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# E-NEWS

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March 1, 2020

## This Week at BFS Week 1

**Tues March 3** 5:30pm **Why Silence?** Gathering with Spiritual Life Committee  
**Fri March 6** **No classes for PS & LS** – PS & LS Parent Conferences | 8:15am:  
Meeting for Worship for Parents & Caregivers | 4pm & 7pm: Dance Concert  
**Sat March 7** 10am: Gentrification Tour | 4pm & 7pm: Dance Concert

## BFS “Do Now” Checklist

- [Join the Host Committee for Forever Young Prom →](#)
- [Reserve Tickets for Dance Concert →](#)
- [Sign-up: Gentrification Tour of Downtown Brooklyn →](#)

## Recent Schoolwide Communications

- [Message about Coronavirus](#)
- [Appointment of Jason Novak as Head of Lower School, 2020-21](#)

## Curricular Connections in the City of New York





Every week BFS students venture out into New York City to take part in field experiences that enhance the curriculum. The photos above provide a small glimpse into activities that occurred in the past 10 days alone. From top:

- IB Spanish students at Mexican Muralists exhibit at the Whitney Museum
- 8th graders on the Harlem Heritage Walking Tour
- Upper Schoolers surveying the architecture of Columbia University during their mini-mester
- Fourth graders on their walking tour of Lower Manhattan (They also visited the National African Burial Ground as part of their NYC history curriculum.)
- Seventh graders getting ready for *The Constitution Works* First Amendment case to be argued at the Federal Courthouse on Cadman Plaza.

Our colleagues regularly photograph their students as they explore the culture, history, and ecology of New York. Keep up to date on their experiences by [following BFS on Instagram](#) and [liking us on Facebook](#).

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***At BFS, Everyone's a BFF – Take Part in These Brooklyn Friends and Families Events***

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### Join the Prom Host Committee Today

Join the Brooklyn Friends **Forever Young Prom** Sponsorship Host Committee by this Monday, March 2, and you will be listed as a supporter on the invitation. Sponsorship is essential to reaching our fundraising goal and inviting colleagues to attend free of charge. Sponsors receive two tickets, the benefit of a tax-deductible contribution to Brooklyn Friends, and sponsorship recognition. [At this link you will find sponsorship opportunities ranging from \\$500 to \\$10,000.](#)

The **Brooklyn Friends Forever Young Prom**, to be held at our **375 Pearl Street home on the evening of Friday, May 1**, supports the dreams of our students, families and colleagues. This celebratory evening will be accessible to more of our friends and families with tickets for \$95 each. General ticket sales open before spring break.

*Qm m qm p r f c @ D Q D m p t c p W h s l e N p r k L m u c*

## Gentrification Tour of Downtown Brooklyn

[Register for the March 7 tour here →](#)

On Saturday, March 7, gather with BFS community members to witness the intersection of Black history, women's history, and the changing fortunes of Downtown Brooklyn. The day begins at 10am with a walking gentrification tour of downtown Brooklyn, led by Social Justice Tours. At 12noon, attend a street co-naming ceremony and plaque unveiling in honor of **Ida B. Wells** at 4 MetroTech. [See details here.](#) The tour, free of charge, 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. [Get more info.](#)

## Why Silence?

**WHY SILENCE** is a presentation for all BFS families and colleagues, sponsored by the Spiritual Life Committee, 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.

- “One of the main characteristics of a Friends Meeting for Worship is silence. **We usually affirm children for their words, but do we ever affirm them for their silence?** Silence can be the capacity to not have the easy answer. We need to affirm the time for dreaming, for imagining, for vision-making - the time for the interior images to meet the images of the world. Silent time can become a centerpiece of the school's rhythms, a way to deal with problems, to celebrate, to respond to tragedies, either in the school or in the world.” - Dorothy Flanagan, *The Mystery of Meeting for Worship* (Friends Council on Education)



### When Youth Advocacy Turns into Action

Informed advocacy for reform in prisons and the criminal justice system is a long term interest among many in the Middle and Upper School, and one of the topics they delve into as part of the school's **Service Learning and Civic Engagement** curriculum. "Solitary is Torture" was the call of the day when a group of 8th grade students traveled to the NY State Capitol in Albany to be on the front lines of the **HALT Solitary Advocacy Day**. HALT refers to the Humane Alternatives to Long-Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act, and the students pressed government officials to pass this important piece of legislation. In this episode of **The Life**, hear our student voices and perspectives as they turned advocacy into action.

[Season 4, Number 9 H.A.L.T.](#)





Photo: Salma Bensalim '20

## Dance Concert Explores the Intersections of Dance and Disability

Don't miss the 41st annual BFS Dance Concert on March 6 and 7, with performances at 4pm and 7 pm on both days. Reserve tickets at [brooklynfriends.org/dance2020](https://brooklynfriends.org/dance2020).

## Advancement Report

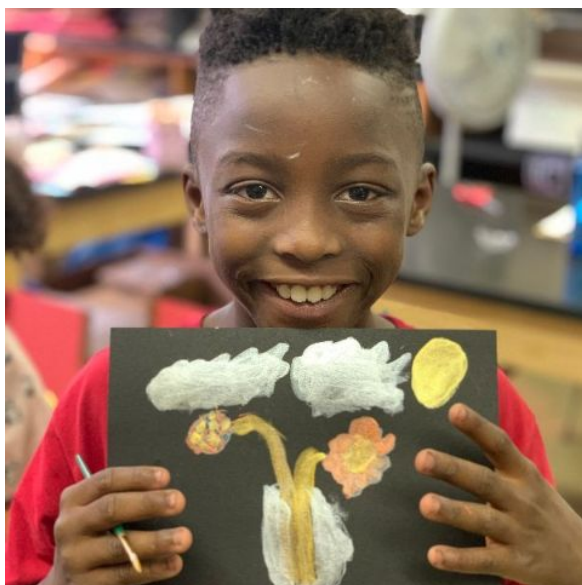
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## Deadline for Impact Report of Donors is Fast Approaching

***Journal "Printer's Proof" Deadline is March 13, 2020  
Please Make a Gift or Pledge NOW!***

The deadline to be included in the Journal "Printer's Proof" is the end of the day on **Friday, March 13**. The "Printer's Proof" is a list of everyone (except those who request anonymity) who has donated or pledged to the Brooklyn Friends Fund so far this school year. It serves as a preliminary draft for the ***Journal Annual Giving Report***, which will be mailed to the entire BFS community next fall. Please [click here](#) to make your gift to the Brooklyn Friends Fund. Thank you for being part of our joyful community.

## Friends for All Seasons



## Spring Camp Fun Coming Soon

Please register today for Preschool and Lower School [Spring Camp at BFS](#), a one-week program from March 16-20. Preschool children will have BFS as their home base, with specials in yoga, percussion, and cooking. Lower Schoolers will enjoy special class activities in art, science, soccer, dance and movement, as well as trips to Bounce U and Melody Lanes.

## And When 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)

## Sports Section





## The Calendar Says Winter, but It's Spring for BFS Athletics

The spring season for BFS Athletics has begun, and we welcome **every student in grades 7-12** who wishes to participate in the following spring sports (Prior experience is not required):

- Middle School (7-8) Baseball
- Middle School (7-8) Softball
- Middle School (7-8) Outdoor Track
- Upper School (9-12) Varsity Baseball
- Upper School (9-12) Varsity Softball
- Varsity (9-12) Outdoor Track
- Boys Varsity Volleyball \*

*\* While students in all grades are welcome, we especially encourage 9th and 10th graders to join the volleyball team.*

There is still time for students to join a team. The next four weeks will be a time of practice, practice, practice. Most games and meets do not begin until the last week of March or early April. Students should come to the practices if they want to join the team. All practices and games are on the website, [bfsathletics.org](http://bfsathletics.org). Here you will find a complete list of all practices and games for every sport. From the home page, go to Spring, then select the sport. You will be taken to the team's schedule, e-mail addresses for the coaches, etc. You should also sign up for team alerts; directions are on the home page

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

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

For Weekly Game Highlights [Click Here](#)

*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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