WE TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER

LOOKING BACK: STORIES OF GENEROSITY AND CONNECTION

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020
Dear Hyla Community,

Art Night was the last school event before the entire world changed. The class of 2020 had worked for months on their art installations to answer a central question chosen as a group to unite their collective work. Just days before imposed quarantine, on the eve of a new era of distance, isolation, uncertainty, and fear, our students asked us a question that could not have been more prescient, pressing, and promising: how are we connected?

At our last gathering before schools across Washington closed, students pulled us into their colorful creations to reveal hidden interconnection, challenge our thinking about how we engage, and reflect back our own patterns of behavior with each other. We could not have known how essential this practice would be. Exploding before us, in vivid color, through performance art, interactive display, painting, and sculpture, was the very thing we would need to survive the challenge ahead: new ways to think about how we connect.

For the next 15 weeks, the entire world had to answer this same, central question. People answered by singing opera on balconies, applauding essential workers, and delivering groceries to previously unknown neighbors. We answered it here at Hyla, too. Teachers discovered a deeper bond with students as they were transported into homes through Zoom; they met pets, waved to siblings, and got to know a different side to their students. Parents clicked generously instead of raising paddles at the auction, trained teachers in new technologies, extended hands, and trusted us as we launched into a new online landscape. Students themselves shifted into the unknown and as we showed them a new way for school to happen, we showed them just how much can stay the same even when everything feels so different.

Art Night also offered us another prophetic question: what if? Kate uses this question to guide students through their creative process as they conceptualize and build their installations. On the one hand “what if?” is a prudent question that reveals risk and challenge. On the other hand, “what if?” opens possibilities and breaks through limitations. This question also captures the strategic work of the Hyla Board of Trustees. By asking “what if?” we ensure that Hyla is prepared, ready for myriad eventualities, and able to withstand the unforeseen. By asking “what if?” we also invite possibilities for growth.

The last school year was unlike any other we have ever known. This Annual Report tells you the story of a small but mighty community that weathered unprecedented change, took care of each other, and emerged even brighter than before. With Art Night foretelling our future, how could it have been otherwise?

We share this annual report with inexpressible gratitude to the entire Hyla community — teachers, current parents, alumni parents, staff, grandparents, friends, and students, past and present — for all the ways that you live our school motto: we take care of each other.

Thank you,

Suzanne Messinger, Head of School

Karen Rice, Board President
CHEERS TO HYLA TEACHERS AND STAFF!

Even when schools had to close in March, you kept community, learning, and connection going strong. Thank you for your creativity, dedication, flexibility, spirit, and humor this past year. So much changed in a short time, but thanks to your hard work and heart, so much stayed the same for Hyla students and families. **Hats off to all of you!**
On the last day of school, Hyla Board of Trustees gave teachers and staff a gift certificate to a local business of their choosing tucked inside a mug hand-thrown by ceramic artist and trustee, Cortney George with Second Half Pottery. Cooper also gifted colleagues with hand-made bike spoke bracelets, a symbol of strength and unity to remind us that “even if some spokes are tighter than others at times, the wheel will keep rolling forward with care and attention to each other.”
Strategic Growth in 2019-2020

Your generosity and support helped us reach new heights last year:

We completed our inaugural year in the beautifully renovated yellow building with enlarged classrooms for Spanish, Art, History and Science — including skylights, garage doors for flexible space, storage, and improved indoor air quality thanks to the new HVAC system.

In our new makerspace, we completed the first year of a formalized HyLab curriculum with new interdisciplinary units in English, Global Education, Science, and Art.

We enjoyed our first year in the new lounge with a kitchenette, skylights, tables, and benches, all connected to the new Counselor’s office (with gumballs, of course).

Thanks to generosity from current and alumni parents, we raised $87,785 through the Annual Fund and $121,423 at our first ever online auction. See page 11.

The Hyla Board continued its work with Real-Time Strategic Planning, conducted market research, and invested in the Capital Campaign, along with their own leadership generosity, they ensured the Hyla community was educated and ready to partner with us. With a task force, training, and professional development, the board conducted donor education through events at school, at Yonder, in donor homes, and also here in the Hyla Barn for a historic evening with past and present Hyla parents and trustees.

Thanks to astounding generosity from donors, we successfully completed the leadership phase of the Capital Campaign in under two years. We are now in the community phase and invite everyone at Hyla to invest in our school’s future.

For the first time in school history, we closed campus due to a global health crisis. In just four days, we shifted into distance learning to provide synchronous/live classes to students. See page 7 for inspiring highlights from students and teachers.

Most importantly, we defied distance. During an uncertain time, community deepened at Hyla. We got creative and embraced new ways to ensure that we live up to our shared values even in a pandemic.
What did distance learning look like at Hyla?

Determined to ensure academic and community continuity, we launched distance learning in four days with real-time classes via Zoom, five days a week. Here is a glimpse of the learning, connection, engagement, accomplishment, and community that happened at Hyla during quarantine.

“*A heartfelt thank you to the entire faculty for their efforts and deep expressions of love for all our children. Hyla is our home, and we are grateful for this community.*”
—Hyla Parent

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^ Students participated in the Getty Museum Challenge and recreated famous works of art using three objects found at home.

^ After writing essays in Global Ed class about gender equality, two students placed with honors in the World Citizen Essay Contest sponsored by the World Affairs Council.

^ 8th grader Adam engineered and built a motorized camera dolly to achieve a particular effect to film a commercial as part of the 8th grade drama curriculum.

^ As families dropped by campus to pick up supplies for the next round of curricular units, they were greeted with this sweet note from Jennifer.

Kitchens convert to hands-on labs as students explore catalysts and reactions in Cooking Chemistry class.>

^ Padlet, Loom, and Apple Pencil are some of the tools teachers leverage during synchronous classes. They also rely on distinctly human tools like enthusiasm, creativity, and care for students to inform their work during distance learning.

Checkmate! Chess is one of several elective classes offered each week, along with yoga, Zumba, drawing, cooking, board games, current events, and book club.>

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Hyla Middle School  |  Annual Report 2019-2020
Angeline shares the pop-up archaeology book she created in Humanities class to illustrate cultural universals in the Coast Salish people.

Profe. Kiplinn conducts her cooking class entirely in Spanish to teach students how to fry plantains, bake flan de miel, and other culinary delights.

We greeted parents with reassuring smiles during our “Hyla Parent University” webinar. Speakers provided support, encouragement, and tips specific to these challenging times.

In the early days of quarantine, Lilou shared boredom buster ideas. We love her message behind every activity: whatever you do, share it with others!

Students collaborated to create a “Quarantine Cookbook.” They intentionally curated simple recipes made from every-day pantry ingredients. They also illustrated the cookbook with drawings.

We created a daily planner for students to help them fill their days with healthy food, exercise, and the things that make them happy. Cooper illustrated the planner with drawings to inspire activities.

With so many culminating events and recitals turning to technology, it was a wonderful chance to share accomplishments and enjoy talents, like Kai’s piano performance.

Sharing your work is an essential part of learning and a big part of Hyla’s culture. Teachers integrated a range of online tools to enable students to upload videos, comments, and photos so that students could share their own work, comment on what classmates created, and collaborate. One student shared this illustration included in his history research project.

Students created magazines, translating their quarantine experience into essays, poetry, and other forms of expression. They then exchanged magazines with students in another state to learn about other perspectives during this national crisis.

On Friday afternoons Hyla teachers host Zoom hangouts for each grade to give students a space to connect, catch up, and be themselves.

Students in the Spring Photography Challenge get fresh air as they capture beautiful moments of the season around their homes.
The capital campaign is all about supporting the many ways that Hyla says YES to students. It’s about what that YES builds in them — confidence, voice, community, creativity, and independence — and what they do with the YES that grows in them.

By providing students and teachers with improved learning spaces and resources, we deepen their engagement. Through this work, we equip teachers to say YES even more and we extend the possibilities of what students accomplish at school and beyond.

**IN ONLY TWO YEARS WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH!**

**SUCCESSFUL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:**
Thanks to astounding generosity from leadership donors, we are able to conclude the critical leadership phase of the Capital Campaign — in just under two years! Thanks to the enthusiastic leadership of early donors, we are now ready to launch the essential community giving phase where we invite the entire community to join us and invest in Hyla’s health and longevity.

**Join Us**
Everyone in the Hyla community plays a role in the success of this campaign. Together we can reach our goal and ensure years of child-centered, hands-on learning at Hyla. Please pledge online!
• Fully Renovated Campus & Improved Environmental Footprint:
The renovation created enlarged classrooms, new administrative offices, improved natural lighting, increased storage, flexible workspace, the HyLab (our makerspace), improved indoor air quality with new HVAC systems, a new lounge (with kitchenette) connected to the new Counselor’s office, and significantly reduced energy use across campus — no more fossil fuels!

• Options for Re-opening During the Pandemic:
When we began this work, we never could have imagined how critical and urgent extra square footage, air quality and flexible space would be, giving us essential agility and options that allowed us to re-open in the 2020-2021 school year with new social distancing and health protocols in place.

• Brand New Community Hall on the Way:
When every other aspect of life shut down around us, our new building went up like a beacon of a hope and a promise of better times ahead when we can use the new stage, teaching kitchen, and gathering hall to witness student expression, encourage voice, and celebrate achievement. Despite the pandemic, Carley Construction continues to create this new community asset on time and on budget! We are forever grateful to the Carley team for their beautiful, dedicated work and to Studio Hamlet Architects for a design that seamlessly integrates with existing buildings and architectural lines across campus, while also creating a lovely new interior courtyard for students. The new building is slated for completion in early 2021.

1: Learning about light in the HyLab; 2: Art installations incorporate new skylights; 3: The covered walkway connects to the blue building porch; 4: The new stage emerges; 5: Plenty of elbow room and laughs in the new science lab; 6: Garage doors in the art room connect to the porch for extra workspace, light, and fresh air!
Hyla Auction 2020

Together we raised $121,423 that goes directly to Hyla’s mission, tuition assistance, and strategic growth.

Due to COVID-19, this was our first ever online auction and the Hyla community showed up! Current parents, alumni families, grandparents, local businesses, teachers, and staff all tuned in, donated, bid, and clicked for Hyla. Thank you for bringing your indomitable Hyla spirit to the online auction platform, for your generosity, and for keeping the tradition of giving strong at Hyla.

**PARENT VOLUNTEERS**

**Procurement**
Alison Stokes

**Graphic Design**
Julie Schick

**RSA & Accelevents**
Eun-Sook Goidel, Chelsea Vessenes

**Decorations**
Alissa Kozuh, Kate O’Brien

**Dessert Dash Coordinator**
Heather Moore Paradis

With gratitude to all who volunteered to join the team before we had to cancel the evening at Wing Point and convert to an online auction: Soomie Ahn, Marlene Connolly, Carmen Epstein, Miin Houseman, Aisle McCarter, Lisa Sarfati, Vanathi Siddaiah, Sue Somers, Amy Turner, Alison Viñoly, Eileen Ward.

“\[I do love the Auction! Hyla does a great job building community. We parents get to feel the same magic that the kids feel. It engenders pride in me to be able to generously give to specific projects at the Auction. I love the teacher wish list. I love the idea of partnering with them to help bring more joy into their classrooms.\]”

—Kate O’Brien, 8th grade and alumni mom
Not even a pandemic slows down Hyla parent volunteers!

Thank you for your generous spirit and talents! From ping pong tournaments to photography, from stage make-up to bread baking, from graduation bouquets to online auctions, you filled this year with your creativity and personalities, enriching our community. You taught teachers how to Zoom, made sure our 8th graders had a beautiful graduation ceremony, fed teachers during conference week, and so much more.

**GRADE REPS**
- 6th: Lara Demos and Barnali Reardon
- 7th: Heather Moore Paradis and Sarah Sydor
- 8th: Julie Schick and Gretchen Gende

**BARN PARTY**
Elizabeth Mitchell, Adrienne Brown, Kate O’Brien, Michelle Bailey, Julianna Wesner, Julie Schick, Buckshot members: Johnny Bregar, Mike Derzon, and Peter Vosshall.

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DINNER**
Alison Viñoly and Cherie Levan

**PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY**
Johnny Bregar, Stuart Stranahan, Jil Peters

**AUCTION**
See auction page

**GRADUATION**
See graduation page

**TEACHER TRAINING**
Stephanie Farquhar and Peter Murchie

**LANDSCAPING**
Andy Maron

**6TH GRADE PLAY**
Parents: Lara Demos, Shannon Dorsey, Elise Goodham, Katherine Johns, Nicole Kraft, Jil Peters, Barnali Reardon, Alison Stokes, Alison Viñoly, Alumni: Nevi Meyers, Lucy Rector, Sydney Sorensen

“"The best part of volunteering for me is feeling connected to the school and other families. When I volunteer, I meet other parents and learn more about them and their kids, and have fun at the same time.”

—Alissa Kozuh, 7th grade mom
Celebrating the Class of 2020

Car parade in June:
After exit interviews in June, we welcomed graduates for a festive drive-through on the upper field with music, confetti, crazy costumes, and decorated cars.

Graduation in August:
In August we returned to the upper field for a distance graduation ceremony where students shared testimonials while families listened from their cars, around the perimeter of the field. Students spoke from a podium in a tent, in front of a colorful mural made by Kimber. Despite the different set up, students were still surrounded by teachers and family, parents made the ceremony beautiful with floral arrangements and decorations, and in keeping with tradition, the threatening rain clouds broke into glorious sunshine just in time for the ceremony.

GRADUATION VOLUNTEERS 2020
Heidi Blair, Vicki Culp, Carmen Epstein, Eun-Sook Goidel, Katherine Johns, Alissa Kozuh, Sallie Maron, Aerin Nicole, Anita Rockefeller
Thank you to the class of 2020

8TH GRADE LEGACY GIFT

When 8th graders decided to build a ball bin for the sport court, they made blueprints of their own designs. They submitted their ideas, voted on a final design, and then worked with volunteers at BARN to create final specs. Students began construction but had to postpone the project until social distancing measures are lifted. We cannot wait until the day that we can hear the sounds of lively ball games on the sport court again and we are grateful for this addition to our campus. Special thanks to Julie Schick for coordinating this project.

“I volunteer at Hyla because it’s a fun way to get involved and meet other families. It’s important to me to be a part of the Hyla community and to get to know the staff, the students and parents who interact with my children every day. It’s also very rewarding to help create an event that delights and brings the community together. My hope is that these events will help strengthen the bond our children have, even after they graduate from Hyla.”

—Julie Schick, 6th grade and alumni mom
We gratefully acknowledge the following Annual Fund and Auction donors.

CURRENT PARENTS
Maura Ahearne and Johnny Bregar ~*
Molly and Steven Apel ~
Michelle and Timothy Bailey ~
Brandon Broga ~
Meg and William Bromfield ~*
Adrienne and John Brown ~*
Allyson Brown and Greg McNutt ~*
Victor Cheng ~
Kathy Clifford ~*
Nick Cloke ~
Meggan and Donald Conklin ~*
Carol Ann Davidson and John Bonow ~*
Lara and Emmet Demos ~
Narinder and Sukhi Dhillon ~
Shannon and John Dorsey ~*
Susan and Parker Dunn ~*
Megan and Fred Eiden ~*
Sharon Eiler and Ryan Turner ~
Stephanie Farquhar and Peter Murchie ~*
Lana Fuller and Ted Siebert ~*
Gretchen Gende and Steve Willey ~
Elise and Tom Goodham ~*
Pamela and John Griner ~*
Cynthia Hall ~
Jennifer and Cary Hills ~*
Tracey and Blair Hines ~*
Sarah and Jim Hopper ~*
Susan and Scott James ~*
Barbara and John Kittell ~*
Alissa Kozuh and Ian Saunders ~*
Nicole and Alex Kraft ~*
Rayne and Joseph Lacko ~
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Barnali and Michael Reardon ~
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Lisa Sarfati and Todd Heimes ~
Julie and Bradley Schick ~*
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Karen Segerson ~
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Linda and Stuart Stranahan ~*
Ingrid Swanson and Paul Ferrel ~
Darya Swingle and Jason Hamilton ~*
Sarah and Michael Sydor ~
Chelsea and Peter Vessenes ~*
Alison and Paco Vifoly ~*
Eileen Ward ~
Juliana and Gregory Wesner ~*

ALUMNI PARENTS
Soomie Ahn and Casper Sorensen ~*
Beckey Anderson and Dan Rosenberg ~
Linda and John Arnsdorf ~
Thomas Backer ~
Heidi and Chris Blair ~
Leslie and David Brown ~
Mike Burns ~
Cristy Caldwell ~
Carol and Dave Carley ~
Marlene Connolly ~
Timothy Connolly ~
John Davis ~
Mary Kay Dolejsi and Chris Russell ~
Marilyn and Dan Dubitzky ~
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Cherie and Joe Levan ~
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Julie and Steve Matthews ~*
Dinah and Rob Satterwhite ~
Gretchen and Matt Scoble ~
Susan and Mark Shaffer ~
Jennie and James Sheldon ~
Sue Somers ~
Robin Supplee and Mike Derzon ~*
Laurie and David Tinker ~
Ann Wilkinson and John Ellis ~
THANK YOU

FACULTY AND STAFF — CURRENT & PAST
Betsy and Paul Carroll
Anna Cinamon
Vicki and Matt Culp
Emelio DiSabato
Karolynn Flynn and Roger Katz
Alex Guest
Cami Holtmeier and Peter Korytko
Katherine Johns and Jack Cantwell
Laura and Robert Jones
Carrington Quinn Lannon
Kate Lovejoy
David Maron
Suzanne Messinger
Kathie McCarthy and Kris Van Gieson
Jana Morris
Kris Rogers and Brad Butler
Cooper Rooks
Kiplinn Saggi Miller
Cindy and David Schacht
Jeff Steele
Kimberley Gorman Trick and Mead Trick

BOARD — CURRENT & PAST
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Tom and Larry Hines
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Lydia Harrison
Island Rock Gym LLC
Sue Lindsey
One Call for All
Phyllis McCrocklin
Sparkson Photography (Jennifer Jones)
Nancy Taylor
Robert Weschler

“Hyla supports the development of free human beings, with purpose and direction. We give to Hyla to create a better world. Creative, experimental and supportive, Hyla is a shining example of the strength of partnership between teachers and students. The world needs more schools like Hyla!”

—Shannon and John Dorsey, 6th and 7th grade parents
Faculty & Board 2019-2020

**FACULTY & STAFF 2019-2020**
Anna Cinamon
Vicki Jenkins Culp
Emelio DiSabato
Alex Guest
Jennifer Haase
Cami Holtmeier
Katherine Johns
Carrington Quinn Lannon
Andrew Lovejoy
Kate Lovejoy
David Maron
Suzanne Messinger
Jana Morris
Josh Porter
Kris Rogers
Cooper Rooks
Kiplinn Sagmiller
Cindy Schacht
Chris Soldevilla
Jeff Steele
Kimberly Gorman Trick

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Ralph Derrickson, Treasurer
Emily Eigen*
Cortney George
Eun-Sook Goidel
Scott James
Suzanne Messinger, Head of School
Steve Prentice
Karen Rice, President
Mary Kay Thompson*
Dana Willerford, Vice President and Secretary

We are grateful to departing trustees Emily Eigen and Mary Kay Thompson for your years of thoughtful service on the Hyla Board.

We are pleased to welcome new trustees Amy Lenahan and Leigh Noffsinger to the Hyla Board for 2020-2021.
For your convenience...

Online giving is available at www.hylamiddleschool.org.
Click the “Give!” button in the upper right corner.

Hyla Middle School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin, religion, disability, gender, sexual preference, or any other protected classification under state, federal, or local law in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, financial aid awards, or any other school-administered program.

FINANCIALS

REVENUE

- Tuition & Fees $1,628,753
- Contributions $182,321
- Miscellaneous $9,421
- Distribution from Funds $82,749

Total Revenue $1,903,244

EXPENSES

- Staff Compensation $1,398,333
- Teaching & Admin. Support $195,743
- Fundraising & Marketing $37,591
- Facilities & Maintenance $76,361
- Loan Expenses $28,517
- Insurance $38,238
- Expenditures to Funds $128,461

Total Expenses $1,903,244
Farewell to Vicki Jenkins Culp

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your leadership, care, and devotion to Hyla for over ten years. It was a joy to gather as a faculty under the apple tree on the last day of school to share our appreciation for you and what you have done for Hyla. Much like the blossoms in your garden, Hyla students have grown into their bright potential under your care and nurturing. Thank you for being a shepherd of Hyla’s mission to help this school grow, too. We wish you all the best!