

OLNEY FRIENDS SCHOOL

Olney Friends School is having Regional Gatherings all across the country to get alumni together and enable them to learn more of what is happening at the school. So far this school year they have taken place in Boston, New York City, Whittier, CA, Washington D.C. and Greensboro, NC. Still to come are Orlando, FL and Titusville, NJ.

As I reported in the last Among Friends, Olney is presently having "A Time to Build Campaign". The dorm improvements (new windows and furniture) are complete and the new building (activity center/gym) planning is proceeding well. Construction documents were due to be completed in March 2009. Despite the economic slowdown they hope to be able to keep moving forward to the timely successful completion of the building project. They are hoping that the economic slowdown will present an opportunity to construct the building for a lower cost than originally estimated as materials costs decline and as contractors eager for business bid more competitively.

On February 5, 2009 Olney again hosted "Focus on the Nation" events on climate change and the environment. Besides the main speaker, Ian Cheney, the group heard from students who participated in the Green Cup Challenge. Olney's Environmental Science class has been looking closely at appliance use, showering times and computer power, plotting this against the last 3 years' usage. The data was then shared with the community and will be part of a hands-on discussion of what students and the community can do to lower energy consumption. During this day they also heard from the architects working on the plans for the new certified activity center/gym.

Olney values students' contributions to their community and their achievements in the arts, academics and sports. They encourage prospective students to ask about the new 4-year, merit based scholarship. This is granted as a \$1,000 scholarship each year that the student attends Olney. Contact admissions@olneyfriends.org if you have questions.

The latest news bulletin I received from the school was that the Olney Friends Boarding School and the Ohio Yearly Meetinghouse Historic District have been approved for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The Main Building has been in continuous use since 1876. Bricks for the Main were made of clay dug from a nearby hillside. The Stillwater Yearly Meetinghouse was built in 1877. The Plummer Farm, east of Barnesville, along Ohio 147, is included for the listing. Dating back about 200 years, the Plummer farmhouse once was a stop on the Old Clay Pike, being used primarily by drovers who drove herds of cattle, sheep and hogs on foot to Eastern markets before the arrival of the railroad. Needless to say, the students and teachers are very proud of this honor.

To access more information about Olney Friends School, visit their website, www.olneyfriends.org
Grayce Mesner