



Annual Report 2014-2015

For the Love of Learning



**MONTESSORI
SCHOOL
OF
LAKE
FOREST**



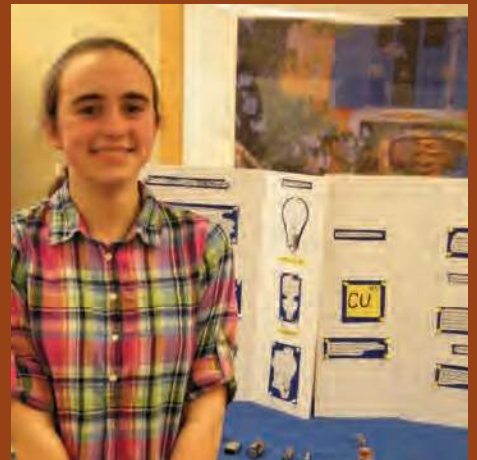
Mission

Cultivate in every MSLF child a life-long love of learning.



Vision

To evolve in relevant and measurable ways the principles of Montessori education for the benefit of the children of the 21st Century.



Values

Excellence in Education

We achieve excellence in education by inspiring children toward their full social and intellectual potential.

Respect for the Child

We respect each child and are committed to guiding each student on his or her own individual path to independence and intellectual development.

Self-Development and Self-Knowledge

We value learning in prepared environments as a way to promote natural curiosity, self-development, and self-knowledge.

Appreciation of the Natural World

We value the outdoor environment as a way to cultivate the child's inborn appreciation of nature and human beings' age-old role as stewards of the natural world.

Diversity and Cooperation

We value carefully balanced classrooms which provide diversity in age, background, and skill level as a way to teach cooperation, mutual respect, and peaceful resolution of conflicts - critical skills of effective citizens in a democratic society.

Engaged Communities

We value the active involvement of family, faculty, and friends.



Greetings from MSLF

The Montessori School of Lake Forest accomplished our 48th year anniversary during the 2014-15 school year - what an amazing accomplishment! Soon we will celebrate our 50th anniversary, and we are excited about the potential of our students because we know they will continue to fulfill the year's theme as they continue to "Dare to Soar!"

Fortunately for each student and family, MSLF has the tools in place for the whole community to meet that potential. Our organizational excellence begins at the top, under the leadership of Executive Director Ann Jordahl, and extends throughout our professional faculty and staff. The combination of Montessori principles and the collaborative efforts of our team of educators provide the foundation that assures our students will soar during the coming year.



The 2014-2015 school year included a number of celebrations and an interesting variety of parent educational programs. As you participated in these events, you had unique opportunities to experience how the principles of a Montessori Education help students evolve in relevant, measureable ways, preparing your student with the skills required to reach their full potential. I strongly encourage parents to spend more time observing classrooms, not only where your child is today, but also those they will attend in future years.

Why is this so important? Quite simply, our students take their cues from you. When they see their parents are actively engaged in the educational process, it provides motivation for them to soar to even greater heights. That is one area that makes MSLF both unique and quite fortunate: we have a high percentage of parents who volunteer their time and who fill so many important roles for the school. Parents who are actively involved in the education process provide an essential layer on top of the foundation of faculty, staff, leadership and the Montessori approach to education.

Here is a closer look at activities we enjoyed during the year. We started a new tradition, launching the year with our first annual "Spirit Week," joined by our school mascot, the wise owl. Spirit Week featured many dynamic activities that set an expectation of excellence - for us to soar together - while maintaining our focus on MSLF's tagline: *For the love of learning!*

There were many other "behind the scenes" activities as well. For example, our new Development Committee worked hard to fulfill its mission to develop and implement a sustainable fundraising program for the school. Our other standing committees - the Finance Committee, the Committee on Directors and our Head Support and Evaluation Committee - met regularly to assure MSLF would be ready to meet the challenge of our future, as well.

As we looked forward to our next half-century, we agreed that in the coming year we would reevaluate our five-year Strategic Plan. We also made progress in another critical area: succession planning at the Board level. We challenged you, our parents, to consider becoming more involved in the school, perhaps even considering a seat on our Board of Directors, and many of you responded. Our Board is stronger today than it has ever been in the past. At the same time, sustainable excellence requires new volunteers and fresh faces to help us deliver the quality education every student deserves. With that in mind, I renew my challenge for you to find new ways to become involved in the 2015-2016 school year.

Finally, on behalf of the students, faculty, staff, the MSLF Board and our Executive Director, Ann Jordahl, thank you for entrusting the Montessori School of Lake Forest with the education of your children!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Zengeler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" and last name "Zengeler" clearly distinguishable.

Thomas J. Zengeler, Board President

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Members of the Montessori School of Lake Forest Community,

Past, Present, Future: MSLF always has been and always will be a place where children and their families come first. This value lies at the heart of Montessori education, and it informs every step that parents, children, and teachers take together at the Montessori School of Lake Forest.

Founded nearly 50 years ago as a parent study group, MSLF evolved into a “full service” school, dedicated to supporting the whole development of every child who enters its doors. As proud as we are of every student at graduation, we grow even prouder as we hear the reports of their high school teachers, and as we welcome them as teenage and young adult alumni.

Our MSLF alumni, resourceful and responsible, “literate, numerate, and ethical” (to quote Maria Montessori), are entering a wide range of professions, because they are interested and capable. The doors of their minds, and thus of their lives, are open, and they succeed by building opportunity after opportunity for themselves, in large ways and small.

How did they learn to do this? And why, even amongst their peers at prestigious high schools and colleges, are they so unique in their ability to build opportunity for themselves?

I speak as their witness of many years: They learned how to build opportunity by doing it from early childhood, day by day, in their Montessori school, as your children are doing now. From the youngest MSLF child to the oldest, every child learns how to set a goal and reach it; how to make a decision and live with it; how to communicate a need to get it met; how to set a limit and accept a limit; how to dream a dream and how to work to make that dream come true. This is how they learn to build opportunity, how they learn to take risks and dare to soar.

Childhood and adolescence are not easy places to live. They are indeed full of wonder, and they are just as full of challenge. Children and adolescents who live their wonder and meet their challenges with equal parts of grit and grace, respect and responsibility, become the young adults we cherish and the adults we will eventually learn from.

It takes courage to send a child to a Montessori school, and not just because of what the neighbors, or the bank, have to say. It also takes courage because it calls upon us to face the reality that the only person who creates an adult is the child they once were.

Our job is to support our opportunity-building “adults-in-progress,” step by step and day by day. Thank you for doing this job with me and the teachers at the Montessori School of Lake Forest. We couldn’t do the work without you! The 2014-15 school year was full of learning and soaring. Thank you for all of the growth that entailed. And here’s to another wonderful year of living and learning for the Montessori School of Lake Forest community, at home, at school, and out in the big wide world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ann Jordahl", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ann Jordahl
Executive Director
Montessori School of Lake Forest





Stepping Up

Throughout the school, children stepped up to the next level. Parent Infant children were welcomed into Toddler, Toddler into Primary, Extended Day into Lower Elementary, third years into Upper Elementary and sixth years into our Adolescent Program.

We are pleased and proud to announce the graduation of the Montessori School of Lake Forest Class of 2015. Olivia Vrablik graduated as a 9th year student on June 4, 2015. Michaela Abrams, Ivan Gleyzer, Andrew Hooke, Anna Kubiak and Catherine Kubiak "stepped out" as eighth year students.

The entire MSLF community was invited to gather and hear these students celebrate their achievements.

Congratulations to all!



Primary to Elementary

Hugh Tennyson
Lance Shaffer
Safah Patel
Austin Falbe
Dawson Ward
Taylor Hinkle
Sarper Dogan
Aliana Patrick Effio
Rebecca Huang
Celina Wang
Sarah Mulani

Lower Elementary to Upper Elementary

William Cathlina
Lucas Chamberlin
Max Glusic
Tyler Mannelly
Julian Padilla
Kendall Snodgrass
Sami Mulani

Upper Elementary to Adolescent

Donovan Burns
Audrey Chamberlin
Emma Schaff

ANNUAL GIVING

The Montessori School of Lake Forest's Annual Giving campaign is the foundation of the school's fundraising activities. Tuition covers only 90% of the annual budget requirements, and the remaining 10% comes from generous donors. Annual Giving contributions supplement the operating budget, therefore avoiding the need for higher tuition. MSLF asks "every family, every year" to show its commitment to the school by supporting Annual Giving. Each

contribution makes it possible for MSLF to continue providing exceptional education programs and a diverse socio-economic learning environment.

We are pleased to report that MSLF raised \$80,654.89 during the 2014-2015 Annual Giving Campaign, with generous gifts from the Board of Directors, faculty and staff, and parent community. The funds raised go toward supporting capital improvements to the school, as well as ongoing operations and programming at both campuses.

Thank you for participating in our Annual Giving program. Together, we can make a difference for MSLF and its children...now and in the future.

BENEFIT

The Annual Benefit invites our community to come together for a meaningful and relaxed evening of fun that also serves to raise the funds necessary to support MSLF. Many parents spend long (and enjoyable) hours preparing for the event. The children also get involved as they showcase their talents in the creation of a classroom project. These masterpieces become the focal point of the live auction during the event.

The MSLF community came together at Lake Forest Sportscars for an evening of food, fun and giving. Together we raised \$100,055 to support financial aid, the implementation of a new audio-visual system and updated technology throughout the school.



Supporting MSLF

During the course of each school year, the Montessori School of Lake Forest holds two major fundraising initiatives: the Annual Giving Campaign and the Annual Benefit. The school also thrives on significant parent involvement, such as the Room Parents, Benefit Committee volunteers and other spirit-driven initiatives.

www.mslf.org/give-today



Every Family... Every Year

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Room Parents

Toddler 1

Jennifer Cockrel
Lori Oster

Toddler 2

Hope Allegretti

Primary 1

Laura Fosselman
Sarah Maraccini
Asiya Mulani

Primary 2

Kirstin Carruthers
Megan Cooper
Diana Effio
Jessica Federighi

Primary 4

Nicole Korczak
Kelly Rynes

Primary 5

Tanya Hinkle

Lower Elementary 1

Kirstin Carruthers
Tamara Mannelly
Asiya Mulani
Monica Rayburn

Lower Elementary 2

Jory Cathlina
Lori Chamberlin
Kimberly Snodgrass

Upper Elementary

Lori Chamberlin
Tanya Hinkle
Kristyn Moore

Adolescent

Patty Abrams
Jennifer Michaud



BENEFIT COMMITTEE

Kirstin Carruthers, Chair
Laura Fosselman, Co-Chair
Hope Allegretti
Cassie Carver
Jennifer Cockrel
Jessica Federighi
Helen Gerbin

Jennifer Kudesh
Sarah Maraccini
Asiya Mulani
Monica Pearson
Kelly Rynes
Laurie Shanahan

Year in Review



back to school



spirit week



grandparents day



snow!



sock hop



science fair



springfield trip



**nature's
classroom**



graduation

Annual Benefit



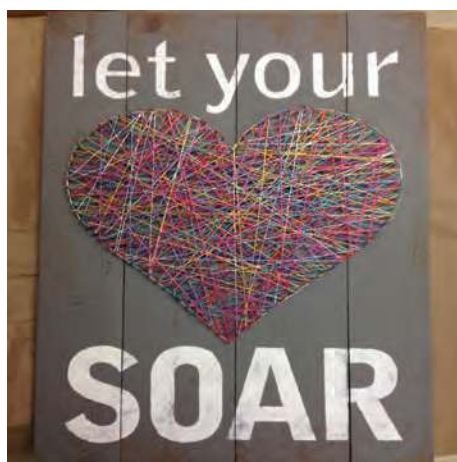
The Annual MSLF Benefit, the school's largest fundraiser, was held on April 11, 2015. The Carver/Mancuso Family generously donated Lake Forest Sportscars as the venue for the event. Kirstin Carruthers served as Benefit Chair, and Laura Fosselman served as Benefit Co-Chair.

The benefit theme, "Dare to Soar," exemplified what our children do at school on a daily basis. The Montessori School of Lake Forest gives children the tools, the encouragement, and the permission to spread their wings. Students of all ages think on their own, challenging themselves intellectually, physically, socially and personally. They are reaching their potentials.

Paddle Raiser

Each year, the Benefit includes a Paddle Raiser in support of a specific school initiative. In 2014-2015, the focus was technology, specifically, a new audio-visual system and updated technology throughout the school.

Together, we raised \$31,750 to enhance technology on both campuses and to install a new audio-visual system in the multipurpose room. The new technology will allow students to research and create presentations, slide shows, play and other performances.



Financial Overview

All figures in 000s



Revenue

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Tuition and Fees | \$2,639 |
| Contributions | \$140 |
| Interest Income | \$1 |
| Fundraising | \$101 |
| Total | \$2,881 |



Liabilities

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Accounts Payable | \$5 |
| Accrued Liabilities | \$55 |
| Unearned Tuition | \$147 |
| Mortgage Payable | \$1,502 |
| Parent Deposits | \$213 |
| Total Liabilities | \$1,922 |
| Net Assets | \$2,119 |

Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$4,041



Assets

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Cash | \$36 |
| Savings and Investment | \$726 |
| Accounts Receivable | \$64 |
| Prepaid Expense | \$47 |
| Property and Equipment | \$3,155 |
| Loan Costs | \$13 |
| Total Assets | \$4,041 |



Expenses

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Instruction | \$1,580 |
| Administration | \$619 |
| Facilities | \$337 |
| Interest Expense & Depreciation | \$263 |
| Total | \$2,799 |



Annual Giving & Benefit Donations

The following amounts represent donations made in the combined categories of Annual Giving, donations and Benefit purchases. We very much appreciate your generosity and look forward to our community's support.

every family...every year

The Golden Beads

\$5,000-\$50,000

Abrams Family
Anonymous
Butler Family Foundation/
Connell Family
Carruthers Family
Evans Family
Kathryn Jasinski
Korczak Family
Liu-Zhuang Family
Lynch Family
Mandarich Family
Surber Family

The Pink Tower

\$2,500-4,999

Cockrel Family
Hinkle Family
Maraccini Family
Micle-Savos Family
Craig and Kristyn Moore Family
Piscitello-Warren Family
Rayburn Family
Rieder Family
Shaffer-Peters Family
Ed Uihlein Foundation
Wadhwani Family
Weskamp-Kubiak Family

The Broad Stair

\$1,000-\$2,499

Ackerson Family
Anderson-Alevras Family
Atkinson Family
Bagan Family
Bell-Lewis Family
Block Family
Bohnert Family
Burns Family
Cathlina Family
Chamberlin Family
Chronopoulos Family
Clifford Family
Collins Family
Davis-Lilly Family
Dogan Family
Federighi Family
Fosselman Family
Garza Family
Pat Gregory
A.H. and Carolyn Haddad
Henry-Currier Family
Hooke Family
Huang Family
Jewel/New Albertsons, Inc.
Ann Jordahl
Walter C. Klein, Jr. Family Trust
Liu-Huang Family
Claudia Lovelette
Mannelly Family
Oates-Heiberger Family
Padilla Family
Palmer Family
Serkland-Melichar Family
Shanahan Family
Staples Family
Vrablik Family
Wang-Liu Family
Zengeler Family
Zitzewitz Family

The Red Rods

\$700-\$999

Ahern Family
The Benevity Community Impact
Fund
Buhl Family
Engel Family
Goodman-Polachek Family
Grum Family
Pavelich Family
Target - Take Charge of Education

The Bells

\$500-699

Anonymous
Brady Family
Rhett and Kay Butler
Charlot Family
Friedman-Fedderman Family
Kane Family
June and Joel Levin
Lykins Family
Mancusi Family
Kathleen Marino
Adam and Barbara Moore Family
Brian Mudrick, Mary Coduti and
Nick Mudrick
Beth Nielsen
Patrick-Effio Family
Larry Pence
Peng-Wang Family
Renedo Family
Rynes Family
Carol Smith
Stewart-Chang Family
John S. Swift Co. Inc.
Tan Family
Thomas Family
Werba-Chang Family
Wright Family





The Metal Insets

\$250-\$499

Allegretti Family
Boucek Family
Biddle Family
Nick Caccamo
Cassidy Family
Douglas Family
Erulkar Family
Haddad-Hurtado Family
Hubbard Family
Bryan Kneeland
Lin Family
Mann Family
Paul Melichar Trust
Mulani Family
Noble Family
Patel Family
Payne-Ernst Family
Peterson Products
Phillips Family
Slowick Family
Wielde Family



The Number Chains

\$100-\$249

Anonymous
Bernice Benton-Finley
Fay Buhl
Dr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Paula Cantor
Douglas and Kathleen Cassidy
Connell Family
Edelberg Family
Rosa Ernst
Fiore Family
Kevin Gallagher
Gubbels-Scribner Family
Harold Family
Heinen's
Lissa Hektor
Impesi Family
Jindal-Khanna Family
Jamie Knight
Kalniunas Family
Kantamneni-Ravi Family
Linda Korbakes
Kosmerl Family
Kudesh Family
Eva Leung
Morgan Family
Narasimha Family
Nerge Family
Patel Family
Puetz/Rhodes Family
Stodard Family
Tennyson Family
United Healthcare
Wang Family
Ward Family

The Binomial Cube

\$1-\$99

Bev Adamczyk
Amazon Smile
Barhoum-Abboud Family
Bowkett Family
Kristin Caldwell
Aidan Carruthers
Cheng Family
Cooper Family
Cramer Family
Maria Cretu
Margo Czechowski
Linda Dolister
Gerbin Family
Gleyzer Family
Michaela Glusic
Jin Family
Raj and Savitri Kumar
Carolyn Lanni
Leahy-Dasovich Family
Lemberg Family
Tami Levandowski
Mac Millin Family
Madireddy Family
Mitchell-Kelly Family
Movva Family
Narashimalu-Nithiyanandam Family
O'Rourke Family
Mary Grace O'Rourke
Oster Family
Colin Palombi
Ellen Pavelich
Popat Family
Safeway Foods e-Script
Schaff Family
Schuster Family
Erin Smith
Snodgrass Family
Stompanato Family
Margaret Stypik
Mary Taylor
Tu-Wang Family
Wang-Fu Family
Watson Family
Wildes Family
Kathy Willis
Zeller-Mace Family
Robert and Elaine Zengeler
Zhang-Gao Family

Acknowledgements

Every effort has been made to ensure that the donors who support the school's mission are recognized for their generosity. If you have not received proper recognition for your gift in this Annual Report, please accept our apologies and notify our office so that we may correct our records. All gifts listed in this report were received between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

MSLF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All contributions are 100% tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law.

Thank you to the entire Montessori School of Lake Forest Community for your generous support, donations, volunteerism, time, talents and dedication to our wonderful school. You, our families, are the key to MSLF's growth and expansion. Our fundraising efforts directly impact our ability to retain and recruit exceptional teachers, enhance our technology, and expand our financial aid program.

The following people and businesses donated items to this year's auction. Please accept our sincerest "Thank You!"

A Perfect Setting
Adler Planetarium
Alixandria Collections
Animal Medical Center of Ft. Sheridan
Ann Jordahl
Beauty and Balance
Belvedere Banquets
Bent Fork Bakery
Beth Floyd
Beth Nielsen/Nielsen-Massey Vanillas
Blue Mercury
Bohnert Family
Carruthers Family
Cathlina Family
Celebrity Cruises
Century Bay Builders
Cerrin Young
Chalet Nursery
Chicago Bulls
Chicago Children's Museum
Chicago Shakespeare Theater
Courtney Engel
Crossfit LF
Darek Macanowicz
Dolce Mia
Down to Earth Designs/Katherine Ritter
Dr. Tommy John, Chiropractor
Dr. Joe Gordon
Dragon K Martial Arts
Dreamarie Collections
Elements Therapeutic Massage
Forest Bootery
Forest Orthodontics & Pediatric Dentistry
French Pastry School

Fresh Market
Garza Family
Gerbin Family
Hawthorn Woods Country Club
Hightower
Hop till you Drop
Illinois Railway Museum
Inovasi
Ireland Heating & Air Conditioning Co
Jeff Fosselman
Jenny Sweeney Designs
Jessica Margot Designs
Kalniunas Family
Kane Family
KG Designs
Knollwood Fire Department
Korczak Family
Lake Forest Health & Fitness Center
Lake Forest PD
Lake Forest Sportscars
Lake Forest Symphony
Lakeside Lanes
Little Legends Soccer Academy
Magdalena's
Mannelly Family
Martha Abelson Photography
Melichar Architects
Mia Francesca
Michaela Glusic
Mickey Finn's
MSLF
Museum of Science & Industry
Native Restoration
New Vision Athletics
Northshore Dermatology
Palmer Family

Paul Serkland
Prairie Crossing Learning Farm
Pressed Vibrance and Cooper Family
Ritter Family
Rynes Family
Sassoon and Chamberlin Family
Shaffer/Peters Family
Shanahan Family
Silver Star Home Service
Snodgrass Family
Sunflower Farms
Sunset Foods
Surber Family
Sutton Studios
Synergy Fitness
Tan Family
Tanta Restaurant
Tennyson Family
The Initial Choice
The Museum of Science and Industry
The Popcorn Factory
The Salon/Fedderman Family
Tillman Family
Touche Salon
Veev Spirits
Visual Image Photography
Zengeler Cleaners
ZeroWaste



Board Update



MSLF's Board of Directors plays an important and precise role in the school's operation. As its governing body, the Board establishes overall policy and assures the financial stability of the school. Its role is strategic in nature. The Board employs the school's Executive Director, who then employs the administrative staff, faculty, and support personnel. The Board is positioned to think and act from a big-picture, long-range planning perspective, while the administrative staff focuses on implementing programs and managing day-to-day operations.

The Board can be comprised of current parents, alumni parents, alumni and community leaders, who are recruited for their skills, experience and perspective. The group meets on a regular basis during the year, and its collective expertise is both broad and deep. This year the Board focused on clarifying committee structure in order to support the goals of the 2013-18 Strategic Plan: To grow and develop community, to strengthen operations, to invest in the future of the school.

Thank you to all who have contributed, and continue to contribute in this capacity. Your passion for good Montessori makes our school great.



The MSLF Team

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Officers

Thomas Zengeler
Court Carruthers
Lou Mancusi
Jennifer Currier

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary

Board Members

Linda Brady
James Chamberlin
Sarah Maraccini
Brian Mudrick
Monica Palmer
Dan Rayburn
Ann Rieder
Kelly Rynes
Paul Serkland
Laurie Shanahan
Chris Tennyson



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Ann Jordahl
Larry Pence
Sarah Cassidy
Laura Ernst
Kathleen Marino
Teresa Pavelich
Kevin Gallagher
Lynn Dolister
Ellwyn Bohnert
Emir Calderon
Maria De Jesus Rios

Executive Director
Business Office
Admission and Marketing
Admission and Marketing
Development and Events
Enrollment and Communications
Facilities
Receptionist
Health Office/Food Service
Facilities
Facilities



FACULTY

Teachers

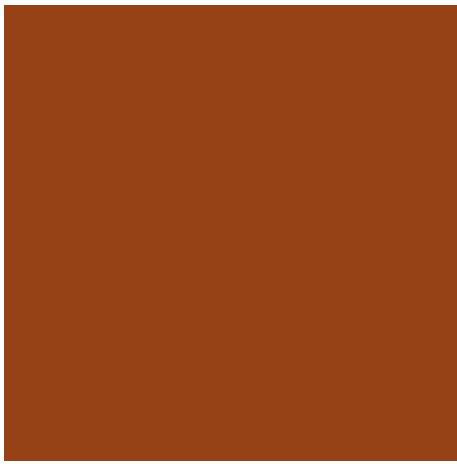
Beverly Adamczyk - Adolescent
Eric Carlberg - Adolescent (Adjunct)
Jessica DeBruler - Toddler
Kathryn Jasinski - Lower Elementary
Ann Jordahl - Parent Infant;
Adolescent
Jamie Knight - Upper Elementary
Carolyn Lanni - Primary
Eva Leung - Primary; Chinese
Tami Levandowski - Primary
Devon Mann - Adolescent
Montserrat Mares - Toddler; Spanish
Colin Palombi - Adolescent
Ellen Pavelich - Adolescent
Monica Pearson - Primary
Erin Smith - Toddler
Sarah Stodard - Adolescent
Mia Stompanato - Primary
Mary Taylor - Lower Elementary
Danna Victor - Adolescent

Assistants

Sierra Carroll - Primary
Brandon Chartier - Upper Elementary
Margo Czechowski - Primary
Helen Gerbin - Primary
Michaela Glusic - Primary
Pat Gregory - Lower Elementary
Julia Lunn - Permanent Substitute;
Garden Club
Kate Padiak - Primary
Margaret Stypik - Toddler
Marianna Wildes - Lower Elementary;
Spanish
Kathy Willis - Toddler

Learning Specialists

Paula Cantor
Linda Korbakes



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13700 West Laurel Drive
Lake Forest, IL 60045
Telephone 847-918-1000
Fax 847-918-1304



Blue House Campus
32470 Harris Road
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Telephone 847-543-0002