

October, 2009

Our theme at Goshen this year is “Celebrating You and Me” – a simple concept but one which goes to the heart of who we are as a school. With the creation and ongoing work of our diversity committee, the excellent work of our spiritual life committee (both adult and student) and the continual discussions and dialog we are having as staff and faculty members, we are moving forward to ensure that all who enter our doors are welcomed. In The Goshen Friends diversity statement, formulated in 1998, the following is written, “Goshen Friends School will seek to create an environment which celebrates and exemplifies diversity within its curriculum, student body and staff. This environment will help our students avail themselves of as many role models, alternatives and opportunities as possible from the full spectrum of our culture.” Please note the words “full spectrum.” We, as a school community, are committed to embracing the many and varied cultures which benefit us all.

The final sentence of the diversity statement reads as such, “Diversity is who we are. It is the goal of Goshen Friends School to work toward finding our commonalities and respecting our differences.” We celebrate our fiftieth birthday by celebrating everyone who has graced our campus in the past and who is with us today. May this year of 2009 be one of cooperation, openness and awareness as we teach our children that each individual “exists autonomously as part of an interrelated and interdependent societal whole.”

My best to you.

In friendship,

Tom