



THE LOOP

A Virginia Beach Friends School Alumni Newsletter: January 2022

www.vbfschool.org/about/alumni



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

BY: ALEX DWORETZKY (2014)

The Martins

In the early 2000s, a love story for the ages began at Friends School! Celeste and Kyle Martin met while attending Virginia Beach Friends School Middle School. Celeste attended Friends School from 4th through 9th grade, and her now-husband, Kyle, attended from 7th through 9th grade. In speaking with Celeste, she described how her mom was

looking for a more customized educational curriculum. She felt her daughter wasn't getting the attention she deserved in the public school system. Celeste remembers falling in love with the campus and Friends teachers who immerse their students in all aspects of the curriculum. She fondly remembers the outdoor learning elements of her Friends experience, particularly how teachers used the wooded trails behind the Wilson Center Gymnasium. For both Celeste and Kyle, it's the values instilled in them while attending Friends School they remember the most. Community and friendship are the virtues she and her husband remember most about their Friends School experience.

Celeste's favorite list of teachers is long. There was Teacher Muff who was the art teacher before our current art teacher, James O'Connor. Teacher Karen, Celeste's then science teacher, turned science from her least favorite subject to an area she grew to enjoy and found interesting. Whether then or now, the impact of Friends School teachers clearly lasts a lifetime.

Today, Kyle owns a landscaping company and Celeste is a manager at the Association of Research and Enlightenment. They have a beautiful daughter named Elsie currently enrolled in kindergarten at the Friends School and are hoping to enroll their youngest son, Memphis. Now, as Friends School parents, Celeste and Kyle love the small and nurturing feel on campus. More importantly, they are thrilled that their children are receiving the same Friends education that helped them become the people they are today. Celeste and Kyle have been together for 20 years and are excited to see what the future of Friends School holds!



BASKETBALL

We are so excited to announce that middle school sports are safely being offered once again! Coach Danny Grondin and Coach Kaleigh Merritt (Class of 2015) have been leading the boys middle school basketball team through practices, preparing for their upcoming season. We are thrilled to be cheering the Friends School Waves on as their season embarks with their first games starting this January. The energy and excitement coming from Wilson Gym is amazing! Good luck WAVES!

FRIENDS HERO

Zach Hyman (class of 2011) has been recognized as a top cop in Hampton Roads for 2021. He made a daring water rescue that saved the lives of two people and he continues to be a positive force in the community. Read the full Daily Press article: www.vbfschool.org/friends-school-alumnus-zach-hyman-wins-top-cop



STRATEGIC PLAN

Friends School administrators, School Committee members, parents, and Meeting are working on the long range strategic plan for the school. The plan focuses on community engagement, financial sustainability, educational experience & leadership, and campus enhancements.



HOLIDAY BAZAAR

The first annual Friends School Holiday Bazaar was full of cheer! Thank you to those who attended and helped make this event special. The carols sung by grade level, an appearance by Santa, the climbing tree lighting ceremony, and all the local artisans made the bazaar a perfect way to kick off our holiday break. Middle Schoolers sold cider and hot cocoa as part of their Quakerism in Action class and will be using funds raised to give back to the community. We hope all had a peaceful holiday!

SPIRIT RISING

Over the holiday season, Friends School supported the Mattaponi Tribe through Spirit Rising. The Thanksgiving food drive collected two car loads of items and \$300 for perishable food! We also partook in a gift giving initiative for the children of the Mattaponi at Christmas.



FRIENDSGIVING

FRIENDSgiving coincided with global-wide Giving Tuesday this year and was a one day fundraiser for the Friends School Annual Fund. We raised \$6,021 and had over 65 individual donations. Friends School winter beanies were given to all donors gifting more than \$25! Online giving: donorbox.org/vbfs-online-giving