

Montessori School of Columbia



ANNUAL REPORT OF GIVING

2017/2018

2016/2017



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.



Dear Friends,

Two years ago, as I finished writing my letter for MSC's first annual report, I remember looking so forward to writing the next letter. At the time, we had completed our new elementary building but hadn't moved in. I anticipated writing the next letter because our buildings are so much more fun to boast about once the students are working in their classrooms. We were in our new elementary building for only one year when we realized that a growing number of our primary students were choosing to stay for lower elementary. Additionally, with three primary classes, we had more students to move forward. With a combination of bank loans and generous gifts from YOU to our Annual Fund and Capital Campaign, we added a 1,500-square-foot upper elementary classroom to our year-old building.

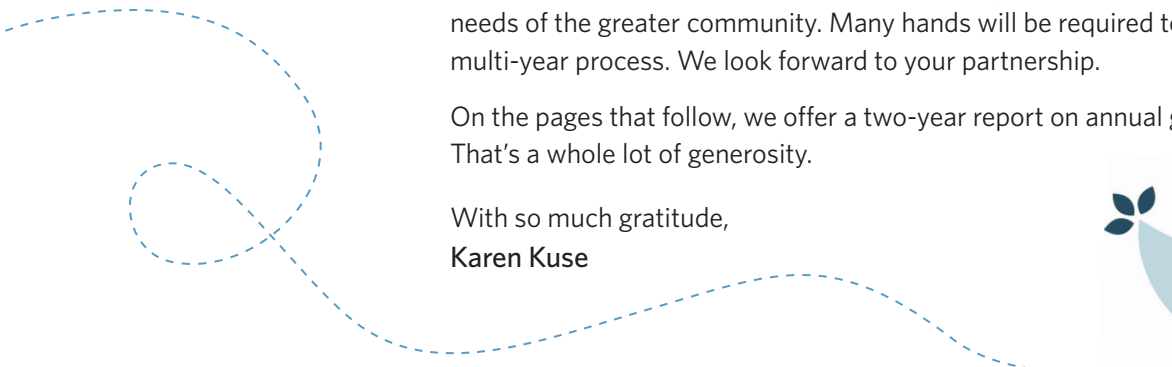
On September 5, 2017, we purchased Julian Wise's property at 420 Howard Street, directly behind our new upper elementary classroom. Volunteers cleared the contents of the house to reduce the cost of demolition; other volunteers installed a chain link fence to enclose the property. The cleared area is being used as a soccer field, a much-needed expansion of the playground.

In addition to construction, though, there are intangible things that are equally important. Here are three things I am most excited about, and we could not begin them or accomplish them without your help:

- Our faculty and staff receive a minimum 3 percent pay increase each year, and we fund many opportunities for professional development and advancement. In the summer of 2017, Betty Namuddu completed her 3-6 certification in Baltimore, and Sidney Little began his 6-9 AMS training in Boston. Additionally, in the last two years, our teachers and assistants have been to workshops in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, California, Colorado and New York. While it is wonderful to train new teachers, it is equally important to keep ideas fresh for our experienced teachers. Your gifts make this possible.
- Two years ago, we started five new initiatives: an annual Field Day, a parent-education series, a Valentine's Day Dance Party, a yearbook committee comprised of upper elementary students, and the sixth-grade trip to D.C. Your support makes these initiatives happen.
- In February 2018, the board of trustees, along with the faculty and staff, began a new strategic planning process. While the planning is still in progress, we are already moving toward dual accreditation with American Montessori Society (AMS) and the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS). We are committed to continuous self-reflection and improvement, and to serving the needs of the greater community. Many hands will be required to complete this multi-year process. We look forward to your partnership.

On the pages that follow, we offer a two-year report on annual giving. That's a whole lot of generosity.

With so much gratitude,
Karen Kuse



Letter from Current Board President

So many articles about children or education that I have read lately mention the word “grit.” Numerous publications feature titles such as “Our Children will need grit to face the world” and “How can we instill grit in our children?” Really, the answer is easy. If you want your child to develop grit, send them to an authentic Montessori school. A good Montessori school fosters the natural curiosity of a child and gently guides them to success. They learn perseverance as they grow in their work and determination as they strive to seek answers. My



child and her schoolmates are thriving at MSC and their love of learning continues to grow.

MSC keeps growing as well — in enrollment, staff and scope of programs. In February, the Board of Trustees, teachers and staff met to begin charting the future of the school with a new strategic plan. We determined that growth for its own sake is not enough. Together, we are working on a plan to guide our school mindfully. This includes exploring plans for program expansion to include a toddler program and a possible middle school, increasing engagement with our neighboring communities, establishing financial aid and conducting a campus inventory to help budget for future repairs. Throughout, we will continue on our path to seek accreditation with American Montessori Society (AMS) and the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS).

The caring and diligence of teachers and staff along with our tight knit community of parents,

Letter from Past Board President, 2013-2017

When my twins were born, I decided my job as a parent was to raise children into adults who were autonomous, curious and caring members of our community. The Montessori method cultivates all of these characteristics by providing our children the freedom to develop their autonomy in an age-appropriate curated environment. With guidance from our Montessori certified teachers, our children take responsibility for and pride in their own learning.

As an independent school, the Montessori School of Columbia has the freedom to deliver this authentic Montessori experience. Your commitment to the school and generous support of the Annual Fund, Auction and Capital Campaign make this possible.

In the last year we have expanded to offer a second lower elementary class. We completed construction on a new classroom for the upper elementary class. Michael Thigpen and Rebecca Townsend have joined the school as part of the elementary team.



Thanks to the generosity of our families, a new elementary playground with all new equipment has recently been unveiled. The school was also recognized as a certified National Wildlife Habitat. With these additions, I am happy to report that we have completed the goals of our strategic plan developed in February of 2014.

Thank you to all of the faculty and staff who make this wonderful educational opportunity possible. I continue to be impressed by their professionalism and care of our children.

makes everything we do possible. Thank you for supporting MSC with your time and generous gifts to the Annual Fund and our fundraisers like the Montessori Mile and our annual Auction. Because of people like you, we are able to provide an enriching environment for our students to gain confidence and experience the joy in learning.

Lane Meyer

Board Chair, 2017-Present

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2017-2018

Lane Meyer, *Chair*

Michael Drennan, *Past Chair*

Lisa Barrett

Jean Blanks

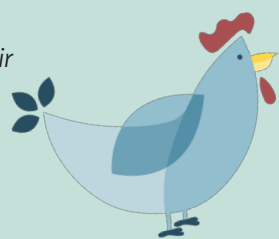
Edward Clarkson

Charles Dibble

Emmet Maas

Travis Wheeler

Karen Kuse, *ex-officio*



The 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 a legal and fiduciary responsibility for the school as a whole and plays a pivotal role in securing its future. The members bring a diversity of talent and broad practical and professional experience to the work of assuring the school's stability and development.



I am pleased to share that Lane Meyer has assumed the role as the new Chair of the Board of Trustees of the school. Her commitment and vision for the school will serve us all well in the coming years. With the rest of the Board and staff, the future of the school is in good hands.

Kindest regards,

Michael Drennan

Past Chair, 2013-2017

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2016-2017

Michael Drennan, *Chair*

Kevin Hartnett, *Secretary*

Charles Dibble

Avni Gupta-Kagan

Jeness Simler

Jenna Stephens

Travis Wheeler

Karen Kuse, *ex-officio*

2017/2018

MSC LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Arborists (\$5000 & Above)

Austin and Lane Meyer

Conservators (\$2500 - \$4900)

None

Cultivators (\$1500 - \$2499)

Chad and Joy Coffman

Propagators (\$1000 - \$1499)

Jeff and Gay Amberg
Steve and Sue Gibson
William Keane and Ann Ruderman
Diane Malison
Sultan and Lani Siddique

Nurturers (\$500 - \$999)

Jesse and Lisa Barrett
Vince and Steph Bilovsky
Boyce and Jean Blanks
Chuck and Becky Carter
Joe and Barbara Carter
Edward and Molley Clarkson
Jamie and Karen Kuse
Daniel and Carol Lee

David and Vinita Leedom
Emmet and Andrea Maas
Bab and Gene McEvoy
Phil and Starr Snead
Raymond and Ann Thomas
Travis and Lisa Wheeler
Jason and Chris Wolfe

Langston Powell
Matthew and Beth Richardson
Viji Saravanan
Todd Senn and Priya Pujara
Michael and Melissa Thigpen

Seedlings (\$125 - \$249)

Anonymous
Jane Bridges
Clarence and Janice Coleman
John and Sara Ernst
Chris and Anna Hicks
Kenny and Janae McLean
Wayne and Kay Johnston
Ronald and Deborah Prier
Rivers and Sandy Scarborough
John and Stephanie Thomas
Cody Towles and Ann Warner
Jake Wendling and Jessica Shillato
Jim and Kathy Young

FRIENDS OF MSC

Gardeners (\$250 - \$499)

David and Randie Cohen
Andy Demetra
Tabitha Demetra
Don Doggett and Ljubica Arceneaux
Michael Dowdy and Shelley Welton
Michael Drennan and Matt Kisner
Josh and Avni Gupta-Kagan
Donna Embry
Tyler and Cari Lee



2016/2017

MSC LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Arborists (\$5000 & above)

Austin and Lane Meyer

Conservators (\$2500 - \$4999)

Carole Anderson and Chris Wendel
Chad and Joy Coffman

Cultivators (\$1500 - \$2400)

Daniel and Carol Lee

Propagators (\$1000 - \$1499)

Jesse and Lisa Barrett
Don Brasher
Joe and Barbara Carter
William Keane and Ann Ruderman
Matthew and Beth Richardson

Nurturers (\$500 - \$999)

Melanie Balcomb and Amy Prichard
Jean and Boyce Blanks
Chuck and Becky Carter
Steve and Sue Gibson
Ted and Stephanie Kimbrough
Emmet and Andrea Maas
Diane Malison

Richard and Tina Robertson
Sultan and Lani Siddique
Phil and Starr Snead
Raymond and Ann Thomas
Travis and Lisa Wheeler

Andy Demetra
Tabitha Demetra
Michael Dowdy and Shelley Welton
Michael Drennan and Matt Kisner
Josh and Avni Gupta-Kagan
Kevin and Caroline Hartnett
Ray and Marguerite Knox
Jamie and Karen Kuse
Marie Postic
Langston Powell
Viji Saravanan

FRIENDS OF MSC

Gardeners (\$250 - \$499)

Vince and Steph Bilovsky
Edward and Molley Clarkson

Tillers (to \$124)

Martha Blanks
Bryan and Adair Boroughs
Matthew and Laura Brashears
Jonathan and Whitten Bryans
Blake and Catherine Buchanan
Charles and Sue Cate
Joe Churchill and Wanda Chisolm
Hunter and Evelyn Clarkson
Nick and Sarah Claggett
Jennifer Clayton
Bruno and Kelly Delage
Michael and Misty Dickson
Kiel Downy and Aparna Polavarapu
Josh and Melinda Eagle
Deirdre Gedlitschka
Erik and Meredythe Goodreau
Andrew Gordon
Patterson and Joanna Graham
Chad and Bridget Greer
Kevin and Caroline Hartnett
Jeremy and Ashley Hill
Mason and Presley Hogue
Ed and Mimi Holmes
Donovan Houston and Cat Catalano

Gilbert and Bel Iwegbue
Jared and Erin Johnson
Amy Kinard
Perry Lancaster
Joe and Jeanne Lisowski
Greg and Elizabeth Literati
Philippa Maroney
Nancy McCormick
Thomas and Heidi McDermott
Alex and Niki McPherson
Mark Minett and Heather Heckman
Betty Namuddu
Danny and Katie Owens
Gayatri Reddy
Justin and Jennifer Roche
Sonny Russell
Edward Rutledge
Reeves and Kristen Rutledge
Doug Smith and Rebecca Gonzalez
Samuel and LaVerne Smith
Mikell and Brett Stevens
Phillip and Elizabeth Stewart
John Sylvest and Elliot Hong
Hayden and Kristl Tomlin
Errol and Bethany Tisdale

Thank you!

We extend our sincerest gratitude to all of those who contribute to MSC with an Annual Fund gift, in-kind gift, service and volunteer time. For those who donated to MSC's Annual Fund, your generosity ensures that we continue the tradition of providing an exceptional experience that prepares students to enter the world as independent, self-directed and civically-engaged individuals. We are so grateful for the support the community has shown.

Kent and Lydia Ureda
Melanie Valbert
Clinton and Jenna Wallace
Sara Weinberg
Joel Wooten and Ellen Spiller

Rivers and Sandy Scarborough
Ansal and Manisha Shah
Mikell and Brett Stevens
John and Stephanie Thomas
Jake Wendling and Jessica Shillato

Seedlings (\$125 - \$249)

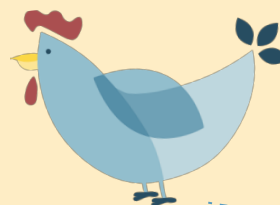
Bruno and Kelly Delage
Josh and Melinda Eagle
Patterson and Joanna Graham
John and Kay Hollis
Wayne and Kay Johnston
Kenny and Janae McLean
David and Emily Paavola
Ronald and Deborah Prier
Cody and Carrie Smith
Christopher and Lynn Yenkey

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Anonymous
Lex and Christine Ames
Sarah Axson
John and Kate Boyd
Matthew and Laura Brashears
Robert and Virginia Brooks
Chris and Bonnie Campbell

Carlo and Adriel Casulo
Richard and Cindy Chappell
Nick and Sarah Claggett
Hunter and Evelyn Clarkson
Sandy and Connie Cooper
Austin and Charlotte Cox
Michael and Misty Dickson
Donna Embry
John and Sara Ernst
Mason and Presley Hogue
Lester Jacoby
Ronald and Barbara Johnson
Kristopher and Samantha Jones
Jerome Leballeur
Laine and Taylor Ligon
Joe and Jeanne Lisowski
Chuck and Pat Literati
Greg and Elizabeth Literati
Nancy McCormick
Thomas and Meg McLean
Alex and Niki McPherson
Betty Namuddu
Danny and Katie Owens
Eliot and Mary Payson
Alex and Anne Postic

Gayatri Reddy
Reeves and Kristen Rutledge
Gary Schuerfeld and Jenness Simler
Brent Simpson and Hanne van der Iest
Doug Smith and Rebecca Gonzalez
Samuel and Laverne Smith
Michael and Melissa Thigpen
Horace and Joyce Tompkins
Cody Towles and Ann Warner
TRUIST
Kent and Lydia Ureda
Melanie Valbert
Matthew Varner
Nicholas Vazsonyi and Agnes Mueller
Bryan and Shandi Wallace
Sara Weinberg
Andrew and Elizabeth White
Andreas and Alisa Wolfram
Jim and Kathy Young



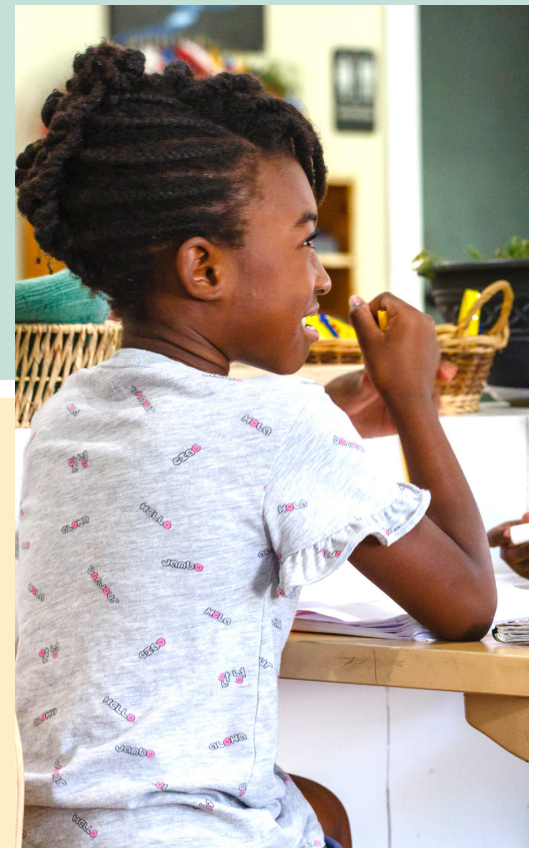
2017/2018 GIVING BY CATEGORY

CURRENT PARENTS

Jesse and Lisa Barrett
 Vince and Steph Bilovsky
 Boyce and Jean Blanks
 Bryan and Adair Boroughs
 Matthew and Laura Brashears
 Jonathan and Whitten Bryans
 Blake and Catherine Buchanan
 Chuck and Becky Carter
 Joe Churchill and Wanda Chisolm
 Edward and Molley Clarkson
 Nick and Sarah Claggett
 Jennifer Clayton
 Chad and Joy Coffman
 Bruno and Kelly Delage
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 Jared and Erin Johnson
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 Errol and Bethany Tisdale
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 Joel Wooten and Ellen Spiller



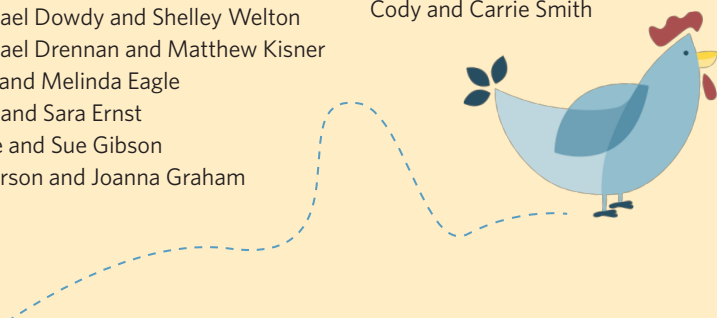
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 Brian and Shandi Wallace
 Sara Weinberg
 Jake Wendling and Jessica Shillato
 Travis and Lisa Wheeler
 Andrew and Elizabeth White
 Andreas and Alisa Wolfram
 Christopher and Lynn Yenkey



CURRENT GRANDPARENTS

Jeff and Gay Amberg
Martha Blanks
Jane Bridges
Joe and Barbara Carter
Hunter and Evelyn Clarkson
Donna Embry
Wayne and Kay Johnston
Diane Malison
Philippa Maroney
Bob and Gene McEvoy
Sonny Russell
Edward and Belinda Rutledge
Raymond and Ann Thomas

ALUMNI FAMILIES

Charles and Sue Cate
David and Randie Cohen
Clarence and Janice Coleman
Michael and Misty Dickson
Andrew Gordon
Kevin and Caroline Hartnett
Mason and Presley Hogue
William Keane and Ann Ruderman
Jamie and Karen Kuse
Joe and Jeanne Lisowski
Nancy McCormick
Ronald and Deborah Prier
Gayatri Reddy
Matthew and Beth Richardson
Rivers and Sandy Scarborough
Doug Smith and Rebecca Gonzalez
Melanie Valbert

FRIENDS OF MSC

Deirdre Gedlitschka
Amy Kinard
Mark Minett and Heather Heckman
Phil and Starr Snead

CURRENT FACULTY AND STAFF

Chuck and Becky Carter
Michael and Misty Dickson
Jamie and Karen Kuse
Betty Namuddu
Justin and Jennifer Roche
Viji Saravanan
Michael and Melissa Thigpen
Jim and Kathy Young

BUSINESS SUPPORT

Perry Lancaster - *Brittons*

ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Boyce and Jean Blanks, *Chairs*
Lisa Barrett, *Leadership Chair*

Class Captains

Kate Maroney, Kevin Maroney and Bethany Tisdale, *Primary 1*
Vinita Leedom, Elizabeth Literati and Greg Literati, *Primary 2*
Chris and Jason Wolfe, *Primary 3*
Edward Clarkson, Molley Clarkson, Kelly Delage
and Tabitha Demetra, *Lower Elementary*
Andrea Maas, *Upper Elementary*



CURRENT GRANDPARENTS

Carol Anderson and Chris Wendel
Joe and Barbara Carter
Hunter and Evelyn Clarkson
Donna Embry
John and Kay Hollis
Wayne and Kay Johnston
Chuck and Pat Literati
Diane Malison
Thomas and Meg McLean
Marie Postic
Raymond and Ann Thomas
Horace and Joyce Tompkins

ALUMNI FAMILIES

Don Brasher
Carlo and Adriel Casulo
Richard and Cindy Chappell
Sandy and Connie Cooper
Michael and Misty Dickson
Mason and Presley Hogue
Ronald and Barbara Johnson
William Keane and Ann Ruderman
Ray and Marguerite Knox
Jamie and Karen Kuse
Joe and Jeanne Lisowski
Nancy McCormick
Eliot and Mary Payson
Ronald and Deborah Prier
Gayatri Reddy
Matthew and Beth Richardson
Gary Schuerfeld and Jenness Simler
Doug Smith and Rebecca Gonzalez
Melanie Valbert

FRIENDS OF MSC

Sarah Axson
Lester Jacoby

Richard and Tina Robertson
Phil and Starr Snead

CURRENT FACULTY AND STAFF

Chuck and Becky Carter
Michael and Misty Dickson
Jamie and Karen Kuse
Betty Namuddu
Viji Saravanan
Michael and Melissa Thigpen
Jim and Kathy Young

BUSINESS SUPPORT

TRUIST

ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Emmet and Andrea Maas, *Chairs*
Lisa Barrett, *Leadership Chair*

Class Captains

Lex Ames and Jean Blanks, *Primary 1*
Elizabeth and Greg Literati, *Primary 2*
Kevin Hartnett and Lane Meyer, *Primary 3*
Kelly Delage and Andrea Maas, *Lower Elementary*
Lani Siddique and Lindsay Sorrell, *Upper Elementary*

2017/2018

MONTESSORI MILE

Chairs: Charlotte Cox
and Ellen Spiller

AW SHUCK'S AUCTION

Auction Chairs: Cat Catalano
and Lisa Wheeler

Acquisitions Chair: Joy Coffman

Communications Chairs: Gwendolyn
Singletary and Bethany Tisdale

Sponsorship Chair: Jean Blanks

Decorations Chair: Kristina Hotz

Class Projects Chair: Lane Meyer

Auction Sponsors

Advancement Connections

Architrave, LLC

The ART of Real Estate

- Elizabeth Literati

Blue Cross Blue Shield

of South Carolina

Bluebird Property Management, LLC

Boyd Orthodontics

CDS IT Solution

Clint and Jenna Wallace

Coleman, Ureda, Alford & Kaucher PA

Dr. Kris O'Neill, DMD

The Greenway Group, LLC

Malison Financial Group, LLC

MSC Board of Trustees

Parler, LLC

Publix Super Markets Charities, INC

Sandhills Veterinary Hospital

South State Bank

Spotted Salamander

Stevens Law, LLC

Events and Development

Over the last two years, MSC held a mix of fundraising and social events, including our annual Montessori Mile walkathon, Annual Auction, Grandparents and Special Friends Day and Book Fair. We are grateful for the time, energy and commitment of many volunteers who ensure the success of these events.



2016/2017

MONTESSORI MILE

Chairs: Amy Smith and Lisa Wheeler

UNCORKED AUCTION

Auction Chairs: Charlotte Cox
and Lydia Ureda

Acquisitions Chair: Joy Coffman

Communications Chair:

Steph Bilovsky

Sponsorship Chair: Lisa Barrett

Decorations Chair: Amy Smith

Class Projects Chair: Jeannie Woody

Auction Sponsors

Advancement Connections

Architrave, LCC

Blue Cross Blue Shield

of South Carolina

Boyd Orthodontics

Coleman, Ureda, Alford

& Kaucher, PA

Donna Embry

Dr. Kris O'Neill, DMD

Forest Drive Dental Care of Columbia

& Columbia Children's Dentistry

Home Advantage Realty

Langston Powell

and Marilyn Gartley

Malison Financial Group, LLC

MSC Board of Trustees

Parler, LLC

Sandhills Veterinary Hospital

Smashburger

South State Bank

Spotted Salamander

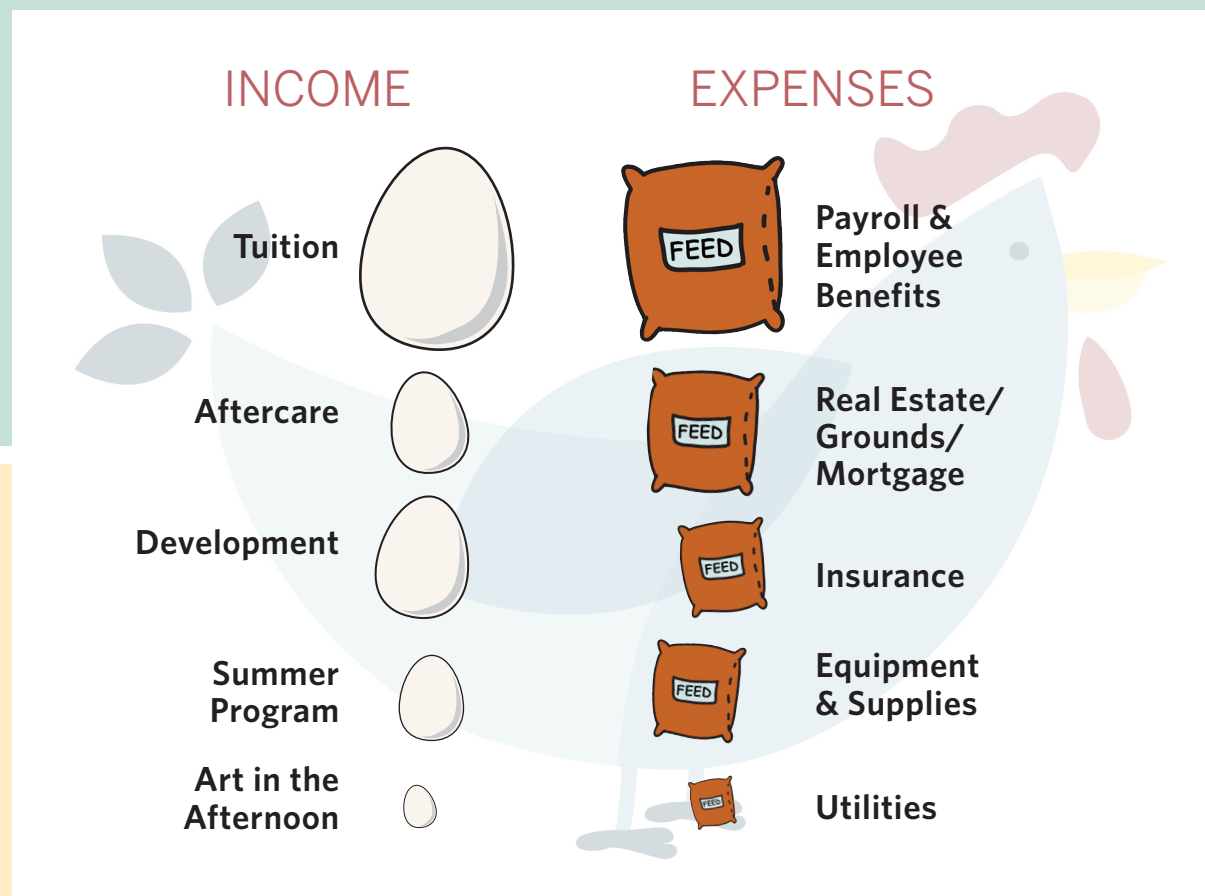
Steve and Sue Gibson

The Shelton Team

2017/2018

| INCOME | % |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Tuition | 77.5 |
| Aftercare | 7.0 |
| Development | 10.0 |
| Summer Program | 5.0 |
| Art in the Afternoon | 0.5 |
| TOTAL | 100% |

| EXPENSES | % |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Payroll & Employee Benefits | 72.0 |
| Real Estate/Grounds/Mortgage | 10.0 |
| Insurance | 6.5 |
| Equipment & Supplies | 8.0 |
| Utilities | 3.5 |
| TOTAL | 100% |



2016/2017

| INCOME | % |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Tuition | 80.0 |
| Aftercare | 6.5 |
| Development | 10.0 |
| Summer Program | 3.0 |
| Art in the Afternoon | 0.5 |
| TOTAL | 100% |

| EXPENSES | % |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Payroll & Employee Benefits | 71.0 |
| Real Estate/Grounds/Mortgage | 11.0 |
| Insurance | 7.0 |
| Equipment & Supplies | 7.5 |
| Utilities | 3.5 |
| TOTAL | 100% |



CURRENT STAFF

Karen Kuse, *Head of School*
Leslie Greene, *Assistant Head of School*
Becky Carter, *Director of Development*
Heather Connor, *Administrative Assistant/
Lower School Spanish Instructor*
Jim Young, *Lead Upper Elementary Teacher*
Rebecca Townsend, *Assistant Upper Elementary Teacher*
Kathy Young, *Assistant Upper Elementary Teacher*
Misty Dickson, *Lead Lower Elementary Teacher*
Erin Knox, *Lead Lower Elementary Teacher*
Sidney Little, *Lead Lower Elementary Teacher*
Michael Thigpen, *Lead Lower Elementary Teacher*
Betty Namuddu, *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*
Ian Reeve, *Assistant Primary Three Teacher*
Ashley Clarke, *Art Instructor*
Casey Moore, *Latin Instructor*
Jennifer Roche, *Music Instructor*
Alicia Thomas, *Spanish Instructor*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2018-2019

Lane Meyer, *Chair*
Lisa Barrett, *Treasurer*
Jean Blanks, *Secretary*
Bryan Boroughs
Edward Clarkson
Charles Dibble
Steve Gibson
Emmet Maas
Travis Wheeler
Karen Kuse, *ex-officio*

MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF COLUMBIA

411 South Maple Street
Columbia, SC 29205
803.783.8838
www.montessoricolumbia.com

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Montessori School of Columbia offers an authentic Montessori education that challenges students academically and fosters each child's social, emotional and intellectual growth in order to prepare them to serve as responsible citizens of the greater community.

This report is accurate to the best of our knowledge. We sincerely apologize for any error or omissions. Contact the MSC office with any questions.