Cultivate in every MSLE child a life-long love of learning.

Mission

Vision Values

Excellence in Education
We achieve excellence in education by inspiring children toward their full social and intellectual potential.

Respect for the Child
We respect each child and are committed to guiding each student on his or her own individual path to independence and intellectual development.

Self-Development and Self-Knowledge
We value learning in prepared environments as a way to promote natural curiosity, self-development, and self-knowledge.

Appreciation of the Natural World
We value the outdoor environment as a way to cultivate the child’s inborn appreciation of nature and human beings’ age-old role as stewards of the natural world.

Diversity and Cooperation
We value carefully balanced classrooms which provide diversity in age, background, and skill level as a way to teach cooperation, mutual respect, and peaceful resolution of conflicts - critical skills of effective citizens in a democratic society.

Engaged Communities
We value the active involvement of family, faculty, and friends.
Board Update

Board Function and Structure

MSLP’s Board of Directors plays an important and precise role in the school’s operation. As its governing body, the Board establishes overall policy and assures the financial stability of the school, its role is strategic in nature. The Board employs the school’s Executive Director who then oversees the administrative staff, faculty, and support personnel. The Board is positioned to think and act from a big-picture, long-range planning perspective, while the administrative staff focuses on implementing our programs and managing our day-to-day operations.

The Board is comprised of current parents, alumni parents, alumni and community leaders who are recruited for their skill, experiences and perspectives. The group meets on a regular basis during the year, and its collective expertise is both broad and deep. Because the school’s current strategic plan expires in 2013, the Board is currently focused on creating a new strategic plan to carry the school into the future and ensure its viability for future generations.

Thank you to all those who have contributed, and continue to contribute in this capacity. Your passion for good Montessori makes our school great.

Message from the Executive Director

Every artist knows the simple truth that creating a masterpiece requires hard work. Even if it comes together easily at the end, it’s prepared by repeated daily effort. Every adult knows this, every business person, physician, carpenter, or teacher.

Nature prepares children to learn this by giving them a love of work. Children love work so much that they are able to overcome setbacks. If treated respectfully, children are eager to clean up a spill or use an inside voice, or apologize for hurtful words, or fix an error in decimal division. As Maria Montessori observed, the child’s work is to create the adult they are to become.

“...the child is not an inert being who owes everything he can do to us. If he were an empty vessel that we have to fill, no, it is the child who makes the man, and no man exists who was not made by the child who once he was.”
—Maria Montessori, The Absorbent Mind

Children mature by performing the work of their daily lives, and with the grace of time. As they follow their developmental paths, they learn to set goals and reach them. And as their range of experience, imagination, and ability grow, children begin to shape their adult selves.

An adult self is built from nature and nurture. It is fully formed by the end of the 25th year, but not until then. Every child who reaches the age of 25 developmentally speaking, also reaches adulthood. Their bodies and brains mature as nature intends, and we call them adult.

But the child who is nurtured in our Montessori way becomes an adult who is focused and self-aware, whose sense of community and common sense are well-exercised. They become a well-balanced person who loves to learn, knows how to succeed and help others succeed, is lovely to be with.

In the Montessori School of Lake Forest community we know we are here to support the work of the child. We know that there will be growing pains and we have faith in the process and faith in the outcome, the masterpiece in the making that will be each child’s life.

What we give to our children, we can also give to ourselves. Our school has reached maturity by way of vision and commitment, purposeful work, love, trial, and error. Now we are learning who we are and who we are not. We are learning to know what we want, and how we want to get there. It is time for us to take stock of how far we have come, for that will surely tell us how far we may hope to go.

Forty-seven years ago, the Montessori School of Lake Forest was a dream in the collective imagination of a parent study group. Now we are a strong school with healthy roots, a vibrant present, and a bright future. We are a school where children come first, where parents and teachers work together to serve the growth of each and every child. Working together to create our masterpiece in the making is the story of the Montessori School of Lake Forest, in the past, in the present, and in the many years to come.

With Most Sincere Good Wishes,

Ann Javeh
Interim Executive Director
Montessori School of Lake Forest
Financial Overview

Revenue
- Tuition and Fees: $27,722
- Contributions: $58
- Interest Income: $2
- Fundraising: $116
- Total: $29,388

Expenses
- Instruction: $16,386
- Administration: $993
- Facilities: $5,288
- Interest Expense and Depreciation: $273
- Total: $23,932

Assets
- Cash: $1,224
- Savings and Investment: $5,078
- Accounts Receivable: $86
- Prepaid Expense: $89
- Property and Equipment: $33,238
- Bond Escrow: $1,000
- Loan Costs: $10
- Total Assets: $44,002

Liabilities
- Accounts Payable: $45
- Interest Payable: $20
- Accrued Liabilities: $41
- Unearned Tuition: $117
- Bond Payable: $20
- Mortgage Payable: $16,988
- Parent Deposits: $2,008
- Total Liabilities: $21,020
- Net Assets: $22,982
- Total Liabilities and Net Assets: $44,002

Several of the photographs in this publication were taken by Mari Pavich, an MSLF alumna and current student at Harbanside Academy.

I was part of the original Montessori School of Lake Forest, located near Ft. Sheridan. As a young child, I enjoyed my days at school learning by using my hands and learning how to push in my chair. It wasn’t until my adult years that I realized how much I had been influenced by the Montessori philosophy and its emphasis on preserving a curious nature, a love of learning, a dedication to making connections through critical thinking and creative problem solving. All these skills have served me well in my many years as a college English major, as the principal of a commercial construction company, as a husband and a father. I knew Montessori was a gift I wanted to share with my children. It’s my pleasure to now see my own kids thriving in MSFL’s Elementary Program.

Bill Viglizzo,
MSLF Alumnus and Parent

Working within the structure of a Montessori classroom is an invaluable experience for a creative young person. During my time at MSFL, my teachers not only allowed, but constantly encouraged me and my classmates to explore ideas that interested us. To do research in areas of study that appealed to us, and above all to spend time creating things.

While attending school to study music and do so with fierce energy, I exhibit the same drive in studying literature, history, math, science, and whatever other fields of knowledge are put before me. I owe my zest for learning to MSFL, where I learned to be inequitable and became interested in a broad range of areas of study. Here, I am now with an openness to taking whatever gifts I can from whatever environment find myself in, because MSFL has taught me how immensely worthwhile doing so can be.

Rajeev Adhikary,
MSLF Alumnus currently attending
Chicago Academy for the Arts
Stepping Up

Throughout the school children stepped up to the next level. Parent Toddler children were welcomed into Toddler Toddler into Primary. Toddler children were welcomed into Lower Elementary, third grade into Upper Elementary and sixth year into our Adolescent Program.

We are pleased and proud to announce the graduation of the Montessori School of Lake Forest Class of 2012. Cooper Carter, Sean Cullen, Alexandria Harding-Jackson, Giovanni Haro and Benjamin Levine graduated on Thursday, June 7th, at 10:15 a.m. in the multipurpose room. The entire Montessori School of Lake Forest community was invited to gather and hear the graduates’ speeches and celebrate their achievements.

Congratulations to all!

Michelle Henning, MSFL Alumna currently attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Primary to Elementary

Lower Elementary to Upper EI

Upper EI to Adolescent
Natalie Clarke, Demi Glusick, Catherine Kneeland, Analisa Marcucci, Lauren Zengerle

Andrew Knight, MSFL Alumnus and Board Member

With my parents’ background, I have always had a basic interest in math and science. I enjoyed how Montessori allowed me to learn at my own pace. More than anything, Montessori gave me a good work ethic for working independently and thinking outside of the box. With most engineering problems, the answer is not always straightforward. You need to be patient and try many different options before reaching the final answer.

It has also allowed me to know how to organize my time. For most college students, the first time they have free time without classes is college. They pull all-nighters because they are not used to having to be independent and having no one tell them what to do. I work hard to get my homework done.

The main thing about Montessori that I hope is how it instilled a love of learning into me. While I don’t necessarily enjoy math classes, I enjoy what I get out of going to class. If you want to make it through an engineering degree, you need to have an interest in going to class and spending hours on a homework assignment. And that is what I appreciate more than anything from my years of Montessori work.

Michelle Henning, MSFL Alumna currently attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

When a collection of brilliant minds, hearts and talents come together… expect a Masterpiece!

—Unknown

FSL—through its unique curriculum, devotion to individuality, and dedicated faculty and staff—shaped my formative years immeasurably. The school created a sense of community in a way no other academic institution that I have attended did. It nurtured the principle that individually and socially responsible actions are not mutually exclusive: it solidifies that empathy and selflessness, values so easily disregarded, should inspire one’s actions.
Message from the Board President

I am often asked why I have chosen to drive twenty minutes from my house, past five perfectly fine, same day very good, grade schools every morning for the past fourteen years. Just so my children can attend MSFL. For me, the answer is simple. The true masterpieces of MSFL are the children who graduate here.

My husband and I chose MSFL, Elementary through the Upper Elementary program (there was no Adolescent program at the time), and did a panel discussion for the parents of primary age children. We were surrounded by their pole and reassurance. Their answers to the questions that were being asked were wise beyond their years. What we heard over and over again was that each felt they had learned balance. We were told.

One of the truly inspiring events of the year, every year, is the Adolescent Program (Blue House) graduation. Every parent, whether the parent of a toddler, a primary student, an elementary student or an adolescent, attend this graduation. It is truly an uplifting, inspiring and educational experience. Every year, I am surrounded by our graduates and their speeches.

There are certain of these graduates whom I have known since they were in primary, whom we have seen graduate and move on to amazing post-MSFL careers. I was pleased to watch Bill and Macie graduate at MSFL and matriculate to Illinois Math and Science Academy. In juxtaposition, I watched Maria Adamczyk flourish here and matriculate to Chicago Academy for the Arts. My son John attends Phillips Exeter Academy, where many of his friends went on to Lake Forest Academy, Woodwards, Carmel and Johns Hopkins.

I know of two graduates, who after stellar college careers at Williams and Middletown, now teach at Phillips Exeter Academy and Lake Forest Academy.

While our graduates go on to excellent academic careers, more importantly, they go on to become self-assured, caring, balanced adults who represent the best of what MSFL seeks to create. True masterpieces indeed. And of course, there are new and have been since my children started attending, MSFL second generation MSFL students in their classes. It is a pleasure to get to know William Vincenzi and his Dad, Bill Vincenzi, both MSFL masterpieces

MSFL continues to grow and flourish, and does so regardless of any growing pains that may occur. Over this past summer, the Blue House was expanded to accommodate its ever-growing population and the construction was accomplished on time and within budget. The space in the Blue House has more than doubled, but the integrity of the Blue House environment has been respected and maintained.

It is with this same commitment to excellence that MSFL will move into the future, and the adults of our community will continue to be inspired by our masterpieces, our graduates.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]
Board President
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Every effort has been made to ensure that the donors who support the school's mission are recognized for their generosity. If you have not received proper recognition for your gift in this Annual Report, please accept our apologies and notify our office so that we may correct our records. All gifts listed in this report were received between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012.

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

Thank you to the entire Montessori School of Lake Forest community for your generous support, donations, volunteerism, time, talents and dedication to our wonderful school. Thank you to each family for supporting our children with healthy snacks. You, our families, are the key to MSLF’s growth and expansion. Our fundraising efforts directly impact our ability to retain and recruit exceptional teachers, enhance our physical space, and expand our financial aid program.

Please accept our sincerest ‘thank you’...
Annual Giving & Benefit Donations... Every Family... Every Year

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The following amounts represent donations made in the combined categories of Annual Giving, donations and Benefit purchases. We very much appreciate your generosity and look forward to our community’s support... every family... every year.

Montessori School of Lake Forest
2011-2012 Annual Report