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E-NEWS



[Lunch Menu](#) / [BFS Athletics](#) / [Brooklyn Friends Fund](#) / [BFS Calendar](#)

February 23, 2020

This Week at BFS Week 2

Wed Feb 26 4pm BFS Coaches and Colleagues Basketball Game, Upper Gym

Thu Feb 27 Horizons Reading Challenge Concludes

Fri Feb 28 No classes for PS & LS PS & LS Parent Conferences

THANK YOU!!



Thank you to the Brooklyn Friends and Families Black History Month Celebration Planning Committee, led by Co-Chairs *Monifa Bandele* and *Josiane Leacock*, for an educational, engaging and FUN Black History Month Celebration!

We are grateful to the many volunteers who brought the following programming to our community:

- The Committee sponsored a field trip for the senior class to see the film *Harriet* and supported the **Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action**, giving Black Lives Matter pins to Middle and Upper School student students.
- **Othniel Harris**, committee member and BFS parent, presented at a Middle School collection about the music of the Harlem Renaissance.
- The Committee led a workshop for the the Lower School **Friends of Color** Afterschool Group.
- At *the main event* on Feb. 21, the Committee brought us an afternoon of workshops highlighting African Dance, Capoeira, Coding with Digital Girl, and a Harlem Renaissance Spoken Word Live Cafe with longtime BFS friend and poet **Gha'il Rhodes Benjamin**.



- Always a highlight, the community **global soul dinner** was enjoyed by all!
- At the celebratory meetinghouse program, there were performances in dance (including IB dance students **Miah Prescod '20**, **Adasa Bandele '20**, and **Charli Wilson '22**), music, and spoken word poetry (by **Anais Irizarry '23** and **Maya Evans '23**).
- The Committee hosted a **Harlem Renaissance Multimedia Walking Tour** on Saturday and helped to sponsor the same walking tour for the entire Middle School, which will take place Feb. 27 (gr. 8), March 5 (gr. 7), March 6 (gr. 6), and March 12 (gr. 5). Parents and family members have been invited to attend with their students.
- The Committee also sponsored commemorative **T-shirt sales** and a **Bake sale**, both benefiting the Brooklyn Friends Fund. Thanks to the **Conovitz Family** for their donation of t-shirts and to all families who donated to the bake sale!

In closing, a very warm and big THANK YOU to everyone who worked and contributed to make this signature BFS event so special. 2020 marks the 21st anniversary of the celebration, and we can't wait to see what is in store for next year.

Colleague Connections – Beyond BFS



Fadwa Abbas, Upper School English Teacher, will be facilitating a dynamic eight-week FREE writing workshop for nannies, babysitters, and child-care workers at the Brooklyn Public Library at Grand Army Plaza. The **Nannies' Fairy Tales Writing Workshop**, which begins on March 7, aims to develop each individual's writing skills, and all participants will create an original story. [Get the details.](#)



Susan Greenstein, Lower School Art Teacher, continues to exhibit in NYC Galleries. She will be part of a show in Industry City entitled "**The Outside Painters**" at the Court Tree Collective, 51 35th Street. The opening reception is March 14 from 5 to 7pm and members of the school community are invited to attend. [Get the details.](#)



Save the Date of March 7, 2020 for a Closer Look into Our Community's History

BFS families and colleagues are invited to a special event on Saturday morning, March 7, in which Black history, women's history, and the changing fortunes of Downtown Brooklyn intersect and are brought into focus. The day will begin with a morning walking gentrification tour of downtown Brooklyn. Led by Social Justice Tours, the program begins at 10am; there is no charge but registration is required and is on a first-come basis. At 12noon, the BFS group is invited to attend a street co-naming ceremony and plaque unveiling in commemoration of Ida B. Wells at 4 MetroTech at Willoughby and Gold Streets. [See details here.](#) This event has been organized and is sponsored by the BFS Service Learning and Civic Engagement Office in partnership with the BFF Service Learning and Civic Engagement and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committees. *A sign up form will be shared with families, colleagues and students later this week.*

**Celebrating the greatness
of Brooklyn history:**

Ida B. Wells



Advancement Report



We hope you enjoy this special video message "I couldn't have done it without Friends" that highlights how BFS has helped our alumni live out their dreams.

Thank you to all our alumni along with other members of the BFS community who show their love to Brooklyn Friends every day.

[Click here to join our alumni and show your love](#) ♥



Won't You Join the Prom Committee? Sponsorship Deadline is Monday, March 2

Early generous sponsorship of **Forever Young Prom**, to be hosted at our 375 Pearl Street home on the evening of **Friday, May 1st**, is integral to reaching our fundraising goal and allowing colleagues to attend free of charge. All sponsors receive two tickets to Prom, the benefit of a tax-deductible contribution to BFS, and those sponsors who wish will be recognized on the event e-invitation and website as members of the Prom Committee. The deadline to sponsor and be listed on the event e-invitation is Monday, March 2.

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General ticket sales open before spring break!

School News You Can Use



Spring and Summer – We've Got You Covered!

Thank you to the families who have already registered for BFS Spring Camp for Preschool & Lower School students. Camp Dates are **March 16 - 20**. Check out our [Spring Camp Brochure](#) to learn more about the camp's events and activities.

And if Spring comes, can Summer be far behind?

See the 2020 Summer with Friends Brochure [HERE](#)

Dates are June 17-July 24. Get the details below:

- [Summer Camp Brochure](#)
 - [Summer Arts Brochure](#)
 - [Summer Arts Internship Brochure](#) (for students currently in Gr. 8-12)
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Quaker News

Why Silence?

WHY SILENCE is a presentation for all BFS families, sponsored by the Spiritual Life Committee, to be held on **Tuesday, March 3 from 5:30-6:30 pm** at Pearl Street. This gathering will focus on an understanding of silence in Quakerism, why and how it is practiced, and the use of silence in a Friends school setting. There will also be a *worship share* (Quaker meeting guided by a query) on how we can use silence in our own lives and in our families. Please plan to attend.

A poster for the Brooklyn Friends School Dance Concert 2020. The background is a dark blue space-themed pattern with white stars and diagonal white lines in the top left corner. At the top left is the school's logo: a white star inside a black square, with the text "BROOKLYN FRIENDS SCHOOL" below it. To the right of the logo, the words "DANCE CONCERT 2020" are written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below this, in smaller white capital letters, is the subtitle "EXPLORING THE INTERSECTIONS OF DANCE & DISABILITY". In the center is a photograph of three dancers in blue outfits performing on a stage with blue curtains. A small caption "Photo: Selma Bensalim '20" is at the bottom right of the photo. At the bottom of the poster, in white capital letters, are the event details: "FRIDAY MARCH 6TH 4PM (SHOW A) & 7PM (SHOW B)" and "SATURDAY MARCH 7 4PM (SHOW B) & 7PM (SHOW A)".

BROOKLYN FRIENDS SCHOOL

DANCE CONCERT 2020

EXPLORING THE INTERSECTIONS OF DANCE & DISABILITY

Photo: Selma Bensalim '20

FRIDAY MARCH 6TH 4PM (SHOW A) & 7PM (SHOW B)
SATURDAY MARCH 7 4PM (SHOW B) & 7PM (SHOW A)

Dance Concert Explores the Intersections of Dance and Disability

The annual BFS Dance Concert takes place on March 6 and 7. Ticket reservations will open later this week at brooklynfriends.org/dance2020.

Sports Section



Congratulations to Our Athletes of the Month

Sophomore **Alex B** on Boys Varsity Basketball, our Mascot **Pearl the Panther**, and the entire **Girls Varsity Basketball Team** have been named February Athletes of the Month. Read their Coaches' Citations [HERE](#).

An Exciting Last Week of the Winter Season

On Wednesday the **BFS Boys Varsity Basketball Team** (20-5 record) lost to Berkeley Carroll by 3 points in the NYSAIS Tournament at Grace Church High School. "The Team represented BFS and BLUE PRIDE in an outstanding way," said Athletic Director David Gardella of the game. "They had an amazing run and we couldn't be prouder of their athleticism, drive, work ethic, and teamwork." Coach David extended congratulations to all the winter players and coaches and thanked the fans for attending the games and showing their support with his signature sign-off, "Blue Pride, Friends Forever."

A Guaranteed Good Time for Fans at the Coaches and Colleagues Basketball Game on Wednesday Afternoon

Our winter season traditionally ends with a Coaches and Colleagues Basketball game, and there is a great line-up of players this year. Everyone's invited to see the adults in our community in hoops action on Wed. Feb. 26 at 4pm in the Upper Gym.

For detailed schedules of team practices and games [Click Here](#).

For the BFS Athletics Resource Site [Click Here](#)

For Weekly Game Highlights [Click Here](#)

An Important Message about Fragrance Sensitivity

At BFS we have friends and colleagues who suffer with fragrance sensitivity. They cannot tolerate exposure to perfumes and scented chemical substances. The adverse effects to exposure manifest in symptoms including rash, swelling of the eyes, headache/migraine, nausea, dizziness, and general discomfort. We respectfully ask our families to be mindful of those with this sensitivity. Please do your best to refrain from using the following items:

- Colognes or perfumes • Fragrant deodorants • Scented lotions/oils
- Essential Oils

We also encourage the use fragrant-free laundry detergent and softener as the residue on clothing adversely affects fragrant-sensitive individuals.

Thank you in advance for taking precautions to keep our community safe. As always, please reach out if you have any questions or concerns. – *Alicia Christian, RN, Director of Health Services*

Guided by the Quaker belief that there is a Divine Light in everyone, Brooklyn Friends School cultivates an intellectually ambitious and diverse community that celebrates each individual's gifts. We challenge our students to value and embrace difference as they develop critical thinking skills and apply their knowledge and intelligence both in and out of the classroom. In this rich learning environment, we inspire all members of our community to voice their convictions, to discover and pursue their passions, and to seek truth. Our graduates are compassionate, curious, and confident global citizens who let their lives speak in the spirit of leadership and service.



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