Dear Friends and Families of Center School,

The start of the new school year is an exciting one for me and one that is filled with anticipation and promise. The excitement in the air is unmistakable. Both students and teachers ponder the goals they’re striving for, and the feeling of belonging to a community emerges. This feeling is prevalent among our families. I’ve heard it described by parents as relief, peace of mind, acceptance and being embraced by a warm, welcoming and empathetic community. Just a few days into the school year, two parents expressed this sense of community. One stopped by my office and remarked, “I wish you could bottle the feeling you get when you come into this school.” Another explained how Center School, and its community, had transformed not only her son’s life but her family’s life.

This awareness of community is an important component of the Center School mission, and our success is deeply embedded in it. The community feel within Center School is equally as important as the community feel outside of the school, and our students continue to learn about and apply the importance of connecting with those beyond our walls. Our students supported The Rotary Club of Jenkintown through volunteering at one of their major fundraisers, and in turn, Center School was honored and generously supported by The Club. This year, to enhance our community involvement, our students are sharing their love with those less fortunate than themselves and partnering with Integrate for Good, an initiative created by Access Services.

Our faculty has also adopted this idea and has increased their community presence through hosting teacher-organized events and engaging the community at our school. Likewise, the Center School Board of Trustees, led by Chairman Jim Bickley and Vice Chairman Ed Hayes, are engaging the community by fostering relationships and stewardship. Most importantly, our families are embracing the outside community to share in our mission and invite more people to experience the atmosphere we all experience each day.

The unified belief in our mission among our students, faculty, board members and families reflects the true meaning of community. As Center School proudly enters its 30th year of supporting children who learn differently, we look forward to the potential partnerships that will develop from our increased community presence. I thank you for your support of Center School and invite you to read our newsletter and visit our special school to experience the ways we continue to embrace community.

Sincerely,

Mindy Wawrzeniak
Head of School

*Center School’s mission is to provide children who learn differently with a personalized education to realize their potential and reshape the way they view themselves and their future*
What are you most excited about at Center School this year?

Christine: I am most excited about being part of the Center School community, since I am new this year! I am looking forward to getting to know all the wonderful students here at Center School!

Derri: It’s so exciting to have 9th grade! And the students seem to be glad to be able to learn using the strategies that work for them.

Linda: This year I am excited to continue to help our students build a caring community with respect for all including themselves. This is a foundational piece that will enable them to work together cooperatively.

Tom: I’m excited about coaching Center School’s soccer team this season!

Pat: The addition of a Makerspace is most exciting because it will provide our students with another avenue to foster their curiosity and creativity.

How are you fostering community in your classroom?

Natalie: In our science classroom, we are fostering community by always being respectful, responsible and ready to learn, which are the tools to success in and out of the classroom.

Diana: Every day, the students participate in a Morning Meeting. During this time, the students greet each other, share their feelings and read a message. They learn conversational skills and how to interact in a positive manner. Student and classroom successes are celebrated throughout the year.

Barbara: We started the year with lessons in empathy and kindness. Students learned about “sandpaper words” and “cotton ball words”. They have been very conscientious about what they say to each other and try to help one another whenever they can.

How are your students implementing their growth mindset?

Cait: When they begin working on projects in the Makerspace, they’ll be able to recognize the opportunities for learning in trial and error -- that getting it right the first time isn’t always the most powerful or rewarding experience.

Kelly: We talk about Neurosculptors and embracing challenges as learning opportunities with an “I can’t YET” perspective.

Adam: To be open to the possibility of socializing with everyone in their respective classroom environment, and to look at conflict as any opportunity to move through as opposed to move away from others.

Debbie: In the art room students are using growth mindset vocabulary, such as, “I can do it!” and “I haven't mastered that skill, yet.” Students are willing to try new things and challenge themselves while making art.
MEET THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Marylee Mundell, D.O., F.A.A.P.
Dr. Mundell is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics who earned her doctorate in osteopathic medicine from the University of Medicine and Dentistry in New Jersey. Dr. Mundell partnered to create Pediatric Care Group, P.C. in 2003. She’s also the owner of Discover My Potential, a practice that conducts comprehensive evaluations involving a wide range of cognitive, developmental, emotional, and behavioral measures for children. She was recently recognized as one of Philly’s “Top Docs” for 2018 by the Philadelphia Magazine. Dr. Mundell has over 25 years of experience as a board certified pediatrician.

Morris Zimmerman
Morrie is a principal at BWA Architecture and Planning. For over 25 years, Morrie has managed and designed a wide range of project types including affordable housing, non-profit, institutional, and historic preservation. He has led many award-winning new design, restoration, and renovation projects. Prior to joining BWA, Morrie ran his own construction company and taught in the architecture program at Philadelphia University. In addition to Morrie’s experience in the design industry, he is a parent of a Center School graduate.

Candace Sneberger
Candace Sneberger is Founder, President, and CEO of VacationWired.com. For over 20 years, Candace has made an impact in the travel industry by successfully launching three online companies, and serving as vice president for both BTIAmericas (now World Travel/BTI) and Rosenbluth International. In addition to her travel experience, Candace serves on various boards including Sheraton Hotels, Viking River Cruises, the US government’s GSA Federal Per Diem Advisory Committee, Vacation.com, and is special advisor on economic development to the Lt. Governor of the US Virgin Islands. Candace was also involved with a number of animal welfare organizations and a strong supporter of the PSPCA.

Stephen FitzPatrick
Stephen is the fourth generation to preside over George G. FitzPatrick Funeral Home located in Abington, PA. For over 110 years FitzPatrick Funeral Home has been a business as well as a community name. Stephen continues that legacy by being a well known, active member of the community, serving on several boards and committees.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2018-2019

James Bickley, Chairman
Edward Hayes, Vice Chairman
Timothy Hilbert, Treasurer
Susan Floyd, Co-Founder
Carol White, Secretary
Mindy Wawrzyniak, Head of School

Terry Quinn, Trustee
Wylie Thomas, Trustee
Morris Zimmerman, Trustee
Stephen FitzPatrick, Trustee
Marylee Mundell, Trustee
Candace Sneberger, Trustee
We’re pleased to be involved with some outstanding organizations in the Greater Philadelphia community.

**Reading Buddies**
We’re in our 3rd year of participating in the Reading Buddies program with the residents of Rydal Park Retirement Community. Every other week residents from the senior living community come visit Center School students who practice their reading skills with their Rydal Park partners.

![Reading Buddies](image1)

**Rotary Club of Jenkintown**
Students graciously volunteered their time on a Saturday morning to serve pancake breakfasts to the neighboring community through the Rotary Club of Jenkintown. The students were enthusiastic about their assigned tasks, whether it was setting out place settings at the tables, making food in the kitchen, or cleaning up the event.

We are pleased to be new members of the Rotary Club of Jenkintown.

![Rotary Club of Jenkintown](image2)

**Aid for Friends**
Each year, our students assemble breakfast bags for Aid of Friends. The organization provides food and friendship for homebound Philadelphia area residents. Students include handmade cards in each package intended to warm its recipients’ hearts.

![Aid for Friends](image3)

**Toys for Tots**
Center School families and faculty are proud to support the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program each holiday season. We’ll have a drop-off bin in the school lobby to collect donations. Please feel free to drop yours off and pop in the school to see some familiar faces.

![Toys for Tots](image4)

**Nor’Wester Readers**
Each week, special canine guests from Nor’Wester Readers visit our lower school classrooms. The program provides registered therapy dog teams who work to support and build student motivation, enhance focus, and increase task persistence. The presence of the dog teams also offer emotional support and a stress-free learning environment to improve academic achievement, student self-esteem and confidence.

![Nor’Wester Readers](image5)

**Integrate for Good**
This year we’ve partnered with Integrate for Good as part of our “Caring Community” service learning project. This group takes plastic bags and, on a loom, weaves them into sleeping mats for homeless people. Our students will also be weaving mats and supporting the work that Integrate for Good does.
What’s Happening at Center School

Makerspace
We’re excited to announce that we’re adding a Makerspace at Center School! A Makerspace is a collaborative workspace for making, learning, exploring, and sharing. Mrs. Cunnane and Ms. Coppick have spearheaded the project, and it’s been made possible with contributions from the Coltman Family Foundation, the Adopt-A-Classroom program at Burlington, and RichardsApex. Stay tuned for more information about a future Center School families Makerspace night!

Designer Bag Bingo
Center School teachers hosted our first ever Designer Bag Bingo night on October 13th. There was an outstanding turnout for the event and everyone had a fabulous time. Their efforts raised over $5,400! We’re looking forward to hosting another bingo event next year!

Musicopia
We’ve expanded the Musicopia program to our lower school students this year. This program provides opportunities for our students to experience, learn, perform and appreciate music.

Kids Help Fund
Center School is one of four schools selected to participate in the Kids Help Fund. This fund was created more than 10 years ago by a donor who wanted to encourage our students to become educated and interested in philanthropy. Last year, our students selected Safe Harbor House, The Bridge Clinic, and Nor’Wester Readers as our benefactors. Students will soon be determining which organizations they’d like to support this school year.

Run To Read 5K
05.18.2019
**Back-To-School Ice Cream Social**
Our second annual Back-to-School Ice Cream social was tremendous fun! Center School families and faculty had a great time eating ice cream sundaes and playing games.

**Welcome Back!**
Center School kicked off its 30th year on August 27th. New and returning students were excited to start the 2018-2019 school year.

**Ninth Grade STARS Program**
Center School is pleased to announce our 2018-2019 inaugural Ninth Grade STARS Program class of Cheyanne Jones, Zoe Green and Kadijah Mathis. We’ve very proud of our girls, and they have proved to be excellent roles models among all of our students. They are also responsible for leading the Ninth Grade Mentorship Program with our first through fourth graders.

Our ninth graders participate in a full Pennsylvania ninth grade curriculum including American Literature, Algebra, Biology, United States History, Creative Art, Physical Education and a Study Period. In addition, they are using the skills learned in class to apply to real world applications. Our ninth graders take full responsibility for their own self-advocacy in order to demonstrate ownership of their learning.

**STEP-UP DAY**
Center School’s Step-Up Day was June 15th. 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: Cheyanne Jones, Zoe Green, Riley Powell, Malik Jeter, Kadijah Mathis, Ryan Appelstein, Semaj Johnson-Huff, Tyler Augaitis, Avery Hamill, Jack Onzik, Kayanna Chisholm-McVay, Graham Richards, Juliette Cunitz, and Malvika Assumal.
Giving Opportunities
Every dollar benefits Center School programs that support children who learn differently. There are many ways to donate to Center School, and donations are tax deductible. We are grateful and thankful for your support.

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 whose financial situation may otherwise prevent them from attending our school. This fund is supported through the generosity of individual donors, 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: TDAmeritrade Clearing Inc.
- DTC Participant ID#: 0188
- Client name: Center School
- Account # 427-601338
- Please include donor’s name in memo section and notify Lsteiert@centerschoolpa.org of the transfer.

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 1, 2019. OSTC applications can be submitted now.

For more information on giving opportunities or donor options, call 215-657-2200 or visit www.centerschoolpa.org
The following is a list of individual, business and organizational donors from August 1, 2017 to July 31, 2018.

### ANNUAL FUND

**FRIENDS CIRCLE ($1-$100)**

- Anonymous
- Derri Benbow
- Michael Bookman & Maria Pia Platia
- Jerome & Judith Caplan
- Colleen Chapman
- Alex & Paula Chernoff
- Alice Childs
- Jacqueline Childs
- Anthony & Elsa Comerota
- Thomas Copeland
- Barbara Cunnane
- Sherri Cunningham
- Libby & Walt Davis
- Martha Davis & David Dimmack
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- John DeLuca
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- Maureen Foy-Tornay & Ian Tornay
- Ann & Richard Gebert
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- Anne Marie Schreiber
- Joseph Tracy
- Kathleen & Ronald Watkins
- Marvin & Susan Weinberg
- Merle & Barry Wolf

**TEACHERS CIRCLE ($101 - $250)**

- Kathy & Mitchell Alden
- Agnes Butler
- Suzanne & Stephen Cassidy
- Noah Feinberg
- Mark & Susan Fox
- David & Nancy Gansky
- Lesley Greenspan
- Deborah Kovalchuk
- Karen & Wilfred Kuisto
- Susan Lowry & John Brady
- Sean Maguire & Greta Milles
- John & Marjorie Mantas
- Diana & Kent Seinfeld
- Megan Stalker
- Lisa Steiert

**READERS CIRCLE ($251-$500)**

- Deborah Albert
- Kathy & Doug Babb
- Delaware Valley Insulation
- Dr. Maxine Field
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- Tiffany & Rob Getz
- Karen & Tom Getzen
- Crystal & Chris Gore
- Ralph & Norma Hall
- John Lagnese
- Jane Leonberg
- Robert & Gail MacFarland
- RichardsApex, Inc.
- Patricia & H.D. Robison
- Colleen & Mark Schlegel
- Caitlin Straub
- Arthur & Barbara Sweeney

**PARTNERS CIRCLE ($501-$1000)**

- Stephen Christian
- Lee Kaplan & Lori Jardines
- Kevin & Lisa Loome
- Patricia & Robert Lux
- Jody & Mat Marks
- Marge & Russ McCorkle

**LEADERS CIRCLE ($1000-$2500)**

- Terry & Jeanne Quinn
- Drew Richards
- Mindy & Dan Wawrzyniak

**FOUNDERS CIRCLE ($2500+)**

- Kimberly Bavaria & Joseph Bavaria, MD
- James & Virginia Bickley
- Susan & William Floyd

Edward & Mary Hayes
Timothy & Debra Hilbert
Wylie Thomas
Carol & David White

**In Memory of Jeanne Siegel**

- Diana & Kent Seinfeld

**In Memory of Jan Stokes**

- William & Linda Stokes

**SCHOLARSHIP**

**In Memory of Max McGrath**

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  - Steph Bonenberger & Family
  - Bill Brady
- Kathleen Brady
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- Renee Brooker
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- Carissimi Family
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- Sophia Latronica
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- Charlie & Maureen McCurdy/McGee
- Diana McGeady
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- Sophia Latronica
- Jason Lerner
- Charlie Levy
- Charlie & Maureen McCurdy/McGee
- Diana McGeady
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Coltman Family Foundation
Child Development Foundation
Dolﬁnger-McMahon Foundation
Genuardi Family Foundation
The Nathaniel H. Mayer Family Fund
Rotary Club of Jenkintown
Thayer Corporation
The Willow Foundation

FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018

SUPPORT & REVENUE
- Tuition and Fees: 82%
- Donations: 12%
- Ancillary Revenue: 6%

EXPENSES
- Instructional Expense: 42%
- Scholarships: 16%
- Administration Expense: 23%
- Occupancy Expense: 10%
- Depreciation and Amortization: 4%
- Fundraising Expense: 2%
- Interest Expense: 3%

2017-18 BY THE NUMBERS
- Total Number of Donors in 2017-2018: 444
- Business Sponsors for Run to Read: 91
- Total Number of EITC & OSTC Donors: 9
- Run to Read raised over $85,000

100% Employee Participation
100% Board Participation

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.
Our Third Annual Run to Read 5K Run/1 Mile Fun Walk & Community Festival was a success thanks to supporters like you! We had a great time catching up with our alumni, playing games with our friends, and celebrating Center School. Plus we were joined by some special guests! Thank you to Fox29’s Bob Kelly for spreading the word about our event and to the Phillie Phanatic for awarding medals to our runners! Heartfelt thanks to everyone that helped to make Run to Read possible! We hope to see you at next year’s Run to Read Color Run event on May 18, 2019.
If your name has been inadvertently omitted or listed incorrectly, please accept our apologies and notify us at 215-657-2200 so that we may correct it in the future.
Save the Date!
Run to Read 5K Run/1 Mile Fun Walk & Community Festival!
May 18, 2019

Next year’s Run to Read will be a Color Run! 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