

**Greg Salmon Award 2012**  
**Vin Manta**

*This award is presented every year to honor the memory of Greg Salmon, an AFS student who was killed in a car crash in December of 2004. In his remarks, Rich described Greg as a "bright spirit" who "put all around him at ease." A natural leader, Greg was also a caring friend and a "great kid."*

When we think of Vin, we think of the word “integrity.” Integrity is defined as adherence to moral principles; honesty; soundness; unity; wholeness. For us, Vin is consistently all of these things.

Vin is utterly reliable. He shows up where he is expected and follows through on the things he promises to do. His moral compass guides him. There have been so many times when he has come to ask adults for advice in a hard situation... but it is clear to us that he knows the right thing and that he knows he will do it. He is kind, he is sensitive to injustice and willing to name a problem and work to get people talking about it and working toward solving it. And, unlike many of us, can admit when he’s wrong.

Vin is also fun loving and has a quick, easy smile that makes others smile in response. A quiet leader by example, often behind the scenes, he is willing to do the hard work that is often less noticed, serving on the Nominating and Agenda Committees. An athlete—passionate about soccer and recently track—he values skill and teamwork, and puts in the time to be the best he can be. As a friend, Vin is unfailingly supportive and loyal, helping his friends in their struggles and celebrating their successes. Accepting and open, always considerate of others, he is a good citizen and an excellent ambassador for AFS.

Vin takes his Quakerism seriously, doing service with his Meeting and here at school with the blood drive and on MLK Day of Service. He has been a dedicated member of WAG, really wrestling with the challenges of white privilege and racism and speaking from his heart. Vin revered his family. He works at a part time job and has earned promotions because of his maturity and responsibility, and he balances all of his commitments with good humor, grace and optimism.

Vin is a gentleman, a gentle man, in every sense of the word. We honor him today as the embodiment of integrity within our community: a young man of unimpeachable character whose presence in our community makes us all strive to be what Mary Lynn likes to call “our best selves.”