

Reflections

A magazine for family, friends, and supporters of The Camphill School

FALL + WINTER 2020



**The
Camphill
School**

Reflections

On the cover
First Grader Jett

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With a Mask on My Face and a Song in My Heart

01 / Kai preps Antanor's patch in the garden.
02 / Courtney Coffman's office mate—
her kindergartener, Flynn

In March, when I wrote an article about working from home for our spring newsletter, little did I know that seven months later, I would be doing it again! But, here I am.

Things do look a bit different though. I have set up a proper office in my house. I even have an office mate—my kindergartener, Flynn. This was the best way for me to be able to monitor his virtual school while being able to accomplish my work for Camphill. My older son, Harris, has the corner office across the hall (his bedroom with desk and wobble stool).

While I am savoring the extra time with my boys, I miss being at the school. I miss being in our office and seeing the students and teachers. I miss volunteering with the tenth graders who are now one of only three classes that remain in the school-house. I can't wait to be able to have lunch with my Whitestone friends, who are now living at Saelde house on Soltane's campus.

My back patio has become a quasi-conference room for our Development work. We gather, socially distanced and masked, as leaves fall in our laps and my dogs wander about. This has become the year of flexibility. It is a time when we can work together from afar and still be able to accomplish great things for the school. We are motivated by our devotion to our students, their families, faculty, staff, and the many donors who support them. Your commitment drives us and inspires us each and every day!



In these tumultuous times, it is important to savor the little things. I have a deeper appreciation for watching Harris play soccer. I get to be outside (in a mask and by myself), away from my house (and other spectators), and best of all, I get to watch him do something he loves. It makes my heart sing to see him happy. The little things will get us through. It is each other and experiencing the joy in those little things that sustain us. Hold them, and each other, close.

I send my best to all of you. I hope you remain healthy, strong, and ready to take on whatever may come next. As always, The Camphill School will be here for our students, their families, and you.

With warmth,

Courtney Coffman
Editor

When the World Stopped, Camphill Never Did

The Camphill School consistently, carefully, and purposefully adopts an annual budget that allows for nimble and prudent financial adjustments. Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, our budget is being challenged with the change in needs this crisis has presented.

Of course, almost every organization worldwide has had to make adjustments in how they operate and manage their budgets. The school is currently facing a potential deficit of 1.7 million dollars. The largest unforeseen expense is that of staffing.

The Camphill School operates with on-campus extended family homes led by experienced house parents and supported by resident volunteers who stay for a year or more. Many of these vibrant and energetic young people come to the school from nations where embassies have not been, and may not be, open for visa processing. **Thirty of our approximately forty-five resident volunteers withdrew their applications ahead of their expected arrival in August 2020.** While the school made a concerted effort to recruit Americans, just two joined the community this fall.

This left most of our houses and classes without adequate help to welcome our students back in September. **We turned to hiring people from the local community**

for the first time to help us in supporting our long-term resident volunteers. While not a traditional Camphill model, the new employees are being integrated in our house communities as they are introduced to our distinctive way of life. We hope that as soon as possible we can transition back to the resident volunteer model while still potentially looking to non-resident staff to support houses as needed.

Since the spring, when we were able to welcome back a portion of our students whose families were in the highest amount of need, the school has separated itself into units. These units consist of two to four houses/grades. Our community, working in conjunction with our medical office, designed this format to provide the opportunity for easier sequestration in the event a positive test occurs. These units are now spread across more houses and buildings on our campuses and beyond.

Our schoolhouse is now home to three classes: ninth, tenth, and seventh. Eighth grade, first grade, and

our early learning program are in Meadowsweet (01), while fifth and third grade have beautiful spaces, both indoor and out, at Longhouse (02).



01



02

01 / Meadowsweet

02 / Longhouse

03 / Saelde

04 / Gawain

05 / Turmeline/Roland Johnson

06 / Nantmeal Farmhouse

07 / Whitsun Hall

The school has rented two student houses, two staff houses, and classroom spaces at our neighboring sister community, Camphill Soltane. Saelde (03) and Gawain (04) house our eleventh and twelfth graders while Turmeline/Roland Johnson (05) and Nantmeal Farmhouse (06) have resident staff accommodations. Our seniors have class and therapy space in Whitsun Hall (07), where downstairs a spacious gym facility is available to all for recreation. Our eleventh grade has all the space needed in Nantmeal Farmhouse. The sense of community is palpable as you wander amongst the students and those who work with them.



03



04



05

The additional spaces for students and staff, classroom and therapy space, greenhouse use, and recreational facilities are being rented from Camphill Soltane. **The property is contiguous to the school, allowing easy transport in vehicles or wooded walks on existing trails to traverse to and fro.**

While it certainly is different, when you walk the campuses you feel a renewed sense of life. Where you once walked past our upper campus neighborhood during school time and heard a quiet stillness, you now hear vibrant lower school children singing, laughing, and learning. It is like a breath of fresh air, and space to move and explore have enveloped the property.

In addition to the added expenses related to COVID, the school's need for support of our financial aid program has not dissipated. As families struggle with the economic turmoil we all are experiencing, **tuition assistance is more important than ever.** Through

grants, Pennsylvania's education improvement tax credit, and our donors, we will be able to provide what our families need to allow for the continuation of their child's program at the school.

When it felt as if the world had stopped, Camphill never did. We hope that you, our wonderful community of donors and supporters, will choose to contribute to the school as we endeavor to move forward, no matter what that might mean.



06



07

Foxfield Flowers Bouquet CSA Subscription Now Available – Makes a GREAT Gift!



Foxfield Flowers is entering its second year of operation, and our students, coworkers, and employees of the Transition Program at Beaver Farm continue to grow beautiful organic fresh-cut flowers to share with you.

We are thrilled to introduce a weekly seasonal fresh-cut flower CSA extending from March 28, 2021 to October 30, 2021. The CSA will be broken up into three

seasons with the option to purchase the entire year or by season a la carte. There will be two pickup day options (to be determined) that you will commit to so we are able to plan accordingly.

This service allows our students to have a steady stream of regular orders each week where they can master specific aspects of growing and creating beautiful bouquets just for you!

There are a limited number of subscriptions for both the full year and each season, so sign up early to ensure your share. We will continue to make bouquets available at our roadside stand when we can, but we will be prioritizing our CSA customers and their orders.

To keep up to date, please follow us on Instagram @foxfieldflowers and on Facebook at Foxfield Flowers.

Please Reserve the Following:



Full Year
(Spring, Summer, and Fall Seasons): March 28 to October 30 (40 subscriptions available); 31 weeks for \$450.00 (Includes fall wreath)

Summer Season
May 30 to July 31 (40 subscriptions available); nine weeks for \$130.00

Spring Season
March 28 to May 29 (20 subscriptions available); nine weeks for \$130.00

Autumn Season
August 1 to October 30 (40 subscriptions available); 13 weeks for \$190.00

Total cost of order:

Name of person ordering:

Email of person ordering:

Address:

Phone: Is this a gift? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name of recipient, if gift:

Email of recipient, if gift:

**Make checks payable to Foxfield Flowers or use PayPal—email cbruckner@foxfieldflowers.com.
Return form to Foxfield Flowers, c/o The Camphill School, 1784 Fairview Rd., Glenmoore, PA 19343.**



01

The Right to Vote!

01 / Barbara being a suffragette

03 / Lucy giving her speech

02 / A clothesline of facts about women crusaders

04 / Eva enjoying a pony ride

On Wednesday, August 26, Lucy Thimme, daughter of teacher Ginny Thimme, organized an event in Beaver Run to celebrate 100 years since the passage of the 19th Amendment, which officially gave American women the right to vote. In a speech prepared for the occasion, Lucy told her listeners that growing up as a staff kid in Beaver Run, every year was marked by festivals, and that they were just part of the rhythm of her life, like the seasons. Lucy said that she “loved growing up with festivals,” and that she would continue to divide her year into them, but that she had always planned to add new celebrations to the traditional Beaver Run ones. She told her audience that she sometimes lies on her bedroom floor “daydreaming about what to add to the Beaver Run cannon of events” and that she had often thought about “a festival commemorating and celebrating women” – and the centennial of the adoption of the 19th Amendment gave her a chance to actualize her dream.

Lucy then went on to talk about the suffragists’ long fight for the right to vote (72 years) and told the audience about her hero and favorite suffragist, Alice Paul, who was born into a Quaker family outside of Philadelphia. Lucy told those assembled that Alice Paul was the first person to organize a non-violent campaign for social change on American soil; the first to picket the White House; and the first to organize a mass march on

Washington, D.C. (on March 3, 1913, the day before Woodrow Wilson’s inauguration). As well as Lucy’s speech, the 100 Years’ Celebration also included pony rides for the children (so they could lead their own suffragist parade); and political tabling, where people could register to vote, learn about their local and federal representatives, and learn about how to become American citizens. There were also opportunities to make crepe paper yellow roses with Barbara Roger (those in support of Women’s suffrage wore yellow roses); learn a jump rope rhyme

with Anna Harris; do a puzzle with Guy Alma; and get a chance to have their photo taken with a wonderful suffragist, painted by Becky Rutherford. The celebration ended with refreshments: home-made soft pretzels and Beaver Run blackberry ice cream (blackberries grown and picked by Andreas Schuschke and ice cream made by Lucy). All the children who attended the celebration left with a Susan B. Anthony silver dollar and a commemorative postage stamp. They were also told when they would be old enough to vote.



02



03



04

Turn Your Pennsylvania Personal or Business Tax Dollars Into Tuition Assistance!



The Pennsylvania Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program enables you to redirect your Pennsylvania tax dollars – almost dollar for dollar – to The Camphill School, for tuition assistance for our students from Pennsylvania.

To qualify for the program businesses must pay one of the taxes listed in the next column. Individuals qualify if their Pennsylvania state taxes exceed \$3,500 annually. Effectively, you or your business can donate to The Camphill School instead of paying taxes to the Commonwealth of PA. Eligible businesses and individuals can receive a tax credit equal to 75% of their contribution to The Camphill School. This credit increases to 90% if you or your business commits to give the same amount for

two consecutive years.

Any business authorized to do business in Pennsylvania subject to one or more of the following taxes may be eligible:

- Personal Income Tax
- Capital Stock/Foreign Franchise Tax
- Corporate Net Income Tax Bank Shares Tax
- Title Insurance & Trust Company Shares Tax Insurance Premium Tax (excluding surplus lines, unauthorized, domestic/foreign marine)
- Mutual Thrift Tax
- Malt Beverage Tax
- Retaliatory Fees under section 212 of the Insurance Company Law of 1921

For businesses, application deadlines apply.

If you want to support the school and make a gift directly to the school, you will get a tax deduction, yes, but the majority of that donation is still a cost to you. If you make a gift to the school through this EITC program, it can offset almost your entire PA tax bill – in other words, the donation comes at almost no additional cost to you. You are basically redirecting who gets the money when you pay your state tax bill, which you have to pay anyway.

To learn more, contact **Courtney Coffman** 610.469.9236 x132 or ccoffman@camphillschool.org or visit camphillschool.org/giving/eitc.

#GivingTuesday 2020: Every Heart Sings a Song

On December 1, 2020, The Camphill School will again participate in #GivingTuesday. This year has been much different than in years past, but thanks to the dedication, support, and love from our community, parents, and you, our loyal supporters, we have adapted to this new way of life. With your continued support, our students are back living, learning, growing, thriving, and enjoying each day in our community!

This year our goal is once again to raise \$50,000!

This will help us to cover the unexpected costs incurred this year due to the pandemic. We cannot wait to link arms with you so we can provide the life-changing gift of education!

For more information or questions, please contact Hope at hrogers@camphillschool.org or 610.469.9236 x119.



How can you be a part of it?

1.

Register at bit.ly/igivetcs. Start fundraising to benefit the school's #GivingTuesday Campaign. It's simple, customizable, and shared easily on social media and email.

2.

Donate to create transformative educational opportunities for The Camphill School students. Join the Camphill community by making your gift on this national day of giving.

3.

Share our messages on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, email and, of course, by word of mouth. Your endorsements and support are critical to the success of this campaign!



Thank You for Making Our Feast at Foxfield a Success!

On Friday, September 25, we presented our Virtual Feast at Foxfield and raised over \$205,500 for our students! Our emcees, Christine Huston and Guy Alma, exuded the warmth and community of Camphill, albeit on a screen. The event featured a musical performance from some of the grade 12 students as well as a video tour of Foxfield Flowers. We honored the 2020 Corporate Partner, Carnevale Eustis, and Volunteer of the Year, John Gallagher. The awards were well deserved, and we look forward

to continuing our close relationship with Tom Carnevale, Lauren Eustis, and John for years to come!

Guy and Christine shared with the audience all of the important measures taken to bring our students back to campus. They showcased high-priority needs for the school, such as rent for additional houses and outdoor shelters, to keep our students and staff safe.

The expertise of the folks at Advanced Staging made this virtual

event available to students, teachers, parents, and friends of Camphill from all over! We thank our sponsors, donors, and volunteers for your support. The theme for this past year was All For One and One For All! Because of that, the virtual Feast at Foxfield was a success!

If you were not able to join us or would like to watch the Gala again, simply visit [youtube.com/thecamphillschool](https://www.youtube.com/thecamphillschool).



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SAVE THE DATE
for the Safe and Sound
Gala Friday, June 4, 2021.
Details will be
forthcoming.

Community Updates Worth Celebrating!



John and Narkie Pelletier, teachers at Beaver Farm and Beaver Run, respectively, welcomed baby Josephine Joan on September 22. Their daughter Zoey is thrilled to be a big sister!



Eighth grade teacher Eli Maltz and Kylie Gilliams, a coworker at Camphill Village Kimberton Hills and a member of The Camphill School Board of Directors, married at Kimberton Hills on June 20.



Resident volunteer house Parents Ivan and Anna Rynder welcomed Victoria Lillie to their beautiful family on September 16. Tori joins twin brothers, Jonatan and Dmitri, and sister Valentina.



On July 23 resident staff Silvan Callesen and Mereet Zarif were married in Egypt with a few family members and friends in attendance.



INDICIA



FSC LOGO HERE

PLEASE JOIN US

June 4

The Camphill Gala (details to come)

2021



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Join the growing ranks of the Pietzner Legacy Society by naming our supporting foundation, Beaver Run Foundation, in your will or other estate plans. Call Courtney Coffman at 610.469.9236 x132 for more information.

The Camphill School's mission is to create wholeness for children and youth with developmental disabilities through education, extended family living, and therapy so that they may be better understood, they may more fully unfold their potential, and they may meaningfully participate in life.

The Camphill School does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, or disability.

