

## **CPFEA Report October 18, 2013**

Woolman is celebrating its 50 anniversary, forty years as the John Woolman School and ten years as The Woolman Semester.

As we celebrate the past 50 years we are reminiscing, revisiting and taking stock. The changes that have taken place over the past year are significant. The leadership from Dorothy Henderson as the Head of School has transitioned to Marjorie Fox taking the position, in January of 2013. Dorothy held spirit of Woolman and cultured nonviolent communications throughout its programs. We are all grateful for her caring and service over the years. I will be introducing Marjorie at the end of my report.

Doug Hamm retired as Maintenance Supervisor and Red Feola, who many of you know and respect, has stepped into the role. Doug left an indelible foot print on the land and his work is much appreciated by all.

In March, Malaika Bishop left to begin an exciting new endeavor with a school garden project, and we hired Maggie McProud as our new Farm manager. Maggie was raised on a local farm and has done a magnificent job of expanding the garden and the variety of crops. Maggie also teaches the Farm-to-table class. Please take time to visit the garden when you are on campus. Although we have harvested much of the crop, the garden is still brimming with life.

Estrella Acosta began working in August as our Director of Admissions and Outreach. It is a pleasure to have her back on staff. Her previous experience at Woolman allowed her to hit the road running.

In the spring, we began a nationwide search for new core teachers. Each of our core teachers in 2013 moved on at the end of the Spring Semester. Grace Oedel, Jacob Holtzberg-Pill and Emily Zions were lively, caring and impactful teachers and we wish them well. Through an extensive interview process, we selected three remarkable teachers for fall who you may have an opportunity to meet this weekend. Jennifer Stone (Peace Studies Teacher) and Gray Horwitz (Environmental Science Teacher) joined us from the Bahamas. Amelia Nebenzahl (Global Issues Teacher) joined us from an educational program in Africa. They are an asset to our community and the students.

Our students are most certainly brimming with life. Twenty five students have joined Woolman this semester. The highest number yet. They are thriving in every aspect of their experience at Woolman. Classes in Peace, Social Justice and Environmental Sustainability remain at the core of the educational program and are clearly aligned with Quaker values. Students learn nonviolent communication as they also learn to speak their own individual truth.

In a commitment to threading Quaker values throughout Woolman, Quakers were recruited to join our staff for the camp and the semester school program. This fall our staff includes 12 new Quakers.

The Woolman Community Internship program is thriving too. Sophie Brinker and Graham Borgman are serving as Intern Coordinators. It is a multiple task position that serves the semester school. Interns engage with the garden, cook in the kitchen, and assist teachers, tutor students and serve as their mentors. In addition the interns serve as mentors for the students in their academic as well as personal lives. Woolman Community Interns serve a vital purpose in the semester school program and have the opportunity to engage with all aspects of the program here. Carl Sigmond, a Woolman Alum, was selected to serve as Woolman's Technology and Media Intern for fall of 2014. Carl has done an extraordinary job of improving our technology in the few months that he has been with us.

Family Work Camp was a tremendous success. Projects included building a shed and bridge at Mel's Pond, painting the meeting house, removing scotch broom, working in the garden, building showers, children painting the trees and much more. Dancing, singing, and laughter abide at Family Camp. It was a great time!

This summer 152 campers attended Camp Woolman. This includes Summer Camp, Mini-camp and Teen Leadership Camp. This is a 112% increase over 2011. We operated camp this summer overall at 70% of our capacity.

Woolman is in the process of renewing our accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). This is a several month process that requires a fiscal review and written report that addresses areas of improvement and goals and describes our curriculum in detail. In addition, a team from WASC will conduct a visit in March, 2014. This is causing us to revisit every aspect of Woolman. We have thoroughly reviewed our accounting records for 2013 and restructured the system to accommodate Woolman's growth in the future.

The fiscal year, 2012/13 closed with the expenses and fund development within the budget and money in the bank. In the spring of 2013, over \$187,000 in loans were forgiven by Friends and converted to gifts. These acts of generosity impacted Woolman's financial status dramatically. This will also positively influence our ability to obtain grant support and receive WASC accreditation.

Woolman is alive and well and beaming with life. That is possible because of so many forms of support from many of you. As Woolman expands, we need your support even more. Please consider contributing to Woolman's role in promoting Quaker values among our youth.

Respectfully submitted,

CPFEA Board of Directors