet to share, examine, study and display postage stamps. Most of the children collect topically with transportation, sports or a particular sport, animals of various sorts, flowers, dinosaurs, or space as popular choices. Some children have more global interests—China and Hungary are countries of interest and one collector focuses on the Machin portraits of Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain.

Extra excitement has come this year because we wrote a letter in appreciation of the October, 2010 cover of *American Philatelist* which was printed in the Letters to the Editor column of the February 2011 magazine. We described our club in the letter and as a result have received generous gifts from nine stamp collectors from all over the country—Atlantic to Pacific. In addition to sending stamps, these philatelists have written about their lives in collecting, their specialties and interests. From them we have learned about postal stationary, covers, first day covers, perforations, cancellations and other postal variations. One philatelic couple is putting a small donation in the mail to us each week!! The last communication included their pictures (with their dog) and pictures of special stamps they collect. We have posted the locations of all our correspondents on our special stamp map.

I particularly enjoy seeing the developing curiosity about people, places and things all over time and the universe. It's very rewarding to see how individuals help each other in the mechanics of soaking, hinging, arranging and mounting stamps. A couple of the older boys are quick to use the computer to answer our questions about a particular country or historic event.

Come visit us! We have simple albums and stamps to share. We are also interested in contributions of postal material.