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A decorative logo for 'COUPON PAGES' with a green and white color scheme, and 'ED'S WINGS & PIZZA' written below it.

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Friends Select Sees a Spike in International Students



Friends Select students stand in front of the LOVE statue at Franklin Square.

Weekly Press
• Wed, Sep 28, 2011

By Haywood Brewster
Staff Reporter

At the start of this school year, Friends Select School reported the highest-ever number of new incoming international students enrolled in grades 9-12. A total of 14 new students joined the community, 13 from China and 1 from England. Over the

years, the school has welcomed many international students to Friends Select's upper school who have come from Japan, Korea, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Recently, 25 Friends Select School new and current international students as well as members from the International Student Union (ISU) club enjoyed a day at Franklin Square playing miniature golf and riding the Liberty Carousel. The group then headed to South Street and experienced a cheesesteak and fries- an aha! moment for the new students.

"The Introduction to Philadelphia trip helped our international students bond with each other," said Kendall Cameron, assistant director of upper school. "The real value of the trip was to connect our native students with the new international ones. This was a great way to help make these students start to feel comfortable and confident in a new place."

"Everyone is working hard to make the transition for our new students as seamless as possible," said Anita Voluntad DePace, middle- and upper school ESL director. "Faculty spend time discussing appropriate strategies to use in the classroom, on how best to help the international students adjust to a new cultural setting and school system."

For the student body, the benefits of the school's international student program are endless. Friends Select students see how determined the international students are to do well in the classroom, which is a great motivating factor. It also gives students an opportunity to meet individuals from other countries and experience another culture. They gain other perspectives and viewpoints in class and often pick up parts of another language, ideas or thoughts.

Building upon years of experience and through several partnerships with international student placement agencies, Friends Select is cultivating a warm and inviting international student program that continues to evolve year after year.

Friends Select School

Friends Select School is a coed, college preparatory, Quaker day school serving 540 students in grades pre-k through 12. The school, which traces its roots to 1689, is located on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, at the center of Philadelphia's business, cultural and government districts. For more information, please visit www.friends-select.org.