

2022- 2023 MCS ANNUAL REPORT

"In the child is much knowledge, much wisdom. If we do not profit from it, it is only because of neglect on our part to become humble and to see the wonder of this soul and learn what the child can teach."

-MARIA MONTESSORI



Montessori Country School

10994 Arrow Point Drive, Bainbridge Island

A Message from the Head of School

The Annual Report always prompts me to think about the big picture of the past year. I find myself reflecting on the mission and vision of the school and thinking deeply about how well we did in upholding them. During the school year, I can often become enmeshed in the day to day workings of a busy school. With 117 children, 21 staff members, and too many schedule permutations to count, my time at school can be consumed by the details!

While this past year had a lessening of pandemic protocols and health and safety requirements, the effects of our shared experience are becoming more apparent to those of us who work with children in school settings. Nationwide, we are seeing an increase in speech and language delays, poorer fine motor skills, a lag in reading and math, and an emotional dependence that is pronounced. Montessori Country School was not immune to this impact. As a staff, we spent many of our meetings reflecting on the needs of each individual child, and assessing how we were meeting those needs. In response to our collective assessments, we introduced targeted language programs in the Primary and Lower Elementary classes, re-committed ourselves to several of the tried and true Montessori classroom materials and “works” that had to be altered during the pandemic, and focused on giving children the social and emotional support that they clearly needed. As June rolled around, we were able to reflect on the gains made in every area.

Our experiences over the past three years leave no doubt in my mind that an educational model which encourages us to “follow the child” led us to emerge from a difficult time with children who are supported in *achieving self-discipline, self-mastery, and a life-long love of learning*. We worked to *honor individuality, nurture enthusiasm, and encourage independence in a carefully prepared environment where children learn with love, compassion, and respect*. Our mission clearly drove our focus and response. Throughout the year I remained impressed on a daily basis with the dedication, skill, and commitment of the staff. It is an honor to work among each one of them.

The success of the past year is also due to our hard-working and supportive Board, a collaborative and respectful community of parents, and all of our alumni who continue to encourage us with unflagging support. The future of Montessori Country School is bright, and I am eager to move forward with all of you.



Meghan Kane Skotheim

Our Mission

Montessori Country School is committed to the Montessori method of education in supporting children to achieve self-discipline, self-mastery, and a life-long love of learning. We endeavor to honor individuality, nurture enthusiasm, and encourage independence in a carefully prepared environment where children learn with love, compassion, and respect.



Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice

MCS is committed to and accountable for advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in all of its forms. We embrace individual uniqueness, foster a culture of inclusion that supports both broad and specific diversity initiatives, leverage the educational and institutional benefits of diversity, and engage all individuals to help them thrive. We value inclusion as a core strength and an essential element of our mission. Our strategic plan supports these values across all areas.

A Message from the President of the Board

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the long-term strategy of the school, its financial health, and for overseeing the administration and management. Tricky decisions had to be made by the Board during COVID, such as how much of the reserves could be drawn down before staff would need to be reduced, but fortunately over the last two years Trustees have been able to focus on the key elements of the new three-year Strategic Plan, which was formally adopted during this year.

The key elements are to seek accreditation from the American Montessori Society, to promote and leverage the diversity of the school community, and to consolidate plans for the long-term financial health of the school.

Accreditation is a key part of the strategy, reflecting our belief in the core Montessori principles, while acknowledging the utility of modern methods and technology. We aim to apply for accreditation in 2024, and work is underway throughout the school to document and consolidate the activities and principles that represent and differentiate the MCS education. Financial sustainability is a key concern after recent economic volatility, and given the aging of the campus which will soon approach its tenth anniversary. While higher interest rates give the opportunity to earn investment income on our reserves, current high inflation and uncertainty about future inflation make it harder to predict what our maintenance costs will be.

Finally, the strategic plan has re-affirmed our commitment to celebrate diversity in the school community, and leverage diverse beliefs, skills, and perspectives to broaden and deepen our cultural and educational thinking throughout the school. A staff-led committee to promote diversity, equity, inclusion and justice (DEIJ) has started active promotion of this principal at an operational level, and the Board of Trustees continues to seek ways to advance this progress.

The Board comprises educators, non-profit leaders, financial, legal, and cultural practitioners, and welcomes the candidacy of members of current and former families, and others in the community at large who have a connection with the school. Three new members have joined in the last year, and we especially thank Erik Indvik for his service to the school as a Trustee and as a former President of the Board.

Mike Wynne-Jones, Board President

2022-2023 Board of Trustees

Mike Wynne-Jones, President

Mairead Shutt, Treasurer

Emily Browne

Patty Christensen

Kylie Cromrich

Grae Drake

Erik Indvik

Courtney Scott Olmsted

Patrick Sheldon

Linda Waterman

Karla Piecuch

Meghan Skotheim

MCS Faculty and Staff

Administration

Meghan Skotheim

Karla Piecuch

Elaine Salot

Dorothy Mak Thompson

Pre-primary

Caitlin Campbell-Martin

Chasitty Haro

Elizabeth Houghtaling

Primary

Shirley Becker

Hilary Benson

Cheryl Dauber

Serena Johnson

Pearl Kerber

Mary McCormic-McInnis

Ellie Montaperto

Cydnie Reynolds

Elementary

Zach Bohonos

Jaclyn Chao

Joelle Cowan

Hollind Kevo

Quibs Matthews

Specialists

Isobel Coney

Danny Figgins

Hollind Kevo



Steering Committee

Bree Oriard, **Chair**

Room Ambassadors

Susanna Evens

Misty Fasig

Theresa Heiden

Kate March

Emilie Sammons

Beth Skjonsberg

Marina Smith

Amelia Stewart

Alison Waller

Lydia Walsh

**Thank you to all of you who shared your time and talents with us this year.
We are so appreciative of our volunteers!**



Congratulations Graduates

Class of 2023

Kinder Graduates

Gus Allender

Vivienne Arrasmith

Kai Brav

Willow Davis

Archer Campbell-Martin

Nico Grossman

Willow Haro-Wright

Dakota Heiden

Felix Kessler

Charlie Mikkelsen

Nora March

Bowie Minola

Aveer Negi

Lucca Oguri

Sawyer Olmsted

Brynley Ann Oriard

Freda Shaw

Ziggy Waterman

6th Grade Elementary Graduates

Eeboo Rose

Theodore Walton





High School Alumni Graduates

Langholm Armstrong

Josie Bills

Hannah Cutler

Roan Dalton

Galen Davis

Avery Decker

Eleanor Ford

Tommy Goodham

Piper Grossberg

Gigi Hendrickson

Anais Hoit

Zephyr Kochenash

Lucas Kurtzman

Joseph Lacko

Phineas Mahlum

Lucas Massa

Alexandra Morrison

Eva Novy-Hildesley

Charlie Odermat

Ava O'Malley

Wesley Powell

Samuel Rucker

Sophie Rutherford

Evelyn Safford

Macrina Swalley

Anabel Viesturs

Brighton Whittlesey

Hunter Whittlesey

Ruby Rose Wynne-Jones

Giving

Thank you to our entire MCS community including alumni, grandparents, families, staff and board members for your support! Your gift truly makes a difference and helps us bridge the gap between tuition revenue and our operating costs. All funds received through One Call for All go directly to our Financial Aid program, enabling more families to join MCS. Thank you!

Annual Giving & One Call for All Donors:

Ehren Brav and Caitlin Harrington	Gregory and Carolyn Kimm	Sam and Beth Skjonsberg
Allyson Brown and Greg McNutt	Prasad Mahendra and Masha Zubova	Meghan and Kris Skotheim
Caroline and Dave Browne	Sallie and Andy Maron	Natalie and Joe Sleasman
Deborah Bunn	Kamran and Michelle Masood	Jason Slye and Emilie Sammons
Ty Burhoe and Ikumi Takahashi	Cheryl Mauer	Amelia and John Stewart
Chris Carpenter and Megan Fowler	Mike and Sheryl McCloud	Stassia Sullivan and Grae Drake
Patty and Dick Christensen	Kim and Stephan Miller	Dorothy and Robby Thompson
Kylie and Chris Cromrich	James and Chelsea Minola	Lydia Walsh and Evan Hong
Matthew Davis and Alison Waller	Jessica Nance and Will O'Connor	Linda and Andrew Waterman
Zen and Britni Dawson-Giles	Ryan O'Neill and Katie Chang	Natalie and Marc Westmeyer
Josh and Jenny DeWitt	Andrew and Courtney Olmsted	Linda Whitehead and Gary Quitslund
Leigh Drake	Bree and Alan Oriard	Turi Widsteen and Keith White
Kim and Greg Duff	Kyra and Grant Perrigo	Jen and Matt Wilson
Tim and Susanna Evens	Karla Piecuch	Jessica and Eric Woersching
Reba Ferguson and Bill Hunt	Abby and Benji Rappoport	Mike Wynne-Jones and Isobel Coney
Asaph Glosser and Hilary Benson	Julie and Anthony Riely-Gibbons	
Ryan Goldstein and Liise Cheney	Trenton Gibbons	
Mark and Kathleen Goodman	Lisa and Neil Rose	
Katherine and Craig Hanson	Elaine and Doug Salot	
Chasitty Haro	Matthew and Brianna Schoeneman	
Chris and Theresa Heiden	Mark and Susan Shaffer	
Diane Hooper	Sameer and Nikole Shamsuddin	
Jonathan and Ariel Hurd	Richard Shaw and Mandolin Lextrait	
Wendy and Erik Indvik	Patrick and Jennifer Sheldon	
Brad and Catherine Jelinek	Mairead and Jason Shutt	
Nick and Cindi Johnson	Carla and Mark Silk	
Hollind Kevo and Kevin Flanagan	Kasia Sing and Ed Kaufman	

**We gratefully acknowledge all donors who contributed to our Annual Giving and One Call for All in this report. We strive for accuracy, but please let us know of any errors.*

Thank you!



AUTUMN GATHERING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023

5-7PM

Please mark your calendars and join us for an evening of fun and community in support of Montessori Country School. This important event kicks off our Annual Giving campaign, which is crucial to bridging the financial gap between what it costs to run our wonderful school and what we pay in tuition.

In lieu of the spring auction, Autumn Gathering will be our only parents-only benefit event for the 2023-2024 school year, so please help us reach our goal of 100% participation!

We are planning a very special evening for Country School parents and staff, and look forward to sharing details soon!



In the fall of 2022, our Autumn Gathering committee (Katie Chang, Courtney Scott Olmsted, Lydia Walsh, Dorothy Mak Thompson) and many other parent volunteers transformed the MCS campus for a beautiful evening of Oktoberfest-inspired food, drink and fun. It was a wonderful kick-off to our Annual Giving Campaign, and we truly enjoyed the opportunity to gather with our amazing community of parents and staff.



We returned to Grace Church for our 27th Annual Spring Auction in May. We spent an enchanted evening surrounded by flowers and friends, connecting with our wonderful MCS community and supporting our school.

We are grateful to our incredible auction co-chairs, Jessica Woerschling and Sarah Martin, the entire auction committee, team of volunteers and amazing staff for making 'A Midsummers Night' a reality.

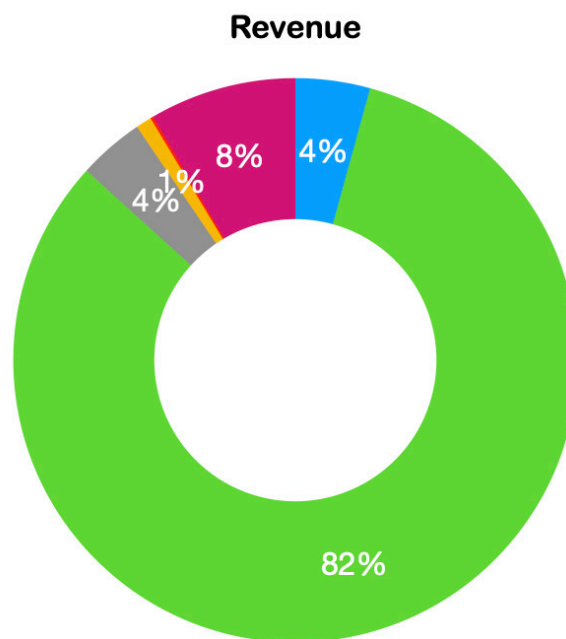
Thank you to all of you who took part, whether by donating one of the many fabulous items and experiences, baking a delicious dessert, being a sponsor, or by bidding so generously.



Financials

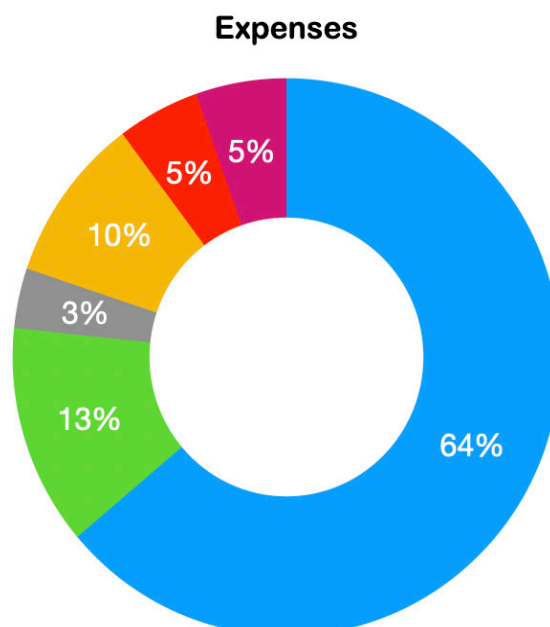
Revenue

Tuition and Fees	\$1,224,551
Fundraising:	
Auction	\$56,006
Annual Giving	\$63,506
OCFA	\$13,474
Other	\$2,535
Alumni giving	\$125,000
Total Revenue	\$1,485,072



Expenses

Compensation	\$948,048
Occupancy	\$190,487
Operational	\$51,665
Tuition Assistance	\$143,005
Program	\$72,633
Allocation to Reserves	\$79,234
Total Expenses	\$1,485,072



Reserve Allocation

Long-term reserves	\$366,042
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Thank you!



Montessori Country School

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