Fayerweather Street School
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From the Head of School

As I write this letter on a hot July day, it’s nearly a hundred degrees outside and the presidential campaigns are in full swing; our nation is polarized, grappling with our country’s fundamental values. By the time you read these words, the air will be crisp and a new president-elect will have been chosen. It is with this in mind that I reflect on the 2015-2016 school year and am grateful to be part of the Fayerweather community.

Outside of the reassuring classrooms and hallways of Fayerweather, our country and the world at large have struggled to find a way to talk about and address differences and inequalities, shining a spotlight on how important it is not only to be academically prepared, but also to be a thoughtful, caring, and compassionate person; the combination of both is the hallmark of a Fayerweather education. It’s often said that our 8th graders’ graduation speeches are the best testament to what we do. The following lines were taken from several speeches over the last two years:

I have learned to be a creative thinker and a descriptive writer. I learned to be an upstander and to be open and accepting of everyone. I’ve even learned what I should compost!

I gained the ability to express my creativity in any way I want. The courage to think about tough topics such as racism and death, as well as the freedom to believe in things that go against the grain.

Thus, as I reflect on the 2015-2016 school year, I am struck by how important coming together and being in community is to our school and also that it is central to who we are. We started off the fall by celebrating Indigenous People’s Day (formally known as Columbus Day), a change our 3rd and 4th graders initiated along with their Unit buddies during their study of the Wampanoag Indians. We gladly made the name change to reflect our school’s commitment to social justice and to model to our students that they have the power to make change within their own community.

The Board of Trustees also modeled inclusivity and thoughtfulness by inviting our extended community to come together in six Strategic Working Groups to help discuss our ideas and values in order to develop a Strategic Plan which will be unveiled this winter and guide us as we enter our 50th anniversary next year.

We are also a community that likes to have fun together. In February, the Midwinter Revel raised $33,000 for financial aid and professional development. In May, our entire community enjoyed good food and great music and raised another $6,000 at the Backyard Bash (previously known as the Art of Craft).

During the year we raised $207,593, which included a successful Annual Fund drive that reached a historic high of 92% parent participation. Thank you to everyone that made the year a success philanthropically so that Fayerweather students are able to continue not only to be well prepared academically, but also to be caring and engaged members of our community, which is the cornerstone of a healthy democracy.

Edward Kuh
Head of School
From the Board of Directors

Looking back over the 2015-16 academic year, we are very pleased with all that we have achieved across many different areas. From our annual and major gifts fundraising to our strategic planning efforts to our activities throughout the year, we have come together as a community and surpassed all of our goals. We thank you sincerely for your extraordinary time commitment, unbelievable dedication, and generous philanthropic support.

Throughout the pages of this Annual Report, you will find the names of the parents, grandparents, staff, alumni, and friends who have contributed generously, providing the resources we need to support the mission of our school. You will notice a great many names, as we were pleased to see, for the second year in a row, marking the largest number of Annual Fund donors in the school’s history. The rate of participation is incredibly important, not only because it signifies a healthy annual fund, but also as a tangible demonstration to prospective families and donors about how much we care for and want to support our school.

We are in awe of the commitment that all of you made throughout the year to participate in the school’s strategic planning process. From attendance at town hall brainstorming sessions to hours of strategic working group meetings, we researched, discussed, and debated topics from the school’s finances to our place in our multiple communities. As so often is the case, our process has been just as important as our end result. Through the strategic planning effort, we are generating a set of principles and recommendations that will be instrumental in guiding us through the coming years.

We are thankful to you for your time and your resources, both of which are invaluable to the support of our treasured school. Never content to rest on our laurels, however, we look forward to and welcome your involvement in another engaging year and the exciting planning that will lead us up to the school’s 50th anniversary in 2017-18.

With deep appreciation,

Julia Cavanaugh
President
Board of Directors

Peter Kochansky
Vice-President
Board of Directors
2015-2016 ANNUAL FUND FACTS

- 58% of gifts were under $1,000—42% were over
- 50%+ of donors increased their gift from last year
- 139 donors have given 3 years in a row
- 66 donors have given 5 years in a row

Who gave to the Annual Fund?

- PARENTS: 44%
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 8%
- PAST FAMILIES: 14%
- GRANDPARENTS: 11%
- FACULTY & STAFF: 13%
- BUSINESSES: 1%
- ALUMS: 5%
- FRIENDS: 4%

How did we reach our goal?

- PARENTS: $124,175
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: $53,687
- PAST FAMILIES: $13,720
- GRANDPARENTS: $9,975
- FACULTY & STAFF: $5,159
- BUSINESSES: $3,028
- ALUMS: $2,340
- FRIENDS: $2,002
Fayerweather Luminaries are donors recognized for their exceptional generosity and philanthropic commitment to the school.

**SUN**
$10,000 and above
- Anne Ellsworth
- Gita & Peter Givertzman
- Lauren & Steve Magoun
- Anonymous (3)

**BLAZE**
$5,000 to $9,999
- Maria & Greg Jobin-Leeds
- Jennifer Krier & Robert Cosinuke
- Alison & Akshay Vaishnav

**FLARE**
$2,500 to $4,999
- Lauren Dias & Peter Kochansky
- Macie & Rob Himmel
- Jennifer & Michael McKeen
- Elizabeth Nigh & Ricardo Dolmetsch
- Judith Swahnberg & Carl Novotny
- West Cambridge Science Park
- Julie Winslow ’87 & Ned Regina

**SPARK**
$1,500 to $2,499
- Christine Colburn & Michael Coffey
- Ophelia Dahl & Lisa Frantzis
- Patricia Flaherty & Charles McDermott
- Therese Hendricks & Larry Oliverio
- Courtney Jackson* & Mark Ontkush
- Ed & Lisa Kuh
- Annika Malmberg & Steven McCarroll
- Lia & Chad Novotny
- Jeannie Ramey & Bruce Biewald
- Carolina* & Bryan Sadowski
- Abby Brown Steinberg & Alex Steinberg
- Lauren Stewart & Ben Vigoda
- Aiden Winslow ’85 & Russell Horwitz

**FLAME**
$1,000 to $1,499
- Åsa Aulin Ahlberg & Christopher Ahlberg
- Kathy Crowley & Chris Abouzeid
- Ruth Faas & Andrew Bush
- Justin Folkers
- Michele Houdek & Douglas Koplow
- Rachel Knight ’87
- Tatyana & Robert Knight ’87
- Rosa Knudsen
- Jennifer & Charles Lieber
- Justin & Karen Miel ’84
- Diane & Charles Norris
- Natalie Olsen & D. Andrew Hall
- James O’Toole
- Mary* & Rudy Rubenis
- Dr. Rosalind Segal & Michael Greenberg
- Starr & Philip Snead
- Barbara Timken
EMBER
$500 to $999
Amy Abelow* & Richard Bowden
Gwen Acton & Mark Moody
Catherine & David Allan*
Sissela & Derek Bok
Dr. Johnetta & Aaron Cole
Amiel Cooper & Lori Adcock
Patricia Cortes & Felipe Bohorquez
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Frederica & Arthur Steinberg
Liliane Wong & Daniel Halston
Anonymous (2)

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$250 to $499
Eve Alpern & Brenda Morris
Khalid Al-Quradaghi & Shaimaa Ahmed
Dana Ansel & Krishna Rajagopal
Ellen Baker & Mark Sommer
Diana & Alan Bateman
Alexa Beiser & Ken Cohn
Heidi Berke & Jeffrey Halperin
Claire & David Blood-Deschamps
William Braunlin & Cathy Siebold
Rhea & Tod Brubaker
Rachael Burger & Hitesh Hathi
Janine Byrne & Bruce Picard
BJ & Don Cavallacci
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Jennifer Clay & Philip Tan
Jennifer Cole
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Kathleen Van Campen

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Michelle Apigian & John DiModica
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Ingleed Auguste
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Marianne & Michael Collins
Caren & Daniel Connell
Rachel Cooper & Victor Ramde
Julie & Robert Cooper
Lee Cooprider
Patricia Davidson
Karina Davis
Nell Dement Myers ’15
Luxy Desir
Charan Devereaux & Andrew Ott

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Hannah Gittleman ’79 & Jason Ruckdeschel
Heidi Given
Nancy Lynn Goldberg
Joan Ann Grisham
Nick Haddad & Susan Flint
Ashley & Laroy Harding
Andrea Herber & Gary Horowitz
Carie & Matt Hersh
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Coleman Hirschberg ’12
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Joyce Klein & Malcolm Slavin
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Chelsea LeClair
Kate & Rob Lee
Alexa Louis
Rebecca Lowenhardt * & David Meshoulam
Tracey & Eric Lowenstein
Susan Lutwak & Kenneth Maser
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Laurie & Ken Marden
Uriel & Rahel Meshoulam
Woody Miller
Karyn Miller-Medzon & Ron Medzon
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Stephanie Rudloe ’82 & Antonio Regalado
Isaac Rudloe ’84
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Fayerweather recognizes all alums who have made contributions.

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Coleman Hirschberg '12
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Karen Miel '84
Arno Chanki Min '15
Rebecca Nachman '12
Abigail India Scott Panzica '15
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Carl Rothenhaus '13
Isaac Rudloe '84
Stephanie Rudloe '82
Julie Winslow '87
Aiden Winslow '85
Anonymous

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Cynthia Taft
Dorla White-Simpson *
* indicates the person served as an Annual Fund captain.

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Khalid Al-Quradaghi & Shaimaa Ahmed
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In honor of the Admissions Office
Jennifer Cole

In memory of Jim Allspaugh
Anne Eisner & James Taff

In honor of Joanie Grisham’s 23 years of service
Farley Urmetson & Karl Bandtel
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In honor of Peter, Oscar & Milo Kochansky
Anonymous

In memory of Catherine Krupnick, mother of Shiva Krupnick ‘16
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In honor of Huck & Darla Novotny
Judith Swahnberg & Carl Novotny

In memory of Harvey Porter, grandfather of Evan Kuh ‘10 & Joshua Kuh ‘13
Sharon & Mike Bedig
Ed & Lisa Kuh

In memory of Dr. Ying Luh Yao, grandfather of Bobby Cooper
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Julie & Robert Cooper
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Maggie, Jeremy & Sami Friedman Wellisch

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Elia & Kai Regina
Grace & Clara Horwitz

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Books sent to our sister school in Matenwa, Haiti

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Jane Hearne

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Carol Lobron

Uriel & Rahel Meshoulam

Karen & Justin Miel

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Karma Sichoe & Tsetan Dolkar

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Janet Sortor
& Tim McLaughlin

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Frederica & Arthur Steinberg

Lauren Stewart & Ben Vigoda

Kathleen Van Campen

Margaret Winslow

Barbara Hunter Millner
& Lawrence Millner
Charlotte
& Maggie Cavanaugh

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Addie & Vivi Juliani

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Ian & Connor Kennedy

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Evren Khan

Julia & Nai Nan Ko
Tairou & Tsering Komyerov

Melody & Josh Komyerov
Tairou & Tsering Komyerov

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Jacob Koplow

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Ramita Laboonchais

Lia & Chad Novotny
Huck & Darla Novotny

Karol O’Brien
Willa May
& Johnny Frank Dunn

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Yousef, Anas, & Lamees Bawadi

Dr. Sarah Pearlman
& Ms. Gloria Charles
Owen Smith

Suzanne Pelton
Isa & Ella Nichols

Mary & Gary Pforzheimer
The Biographies Project

Patricia Picard
Grace Picard

Bernadette Pizzurro
& Kenneth Kapela
Harlow Pizzurro

First Church School
Annual Report of Giving
This year’s annual event took us back to prom. But in a good way! From champagne punch to chocolate fountains to old-school wine coolers, it was an 80’s rewind. Emcees Ed Kuh and Julie Winslow ’87 led us though an amusing history of dance through the ages before energizing the party-goers to give generously to support the school’s professional development fund with a paddle raiser and live and silent auction.

**EVENT SPONSORS**
Donations beyond the ticket price made the event sparkle.

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_Decor Design:_
Erin McLauglin

_Food and Drink:_
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EJ Long

_Jennifer McKeen _

_Jeannie Ramey _

_Invite Design:_
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Kate Lee
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Geneva Masanuga ’20
Luiza Masanuga ’28
Andrew McCarroll ’20
Lauren Mueller
Lia Novotny
Courtney Quinn
Stephanie Rudloe ’82
Jennifer Smith
Autum St. Germain
Sarah Tahang-Bianco

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Suzanne Atkins
Ingleed Auguste
Chela Badell-Watson
Connie Biewald
Ann Cason-Snow
Julia Cavanaugh
Maggie Cavanaugh ’18

Lia & Chad Novotny
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Sarah Tahang-Bianco

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Florentien deRuiter & Tom Bok
Lauren Dias & Peter Kochansky
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HORIZON FUND

Guests gave generously before, during and after the event to support new sound and light equipment for school performances.

Catherine & David Allan
Sigall & Pete Bell
Connie Biewald & Jeff Thomas

Garden Gables Inn

Garden Gables Inn

Food and Drink:
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Charan Devereaux & Andrew Ott
Genie & Dov Fogel
Peter & Gita Givertzman
Courtney Jackson & Mark Ontkush
Jennifer & Brad Kay Goodman
Leah Klein
EJ & Tom Long
Jennifer & Michael McKeen

Fayerweather welcomed hundreds of people to enjoy food, live music, shopping, and fun! Proceeds from the event supported the arts program at the school.

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CRLS Acapella groups  
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Not From Concentrate  
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From the Development Office

It’s because of the commitment and support of so many generous donors such as yourself, that I am able to share with you a glimpse of what I experienced during the balmy summer days of 2016.

It’s summer break and they’re laying vinyl flooring in the 5-6 hallway right now. This means that if I want to visit the Tech Deck (which I do) I have to walk outside, cross the playground, and enter via the gym doors. Once there, I step through the zippered dust enclosure and go through. Where there was formerly a closet, there is now a ship’s ladder that leads up to the newly built deck suspended over the front of the gym.

I climb the ladder and stand against the chest-high wall. I have a good view of new speakers hanging on the walls and the bars sprouting shiny LED spotlights. I daydream inventive twinkly light
patterns that we can hang for the next Midwinter Revel. Then I envision a future Unit Play. We will no longer have to use a temporary scaffold that the stage management team has to crowd upon with a brave videographer perched on top.

Looking down, I imagine the gym floor thronged with members of our community, parents, grandparents, alums and their families, as well as other guests, celebrating Fayerweather and each other. Perhaps it is one of our 50th anniversary events next year, or simply an All School Meeting. In this vision, I’m surrounded by a dedicated team of students—part of our integrated tech program—running the sound and light boards, making sure everyone on stage is lit well and that the audience can hear the important words of the presenters.

There are going to be many instances when we will be utilizing the Tech Deck, including numerous events during which our community will gather. Our Strategic Plan will be implemented over the next few years and we’ll have the opportunity to transform other parts of Fayerweather as thoughtfully and seamlessly as this one.

We have exciting plans for the 50th Anniversary (2017-2018) to recognize important milestones, people, and events from all five decades of Fayerweather’s existence. Realizing these goals will take a lot of work from those on the staff like Sufia, Ingled and me, as well from parents, grandparents, and, I hope, many alumni and past families.

Our school was built by the hands and resources of many people, and we ask you to remember how Fayerweather made a difference to you and your child. We want families to see Fayerweather as a place where their children began to truly know themselves as active learners and complex thinkers.

As I descend the ladder, I think of how people will react to the Tech Deck. It will add so much to the way that we experience a sense of community at the school. I return to my desk energized and looking forward engaging all of you in some part of building Fayerweather’s future.

Deanna Dement Myers
Director of Development
2015 Award Recipient

Since 2007, The Horizon Fund, supported by gifts made by the extended Fayerweather Community, has granted 18 teachers access to some amazing professional development opportunities. This summer the most recent recipient, Unit science teacher Stacey Smiar, traveled to Iceland to explore and enjoy the country’s unique landscape and beauty. Fortunately, her family was able to accompany her, making it a memorable summer adventure.

Stacey’s proposal for the grant included specific details on how the science curriculum, across many grades, would be enriched through her first-hand experiences in Iceland. Specifically, connecting her interaction with puffins in 1/2 Bird Study; explaining the topography and geography of Iceland and how it relates to its geothermal fields and resources in 3/4 Geology; and in 7/8 Evolution and Diversity of Species, by speaking to Iceland’s founder effect. The founder effect is when there’s a small gene pool in one place, cut off from a larger gene pool, and with the loss of genetic variation the resulting population can be distinctly different from the larger original population, for example, Icelandic horses. Stacey looks forward to making these curricular connections in the year ahead with her students.

Her journey brought her face-to-face with puffins, she wandered inside glaciers, went swimming in geothermal pools, and more. Stacey kept a journal of her expedition that tells how each day was a new adventure, offering her a chance to see new sights and landmarks, culminating in a bittersweet activity: a monster truck ride to a giant glacier that will sadly not exist in 80 years due to the effects of global warming.

Climbing basalt columns on the Reynisfjara Shore, a black sand beach with stunning basalt sea stacks. The columns are formed from cooled lava.
**DAY 1:** Land at 10:30am. Color of the sky is twilight. Hmmm. Drive, see nothing of the landscape—no buildings, no trees.

**DAY 2:** After morning of breakfast and exploring the city, go to National Museum—learn there is a national database of DNA. Genealogists love Iceland for its low immigration and centuries-long genealogical records. Also learn that one can look at layers of the earth to see when volcanoes erupted.

**DAY 3:** Swim in first geothermal pool. Air temp 13°C, water 30°C. Various hot tubs, 36-40°C. A dunking pool that is only 5°C! There is no chlorine in any of the country’s pools, but there is an elaborate bathing routine before swimming. Iceland is very cautious regarding germs and potential disease.

**DAY 4:** Extreme Iceland tour. See geothermal plant in the middle of nowhere. See calderas filled with water, sweeping landscapes of green, reds, yellows, browns, and oranges. I learn the bright colors are because of rhyolite in the volcanic soil. We end in Landmannalaugar. Hike 90 minutes to see hot vents. Intense sulfur smell, steam emitting, and barren rocks surrounding the holes in the earth remind us of how hot the earth’s mantle is beneath us. I bathe in a geothermal river afterwards.

**DAY 5:** We started our day at Thingevillar National Park, hiking through the Eurasian and North-American tectonic plate divide. We saw the Strokkur geyser erupt at Geysir. We drive towards the south coast. I am amazed at the variety of landscapes we drive through. In the morning we are at the tectonic divide, experiencing all of its glory in waterfalls, deep cliffs, and geysers. We then drive through farmland, quilted patches of various shades of green, over roads that surprise me because it seems that they are as thin in real life as their representation on the map. Sheep are ubiquitous. The land flattens out and then as we skirt the coast, we round Eyjafjallajökull, the volcano infamous for the European flight delays in 2010. We continue driving along the coast, aiming to get to the Vestmannaeyjar ferry. I am amazed when we finally turn off the main road, that the entire land on the side of the road consists of black sand.

**DAY 6:** Vestmannaeyjar Islands, on Heimaey, the only populated island out of this archipelago of volcanic islands. In 1973 a volcano named Eldfell erupted, which covered about half of the island in lava and ash. Vestmannaeyjar is also the world’s largest puffin colony nesting ground. This day is one of my favorites. We start with a stop at the Aquarium and Natural History Museum. We are delighted when the curator brings out a rescue
puffin and sets him on a table. To our surprise, the puffin is not shy, and playfully pokes a shiny red Christmas tree bulb with his beak, expecting reciprocity. Eventually this evolves into a “soccer” game on the floor, with the puffin chasing the bulb and my children gently kicking it back to him. I am sad to learn that 85% of baby puffins died this year from their parents not being able to feed them. Because of global warming, the sand eels they eat are not as prolific as they once were. The sand eels are not surviving the warmer ocean temperatures, which means the puffin parents are having to travel farther north to find food for themselves and their young. Most parents don’t make it back, and massive amounts of dead chicks are found in nests amongst the cliffs.

We visit Eldheime Museum, which is built around the undisturbed remains of a house devastated by Eldfell. Afterwards, we hike up to the top of Eldfell, which is still warm and we roast marshmallows over one of the hot spots on the top!

**DAY 7:** We sadly leave Vestmannaeyjar. We travel east to Vik, famous for black beaches, sea stacks and basalt columns at Reynisfjara beach. The basalt columns are amazing, and climbable, since they are like stairs.

**DAY 8:** We travel north to Stykkisholmur, most well known for being the backdrop of Secret Life of Walter Mitty. More beautiful basalt columns. The landscape varies from flat fields to large volcanic hills with people stopping for a quick hike, and, my favorite, bumpy lava fields with the iconic moss growing over it, at its rate of 1 mm per year.

**DAY 9:** The day my kids have looked forward to for the whole trip: the monster truck ride to a glacier that we can climb through. We travel two hours north, stopping at bubbling hot springs and gorgeous waterfalls, eventually reaching Langjökull glacier. We board the truck—a repurposed NATO missile launcher—which takes us across the ice to an entrance down into a series of human-made tunnels deep down in the glacier, the result of ten years worth of work. We see layers of snow and ice over the years, even seeing ash from various volcanic eruptions. We sadly learn this glacier will be gone in 80 years.
THANK YOU!

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This report is accurate to the best of our knowledge. We sincerely apologize for any error or omission. Contact the Development Office @ 617.876.4746 with any questions.
Fayerweather Street School 765 Concord Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138  617.876.4746
www.fayerweather.org
September 2017 is Fayerweather’s 50th anniversary year. To help us commemorate the milestone, we have an enthusiastic group leading the celebratory charge: Hannah Gittleman ’79, former Fayerweather teacher Nick Haddad, and current parents Erin McLaughlin and Aiden Winslow ’85.

Get involved by volunteering, submitting memorabilia, sharing your favorite Fayerweather memory, and attending the many events during the year. Contact the development office for details!