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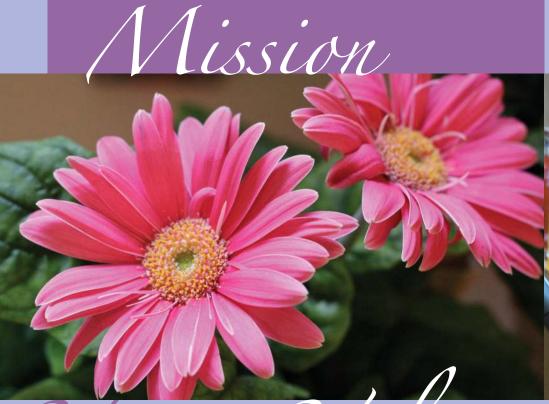


13700 West Laurel Drive Lake Forest, IL 60045 Telephone: 847-918-1000 Fax: 847-918-1304 Webite: www.mslf.org E-mail: info@mslf.org NON-PROFIT ORG.
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Cultivate in every MSLF child a life-long love of learning.





Vision 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.

The MSLF Team

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Officers

Edith Rasmussen Ahern Thomas Zengeler Nicole Korczak Ryan Todd President
Vice President – Operation
Secretary
Transurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Members

James Chamberlin Andrew Knight Luigi Mancusi Humberto Martine Brian Mudrick Monica Palmer Katherine Ritter Paul Serkland Yuh Schabacke Atul Shevade Chris Tennyson



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Mark Berger Ellen Pavelich

Christine Klimusko Sarah Cassidy Kevin Gallagher Brooke Wielde Lynn Dolister Kristin Bieber Sue Adams Darek Mankowicz Emir Calderon Maria De Jesus Rios Executive Director
Director of Education and
Admissions
Business Manager
Director of Communications

Facilities Coordinator
Special Event Coordinator
Receptionist
Nurse
Kitchen Assistant
Evening Receptionist
Janitorial Staff
Janitorial Staff

FACULTY

Teachers

Beverly Adamczyk
Hope Allegretti
Eric Carlberg
Kathryn Jasinski
Ann Jordahl
Saachi Kumar
Eva Leung
Jessica Lucas
Monserrat Mares
Kathleen Marino
Emilie Mobley
Celina Montoya
Debra Pakkala
Colin Palombi

Monica Pearson Tami Rios Debbie Secler Mia Stompanato

AssistantsMargo Czec

Margo Czechowski Rosa Ernst Michaela Glusic Shabnam Kaka Carolyn Lanni Maria Malm Tahera Navsariwala Margaret Stypik Mary Taylor Melissa Thomas Kathy Willis



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Board Update

Board Function and Structure

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 our programs and managing our day-to-day operations.



The Board is 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. Because the school's current strategic plan expires in 2013, the Board is currently focused on creating a new strategic plan to carry the school into the future and ensure its viability for future generations.

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



Message from the Executive Director

Every artist knows the simple truth that creating a masterpiece requires hard work. Even if it comes together easily at the end, it is prepared by repeated daily effort. Every adult knows this, every business person, physician, carpenter, or teacher.

Nature prepares children to learn this by giving them a love of work. Children love work so much that they are able to overcome setbacks. If treated respectfully, children are eager to clean up a spill, or use an inside voice, or apologize for hurtful words, or fix an error in decimal division. As Maria Montessori observed, the child's work is to create the adult they are to become.

"...the child is not an inert being who owes everything he can do to us, as if he were an empty vessel that we have to fill. No, it is the child who makes the man, and no man exists who was not made by the child who once he was."

—Maria Montessori, *The Absorbant Mind*

Children mature by performing the work of their daily lives, and with the grace of time. As they follow their developmental path, they learn to set goals and reach them. And as their range of experience, imagination and ability grows, children begin to shape their adult selves.

An adult self is built from nature and nurture. It is fully formed by the end of the 25th year, but not until then. Every child who reaches the age of 25, developmentally speaking, also reaches adulthood. Their bodies and brains mature as nature intends, and we call them "adult."

But the child who is nurtured in our Montessori way becomes an adult who is focused and self-aware, whose sense of community and common sense are well exercised. They become a well-balanced person who loves to learn, knows how to succeed and help others succeed, is lovely to be with.

In the Montessori School of Lake Forest community we know we are here to support the work of the child. We know that there will be growing pains and we have faith in the process and faith in the outcome, the masterpiece in the making that will be each child's life.

What we give to our children, we can also give to ourselves. Our school has reached maturity by way of vision and commitment, purposeful work, love, trial and error. Now we are learning who we are and who we are not. We are learning to know what we want and how we want to get there. It is time for us to take stock of how far we have come, for that will surely tell us how far we may hope to go.

Forty-seven years ago, the Montessori School of Lake Forest was a dream in the collective imagination of a parent study group. Now we are a strong school, with healthy roots, a vibrant present, and a bright future. We are a school where children come first, where parents and teachers work together to serve the growth of each and every child. Working together to create our masterpiece in the making is the story of the Montessori School of Lake Forest, in the past, in the present, and in the many years to come.

With Most Sincere Good Wishes.

Ann Jordahl

Interim Executive Director Montessori School of Lake Forest

Several of the photographs in this publication were taken by Mari Pavelich, an MSLF alumna and current student at Harborside Academy.



I was part of the original Montessori School of Lake Forest, located near Ft. Sheridan. As a young child, I enjoyed my days at school, learning by using my hands and learning how to push in my chair. It wasn't until my adult years that I realized how much I'd been influenced by the Montessori philosophy and its emphasis on preserving a curious nature, a love of learning, a dedication to making connections through critical thinking and creative problem solving. All these skills have served me well in so many ways—as a college English major, as the principal of a commercial construction company, as a husband and a father. I knew Montessori was a gift I wanted to share with my children. It's my pleasure to now see

Bill Vignocchi, MSI F Alumnus and Parent

REVENUE AND EXPENSES (IN 000s

Revenue		
Tuition and Fees	\$2712	94%
Contributions	\$58	2%
Interest Income	\$2	>1%
Fundraising	\$116	49/0
TOTAL	\$2888	

BALANCE SHEET (IN 000s

TOTAL	72000	
Expenses		
Instruction	\$1638	
Administration	\$593	200
Facilities	\$328	20%
Interest Expense and Depreciation	\$273	12%
TOTAL	\$2832	
		10%
Assets		
Cash	\$124	
Savings and Investment	\$678	
Accounts Receivable	\$64	
Prepaid Expense	\$89	
Property and Equipment	\$3328	
Bond Escrow	\$100	
Loan Costs	\$19	
Total Assets	\$4402	
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$45	
Interest Payable	\$0	
Accrued Liabilities	\$41	
Unearned Tuition	\$117	
Bond Payable	\$0	
Mortgage Payable	\$1698	
Parent Deposits	\$208	
Total Liabilities	\$2109	
Net Assets	\$2293	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$4402	
	Ų	





Working within the structure of a Montessori classroom is an invaluable experience for a creative young person. During my time at MSLF, my teachers not only allowed, but constantly encouraged me and my classmates to explore ideas that interested us, to do research in areas of study that appealed to us, and above all to spend time creating things.

While I attend school to study music, and do so with fierce energy, I exhibit the same drive in studying literature, history, math, science, and whatever other fields of knowledge are put before me. I owe my zest for learning to MSLF, where I learned to be inquisitive and became interested in a broad range of areas of study. I face life now with an openness to taking whatever gifts I can from whatever environment I find myself in, because MSLF has taught me how immensely worthwhile doing so can be.

Rania Adamczyk, MSLF Alumna currently attending Chicago Academy for the Arts



'When a collection of brilliant minds, hearts and talents come together...expect a Masterpiece!

-Unknown



MSLF—through its unique curriculum, devotion to inclusiveness, and dedicated faculty and staff-shaped my formative years immeasurably. The school creates a sense of community in a way no other academic institution (that I have attended) does. It nurtures the principle that individuality and social responsibility are not mutually exclusive; it solidifies that empathy and selflessness, values so

It was here that I learned to strive for a fully realized life: one where my success is not solely measured through material possessions, but also through livelihood and passion. An education at MSLF is truly a gift-and I couldn't be more thankful to have been given it.

easily disregarded, should inspire one's

actions.

Andrew Knight, MSLF Alumnus and Board Member



With my parents' background, I have always had a basic interest in math and science. I enjoyed how Montessori allowed me to learn at my own pace. More than anything, Montessori gave me a good work ethic for working independently and thinking outside of the box. With most engineering problems, the answer is not always straightforward. You need to be patient and try many different options before reaching the final answer.

It has also allowed me to know how to organize my time. For most college students, the first time they have free time without classes is college. They pull all-nighters because they are not used to having to be independent and having no one tell them what to do. I work hard to get my homework done.

The main thing about Montessori that I love is how it instilled a love of learning into me. While I don't necessarily enjoy 8am classes, I enjoy what I get out of going to class. If you want to make it through an engineering degree, you need to have an interest in going to class and spending hours on a homework assignment. And that is what I appreciate more than anything from my years of Montessori work.

> Michelle Henning, MSLF Alumna currently attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute



Fehhind 1

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



Primary to Elementary

Hugo Allen, Namita Aluvila, Jacob Bahrani, Lucas Chamberlin, Sebastian Clifford, Cedar Connell, Ella Maria Dangel-Delman, Samuel Erulkar, Max Glusic, Paige Horning, Theodore Jenkins, Nicholas London, Joseph Lucas, Tyler Mannelly, Kylie Nielsen, Mittansh Nithiyanandam, Razi Mohammed, Arison Oates, Julian Padilla, Scott Quackenbush, Wyatt Quillin, Eli Stodard, Vanessa Tait, Talya Tillman, Allison Todd, Nicholas Wehmeyer, Brandon Werba

Lower Elementary to Upper El

Aidan Ahern, William Ahern, Zavd Anderson, Naomi Aluvila, Rania Bahrani, Theodore Buhl, Audrey Chamberlin, Vincent Jaskula-Dybka, Isabella Martinez, Daphne McGarvey, Darla Olesen, Josca Schabacker, Emma Schaff, Callan Shanahan, William Todd

Upper El to Adolescent

Natalie Clarke, Demi Glusic, Catherine Kneeland, Analisa Mancusi, Lauren Zengeler









In what was a transitional year, we are pleased to report that MSLF raised \$58,473 during the 2011-2012 Annual Giving Campaign, with a 72% participation rate among Faculty, Staff and Board, and 47% among the Parent Community. The funds raised go toward supporting capital improvements to the school, as well as operations and programming at both campuses.



BENEFIT

This year's Masterpieces theme was inspired by the creativity of our children. Using their imaginations, the children created the focal point of the event, the amazing self-portrait art gallery. The Annual Benefit allows our community – parents, teachers and staff – to join together and contribute in a meaningful way in order to raise the necessary funds for MSLF. There were long hours, detailed planning discussions, many colorful imaginations and, of course, lots of laughter that cultivated new friendships and resulted in our most exciting event in years! Co-Chairs, Sarah Buckley and Ann Forowycz, and their team of incredible volunteers, went above and beyond in their duties, and pulled off a spectacular evening that netted \$116,000. A big 'thank you' to the volunteers who helped pull the evening together, and to the parents, faculty and staff who joined us and contributed to the financial and social success of the night.

Imagination does not become great until human beings, given the courage and the strength, use it to create.

> - Maria Montessori

Message from the Board President

I am often asked why I have chosen to drive twenty minutes from my house, past five perfectly fine, some say very good, grade schools every morning for the past fourteen years just so my children can attend MSLF. For me, the answer is simple. The true masterpieces of MSLF are the children who graduate from here.

My husband and I chose MSLF elementary after attending an alumni event where both high school and college age young people who had attended MSLF through the Upper Elementary program (there was no adolescent program at the time) came and did a panel discussion for the parents of primary age children. We were astounded by their poise and self-assurance. Their answers to the questions that were being asked were wise beyond their years. What we heard over and over again, was that they each felt that they had learned balance. We were sold.

One of the truly inspiring events of the year, every year, is the Adolescent Program (Blue House) graduation. I encourage every parent, whether the parent of a toddler, a primary student, an elementary student or an adolescent, to attend this graduation. It is truly an uplifting, inspiring and educational experience. Every year, I am astounded by our graduates and their speeches.

There are certain of these graduates whom I have known since they were in primary, whom I have seen graduate and move on to amazing post-MSLF careers. I was privileged to watch Bill Winslow grow up at MSLF and matriculate to Illinois Math and Science Academy. In juxtaposition, I watched Rania Adamczyk flourish here and matriculate to Chicago Academy for the Arts. My own son attends Phillips Exeter Academy, while many of his friends went on to Lake Forest Academy, Woodlands, Carmel and to area public high schools. I know of two graduates, who after stellar college careers at Williams and Middlebury, now teach at Phillips Andover Academy and Lake Forest Academy.

While our graduates go on to excellent academic careers, more importantly, they go on to become self-assured, caring, balanced adults who represent the best of what MSLF seeks to create....true masterpieces indeed. And of course, there are now and have been since my children started attending MSLF, second generation MSLF students in their classes. It is a pleasure to get to know William Vignocchi and his Dad, Bill Vignocchi, both MSLF masterpieces!

MSLF continues to grow and flourish, and does so regardless of any growing pains that may occur. Over this past summer, the Blue House was expanded to accommodate its ever growing program and the construction was accomplished on time and within budget! The space in the Blue House has more than doubled, but the integrity of the Blue House environment has been respected and maintained.

It is with this same commitment to excellence that MSLF will move into the future, and the adults of our community will continue to be inspired by our masterpieces, our graduates.

Board President





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, 2011 and June 30, 2012.

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. Thank you to each family for supplying the children with healthy snacks. 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 physical space, and expand our financial aid program.

Please accept our sincerest "thank you!"

American Chartered Bank American Eagle

Animal Medical Center of Fort Sheridan

Arbonne Baldwin Family

Ben Elsass Photography Bertucci's Steak & Seafood

Buffalo Wild Wings Bridle McKenna's Irish Pub

Buss Landscaping Calihan Catering

Century Bay Builders Century Electric Supply

Chalet Nursery Chamberlin Family

Chicago Bears Public Relations Chicago Botanic Garden

Chicago Bulls Community Relations

Chilis Bar & Grill Clark Roofing

Clearlam

Classic Dealer Group Classic Kids Photography

Covne Family Dennis Dombrow Designs by Charlotte Dolce Mia Biscotti

Down to Earth Designs LLC

Fatman Bowl Fitzgerald

Flemings Steakhouse

Forest Bootery Forest Orthodontics & Pediatric Dentistry

Forever Om

Frank Thomas Family Goshgarian Orthodontics

Gymboree

Hawthorn Woods Country Club

Hum Spirits

Illinois Railway Museum Inovasi

Inwood

Ireland Heating & Air Conditioning

Joann's Body Shop KH Photography Knauz Land Rover Korczak Family

Lake Bluff Massage Therapy Lake Forest Academy

Lake Forest Fire Department Lake Forest Pediatric Dentistry

Lake Forest Police Department Lake Forest Symphony

Lakeside Lanes Le Colonial



Libertyvi**ll**e Dental Lift Reflexology Lovin Oven Cakery

Lucia Mazzocchetti/Trattoria D.O.C.

Magdalena Wesolowski Mahoney Plumbing Mancusi Family Mannelly Family

Martha Abelson Photography

Martinez Family Mary Taylor McWilliams Family New Music School Nielsen-Massey Vanillas Northshore Dermatology Northwestern Mutua

NVA

OMC Catering On the Border

Opa! O'Toole's/OMC Penny's From Heaven Peterson Products PF Chang's Phoenix Nails

Piano Power Prairie Crossing Learning Farm

Reinhardt Family Ritter Family Robek's Rynes Family Salerno's So Many Roads Sugar Chic Designs Summer Splash Sunset Foods Sutton Studios

Synergy Fitness & Sports The Bent Fork Bakery The Fresh Market The Grille on Laurel The Mulch Center

The Viti Companies

Tillman Family Tom Glusic - Coldwell Banker

Tsukasa of Tokyo US Bank

VanLanduyt Landscaping, Inc W.B. Olson, Inc.

Walls of Distinction Whole Foods

Wintrust Wealth Management Woodlands Academy Wayne Hummer Investments Yong-In Martial Arts

Zanies Comedy Nite Club Zengeler Cleaners

Every Family... Every Year

Annual Giving by Classroom

Lower Elementary 1

Lower Elementary 2

Primary 1 Allen Family, Atkinson Family, Barhoum Family, Fedderman Family, Gualdron Family, Martinez

Primary 3Marinelli Family, Oh/Kim Family, Ramirez Family, Shaffer Family, Stach Family



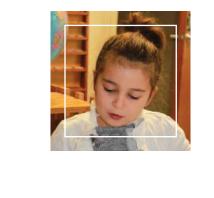
The Montessori School of Lake Forest's Annual Giving campaign is the foundation of the school's fundraising activities. Tuition covers only 90% of the annual budget requirements, and the remaining 10% comes from generous donors. Annual Giving contributions supplement the operating budget, therefore avoiding 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.

When everyone contributes to the school's shared mission, no matter the level, it demonstrates what it truly means to be a community.

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.









Co-Chairs

Ann Forowycz Sarah Buckley

Committee

Aisha Steinbacher Sarah Maraccini Kusuma Madamala

Nancy Zelinske

Sarah Stodard

Tanya Hinkle

Kirsten Viola

Tamara Mannelly

Renee Baldwin

Nicole Korczak

Lorraine Singh

Jackie Tillman

Jeannene Clifford

Yuh Schabacker

Monica Rayburn

Kirsten Carruthers

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.

\$10,000+

Atkinson

\$5,000-\$9,999

Carruthers Jansing/Cook Korczak Maraccini Martinez Moore Schabacker Wadhwani Zengeler

\$2,500-\$4,999

Abrams Baldwin Chamberlin Clifford Douglas/Wang Forowycz Hooke Hubbard Mancusi Mannelly Nerge Nielsen & Massey Rayburn Ritter

Rynes Shevade Stodard Suter Tobin Uihlein Family Foundation

\$1,000-\$2,499

Adams Street Partners Ahern Anonymous Bears Care Berger Buckley/Boone Buhl Hinkle

Preston Jansing

Kneeland

Lovelette

McWilliams

Patalinghug

Shaffer/Peters

Tyler R. Cain Foundation

Liptay

Palmer

Serkland

Stach

Todd

Zelinske

\$750-\$999

Anonymous Bernhart Cobin Fedderman Marino Oh/Kim Padilla Quackenbush

\$500-\$749

Allen Avramovich Connell Gallagher George Hektor Huang/Dai John Swift Co. Kumar Mohammed/Kahn Mrowiec Papanos Shanahan Wang/Peng Werba Wielde

\$250-\$499 Anderson

Block Brady Cassidy Friedman Griffin Howell Kanazawa Kosmer Krummenacher Malm Mazzocchetti Narasimha Patrick/Effio Pavelich Suter

> Urban/McGarvey Vignocchi -John and Margaret

Taylor

Tennyson

\$100-\$249

Balci

Schaff

Viola

Yue/Wang

Sparrow

Amos/Carter Barhoum Boddicker Chubb Dillow Ernst Henry/Currier Janas Jasinski, K Jasinski, R Jordahl Klimusko Leung Lucas Marinelli Quillin Ramirez Rubin

Stompanato Stypik Suarez Vignocchi -William and Megan Wells Fargo

\$1-\$99

Adamczyk Adams Allegretti Anonymous Bieber Czechowski Dolister Fotopoulos Glusic Gualdron Haddad Kaka Knight Lanni Leung Levandowski Levine Lucas Mares Mobley Navsariwala Pakkala Secler Zhang





