In the spring of 1963 five couples on the Upper West Side, frustrated in their inability to find a superior first educational opportunity, established the school they wanted for their children: Montessori-based; involving parents as partners; reflecting social/cultural/economic diversity. Fifty years and more than 4,000 students later, WSMS continues to embody their aspirations and provide a great beginning to all who enter our doors.
WSMS’s 50th anniversary is just around the corner, and plans for a festive celebration of this grand occasion are already underway. It is both fascinating and gratifying to look back on the past 50 years and to note the many extraordinary ways in which our school—and the world—have changed since 1963. To help jog your memory, we are pleased to present in this issue of Great Beginnings a “WSMS at 50” timeline, which traces our school’s marvelous history alongside the world events, cultural highlights, and parenting trends that have occupied our collective consciousness along the way.

This issue also contains our Annual Report of Giving, in which we acknowledge all those who have given so freely of their resources, time, and talent. One of the things that has not changed in the past 50 years is the enthusiastic and generous support of our current WSMS parents, alumni parents, faculty, staff, grandparents, and friends. To all of you, my sincere thanks.

Another vital component of our community is our board of trustees, brilliantly led by President Valda Witt for the past three years. Their wisdom and dedication never cease to amaze me. In addition to providing brief bios of this year’s trustees, this issue includes “Above and Beyond,” a glimpse at the many ways in which our board ensures our school’s present and future stability, as well as a look back at some of the board’s landmark accomplishments in years past.

The past, present, and future all come together in this issue’s Alumni News portrait. In “The ‘Go-To’ School,” alumna and current WSMS parent Alicia Hall Moran and her father, former board member Ira Hall, reflect on what made WSMS the perfect choice years ago, when Alicia was a child, and this past year, when she and her husband were looking for a school for their twin boys. Alicia’s family is one of a number of multigenerational WSMS families, and we are delighted and honored by their longstanding commitment to this institution.

In closing, I wish to express my deep appreciation to our teachers and staff for their dedication, diligence, and creativity; to our PA Co-Presidents, Kristen Chae Arabadjiev and Amy Groome, for their expert leadership of our numerous parent volunteers, both last year and this year; and to our families for their unwavering support and hard work on behalf of the school. Having served as Head of School for five years now, I remain in awe of the distance WSMS has traveled in the last 50 years, and look forward to my continued partnership with our wonderful community as we forge ahead together into the next 50.

MIMI BASSO
HEAD OF SCHOOL
On behalf of the entire WSMS community, I congratulate Mimi Basso on five outstanding years as Head of School, and thank her for all she does to make this school the extraordinary institution it is, warmly greeting our students every day, mentoring our incomparable faculty, and embodying the qualities of dedication, leadership, and vision that characterize the best heads of school. We are so fortunate to have her at the helm as we celebrate our 50-year history and look ahead to a brilliant future.

As WSMS’s 50th anniversary approaches, we have much to celebrate. We are a financially healthy institution with an exceptional head of school, a dynamic board, and an incredibly warm, generous, and involved community of families and friends. Support of WSMS continues to be strong. I am delighted to report that our trustees, faculty, and staff achieved 100% participation in the Annual Fund for the fourth year in a row.

Here are some highlights of what your generosity has made possible this past year:

- The entire WSMS community has been enjoying our beautiful new Parents Room/Library, which serves as a library and study space for our students and a place where parents, faculty, staff, and visitors can help themselves to a cup of coffee, hold meetings, or conduct interviews.

- Our gym has been totally re-equipped with new state-of-the-art equipment designed to help children develop their large motor and social skills while participating in creative and structured play activities.

- Our students have been getting a physical and creative workout exploring the new Snug Play equipment on our outdoor rooftop play space. These colorful, rugged open-ended elements offer limitless possibilities for active play.

- Teachers have been provided with countless opportunities to expand their knowledge of children and their development. As one example, in workshops and meetings with this past year’s visiting scholars from Visual Thinking Strategies, our faculty learned how to help children develop their critical thinking skills by discussing works of art. Our teachers immediately incorporated this approach into their curriculum, to enthusiastic response from our students.

- In addition, we implemented a banding system for compensation that rewards teachers who demonstrate a commitment to continued professional growth and development. Teacher salaries and benefits at WSMS consistently rank in the top quartile of peer schools.

The success of this past year’s Annual Fund campaign is due to the efforts of many dedicated individuals. In particular I would like to thank the Advancement Committee, co-chaired by Myles Amend and Chad Gifford; the 2012 Auction Co-Chairs: Amy Tarr, Morgan Thorne, and Mary Vertin; the 2012 Spring Fair Co-Chairs: Maggan Daileader, Monique Neal, and Natalie Ryan; and Director of School Advancement Patricia Luciani.

To all of you whose names are mentioned in the following pages, our heartfelt thanks for your support of WSMS. Whatever form your contributions take, each and every one is vital to the present and future well-being of our school.

VALDA WITT
(Katherine ’04, William ’05, Andrew ’09, Benjamin 4W)
PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
### Fundraising Results

#### 2011-2012:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Fund</td>
<td>$300,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auction (Net)</td>
<td>$113,647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Fair (Net)</td>
<td>$11,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$425,538</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2011-2012 Revenue (unaudited)

- Auction and Spring Fair (net): 3%
- Annual Fund Contributions: 6%
- Tuition and Programs: 91%

#### 2011-2012 Operating Expenses (unaudited)

- Instruction Expense: 49%
- Building Maintenance: 16%
- Administrative Costs: 21%
- Financial Aid and ACS Family Support: 14%
West Side Montessori School has always depended on the talent, generosity, and hard work of the many volunteers in our community. These individuals define the spirit of WSMS; we wouldn’t be able to build and grow without them. This is especially true of our trustees—every one of them a volunteer. We would like to take this opportunity to salute all past and present members of our board, who, in partnership with the wonderful heads of school we’ve been fortunate to have at the helm, have contributed so much to making WSMS what it is today.
The Executive Committee consists of the officers of the board (president, vice presidents, treasurer, and secretary) and the head of school. It provides guidance and makes decisions on matters requiring immediate action.

The Finance Committee is responsible for budgets, financial reports, and management of the School's finances.

The Development Committee develops and implements fundraising goals and campaigns.

The Communications Committee strengthens communication outreach to parents and the broader community.

The Nominating Committee canvasses the WSMS community to find potential candidates for board vacancies and conducts the annual election of trustees.

The Trustee Committee facilitates governance issues, recruits potential trustees, and is responsible for the evaluations of the board and head of school.

In addition, ad hoc committees (e.g., Strategic Planning, Building) are formed as needed. Apart from the Executive and Finance Committees, committee membership is not limited to members of the board. Parents and teachers provide valuable help by contributing to the work of the board.

The involvement of the WSMS board has been instrumental in so many important accomplishments over the years. Among the highlights are the purchase of our current building in 1974; the hiring of Marlene Barron as head of school in 1979; the renovation of our rooftop play space and Garden level in 1983; the construction of a two-story addition at the rear of our building in 1996; the hiring of current head of school Mimi Basso in 2007; the “greening” of our classrooms and kitchen in 2009; and the creation of our Parents Room/Library in 2011.

We are deeply grateful to our current and former board members, all of whom have given of themselves so willingly and generously in helping to secure the future of our school.
MYLES B. AMEND

is Associate Head of School for Advancement at Trinity School, where he has worked since 2000. Prior to that he served as Director of Development and Finance at Rice High School in Harlem; as Principal of Tampa Catholic High School in Tampa, Florida; and as Associate Director for Institutional Advancement and Governance at the Museum of the City of New York. He is a graduate of Iona College and holds master's degrees in History from New York University and in Independent School Leadership from Columbia University Teachers College. He is also a past president of the New York City Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Myles and his husband, Marc Thomas, are parents of Ashley Amend-Thomas, who completed her two-year career at WSMS in 2011.

KRISTEN CHAE ARABADJIEV

is the mother of three children: Ariana, who graduated from WSMS in 2010; Bella, who moved on to kindergarten in 2011; and Cece (aE), who entered her second year at WSMS this fall. Kristen has been an active WSMS parent since 2007. Among other things, she co-chaired the 2010 Auction and is currently serving her second year as PA Co-President. Kristen is a business owner of GlobeArc LLC and Little Apples Photography. She earned her BSBA from the School of Management at Boston University and has held positions at Barra, Inc., and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith. She is married to Boris Arabadjiev.

NISSA BOOKER

is a graduate of Spelman College, where she majored in English. After working in various capacities for ABC News in Washington, D.C., she discovered a particular interest in training and development. She eventually left ABC News and joined a start-up owned by AOL, where she is responsible for managing editorial recruiters. Nissa is the mom of WSMS alum Dalyn and current WSMS student Aiden. She is currently working on her Montessori teaching certification through the WSMS-TEP program.

HARRIET BURNETT

is a proud WSMS alumni parent whose daughters happily began their educational journey at West Side. Harriet's husband, Tom, was on the WSMS Board in the early 1980s, so she is continuing the family tradition. Since 1990, Harriet has been Director of Admissions at Friends Seminary. Prior to Friends, she worked for five years in the Advancement Office at Collegiate School.

Trained as an urban planner, Harriet has a BA and an MA from George Washington University, and graduated from Friends' Central School in Philadelphia. She worked for the New York City Housing and Development Administration before having children. Her husband, Tom, is Vice Chairman of Wall Street Access, a financial services firm. Daughter Liza is Executive Vice President of Radius-TWC, a subsidiary of the Weinstein Company; daughter Nora is Curator at the Denver Museum of Contemporary Art; and grandchildren Ruby and Xander are perfection.

CHAD GIFFORD

is a dean in the Division of Student Affairs at Columbia University, working with many offices and initiatives on campus, including student advising, family and parent programs, curriculum development, and alumni affairs in both Columbia College and the School of Engineering. Chad joined Student Affairs after graduating from Columbia University with a PhD in Anthropology. His ongoing archaeological research takes him to South America every summer, where he leads a fieldwork project studying the Inca Empire.

Chad's daughter, Lake Gifford, was a student at WSMS for three years. During that time Chad was an active member of the WSMS Parents Association, helping in a variety of events and programs and eventually serving as Co-President.

Chad lives with his wife, Betsy Morgan, and Lake, who is now 8 and a second grader at Trinity School.
AMY GROOME

has resided in New York for 17 years. She lives with her husband, Peter, and their two sons: Henry, a third grader at Collegiate School and a WSMS graduate; and Freddy, who is in his second year at WSMS.

Amy holds a certificate in Integrative Nutrition and has worked as a health counselor, helping individuals with food choices and overall well-being. She has a background in marketing communications specializing in global brand development for luxury and lifestyle businesses. She has held positions at Avon Products, Nautica, and StarMedia Network, a Latin-American Internet company.

A native Californian and a graduate of Georgetown University, Amy speaks fluent Spanish and enjoys travel.

CHARLES HARKLESS

is a co-founder and managing director of Satori Consulting, a management consultancy formed in 2002 that provides strategy execution and organization effectiveness services. He has worked as a management consultant for more than 20 years, with significant experience in the financial services, telecommunications, and high tech sectors. Prior to founding Satori, Charles was a partner at Accenture, where he worked for many years structuring and managing business transformation and organizational change initiatives.

Charles and his wife, Aileen Hefferren, who is Chief Executive of Prep for Prep, have two boys, Owen (11) and Perry (8), who are currently students at Trinity School. Charles holds a BSE in Civil Engineering and Operations Research from Princeton University.

ALEXANDRA (ALEX) JARISLOWSKY

is the mother of James and Henry Snow, twins who graduated from the Garden class in 2011 and now attend The School at Columbia University. She is married to Kevin Snow.

Alex was born in Montreal, Canada. She graduated from Brown University in 1991 and received her MBA from Harvard Business School in 1996. She has held positions at Capital Research Group, a mutual fund company in California, and at Porter Orlin LLC, a long/short hedge fund in New York. She recently joined her father’s company, Jarislowsky Fraser Limited, a Canadian-based investment firm. At WSMS Alex was involved in the Auction and Spring Fair.

JAE K. LEE

is an attorney at Jazz at Lincoln Center. She graduated from Colgate University with a BA in Political Science, and received her JD from Fordham University School of Law. Jae and her husband, Scott Millstein, have two children who attended WSMS: Todd, age 8, and Carter, age 6. As a WSMS parent, Jae was actively involved with the Auction and Spring Fair, as well as other Parents Association committees and Admissions. In the 2009–2010 school year she served as Parents Association Co-President.
ANNE LYONS

is the mother of PJ, who graduated from WSMS last spring, and Abby, who graduated in 2010. She is a former television producer whose experience spans widely across genres. Over the course of her 17-year career she produced news, documentaries, reality shows, and entertainment specials for a variety of networks and was most recently a senior producer at ESPN. She left television behind in 2010 to be a full-time mom to her school-aged children and has recently launched SimplyfyNYC, a professional organizing service. At WSMS, she has worked on the admissions committee and the Spring Fair.

Anne graduated from the College of William and Mary in 1992 with a degree in History. She is married to TV producer Francis Lyons.

BRYAN MAZLISH

is a partner at Overlook Capital, a market-neutral equity investment firm that he founded in 2005. Prior to starting Overlook he spent 11 years at Citigroup, where he last was a managing director heading global equity derivatives and domestic portfolio trading. His primary focus was high-level capital commitment and risk management. Bryan joined Salomon Brothers (which was later bought by Citigroup) after graduating from Harvard University with an honors degree in Computer Science.

Outside of work, Bryan has served five years as Board Treasurer for the co-op where he lives with his wife, Sarah Kimball, and their three children: Emma, 9; Sam, 6; and Sophie, 1. Emma graduated from WSMS in 2009, and Sam graduated in 2011.

MONIQUE NEAL

is the mother of two children: Max, who graduated from WSMS in 2012, and Madeleine, who is in her second year at WSMS. Monique has been an active member of the WSMS community, serving in various capacities, including co-chairing the Spring Fair for the past two years.

Prior to becoming a parent, Monique held positions in investment analysis at Bear Stearns, Merrill Lynch, and Wilkinson O’Grady Asset Management. She graduated from Columbia University with a degree in French Translation and from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania with an MBA in Finance. She also completed one year of a master’s program in Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine. Monique was born in Europe and emigrated to the U.S. as a child. She speaks fluent French and is a passionate home baker and cook. She is married to Frank Kotsen.
RAUL PINEDA is a Managing Director in the Private Wealth Management Division at Morgan Stanley, where he has worked since 1998. Prior to joining Morgan Stanley, Raul worked at the JPMorgan Private Bank. He has also worked in Sales and Trading at Interacciones Casa de Bolsa in Mexico. Raul graduated from the Harvard Business School in 1997 with an MBA. He holds a BA from Universidad Iberoamericana (Mexico).

In addition to serving as Treasurer and a member of the Executive Committee of the WSMS board, Raul is a member of the board of Ballet Hispanico, a trustee of the Browning School, and a committee member of the New York Society Library. Raul lives with his wife, Mayalen, and their three children: Raul (2008), Maitane (2010), and Ander (2011).

ROBERT SHEPADSON is the father of current WSMS student Maeve, and also of Aidan, Alexis, and William, all of whom graduated from WSMS. Robert and his wife, Deirdre Flynn, started their affiliation with WSMS in 2004, and with Maeve will extend their run through 2014. Robert has worked at Morgan Stanley for over 20 years, most recently in Global Capital Markets, where he advises corporations in the media, communications, consumer and retail sectors. Robert graduated from Princeton University with a BA in Economics, and received his MBA from the Amos Tuck School at Dartmouth College.

ALEXANDER H. SOUTHWELL is a partner at the law firm Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, where he is a member of the White Collar Defense and Investigations and the Information Technology and Data Privacy practice groups. Alex previously served as an assistant United States attorney in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York and is also an adjunct professor of law at Fordham University School of Law, where he teaches a seminar on cyber crimes. Alex graduated from Princeton University and New York University School of Law. He is also a proud alum of WSMS, having been born and raised on the Upper West Side, where he still lives with his wife, Sandy, and their three children: Madeline (10), Lucas (7), and Gemma (3). Madeline and Lucas graduated from WSMS in 2007 and 2011, respectively, and now attend Trinity School. Gemma began her first year at WSMS this fall.

AMY TARR is the mother of twins, Theodore and Penelope, both of whom graduated from WSMS last spring. Her daughter, Gigi, started her second year this fall. Amy is married to Jeff Tarr, Jr.

A food industry expert, Amy was most recently an editor at StarChefs.com, a website for chefs and other food professionals. She has also been a member of the James Beard Foundation’s House Programming Committee, serving as emcee for dinner events at the James Beard House in NYC. Amy graduated from Harvard College in 1996 with a concentration in Classics (Latin). She holds a master’s degree in Education from Harvard Graduate School of Education (1998).

GREG THORNE is currently a Director in the Technology Investment Banking group at JMP Securities, where he has worked for the past six years. He graduated from the University of Michigan (where he met his wife, Morgan) in 1996, and earned his MBA from Columbia Business School in 2005. Greg and Morgan have two children: a daughter, Kendall, who attended WSMS from 2008–2010; and a son, Quincy, who started his second year at WSMS in the fall of 2012. Greg has supported WSMS by co-chairing vendor solicitation for the Auction, filling various roles for the Spring Fair, and helping Morgan with the events and activities she has chaired, including the Pumpkin Picnic and the 2010 and 2012 Auctions.

VALDA WITT is the mother of four children: Katherine (2005), now a student at Marymount School; William (2007) and Andrew (2009), now attending Browning School; and Ben, who is in his third year at WSMS. Valda is an active supporter of WSMS and has been a trustee since 2005.

Valda currently serves as President of the Board at WSMS and has been a Browning School trustee since 2011. She has also been the Annual Fund chair at Browning and a PA class representative at Marymount. She is currently Executive Vice President of Infrastructure Capital. Valda received her BA in History from the College of William and Mary and her MBA from the Wharton School.
CELEBRATION 2.2.2013
AT PIER 60
MORE DETAILS TO COME
WSMS at 50
...A Timeline

WSMS
West Side Montessori School
1963-2013
Classroom then and now....

Spring Fair then and now....
It was 50 years ago that WSMS offered its very first class, with one teacher and a total enrollment of 15 children. How things have changed since then! For a refresher course on our school’s wonderful history—as well as highlights of the world events, cultural fads, and parenting trends along the way—please turn the page...

Our building then and now....
In 1963...

Bestselling/award-winning children’s books include: Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak, Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish, Hop on Pop by Dr. Seuss, Richard Scarry’s Best Word Book Ever by Richard Scarry, and Swimmy by Leo Lionni

Billboard No. 1 hits include: “It’s My Party” by Lesley Gore, “Blue Velvet” by Bobby Vinton, and “My Boyfriend’s Back” by the Angels

Winner of Academy Award for Best Picture: Lawrence of Arabia

Parenting Trends: Baby and Child Care by Benjamin Spock is the “go-to” parenting book for most parents of young children

August 28, 1963: Martin Luther King, Jr., delivers his “I Have a Dream” speech

November 22, 1963: President John F. Kennedy is assassinated


In the ’60s...

Kids are playing with Barbie dolls, G.I. Joe action figures, Matchbox cars, Chatty Cathy dolls, Easy Bake Ovens, Etch-a-Sketches, Lite-Brite, and Legos

Spring 1963

Five couples (Boker and Susanna Doyle, Gil and Sarah Burke, Larry and Olivia Huntington, Fritz and Marian Schwarz, Joe and Bay Wasserman) resolve to found a new school on the Upper West Side

Fall 1963

WSMS first opens, offering one morning class in a room in the Frederick Douglass Houses on Columbus Avenue at 104th Street

1964

WSMS moves to the Young Israel Synagogue on 91st Street and Amsterdam Avenue; an afternoon class is added

1965

WSMS moves to the Parish House of St. Michael’s Church at 225 West 99th Street

Number of students enrolled for 1963–64: 15
Number of teachers: 1

In 1964...

February 9, 1964: The Beatles make their U.S. television debut on The Ed Sullivan Show

February 25, 1964: Cassius Clay (aka Muhammad Ali) becomes World Heavyweight Champion

July 2, 1964: Civil Rights Act of 1964 is enacted

In 1965...

Parenting Trends: Between Parent and Child by Haim G. Ginott is published

March 8, 1965: U.S. troops arrive in Vietnam

In 1967...

Parenting Trends: Psychologist Diana Baumrind releases a study identifying three parenting styles: authoritarian, authoritative, and permissive

In 1968...

April 4, 1968: Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated

In 1969...

July 20, 1969: Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin are the first men to walk on the moon

August 15–18, 1969: Woodstock Festival

November 10, 1969: Sesame Street premieres on public television

In 1969...
In 1973...

**Billboard No. 1 hits include:** “You’re So Vain” by Carly Simon, “Killing Me Softly With His Song” by Roberta Flack, and “Tie a Yellow Ribbon ’Round the Ole Oak Tree” by Tony Orlando and Dawn

**Winner of Academy Award for Best Picture:**
*The Godfather*

**January 22, 1973:** In its decision regarding *Roe v. Wade*, the U.S. Supreme Court declares abortion a fundamental right under the Constitution

**September 20, 1973:** Billie Jean King beats Bobby Riggs in the “Battle of the Sexes” tennis match

In the ’70s...
Kids are playing with Hoppity Hops, Sit ’n Spins, Nerf balls, Simon, Shrinky Dinks, Big Wheel tricycles, Slime, and the video game Pong

1971
WSMS becomes one of the first private institutions to receive public funding for its financial aid program through the city’s Agency for Child Development (later known as the Administration for Children’s Services, or ACS)

1972
John Sherman becomes Director

1973
Teri Seidman becomes Director

1974
Spring 1974
The West Side Educational Trust is established to raise funds for, and to negotiate, the purchase of 309 West 92nd Street from the Calhoun School

Fall 1974
WSMS opens its doors at 309 West 92nd Street

1975

1976
Parenting Trends: *The Uses of Enchantment*, Bruno Bettelheim’s discussion of the emotional and symbolic importance of fairy tales for children, is published

1977
April 26, 1977: Legendary disco Studio 54 opens

1979
November 4, 1979: Iran takes American hostages in Tehran
In 1981...
September 25, 1981: Sandra Day O’Connor is sworn in as the first female judge on the U.S. Supreme Court

In 1983...
Bestselling/award-winning children’s books include: A Chair for My Mother by Vera B. Williams, Doctor DeSoto by William Steig, The Berenstain Bears and the Messy Room by Stan Berenstain, I Was So Mad by Mercer Mayer, and Angelina Ballerina by Katharine Holabird

Billboard No. 1 hits include: “Down Under” by Men at Work, “Billie Jean” by Michael Jackson, and “Every Breath You Take” by the Police

Winner of Academy Award for Best Picture: Gandhi

In the ’80s...
Kids are playing with Rubik’s Cubes, Cabbage Patch Kids, My Little Pony dolls, Guess Who?, Koosh Balls, Transformers and Masters of the Universe action figures, and Pound Puppies

In 1986...
Parenting Trends: Solve Your Child’s Sleep Problems by Richard Ferber is published

In 1989...
November 9, 1989: The Berlin Wall comes down

In the neighborhood: The Children’s Museum of Manhattan opens in its current location on West 83rd Street

In 1990...

In 1992...
Two-story addition at rear of building is completed
WSMS earns accreditation from the New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS)

In 1993...
Bestselling/award-winning children’s books include: A Chair for My Mother by Vera B. Williams, Doctor DeSoto by William Steig, The Berenstain Bears and the Messy Room by Stan Berenstain, I Was So Mad by Mercer Mayer, and Angelina Ballerina by Katharine Holabird

Winner of Academy Award for Best Picture: Gandhi

Billboard No. 1 hits include: “I Will Always Love You” by Whitney Houston, “Can’t Help Falling in Love” by UB40, and “That’s the Way Love Goes” by Janet Jackson

Winner of Academy Award for Best Picture: Unforgiven

In the neighborhood: The playground in Riverside Park at 91st Street is renovated and renamed Hippo Playground

In 1997...
The Macarena becomes a worldwide dance craze

In 1998...
Kids’ cable TV network Noggin launches; Baby Mozart, the first video in the Baby Einstein series, is released

In 1999...
Kids are playing with Tickle Me Elmo dolls, Beanie Babies, Nintendo 64 game systems, Nintendo Game Boys, American Girl dolls, Furby dolls, and Super Soakers

In the neighborhood: Bank Street Bookstore opens in its current location on Broadway and 112th Street

In 1995...
The 30th Anniversary Campaign is launched to raise funds to build a two-story, 1,400-square-foot addition at rear of building

1983
The Building for Our Future Campaign is launched to raise funds to renovate rooftop play space and Garden level
In 1990...

February 11, 1990: Nelson Mandela is freed from prison

In the neighborhood: Bank Street Bookstore opens in its current location on Broadway and 112th Street

In 1992...

Parenting Trends: *The Baby Book* by William Sears and Martha Sears is published

In 1993...

Bestselling/award-winning children's books include: *Owen* by Kevin Henkes, *Stellaluna* by Jannell Cannon, *Barnyard Dance!* by Sandra Boynton, *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn, and *The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig* by Eugene Trivizas

In 1996...

The Macarena becomes a worldwide dance craze

In 1998...

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling is published in the U.S.

In 1999...

Kids' cable TV network Noggin launches; *Baby Mozart*, the first video in the *Baby Einstein* series, is released

In the '90s...

Kids are playing with Tickle Me Elmo dolls, Beanie Babies, Nintendo 64 game systems, Nintendo Game Boys, American Girl dolls, Furby dolls, and Super Soakers

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Winner of Academy Award for Best Picture: *Unforgiven*

In the neighborhood: The playground in Riverside Park at 91st Street is renovated and renamed Hippo Playground

In 1994...

Parenting Trends: *What to Expect: The Toddler Years* by Arlene Eisenberg, Heidi Murkoff, and Sandee Hathaway is published

In 1995...

WSMS’s teacher education program (WSMS-TEP) is launched

In 1996...

Two-story addition at rear of building is completed

In 1997...

WSMS earns accreditation from the New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAlS)
**In 2001...**

September 11, 2001: 9/11

**In the neighborhood:** The Rose Center for Earth and Space (part of the American Museum of Natural History) opens

**In 2003...**

Bestselling/award-winning children's books include: *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers* by Mordicai Gerstein, *My Friend Rabbit* by Eric Rohmann, *Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* by Mo Willems, *The Dot* by Peter Reynolds, and *While We Were Out* by Ho Baek Lee

**Billboard No. 1 hits include:** “Crazy in Love” by Beyoncé and Jay-Z, “This Is the Night” by Clay Aiken, and “Hey Ya!” by OutKast

**Winner of Academy Award for Best Picture:** *Chicago*

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**In 2004...**

**Parenting Trends:** Reality series *Nanny 911* premieres on FOX

**In 2008...**

November 4, 2008: Barack Obama is elected President of the United States

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**In the ’00s...**

Kids are playing with Cranium games, Polly Pocket dolls, Uglydolls, Pokémon cards, Leapfrog Leapsters, Webkinz, Xbox, PlayStation, and Nintendo Wii

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**2002**

WSMS earns accreditation from the American Montessori Society (AMS)

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**2003**

The Air Conditioning Campaign is launched to raise funds to install air conditioning in gym and in classrooms on second, third, fourth floors

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**2006**

The Campaign for West Side Montessori School is launched to raise funds for “green” renovation of all classrooms and kitchen

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**2007**

Mimi Basso becomes Head of School

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**2009**

“Green” renovation of WSMS classrooms and kitchen is completed

WSMS earns accreditation from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)

WSMS launches its visiting scholar program

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**In 2012...**

Bestselling/award-winning children's books include: *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers* by Mordicai Gerstein, *My Friend Rabbit* by Eric Rohmann, *Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* by Mo Willems, *The Dot* by Peter Reynolds, and *While We Were Out* by Ho Baek Lee

**Billboard No. 1 hits include:** “Crazy in Love” by Beyoncé and Jay-Z, “This Is the Night” by Clay Aiken, and “Hey Ya!” by OutKast

**Winner of Academy Award for Best Picture:** *Chicago*
In 2012...

Parenting Trends: Bringing Up Bébé by Pamela Druckerman is published

Bestselling/award-winning children's books include: A Ball for Daisy by Chris Raschka, Me...Jane by Patrick McDonnell, The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore by William Joyce, Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site by Sherri Duskey Rinker and Tom Lichtenheld, and Press Here by Hervé Tullet

Billboard No. 1 hits include: “We Are Young” by Fun., “Somebody That I Used to Know” by Gotye, and “Call Me Maybe” by Carly Rae Jepsen

Winner of Academy Award for Best Picture: The Artist

Number of students enrolled for 2012-13: 227
Number of teachers: 43
The audience at the Broadway production of The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess on a recent Wednesday night sits enthralled by the attractive woman with the amazing voice in the starring role. What they probably don’t know is that she got her start at West Side Montessori School.

Alicia Hall Moran, parent of twins Malcolm (3Wpm) and Jonas (2Wpm), is herself an alumna of West Side. As her father, Ira Hall, says, when he and his wife Carole, who worked in publishing as an editor, moved to 90th and Riverside in the late ’70s with two young girls, the word from friends and neighbors was that WSMS was the “go-to” school. And from their first day Alicia and her younger sister, Stephanie, thrived, finding a place that fostered their development by allowing them to explore their interests, both academic and artistic.

Both girls were (are!) musically gifted, and WSMS supported this talent in many ways. In fact, when Alicia and Stephanie moved on to public school in suburban Connecticut, Alicia was surprised and disappointed to find that their new classroom did not have the broad assortment of instruments that WSMS had.

The sisters pursued separate interests. Stephanie uses her talents in music and performance to great effect as a second grade teacher in Stamford, CT. Alicia, a classically trained mezzo-soprano, married jazz pianist Jason Moran, whom she met at the Manhattan School of Music after graduating from Barnard. For Anthropology class Alicia wrote a paper about Frederick Law Olmsted’s design for Riverside Park that included a look at West Side Montessori School. As she says, WSMS “has an important place in my idea of my education. It was the beginning.” When it came time for her boys to go to school, WSMS was clearly “where to begin” for them.

Jason is often on the road, performing with his group The Bandwagon or serving as artistic advisor at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, as well as on the faculty of the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. For the Morans, WSMS provided the warm, stimulating environment Alicia remembered, together with the flexibility of an afternoon schedule, so she could spend time with the boys every morning before her own performing commitments took over.

Alicia says she had “ultimate faith in the program” to be as she remembered it, that WSMS felt like a community school then and now. The way our building fits in with the original architecture of the neighborhood is emblematic of WSMS “living out its philosophy. The façade is not a façade, but real; not boastful or ostentatious, but authentic.” Alicia remembered feeling a “sense of separation” as she went from home to school, which was reflected in a “sense of confidence, that there were many things I could do myself, that the relationships in class were my own.” She recalls being “a mover and a shaker” in the classroom.

Malcolm and Jonas have had a similar experience. Alicia requested that they be in separate classrooms, and this has worked out well. She remembers, as far back as the age of four, how having her name on a cubby gave her a sense of entitlement to the classroom. In the same way, her boys love naming and identifying things in the class, writing letters to friends, organizing around people rather
Alicia loves the “do no harm” approach underlying Montessori: “exploring the natural gifts you come with ... the joy when you excel is its own reward.”

Returning to WSMS after 30+ years, Alicia was pleased that the renovations over the years have not disturbed the core feeling of the school, and Ira had a similar reaction when he returned for Grandparents and Special Visitors Day last spring. As a board member from 1977-1981, he was part of the team that hired former head Marlene Barron, not so long after WSMS moved to 92nd Street. After a distinguished career in business and finance, and service on multiple boards including that of Stanford University, he was impressed by the current state of the WSMS facilities, and excited by the social development so evident in the classroom: “the individual attention available with multiple educators in the classroom, the way the kids interact respectfully with each other, how the children complete tasks in a free and flexible but orderly way.”

There have been many changes at WSMS over the past 35 years, but as the Hall and Moran families can attest, the core mission of the school has stayed the same: to build a lifelong love of learning in a socially, culturally, and economically diverse community that promotes individual creativity, openness to differences, and respect for self and others.

In 2012 The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess won the Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical. Under the direction of Diane Paulus, this is a somewhat streamlined version of the opera written by George and Ira Gershwin, with book and additional lyrics by DuBose Heyward. Audra McDonald, who appears most nights in the title role of Bess, is justly celebrated as pivotal to that honor. But equally important to the success of the play are the many talented supporting performers. Alicia Hall Moran has been lauded as Audra’s understudy, performing the lead role upwards of 50 times, filling in for her frequently in the Wednesday evening performance, as well as during those times when Audra takes a well-deserved break. Alicia has appeared as a member of the ensemble on non-Bess nights since the play opened in January.

Alicia’s eclectic career, varied interests, and broad talent have earned her high praise in venues as varied as the 2012 Whitney Biennial (for which she and Jason put together a collaboration of artists, practitioners, and music), cabaret shows (Alicia Hall Moran + The Motown Project), and dance (creating vocal music for Chapel/Chapter with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company).

We can’t wait to see where Alicia’s talents take her next!
why give?

“We donate because WSMS offered an encouraging and supportive environment that allowed Chanelle to blossom into a responsible, caring, and confident child. We believe it is important to support the admirable efforts of WSMS to provide other families with this kind of support.”

—Claribel Sanchez and Conrad Batraville, parents of Chanelle A. Batraville (Class of 2012)

There are many different reasons why current WSMS parents, alumni parents, grandparents, friends, trustees, teachers, and staff donate to our school, but Claribel and Conrad's statement perfectly captures two fundamental motives shared by all: a belief in our mission, and a generous desire to make a WSMS education possible for other children. Whatever form a donation takes—a monetary contribution to the Annual Fund, a gift in kind, a donation of time and talent toward one of the school's many committees and events—and whatever the size, the underlying spirit is the same, and we are deeply grateful for every single gift we receive.

Your support helps us carry out so many tasks that are central to our mission: providing tuition assistance to one out of five students; securing competitive compensation and outstanding professional development opportunities for our faculty; operating our on-site Montessori teacher education program; and ensuring the school's financial stability and long-term viability. Donations to the Annual Fund also enable us to achieve specific goals in the improvement of our program and our facilities. Recent examples include the installation of state-of-the-art play equipment in our gym to provide new opportunities for children to build their bodies and their competence; the launch of our visiting scholar program; the addition of new play equipment to our outdoor rooftop play space; and the transformation of our Parents Room into our beautiful new Parents Room/Library.

Thanks to your generosity, we are able to succeed in our primary task of providing an exceptional education to each and every one of our students, and we can plan to do the same for generations of students to come. To all of you, our sincere thanks.
WSMS FACULTY, STAFF, AND TRUSTEES ACHIEVE 100% PARTICIPATION FOR THE FOURTH YEAR IN A ROW!

The Cornerstone of Our Fundraising Effort

Every single gift to the Annual Fund makes a significant difference to our school. Each contribution helps us to sustain and enhance the exceptional level of education that we offer each child; to continue to attract and retain superb teachers through fair and competitive compensation and outstanding professional development opportunities; to offer financial aid to more than 20% of our students; and to achieve a balanced budget while maintaining and augmenting reserves to ensure the school’s long-term vitality. This year, contributions to the Annual Fund once again topped the $300,000 mark, demonstrating the ongoing generosity of our current and alumni families, grandparents, alumni, foundations, and friends.

The Importance of 100% Participation

Community support is a key indicator of the strength of any school, and WSMS is strengthened immeasurably by the many tangible ways in which our community demonstrates its commitment to our mission. This year, faculty, staff, and trustees have reached the significant milestone of 100% participation for the fourth year in a row. We are most grateful for their unanimous show of support. Participation of enrolled families has grown substantially as well, reaching nearly 70%.

Achieving a high percentage of participation is essential to our continued success. It builds a strong culture of giving in which everyone shares in the satisfaction of supporting the whole, and it sends a powerful and positive message to prospective families and potential donors that our mission is compelling and worthy of support. Our sincere thanks to all for getting us closer to our goal of 100% participation.
Every year the Parents Association of West Side Montessori School invites all WSMS parents to jump in and get involved, and every year the response is amazing. Composed of the entire parent body, the PA consistently does an incredible job of carrying out multiple missions, all of which are vital to the life of our school:

- Raising funds for the school's financial aid program by producing two annual fundraising events, the Auction and the Spring Fair
- Serving as a voice for parents' views on policy and program decisions at WSMS
- Building and maintaining a strong school community by promoting understanding and friendship among WSMS families through close communication and a wide array of school events

We are continually awed by the amount of time, talent, and goodwill bestowed so freely by our parent community. This past year's PA co-presidents, Kristen Chae Arabadjiev and Amy Groome, assembled and led an energetic, creative, and hardworking group of committee chairs and class representatives, whose names you see here. This list of volunteers constitutes only a small percentage of the countless parents who sold raffle tickets, lent a hand before and after school events, worked on the yearbook, and so much more. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you.

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Amy Groome and
Kristen Chae Arabadjiev
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4Wam
Sarah Moore
Joanna Hagan Rego

4Wpm
Juliane Spencer
Sally Wheeler-Maier

PARENTS ASSOCIATION 2011-2012
In celebration of WSMS’s beautiful new Library/Parents Room, this year’s Annual Auction treated guests to “A Night at the Library.” The ballroom at Rodeph Sholom was transformed into a world of literary delights, complete with book-inspired beverages. Hugh Hildesley of Sotheby’s was once again ingenious in his ability to entertain the guests while keeping the bidding going full tilt. Most of all, the Auction was a great opportunity for WSMS parents and friends to get together and have a terrific time, all in support of the school’s Financial Aid Fund.

With so many enticing items offered in so many ways—the Live and Silent Auctions, the Raffle, and the Online Auction—the level of participation was tremendous. The Auction raised $113,647 for the Financial Aid Fund.

Co-Chairs Amy Tarr, Morgan Thorne, and Mary Vertin assembled a talented and tireless team of subcommittee chairs. From set-up to take-down, from soliciting contributions to managing the auctions and raffle, this group of parents executed every aspect of the event with amazing skill and camaraderie.

Our sincere thanks go to Amy, Morgan, and Mary, to the subcommittee chairs, and to everyone who donated their time, energy, financial resources, and so many wonderful auction items to help make this event such a success. Thanks to all those who so generously purchased tickets for our teachers. A very special thank you to the WSMS faculty and to our children, who worked so hard to create the star items of the show: the classroom projects! Special thanks also to those on the faculty who donated their time and creativity to this year’s imaginative Teacher Time projects. Thanks also to the school administration for all their help and support.
AUCTION CO-CHAIRS
Amy Tarr
Morgan Thorne
Mary Vertin

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Note: Bold indicates committee chair

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”
—Dr. Seuss
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After many months of organization and hard work, the team behind this year’s Spring Fair, led by Co-Chairs Maggan Daileader, Monique Neal, and Natalie Ryan, was rewarded with a glorious spring day: warm and sunny.

Children, parents, teachers, and neighbors came together on 92nd Street for a great day of games, food, shopping, and entertainment. Kids had a wide array of fun activities to choose from, including basketball toss, sugar cookie decorating, mini golf, and bracelet making, while grown-ups caught up with friends and found bargains at Second Hand Sue, the book sale, and the general store. Everyone enjoyed the live music and the terrific food, from the burgers and hot dogs to the delicious international buffet to the always popular bake sale.

This year’s Spring Fair raised $11,731 for the WSMS Financial Aid Fund.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Maggan, Monique and Natalie; to the stellar group of subcommittee chairs they assembled, whose teamwork made every aspect of the Fair run smoothly; and to all who so generously donated their time, talent, and financial resources to help make this beloved annual WSMS family tradition such a success.
SPRING FAIR
CO-CHAIRS
Maggan Daileader
Monique Neal
Natalie Ryan

SPRING FAIR
COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Bake Sale
Kyle Clark
Stacey St. Rose

Banking
Steven Bommarito
Timothy Daileader

Basketball Toss
Jasmine Nahhas di Florio
Amanda Lindemann

Bracelet Making
Claribel Sanchez
Kremena Simitchieva

Children's Activities
Marielle Eckes
Henna Haque

Drinks
Carla Hassan
Anne Lyons

Face Painting
Veronique Bavaud
Lisa Duus

Fishing
Molly Burke
Cecily Denny

Flower Arranging
Leslie Sherr

Flyers/Posters
Veronika Omole
Sayada Rothschild

Front Desk
Mary Vertin
Ashley Zwick

General Store
David Beach
Russell Granet
Joanna Hagan

Grill
Susan Talbert

International Foods Table
Cathy Lin
Kristina Stege

Maze
Peter Brooks
Dipa Chandra

Mini Golf
Erin Volkmar

Moon Bounce
Maura Duffy
Hilary Love

Outdoor Entertainment
Andrea Haddock

Parking
Tamara Kuittinen

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Sarah Moore

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Craig Warga

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Mary Vertin

Registration and Tickets
Bernadine Gilfond

Remote Control Cars
Amy Tarr

Sand Art
Ipek Kaya-Savasoglu

Second Hand Sue
Bernadette Clement
Elizabeth Elder

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Terrence McNulty

Set-Up
Faith Kewfi
Marty Martinez
Lee Michel
Signage
Jennifer Brown
Jane Royal

Sugar Cookie Decorating
Susan Tratner
Jennifer Tsao

Take-Down
Jason Goldsmith
Jenn Ozanne

Trolley
Liz Canino
Jongku Yee

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Boris Arabadjiev
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Amy and Jeff Tarr
Morgan and Greg Thorne
Lisa and Jay Yook

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PepsiCo

WSMS
Mimi Basso
Barbara Grant
Melissa Mack
...and all of the WSMS
faculty and staff
Very special thanks to the WSMS faculty, who provided many of the photos used in this magazine, and to the WSMS administrative team—a multi-tasking, multi-talented, always collaborative group who has helped in ways too numerous to count.

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Copy Editor: Olivia Kim
Creative: Melissa Gacek
Photography: WSMS Faculty, WSMS Parents, Tobias Everke www.everke.com/, Craig Warga www.craigwarga.com/
Special Thanks: Sarah Eson, Ira Hall, Alicia Hall Moran
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