



*A year of
reflection
& growth*

Montessori School of Lake Forest

2008 – 2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Our Vision

To instill in every child a life-long love of learning, and to be the “school of choice” for students, parents and faculty.

Our Mission

To provide a social, physical and natural Montessori environment that guides and encourages children to grow and build themselves to their full potential.

Our Values

- Childhood education is essential to human development and to the improvement of society.
- Children instinctively desire to learn. The school, its teachers and its facilities guide children’s innate curiosity by presenting them with a series of prepared environments that foster self-development.
- Carefully balanced classrooms provide diversity in age, background, and skill level. This diversity enriches the children’s social development. It teaches cooperation, mutual respect, and peace—the foundation of civilized society.
- Movement is a natural activity of children and a significant contributor to their self-development. The school’s indoor and outdoor environments improve the children’s physical education and inspire their appreciation of the natural world.
- Excellence in education requires not only respect for the children, but also the active involvement of families and faculty. The school encourages faculty development and parent participation in the children’s education.

Our Goals

Our Strategic Plan outlines the school’s needs over the next five years.

These include:

- Continuing to retain and recruit exceptional Montessori-trained teachers.
- Continuing to expand the Board of Directors and recruit volunteers for committees.
- Building a new facility for the Adolescent Program at Prairie Crossing.
- Enhancing the physical space at our Laurel Drive campus, including indoor and outdoor environments, to further support programs and accommodate all students.
- Balancing the budget to ensure that tuition covers all operating expenses.
- Implementing an effective fundraising strategy to support capital improvements and expand the financial aid program.



Message from the President of the Board of Directors and the Executive Director



This past year at the Montessori School of Lake Forest, in spite of the downturn in the economy and several administrative changes, was exciting and rewarding. Board members, faculty, staff, and parents stepped back from their short-term challenges to ask more fundamental questions about who we are, where we are going, and what we want to become. Families reconfirmed their commitment to education and have realized more than ever before the value of a Montessori education. A Montessori education provides for the needs of children so that they become the innovators and collaborators who shape our future. Montessori graduates are the minds behind such innovations as Google, Amazon, Wikipedia, and SimCity. Because Montessori educates the whole child, its graduates become productive, well-rounded, compassionate adults.

We hope this report conveys to you the enthusiasm we feel about what MSLE has accomplished this past year. To cite just a few examples:

To address the challenges of the economic downturn, we have stabilized tuitions. Our faculty and staff voted to address the budget deficit by agreeing to a salary freeze. Our Board of Directors continues to plan for the future growth of MSLE.

We reaffirmed our identity as a nationally recognized Montessori school serving children from birth through adolescence. We retained our excellent, experienced faculty; expanded an already comprehensive public relations and marketing program; and renewed our commitment to our actively engaged and strongly supportive parent body.

We have reinstated the much needed Parent Infant Program. Our Toddler Program now includes a 3-day offering, and will once again offer extended hours, from 7:30 am to 6:00pm, 12 months per year. To further honor the needs of our families, we reevaluated our after-school offerings and added New Music School and Language Stars programs to our existing after-school programs.

We are deeply grateful to all members of our community who helped make this past year a success – our dedicated and generous Board of Directors, our motivated volunteers and committee members, our creative and highly competent faculty and staff, our generous and considerate donors, and many, many others. Because of your talent and commitment, we touch more children's lives. Each and every one of you is helping to move MSLE toward a position of greater service and prominence in the field of education.

*We will celebrate our 45th Anniversary next year and we look forward to all we can accomplish. The 2009-2010 school year will prove to be another year of **growth and accomplishments** for our most valuable assets, **the children**.*

Renée Baldwin
President, Board of Directors

Lissa Hektor
Executive Director





A year of reflection and growth



One of the most important aspects of Montessori education is the love and responsibility which begins with the one-year-old serving lunch to others and ends with research carried out by older children in order to discover how best they can serve humanity and the world.

Montessori education is character-building. It encourages initiative in choosing what to do and when to do it. Because we have educated the whole child, our graduates grow to become well-rounded young adults.

This year's graduates, from left to right: Patrick Ahern, Kera Ling, Sierra Carroll and Ambrin Ling



"I love the Adolescent Program; I really do. I have learned so much and grown so much in my time there; and I am especially glad I have stayed for this 9th year. The farm, the classes: every experience has shaped me and taught me, and I will always be grateful for that." Patrick Ahern, 9th Year Graduate

"The foundation that this school has provided me with is invaluable, and it has really defined the difference between being told and being taught." Sierra Carroll, 9th Year Graduate

Big Possibilities Benefit 2009



GROWING GREEN
a celebration of thoughtful choices



188 Tickets Sold

90 Volunteers

210 Live and Silent Auction Items

\$4,400 Raised for new hallway lights

\$2,100 Raised for physical education equipment for rainy days

\$100,000 Raised to Grow MSLF!

Chairing this year's Benefit was Rebecca Quackenbush, assisted by a dedicated committee of parents, faculty, students, and community friends. Over 300 local vendors supported the event with donations of silent and live auction items and program advertising.

Financial Overview

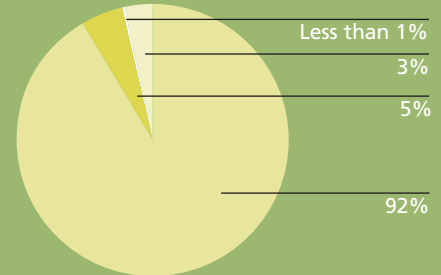


Revenue & Expenses

(in 000's)

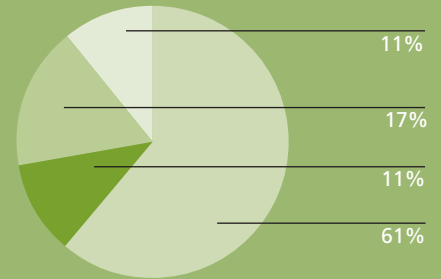
REVENUE

Tuition & Fees	\$ 2,680
Contributions	\$ 139
Interest Income	\$ 8
Fundraising	\$ 97
TOTAL	\$ 2,924



EXPENSE

Instruction	\$ 1,762
Administration	\$ 322
Facilities	\$ 487
Interest Expense & Depreciation	\$ 310
TOTAL	\$ 2,881



Balance Sheet

(in 000's)

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 382
Savings and Investments	\$ 593
Accounts Receivable	\$ 103
Prepaid Expense	\$ 32
Deposit	\$ 15
Property and Equipment	\$ 3,467
Bond Escrow	\$ 100
Loan Costs	\$ 90
Total Assets	\$ 4,782

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 26
Interest Payable	\$ 43
Accrued Liabilities	\$ 115
Unearned Tuition	\$ 114
Bond Payable	\$ 1,859
Mortgage Payable	\$ 291
Parent Deposits	\$ 173
Total Liabilities	\$ 2,621

Net Assets \$ 2,161

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$ 4,782

Audit report available upon request.



Honor Roll of Donors

Finance Committee

Jana Schreuder, Chairperson
 Brian Abrams
 Lissa Hektor
 Scott McWilliams
 Vinod Patel
 Rebecca Quackenbush
 Vince Sparrow

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 Benefit & Advertising Chairperson
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 Sarah Boone
 Sarah Cassidy
 Karyn Celaric
 Helen Chon
 Amy Falbe
 Amy Francetic
 Michaela Glusic
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 Tammy Hayden,
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 Nicole Korczak
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 Jamet Burt
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Wendy Deng
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 Michaela Glusic
 Tammy Hayden
 Shelly Hooke
 Sara Martinez
 Yassamin Mekki
 Anuja Rao
 Lillian Schaff
 JoAnn Schulz
 Barbra Schumann
 Laurie Shanahan
 Peggy Sparrow
 Lori Thuente
 Andrea Todd
 Peggy Vignocchi
 Lauren Ward
 Magdalena Wesolowski
 Kirsten Zoub

Special Honors Gifts

Emilio Alvarez's birthday
 Grace Banasik's birthday
 Kevin Banasik's birthday
 Aedyn Boone's birthday
 Paul and Stefan Carney's birthdays
 Chloe Chan's birthday
 Caitlyn Falbe's birthday
 Thomas Foley's birthday
 Lissa Hektor
 Sidharth Jindal's birthday
 Timothy London's birthday
 Nicholas London's birthday
 Liliann Lucas' birthday
 Audric Ma's birthday
 Anya Martinez's birthday
 Daphne McGarvey's birthday
 MSFL Adolescent Teachers
 Darla Olesen's birthday
 Peter Sparrow's birthday
 Gianna Stompanato's birthday
 Elizabeth Ward's birthday
 Nick and Andrew Wehmeyer's
 birthdays

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Mr. and Mrs. Gary Johnston
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 Mr. and Mrs. Peter Larsen
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lueders
 Mr. Milone and Ms. Bosio
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 Mr. L. Olper and Ms. K Diaz
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 Mr. and Mrs. Eduardo Alvarez
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 Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Banasik
 Beam Global
 Dave Block
 Blue Grass Restaurant
 Bobbleme.com
 Thais Boddicker
 Alfonso & Sarah Boone
 Cari Boyk
 Eric Carle
 Chalet Nursery
 Mr. and Mrs. James Chamberlin
 Charizma Special Event DJ
 Entertainment
 Chicago Botanic Garden
 Helen Chon
 Classic Kids
 Deerpath Art Gallery
 dimendSCAASI
 Carla Elmore
 ENZOC Enterprises, Inc.
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 Fitzgerald's Photography
 FMC Technologies
 Francesca Intimo
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 Gymboree
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 Janet Austin Art
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 John S. Swift Company, Inc.
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 Kohl Children's Museum
 Krugel Cobbles, Inc.
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 Lake Forest Symphony
 Learning Resources
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 LMNOP
 M & B Vintage
 Mariani Landscape/Design
 Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire
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 McLaughlin Fitness Systems, Inc.
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 The Olesen Family
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 Sutton Studios
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 Ms. Carol Tarras
 Mr. and Mrs. Morris Taylor
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 ThoroughQuest Acres
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 Trattoria D.O.C.
 US Bank
 Viking Cooking School
 Steve Volberding



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Waste Management of Illinois, Inc.
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Linda Wiens
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Adams Street Partners
FMC Technologies Corporate
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GE Foundation
Hospira
Kraft Foods Matching Gifts Program
SAP
Target

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Mr. and Mrs. Pat Ward
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Golden Bead Circle (\$10,000 and Above)

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Baldwin
Ms. Gail Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Zengeler



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Every effort has been made to ensure that the donors who support the School's mission are recognized for their generosity. If you have not received proper recognition for your gift in this Annual Report, please accept our apologies and notify our Advancement Office so that we may correct our records. All gifts listed in this report were received between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009.

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



Honor Roll of Donors

Please forgive us!

It has come to our attention that many people who donated to MSLF through last year's Big Possibilities Benefit went unacknowledged. We are so very sorry that this happened, especially since that support was offered during difficult economic times that persist for many people. Please accept our apologies.

Copies of these pages are included in the current Annual Report.

Alumni Gifts

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Johnston
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Karazian
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Larsen
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lueders
Mr. Fabrizio Milone and Ms. Simona Bosio
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Mudrick
Mr. Leo Olper and Ms. Karla Diaz
Dr. and Mrs. Joon Park
Drs. Angeleo and Carola Tanna

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Ms. Shabnam Kaka
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Mr. Tarik Rasidagic and Alma Hamidovic
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Reinhardt
Ms. Jamie Rhyner
Ms. Maria Rios
Mrs. JoAnn Schulz



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 Ms. Bhavini Shah
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 Mr. and Mrs. David Skinner
 The Stompanato Family
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 Ms. Margaret Stypik
 Mr. and Mrs. Keith Surroz
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 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Wisniewski
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 Ms. Jin Zhang
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 Mr. and Mrs. John Tait
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 Mr. and Mrs. Pat Ward
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 Mr. and Mrs. Aldo Buzzi
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 Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Ferris
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Mr. and Mrs. Brian Abrams
 Mr. and Mrs. Chris Baldwin
 Dr. and Mrs. David Hooke
 Ms. Gail Smith
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Zengeler





Board of Directors

Executive Board:

Renée Baldwin	<i>President</i>
Jan Emery	<i>First Vice President</i>
Andrew Ferris/ David Hooke	<i>Second Vice President</i>
Jana Schreuder	<i>Treasurer</i>
Edith Ahern	<i>Secretary</i>

Members:

Brian Abrams
 Dave Block
 Andrew Ferris
 Nicole Korczak
 Katherine Ritter
 Thomas Zengeler
 Lissa Hektor, ex-officio
 Rebecca Quackenbush, ex-officio

Administrative Staff

Lissa Hektor	<i>Executive Director</i>
Rebecca Quackenbush	<i>Interim Director of Finance</i>
Ellen Pavelich	<i>Interim Admission Director</i>
Kevin Gallagher	<i>Facilities Director</i>
Beth Hill	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Linda Dolister	<i>Receptionist</i>

Employed During 2008-2009

Cathy Swan	<i>Executive Director</i>
Jennifer Johnson	<i>Business Manager</i>
Stephanie Mora	<i>Admission Director</i>

Faculty

Teachers:

Beverly Adamczyk
 Linda Davis
 Rebecca Gschwend
 Hope Ilyavi
 Danielle Jakes
 Kathryn Jasinski
 Ann Jordahl
 Saachi Kumar
 Eva Leung
 Tami Levandowski
 Chris McDowell
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 Bhavini Shah
 Debbie Secler
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