



ANNUAL REPORT

OF GIVING



2015-2016



CONTENTS

- 05 Letter from the Trustee Chair
- 06 Board of Trustees
- 08 Letter from the Head of School
- 10 Annual Fund
- 12 Events & Development
- 14 Event Sponsors & Donors
- 16 Donors by Category
- 18 Financial Report

The Montessori method of education, developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, is a child-centered educational approach based on scientific observations of children from birth to adulthood. Dr. Montessori's method has been successfully time-tested for over 100 years in diverse cultures throughout the world.

LETTER FROM THE TRUSTEE CHAIR

As a parent, it is important that I give my children a solid educational foundation to equip and prepare them to succeed in a changing world. The Montessori School of Columbia does exactly that. Our children are encouraged to be active learners, think for themselves, try new experiences, celebrate their accomplishments and learn and grow from their mistakes – all in a safe and nurturing environment. I could not have asked for more.

Three years ago the Board and Staff met to discuss how we could grow the school while maintaining a superb, authentic Montessori academic program. Our goals were to make these opportunities available to more children, increase educational activities beyond the classroom, provide optimal spaces for all the school's needs, and implement best practices in the management of the school.

Thanks to your support, and the dedication of our staff and Board, I am happy to report that we are very close to achieving all of these ambitious goals.

Over the past three years, the school has expanded to offer 3 primary classrooms; acquired ownership of a block of Oceola Street; added an enrichment center for language, arts and a library; built a beautiful new building for the elementary classrooms; created an ideal space for our younger primary students' afternoon work; provided a specially prepared space for aftercare; added an administration building; built a garden and a chicken habitat.

We also began an annual survey of parents – and appreciate everyone who responded. Your input has led to the creation of a Summer Program and the addition of physical education, extra-curricular and after-school activities including soccer, chorus, karate, gymnastics and a chess club. The Board and Head of School continue to look for ways to add requested new programs and classrooms.

*“THE CHILD IS BOTH A HOPE AND
A PROMISE FOR MANKIND.”*

-MARIA MONTESSORI

All of this has been funded by growing enrollment, responsible borrowing and your support of the Annual Fund and other fundraising efforts. This support has been critical in keeping tuition increases modest as the school continues to provide an exemplary education at an extraordinary value.

In the coming years we aspire to add a new lower elementary class so we can accommodate all our rising kindergartners; build a new elementary classroom; enhance the information parents receive about their child's learning; improve the campus grounds; and focus on nurturing the diversity of our school community. With the benefit of your ideas, time and support, the future of the Montessori School of Columbia and our children is bright indeed.

Sincerely,
Michael Drennan, *Chair*
Board of Trustees
2013-2017



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Montessori School of Columbia is governed by a Board of Trustees. This group has legal and fiduciary responsibility for the school as a whole and plays a pivotal role in securing its future. Individual trustees provide expertise to the Board, and act as ambassadors for MSC. Together, the trustees discuss and vote on school policy and direction.

2015-2016

Michael Drennan, *Chair*
Charles Dibble
Avni Gupta-Kagan
Kevin Hartnett
Jeness Simler
Jenna Stephens
Travis Wheeler
Karen Kuse, *ex-officio*

Define the school's mission, clarify its philosophy, and establish supporting policies

Hire, support, and evaluate the Head of School
Play a key role in fundraising
Serve as ambassadors for the school

Strategically move the institution forward

Approve the annual fiscal budget, monitor performance, and ensure long-term financial stability
Confirm day-to-day operations are consistent with Board policies, school mission, and school philosophy

LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Friends,

More than 33 years ago six families came together to bring Montessori elementary education to Columbia, founding the Montessori School of Columbia. It is remarkable to reflect on the growth and success of our school during the past three decades, and, of course, to look to our future.

Last year, we constructed our first building from the ground up: perhaps the most notable undertaking in our school's history. But there is much more to report, and it is with great pride and thanks that we highlight some of our proudest accomplishments.

During the 2015-2016 academic year, we exceeded our enrollment goals as our programs reached their highest level ever with 116 students. We generated an extensive wait list for the first time in our history, and we added a high-quality summer camp for our primary students.

One of our most impacting recent events was one that no one expected – the thousand year flood in October 2015. We saw unprecedented property damage but, more importantly, we felt the devastation to individual lives and hearts. As a result, we witnessed first-hand the extensive “work of water” that is central to Montessori classrooms and curriculum. In response, our upper elementary students went to a Richland County Shelter to sort and distribute supplies for flood victims.

The school year had many happy occasions, too. The beginning of the school year brought with it a new logo, three new teaching assistants, multiple new families, and a new building. At the

start of our fiscal year, we received a \$10,000 donation from an anonymous Cheerful Giver. Money earned at the previous year's Auction and Fund-a-Need were used to send Ms. Viji and Ms. Betty to the annual AMS conference in Chicago. We welcomed renowned author, Jane Bluestein in October, and we hosted our school's first Grandparents' Day in April.

The construction of our new elementary building was complete in May, and our first-through-sixth graders enjoyed a sleepover in the newly constructed, empty building. With the help of students and parents, we then moved our elementary classrooms into the new structure. The building we had dreamed of for more than 20 years became a reality for us last year.

Our academic excellence and our school's financial prosperity are due in no small measure to the hard work, dedication, and energy of our trustees, teachers, administrators, parents, and children. On behalf of MSC, I thank you for your time, talent, and commitment, and I look forward to your continuous support in the future. I'm fortunate and proud to lead such a wonderful school.

Karen Kuse
Head of School



ANNUAL FUND

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE: \$500 - \$1500+

David & Sharon Brooks

Chad & Joy Coffman

John Krampien & Kate Dafoe

Steve & Sue Gibson

Josh & Avni Gupta-Kagan

Lisa Hosti

Matthew Kisner & Michael Drennan

Daniel & Carol Lee

Emmet & Andrea Maas

Matthew & Beth Richardson

Sultan & Lani Siddique

Chris & Amy Smith

Phil & Starr Snead

Raymond & Ann Thomas

Travis & Lisa Wheeler

\$19,175

ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Ljubica Arceneaux & Don Doggett, **Chairs**

Class Captains:

Lex Ames & Jenness Simler, **Primary 1**

Joy Coffman & Kate Dafoe, **Primary 2**

Kevin Hartnett & Lisa Wheeler, **Primary 3**

Fran Banchek & Lisa Hosti, **Lower Elementary**

Don Doggett & Stephanie Thomas, **Upper Elementary**

Gardeners \$250 - \$499

Alexander & Christine Ames
Vincent & Stephanie Bilovsky
Chuck & Becky Carter
Andy & Tabitha Demetra
Kevin & Caroline Hartnett
Jamie & Karen Kuse
John Monk & Jennifer Amor
Jan van Rosevelt
Cody & Carrie Smith
John & Stephanie Thomas
Andrew & Elizabeth White

Seedlings \$125 - \$249

Richard Chadwell & Wanda Lincoln
Michael & Anna Dickson
Don Doggett & Ljubica Arceneaux
Wayne & Kay Johnston
Ronald & Deborah Prier
Viji Saravanan
Gary Schuerfeld & Jenness Simler
Matthew Varner
Andreas & Alisa Wolfram
Edward & Jeannie Woody

Tillers to \$124

John & Kate Boyd
Matthew & Laura Brashears
Virginia & Robert Brooks
Edward & Molly Clarkson
Hunter & Evelyn Clarkson
Jarrett & Brandi Coco
Bruno & Kelly Delage

Michael & Misty Dickson
Brian & Elizabeth Dukes
Josh & Melinda Eagle
Matthew Endres & Erin Connolly
Jerry & Nelva Evans
Jeremy & Ashley Hill
Chris & Heather Hinchey
John & Kay Hollis
George & Beatrice King
Chris Lawther & Leslie Greene
Jerome Leballeur
Laine & Taylor Ligon
Joe & Jeanne Lisowski
Greg & Elizabeth Literati
Keith & Kelly McCook
Nancy McCormick
Grissom & Shannon McDonald
Chad Messinger
Austin & Melanie Meyer
Mark Minett & Heather Heckman
Betty Namuddu
Daniel & Katie Owens
Alex & Anne Postic
Marie Postic
Gayatri Reddy
Adam Regenthal
Justin & Jennifer Roche
John Bolos & Angela Soto
Amy Schofield
Doug Smith & Rebecca Gonzalez
Joel Wooten & Ellen Spiller
Kerry Stubbs
Solon & Casey Webb
Sara Weinberg
Jim & Kathy Young



EVENTS & DEVELOPMENT

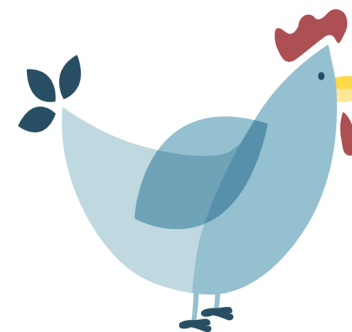
This year, MSC held a mix of fundraising and purely social events. We are grateful to the efforts of many volunteers who devote time, energy and talent to planning these successful school events.

Mid-Winter Celebration

Walkathon

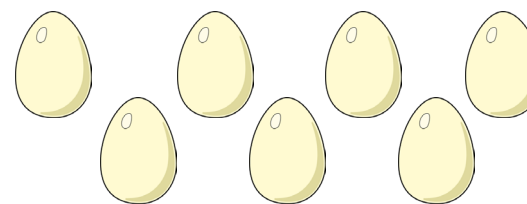
Grandparents & Special Friends Day

Scholastic Book Fair

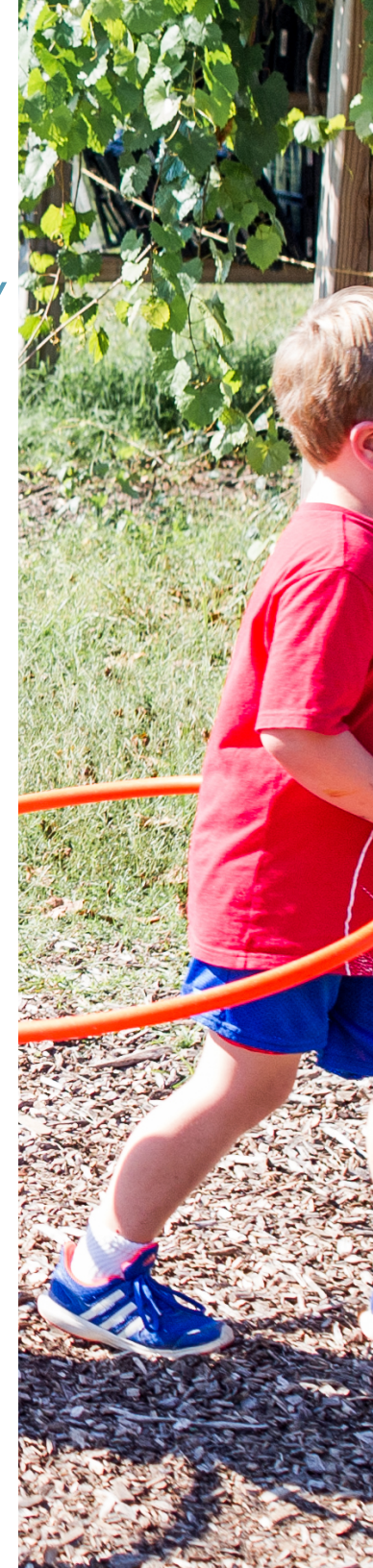


Total Funds Raised

\$47,906



78
DONORS



EVENT SPONSORS

EVENT DONORS

Blue Cross Blue Shield
of South Carolina

Capital Karate

EmbroidMe of Columbia

Malison Financial Group

Moe's Southwest Grill

Smashburger

South State Bank

Spotted Salamander Catering

Starr Snead, Advancement
Connections

Susie Dibble, Home Advantage
Realty

Ally and Eloise
Bakeshop

Basil Thai Cuisine

Barre 3

Be Beep A Toy Shop

Bikram Yoga

Cottage and Vine

Cowboy Brazilian
Steak House

Crust Bakehouse

Element Electronics

Forest Drive Dental Care

The Fresh Market

Half-Moon Outfitters

Hand and Stone
Massage & Facial Spa

Mr. Friendly's

Pepsi

Publix

Riverbanks Zoo

Sandhills Veterinary
Hospital

Skateland Fun Center

Soak

South Carolina State
Museum

Spotted Salamander

Topspin Racquet and
Swim Club

US National
Whitewater Center

USC Baseball

CURRENT PARENTS

Alexander and Christine Ames
 Vincent and Stephanie Bilovsky
 John and Kate Boyd
 Matthew and Laura Brashears
 David and Sharon Brooks
 Virginia and Robert Brooks
 Chuck and Becky Carter
 Edward and Molly Clarkson
 Chad and Joy Coffman
 Bruno and Kelly Delage
 Andy and Tabitha Demetra
 Michael and Misty Dickson
 Brian and Elizabeth Dukes
 Josh and Melinda Eagle
 Matthew Endres and Erin Connolly
 Steve and Sue Gibson
 Josh and Avni Gupta – Kagan
 Jeremy and Ashley Hill
 Lisa Hosti
 Kevin and Caroline Hartnett
 Matt Kisner and Michael Drennan
 John Krampien and Kate Dafoe
 Emmet and Andrea Maas
 John Monk and Jennifer Amor

Jerome Leballeur
 Daniel and Carol Lee
 Laine and Taylor Ligon
 Joe and Jeanne Lisowski
 Greg and Elizabeth Literati
 Keith and Kelly McCook
 Nancy McCormick
 Daniel and Katie Owens
 Alex and Anne Postic
 Ronald and Deborah Prier
 Adam Regenthal
 Amy Schofield
 Sultan and Lani Siddique
 Chris and Amy Smith
 Cody and Carrie Smith
 Doug Smith and Rebecca Gonzalez
 Kerry Stubbs
 John and Stephanie Thomas
 Matthew Varner
 Sara Weinberg
 Travis and Lisa Wheeler
 Andrew and Elizabeth White
 Andreas and Alisa Wolfram
 Edward and Jeannie Woody

CURRENT GRANDPARENTS

Hunter and Evelyn Clarkson
 Michael and Anna Dickson
 John and Kay Hollis
 Wayne and Kay Johnston
 Marie Postic
 Raymond and Ann Thomas

FRIENDS OF MSC

Mark Minett and Heather Heckman
 Chris and Heather Hinchey
 Grissom and Shannon McDonald
 Austin and Melanie Meyer
 Phil and Starr Snead

Malison Financial Group

BUSINESS SUPPORT

The Law Office of Alex
 Thomas Postic

SCANA Corporation

ALUMNI FAMILIES

Richard Chadwell and Wanda Lincoln

Matthew and Beth Richardson

George and Beatrice King

Jan van Rosevelt

Jamie and Karen Kuse

CURRENT FACULTY & STAFF

Michael and Misty Dickson

Jamie and Karen Kuse

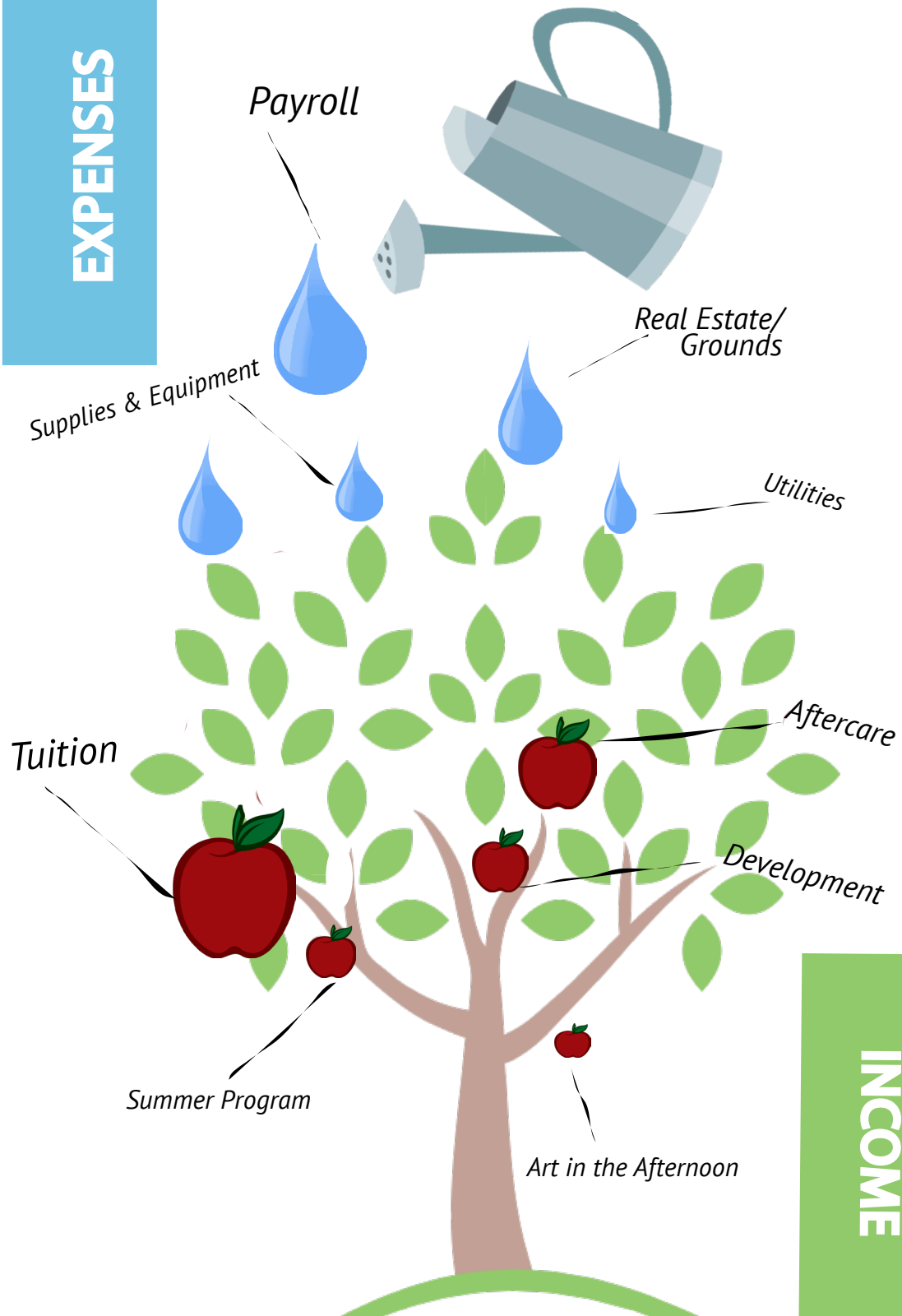
Chris Lawther and Leslie Greene

Betty Namuddu

Viji Saravanan

thank you!

EXPENSES



FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME	%
Tuition	86.09
Aftercare	6.31
Development	5.20
Summer Program	1.62
Art in the Afternoon	0.78
TOTAL	100%

EXPENSES	%
Payroll & Employee Benefits	52.51
Real Estate/Grounds/Mortgage	38.55
Insurance	4.10
Supplies & Equipment	3.22
Utilities	1.62
TOTAL	100%

Current Staff

Karen Kuse, *Head of School*

Leslie Greene, *Assistant Head of School*

Jim Young, *Lead Upper Elementary Teacher*

Kathy Young, *Assistant Upper Elementary Teacher*

Misty Dickson, *Lead Lower Elementary Teacher*

Erin Know, *Co-Lead Lower Elementary Teacher*

Sidney Little, *Assistant Lower Elementary Teacher*

Carla Moore, *Lead Primary One Teacher*

Sarah McCants, *Assistant Primary One Teacher*

Viji Saravanan, *Lead Primary Two Teacher*

Janeta Radieva, *Assistant Primary Two Teacher*

Mani Seneviratne, *Lead Primary Three Teacher*

Betty Namuddu, *Assistant Primary Three Teacher*

Jessica Smith, *Enrichment Floater*

Finnbarr Dunphy, *Latin & Spanish Instructor*

Maria Guerra, *Lower School Spanish Instructor*

Jennifer Roche, *Lower School Music Instructor*

Alan Knight, *Upper School Music Instructor*

Brielle Hayes, *Art Instructor*

Becky Carter, *Director of Development*

Heather Connor, *Administrative Assistant*

D'Artagnan Woods, *Physical Education*

THIS REPORT IS ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE. WE SINCERELY APOLOGIZE FOR ANY ERROR OR OMMISIONS. CONTACT THE MSC OFFICE WITH ANY QUESTIONS.



www.montessoricolumbia.com

Montessori School of Columbia
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Columbia, SC 29205
803.783.8838

2016-2017 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Michael Drennan, *Chair*

Charles Dibble

Avni Gupta-Kagan

Kevin Hartnett

Emmet Maas

Lane Meyer

Jenna Stephens

Jeness Simler

Travis Wheeler

Karen Kuse, *ex-officio*