

ANNUAL REPORT OF GIVING

2019/2020





Dear Friends.

At the end of this schoolyear, Jim Young, our upper elementary teacher who retired this summer, walked into my office and told me that I should write a book on reopening the school in the midst of a global pandemic. I initially thought to myself, "Why would I write a book on something that so many schools accomplished?" The truth is, I don't know the details about how other schools managed. I do know that we, at the Montessori School of Columbia, have a community of heroes. When we were faced with a "sink or swim" situation, we swam the whole marathon. Yes, we made many costly adjustments to our campus and classrooms, which helped tremendously. But it is the people in our school that made the year a success. Our board president, Lane Meyer, will tell you more about this in her letter.

When the world experiences a global pandemic, it's often hard to recall life beforehand. However, our parent education events are extremely memorable and tend to make lasting impressions.

In November 2018, our school brought in the American Montessori Society's Living Legacy, Michael Duffy. Michael and his wife, D'Neil, authored three books on Montessori education, and it was a pleasure to learn from such giants in the Montessori world. They stressed our focus on Cosmic Education. Dr. Montessori believed that Cosmic Education was vital to early childhood education because it provides children with a framework to understand their world and their place within it.

In October 2019, we brought in Dr. Derrick Gay. Derrick partners with organizations around the world to explore the nature of racial discourse and promote global citizenship. We want our students to understand the interconnected nature of our world, and we believe promoting these discussions in our community builds better leaders for our future. As many parents, teachers and community members stated, working with Derrick Gay was an opportunity of a lifetime.

It has become abundantly clear to me that events, social or professional, connect people and strengthen bonds. During the two years that this report spans, events were frequent and spectacular. New parent parties, popsicles on the playground, fall festivals, watch me work nights, auctions, plays, grandparents' days and field trips are just a few of the occasions we have enjoyed in the past and plan to revel in again. These moments together are unforgettable.

With so much gratitude, Karen Kuse



LETTER FROM BOARD PRESIDENT

Our days tend to have a rhythm, We sleep, wake and feed our families, we love, learn and grow. There are days that are more exciting than others, some better and others worse, but the basics remain the same. At least that was the case until last year when our lives ground to a halt and almost overnight our world became completely different. We've gained a new appreciation for the people we love and a new recognition that time is fleeting. We've learned how important our connections with others are for our mental health. Hopefully we've all learned that we need to listen more and talk less. Perhaps the most important lesson we've received as parents is how difficult it is to teach and guide our children's learning. The MSC community is lucky to have been in person this past school year with few exceptions, especially as we attempted with varying results to fill the teachers' shoes for a few months last Spring. I, for one, was not an effective substitute and would have failed if Montessori schools gave grades. We've all learned how amazing the teachers and administration at MSC are and I know that we'll be forever thankful for their work continuing to nurture a sense of community, both thru Zoom interactions and from six feet apart in the classrooms. This provided a



stable foundation for our children to guide them through this unsettling new reality.

While time seemed to stand still, work continued on campus. The teachers and administration quickly pivoted to provide work for home and found a way to make Montessori Zoom friendly. Several changes were made to campus to provide safe learning spaces both inside and out, from adding air purifiers and sanitation stations and procedures to building new classroom spaces outside like the new covered deck used by the Elementary building and Primary 3's new awning. Building F (Primary 1 and 2) was renovated after storm damage to include an exterior restroom outside the playground. Our newest



addition, the Learning Lab, has been completed and provides new classrooms for Art and MSC's first Science Laboratory with a partition that can be moved to create a multi use space for campus. This building is one of the first Net Zero Energy buildings in South Carolina and can be used to teach our children about the different ways we can live more sustainably. Our dream of expanding to include Middle School became a reality this school year. While our progress on the road to accreditation has stalled with Covid restrictions we are still working towards that goal. We are committed to following our strategic plan developed in 2018 that provides direction for mindful growth.

All of these things were made possible through donations from our close knit community. Thank you for supporting MSC with your time and generous gifts to our Annual Fund and other school fundraisers like the Montessori Mile and our Spring Auction. Someday soon we will all be together but until then thank you for being part of the MSC family.

Lane Meyer Board Chair, 2017-Present

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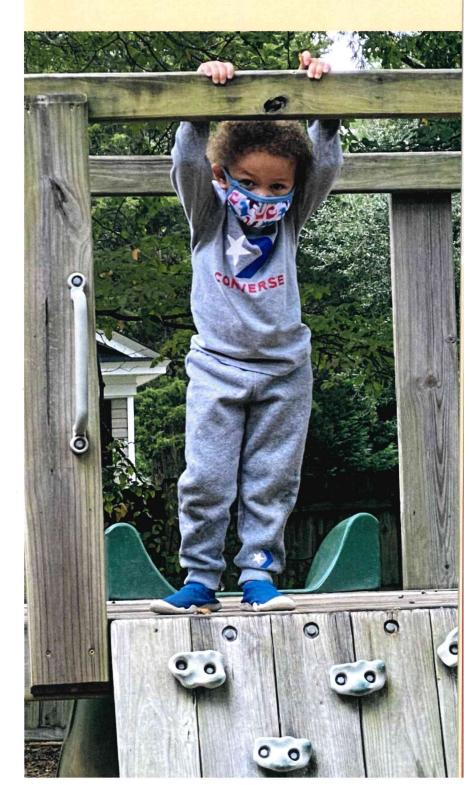
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As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, the Montessori School of Columbia is governed by a Board of Trustees. This group has a legal and fiduciary responsibility for the school as a whole and plays a pivotal role in securing its future. The members bring a diversity of talent and broad practical and professional experience to the work of assuring the school's stability and development.





2019/2020

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None

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Cultivators (\$1500-\$2499)

None

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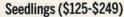
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We extend our sincerest gratitude to all of those who contribute to MSC with an Annual Fund gift, in-kind gift, service and volunteer time. For those who donated to MSC's Annual Fund, your generosity ensures that we continue the tradition of providing 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.

Thank you!

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Advancement Connections

ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Hal and Dani Trapp, Chairs Andrea Maas, Leadership Chair

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Lander and Leigh Cason, *Primary 1*Patti Johnson and Cari Kepner Lee, *Primary 2*George Kim and Jonathan Moody, *Primary 3*Samantha Jones and Laura Moye, *Lower Elementary - Magnolia*Tabitha Heck and Clint Wills, *Lower Elementary - Palmetto*Molley Clarkson, *Upper Elementary*



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Jamie and Karen Kuse
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Janeta Radieva
Justin and Jennifer Roche
Mani Seneviratne
Michael and Melissa Thigpen

BUSINESS SUPPORT

Malison Financial Group

ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Jason and Chris Wolfe, Chairs Andrea Maas, Leadership Chair

Class Captains

Dani Kinggard and Hal Trapp, *Primary 1*Kindsey Kilgo and Tyler Lee, *Primary 2*Jessica Bingham and Jeri Katherine Sipes, *Primary 3*Kelly Delage, Tabitha Demetra,
Kris and Samantha Jones, *Lower Elementary*Tracy Allen, *Upper Elementary*

2019/2020

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Chairs: Thomas and Heidi McDermott

MONTE CARLO NIGHT AUCTION

Auction Chairs:

Joy Coffman and Gabby Petersen Acquisition Chair: Elizabeth Stewart Sponsorship Chair: Jean Blanks Decorations Chair: Heather Connor Class Projects Chair: Dani Trapp

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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.



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2018/2019

MONTESSORI MILE

Chairs: Heidi McDermott and Liz White

CASINO NIGHT AUCTION

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Acquisition Chair: Lisa Wheeler
Communications Chair: Gwen Singletary
Sponsorship Chair: Jean Blanks
Decorations Chair:
Adam and Heather Connor

Adam and Heather Connor Class Projects Chair: Lane Meyer

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Luna Lola
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South State Bank
Spotted Salamander Catering
The Automotive Advisor
The Greenway Group



2019/2020

INCOME	%	
Tuition & Fees	85	
Development	10	
Aftercare	5	
Summer Camp	0	
TOTAL	100%	

EXPENSES	%
Payroll	69
Equipment & Supplies	7
Insurance	7
Mortgage	5
Utilities	5
Professional Development	4
Buildings & Grounds	3
TOTAL	100%

INCOME

Tuition & Fees



Development



Aftercare



Summer Camp



EXPENSES



Payroll



Equipment & Supplies



Insurance



Mortgage



Utilities



Professional Development



Buildings & Grounds

2018/2019

INCOME	%	
Tuition & Fees	72	
Development	17	
Aftercare	7	
Summer Camp	4	
TOTAL	100%	



EXPENSES	%
Payroll	70
Equipment & Supplies	7
Insurance	6
Mortgage	5
Utilities	4
Professional Development	4
Buildings & Grounds	4
TOTAL	100%





CURRENT STAFF

Karen Kuse, Head of School Leslie Greene, Assistant Head of School Becky Carter, Director of Development Harry Langley, Business Manager Virginia Postic, Administrative Assistant Erica Patterson, Lead Middle School Teacher Erin Knox-Boyd, Lead Upper Elementary Teacher Stuart Stoner, Lead Upper Elementary Teacher Misty Dickson, Lead Lower Elementary Teacher **Terra Hodges**, Lead Lower Elementary Teacher Sidney Little, Lead Lower Elementary Teacher Michael Thigpen, Lead Lower Elementary Teacher Betty Namuddu, Lead Primary One Teacher **Sarah McNab**, Assistant Primary One Teacher Angie Carter, Lead Primary Two Teacher Janeta Radieva, Assistant Primary Two Teacher Corey Jungclaus, Lead Primary Three Teacher Sarah McCants, Assistant Primary Three Teacher Vera Broughton, Extended Day Teacher Nitzia Gutierrez, Spanish Instructor Jennifer Roche, Music Instructor Jessica Smith, Art Instructor Kathy Young, Librarian and Reading/Writing Coach Antonio Weeks, Custodian

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MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF COLUMBIA

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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.