Dear Center School families and friends,

It is not unusual to hear parents tell us about the positive changes they see in their child after being in Center School for just a few short weeks. They tell of stories of their child eager to get to school and taking on new responsibilities. Their lives, and families, have changed in countless ways that they could not have ever imagined. That's why, as Center School enters its 29th year, we couldn't be more enthusiastic about the future of our school and the strength of our mission.

This year, we have experienced much growth due to the faith in which we implement our mission. This ensures not only the success of Center School but the success of our students. As the needs of our students have changed, we've responded with the addition of many curricular extensions. Responsive Classroom®, an evidence-based program, is being used to promote social-emotional growth and increase learning. Our students are also learning about the importance of reaching out to the community through partnerships with Reading Buddies and Rydal Park Community Center. As residents join us at Center School, students are given a stress-free environment to share their pride and enthusiasm in reading and to make friends with their senior partners. Through a generous grant from the Joe McKeown Foundation, students are able to provide companionship to Alzheimer's residents at Manor Care of Montgomeryville. We are thankful that both of these partnerships will continue through the 2017-2018 school year.

We've also grown within our own immediate community with changes to our board. We thank Chairwoman Sue Floyd, one of Center School’s founders, for her many years of committed service. Sue has stepped aside as chairwoman yet remains active on the board, and we are pleased to announce Jim Bickley as our new chairman of the Board of Trustees. Jim Bickley, President of Gibraltar Wealth Management, has been a board member for six years and brings a strong understanding and support of our mission. Ed Hayes, a partner at Fox Rothschild LLP, is our newest member and serves as the new vice chairman. He shares a personal belief in our mission as two of his grandchildren have experienced the stellar programming at Center School, one having transitioned back to her home school two years ago and one joining us last year.

Our faculty continues to provide our students with the well respected curriculum that has successfully served our students and upheld our mission since our founding. Collectively, our faculty has over 20 years of experience, and 71% of our faculty possess master’s degrees and are Wilson® certified or trained, including math and specials teachers. A flexible, standards-based and student-centered curriculum allows our teachers the independence to teach to the student. This level of experience and ability to deliver targeted instruction has resulted not only in continued student successes but a 11% increase in our admissions this year, and we’re still growing.

Continued on page 2...
Developing a Growth Mindset

By Linda Jarrett-Armiger, Guidance Counselor, and Mindy Wawrzyniak

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) is as integral a part of our program as academics. It upholds our mission and presents students with a clear avenue in which to take full advantage of our academic curriculum. The SEL curriculum is designed to support students’ challenges, leverage their strengths and guide students in developing the skills necessary to manage their learning, themselves and their relationships. It involves helping children to understand that their brains can change, and this is directly related to Growth Mindset, a concept based upon Carol Dweck’s 30 years of research. Growth Mindset is an idea that intelligence, creativity, athleticism, and other qualities are not fixed traits that we are born with but rather have the ability to be developed with effort and time. This idea is an important piece of our social-emotional curriculum and is our theme for the upcoming school year.

Through weekly developmental guidance lessons, students are receiving lessons in brain plasticity in order to understand the concept of Growth Mindset. Students will be taught that their willingness to “train their brains” through learning and making mistakes, effort, persistence and grit are what help to determine their successes and their ability to achieve their goals. Research shows that the brain can change and grow when we push past our comfort zones to learn new skills. Focused practice and effort can strengthen neurological pathways and form new connections between neurons.

When students understand that repetitive practice, whether with a physical, emotional, social or academic skill changes the brain, then they can recognize how this translates into success. Teaching students about brain plasticity and Growth Mindset allows students to identify their strengths, something that they may not have been exposed to before. Students then expand their knowledge of brain plasticity and another piece of Growth Mindset can be taught: the power of “yet”. As students’ self-talk changes from “I can’t do it” to “I can’t do it, yet”, they internalize that things can get better. Not only is it important for students to use “yet” in their self-talk, but when teachers use Growth Mindset language such as, “You’re on the right track” or “You’re almost there, just not yet”, students are empowered to take risks and then experience success.

As we kick off our school year with the Growth Mindset theme, our students are learning that they have boundless potential. Through learning about brain plasticity and Growth Mindset, effort and perseverance, our students begin to believe in themselves, and their endless capabilities, even if they are not there yet.

STEP-UP DAY

Center School’s Step-Up Day was June 9th. We celebrated students’ achievements and welcomed them to the next grade. We recognized transitioning students and said farewell to our graduating students. We are extremely proud of everyone.

Congratulations to our graduates: Emilio Aguirre, Zahli Bhayroo, Declan Gaab, Scarlett Henry, Sean Kelton, Daniel Kitchen, Declan Maguire, Michael Solecki, Evan Weiss, and Sophia White.

The belief in our mission has been supported and upheld by countless dedicated Center School families over the years, and we are fulfilled by their child’s successes. As we continue to grow, we are looking forward to serving even more families and teaching students who learn differently so they can go on to fully realize their incredible potential. We thank you for your support of Center School and invite you to read our newsletter to learn about the ways our mission continues to change the lives of our students and families.

Mindy Wawrzyniak
Head of School

...continued from page 1, Dear Center School families
Tiffany Getz

Tiffany joins us as our Administrative Assistant and Transportation Coordinator. She has been a part of the Center School community as a parent for 6 years. Tiffany enjoys working with the students and parents.

Jennifer Perrault

Jennifer joins Center School as our middle school Social Studies teacher. She holds bachelor’s degrees in Education and Psychology from Monmouth University. Jennifer also holds a certification in K-6 and is pursuing a certification Mid-level Middle School Education 4-8 with concentration in Social Studies.

Mori Behar

Mori joins us as Center School’s new violin teacher. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Berkley College of Music.

Rebecca Park

Rebecca is teaching middle school Math and STEM. She holds a bachelor’s of Education from Temple University. She is certified in Middle School Education (4-8) with concentrations in Math 7-8 and Science 7-8.

Adam Berman, Psy. D.

Adam joins the Center School faculty as our school psychologist. He holds a bachelor’s of Business Administration from George Washington University, a master’s of Arts in Counseling Psychology from Arcadia University, and a doctorate of psychology in Clinical Psychology from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Adam is a certified school psychologist as well as a licensed clinical psychologist.

Caitlin Coppick

Cait joins us as our Technology Integration Specialist. She holds a bachelor’s of Education and Special Education and a master’s of Education from Saint Joseph’s University. She is certified in Elementary K-6, Special Education N-12, and is a certified Instructional Technical Specialist.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2017-2018

James Bickley, Chairman
Edward Hayes, Esquire, Vice-Chairman
Susan Floyd, Co-Founder
Timothy Hilbert, Treasurer
Carol White, Secretary
Mindy Wawrzyniak, Head of School
Kimberly Bavaria, Trustee
Terry Quinn, Trustee
Wylie Thomas, Trustee
Back-To-School Ice Cream Social

Thank you to everyone that joined us for our Back-To-School Ice Cream Social! We had a great time playing games, meeting the members of the Center School community, and enjoying delicious ice cream sundaes. What a fun new tradition!

Welcome Back!

Center School faculty and staff welcomed new and returning students on September 5th. Everyone was excited to dive right into the 2017-2018 school year. It’s sure to be another fun-filled year.

Run to Read 5K

Thank you to everyone that supported our Second Annual Run to Read 5K Run/1 Mile Fun Walk and Community Festival. It was wonderful to see all of our friends and families come out to celebrate Center School. We had the good fortune of being joined by both NBC10’s Hurricane Schwartz and the Phillie Phanatic. Your efforts and community support helped raise over $78,000! Thank you to our musical entertainment for the day - Drummers with Attitude, School of Rock Newtown, and School of Rock Main Line!

Special thanks to everyone that helped make Run to Read possible! We’re looking forward to another successful event on April 14, 2018!
Giving Opportunities

Thank you for your support of Center School. Every dollar benefits Center School students which is why your help is so important. Whether you are an individual, a family, or a business, you can donate to Center School in a variety of ways. Your donations are tax-deductible.

Annual Fund

All gifts contribute to the ongoing success of Center School. The Annual Fund provides immediate and flexible funding to support important initiatives such as enhancing academic programs, technology, and leadership programs. Tuition funds alone do not provide the funds necessary to cover the costs associated with these educational opportunities.

Scholarship Fund

The Scholarship Fund provides opportunities to students and potential students whose financial situation may otherwise prevent them from attending our school. This fund is supported through the generosity of donors by contributions through EITC and OSTC tax credit programs, and designated foundation grant funds.

Leave a Legacy

From Bequests to Annuity Plans, talk to us about the many ways to ensure the long-term stability of Center School while you receive tax credits and other benefits through Endowment and Planned Giving programs.

United Way Donations

Our United Way Donor Option Number is 009850. Many companies have matching gift programs for which Center School qualifies.

Gifts of Appreciated Securities

Center School gratefully accepts gifts of appreciated securities. Please consult your financial advisor, attorney, or accountant for assistance with your philanthropic plans. To transfer eligible securities, please give the following account information to your broker:

- Broker: Scottrade
- DTC Participant ID#: 0705
- Client name: Center School
- Account # 77195114
- please include donors name in memo section

Pennsylvania Tax Credit for Corporate Donors

PA’s Education Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) and the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program (OSTC) enable businesses to redirect PA corporate taxes to an approved scholarship organization, such as Center School. Scholarship funds are directed to eligible families based on income (EITC) as well as those residing within the boundaries of low-achieving schools (OSTC). For more information, visit www.newPA.com. If you know of a business willing to participate, please contact Mindy Wawrzyniak at 215-657-2200. New EITC applications are due July 2, 2018. OSTC applications can be submitted now.

For more information on giving opportunities or donor options, call 215-657-2200 or visit www.centerschoolpa.org

SAVE THE DATE

Parent Resource Fair
Saturday, April 21, 2018 • 10-1pm
Network with lawyers, advocates, psychologists, therapists and other professionals.
The following is a list of individual, business and organizational donors from August 1, 2016 to July 31, 2017.

**FRIENDS CIRCLE ($1-$100)**
Angelica & Diego Aguirre
Anonymous
Neal & Lisa Appelstein
Haresh & Jaya Assumal
Joann Beam
Derri Benbow
Shendr Bhayroo & Lori Waselchuk
Michael Bookman & Maria Pia Platia
John Brady
Agnes Butler
Judith Caplan
Colleen Chapman
Alex & Paula Chernoff
Jacqueline Childs
Germaine Collier
Anthony & Elsa Comerota
Thomas Copeland
Daniel & Stacey Cunitz
Barbara Cunnane
Sherri Cunningham
Eleanor & Jim Deacon
Sandra M. Dean
Sandra Dempsey
Marysue Dougherty & Matthew Dougherty, MD
Mary Duffy
Megani Dunzee
Erica Eidelson
Christina Fallstick
William Fitzgerald
Mark Fox
Marie-Thereese & Harry Gaab
Danielle Gansky
Ann & Richard Gebert
Tiffany & Rob Getz
Crystal & Chris Gore
Chuck & Jennifer Green
Brenda & John Hadfield
Patricia Hamill & Gina Collier
Sarah Hamill
Rosemary Harley & Tyson Boles
Elizabeth Henry
Ralph & Natalie Hirshorn
Ami Howarth
Quine & Sharon Hunt
Linda Jarrett-Armiger
Deborah Kowalchuk
Joe Lanciano
John & Jung Lee
Michaela Lieberman-Burak
Susana Lowry
JoAnn Maguire
Sean Maguire & Greta Milles
Alicia & Brian Mahoney
Michael Mancally
Diana McGreedy
Edward & Jayne McGinley
Alberta & Bruce McKenzie
Gerald Menkey
Dr. Budd & Donna Mildenburg
Jeffrey & Monica Nick
Shannon Niewood
Kosrow & Marion Nowrooz
Christine K. O'Reilly
Michael & Barbara Overbeck
Alex Richmond
Marcella Ridenour
Cherlene & John Sarque
Dorine & Thomas Schiefer
Diana Seinfeld
Megan Stalker
Lisa Steiert
Latoya Watson
Jacques Wilmore
Barry & Merle Wolf

**TEACHERS CIRCLE ($101 - $250)**
David & Julia Alexander
Anonymous
Carolyn & Christopher Conrow
Libby & Walt Davis
Noah Feinberg
Dr. Maxine Field
Nancy Geissner
Karen & Tom Getzen
Sam & Sandra Kitchen
Wilfred & Karen Kushto
Sara & Steven Levin
Mark Luborsky
John & Marjorie Mantas
Karen Neyer & Richard Glover
Plymouth Square Associates (Highland Management)
Abraham Reich
H.D. Robison
Colleen & Mark Schlegel
William & Linda Stokes
Arthur & Barbara Sweeney
Melinda Wawzyniak
Rebecca Zaskow

**READERS CIRCLE ($251-$500)**
Deborah Albert & Glen Feinberg
Suzanne & Stephen Cassidy
Jennifer & John DeLuca
James Deryner
Leslie Greenspan
Dan Kysztotak & Christa Harp-Kysztotak
Lee Kaplan
John E. Lagnese
Mary Mosley
Quinn & Wilson, Inc. Realtors
Carin & Erick Straub

**PARTNERS CIRCLE ($501-$1000)**
Larry & Lisa Barmat
Stephen W. Christian
Megan Floyd
Ralph & Norma Hall
Patricia & Robert Lux
Terry & Jeanne Quinn

**LEADERS CIRCLE ($1001-$2500)**
Philip & Annette Kelton
Jody & Mat Marks
Drew Richards
RichardsApex, Inc.

**FOUNDERS CIRCLE ($2500+)**
Kimberly & Joseph Bavaria
James & Virginia Bickle
Susan & William Floyd
Edward & Mary Hayes
Tim Hilbert
The Nathaniel H. Mayer Family Fund
Wylie Thomas
Carol & David White

**BESTC**
BB&T
Capital Strategies Group, LLC
Covenant Bank
PEI-Genesis
Philip Rosenau Company
RichardsApex, Inc.
Utica National Insurance Group

**OSTC**
Timothy C. Hilbert, PC.
TAL Technologies

**FOUNDATIONS, TRUSTS AND SPECIAL GIFTS**
Anonymous
Child Development Foundation
Dolphins-McMahon Foundation
Geruardi Family Foundation
Home for Orphans of Oddfellows of PA
The Nathaniel H. Mayer Family Fund
McKewon Foundation
Rotary Club of Jenkintown
Thayer Corporation
The Willow Foundation

**MATCHING GIFTS**
Does your employer have a matching gift program? If so, for every dollar you donate to Center School, your employer will donate a specific percentage which increases the value of your gift.
**Dates to remember**

**NOVEMBER 10**
Veteran’s Day Breakfast

**NOVEMBER 14**
Touring Tuesday

**NOVEMBER 21**
Grandparents & Special Friends Day

**NOVEMBER 22-24**
Thanksgiving Break

**DECEMBER 8**
Barnes & Noble Night

**DECEMBER 12**
Touring Tuesday

**DECEMBER 18 – JANUARY 1**
Winter Break

**JANUARY 9**
Touring Tuesday

**FEBRUARY 13**
Touring Tuesday

**MARCH 10**
Potluck & Talent Show

**MARCH 13**
Touring Tuesday

**MARCH 22**
Speaker Series: Holly Cohen, M.Ed, NCSP
Topic: Growth Mindset

**MARCH 26-30**
Spring Break

**APRIL 14**
Run to Read 5K Run/1 Mile Fun Walk & Festival

**APRIL 17**
Touring Tuesday

**APRIL 21**
Parent Resource Fair

**APRIL 21**
Reading Assessment Day: For Non-Center School Students

**APRIL 26**
Art Show & School Play

**MAY 9**
Prospective Parent Open House

**JUNE 11**
Field Day

**JUNE 15**
Step Up Day

---

**Save the Date!**

**Run to Read 5K Run/1 Mile Fun Walk & Community Festival!**

**April 14, 2018**

Walk, run, enjoy live music, delicious food, and carnival activities for the kids! Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, contact Caitlin Straub at cstraub@centerschoolpa.org or 215-657-2200. [https://centerschoolpa.org/run-to-read-5k/](https://centerschoolpa.org/run-to-read-5k/)