### CONTENTS

1. IN MIMI’S VOICE .......................................................... 1
2. A LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR .......................... 2
3. 2015-2016 WSMS BOARD OF TRUSTEES ....................... 3
4. PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE, REVISITED ................. 6
5. SEEING THE NEED AND MAKING IT HAPPEN: The Story of the Hippo Playground 8

### ANNUAL REPORT OF GIVING ........................................ 12
7. The Annual Fund ...................................................... 14
8. Parents Association .................................................... 22
9. 46th Annual Auction .................................................. 25
10. Fall Festival ............................................................. 28
Each one of my days at WSMS begins with an immense sense of gratitude that young children are at the center of my world. After more than thirty years of involvement with toddlers and preschoolers, I continue to be astonished at the seemingly magical speed and efficiency of their development—when given the right start. I am grateful to lead a school where faculty, staff and administrators are joined together to guarantee the best possible beginning for each of our young learners.

Our commitment to continually improve what we know and can provide for children is supported by the discipline inherent in our five-year cycle of strategic planning and NYSAIS (New York State Association of Independent Schools) re-accreditation. I hope that you will share my pleasure in reading about our successes in meeting the goals of the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan, as well as my excitement as many members of our community—volunteer leaders, faculty and staff—help me to launch our next round of reflection and future planning. You will be hearing more about this in the coming year.

The alumni feature in this issue proves, yet again, that WSMS parents can be counted on for great ideas and for the skill and creativity in bringing those ideas to fruition. (As you will recall, WSMS was founded by five families who wanted an exceptional beginning education for their own children. And 53 years later we continue to benefit from their vision and effort.) In 1992 Julie Sakelleriades and Calleen Letaconnoux, soon-to-be WSMS moms, identified a need and became the driving force behind the remarkable transformation of what used to be a very ordinary down-at-the-heels playground in Riverside Park at 91st Street into the sensational Hippo Playground. Kudos to them for helping to create a neighborhood landmark that has brought joy and a sense of wonder to countless children in the community.

In closing, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to our PA Co-Presidents, Lindsay Forbes and Iva Mills, and to our families for the incredible volunteer efforts that are acknowledged in the Annual Report of Giving. In addition, boundless personal thanks to all who have financially contributed to our Annual Fund and Auction this year. Your contributions, also recognized herein, enable us to sustain this school as the exceptional place for students, families, faculty and staff that we hold most dear.

Mimi Basso
Head of School

IN MIMI’S VOICE
A LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

Dear members of the WSMS community,

Once again the academic year is off to an auspicious beginning. WSMS and WSMS-TEP students and faculty returned to find a terrific new space on the fifth floor: the gym now hosts two private spaces for interviews on the balcony level; an adult (!) bathroom; and extensive storage housing PA materials and the tables and chairs which transform the space into a TEP classroom every weekend. The sun shines in through brand new sparkling windows. If you have not seen it yet, I encourage you to make the journey.

Please join me in celebrating another year in which our children reached new levels of accomplishment, our parents gave of their time and talent supporting the school in so many different ways, and our faculty once again showed us how lucky we are that our children are (or were) at WSMS. The resounding success of the Twos Program has prompted the permanent implementation of that option for families. WSMS-TEP has continued to provide professional (teaching) and academic (the new Concordia master’s degree) opportunities for our faculty, and serves as the source of student teachers and well-trained new employees in our classrooms.

I can’t tell you how grateful I am to the WSMS community for your ongoing generous support of school activities—including the annual benefit and the Annual Fund—that support financial aid for some 20% of our students. WSMS was founded in 1963 with the mission of diversity and community involvement, and with 50-plus years of unstinting support we have never failed to achieve those goals.

As always there are so many people who deserve our deep and limitless gratitude: Head of School Mimi Basso, who never stops thinking of ways to improve what the rest of us see as just fine; Board members, who are featured in an article in this issue; PA leadership and all the many volunteers—too numerous to count—who make the community vibrant, exciting and inclusive; esteemed faculty, whose highest priority is providing the best educational start for every child; administrative staff, who often work behind the scenes but are vital to the success of everything we do; and friends and families all of whom generously support us in so many ways. And finally our thanks to last year’s Annual Fund, Auction and Fall Festival Co-Chairs: Natasha Kazmi, Angela and Allen Lamb, Katie Cameron, Nikki Chase-Levin, Jason Santiago, Jennifer Conway, Wendy Heilbut, Victor Manuel, Caroline Russo and Rielly Vlassis, for helping to bring our community together in celebration and support.

With best wishes to all for 2015-16!

Alexander H. Southwell ’76
President, Board of Trustees
(Madeline ’07, Lucas ’11, Gemma ’14)
When one thinks of any respected school, invariably it is the head of school that first comes to mind. The head is the visible interpreter of the school’s mission and vision, and is the key person responsible for ensuring academic excellence and administrative best practices. Yet it is the partnership that exists between the head of school and the board of trustees—volunteers who take on the important responsibility of ensuring that the school delivers on its mission over the long haul—that plays a critical role in the school’s long term viability.

The board ensures that the school operates effectively and efficiently by working closely with the head of school, who has the day-to-day responsibility to implement the policies and procedures approved by the board. It is critical that the board represent the various stakeholders in the organization and bring the critical expertise necessary for current and long-term success.

The board’s primary roles are to support and oversee the head, provide strategic guidance, monitor performance and results, and ensure fiduciary and ethical integrity. This year, the 2016-2021 strategic planning process and the 2016 NYSAIS re-accreditation will entail significant board involvement on every level.

At WSMS the board is composed of committees that reflect these various areas of responsibility. Standing committees include Executive, Audit and Compliance, Finance and Investment, Development, Nominating/Governance, and Compensation and Management Development. Ad hoc committees include Real Estate, Public Relations, Strategic Planning, etc.

Members of the board include current and former parents, the current PA co-presidents, and a faculty representative. They represent a range of backgrounds and experience that provide us with the professional expertise so critical to the leadership, governance and fiscal practices that will ensure our future.

Over the years we have also had as board members individuals from other educational institutions, who provide a different perspective. Past such trustees have included NYU education professor Gordon Pradl, head of Early Steps Jackie Pelzer, Barbara Root, former Director of Admissions at Sacred Heart (she had also been a WSMS parent and PA president), and Harriet Burnett, Director of Admissions at Friends Academy and the parent of two WSMS alumni.

This year we welcome incoming trustees Jennifer Conway, Allen Lamb, Jason Santiago, and Kelly West. Trustees are elected for three-year terms.

Alexander H. Southwell, President

Alex 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.

Myles B. Amend, Vice President

Myles 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 trustee of De La Salle Academy and a past president of the New York City Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Myles and his husband, Marc Thomas, are parents of a WSMS alumnus who completed her two-year career at WSMS in 2011.
Kathleen Friery

Kathleen Friery has more than 20 years experience as a network newsmagazine producer. At ABC, she was a producer and supervising producer for the award winning shows “20/20” and “Good Morning America.” At CNN, Kathleen was Producer for “Connie Chung Tonight” and, until 2010, was the Executive Producer of “Anderson Cooper 360.” For her work with Cooper, Kathleen won four Emmy Awards. She also contributed to the coverage that won Peabody Awards for Hurricane Katrina and the 2008 Presidential Primary Campaigns and a DuPont Award for coverage of the Tsunami Disaster in South Asia. Kathleen graduated from Potsdam College with a BA in Political Science and has a master’s degree in journalism from NYU.

Kristen Chae

Kristen and her husband, Boris Arabadjiev, are the proud parents of three WSMS graduates. Kristen is co-founder of aParently, a technology startup formed in 2014 that helps parents streamline information and manage the parent communities in the schools their children attend. Prior to her current venture, she launched two other businesses, Little Apples Photography and GlobeArc, and spent over ten years working in the finance industry at Merrill Lynch and, most recently, at Barra, Inc., a portfolio research analytics company. Kristen has been involved with WSMS since 2007. She was the PA Co-President for two years, co-chaired the Auction, interviewed parents for admissions, and served on the Spring Fair and other committees. She is a graduate of Boston University.

Maggan Daileader, Treasurer

Originally from Stockholm, Sweden, Maggan graduated from the University of Florida with bachelor’s and master’s degrees in accounting, and later from New York University with an MBA in finance. She spent nine years in finance at IBM, another seven years in banking at Scotia Capital and The Royal Bank of Scotland, and then changed careers to be a yoga teacher, an integrative therapist, and a stay-at-home mom. Maggan and her husband, Tim, are parents to two WSMS graduates. Among her many roles as a WSMS parent, Maggan twice served as the Co-Chair for the Spring Fair and has been a regular participant of the Admissions Committee interviewing parents of prospective WSMS students.

Suzanne Day, Secretary

Suzanne is the proud parent of two WSMS alumni and served as the WSMS Director of Admissions from 2008 to 2013. Before joining the WSMS administrative team, she also volunteered as the WSMS Parents Association Co-President for two years and worked on the WSMS Admissions Committee. Suzanne received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of North Carolina and worked as an oncology clinical pharmacy specialist for 12 years prior to starting her family. Suzanne and her family relocated to Washington, Connecticut, but continue to spend time in the city and remain involved in many NYC-based organizations.

Nissa Booker

Nissa is a graduate of Spelman College, where she majored in English. After realizing journalism was her calling, she took a job with ABC News in Washington, DC, working her way through the newsroom to the office of talent development. There Nissa found her interest to lie in training and development. After several years of recruiting and hiring entry-level talent and spearheading development programs, she left ABC News and joined a start-up owned by AOL where she is responsible for managing the editorial recruiters. Nissa is the proud mom of two WSMS alumni. Nissa worked on her Montessori teaching certification through the WSMS-TEP program.

Jennifer S. Conway

Jennifer is a partner at the law firm Cravath, Swaine & Moore, where she regularly advises public and private companies on executive compensation and employee benefits matters, principally in connection with mergers and acquisitions, initial public offerings and other business transactions. Jennifer is a graduate of Georgetown University and Columbia Law School. She is also a member of the Steering Committee of the Kate Stoneman Project, an organization devoted to the advancement of women in the legal profession. Jennifer and her husband, Victor Manuel, have two daughters, a current student at WSMS and a baby born May 2015. Jennifer and Victor also served as co-chairs of the first annual Fall Festival.

Kristen Chae

Kristen and her husband, Boris Arabadjiev, are the proud parents of three WSMS graduates. Kristen is the co-founder of aParently, a technology startup formed in 2014 that helps parents streamline information and manage the parent communities in the schools their children attend. Prior to her current venture, she launched two other businesses, Little Apples Photography and GlobeArc, and spent over ten years working in the finance industry at Merrill Lynch and, most recently, at Barra, Inc., a portfolio research analytics company. Kristen has been involved with WSMS since 2007. She was the PA Co-President for two years, co-chaired the Auction, interviewed parents for admissions, and served on the Spring Fair and other committees. She is a graduate of Boston University.

Suzanne Day, Secretary

Suzanne is the proud parent of two WSMS alumni and served as the WSMS Director of Admissions from 2008 to 2013. Before joining the WSMS administrative team, she also volunteered as the WSMS Parents Association Co-President for two years and worked on the WSMS Admissions Committee. Suzanne received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of North Carolina and worked as an oncology clinical pharmacy specialist for 12 years prior to starting her family. Suzanne and her family relocated to Washington, Connecticut, but continue to spend time in the city and remain involved in many NYC-based organizations.

Nissa Booker

Nissa is a graduate of Spelman College, where she majored in English. After realizing journalism was her calling, she took a job with ABC News in Washington, DC, working her way through the newsroom to the office of talent development. There Nissa found her interest to lie in training and development. After several years of recruiting and hiring entry-level talent and spearheading development programs, she left ABC News and joined a start-up owned by AOL where she is responsible for managing the editorial recruiters. Nissa is the proud mom of two WSMS alumni. Nissa worked on her Montessori teaching certification through the WSMS-TEP program.

Jennifer S. Conway

Jennifer is a partner at the law firm Cravath, Swaine & Moore, where she regularly advises public and private companies on executive compensation and employee benefits matters, principally in connection with mergers and acquisitions, initial public offerings and other business transactions. Jennifer is a graduate of Georgetown University and Columbia Law School. She is also a member of the Steering Committee of the Kate Stoneman Project, an organization devoted to the advancement of women in the legal profession. Jennifer and her husband, Victor Manuel, have two daughters, a current student at WSMS and a baby born May 2015. Jennifer and Victor also served as co-chairs of the first annual Fall Festival.

Kathleen Friery

Kathleen Friery has more than 20 years experience as a network newsmagazine producer. At ABC, she was a producer and supervising producer for the award winning shows “20/20” and “Good Morning America.” At CNN, Kathleen was Senior Producer for “Connie Chung Tonight” and, until 2010, was the Executive Producer of “Anderson Cooper 360.” For her work with Cooper, Kathleen won four Emmy Awards. She also contributed to the coverage that won Peabody Awards for Hurricane Katrina and the 2008 Presidential Primary Campaigns and a DuPont Award for coverage of the Tsunami Disaster in South Asia. Kathleen graduated from Potsdam College with a BA in Political Science and has a master’s degree in journalism from NYU.

Amy Groome

Amy and her husband Peter have two sons who attended WSMS. Amy spent many years working in marketing communications, specializing in global brand development for luxury and lifestyle businesses, and held positions at Avon Products, Nautica, and StarMedia Network, a Latin-American Internet company. Amy also holds a certificate in Integrative Nutrition and has worked as a health counselor, helping individuals with food choices and overall well-being. She is a native Californian and fluent in Spanish. Amy is a graduate of Georgetown University.

Alexandra Jarislowsky

Alex is the mother of twins who graduated from the Garden class in 2011. 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 is currently with her father’s company, Jarislowsky Fraser Limited, a Canadian-based investment firm.

Allen Lamb

Allen has been a Wall Street professional focused on the intersection of media and technology since the mid-2000s, and has also been a digital media entrepreneur. In his capacity as a finance executive, Allen was most recently with The Raine Group, a boutique merchant bank focused exclusively on entertainment, digital media and sports; his latest project as an entrepreneur is Cheddar, a mobile app for millennials. Allen holds a bachelor’s degree in engineering and a master’s degree in computer science from Cornell University, in addition to an MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management. He resides on the Upper West Side with his wife, Angela, and two children, Mitchell, who completed WSMS in 2015, and Darby who is enrolled in the Twos Program.
Jae K. Lee

Jae and her husband, Scott Millstein, have two children who attended WSMS. Jae was actively involved as a parent volunteer while at WSMS, and served as a Parents Association Co-President. She graduated from Colgate University and Fordham School of Law, and has been at Jazz at Lincoln Center since 2010.

Aima Raza

Aima is co-founder and President of the Peace Project Inc. (PINC), a non-profit organization that seeks to create safe and peaceful communities in countries around the world by promoting peace education in schools, interfaith projects, and sponsoring various community-based initiatives. Prior to PINC, Aima worked as a management consultant focusing primarily on the financial services industry. She graduated from Fordham University School of Law in 2003 and holds a master's in Global Affairs from NYU. Aima’s twin boys, Rafay and Mikhail Khan, graduated from WSMS in 2014. Aima is married to Agha S. Khan.

Joanna Hagan Rego

Joanna is the mother of one current WSMS student and one WSMS graduate. She is an active WSMS volunteer, having served as co-president of the Parents Association and co-chair of the 50th Anniversary Celebration & Auction. Joanna received her BA in English Literature from Brown University. Before children she worked for fifteen years as a theater producer, overseeing such productions as “Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me” on Broadway, Nickelodeon’s “Blue’s Clues Live!” tour, and comedian/actor Wayne Brady in Las Vegas. She is married to Matthew Rego.

Jason E. Santiago

Jason E. Santiago is currently an investor at Stripes Group, a $1.5B private equity fund that invests in Internet and consumer products companies. Prior to joining Stripes Group, Jason was an investment banker at Cowen and Company in both New York and San Francisco, responsible for the execution of growth equity financings, and a director at PRIMEDIA, responsible for enterprise-wide Internet product development. Jason started his career as an entrepreneur, co-found-

Michael Seckler

Mike has been an entrepreneur since 1996. His current business is Euclidian Technologies, an innovative investment management firm that uses cutting edge statistical computing to evaluate individual companies as potential long-term investments. Prior to Euclidian, Mike co-founded the pioneering “software as a service” firm, Employee, which was acquired by ADP. He graduated from Williams with a dual major in Geology and History. He and his wife Caren have three daughters who graduated WSMS.

Cory Spencer

Cory was born and raised in Montreal, Canada. He attended the University of Western Ontario and Harvard Business School, and spent over twenty years at Morgan Stanley where he served in multiple capacities, including strategic advisor to corporate boards, and co-head of the Global Investment Banking business. He was also appointed to Morgan Stanley’s Management and Operating Committees. Since 1998, Cory has served as a pro bono consultant to the Partnership for New York City. He and his wife, Elizabeth Canino, are parents to two WSMS alumni.

Kelly West

Kelly West is currently the Director of Lower School Admission at The Browning School. Kelly first joined the Browning faculty in 2003, when she served as an assistant teacher, head teacher and then Acting Head of Lower School, before moving to admissions. Kelly received her MA from the Steinhardt School of Education at NYU and a BA in psychology from The George Washington University.

Guiliana de Grazia, Faculty Representative

Giuls is head teacher this year in 3Wam and 3Wppm, teaches Montessori Philosophy at WSMS-TEP, and volunteers with organizations promoting communication and leadership opportunities. In particular she is a faculty leader at SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity), a peer-led professional development program that promotes change in curriculum, campuses, workplaces, and communities through self-reflection and interpersonal dialogue. Giuls has her AMS primary certification from the Institute for Advanced Montessori Studies, and degrees from the University of St. Andrews, Scotland (MA in English Lit and Art History), St. John’s College, Annapolis, MD (MA in Liberal Arts), and Bank Street College of Education (MED in Early Childhood and Special Ed).

Lindsay Forbes, Parent Representative

Lindsay was born and raised in Vancouver, Canada. She has a BSc in Forestry from the University of British Columbia and a JD from the University of Toronto. Prior to starting her family, Lindsay practiced commercial real estate law in Vancouver and New York. She is now developing the U.S. East Coast market for EAB Tool Co., a power tool accessory company founded by her father and marketed in over 2,700 retail outlets in North America. Lindsay and her husband, Ali Dibadj, are the proud parents of a WSMS alum and a current WSMS student.
PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE, REVISITED

FIVE YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE OUR LAST STRATEGIC PLAN
In the very first issue of Great Beginnings (Fall 2009), Lisa Kohl—former teacher, parent and Board member—described the beginning of our then-upcoming efforts to update our Strategic Plan. That was followed, in the Fall 2011 issue, with an overview of the 2010-2015 plan approved by the Board earlier that year.

As you will see on the next page, we made rapid and impressive progress against our 2010 goals: exceeding expectations in most cases, implementing programmatic and physical changes, exploring certain options and making appropriate decisions to pursue or not various opportunities.

Now it's time to start the process all over again!

The Board has engaged Mary Ellen Korudas, who has over 40 years experience in Montessori education and served on the American Montessori Society (AMS) Board of Trustees, and Robyn Breiman, a current member of the AMS Board with almost 40 years as a Montessori consultant and educator, to facilitate the effort. The kick-off included an evening meeting on October 19 involving a broad spectrum of the community to assess the school's mission and philosophy; a similar all-day gathering will take place on December 5. With participation by members of the administration and faculty, current and alumni parents and others, the goal is to have the plan approved at the December Board meeting.

But this is only the beginning of this year's activities.

TEN YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE LAST RE-ACCREDITATION
Simultaneous with the exploration of our aspirations for the future, we are also undergoing our decennial re-accreditation by the American Montessori Society (AMS) and the New York State Association of Independent School (NYSAIS). When the re-accreditation analysis was last performed in 2006, we knew change was on the way: former head, Marlene Barron, had announced her intention to retire. The five-year review in 2011 acknowledged our accomplishment of a successful transition to new leadership by Mimi Basso, and lauded the school for significant progress against the few areas identified for review.

The re-accreditation process entails detailed review of every aspect of school operations, and will require the participation and support of every constituency. Every teacher and administrator will serve on at least one subcommittee; many will have multiple responsibilities. NYSAIS and AMS are mutually supportive: NYSAIS will accept the AMS materials for the academic piece; AMS will accept the NYSAIS materials for the balance. The final document is limited to 125 pages(!), not counting the hundreds (literally) of supporting documents that will be available in the cloud. All this must be accomplished by May 2016. In the fall, the review team, composed of 4 or 5 individuals from other schools, will be on site to meet with administrators, faculty, Board members, and parents; to visit classrooms and explore our facilities; to confirm that our analysis is consistent with their observations.
GOAL 1: To improve the life of the child in the classroom and beyond WSMS.

What we did:
• Implemented curricula to help children learn and practice empathy and responsibility, including community service
• Enhanced faculty responsiveness to children's emotional needs through work with visiting scholars from Bank Street’s Center for Emotionally Responsive Practice
• Supported faculty re-structuring of the classrooms
• Upgraded the gym and rooftop equipment
• Re-purposed the Parents Room as a multi-use library/meeting place
• Renovated the gym to provide meeting and storage space, and replaced windows
• Reviewed food and nutrition policies, focused on healthy eating; adopted recommendations of consultants
• Instituted comprehensive security protocols, and ensured that all employees are well-versed in them
• Revised protocols for parent-teacher conferences to better address children’s progress and parental understanding

GOAL 2: To sustain our faculty culture of excellence and growth.

What we did:
• Implemented programmatic enhancements derived from expanded professional development opportunities for faculty and administrators
• Continued Visiting Scholar Program, with specialists in areas including emotional needs, nutrition, assessment for outplacement, art and music
• Expanded opportunities for faculty to share expertise both in-house (team teaching and peer coaching), and with the educational community in workshops and conferences
• Established monthly faculty meetings, held in the evening, focused on topics related to teaching and best practices in the classroom
• Reviewed compensation program—and continue to do so annually—to ensure faculty are paid within the top quartile of peer schools; implemented salary banding and generous benefits including health care, pension and tuition reimbursement

GOAL 3: Improve the school's readiness for potential opportunities and challenges. Identify and proactively evaluate compelling, mission-consistent expansion opportunities that will enhance the quality of our program, maintain or strengthen our marketplace position, and/or enhance our financial security.

What we did:
• Expanded Teacher Education Program (WSMS-TEP), in both number of faculty/students and opportunities (Montessori Infant-Toddler option, Concordia College master’s degree…)
• Established permanent Twos Program after success of pilot in 2013-2015
• Identified options for future review including: expanded summer camp, adult programming, nursery care for faculty and administrators, on-site therapeutic services

GOAL 4: To further increase financial security and flexibility in keeping with our mission of social, economic and cultural diversity, while maintaining our education excellence.

What we did:
• Implemented recommendations of consultant re: business office policies and procedures
• Continued outreach to alumni families, grandparents and friends to enhance fundraising opportunities
• Established the Founders Fund for Financial Aid, the school’s first ever Board-designated endowed fund
• Maintained focus on financial aid as the beneficiary of the annual benefit, and successfully implemented “paddle raise” concept
• Realized continuing financial benefits of expanded TEP program
• Reviewed—and continue to do so regularly—financial policies, including investment, endowment, and use of reserves
• Investigated real estate opportunities in the neighborhood which could provide potential for expansion of early childhood and TEP programs, and continue to be aware of possibilities
• Remain proactive about the physical maintenance of 309 West 92nd Street building
SEEING A NEED AND MAKING IT HAPPEN: The Story of the Hippo Playground

Even before they enroll their children, WSMS parents often have the “let’s make a difference” gene. It started with our five founding families and continues to this day.

In the spring of 1988, Anna Sakellariadis was about six months old and her mother Julie was looking for somewhere to make connections with other parents (and use her consulting skills). Spotting a sign for a meeting of the Playground Project, the rest is, as they say, history.

In the late 1970’s, the 91st Street playground was a common hangout for the neighborhood homeless, having two entry points and convenient bathrooms. Local parents with young children found this discomfiting—and scary. The Playground Project committee formed to make things better. They approached the city Parks Department, which agreed to lock one gate and provide attendants (who later worked with the homeless to allow access to the bathrooms at times that did not interfere with the needs of small children). They initiated the annual Halloween Parade and Spring Festival, both still popular and successful events.

As the parent of an infant, Julie was warmly accepted by parents whose kids were “aging out” of the playground, and she became more involved. Questioning the future of the broken fountain in the middle of the playground, she found herself in charge of finding a better way. She quickly realized that small children wanted more than a sprinkler to cool them on hot days: for very young children the process of filling a bucket of water was mesmerizing entertainment!

One day Calleen King Letaconnoux, whose son Max was Anna’s age and who, like Julie, was looking for a way to be involved and meet other parents with similar interests and backgrounds, came to a Playground Project meeting. The two mothers found a common goal in upgrading their local playground.

DEFINING THE ELEMENTS FOR TRANSFORMATION

They soon discovered that Henry Stern, then Parks Commissioner, was a sucker for animals. Visiting family in St. Louis, Julie went to the local zoo and was fascinated by the way children played on and about a life-size statue of a hippo. Contacting the artist, Bob Cassilly*, they brainstormed ways to combine hippos with water to replace the faulty sprinklers in the center of the playground.

Of course, nothing is simple, and there were some protests from parents who feared that hippos in the center of the playground would absorb important open space. They also worried about the effect on trees, which were already showing signs of deterioration. Julie and Calleen engaged an arborist who identified the issue and recommended expanded tree pits, and the trees are still flourishing more than 20 years later.

Julie describes West Side Montessori as among their most enthusiastic supporters. She cites input from Suzanne Peebles—at the time Associate Head of School at WSMS and now Head of the Lower School at Brooklyn Heights Montessori, who helped them analyze how kids used the playground space: they noted that children never stayed in the open middle space—they crossed from swings to slides to climbing apparatus.
THE SAKELLARIADIS FAMILY

For the Sakellariadis family, West Side Montessori was definitely where to begin … Julie describes WSMS as the perfect school for her children—especially for John, who thrived at being able to work on something for as long as he needed to by placing his name on the mat next to his work. Their favorite teachers include Windy, Neeta and Joan, and they all still remember their WSMS days with great fondness.

All four Sakellariadis children went from WSMS to Trinity to Harvard. Anna, now 27, earned a master’s at the Yale School of Forestry and works in Washington, DC, at Sun Edison, a global renewable energy corporation. Sophie, 26, works in San Francisco for Stripe, a tech company that enables businesses to accept payment online and through mobile devices. Mary Jane, 25, lives in Paris and works for Value Retail. Her next stop may be Shanghai. And, John, at 21, is a senior at Harvard, where he runs the grill at Dunster House in his spare time!

In addition to her myriad family and volunteer obligations over the years, Julie has put her energy into supporting her love of nature. She is currently Vice Chair of the New York Botanical Garden, Chair of Strategic Planning and Co-Chair of the Botanical Science Committee, and Second Vice President of the Garden Club of East Hampton, in charge of Community Gardens and an orchid monitoring and conservation project on the South Fork.

Her husband, Nick, who retired after a long career at Citibank, most recently as Managing Director in the Mergers & Acquisitions Department, is the proud owner of the Dayton Dragons, a single A minor league baseball team affiliated with the Cincinnati Reds. Maybe dragons are the ancestors of hippos?
THE LETACONNOUX FAMILY

Like the Sakellariadis family, for Calleen and Francois Letaconnoux there was never any doubt about their number one choice for preschool. As Calleen says, “WSMS is such a huge part of the preschool community of our neighborhood. It embodied the open and intellectual spirit of the Upper West Side and was in a strong geographic comfort zone.”

Max loved making chocolate truffles for the Spring Fair. Calleen remembers gathering a big group of kids in their kitchen to make them. A large percentage of the chocolate landed on their faces and hands, but it was fun, and the truffles were a huge hit at the Spring Fair.

As a toddler Isabelle usually accompanied them when Max was dropped off at school, and when she had her admissions interview, she assumed that school was starting for her, and planned to stay for the day, and every day after that. Her best memories are of her freedom to leave class and go upstairs to visit Max in his classroom. She felt right at home at WSMS instantly.

Max, now 27, left WSMS for Collegiate and graduated from the University of Rochester. He is now the general manager of Noux Sound Music Productions, where he builds on his previous experience at AOC/BOD Productions composing original music for commercials, recording/mixing voice-over talent, and managing various aspects of recording sessions.

Isabelle, 25, attended Brearley, graduated from NYU, and then taught English in China. She is now Head of Content at Fancy.com, an international social shopping platform, which allows users to post pictures of items they wish to own. Users can purchase products that they see directly from the website, which acts as an intermediary between the consumer and the retailer.

Calleen had a busy Wall Street career but still found time to be an active volunteer at WSMS, Collegiate and Brearley. Now retired, she serves on the International Board of Regents of Bethlehem University, whose mission is to provide quality higher education to the people of Palestine and to serve them in its role as a center for the advancement, sharing and use of knowledge.

Francois is the CEO of Lepercq de Neufville & Co., a firm which advises U.S. and international clients on investments and wealth management. He is also a member of the boards of several organizations, including the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

WSMS REAPS THE BENEFITS

Riverside Park and the 91st Street playground had long been a go-to destination for WSMS classes; teachers would take advantage of clear weather and stroll down the hill to use up some energy on the swings and climbing equipment.

But, it was the remarkable transformation into the Hippo Playground that brought sparks to the eyes of children—they loved seeing the mama hippos and their offspring, climbing on and around them, especially the ones “swimming” in the concrete (and therefore easy to climb on). WSMS trustees and many WSMS parents contributed to the fundraising in the early ’90s.

Generations of WSMS children have been enthralled and engaged by the hippos that Julie and Calleen made possible with their commitment to making a difference in the lives of neighborhood children. Today our Parents Association supports the annual spring “SandSational” program by encouraging WSMS families to volunteer for the family bucket brigade, transferring new sand into the sandbox. This year’s event was held on April 11, and featured a strong turnout by WSMS families. The event was co-chaired by Tomomi Friedman and Bradley Honan.

*Bob Cassilly was a talented and eccentric sculptor, entrepreneur and creative director. This article in St. Louis Magazine was published after his death in 2011. http://www.stlmag.com/Deconstructing-Bob-Cassilly/*
FUNDRAISING RESULTS 2014-2015 (unaudited)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Fund</td>
<td>$345,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auction (Net)</td>
<td>$210,984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$556,111</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2014-2015 REVENUE (unaudited)

- Annual Fund: 5%
- Auction (net): 3%
- Tuition, Fees, Gov’t Programs: 92%
- Instructional Expense: 57%
- Administrative: 21%
- Building Maintenance: 9%
- Financial Aid: 13%

2014-2015 OPERATING EXPENSES (unaudited)
WEST SIDE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT OF GIVING

2014-2015
At West Side Montessori School, a deep wellspring of generosity has sustained us from our earliest beginnings and enriches us to this day. We have a long tradition of counting on our community, and especially on our parents. Each member of our community gives something invaluable to WSMS. We are continually enriched by all that you do. We are a great school, and we couldn’t do it without counting on every one of you.

We rely on two major fundraising efforts to help us accomplish our goals:
• Annual Fund
• WSMS Auction

Through your remarkable support—year after year—the WSMS community has enabled us to develop and enhance:
• an exceptional school for children and parents
• a place where differences in families, ethnic and racial backgrounds, learning styles, talents, and beliefs provide opportunity for all
• a superb career opportunity and a place for learning and growth for faculty and staff
• a provider of Montessori teacher education and certification
• a source of educational leadership to the wider world of Montessori early childhood education

And, thanks to the generosity of the WSMS community, we have been able to provide financial aid to approximately 20% of our student body every year—for more than 50 years.

To all of you, our heartfelt thanks.

“Why We Give

“Our daughter’s years at WSMS provided her with an incredible education that serves as the foundation of who she is today. She started kindergarten with confidence, curiosity and a love of learning, and continues to thrive. She also learned the basics of good citizenship and loving kindness at WSMS, which is why we continue to support the school. We want other children to benefit just as our daughter did!”

Betsy Morgan and Chad Gifford
(Lake Gifford ’10)
The Annual Fund is the foundation of our school’s fundraising efforts. All contributions are utilized immediately to ensure a balanced budget for the year.

Each year the Annual Fund provides crucial unrestricted support that can be used to finance such priorities as program enhancements, professional development opportunities for our faculty, facility upkeep and improvement, and long-term sustainability.

Your generosity has enabled us to continue to be the exceptional school for children that we want for them, to maintain our amazing facilities, and to provide the growth opportunities, compensation and benefits that our faculty so richly deserve.

Your willingness to contribute to the Annual Fund to the best of your ability is not only a vote of confidence in our mission for all children, it is the best way to help us uphold a central component of that mission, which is to provide assistance to those families who could only dream of this kind of education for their children.

We are pleased to announce that this year faculty, staff and trustees have once again achieved 100% participation, and participation by our current families has soared to 73%.

Our deepest thanks for each and every gift. Your openhearted support helps us continually improve what we can do for children every day.

Why We Give

“Amelia is eager to go to school every morning and sad to leave—after nine hours—and we had worried that the extended day program would be too much! We are thrilled at her academic and social growth and the independence, self-confidence and love of learning that she is building. We are proud to support WSMS in its mission to provide children with such a fabulous launch.”

Sharifa Ali and Emil Estrada
(Amelia 4W)
BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2014-2015

Alexander H. Southwell, President
Mimi Basso, Head of School
Myles Amend, Vice President
Maggan Daileader, Vice President
Michael Seckler, Vice President
Robert Shepardson, Treasurer
Suzanne Day, Secretary
Nissa Booker
Harriet Burnett
Kristen Chae
Nikki Chase-Levin
Kathleen Friery
Amy Groome
Alexandra Jarislowsky
Jae K. Lee
Bryan Mazlish
Monique Neal
Aima Raza
Joanna Hagan Rego
Cordell Spencer
Lindsay Forbes,
Parent Representative
Iva Mills,
Parent Representative
Guliana de Grazia,
Faculty Representative

FACULTY 2014-2015

Gretchen Amberg
An Anglo
Michaela Aquino
Neeta Arbeiter
Carol Baird
Kassi Baxter
Julianne Butterfield
Cailyn De Bie
Giuliana de Grazia
Karen Deinzer
Anne Donovan
Chloe Ensiki
Rebecca Estomago
Aldo Evangelista
Katherine Fordney
Akwanza Gleaves
Casey Gomez
Melanie Hernandez
Amanda Hopson
Maria Nalli-Ann Horsford
Miko Ishii
Thana Khouli
Tracy King
Mija Lee
Donna Lovell
Margot Mack
Rakshya Malla
Claire McGinley
Robyn Mernick
Stefanie Meyer
Rachel Milano
Divya Narang
Beata Owczarzak
Puja Panchal
Chelsea Petrozzo
Marcia Polanco
Nubia Ramirez-Carson
Elisabeth Rossoff
Nora Socco-Martinez
Joan Shisler
Lauren Sprouse
Gelsey Steinbrecher
Nicole Valenti
Cara Zelas
Nicole Zerafa

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF 2014-2015

Mimi Basso
Matthew Bloom
Desiree Care
Sarah Eson
Melissa Freeman
Sarah Gilman
Barbara Grant
Zachary Hutchinson
Julia Jimenez
Leah Leicht
Patricia Luciani
Judy Lyons
Melissa Mack
Lisanne Pinciotti
Cynthia Solis
Amy Stoney
Jonathan Toogood

PARTICIPATION BY CLASS

Garden
Suneeta and Shanu Aggarwal
Mi Kim and Pracheer Bansal
Heather and Ari Berger
Tina and Isaac Chang
Misha Nonen and Jocelyn Charles
Val and Irina Chernyavsky, GP
Randall and Tomomi Friedman
Beatrice Jonah
Nikki Chase-Levin and David Levin
Amritha and Pradeep Menon
Elizabeth and Jeff Richmond
Samantha Skolnik
Erika and Matthew Syrkin
Gabriela Arbulu and Ramon Verastegui
Sofie Van Gijsel and Pieter Vermeersch
Colin A. Weil
Anonymous (2)

1W
Shirley Annan
Katherine and Michael Barra
Leslie and Nicholas Bazos
Saya and Dana Bliss
Tatyana Dobryanskaya and Andrey Duto
Elizabeth Mann and Micah Lasher
ANNUAL FUND CONTRIBUTORS

Lindsey and Michael Lynch
Damaris and Reid Maclean
Jennifer Conway and Victor Manuel
Puja Panchal and Amitkumar Mistry
Kelly and Jonathan Opdyke
E. Sophia and Gabriel Ovanessian
Olga and Laurent Pariente
Angela and Eric Rahe
Marvin Shiller, GP
Laura and Andrew Slabin
Gabrielle and James Tieng

Emily and Burr Eckstut
Carole Rothman Forster, GP
Gena Goldstein, GP
Ilana Goldman and Jordan Goldstein
John and Eileen Kavanagh, GP
Lindsay and Jeff Leaf
Grace Han and Bobby Liu
Eileen Kavanagh and Jon Luff
Deborah and Michael Rothman
Robert and Nancy Rubin, GP
Casey and Jason Santiago
Laura and Andrew Slabin
Jessica Kirshner and Dan Sommers
Jeannie Kim and Justin Sommers
Dawn Southgate
Tarima Levine and Matthew Swinson
Anonymous

2E
Jocelyn Russell and Daniel Alford
Audrey Amaral, GP
Victoria and Josh Feltman
Karen and Michael Feltman, GP
Leonora and Adam Gogolak
Emily Krasnor and Scott Heiferman
Elisabeth Zeche and Bradley Honan
Lucy and Robert Krasnor, GP
Sarah Babcock and Josh Krepon
Candida do Amaral and Jan Leenknecht
Judy and Jeff Leon, GP
Rebecca Fraioli and David Lundell
Sarah Kimball and Bryan Mazlish
Noel and Kalkidan Mekonnen
Kristen Kane and Matt Onek
Mary Lou and Robert Russell, GP
Casey and Jason Santiago
Alexandra Horowitz and Ammon Shea
Myra L. Skluth, GP
Priscilla and Matthew Snyder, GP
The Trujillo Family
Rachel Coan and Stephen Zeche, GP

3W
Karen Solimando and Philippe Adler
Elena and Max Alper
Yvonne Woo and Matthew Chan
Adriana and Michael Clancy
Betsy Cohn, GP
Jennifer Mascarenhas and Wade Davis
Mary Dillon Gebhardt, GP
Nora and Joel Gibson, GP
Wendy and Nicholas Heibut
Mariska Hargent and Peter Hermann
Elisabeth Zeche and Bradley Honan
Malgorzata Plewako and Paul Laffy
John and Janet McLaughlin, GP
Linda and Carl Nelson, GP
Kyra and Travis Nelson
Myra L. Skluth, GP
Katie and Jonah Sonnenborn
Caroline Russo-Visciglia and Vincent Visciglia
Allison Ross and Dan Waldman
Rachel Coan and Stephen Zeche, GP
Anonymous

3Wam
Kerryann and Andre Benjamin
Carol and Cameron Clough
Susan and Gregory Denny, GP
Cecily and Joel Denny

3E
Brandy and Jamel Anderson
Karen Aronian and John Aronian IV
Anastasia Barzee and Andrew Asnes
Lisa and Mark Cicirelli
Donna Disend, GP

3Wpm
Libby and Chris Chan
Marla and Jay Eisbruck
Carol and Steven Eisner, GP
Malda Hibri and Greg Eisner
Dana and David Feigenbaum
Shirley Geismar, GP
Joanne Kwong and Gene Hu
Dalal Kanafani, GP
Amanda and Stephen Lindemann
Cynthia Quao, GP
Joyce and Jason Russell
Caroline and Jeff Swiatek
Sejal Shah-Thum and Frederick Thum
Aviva Geismar and Sandor Weiner

4Ep
Shalinee Sharma and Arvind Krishnamurthy
Heather and Mathieu Lane
Monica and Joshua Mailman
Sara Buckley and Paul Mullen
Shannon and Christopher Parsons
Kathleen and Henry Reukauf
Eileen Kelly Rinaudo and Alexander Rinaudo
Tracey Strauss and Josh Sandbulte
Alison and Ben Schrag
Jean and Raymond Schrag, GP
Clare Menozzi and Vassili Serebriakov
Elizabeth Martorella and Benjamin Swinburne
Bonny and Jonathan Whitcher

4W
Lindsay Forbes and Ali Dibadj
Sharifa Ali and Emil Estrada
Tomomi and Randall Friedman
Anushka Garcia
Nora and Joel Gibson, GP
Rekha and Sean Grennan
Judith and Philip Hahn, GP
Jennifer and Shane Koball
Sarah and Adrian Lazar
Jeff and Lindsay Leaf
ANNUAL FUND CONTRIBUTORS

Serena and John Moon
Helen and James Nacos
John David and Nora Newlands, GP
Joanna Hagan Rego and Matthew Rego

Nancy and Robert Rubin, GP
Caren Pasquale Seckler and
Michael Seckler
Candice Hoyes and David Spiller
George Zalantis, GP
Jing Wang and Yi Zhang
Anonymous
Anonymous, GP

ALUMNI FAMILIES, FRIENDS, GRANDPARENTS

Alumni Families and Friends
E. Jean Adams
Katherine Adams
Mary English and Aditya Adarkar
Barbara and Chip Angle
Kristen Chae and Boris Arabadjiev
Neeta Arbeiter
Carol Baird and Richard Ashford
Michelle and Chris Babu
Hilary Love and Eric Bader
Gemma and Pippa Bakx
Melissa and Elam Birnbaum
Kathleen Massey and Jim Blaney
Marina Bonanno
Nissa and Courtney Booker
Arlene Brickner
Harriet and Tom Burnett
Kathleen and John Cantrell
Michelle Simmons and Noah Carlson
Andrea Cohen and Rodger Citron
Christina and Michael Connelly
Maggan and Tim Daileader
Suzanne and Douglas Day
Mary and Linden De Bie
Janet Chan and Tyler Donaldson
Stacey, Joe and Elle Drayton
Rebecca and Jonathan Dube
Christina and Alex Evans
Katherine and Evan Flecker
Carole Rothman Forster
Rachel and Stephen Garrett
Kara and Andrew Gelb
Betsy Morgan and Chad Gifford
Tirzah Schwarz and Chuck Goldblum
Tina and Thomas Gomez
Elizabeth and Edward Gonzalez
Amy and Peter Groome
Aileen Hefferren and Charles Harkless
Carla and Tariq Hassan
Jan and John Hazard
Molly and Dylan Hixon
Akemi and Bob Hong
Jennifer Koen and Mark Horowitz
The Infantino Family
Aima Raza and Agha Khan
Malia Simonds and Elliot Kirschner
Lisa Kohl
Monique Neal and Frank Kotsen
The Landis Family
Judy and Jeff Leon
Marielle and Emilio Lozoya
Anne and Francis Lyons
Judy and Jeffrey Lyons
Janice Kambara and Laurence Lytton

The McCarrey Family
Cindy and Lee Michel
Virginia and Timothy Millhiser
Lorrie and Bruce Millman
Jae Lee and Scott Millstein
Jisook Lee and Bruce Moses
Malcolm and Jonas Moran
Eva Fyer and Andrew Morrel
Belle and Blake Newton
Cyna Zarghami and George Oberfoll
Kathleen Heenan and Clarence Olmstead
Katherine Westgate and David Pascual
Mary Ann and Peter Pashigian
Evgenia and Sergey Pekarsky
Doralynn and Jeffrey Pines
Marcia Polanco
Judith G. Pott
Jacqueline and Timothy Ramsey
Kathleen Friery and Bill Ritter
Donna, Joseph and Sophia Rosalie
Alan Rothschild
Beth and Matthew Savage
Frederick A. O. Schwarz, Jr.
Deirdre Flynn and Robert Shepardson
Amy D. Newman and Max R. Shulman
Christy Silvester
Samantha Skolnik
Alexandra Jarislowsky and Kevin Snow
Delis Soriano
Sandy and Alex Southwell
Denise Spillane
Geniel and Marcus Strock
Susan Talbert
Amy and Jeff Tarr
Sandra Temko
Myles Amend and Marc Thomas
Jennifer and Douglas Tsao
Michael Urias
Vanessa Hicks-Voorham and Mark Voorham
Ema and Craig Warga
Ruth and Stephen Waxman
Eric Wolner
Elly and Tony Wong
Lisa and Jay Yook
Martha Livingston and Mark Young
Anonymous (2)

Grandparents
Audrey Amaral
Mary Ellen M. Andrews
Val and Irina Chernyavsky
Betsy Cohn
Susan and Gregory Denny
Donna Disend

Carol and Steven Eisner
Karen and Michael Feltman
Carole Rothman Forster
Mary Dillon Gebhardt
Shirley Geisman
Nora and Joel Gibson
Gena Goldstein
Judith and Philip Hahn
Dalal Kanafani
Eileen and John Kavanagh
Lucy and Robert Krasnor
Judy and Jeff Leon
Janet and John McLaughlin
John David and Nora Newlands
Cynthia Quao
Nancy and Robert Rubin
Mary Lou and Robert Russell
Shira Scheindlin
Jean and Raymond Schrag
Mr. Marvin Shiller
Myra L. Skluth
Priscilla and Matthew Snyder
Oliver and Rita Sutton
George Zalantis
Rachel Coan and Stephen Zeche
Anonymous (3)

Why We Give

“We feel privileged that our sons are getting such an exceptional start. WSMS teachers and administrators are skilled, resourceful, and caring in their support of children. They know each child well and help him gain independence, develop his interests, and learn to be a good classroom citizen. We give to the Annual Fund with complete confidence that our gift will be well-used.”

Shalinee Sharma and Arvind Krishnamurthy
(Arjun and Roshan 4Epm)
THE ANNUAL WEST SIDE MONTESSORI SCHOOL AUCTION
Bringing the entire community of families, faculty and staff together to celebrate & to support a critically important part of our mission.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2016
7:00PM - MIDNIGHT | THE LOEB BOATHOUSE | CENTRAL PARK

For over 50 years, we’ve provided 20% of WSMS families (40 or more students) annual tuition support from our financial aid fund.
WSMS PARENTS ASSOCIATION

YOU CAN COUNT ME IN...

At West Side Montessori School, we encourage parents from day one to get involved, and every year they do. All parents of currently enrolled children are members of the Parents Association (PA). The PA provides a broad range of activities: some are just for fun, some are for fundraising and fun, and all are great way to forge new and lasting friendships while making a difference by:

- Raising funds for the school’s financial aid program by producing the Annual Auction
- Serving as a voice for parents’ views on policy and programming
- Promoting understanding and friendship among WSMS families through regular communication and a broad array of school events, including bulb planting, the Fall Festival, the Book Fair, and so much more.

The breadth of time, talent and good will generated freely by so many in the community is inspirational. Co-Presidents Lindsay Forbes and Iva Mills assembled an energetic, creative and hard working group of committee chairs and class representatives, whose names you see here. This list of volunteers is but a small percentage of the countless parents who sold raffle tickets, lent a hand before and after school events, hosted class dinners, and so much more. To all of you, our deepest thanks.

YOU CAN COUNT ME IN...
PARENTS ASSOCIATION
2014-2015

PA CO-PRESIDENTS
Lindsay Forbes
Iva Mills

FAMILY FUN
Auction
Katie Cameron
Nikki Chase-Levin
Jason Santiago

Book Fair
Victoria Arms
Emma Gibson
Lindsay Leaf
Chris Parsons

Bulb Planting
Matthew Chan
Randall Friedman

End-of-Year Picnic
Shannon Parsons
Dov Scheindlin

Fall Festival
Jennifer Conway
Wendy Heilbut
Victor Manuel
Caroline Russo
Rielly Vlassis

Hat, Mitten, Coat and Boots Drive
Radhika Dewan
Kali Theofanous

Sandsational
Tomomi Friedman
Bradley Honan

WSMS Merchandising
Thao Nguyen
Elisabeth Zeche

INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS
Annual Fund
Natasha Kazmi
Angela Lamb
Allen Lamb

Bulletin Boards
Cecily Denny
Jocelyn Russell

School Photos
Daria Kim
Emily Krasnor

Yearbook
Daria Kim
Katie Sonnenborn

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES
Coordinator
Joanna Hagan Rego

Garden
Tina Chang
Jane Woo

1W
Katie Barra
Lindsey Lynch
Kelly Opdyke

2E
Chris Leon
Noel Mekonnen

2W
Iessa Sutton
Sara Williams

3E
Lisa Niehoff
Laura Slabin

3E
Dana Greez
Erin Volkmar

3Wam
Kerry Butler
Allison Ross

3Wpm
Amanda Lindemann
Virginia Rowe

4Eam
Micah Lasher
Nigel-Ann La Qua Williamson

4Epm
Heather Crain
Elizabeth Martorella

4W
Jennifer Brown
Helen Nacos
46TH ANNUAL AUCTION

JANUARY 31, 2015 | A SKY FULL OF STARS

A night we count on ...

Last year’s Auction Co-Chairs—Katie Cameron, Nikki Chase-Levin and Jason Santiago—graciously volunteered to build on the success of our first Auction at the Boathouse by doing it again this year. Their leadership, combined with the hard work and expertise of a legion of parent volunteers, provided an exceptional night of fun and community spirit to more than 300 current and alumni families, faculty and staff.

WSMS parent and Broadway star, Kerry Butler, set the stage with her resonant performance of “Magic” from the 1980’s movie Xanadu (originally sung by Olivia Newton John). And we were captivated watching the adorable puppet Monte the Montessorius interview our children about their WSMS experience on video. This charming film was conceived and implemented by two impassioned WSMS dads: Sesame Street puppeteer and writer, Joey Mazzorino, and producer, Jeff Richmond.

Our sincere thanks to Katie, Nikki and Jason, to our committee chairs and members, to our enthusiastic and indefatigable bid spotter Dave Levin, and to Kerry, Jeff and Joey for an amazing evening. A special thank you to our WSMS faculty and to our children, who worked so hard to create those impressive classroom projects. Heartfelt thanks also to the teachers who donated their time and creativity to this year’s Teacher Time projects, and to the administrative staff for all their help and support. In all, the Live and Silent Auctions, the Raffle, and the Online Auction raised $210,984 for the school’s Financial Aid Fund.
BENEFACTORS

Platinum
Mimi and Bob Basso
Rielly and Dax Vlassis
Yi Zhang and Jing Wang

Gold
Nikki Chase-Levin and Dave Levin
Iva and Scott Mills
Patricia Luciani and Saul Rabinowitz
Joanna Hagan Rego and Matthew Rego
Anonymous

Silver
Marta Cammarano and Sandro Belvedere
Heather and Ari Berger
Lisa and Mark Cicirelli
Adriana and Michael Clancy
Christina and Michael Connelly
Cecily and Joel Denny
Malda Hibri and Greg Eisner
Leonora and Adam Gogolak
Betty and John Levin
Sophia and Gabriel Ovanessian
Kathleen Friery and Bill Ritter
Virginia and Robert Rowe
Casey and Jason Santiago
Katie and Jonah Sonnenborn
Sandra and Alexander Southwell
Liz Canino and Cordell Spencer

Underwriting
Suzanne and Doug Day
Renee Vidailet Galaz and Ignacio Galaz
Grace Han and Bobby Liu
Stefanie and Jake Meyer
Lucy Emhardt and Drew Ramsey
Mary Ellin and Raymond Santiago
Mary Vertin

Teacher Ticket Sponsors
Mimi and Bob Basso
Yvonne Woo and Matthew Chan
Janine Keuskamp and Brian Chiong
Maggan and Timothy Daileader
Jennifer Mascarenhas and Wade Davis
Suzanne and Doug Day
Radhika and Nitin Dewan
Donna Disend
Victoria and Josh Feltman
Renee Vidailet Galaz and Ignacio Galaz
Paulina Arredondo-Sanchez and Felipe Garcia-Ascencio
Beatrice Yang and Kevin Gregory
Amy and Peter Groome
Elisabeth Zeche and Bradley Honan
Jennifer and Shane Koball
Lindsay and Jeffrey Leaf
Amanda and Stephen Lindemann
Nami Soejima and James Levy
Monica and Joshua Mailman
Amritha and Pradeep Menon
Laura and Lee Morakis
Sara Buckley and Paul Mullen
Helen Zalantis and James Nacos
Kyra and Travis Nelson
Kelly and Jonathan Opdyke
Patricia Luciani and Shaul Rabinowitz
Lucy Emhardt and Drew Ramsey
Deborah and Michael Rothman
Mary Ellin and Raymond Santiago
Caren Pasquale Seckler and Michael Seckler
Alexandra Horowitz and Ammon Shea
Jeannie Kim and Justin Sommers
Katie and Jonah Sonnenborn
Nicole Byrns and Lloyd Spencer
Marguerite Krull and Mark Sullivan
Caroline and Jeff Swiatek
Bonny and Jonathan Whitcher
Sara Williams
Nigel-Ann La Qua Williamson

Special Thanks
Tina Connelly
Joey DeMatteo
Joey Mazzarino
Jeff Richmond
Sarahmay and Larry Robbins
Dean Sandler, Principal;
Key Point Presentation Specialists
Jenna Verhoff Wagner, Graphic Design
AUCTION VOLUNTEERS AND COMMITTEES  Note: Bold indicates committee chair

CO-CHAIRS
Katie Cameron
Nikki Chase-Levin
Jason Santiago

PARENT SOLICITATION
Laura Gould
Erlin Volkmar

DEcorATIONS
Cecily Denny
Lindsay Leaf
Virginia Annibale
Marta Cammarano
Wendy Heilbut
Jessica Kirshner
Amanda Lindemann
Bianca Soares

RAFFLE
Lindsay Forbes
Iva Mills
Matt Onek

SET-UP AND TAKE-DOWN
Lindsay Forbes
Misha Nonen
Matt Onek
Joanna Hagan Rego

VIDEO
Joey Mazzarino
Jeff Richmond

ONLINE AUCTION
Jason Santiago

MOBILE BIDDING
Casey Santiago
Emma Gibson
Candice Hoyes
Kristen Kane
Erika Mouynes
Aima Raza
Joanna Hagan Rego
Caren Seckler
Laura Slabin

SHOW AND LIVE AUCTION
Bob Basso
Nicole Byrns
Daria Kim
Deborah Rothman
Colin Weil
Julia Whitworth

CLASS PROJECTS
Melissa Freeman

CATALOG / WRITERS
Beatrice Yang
Katie Cameron
Nikki Chase-Levin

AUCTION PHOTOGRAPHY
Craig Warga

BANKING
Nicole Byrns

ITEM MANAGEMENT
Erin Volkmar

CREATIVE DESIGN
Jeff Leaf

MERCHANDISE
Thao Nguyen
Lindsay Forbes
Iva Mills

REDEMPTION CERTIFICATES
Moikgantsi Kgama
Kali Theofanous

LOBBY TICKET SALES
Gabriela Arbulu
Kimberly Chapman
Ali Dibadj
Vicky Feltman

LIVE AUCTION DONORS
Families
Katie and Michael Barra
Saya and Dana Bliss
Jennifer Mascarenhas
and Wade Davis
Marguerite Krull
Nikki Chase-Levin
and David Levin
Iva and Scott Mills
Joanna Hagan Rego
and Matthew Rego
Elizabeth and
Jeffrey Richmond
Sarahmay and
Larry Robbins
Caroline Russo-Visceglia
and Vincent Visceglia
Allison Ross and
Dan Waldman

Friends
Festival Chamber Music
Viacom

Teacher Time Projects
An Anglo
Michaela Aquino
Neeta Arbeiter
Carol Baird
Kassi Baxter
Mimi Basso
Cailyn De Bie

SET-UP AND TAKE-DOWN
Lindsay Forbes
Misha Nonen
Matt Onek
Joanna Hagan Rego

VIDEO
Joey Mazzarino
Jeff Richmond

ONLINE AUCTION
Jason Santiago

MOBILE BIDDING
Casey Santiago
Emma Gibson
Candice Hoyes
Kristen Kane
Erika Mouynes
Aima Raza
Joanna Hagan Rego
Caren Seckler
Laura Slabin

SHOW AND LIVE AUCTION
Bob Basso
Nicole Byrns
Daria Kim
Deborah Rothman
Colin Weil
Julia Whitworth

CLASS PROJECTS
Melissa Freeman

CATALOG / WRITERS
Beatrice Yang
Katie Cameron
Nikki Chase-Levin

AUCTION PHOTOGRAPHY
Craig Warga

BANKING
Nicole Byrns

ITEM MANAGEMENT
Erin Volkmar

CREATIVE DESIGN
Jeff Leaf

MERCHANDISE
Thao Nguyen
Lindsay Forbes
Iva Mills

REDEMPTION CERTIFICATES
Moikgantsi Kgama
Kali Theofanous

LOBBY TICKET SALES
Gabriela Arbulu
Kimberly Chapman
Ali Dibadj
Vicky Feltman

LIVE AUCTION DONORS
Families
Katie and Michael Barra
Saya and Dana Bliss
Jennifer Mascarenhas
and Wade Davis
Marguerite Krull
Nikki Chase-Levin
and David Levin
Iva and Scott Mills
Joanna Hagan Rego
and Matthew Rego
Elizabeth and
Jeffrey Richmond
Sarahmay and
Larry Robbins
Caroline Russo-Visceglia
and Vincent Visceglia
Allison Ross and
Dan Waldman

Friends
Festival Chamber Music
Viacom

Teacher Time Projects
An Anglo
Michaela Aquino
Neeta Arbeiter
Carol Baird
Kassi Baxter
Mimi Basso
Cailyn De Bie

ONLINE AUCTION DONORS
Families
Mary Douglas
Malda Hibii and
Greg Eisner
Mrs. Sharifa Ali and
Mr. Emíl Estrada
Victoria Feltman
Moikgantsi Kgama
and Gregory Gates
Aviva Geismar
Kim Greenberg
Elisabeth Zeche
and Bradley Honan
Candice Hoyes
Joanne Kwong
and Gene Hu
Nathaniel Johnston
Lucille Khornak
Mariana Moliver
Melphee and
François Montegu
Marguerite Krull
and Mark Sullivan
Elisa Fessahaye
and Nebiyu Shawel
Elena Simpser
Gabriela Arbulu and
Ramon Verastegui
Sara Williams

Friends
Apple to Zucchini
Carousel of Languages
Creatively Inspired
Coaching
Discovery Programs
Dangene: The Institute
of Skinovation
Finish Line
Physical Therapy
GH Dwell/YK
Structures PC
ImageNation
Cinema Foundation
The Laundress
Music Theater Builders
Queen of Sheba
Ethiopian Restaurant

SILENT AUCTION DONORS
Families
Karen Aronian and
John Aronian IV
Aisling Ryan and
Sascha Brodsky
Tina and Isaac Chang
Magman and
Timothy Daileader
Joe DeMatteo
Rebecca and
Jonathan Dube
Paulina Arredondo-
Sanchez and Felipe
Garcia-Ascencio
Wendy and
Nicholas Heilbut
Aima Raza and
Agha Khan
Jennifer Koball
Suneeta Krishnareddy
Bettina Lage
Sarah and Adrian Lazar
Calleen and
François Letaconnoux
Rebecca Fraioli
and David Lundell
Lindsey and
Michael Lynch
Judy and Jeffrey Lyons
Laura and Lee Morakis
Laurent Pariente
Kathleen Friery and
Bill Ritter
Shirley Annan and
Eugene A. Rodriguez
Tracey Strauss and
Josh Sandbulde
Els Fessahaye and
Nebiyu Shawel
Sam Smith
William Steiger
Caroline and
Jeff Swiatek
Sofie Van Gijse and
Pieter Vermeersch
Colin Weil
Marco Williamson
McKay Williamson
Nigel-Ann La Qua
Williamson
Anonymous

Friends
CitySeat
Great Wolf Lodge
Kate Tempesta’s Urban
Golf Academy LLC
New York
Historical Society
Raphael Vineyards

AUCTION SUPPORTERS

LIVE AUCTION DONORS
Families
Katie and Michael Barra
Saya and Dana Bliss
Jennifer Mascarenhas
and Wade Davis
Marguerite Krull
Nikki Chase-Levin
and David Levin
Iva and Scott Mills
Joanna Hagan Rego
and Matthew Rego
Elizabeth and
Jeffrey Richmond
Sarahmay and
Larry Robbins
Caroline Russo-Visceglia
and Vincent Visceglia
Allison Ross and
Dan Waldman

Friends
Festival Chamber Music
Viacom

Teacher Time Projects
An Anglo
Michaela Aquino
Neeta Arbeiter
Carol Baird
Kassi Baxter
Mimi Basso
Cailyn De Bie

ONLINE AUCTION DONORS
Families
Mary Douglas
Malda Hibii and
Greg Eisner
Mrs. Sharifa Ali and
Mr. Emíl Estrada
Victoria Feltman
Moikgantsi Kgama
and Gregory Gates
Aviva Geismar
Kim Greenberg
Elisabeth Zeche
and Bradley Honan
Candice Hoyes
Joanne Kwong
and Gene Hu
Nathaniel Johnston
Lucille Khornak
Mariana Moliver
Melphee and
François Montegu
Marguerite Krull
and Mark Sullivan
Elisa Fessahaye
and Nebiyu Shawel
Elena Simpser
Gabriela Arbulu and
Ramon Verastegui
Sara Williams

Friends
Apple to Zucchini
Carousel of Languages
Creatively Inspired
Coaching
Discovery Programs
Dangene: The Institute
of Skinovation
Finish Line
Physical Therapy
GH Dwell/YK
Structures PC
ImageNation
Cinema Foundation
The Laundress
Music Theater Builders
Queen of Sheba
Ethiopian Restaurant

SILENT AUCTION DONORS
Families
Karen Aronian and
John Aronian IV
Aisling Ryan and
Sascha Brodsky
Tina and Isaac Chang
Magman and
Timothy Daileader
Joe DeMatteo
Rebecca and
Jonathan Dube
Paulina Arredondo-
Sanchez and Felipe
Garcia-Ascencio
Wendy and
Nicholas Heilbut
Aima Raza and
Agha Khan
Jennifer Koball
Suneeta Krishnareddy
Bettina Lage
Sarah and Adrian Lazar
Calleen and
François Letaconnoux
Rebecca Fraioli
and David Lundell
Lindsey and
Michael Lynch
Judy and Jeffrey Lyons
Laura and Lee Morakis
Laurent Pariente
Kathleen Friery and
Bill Ritter
Shirley Annan and
Eugene A. Rodriguez
Tracey Strauss and
Josh Sandbulde
Els Fessahaye and
Nebiyu Shawel
Sam Smith
William Steiger
Caroline and
Jeff Swiatek
Sofie Van Gijse and
Pieter Vermeersch
Colin Weil
Marco Williamson
McKay Williamson
Nigel-Ann La Qua
Williamson
Anonymous

Friends
CitySeat
Great Wolf Lodge
Kate Tempesta’s Urban
Golf Academy LLC
New York
Historical Society
Raphael Vineyards
THE FALL FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 18, 2014

How do new traditions get started at WSMS? Typically, parent volunteers provide the momentum. The Fall Festival, which made its debut in October 2014, is a great case in point. A few caring and creative parent volunteers, in a meeting with staff, asked the question: how can we make entry into our warm and welcoming community even better for our new-to-WSMS families? The idea of a fall occasion, where new and returning families could enjoy a day of fun together celebrating the warmth of community and the beginning of the school year, quickly emerged. Replacing the beloved Spring Fair was a tough decision, but the opportunity to start the new year in a community celebration was impossible to resist.

And so, the Fall Festival, a new WSMS tradition, was born … Moving our annual block party from spring to fall meant that the 2014 Fall Festival Co-chairs, some of whom were new to WSMS themselves, had to jump into action as soon as school opened. Responding enthusiastically to a need is nothing new for WSMS parent volunteers, and before long plans were set.

Saturday, October 18, 2014, dawned crisp and bright; the street was transformed into a magical place for children to play and greet old and new friends, complete with hay bales, pumpkins, corn stalk teepees, fall flowers, baked goods, the WSMS trolley photo booth, glitter tattoos, fishing, the doughnut game, the much-loved moon bounce and more…

With huge thanks to Jennifer Conway and Victor Manuel, Wendy Heilbut, Caroline Russo Visceglia, and Rielly Vlassis for putting their hearts and incredible efforts into making this happen in a few short weeks.
FALL FESTIVAL CO-CHAIRS

Jennifer Conway
Wendy Heilbut
Victor Manuel

Caroline Russo
Rielly Vlassis

FALL FESTIVAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Bake Sale
Bettina Lage
Allison Ross
Deborah Rothman

Second Hand Sue
Katie Barra
Tomomi Friedman
Eleanor Wadsworth

General Store and Mums Sale
Thao Nguyen

Graphic Design
Jeff Leaf

Signage and Décor
Lindsay Leaf

Front Desk/Ticket Sales
Kerry Ann Benjamin
Naomi Fleisher
Laura Gould

Entertainment
Heather Crain
Andy Jobe

Security and Stroller Parking
Michael Clancy
Matt Onek

Banking
Nicole Byrns

Set-Up
Steve Lindemann
Bianca Dias Soares

Take-Down
Geoff Forster
Jason Santiago

Drinks
Sofie Van Gijsel
Pieter Vermeersch

Cotton Candy and Popcorn
Angela Lamb
Allen Lamb

Grill
Erin Volkmar
Dana Bliss

International Foods
Noel Getachew

Marketing and PR
Beatrice Yang

Photography
Katie Sonnenborn

FALL FESTIVAL DONORS

Radhika Shroff and Seth Bair
Saya and Dana Bliss
Lisa and Mark Cicirelli
Adriana and Michael Clancy
Darcy Cohn
Lindsay Forbes and Ali Dibadj
Malda Hibri and Greg Eisner
Wendy and Nicholas Heilbut

Angela and Allen Lamb
Jennifer Conway and Victor Manuel
Joanna Hagan Rego and Matthew Rego
Katie and Jonah Sonnenborn
Caroline Russo-Visceglia and Vincent Visceglia
Rielly and Dax Vlassis
Kali and Paul Theofanous

Great Beginnings
FALL 2015

Very special thanks to the WSMS faculty and the WSMS parent photographers, who provided many of the photos used in this magazine, and to the WSMS administrative team, who helped in ways too numerous to count.

Editor: Patricia Luciani
Editorial Consultant: Tina Connelly
Copy Editor: Sarah Eson
Creative: Jenna Verhoff Wagner
Photography: WSMS Faculty, WSMS Parents, Craig Warga
www.craigwarga.com/

© 2015 WEST SIDE MONTESSORI SCHOOL (WSMS)