



MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF LAKE FOREST

For the Love of Learning

Annual Report 2013-2014



STUDENT

PARENT



TEACHER



mission **vision** values

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.





message from the Board President

Dear MSLF Community,

The 2013-2014 school year revolved around a new theme which symbolizes our vision: The Driving Force.

MSLF is fortunate to have a dedicated team of professionals, including both our faculty and staff. Led by our outstanding Executive Director Ann Jordahl, this devoted team is committed to be the driving force in providing excellence in education for our students. The Faculty, Staff and Executive Director work together to assure our students receive an outstanding education that remains true to Montessori principles.

MSLF is also fortunate to have so many parents who are the driving forces - parents who volunteer their time and who fill so many important roles for the school. When you combine outstanding teachers and professional staff with parents who are actively involved in the education process, the results are simply amazing! And yes -every parent can be involved at our school, from working on committees and special events to serving on our volunteer Board of Directors.

To keep us on the path to excellence, the school's Strategic Plan is reviewed at all monthly Board Meetings. This ensures the Mission and Vision Statements of MSLF are reflected in every action we take. Thanks to these guiding principles, we have attainable goals that will lead us to a very bright future. Thanks to the dedicated volunteers serving on our Board of Directors, I'm confident MSLF will continue to thrive for many years to come.

MSLF enjoys an outstanding relationship with the local community. The partnership between the community, the school and our Board has paved the way for the future of our children. We are fortunate to be part of a wonderful community with two campuses with outdoor environments surrounded by hundreds of acres of Natural Forest Preserve.

On behalf of the students, faculty, staff, the MSLF Board and our Executive Director Ann Jordahl, thank you for the privilege to serve you and your children as President.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Zengeler, Board President



message from the Executive Director

Dear Members of the Montessori School of Lake Forest Community,

As we draw our 2013-14 school year to a close, we find ourselves contemplating *The Driving Force* of our desire to provide the best possible education for our children, within a thriving community made of up people of all ages. Whether we are old or young, alumni or current, we all drive MSLF according to its vision and mission.

Throughout its long history, the Montessori School of Lake Forest has committed itself to “cultivate in every MSLF child a life-long love of learning” and to “evolve in relevant and measurable ways the principles of Montessori education for the benefit of the children of the 21st century.”

During this past year, we have seen countless examples of children’s solid and enduring love of learning: the 7th year Adolescent Program student, who visited Upper Elementary to teach proper use of a microscope by leading a lab in which students swabbed their own cheek cells, stained them, and studied them under the microscope; the Toddler child, who worked for 8 months to learn to put on her own shoes and who, once she achieved this task, simply accepted it as a given and went on to continue mastering the rest of the many lessons embedded in her classroom; the Primary children, who spent many hours throughout the year mastering counting and the basics of squaring and cubing by working through their bead cabinet; the Elementary children who gave lessons in shark dissection and anatomy across the school, and who mastered the art of peacekeeping as they built forts and maintained boundaries out at recess.

What is your *driving force*? is an important question, to be pondered from childhood throughout a lifetime. As we grow up and grow old, our answers to the question may change, but our passion for finding the answer will remain the same.

There is an old saying that “A vision without a plan is a dream. A plan without a vision is drudgery. But a vision with a plan can change the world.”

These good instructions lead us to the goal we seek for MSLF’s children, that someday they will tie their vision to action. Through their years of daily practice on materials, on setting and achieving goals, on honest and persistent communication, each MSLF child learns how to harness his passion to create ideas, prepare plans, and put them into action.

Our MSLF alumni demonstrate that their effectiveness relies on skills they hold in common: they are creative and determined problem solvers of academic, social, logistical, material or environmental challenges. Are they perfect? No. Do they know their strengths and weaknesses? Yes.

These alumni were just like MSLF’s children now, and they grew up to become the people we want our children to be: Leaders who collaborate, Workers who create and persevere, Researchers who see the whole picture, Citizens who tell the truth.

What drives MSLF’s children and alumni? Their faith in their own vision, and their willingness to pursue it.

Thank you to each and every one of you for making the learning community of the Montessori School of Lake Forest a daily reality. Thank you for your commitment to your children, and to all the school’s children, past, present, and future.

Sincerely,

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 2014. Alexandra Ahern, Aniz Anderson, Molly Block, Ariel Henry, Jacy Wilson, and Bernard Zitzewitz graduated as 9th year students on June 5th, 2014. Anna Burns, Natalie Clarke, Aria Gill, Demi Glusic, Catherine Kneeland, Analisa Mancusi, Amanda Tibbals, and Lauren Zengeler "stepped out" as 8th year students. The entire MSLF community was invited to gather and hear students' speeches and celebrate their achievements. Congratulations to all!

Primary to Elementary

Aidan Carruthers
Aedan Cassidy
Posey Connell
Mylan Crawford
Alanna Davis
Resse Hubbard
Ella Korczak
Mayan Kudesh
Isabella Krummenacher
Jake Maraccini
Sean Mecum
Lilianna Nielsen
Sophia Novielli
Tristan Padilla
Gabriel Papanos
Elizabeth Rieder
Tiana Tillman
Maya Wadhwani
Braydon Wright
Evelyn Zhang

Lower Elementary to Upper El

Brandon Hinkle
Greg Kosmerl
Timothy London
Isaac Malm
Anya Mecum
Harrison Moore
Lily Pedian
Thomas Tobin

Upper El to Adolescent

Theodore Buhl
Simon Corsiglia
Anna Serkland
Callan Shanahan
Rebecca Wildes



supporting mslf



Supporting MSLF

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

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.

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

We are pleased to report that MSLF raised \$78,871 during the 2013-2014 Annual Giving Campaign, with generous giving from the Board of Directors, faculty and staff, and the parent community. The funds raised go toward supporting capital improvements to the school, as well as to 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 allows 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, many parents spend long (and enjoyable) hours preparing for the event. And MSLF children become a focal point as they contribute classroom projects to showcase their talents which are for sale as auction items during the course of the evening.

Raising \$102,000 toward financial aid, teacher education, outdoor learning and discovery project enhancements, and the "Healthy Child, Healthy School" campaign, parents and supporters of the Montessori School of Lake Forest gathered at Lake Forest Sportscars for a night of fundraising. Over 175 guests took in the evening, which featured food, entertainment, and silent and live auction, surrounded by sleek and impressive automobiles.



every family...every year



PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Room Parents

Michaela Glusic, Adolescent
 Tamara Mannelly, Lower Elementary 1
 Kristyn Moore, Lower Elementary 1
 Monica Rayburn, Lower Elementary 1
 Lori Chamberlin, Lower Elementary 2
 Tanya Hinkle, Lower Elementary 2
 Cynthia Tobin, Lower Elementary 2
 Laura Fosselman, Primary 1
 Asiya Mulani, Primary 1
 Kirstin Carruthers, Primary 2
 Nicole Korczak, Primary 2
 Sarah Stodard, Primary 2
 Megan Cooper, Primary 2
 Kelly Rynes, Primary 4
 Sarah Maraccini, Primary 4
 Wei Zhang, Primary 4
 Kirstin Carruthers, Primary 5
 Helen Gerbin, Toddler 1
 Jenya Edelberg, Toddler 1
 Hope Allegretti, Toddler 2
 Kari Chronopolous, Toddler 3
 Tamara Burns, Upper El
 Aneta Galary, Upper El
 Christine George, Upper El
 Shelley Hooke, Upper El
 Diana Melichar, Upper El
 Laurie Shanahan, Upper El
 Marianna Wildes, Upper El

Benefit Committee

Kirstin Carruthers, Chair
 Hope Allegretti
 Chia-Ling Chang
 Sarah Maraccini
 Keith Maraccini
 Asiya Mulani
 Kelly Rynes





In answering the question of what drives them, the children shared many thoughtful, creative and inspiring messages.





The MSLF community is predicated on faculty and parents working together on behalf of students. As the cover photos suggest, this triad comes to life at MSLF and is the school's "driving force." This parent-teacher-student partnership enables each child to reach his/her full potential.

Paddle Raiser

Each year, the Benefit includes a Paddle Raiser in support of a specific school initiative. This past year, the focus was the "Healthy Child, Healthy School" campaign, which raised money to help create the most sustainable and healthy environment possible at the school.

\$31,000 was raised to support the broadening and developing of MSLF's fledgling garden program, including an irrigation system, cedar compost bins for each classroom with a larger compost bin to centralize the nutrients for the garden, ongoing pruning of the apple and pear trees and hiring a part-time garden teacher who will bring the love of gardening into each classroom.

Additionally, the funds raised make possible the very last pieces of the Outdoor Learning and Discovery Project. Our children are able to enjoy an observation platform that will extend into the wetlands area, new trails and enhanced pathways, a complete rejuvenation of the native plant species, and the ability to keep up with the recommended maintenance schedule.



financial overview

REVENUE AND EXPENSES (IN 000S)

Revenue

Tuition and Fees	\$2711
Contributions	\$84
Interest Income	\$1
Fundraising	\$87
TOTAL	\$2883

Expenses

Instruction	\$1485
Administration	\$667
Facilities	\$328
Interest Expense and Depreciation	\$266
TOTAL	\$2746

Assets

Cash	\$80
Savings and Investment	\$775
Accounts Receivable	\$19
Prepaid Expense	\$42
Property and Equipment	\$3216
Bond Escrow	-
Loan Costs	\$15
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4147

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$35
Accrued Liabilities	\$59
Unearned Tuition	\$147
Mortgage Payable	\$1644
Parent Deposits	\$224
Total Liabilities	\$2109
Net Assets	\$2038
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$4147





annual giving and benefit donations

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-\$20,000

Carruthers

Evans

Rayburn

Shaffer/Peters

The Pink Tower

\$2,500-4,999

Bell/Lewis

Corsiglia

Ed Uihlein Foundation

Garza

Korczak

Mannelly

Mulani

Nielsen

Renedo/White

Rynes

Stewart

The Broad Stair

\$1,000-\$2,499

Abrams

Anderson, Luke

Barkow

Buhl

Burns

Chronopoulos

Cockrel

Cooper

Currier/Henry

Davis/Lilly

Fosselman

Gordon

Gregory

Hubbard

Jasinski

Jordahl

Kabrud

Kneeland

Leschynski

Liptay

Micle/Savos

Moore

Nerge

Oates/Heiberger

Padilla

Palmer

Papanos

Patrick

Rhodes

Rieder

Shanahan

Stodard

Stutzman

Tobin

Vrablik

Wadhwani

Wright

Zengeler

Zitzewitz

The Red Rods

\$700-\$999

Ahern

Cassidy

Clifford

DeBruler

Federighi

Pavelich, Mike

The Bells

\$500-699

Allegretti

Atkinson

Carlstrom

Chamberlin

Charlot

Clark Roofing

Douglas/Wang

Engel

John S. Swift Co Inc

Liu

Maraccini

Michaud

Morgan

Peng/Wang

Serkland/Melichar

Tang

Urban

Wielde



annual giving and benefit donations



The Metal Insets

\$250-\$499

Anderson, Chris
Caccamo
Cannizzaro
Carver
Down to Earth Designs
Edelberg
Grum
Hinkle
Hooke
Jindal
Mann
Mrowiec
Mudrick
Peterson Products
Phillips
Simon/Ritz
Stypik
Ward
Xie

The Number Chains

\$100-\$249

Baldi
Block
Boucek
Brady
Cantor
Cathlina
Emery
Gallagher
Glusic
Gubbels/Scribner
Jordahl, Donna
Kalniunas
Kantamneni
Korbakes
Lanni
Lemberg
Mancusi
Pavelich, Ellen
Pearson
Pence
Tennyson
Wildes
Zhang

The Binomial Cube

\$1-\$99

Adamczyk
Aluvila
Bahrani
Connell
Cretu
Czechowski
Dogan
Dolister
Erulkar
George
Gerbin
Kosmerl
Krummenacher/De Leon Gatti
Levandowski
London
Malm
Marino
Mitchell/Kelley
O'Rourke
Pakkala
Palombi
Patel
Pedian
Snodgrass
Stompanato
Taylor
Willis
Zeller





thank you

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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.

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

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, 2013 and June 30, 2014.

Please accept our sincerest "thank you!"

The following people and businesses donated items to this year's auction.

A Peaceful Heart Reiki, LLC	Harper Family	Meatheads
A Perfect Setting	Hawthorn Woods Country Club	Melichar Architects
Alixandria Collections	Heidi Ilyavi	Micle Family
Animal Medical Center of Ft. Sheridan	Hop till You Drop	Minted
Bangkok Tokyo	Hubbard Inn	Museum of Science & Industry
Belvedere Banquets	Illinois Railway Museum	New Vision Athletics
Bent Fork Bakery	Inovasi	Northshore Dermatology
Beth Nielsen/Nielsen-Massey	Kemora Designs	Prairie Crossing Learning Farm
Vanillas	KH Photography	Pressed Vibrance
Bridie McKenna's Irish Pub	Knollwood Fire Department	Prismatic Nail
Carruthers Family	Kohl Children's Museum	Rayburn Family
Century Bay Builders	Korczak Family	Ritter Family
Chalet Nursery	Lake Bluff Massage Therapy	Shanahan Family
Chicago Shakespeare Theater	Lake Forest Health & Fitness Center	Shedd Aquarium
Classic Kids Photography	Lake Forest Police Department	Silver Star Home Service
Cockrel Family	Lake Forest Symphony	Snodgrass Family
Cook Smarts	Lakeside Lanes	Sutton Studios
Crossfit Lake Forest	Language Stars	Synergy Fitness & Sports
Dolce Mia	LeBeau Family	Tanta Restaurant
Egg Harbor	Liberty Farms	The Initial Choice
Elements Therapeutic Massage	Lift Reflexology	The Museum of Science & Industry
Fitzgerald Photography	Little Legends Soccer Academy	The Salon/Fedderman Family
Forest Bootery	Lou Jon Nero/Octagon Baseball	Tillman Family
Forest Orthodontics & Pediatric Dentistry	LT Swisher	Touche Salon/Courtney Engel
Forever Om	Magdalena Wesolowski	Walls of Distinction
French Pastry School	Malm Family	Wright Family
Fresh Market	Mancusi Family	Zeller Family
Glusic Family	Mann Family	
	Martha Abelson Photography	



board update



BOARD FUNCTION & 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. This year the Board focused on clarifying committee structure to support the 2013-18 goals of the Strategic Plan: To grow and develop community, to strengthen operations, to invest in the future of the school.

Thank you to all those 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	President
Court Carruthers	Vice President - Operations
Lou Mancusi	Treasurer
Jennifer Currier	Secretary

Board Members

James Chamberlin
Sarah Maraccini
Humberto Martinez, Jr.
Brian Mudrick
Monica Palmer
Dan Rayburn
Paul Serkland
Laurie Shanahan
Chris Tennyson

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Ann Jordahl	Executive Director
Ellen Pavelich	Education Director
Nick Caccamo	Business Manager
Larry Pence	Business Office
Sarah Cassidy	Admission Director
Kevin Gallagher	Facilities Coordinator
Brooke Wiede	Special Event Coordinator
Lynn Dolister	Receptionist
Yelena Lemberg	Nurse and Kitchen Asst.
Darek Macanowicz	Evening Receptionist
Emir Calderon	Janitorial Staff
Maria De Jesus Rios	Janitorial Staff

FACULTY

Teachers

Beverly Adamczyk
Eric Carlberg
Jessica DeBruler
Kathryn Jasinski
Ann Jordahl
Carolyn Lanni
Eva Leung
Tami Levandowski
Devon Mann
Kathleen Marino
Debra Pakkala
Colin Palombi
Ellen Pavelich
Monica Pearson
Erin Smith
Sarah Stodard
Mia Stompanato
Mary Taylor

Assistants

Margo Czechowski
Helen Gerbin
Michaela Glusic
Pat Gregory
Maria Malm
Montserrat Mares
Elliott McDaniel
Kate Padiak
Margaret Stypik
Marianna Wildes
Kathy Willis





For the love of learningsm

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