



# Making an Impact

## Your Generosity at Work

November / December 2020

### Dear Families & Friends of TMS

This Annual Report for the 2019-20 school year will reflect a significant chapter in our school history and in the lives of our families, as the year in which a global pandemic began. Educators everywhere were shocked by the sudden school closure mandated on March 13, 2020. Immediately, both our families and our teachers were challenged to adapt quickly to new circumstances, which meant no in person learning for children. As Head of School, I was acutely aware of the courageous and tireless way that our staff rose to the challenge of continuing to educate children of all ages virtually.

Likewise, I was deeply aware of the trauma that our

families felt  
last spring as  
their work

lives collided with family needs. This was a time that tested us in ways that we had not been tested before.



In response to the rapidly developing situation last spring, we had to make a number of difficult decisions that we determined to be necessary to meet the growing need for strict health and safety measures, but not jeopardize our mission as an authentic Montessori school. We reduced our staff to Montessori classroom guides and their assistants and just two administrators. We limited

our class sizes to comply with 6-foot distance requirements and upgraded our ventilation system. We suspended special classes and closed the library to create stable cohorts within individual Montessori classrooms. In a short period of time, we went from a school of 130 children to just 91 and a staff of 32 to 21. During the summer, we invested many hours and dollars into upgrading and improving our Distance Learning



Program. By the start of the 2020-21 school year, we had lost people, programs and dollars, but we had preserved what we hold most dear, our core Montessori program.

From my vantage point today, nine months later, I am able to look in the rear view mirror through a rose colored filter. In the four short months of the new school year, I

have seen a remarkable rebound in the spirit of this community. As dire as our situations were last spring, we have proven that as a community, we are resilient, are united, and are committed to our common goal of keeping young children in school. I have been humbled by our families' response to the needs of TMS. What felt at the time as impossible to deal with, I now view as a triumph in our response to a tremendous challenge.

I offer the Annual Report of The Montessori School for 2019-20 as a testament to the strength of our community, and a reminder of what can be accomplished when we work together. You will see reflected in these pages what may be historically a low point monetarily. However, please take time to read the names and contributions of the people that inspired us to never give up supporting The Montessori School. The Board and I are grateful to all of those who persisted and showed us the way to come back! I dedicate this Annual Report to those listed within these pages.

Laura Stulb, Head of School

## Alumni News

**Alice Wistar '10** / Following her years at TMS, Alice graduated from Germantown Friends School, then enrolled at Princeton University where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa in May 2020. At GFS, Alice was an A student and an avid runner, where she was a four-season track and cross country athlete. At college, Alice rowed crew her freshman year, where she was a coxswain, and then ran on the club team the last three years. Alice spent her junior spring semester in Madrid, Spain, where she studied and traveled all over Europe. Alice is an excellent student, very articulate, and attributes her academic curiosity to her early years at TMS. She majored in Spanish but her real love is the impact of human food consumption and production on



the world's climate. Alice's senior thesis at Princeton on that topic may soon be published in a respected academic journal. Alice's love of travel has taken her to Europe, Peru, Thailand, China, Argentina, and all over the US. She even spent two weeks working an herb farm in Crete. Alice is an avid vegan, and is currently on a fellowship to a Costa Rica university studying the effects of farming on climate change. The fellowship is online currently, but she hopes to go Costa Rica in the spring.

**Nick Boucher '04** / In 2014, Nick graduated from Goucher College with a degree in environmental studies, and a Master's from SEAS (School for Environment and Sustainability) at University of Michigan in 2018 where he was the graduation speaker. Nick currently works for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, an international treaty organization that coordinates research and management of the Great Lakes between the US and Canada. Nick is involved with the Great Lakes Acoustic Telemetry Observation System (GLATOS), a network of researchers that implant fish with tracking devices to study how fish move throughout the Great Lakes. While at New Horizons, as TMS was formerly known, Nick was one of Cindy Robinson's first toddlers, and he credits Dawn Fastiggi with fostering his love of fish!



**The 2020 TMS graduates** had the distinct honor of being the first class ever to graduate via Zoom! Watch the [ceremony here on Vimeo](#). Our grads and current schools:



**Betty Burke**  
*The Grayson School*



**Ashya Farahi**  
*Abington Friends School*



**Ingrid Kasenchar**  
*Wissahickon Middle School*



Isabel Li  
*Crefeld School*



Kate Mincieli  
*Our Lady of Mount Carmel School*



Ruhin Shaheed  
*Tohickon Middle School*

## Thank You, Parent Volunteers!

We are grateful for all who helped with Admission Open Houses and tours, Martin Luther King Jr Day of Service planning, prepping for the Upper EI play, classroom events, and more during 2019-20. Thank you for helping to keep things running smoothly! Our apologies if we have overlooked anyone!

Amy Brickman  
Yuzhen Chen  
Elizabeth & Martijn Driehuis  
Siriporn Garritt  
Barb Gorman  
Esther Han  
Carla Koshy  
Nanci Kulig

Heidi Lengel  
Jenny Limm & Ki Joon Hong  
Jeanne Mincieli  
Sophie Oh  
Meera Patel  
Loyi Pyano  
Sixth grade parents for their help with Bingo Nite

Tammy Tran  
Amy Turner  
Rashida & Timothy Welbeck  
Zhigen Zhao  
Laura & John Zhu  
Yuliya Zhurba

## 2019-20 TMS Annual Fund Donors

We are sincerely grateful for these donors to last year's Annual Fund who helped keep TMS strong! Gifts made after July 31, 2020, will be acknowledged in next year's Annual Report. We have strived to ensure that each donor is listed correctly. If an error has occurred, please accept our apology and notify us of our mistake.

**- CURRENT PARENTS -**

Lori & Nick Battista  
Kimberly & Douglas Burke /  
**TRUSTEE**

Tracy Burzycki & Steve  
Hiltabiddle

Yuzhen Chen & Guangkai  
Shi

Kimberly & Jason Coss  
Martijn & Elizabeth Driehuis  
Riina & Lee Elsey

Siriporn & Frances Garritt  
Ki Joon Hong & Jenny Limm  
Carla & Shane Koshy /

**TRUSTEE**

Heidi & Andrew Lengel  
Meredith Matone & Ray  
Cross

Sarah Moffatt & David La  
Salle

Sophie & Simon Oh

Meera & Rujul Patel

Cassandra & Kenneth Ruff  
Sarah & Jason Schein

Rachel & Matt Shearon /  
**TRUSTEE**

Anastasiia Statiukha

Lydia Stulb & Trey Butler

Lisa & Keith Tietjen

Tammy Tran & Matt Brinker  
Maya Washington & Micklos  
Foster

Ivy Wei Qin & David Li  
Rashida & Timothy Welbeck  
/ **TRUSTEE**

Oya & Ali Yuksel

**- GRANDPARENTS -**

Beth & Jed Margolis,  
*grandparents of Sophie  
Taylor '22*

Laura & Ed Stulb,  
*grandparents of Fourd &*

*Saylor Butler, Adam Stulb  
& Colin Magowan*  
Ngoc Tran & Tuyet Truong,  
*grandparents of Molly,  
Miles & Lucy Brinker /*  
**TRUSTEE**

**- ALUMNI PARENTS -**

Dr Michael & Maureen  
Caulfield

Riza & Stephen Cebula

Tai & Ruth Chang

Lucinda Duncalfe & Russell  
Holt

Glenn & Jovitita Eiger

Linda Hart & Nick Sippl

Bil Kasenchar & Nanci Kulig

Keri & Dave Kelly

Seema & Vinod Khetarpal

Jim & Joan Levin

Lynne & Scott Pierce

Sara Shay & John

McCauley

Karen Walsh & Jay

Lipshultz / **TRUSTEE**

Susan & John Zaharchuk /  
**TRUSTEE**

**- ALUMNI -**

Julia Levin '02 / **TRUSTEE**

Amy Robinson '96

Julia Robinson '98

Grace Sippl '18

Jesse Sippl '18

**- FRIENDS -**

Marjorie Horton / **TRUSTEE**

**- STAFF -**

Sutapa Bakshi

Cecilia Beck

Megan Belinsky

Erin Burke

Jackie Cooper  
Kimberly Coss  
Janet Easlea-Kemp

Dawn Fastiggi

Nicole Glaser

Dee Hosaisy

Elena Janeczko

Jessica Jensen

Michael Johnson

Keri Kelly

Seema Khetarpal

Lara Magge

Taylor Myers

Amy Robinson '96

Cindy Robinson

Julia Robinson '98

Gail Roth

Cathy Struck

Laura Stulb

Elizabeth Telliard

Charlotte Vogel

Marivel Washington

Maya Washington

**- BUSINESSES -**

Amazon Smile Foundation

Benevity Community Impact  
Fund

Box Tops for Education

Merck

**- EITC DONORS -**

Edwards Business Systems

Jim & Joan Levin

Tracey & Rod Sandmeyer

Karen Walsh & Jay

Lipshultz / **TRUSTEE**

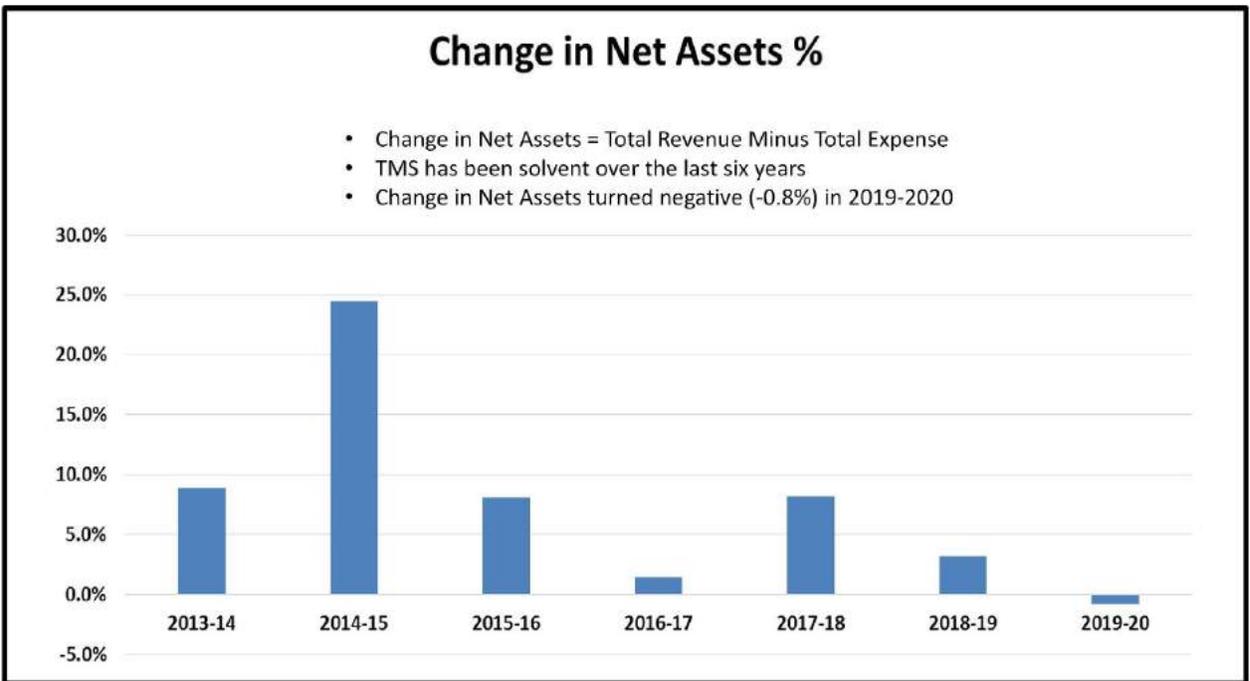
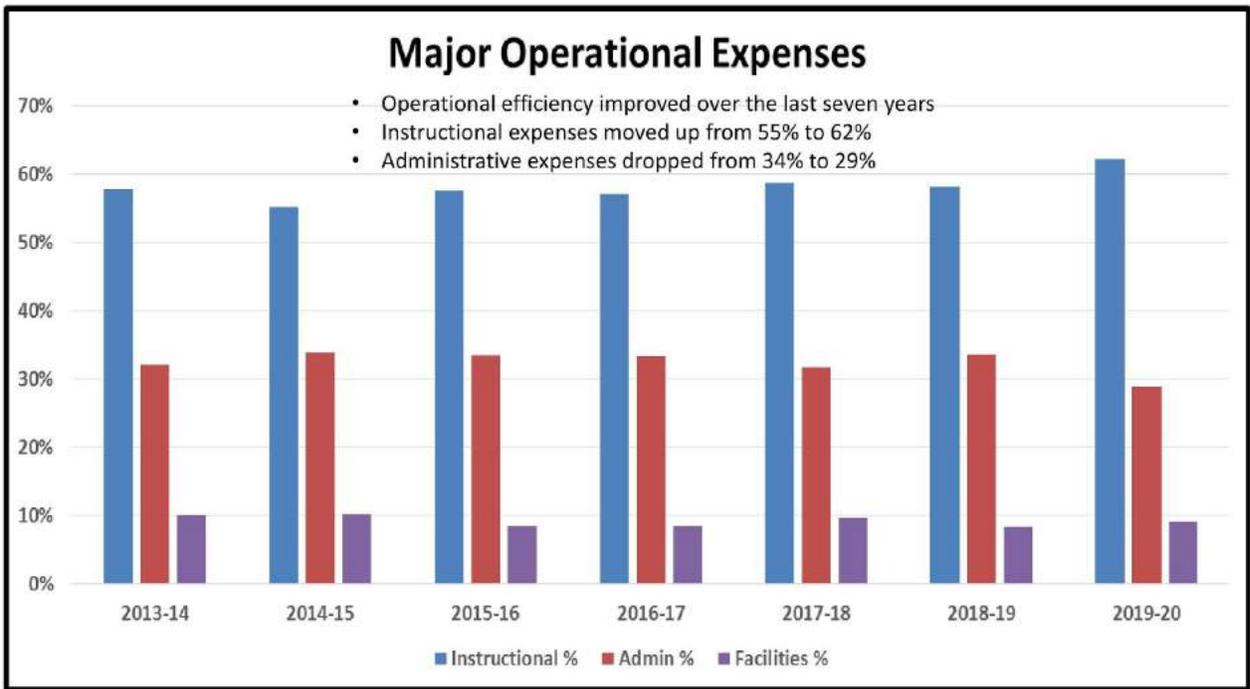
Susan & John Zaharchuk /

**TRUSTEE**

**- IN-KIND-GIFTS -**

Tavo Packaging, Inc

# Expenses & Income



School Year	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
<b>Total Expenses</b>	1,951,278	1,944,180	2,194,354	2,149,410	2,172,913	2,270,699	2,070,088
Mortgage Payment	189,772	177,877	254,621	220,924	205,901	271,954	239,635
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	1,761,506	1,766,303	1,939,733	1,928,486	1,967,012	1,998,745	1,830,453
Instructional Expenses	1,016,637	974,051	1,115,947	1,101,220	1,153,186	1,162,480	1,137,628
Admin Expenses	563,939	597,571	648,553	641,679	623,667	670,336	527,572
Facilities Expenses	177,009	179,665	164,177	161,611	189,235	165,289	165,253
Instructional %	57.7%	55.1%	57.5%	57.1%	58.6%	58.2%	62.2%
Admin %	32.0%	33.8%	33.4%	33.3%	31.7%	33.5%	28.8%
Facilities %	10.0%	10.2%	8.5%	8.4%	9.6%	8.3%	9.0%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	2,141,435	2,574,820	2,387,727	2,181,174	2,366,421	2,344,349	2,053,558
Operating Income	1,975,742	2,197,211	2,263,394	2,074,246	2,177,041	2,121,240	2,007,672
Funding Raising	165,693	377,609	124,333	106,928	189,380	223,109	45,886
Change in Net Assets	190,158	630,639	193,373	31,764	193,508	73,650	(16,530)
Change in Net Assets %	8.9%	24.5%	8.1%	1.5%	8.2%	3.1%	-0.8%
<b>Covenant Ratio</b>	2.00	4.55	1.76	1.14	1.94	1.27	0.93

## How Can I Donate to TMS?

**THE BEST WAY TO GIVE** is to double your gift! In honor of Sue Zaharchuk's unwavering support of TMS over the past many years, we have named our Annual Fund in her honor, the *Haines-Zaharchuk Annual Education Fund*. Your gifts to the Annual Fund will memorialize her wish to perpetuate The Montessori School for years to come. Gifts made to this fund will directly impact the children of TMS through scholarships, enriched Montessori programs and a financially stable school. In this historic year, your generosity is needed *now more than ever*. [Click here to make your gift!](#)

**CASH / CREDIT CARD GIFTS** The easiest way to make a gift to TMS is to write a check and mail it to TMS, 1701 Jarrettown Rd, Dresher, PA 19025. Or, [donate from our website](#) using your preferred credit card.

**CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS** Many companies match employees' charitable giving. Check with the human resources department of your employer for more information, and double your gift!

**GIFTS-IN-KIND** These donations may consist of furnishings, art, musical instruments, books, etc. TMS will provide a gift receipt as your tax acknowledgment.

**BEQUESTS** A bequest is donation of cash, personal property or real estate provided in the donor's will to a non-profit institution. Consult your tax advisor for assistance.

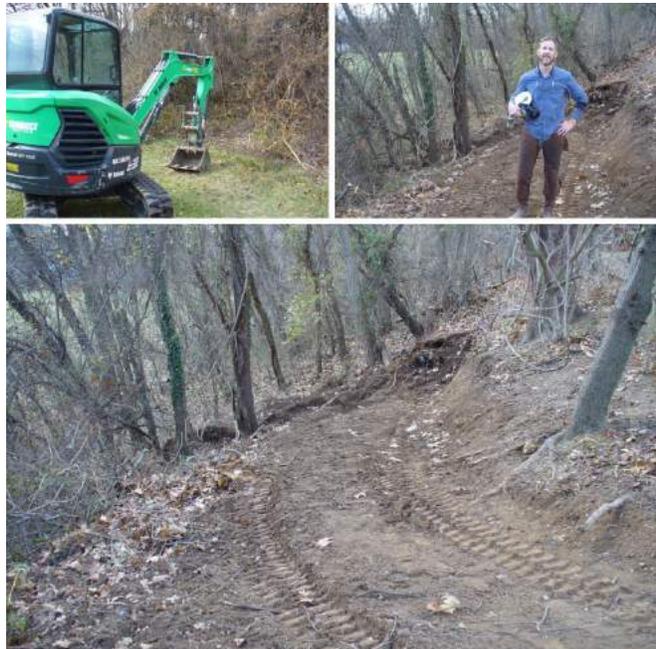
**GIFTS OF STOCK** A gift of appreciated securities can bring the donor greater tax savings than a gift of cash. Check with your financial advisor for assistance.

**UNITED WAY** Look for "The Montessori School Association" (or our former name, "New Horizons Montessori School Assoc"). For UW of Greater Philadelphia and Southern NJ, look for Code #3568: The Montessori School Association.

**EITC** The Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) provides greater access to education through public/private collaboration. Pennsylvania offers a unique opportunity for businesses as well as individuals to reduce tax liability by contributing to registered scholarship organizations like TMS.

## New at TMS: The Chang Trail

Last December, John Copeland of the Kennebec Trail Company in Maine blazed a new trail, the Chang Trail, through the back hill down to the playing fields. John came at the behest of Tai and Ruth Chang, former TMS trustee and parents of Nate '18, who initiated, sponsored and helped coordinate this project. The trail is easier and more convenient to manage for children than the cement steps. It also adds a level of fun and excitement when walking up or down the hill!



We extend our sincere thanks to Tai and Ruth and family!

# Community Service Project

This year's Community Service Project on Martin Luther King Jr Day centered on the assembling of beside activity bags for hospitalized children and creating baby gift bags. We appreciate the parents who helped to coordinate this effort and deliver the materials, and the families who came to help. We especially appreciate Timothy & Rashida Welbeck, TMS parents and TMS trustee, who explained the meaning of social justice in terms that children could more easily understand.



# Reading Olympics

The Upper El participants of the TMS “Chapter: Montessori Champions” Reading Olympics team reached their target goal of a Blue Ribbon in early March, just days before schools in Pennsylvania were closed due to the COVID pandemic. Reading Olympics is an annual event that draws in many other competing schools in the area. The Montessori Champions did a great job fielding questions from over 40 books taken from the Montgomery County reading list, earning the team a Blue Ribbon!



## Upper El Play, “13 Colonies”

Due to the COVID pandemic, the Upper El students, under the direction of Dee Hosaisy and Cathy Struck, and assisted by Jackie Cooper, were able to perform their spring play, “13 Colonies”, only one time.



You can see the Upper El drama production on Vimeo: [Click Here and Enjoy the Show!](#)

## 50 Years of Educating Children

TMS reached a significant milestone this year in its mission of educating children! We would like to honor our founding families, who spent countless hours, energy and finances to establish a Montessori school in 1970 called New Horizons Montessori School:

Lloyd & Gwen Bobb  
Stuart & Rochelle Deutchman  
Manfred & Lois Dorn  
John & Jean Kiernan

Irving & Mildred Orenstein  
Norman & Eleanor Pomplas  
Terry & Juanita Sanks  
Hugo & Virginia Verges  
Andrew & Matilda Verzill

We are indebted to the following who provided major support for the acquisition and improvement of our school in 2006 at a crucial time in history when New Horizons moved to its current campus in Dresher:

The Zaharchuk Family  
The DiCesare-Gurin Family  
Jayne & David Haines  
Hyun Susan & Chip Goodman

Lucinda & Russell Holt  
The Sandmeyer Family  
Bonnie, Aleah & Aja '08 Sullivan  
Linda & Jay White

Elaine & James Wistar  
Cindy Yule & Tom Abbott  
Maureen & Michael Caulfield  
Jennifer & Steven Clark  
Alicia & John Davis  
Karen & Ed Irizzary  
The Karr Family  
Rebecca Smith & Nathan Janes  
Tamra Goodrow & David Kistner

The Levin Family  
Tricia Senft & Ricki Roberson  
The Stern-Sternberg Family  
Debbie & Jerry Ter Doest  
The Weyand Family  
C. Cresson Wistar  
Elizabeth & Dr. Carter Zeleznik

For a complete history of The Montessori School, [please visit “History of TMS”, a historical perspective](#). This document includes information extracted from newsletters and other sources. Most of the description of 1970-80 is based on the history written and compiled by Janet Nuessle. If you have corrections or other edits that you want us to know about, please email them to [jeaslea@themontessorischool.us](mailto:jeaslea@themontessorischool.us).

