



# MONTESSORI CENTER SCHOOL



2020 - 2021  
ANNUAL REPORT





## FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

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What a year this has been! Not only did we celebrate Maria Montessori's 150th birthday, we also faced unusual circumstances in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. While it was a unique year with many challenges, we also found ways to celebrate our small victories within our wonderful community. We made it through this unique year together, appreciating everyone's efforts as we found opportunities to grow.

Our Board of Trustees was led by our own Tom Burk, who guided us through a myriad of circumstances, with a steady and calm hand at the helm of MCS. Our Board supported the school steadfastly, conducting extra meetings, forming a COVID Taskforce and fiscally guiding us through the school year. A special thanks to Michael-James Hey for leading our Finance Committee, Mariaelena Welch for leading the Strategic Planning Committee and Ken Cohen for guiding the Site Committee! We are grateful for their generosity of time and expertise throughout the year.

Our faculty and staff worked harder than ever with incredible creativity and resilience. Classroom teachers reached out to their students through Zoom, behind masks and braving inclement weather, all the while keeping focused on their students' best interests. They moved their classrooms outside, never missing a beat, conducting lessons on their patios with enthusiasm. Specialists gave up their rooms to make room for more pods and traveled from class to class delivering their lessons, while keeping their sense of humor and positivity. Members of the administration did whatever was needed to conduct safe arrivals and dismissals, deliver hot lunches and support the teachers in a multitude of ways, while still covering their regular duties. Well done, MCS faculty and staff!

Our MPO was there with us every step of the way, giving us encouragement through kind gestures of appreciation that sustained us. With Morgan McDonald and Nikki Murray leading the charge, they treated us to farm boxes, coffee and pastries, wood fire pizza lunches, desk calendars, Chaucer's gift certificates and so much more! These acts of kindness encouraged us and made us all feel appreciated and valued. Thank you Nikki and Morgan! The parents in our community shared their gratitude with us often, which made it all worthwhile. How lucky we are to have such amazing parents in our MCS community!

Even though we were not able to gather for our traditional events, our community found ways to deliver special experiences to our students. A great example of this was the STEAM Virtual Field Trip Series that the MPO sponsored under the leadership of Kristy Manning. Our students enjoyed all kinds of wonderful presentations from areas near and far thanks to Kristy's hard work! Thank you Kristy!

Our Development and Marketing Committees worked hard to raise the funds needed to cover the costs of COVID and bridge the gap between tuition and the true cost to educate a child at MCS. Led by Chris Snowden and Tim Morton-Smith respectively, their service had a lasting and significant impact on our success last year. Thank you Chris and Tim!

The entire MCS community exhibited strength, innovation, adaptability and empathy during this past year. We would like to extend our gratitude to each and every one of you for being part of a dynamic year. We look forward to next year with optimism and excitement for what is to come!

Warmly,  
*Melanie Jacobs, Head of School*



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

## The Board of Trustees

Dear MCS Families,

As I reflect on this year and last, there are so many emotions. There has been loss, frustration, and fatigue. Above and beyond those, though, there is pride. Pride in our community of parents, educators, children, and extended families. With resilience, dedication, and good humor we created and maintained an environment for our children to learn, grow, and thrive. There was no roadmap to follow. We persevered by simply doing what all organizations that are successful do. With the best interests of our community at heart, we did our best to make decisions every single day that were aligned with our goals, culture, and ethos. For all of this, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our teachers and MCS Administration who all worked tirelessly. I also thank my fellow MCS Board Trustees, committee members, and MPO members who gave so much of themselves, much of which was not part of their “regularly scheduled programming.”



I would also like to thank our whole community of parents and other stakeholders. Your charitable giving, both monetary and of your time and energy, not only met but exceeded all expectations. Without your giving spirit MCS could not have come through 2020/2021 as successfully as we have.

It has been an honor to serve as your Board President for this past year and I look forward with much anticipation to what this coming year will bring. We have learned so much and I firmly believe the future ahead of us is even brighter. Thank you again, for your dedication and support.

In Service,

Tom Burk  
*President, Board of Trustees*

# THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## 2020- 2021



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# MCS FAMILY INTERVIEW

## *The Fleming-Lu Family*

### **Tell us about your family?**

We moved to Santa Barbara in 2016 when Will accepted a faculty position at UCSB, where he teaches courses on Japanese literature, language, and culture. Kathy has been able to continue working remotely with Deloitte as a research director and executive coach. Will grew up outside New York and in Northern California (but was born in Milwaukee--accounting for the Brewers baseball cap that Arthur loves to wear to school), and Kathy is a second-generation Asian-American who was born and raised in Virginia. Our family enjoys reading, eating, tending to our small garden, removing our two cats from dining surfaces, playing the piano, dancing, playing tennis (Kathy and Arthur are both beginners; it's hard to say who is progressing faster), and exploring the beach and nature around Santa Barbara. Arthur (7) loves art, researching plants and animals, and playing soccer with his friends. Recently he's also gotten into skateboarding, where his parents are unfortunately not much help. Edith (3) loves testing her big brother's patience, cruising around at high speed on her scooter, and checking that the water in her water bottle is always "fresh."



### **How did you discover MCS?**

We first learned about MCS from Will's department chair at UCSB, whose children attended all the way through upper elementary. As it turned out, Arthur entered Navy Door and had the very same head teacher, JoAnn Serpa, who taught Will's chair's children almost twenty years ago!

When Edith was born a few years later, we didn't hesitate to apply for Pre-Primary and were thankful to get her a spot in White Door. She has an October birthday, so she started over a summer session--which ended up being a perfect transition for her personality.

### **What made you choose the Montessori philosophy and in particular, MCS for your children?**

We love everything about the Montessori philosophy: above all, its fundamentally child-centered approach; the thoughtful, beautiful design of the materials and the environment; the balance of flexibility and order; the ability for each child to set and honor her own pace; the emphasis on empathy, collaboration, and citizenship; the appreciation of learning and discovery over rote teaching and testing; and the encouragement of direct engagement with the child's environment over any reliance on technology or other distracting filters.

MCS won us over at first visit with the calming beauty of its campus, the sincerity of its teachers, the variety of extracurricular classes, and its size, which seemed just right-- not so big that there was no sense of community, but not so small that it felt insular or clique-ish. We also appreciated that MCS did not exude any sense of pretension or extravagance. If it did, we would have felt out of place.

### **What stands out about the faculty and staff?**

We are constantly amazed by how much they care about each child, and how wonderful they are at what they do.

### **How do you feel MCS handled the COVID-19 pandemic?**

We don't think MCS could have handled the past school year any better than they did. There was so much evident foresight but also continuous, real-time adjustments that the teachers and staff made to ensure that the year was a success. Even during the period when Edith was physically at school and Arthur was fully virtual, everyone made the best of it. We were incredibly grateful every single day to be able to take our children to school to learn and play with their friends, when so many children around the world were unable to do so. We were confident that the school was always making the best decisions possible on the basis of the available science, and we felt reassured by the apparent alignment of the staff and community. It's certainly stressful living in a time when a stuffy nose means your child is home for two weeks, but it felt like our community was strongly united in doing everything we could to preserve a "bubble" within which everyone was safe and all of our children could continue to go to school.

### **In what ways do you enjoy volunteering at MCS?**

We're not naturally drawn to official volunteer leadership roles (and wholeheartedly appreciate the families who go above and beyond in more visible roles), but we do enjoy supporting MCS in various ways and contributing to the sense of community. Fond memories include Will's failed experiment during his lesson on mass, volume, and density at Navy Door (it turns out raisins will rise and fall in tonic water, but not unsweetened sparkling water), reading in the classrooms, and staffing various stations at the Harvest Festival with one child or the other in tow. This summer, we look forward to being a host family ambassador.

### **What do you love most about MCS?**

We love that MCS is a place where children love to learn, where the teachers and staff continue to mix tradition (e.g., UN Day) with innovation (e.g., the anti-bias training workshop for parents, the virtual field trip series, and ever more amazing Science Night events), and where the community generates genuine friendships and a beautiful sense of camaraderie. We also love that Arthur and Edith somehow get to know all the teachers and staff across the school; even if Edith has (very) strong loyalties to her own teachers, it contributes to a great sense of comfort and trust for them both.

### **What does your child enjoy most about the Montessori approach to learning?**

Arthur loves the satisfaction of continually building upon his own learning to keep discovering new things to try. He also loves working and learning with all of his classmates. When asked to name his friends in Green Door, he invariably names every single person in the class. Edith loves that she is free to do any and all "works" in Red Door. Very much like Arthur, she also relishes the opportunities to learn by observing what other children do.

### **How did the new outdoor learning environments benefit your child this year?**

Our children thrived this past year and loved being outdoors! As Irene Morales (Green Door) knows all too well, Arthur loved keeping an eye on everything that was happening in all the other classes and doors (and was always able to tell us what Edith did in her PE or music class).

### **What are a few aspects of the learning at MCS that you hope your children will carry their entire lives?**

We hope that Arthur and Edith will always love to learn, that they will seek to understand what they don't know, and that they will know how to treat all other living creatures with care, kindness, and empathy. No matter what happens in the world, if the next generation learns at least that, there is hope.

*"This is the hope we have—a hope in a new humanity that will come from this new education, an education that is collaboration of man and the universe...." — Dr. Maria Montessori*



# ANNUAL GIVING

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## The Fund for MCS

We would like to acknowledge our donors who generously contributed to the 2020-2021 Fund for MCS. Your support is not only appreciated, but also necessary, to help us continue our mission and vision.

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\$5,000 +

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Krista Williams  
Ruimeng Hu & Xu Yang

—————Together we raised \$104,986!—————



# ABOVE AND BEYOND

There are many ways to give to MCS. We would like to recognize those donors who have made generous donations of \$1,500 or more over the 2020-2021 school year. Thank you for believing in MCS!

## \$10,000 and Above

Sonia & Michael Behrman  
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# Strategic Plan 2019-2024 Year Two in Review: 2020-2021

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	ACTIONS	
	ACTIONS	
<div> <b>KSI 1:</b> A TRANSFORMATIVE STUDENT EXPERIENCE THROUGH EXEMPLARY MONTESSORI ACADEMICS, PROGRAMS AND RELATIONSHIPS</div>	<div>Actions</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secured a reopening waiver so that elementary students could return to in-person learning</li><li>• Created a COVID-19 safety plan, trained faculty and staff on procedures</li><li>• Invested in outdoor classroom spaces to ensure the best possible experience for students and teachers</li><li>• Launched a monthly STEAM virtual event series in collaboration with MPO</li><li>• Hosted an elementary-level discussion with nationally recognized, 20-year-old, astronaut-in-training, Alyssa Carson</li><li>• Faculty completed two webinars on serving children with different learning styles as part of their professional development work</li></ul>	<div>Actions</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased our retention rate by 23% for the 21-22 academic year</li><li>• First virtual auction benefit exceeded projections</li><li>• Provided anti-bias training to support the educational and personal growth of faculty, staff and families</li><li>• Redesigned website to provide a more dynamic and informative experience for prospective families</li><li>• Incorporated pre-recorded video presentations into our admissions events, serving as a new way to engage prospective parents</li><li>• Implemented digital learning tools such as Seesaw, Zoom and Google Classroom to support remote education</li></ul>
<div> <b>KSI 2:</b> OUR SUSTAINABLE FUTURE</div>	<div>Actions</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Established a COVID-19 taskforce</li><li>• Conducted COVID-19 surveillance testing</li><li>• Conducted online surveys and virtual parent conferences</li><li>• Created and launched a video series to recognize and enhance awareness of MCS's pandemic efforts and close-knit community</li><li>• Steadily grew social media following – 7% increase in Facebook followers and a 32% increase in Instagram followers</li><li>• Raised awareness of MCS through targeted <a href="#">media placements</a></li></ul>	<div>Actions</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Established a COVID-19 taskforce</li><li>• Conducted COVID-19 surveillance testing</li><li>• Conducted online surveys and virtual parent conferences</li><li>• Created and launched a video series to recognize and enhance awareness of MCS's pandemic efforts and close-knit community</li><li>• Steadily grew social media following – 7% increase in Facebook followers and a 32% increase in Instagram followers</li><li>• Raised awareness of MCS through targeted <a href="#">media placements</a></li></ul>



# STRATEGIC PLAN

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## Year Two in Review

In 2020-21, the MCS community led with generosity, resiliency, and adaptability. Our community turned the year of the pandemic into a year of endurance, collaboration, and strength while providing a nurturing, educational environment. Adhering to the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department guidelines, the administration developed COVID-19 systems and procedures to keep its faculty, staff, and students safe throughout in-person learning.



Our dedicated and determined faculty swiftly created outdoor instructional spaces with continued experiential educational environments to minimize the disruption to school learning. How our community tackled this challenge was inspiring. Even more so, was that despite the uncertain climate, MCS made meaningful progress towards realizing its goals of the five-year strategic plan.

### MCS'S THREE KEY STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES ARE:

1. A transformative student experience through exemplary Montessori academics, programs and relationships
2. Our sustainable future
3. An engaged, informed, collaborative community

# STRATEGIC PLAN

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## Year Two in Review

During the 2020-21 academic year, significant investments in facilities and safety enhancements provided a healthy environment to conduct on-campus learning. MCS's dedication and commitment to academic excellence has resulted in one of the busiest admissions seasons and highest retention rates to date. MCS also exceeded its fundraising goals for the Fund for MCS and the Auction thanks to the generosity and support of the community.

As we look ahead, we are excited for our classrooms to return as one unit within a multi-age classroom. As guidance from SBPH continues to evolve, the hope is to introduce programmatic changes in campus activities and events during the 2020-21 academic year. Continued focus on building a sustainable future will ensure that MCS can continue to fulfill its mission for years to come.



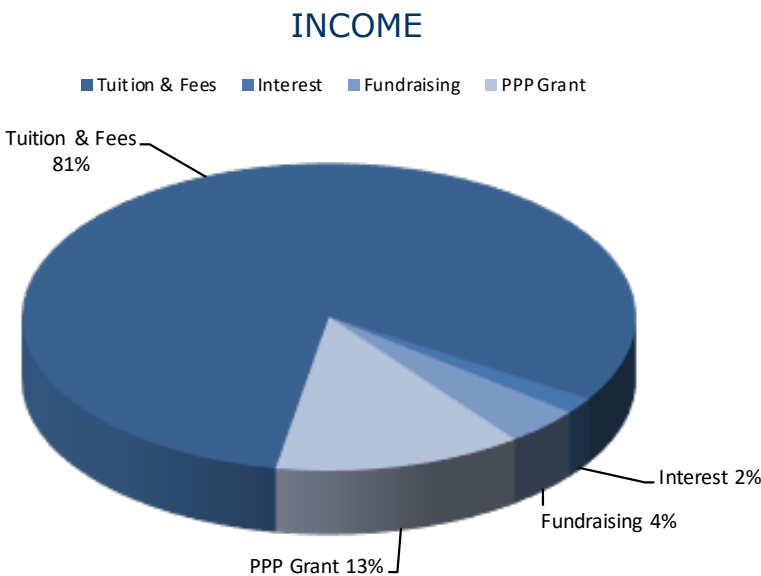


# FINANCIAL REPORT

## 2020 - 2021

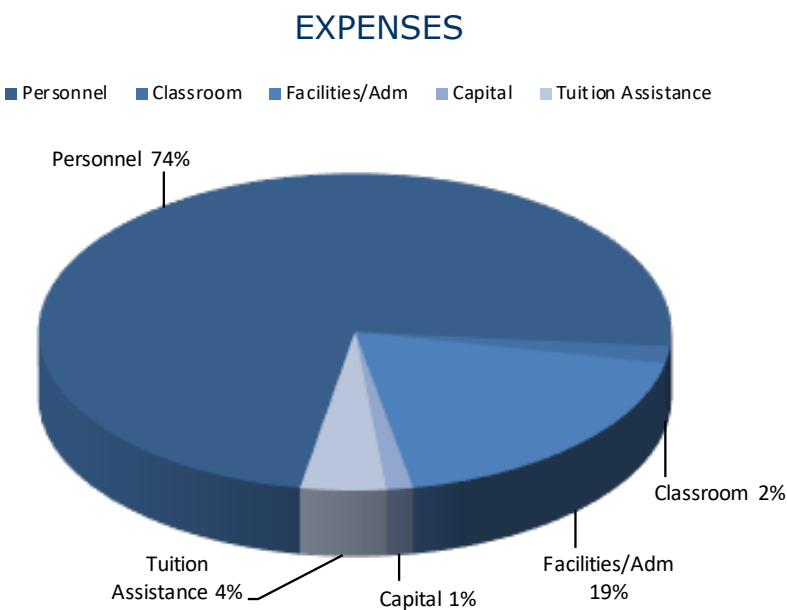
### OPERATING REVENUE

Tuition and Fees	\$3,520,500
Interest	\$73,500
Fundraising	\$199,389
PPP Grant	\$568,400
<hr/>	
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$4,361,789</b>



### OPERATING EXPENSES

Personnel	\$3,101,800
Classroom	\$72,300
Facilities and Maintenance	\$794,800
Capital	\$57,000
Tuition Assistance	\$183,700
<hr/>	
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,209,600</b>

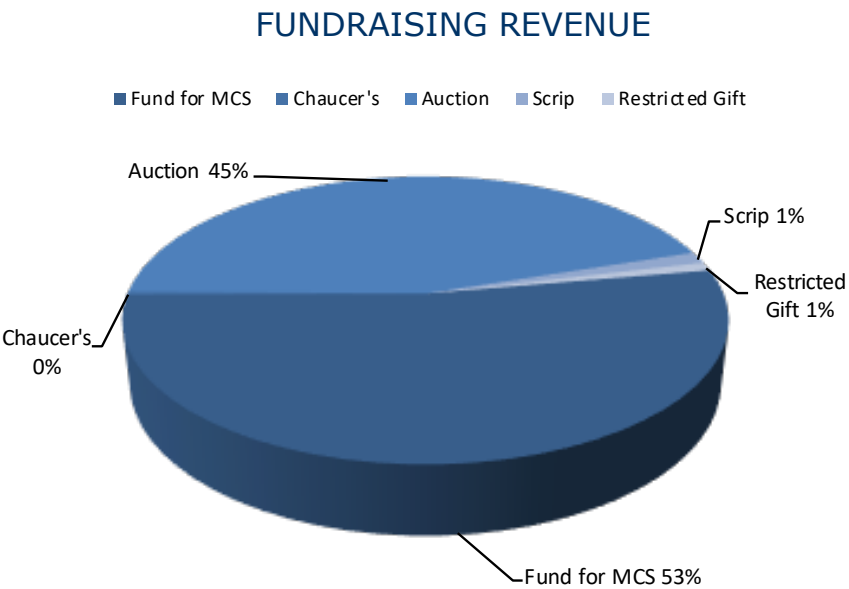


# FUNDRAISING

## 2020 - 2021

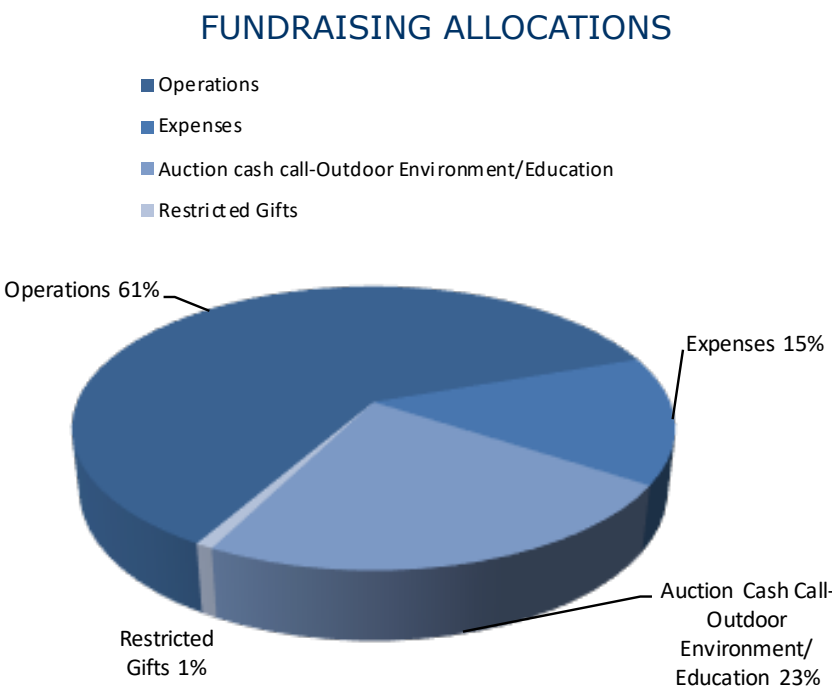
### NET FUNDRAISING REVENUE

Fund for MCS	\$104,986
Chaucer's Night	\$709
Annual Auction	\$89,177
Scrip	\$2,617
Restricted Gift	\$1,900
<hr/>	
<b>Total Net Fundraising</b>	<b>\$199,389</b>



### FUNDRAISING ALLOCATIONS

Operations	\$143,114
Expenses	\$33,983
Auction Cash Call - Outdoor Ed	\$54,375
Restricted Gifts	\$1,900
<hr/>	
<b>Total Gross Fundraising</b>	<b>\$233,372</b>





# EMBRACING WHAT'S POSSIBLE

## MCS Annual Gala

In April 2021, MCS held its first-ever Virtual Auction Benefit, “Embracing What Is Possible, A Celebration of Resiliency.” This year’s event was interactive and fun for the whole family, as MCS celebrated the community’s resiliency during this school year.

Our annual auction benefit event raised a total of \$89,177 for MCS. Proceeds from the event support the maintenance and enhancements of campus facilities, purchase of classroom materials, and academic programming. Of this total, \$54,375 was generated in our paddle raise, which will help us maintain our outdoor learning environments and support our new Explore Ecology environmental studies program.

## Thank you to our Auction Committee!

**Co-Chairs:** Nikki Murray and Morgan McDonald  
**Committee Members:** Sarah Nguyen, Emma Malina and Ivette Guintu



Navy Door Art Project



Detail of Purple Door Art Project

# A CELEBRATION IN RESILENCY

## Auction Donors

- ADKTD Lifestyle  
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Angel/Wendy Foster  
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Au Bon Climat  
Blue Door Families  
Breyer Toys  
Buff Platt  
Cathedral Oaks Athletic Club  
Celebration Cruises of Santa Barbara  
Central Coast Candle  
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Corks n’ Crowns  
Devon Remade  
Diamond Door Families  
DMK Studio-Dauri Kennedy  
Don Parsons  
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Emerald Door Families  
Evolutions Medical Spa  
Eye and Vision Care  
Fairview Gardens  
Farmers Market  
Fernanda Machado Riskin  
Givens Farm  
Gold Door Families  
Goleta Sushi House  
Grapeseed Company  
Green Door Families  
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Paddle Sports Center  
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Phillip Gerlach  
Purple Door Families  
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Red Door Families  
REI  
Riviera Towel Company  
Robert Lambourne  
Robin Deinhard  
Santa Barbara Adventure Company  
Santa Barbara Cheese Shop  
Santa Barbara Sailing Center  
Santa Barbara Soups  
Sarah Nguyen  
Silver Door Families  
Simply Sholeh  
Snack on My Snacks  
Snowden Vineyards  
Sonos  
Surf Country  
Suzanne Hawtrey  
The Eberz Family  
The Grattan Family  
The Loza Family  
The Shinn Family  
The Shopkeepers  
Trader Joes  
Twin Lakes Golf Course  
Vertly  
Victor Hugo Winery  
Wendy Foster  
White Door Families  
Yellow Door Families

## Thank you to our Event Sponsors!

### Golden Beads

- Beach Front Construction  
CIO Solutions  
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### A Great Lesson

- David Kim Group  
Ferris Orthodontic Group  
Forage Flowers  
Manchester Capital  
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Santa Barbara Children’s Dentistry



# VIRTUAL EVENTS

## MCS Celebrations



### ANTI-BIAS TRAINING FOR PARENTS AND STAFF

Britt Hawthorne is a nationally recognized anti-bias/anti-racist teacher-educator. Britt worked previously with our faculty and staff and we were pleased to provide this training opportunity for MCS parents.

The goals of this presentation were to dismantle the color-blind assumption and prepare children to work toward justice. The discussion shared concrete ways families can support their children’s developing racial and ethnic identities. Families learned how to empower their children, affirm their numerous identities, and accept differences.

When we commit to collectively talking about fairness, equality, and justice with young children, we begin to envision a world in which not only children but all people are treated with dignity; free from the burden of unfair assumptions based on a single characteristic. It becomes a world where we actively challenge racism and bias each day.



### A CONVERSATION WITH ALYSSA CARSON

In recognition of International Women’s Day on March 8, MCS hosted a virtual discussion with 20-year-old astronaut in training, Alyssa Carson. Her accomplishments are many and in 2013 NASA invited her to be on the MER 10 panel in Washington DC to discuss future missions to Mars live on NASA TV. She was later selected as one of seven ambassadors representing Mars One, a mission to establish a human colony on Mars in 2030. More than anything, Alyssa is driven by an insatiable desire to live life to the fullest; to break through the ceiling of possibility and make a positive and lasting impact on the world. Alyssa spoke with our elementary students in, Purple, Diamond, and Emerald doors.

# VIRTUAL EVENTS

## Go Meerkats!



### ZACH GILL MUSIC BENEFIT

MCS parent, singer and songwriter Zach Gill, lead vocalist of the rock band ALO, and a longtime member of Jack Johnson’s band, hosted a live, virtual musical performance to support the Fund for MCS.

Over 150 participants enjoyed the festive and interactive performance, which included a selection of original music, classic covers and holiday favorites. There were several surprise guest performers, including Jack Johnson! The concert raised \$7,500 for the Fund for MCS.



### VIRTUAL PARENT DISCUSSIONS

As part of our Maria Montessori 150th activities, we partnered with a series of dynamic speakers who embodied Maria Montessori’s values to host virtual parent discussions. Dr. Ann-Louise Lockhart, a pediatric psychologist and parent coach was one of our speakers who educated our parents about why flexibility, adaptability, self-regulation, self-compassion, resilience, and problem-solving are some of the most valuable skills to teach children.



### VIRTUAL STEAM EVENTS

Our Virtual Events committee worked creatively as a TEAM to create a monthly virtual STEAM event series. In partnership with Pacific Science Center, The North Carolina Museum of Art, and MOXI, students were lead through engaging and interactive virtual workshops, activities, and demonstrations. The virtual field trips ignited the children’s curiosity with enriching content that enhanced their classroom studies. Thank you to Kristy Manning for organizing this wonderful series.



# STAFF APPRECIATION

## Special Recognition from the MPO

Our Teacher Appreciation Committee came together this year and created various ways to celebrate and appreciate the faculty and staff at MCS. Thank you for recognizing and supporting us!

### Teacher Appreciation Sponsors:

Something Good Organics

Lucca Pizza Truck

Welcome Coffee Cart

Rori's Ice Cream

Thank You!



*“Whoever touches the life of a child, touches the most sensitive part of a whole which has roots in the most distant past and climbs toward the infinite future.”*  
— Dr. Maria Montessori

# FACULTY AND STAFF

## 2020 - 2021



### Pre-Primary

**Gold Door**  
Nicole Staska, Head Teacher  
Jacqueline Ochoa, Assistant Teacher  
Yeonwook Kim Uyeno, Assistant Teacher

**White Door**  
Sandy Gorman, Head Teacher  
Madison McClurkin, Assistant Teacher  
Gloria Morrison, Extended Day

### Primary

**Blue Door**  
Zoe Makofsky, Head Teacher  
Roma Garcia, Assistant Teacher

**Navy Door**  
Emily Stephens, Head Teacher  
Suki Contreras, Assistant Teacher  
Kathy Finck, Assistant Teacher

**Red Door**  
Krista Williams, Head Teacher  
Sharon Liddy, Assistant Teacher  
Tessa Burns, Assistant Teacher

**Silver Door**  
Kacy Cristofani, Head Teacher  
Gabriela Silva Gutierrez, Assistant Teacher  
Paula Ludwig, Assistant Teacher

**Yellow Door**  
Kathryn Parker, Head Teacher  
Jennifer Montague, Assistant Teacher  
Ivette Aldapa, Assistant Teacher

### Lower Elementary

**Green Door**  
Irene Morales, Head Teacher  
Jenny Buffa, Assistant Teacher

**Purple Door**  
Kimberly Sanchez, Head Teacher  
Delaney Newhouse, Assistant Teacher

### Upper Elementary

**Emerald Door**  
Loric Box, Head Teacher  
Erica Singer, Assistant Teacher

**Diamond Door**  
Peggi Robinson, Head Teacher  
Maria Martinez, Assistant Teacher

### Permanent Sub

Nanci Ortiz  
Liz Spero

### Specialists

Suzanne Hawtrey, Art  
Anne Curtin, Library  
Maya Cramer-Singer, Spanish  
Claude-Lise Lafranque, Music  
Leane Ledbetter, Physical Education  
Garrett Blair, Drama  
Francis Cosworth, Technology

### Administration

Melanie Jacobs  
Head of School  
  
Birgit Crable  
Business Manager  
  
Melanie Newhouse  
Associate Administrator  
& Director of Student Support

Alyssa Morris  
Director of Admissions

Lisa Lavora-De Beule  
Director of Marketing & Communications

Kathy Kelley  
Director of Development  
& Alumni Relations

Lisa Tosta  
Office Manager & Registrar

Janelle Ashby  
Learning Specialist

Shereen Ramawtar  
Bookkeeper

Paulo Perez  
Groundskeeper



# MCS PARENT VOLUNTEERS

## You Make a Difference

Thank you to all the MCS parents and grandparents who volunteered their time in so many different ways throughout the year.

### Executive Committee

Tom Burk, President  
Scott Vincent, Vice President  
Michael James Hey, Treasurer/Secretary

### Development Committee

Chris Snowden, Chair  
Nicole Aispuro  
Kacy Cristofani  
Lisa Lavora-De Beule  
Cheryl Egolf  
Eric Egolf  
Cara Ferrick  
Melanie Jacobs  
Kathy Kelley  
Mieko Kusano

### Covid Taskforce

Greg Reitz, Chair  
John Berger  
Tom Burk  
Birgit Crable  
Gina Giannetto  
Melanie Jacobs  
Melanie Newhouse  
Katy Parker  
Heather Terbell  
Meghan Wallman

### Finance Committee

Michael James Hey, Chair  
Carol Bedford  
John Berger  
Tom Burk  
Mike Challen  
Birgit Crable  
Melanie Jacobs  
Brian Johnson

### Marketing Committee

Tim Morton-Smith, Chair  
Lindsey Beek  
Pia Simone-Ellerman  
Melanie Jacobs  
Kathy Kelley  
Lisa Lavora-De Beule  
Alyssa Morris  
David Malina

### Strategic Planning Committee

Mariaelena Welch, Chair  
John Berger  
Loric Box  
Tom Burk  
Lisa Green  
Sandy Gorman  
Melanie Jacobs  
Lisa Lavora-De Beule  
Tim Morton-Smith  
Melanie Newhouse

### MCS Parent Volunteers

#### MPO

Morgan McDonald, Co-Chair  
Nikki Murray, Co-Chair  
Sarah Nguyen, Auction Co-Chair  
Ivette Guintu, Auction  
Emma Malina, Auction

#### Staff Appreciation Committee

Conor Adler  
Milena Dierenfield  
Theresa Dolotta  
Ashley Eberz  
Ivette Guintu  
Illa Llinares

### Virtual Events Committee

Megan Mahdavi  
Kristy Manning

### Room Reps

Sarah Anthony  
Royce Borgeson  
Nikki Bowen  
Kara Byrne  
Robin Deinhard  
Rachel & Ateshim Demsas  
Erin Foster  
Bridget Gardner  
Anne Shaw-Hey  
Jennifer Jeffery  
Esther Li  
Josephine Lin  
Emma Malina  
Natalie Mutz  
Alanna Snowden  
Heather Van Buren

*“We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are a part of the universe and are connected with each other to form one whole unity.”*

— Dr. Maria Montessori, *To Educate the Human Potential*







# MONTESSORI CENTER SCHOOL

401 N. Fairview Avenue #1 | Goleta, CA 93117

805.683.9383 | [WWW.MCSSB.ORG](http://WWW.MCSSB.ORG)



1870 – 2020

**MARIA 150  
MONTESSORI**

*As part of Dr. Maria Montessori's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, a special tulip was commissioned in The Netherlands. MCS students became part of a global tulip planting project that helped students recognize Dr. Montessori's understanding of the interconnectedness of all life, the importance of nature, and her ecological views. The tulips were planted on campus in our communal gardens, where they will continue to bloom for years to come.*