



Fall Family Fun Day 2007

Welcome to the dedication of the Friends School Haverford *Fields for Friends* campus and playground renovations.

We offer our thanks to the PTO and President Marirosa Colon for arranging this Family Fun Day. Thank you all who have helped with various aspects of the day - gathering pumpkins, scarecrow materials, daffodil and tulip bulbs, and cooking for the potluck supper.

We are here to celebrate our community and we have a very important task before us. We are going to cut the ribbon to inaugurate our new *Fields for Friends* playground.

There are many people who have helped make this project possible. Rather than name them, I want to share what their roles have been. Each task is essential. Along the way, we've needed dreamers, planners, heavy lifters, diggers, peddlers, spinners, negotiators, problem solvers, thinkers, planters, donors, inventors, artists, explorers, gardeners, workers, funders, players, swingers, runners, climbers, kickers, jumpers, and philosophers.

All of these jobs are important. I want especially to emphasize the philosophers. Today, I pay tribute to the philosophy of Friends School Haverford that has always been dedicated solely to young people. The school's history, since its founding in 1885, is rich with examples of extraordinary care and attention to create the ideal environment for young people to grow and develop and to fulfill our mission to become life-long learners.

With this as our heritage, it is not surprising that our community would have spent three years in planning and contributed over \$2.2 million dollars to this project. It is appropriate that we would consider carefully the impact of our ideas and dreams on our partner, Haverford Monthly Meeting, and our neighbors on Buck, Walnut, Oakley, and Pamuire. It is natural that we would pay as much attention to what lies beneath the surface – the storm water management systems and soils – as we have to the things that are visible, as amazing as the soccer field, theater, climbing rocks, swings, sandbox, rain garden, playground equipment, “dizzy sticks,” tricycle track, and potting shed are. Nancy's House is not quite finished and we all are excited to see it rise as a steel and wood three level playhouse. It is fitting that we would plan as carefully for the insects, birds, animals, and plants that share this beautiful campus as we have for our children. The native plants that now grace our grounds support a vital ecosystem that impacts our environmental science curriculum and improves our neighborhood.

Now is the time for our students to take their brothers and sisters, moms and dads, nannies and grannies and show them the special places on the campus that we have already come to love. Enjoy this place, celebrate this special day, and lift your hearts in gratitude to Friends School Haverford and its unique mission.

Martha B. Bryans