Montessori School of Lake Forest

ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

The Next Chapter
The MSLF Team

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.

Vision

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

Values

Excellence in Education
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Mission

We achieve excellence in education by inspiring children toward their full social and intellectual potential. We respect each child and are committed to guiding each student on his or her own individual path to independence and intellectual development. We value learning in prepared environments as a way to promote natural curiosity, self-development, and self-knowledge. 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. 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. We value the active involvement of family, faculty, and friends.
Message from the Executive Director

Dear Montessori School of Lake Forest Community,

The 2012-2013 school year represented another chapter in the life of our beloved school. It is a time for us to reflect, to review our accomplishments and lessons in view of MSLF’s longstanding goals and virtues.

In a couple of years, MSLF will be half a century old. During most of this time it has grown very fast. This growth was defined by change and expansion: of facilities and grounds, programs, staff and faculty. Today we benefit from all that growth and we take full advantage of our beautiful campuses, our full complement of care services and education programs, our highly competent staff and our distinguished faculty.

This year we have entered a new phase of growth as we have put down roots and settled in to our identity. We have become stewards of the vision and dedicated effort of those who have come before us. We have renewed our faith in some of MSLF’s and Montessori education’s most basic tenets: the parent-child-teacher triad; the true community of everyone trying to live and work by the same standards; clear communications; accessibility; respect for differences; and collaboration.

We remain committed to excellence in education, and to achieving this by teaching “the whole child.” We believe that each MSLF child will become “the best person they can be”—an adult who functions at the highest levels of performance and integrity in their work, their families, their communities, their personal growth.

The Montessori School of Lake Forest always has been and always will be “a community of thinkers,” a place where people of all ages think for themselves. What does this mean in practice? It means that our parents ask tough questions and our teachers provide solid answers. People take their time making decisions. Change happens slowly and steadily. Children take time to answer a question. People might disagree, with the utmost respect for one another.

Last year we witnessed once again that the “love of learning” is thriving in our students, and throughout our entire school community. Thank you one and all for being vital members of the Montessori School of Lake Forest community. Our wonderful school has come a long way from its first years as a parent study group. We are well established now as a “full service” school. And we are building our future by doing what we do best: educating children according to Montessori principles, engendering for them and for ourselves a life dedicated to learning and to authentic growth.

Best wishes to all of you, and thank you for a wonderful 2012-13 school year.

Sincerely,

Ann Jordahl
Executive Director
Montessori School of Lake Forest

Board Update

Board Function and Structure

MSLF’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 employs 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 skills, experience and perspective. The group meets on a regular basis during the year, and its collective expertise is both broad and deep. This year the Board undertook to craft the Strategic Plan for 2013-2018. This plan will carry the school into the future and allow it to address growth challenges and opportunities, ensuring 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.
Financial Overview

Revenue
- Tuition and Fees: $2419
- Contributions: $56
- Interest Income: $1
- Fundraising: $152
TOTAL: $2628

Expenses
- Instruction: $1572
- Administration: $670
- Facilities: $322
- Interest Expense and Depreciation: $455
TOTAL: $3019

Assets
- Cash: $85
- Savings and Investment: $699
- Accounts Receivable: $22
- Prepaid Expenses: $28
- Property and Equipment: $3328
- Bond Escrow: $0
- Loan Costs: $17
TOTAL: $4089

Liabilities
- Accounts Payable: $30
- Accrued Liabilities: $54
- Unearned Tuition: $121
- Mortgage Payable: $1728
- Parent Deposits: $207
TOTAL: $3100

Net Assets: $1889
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS: $4089

Mari Pavelich (alumna) on how Montessori education benefits her...

My Montessori education is something that I am very proud and appreciative of. It has given me a lot of opportunities and has taught me so many invaluable things. It helped to foster a love of learning (which I still have today), a strong independence, self-motivation, and many different life skills.

My Montessori education has given me the ability to always do my best. That is something that will carry me far in life. It will help me live on my own, go to college, get a job, travel, and maybe even start my own business. Montessori gave me the foundation to be successful, so I know when I go out into the world, I have the skills to succeed. I know how to get my own food, organize my time, arrange my environment to help me work better, motivate myself, to the point where I can now succeed independently.

Montessori, after all these years, has given me not only the educational tools to succeed, but also the personal and social skills to succeed. I still use things I learned in primary and lower elementary in my everyday math class. I did a research in first grade, and finally got to use the information to answer a teacher’s question in class last year (I was the only student able to answer). I know that I will keep having these experiences for the rest of my life, and I know that I can succeed because of what Montessori and MSLF have given me. I thank them for everything.

Many of the photos in this publication were taken by MSLF’s talented teachers, parents and alumni. Thank you for your contributions!
Life is like a book. Some chapters sad, some happy, some exciting. But if you never turn the page, you will never know what the next chapter holds.

Ian Surroz (alumnus) on the Blue House...

Preparing for college in a few weeks, I'm able to look back on my entire high school experience and how the Blue House helped me. Academically, I came out right where I needed to be; I jumped into Honors and AP classes right off the bat with no more struggle than the rest of the students. I had a different view of the teachers, though. After the Blue House, where teachers were anything from very smart friends to consoling guides, it was easy for me to ask my high school teachers for any help I needed and forge a direct relationship of trust that I think surprised some of them.

The best classes in high school were the ones like the classes at the Blue House: students paid attention, the teacher happily guided the progress with rigor but took any questions, and the learning moved along at a swift, appropriate pace. Every teacher was someone to look up to, a parent away from home. I can't stress how important having stable adults at school was to me as I started out my awkward adolescence.

I guess the Blue House helped me grow up, instead of treating me like a kid who has to be sheltered and watched over every minute. I learned why rules exist, how to take responsibility for things that mattered like my own work or other people's lunch, I found what I really wanted to be for the rest of my life, and I came out ready for high school and college. Teachers at other schools simply don't trust you enough to let you do that. I can really trace back many of my characteristics and principles to something I learned from a MSLF teacher. Whenever I visit, it's with a sense akin to coming home.

Nicholas London (current Elementary student) on why he loves MSLF...

Life, nature, sounds, peacefulness, learning and happiness.

Steven (current Elementary student) on why he loves MSLF...

You don't have to sit in the exact same spot and do the exact same work as everyone else.

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

We are pleased and proud to announce the graduation of the Montessori School of Lake Forest Class of 2013. Paul Ahern, Ela Boddicker, Brandt Dudziak, Rachel George, Bryan King and Selene Serkland graduated as 9th year students on June 6th, 2013. Brede Baldwin, Mari Brady, Katie Davis and Cameron Dudziak “stepped out” as 8th year students. The entire MSLF community was invited to gather and hear these students’ speeches and celebrate their achievements.

Congratulations to all!

Primary to Elementary

Lower Elementary to Upper El
Zaydi Anderson, Benjamin Akinwunmi, Mari Brady, Tessa Buhl, Melissa George, Steven Hooke, Ian Hurado, Elizabeth Mancusi, Oliva Mancusi, Michael Masterton, Andronema Nerge, William Vignocchi, Andrew Zengeler

Upper El to Adolescent
Michaela Abrams, Amanda George, Andrew Hooke, Gianna Stompanato, Hailey Swisher
Message from the Board President

Dear Parents and Friends of MSLF,

What is the best thing about a great book? For me, it is the anticipation of what comes next…what the next chapter has in store.

This is a fitting analogy for the upcoming school year. Montessori School of Lake Forest (MSLF) has a rich tradition that should make each of us proud. The 2013-2014 school year promises to take that tradition to an even higher level—the “next chapter” in the educational journey of our students. It’s my privilege to tell you how we’ll meet these high expectations.

First and foremost, our school is well positioned for our next chapter! We are very fortunate to have a staff of committed, devoted people and an outstanding Executive Director in Ann Judd. This commitment and dedication is backed by our Mission and Vision statements—not just words on a document, but a way of life that shapes the MSLF experience. Together, these elements are the perfect composition for a thriving community.

This philosophy allows us to cultivate a lifelong love of learning in every MSLF child. The principles of a Montessori education help our students evolve in relevant, measurable ways, so they may reach their potential as children of the 21st century.

As I look back on my past 15 chapters at MSLF, I experienced a range of emotions and questions about the school. At first, I thought our family would be here for only two years. I remember asking myself many questions: “Why do I pay for our education, so why do we also have to volunteer our time? Why do we need to donate additional money to an Annual Giving program?” They’re not going to give my child any tests? Really? I think I’m gone!”

Fortunately, patience won out, along with my desire to provide an outstanding education for my child. I learned from discussions with Ann Judd and from the many books and articles she told me to read. I attended the Parent Education Programs. Best of all, I discovered I was giving my child the best possible educational experience available in the nation.

Perhaps you’ve had many similar questions. To help find your answers, I encourage you to see the rewards of an education at MSLF by spending time at our Blue House campus. You’ll see an Adolescent Program that will leave you speechless. If you have younger children at the school, please spend time observing classrooms where your child may be in the future. You’ll find a school with two campuses with outdoor environments surrounded by hundreds of acres of natural forest preserve. Most importantly, you’ll develop a better appreciation and understanding of how fortunate you and your family are to be a part of this wonderful community.

Now, we’re ready for our next chapter. The preparation began during the 2012-2013 school year, when a subcommittee of six Board members and our Interim Executive Director conducted a special strategic planning session. The team reviewed and revised the school’s Mission, Vision and Value statements. These changes were approved by the Board of Directors, providing the framework for our next five-year plan. We have a bright future with attainable goals.

That’s just the beginning. In 2014, we welcome our new Montessori High School so our children can continue to thrive in the Montessori educational experience through graduation. Beacon Academy will offer a new model of education, merging Montessori principals with the best practices of leading independent schools.

Finally, please avoid the mistakes I made when I first came to the school. I watched from the sidelines. Rather, get involved and become part of this rewarding experience. There are opportunities for everyone, starting with five standing Committees of the Board that could use your help. Next May, we need to fill five positions on the Board of Directors, as current members’ terms come to an end. As you can see, there is a role to be played by every parent and every friend of MSLF.

Join us as we begin the next chapter at MSLF. With your help, it promises to be our most exciting chapter yet.

Sincerely,

Tom Zengeler
Board President

Imagination does not become great until human beings, given the courage and the strength, use it to create.

- Maria Montessori

Fundraising

We are pleased to report that MSLF raised $43,603 during the 2012-2013 Annual Giving Campaign, with 100% participation by the Board of Directors, 99% participation among faculty and staff, and 56% participation among the parent community. The funds raised go toward supporting capital improvements to the school, as well as operations and programming at both campuses.

The Next Chapter

This year’s Next Chapter literary theme lent itself to creativity, much like our art theme did last year. Each child embarked on a new chapter in their lives this school year, and our school as a whole has done the same. The Next Chapter also connected us to our children and their love of learning. Learning is often inspired by reading, and a story may resonate with a child for the rest of his or her life. Once again, we used the children themselves as the centerpiece of the evening, when we displayed the beautiful candid photos taken of each student as they are working in their classroom.

The Annual Giving allows our community to come together for a meaningful and relaxed evening of fun that also serves to raise the funds necessary to support MSLF. Many, many parents spent long (and fun) hours preparing for the event. MSLF extends a heartfelt ‘thank you’ to all volunteers, faculty and staff, particularly to our lead volunteer Kirstin Carruthers who went above and beyond the role of volunteer by logging full-time hours in the final weeks leading to the event.

Message from the Board President

2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT
Every Family... Every Year

As teachers, we set out to help every child that we can. The openness among the faculty and administration at MSLF makes it a special place to do just that. For the fourteen years that I’ve been here, the Faculty’s certain freedom to do what I need to do in the classroom on behalf of the children. The collective effort of the adults at MSLF to do right by each and every student is inspiring. We work together well. It is with open arms that we embrace any given child’s individuality and help them to develop themselves.

Our children have been so lucky to benefit from a MSLF education. Over the nine years we have been here, the school has weathered many transitional challenges. Though it all, we knew that an MSLF education, with its outstanding faculty, and parents who share our educational values, was always the best we could offer our children. Today we see a robust elementary program and an adolescent experience unlike any other, where our children are guided with understanding while carving their own paths. It’s invigorating to walk the halls this year and know that the next chapter has begun. What Lisa Aker has spent decades building will grow under Anne Jordahl’s leadership. Brian and I are excited for families joining the community this year and the journey awaiting them.

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, 2012 and June 30, 2013.

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

Silent Auction Donors

A Perfect Setting
Adler Planetarium
American Girl
Baldwin Family
Bangkok Tokyo
Ben Elsass Photography
Bertucci’s Steak & Seafood
Beth Nielsen-Nielsen-Massey Vanillas
Blust Zone
Blue Mercury
Body by Solomos
Bradford Portrait
Bridge McKenna’s Irish Pub
Carnuths Family
Century Bay Builders
Chalet Nursery
Chicago Bears
Chicago Bulls
Classic Kids Photography
Dolce Mia
Down to Earth Designs LLC
Egg Harbor
Fitzgerald Photography
Forest Bootery
Forest Orthodontics & Pediatric Dentistry
Forever Om
French Pastry School
Fresh Market
Grum Family
Gymboree Play & Music
Hawthorn Woods Country Club
Hyatt Chicago Magnificent Mile
Illinois Railway Museum
Inovasi
Kathryn Jasinski
KJ Photography
Kiddle Cannabisations
Kiddles
Koshi Children’s Museum
Korczak Family
Lagunitas Brewing Company
Lake BLUFF Massage Therapy
Lake Forest Health & Fitness Center
Lake Forest Police Department
Lake Forest Sportscars
Lake Forest Symphony
Lakeside Lanes
Lift Reflexology
Little Legends Soccer Academy
Lou Jon Nero
Lovin Oven Cakery
LT Swisher
Magdalena Wesolowski
Mannelly Family
Marrick Lincolnshire
Martha Abelson Photography
Meatheads
Melihar Architects
Minted
New Vision Athletics
North Shore Distillery
Northshore Dermatology
Norwex/Renee Renz
NV Salon & Spa
Performance Factory Training
Prairie Crossing Learning Farm
Prismatic Nail
Quackenbush Family
Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel Chicago
Ravinia
Ritter Family
Rytes Family
Sheed Aquarium
Sunset Foods
Sutton Studios
Synergy Fitness & Sports
The Binet Fork Bakery
The Inital Choice
The Museum of Science & Industry
Thomas Family
Tillman Family
Toache Salon
Vagabond’s Landscaping, Inc
Weav Spirits, LLC
Walls of Distinction
Walt Disney World
Winkwood Health
Yong-In Yu’s Martial Arts
Zanies Comedy Nite Club

Every Family... Every Year

The Montessori School of Lake Forest’s Annual Giving campaign is the foundation of the school’s fundraising activities. Tuition covers only 90% of the annual budget requirements, and the remaining 10% comes from generous donors. Annual Giving contributions supplement the operating budget, therefore avoiding the need for higher tuition. MSLF asks “every family, every year” to show its commitment to the school by supporting Annual Giving. Each contribution makes it possible for MSLF to continue providing exceptional education programs and a diverse socio-economic learning environment.

When everyone contributes to the school’s shared mission, no matter the level, it demonstrates what it truly means to be a community.

Thank you for participating in our Annual Giving program. Together we can make a difference for MSLF and its children...now and in the future.
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.

Every Family...Every Year

Annual Giving & Benefit Donations

Co-Chairs
Ann Forowycz
Sarah Buckley

Committee
Yasmin Anderson
Kirsten Caruthers
Laura Fosselman
Tanya Hinkle
Nicole Korczak
Keith Maraccini
Sarah Maraccini
Ayisa Mulani
Monica Rayburn
Kelly Rynes
Sarah Stodard

$10,000+
Canzoneri
Waldmann
Baldwin
Zangaler
Abrams

$2,500-$4,999
Moore
Ahern, Patrick
Korczak
Tobin
Jasiński

$1,000-$2,499
Strozman
Palmer
Martinez
Nerger
Heise
Rynes
Ritter, Kenneth
Mulani
Padilla
Li/Wang
Ji/Julah
Tannison
Cathkins
Gregory
Shaw
Oates/Heiberger
Atkinson
Long
Lykins
S. H. Freund

$500-$749
White
Buhl
Shah
Carcano
Grum
Barkow
Huang/Sangfu
John Swift Charitable Trust
Levine
Patrick/otto
Schäff
Sekland
Soter
Todt

$250-$499
Gavally
Morgan
Zita/iewitz
Kumar
Urban/McGarvey
Ahern, Edward
Boddičker
Carberg
Rohrbach
Anderson/Lynde
Lynde Anderson Architects
Papanos
Ward
Eigen
Malm
Clarke
Etkin
Forowycz
Gallegher
Janes
Jindal/Khanna
McWilliams
Narasimha
Ritter, Elliott
Tezera/Boddičker
Weiner

$100-$249
Dave
Gill
Knight
Leung
Millennium Endodontics
Pawelczyk
Yue/Wang
Zita/iewitz
Brady
Haddad
Cannizzaro
Friedman
Mariani
Wills
Allegretti
Papanos
Adamczyk
Taylor
Košman
Cantor
Barham
Boddičker
Chab
Emery
Ernst
Glusic
Korbaček
Stoyk
Walker
Weide

$500-$749
Forowycz
Mohammed/Kahn
Cooper
Blue House Bake Sale
Cresu
Engel
Leung
Milledge
Mancusi
Smith
Krummenacher
Mayer
Czechowski
Anonymous
Düskar
Jin
Lucas, Jessica
Lucas, Michael
Mancusi
Pearson
Marans
Palakia
Palmieri
Stompel
Allegretti
Leandros
Thomas
Beyers

$5,000-$9,999
Rayburn
Maraccini
Mancusi
Mancusi
Mani
Chamberlin

$250-$499
Canzoneri
Waldmann
Baldwin
Zangaler
Abrams

$2,500-$4,999
Moore
Ahern, Patrick
Korczak
Tobin
Jasiński

$1,000-$2,499
Strozman
Palmer
Martinez
Nerger
Heise
Rynes
Ritter, Kenneth
Mulani
Padilla
Li/Wang
Ji/Julah
Tannison
Cathkins
Gregory
Shaw
Oates/Heiberger
Atkinson
Long
Lykins
S. H. Freund

$500-$749
White
Buhl
Shah
Carcano
Grum
Barkow
Huang/Sangfu
John Swift Charitable Trust
Levine
Patrick/otto
Schäff
Sekland
Soter
Todt

$250-$499
Gavally
Morgan
Zita/iewitz
Kumar
Urban/McGarvey
Ahern, Edward
Boddičker
Carberg
Rohrbach
Anderson/Lynde
Lynde Anderson Architects
Papanos
Ward
Eigen
Malm
Clarke
Etkin
Forowycz
Gallegher
Janes
Jindal/Khanna
McWilliams
Narasimha
Ritter, Elliott
Tezera/Boddičker
Weiner

$100-$249
Dave
Gill
Knight
Leung
Millennium Endodontics
Pawelczyk
Yue/Wang
Zita/iewitz
Brady
Haddad
Cannizzaro
Friedman
Mariani
Wills
Allegretti
Papanos
Adamczyk
Taylor
Košman
Cantor
Barham
Boddičker
Chab
Emery
Ernst
Glusic
Korbaček
Stoyk
Walker
Weide

$500-$749
Forowycz
Mohammed/Kahn
Cooper
Blue House Bake Sale
Cresu
Engel
Leung
Milledge
Mancusi
Smith
Krummenacher
Mayer
Czechowski
Anonymous
Düskar
Jin
Lucas, Jessica
Lucas, Michael
Mancusi
Pearson
Marans
Palakia
Palmieri
Stompel
Allegretti
Leandros
Thomas
Beyers