



Pacific Crest School
Montessori Education for Life

Pacific Crest School

600 NW Bright Street

Seattle, WA 98107

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PacificCrest.org



Pacific Crest School

2016-2017
Annual Report

Our mission Our mission is to provide a dynamic learning environment that exemplifies the principles of Montessori education. We foster independence, self discipline and joy in our students so that they are prepared to participate with confidence as citizens in a changing world.

Pacific Crest School provides the foundation from which students explore their wider community through service and extensions to the land at the Pacific Crest Farm Campus.

Opportunities to fully integrate their experiences are provided through our visual arts programs, creative writing, research, oral and written presentations. As a result students leave their Montessori education with a sense of personal vision and a belief in their ability to make the world a better place

Our Vision The vision of Pacific Crest School is that our urban and rural programs and campuses merge into a unified program with both components guided by the mission.

Our vision is to continue to refine our role as an exemplary Montessori program that is recognized as a model of Montessori education, past, present and future.

Dear Pacific Crest Community,

Thanks to the creativity, commitment and generosity of spirit in each of our teachers, parents, staff and board members, Pacific Crest School accomplished a great deal in 2016/17. Together this school created innumerable, unique opportunities for our children to discover new insights and new courage as they grew within this community.

This year all of our staff benefited from many professional development opportunities thanks to the generous Raise the Paddle Fund organized at our last auction. Teachers and assistants at all levels attended workshops and trainings on topics that included music, Montessori observation and analysis, Brain Development and Executive Function, Mathematics across the levels, Adolescent Valorization, Anti-Bias, and school administration. More professional development funds remain and are earmarked for exciting opportunities in 2017/18.

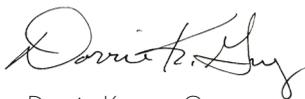
During the summer, we hosted an AMI Primary teacher training program led by an extraordinary teacher and trainer, Mary Raudonis Loew - and several of our assistants are enrolled. All of these opportunities and more have led to an exciting dynamic of discovery and dialogue among our staff and brought innumerable gifts to all of our children.

As a community of parents and staff, we engaged in important conversations about how we can provide essential opportunities for the fullest development of the whole child in a high tech world. In the spring, Dr. Steve Hughes, a pediatric neuropsychologist and Chair of the AMI Global Research Committee, addressed the whole community, explaining how all three levels of Montessori education align with the latest neurological understanding of brain development.

This year our staff was called to look for and create new opportunities to explore the arts, music and the farm to the fullest extent within the classroom and during afterschool and summer programs. This resulted in singing across Primary, after school singing groups and 17 more days at the farm. We completed a thorough self-study for our School Accreditation with Advanced Education, Inc., We got our van fleet in top shape, made some needed repairs to both of our school buildings, and ended the year with a balanced budget.

In June of 2017, we graduated our 25th class of 8th grade middle school students. This benchmark inspired us to reach out to both alumni and our current families and staff. Using a formal Strategic Planning process in 2017/18, we will reflect together on our strengths and define our goals for the coming years. Thank you for for joining us in this great adventure!

With gratitude,



Dorrie Knapp-Guy
Head of School

Pacific Crest Board

Tiffany Volosin
Kate Hastings
Jutta Von Stieglitz
Ginelle Cousins
Dana Hovig
Danny McGregor
Thomas B. Nedderman
Mark Peterson
Laura Ray

Welcome Pacific Crest School parents and community,

Several months into the new school year, our dedicated community continues to embrace enthusiastic new faces, welcome back returning ones and strengthen connections with alumni and the larger PCS network. Our talented faculty and staff make magic happen with our children each and every day, and we have an inspired, dedicated Head of School in Dorrie.

Our school is in the best place we've ever been and we are poised for good things ahead.

We are increasingly recognized for the best Montessori education available. Our thoughtful leadership is becoming more apparent within the region and beyond, most recently as host to this summer's AMI training program (including 4 from our own staff) and, this fall, hosting some of the greatest minds in Montessori from across the globe as part of the AMI Bold Goal Project.

As the Board continues its work with Dorrie, we are enthusiastic to focus on important long-term planning for the school, including efforts surrounding a strategic plan, financials and facilities.

Thank you for being a part of this important, growing Montessori community and for getting involved in volunteer efforts for the betterment of our children's education. We appreciate every single one of you!



Tiffany Volosin
Board Chair

Financials

Many efforts of the Board and Head of School this past year focused on the the school's financial future. We hired a Director of Finance and Operations to support the Head of School and finance team. Together we utilized new financial tools to analyze our revenues and expenditures, we adjusted our tuitions accordingly for the 2017/18 school year and reduced operating costs. As a result of these efforts, we are pleased to report that the school year ended with a balanced budget and a strong footing for the coming year:

Revenues:	\$2,736,881
Operating expenses:	\$2,538,782
Operating net income:	\$198,099

The revenues produced through our parent organized fundraising efforts, our working farm, and generous gifts from individuals in our community all contributed to the financial strength of our school as a whole. The creativity and dedication of our faculty and staff allowed our children to reap the greatest opportunities from all of these investments.

Our whole school thrives when we all contribute our gifts and passions as we did this year. We thank you and appreciate all your efforts and volunteered service hours.

Continuing attention to the financial strength of the school will be a component of the Strategic Planning process, which kicks off in the 2017/18 school year.

Fiscal Year 2016-2017

(August 1, 2016 - July 31, 2017)

Revenue

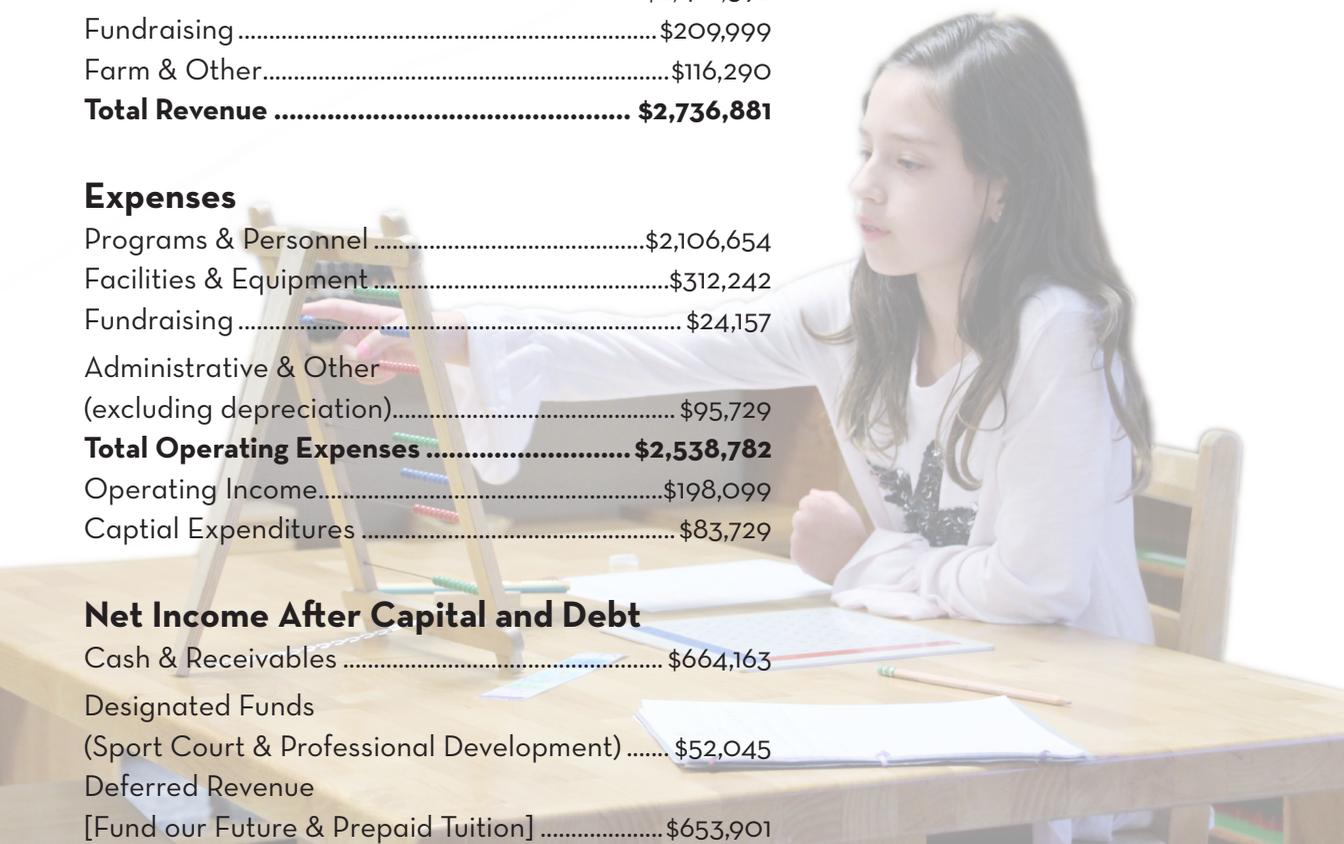
Tuition & Fees	\$2,410,592
Fundraising	\$209,999
Farm & Other.....	\$116,290
Total Revenue	\$2,736,881

Expenses

Programs & Personnel	\$2,106,654
Facilities & Equipment	\$312,242
Fundraising	\$24,157
Administrative & Other (excluding depreciation).....	\$95,729
Total Operating Expenses	\$2,538,782
Operating Income.....	\$198,099
Capital Expenditures	\$83,729

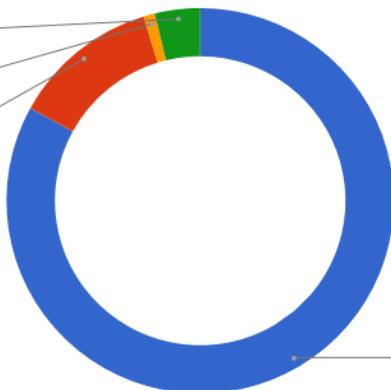
Net Income After Capital and Debt

Cash & Receivables	\$664,163
Designated Funds (Sport Court & Professional Development)	\$52,045
Deferred Revenue	
[Fund our Future & Prepaid Tuition]	\$653,901



Operating Expenses

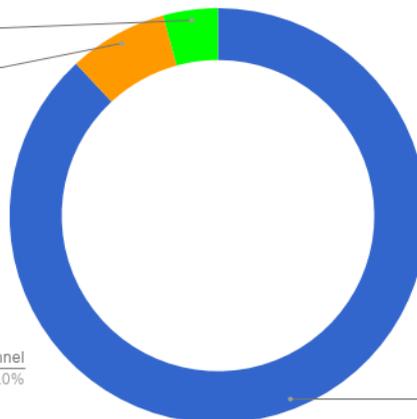
Administrative & Other
3.8%
Fundraising
1.0%
Facilities & Equipment
12.3%



Program & Personnel
83.0%

Revenue

Farm & Other
4.2%
Fundraising
7.7%



Tuition & Fees
88.1%



Community

“The Pacific Crest Community is made up of supportive teachers and adults who do the difficult and intensely human work of raising up well a functioning, alert, curious and joyful child.”

Tim and Manuela,
parents of Casper, 6th grade



Annual Events

At Pacific Crest, we work and celebrate together! Within each classroom, our teachers nurture robust small communities -- and in our shared spaces and times beyond those walls, a broader community, cultivated and sustained by older students, faculty, staff, parents and grandparents, reveals even greater gifts to our children.

As adults dedicated to supporting the human development to the fullest degree, we find ways for each child, parent and staff member to contribute to events large and small that keep our school community vibrant. Our children absorb so much from seeing older and younger students, their parents and other adults engage in the responsibilities, the opportunities and the unique joys of being an active member of this incredible community of families.

Parents volunteer their time and many skills to support student directed projects within the classroom and in the broader Seattle community. They also create after school activities and orchestrate fabulous whole school, parent events, like our elegant Arts Night, the beloved Spring Farm Celebration, a record breaking Annual Fund Campaign and many garden and farm work parties that keep our campuses healthy and beautiful.

For new families, volunteering is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other families and to start forging long lasting relationships. Our Parent Coordinators play a key role in organizing opportunities to connect and contribute to efforts within the classroom, After Care, Farm and Whole School communities.

Thank you all, for your engagement in this great work that we do together.

New Parent Social

Summer Picnics at the Farm

Middle School Retreat

Farm and Garden Work Parties

Cider Making at the Farm

Arts Night

Frugal Lunch

Primary Parent Teas

Wreath Making, Gingerbread House Decorating + Book Fair

Winter Solstice

Pancake Breakfast and Talent Show

Middle School Play

Spring Farm Celebration

Spring Fling Dance

Whole School Plant Sale

Teacher Appreciation Lunch

Field Day



Programs

“Montessori provided me with a space to explore myself and become confident in the soundness of my own mind. Both the space to explore and the teachers interested in my development were extremely important for this!”

Ben Larson, class of 2009

Ben is a farmland data specialist for King County. He is passionate about geography and social justice, and uses maps to visualize complex, multi-disciplinary issues.

help me do it by myself

...The Primary Years

The specially prepared environment for the 3 to 6 year olds is truly a 'Children's House', where movement, sensorial exploration, cognitive development and independence are encouraged and facilitated. Our multi-aged classrooms allow the children to learn from each other while taking on roles that develop leadership, responsibility and confidence. Each child's freedom to engage in a chosen lesson for the amount of time she needs without being interrupted, allows the child to fully develop her self control, concentration, and a love of learning.

The young child takes in holistically all that is in his environment. Dr. Montessori called this powerful ability of the young child, 'the absorbent mind.' For this reason, the Primary guide knows that each and every word, act and component of the environment must be selected with great care. The absorbent mind of the child allows the child to learn with ease all that is around her, including social norms and progressively challenging lessons in practical life, math, language, sensorial and cultural areas.

For many children, the Primary classroom is their first introduction to a social environment outside the home. A small community is created where cooperation is encouraged and individuality is recognized. Until they begin staying for the entire school day ('extended day'), most lessons are given individually, allowing each child to progress at their own pace. Our goal is for each child to leave the Primary program with refined concentration skills, self-confidence and a sense of joy for purposeful activity.



97

Number of primary students

49 - 99

Number of mathematical works in each classroom (depending on how you count them!)

236

Number of hours spent outside each year

help me think for myself

...The Elementary Years

180

Hours of exposure to Spanish instructions

37

Average number of outings each year

15

Number of sciences explored: (geology, geography, biology, botany, zoology, physics, astronomy, paleontology, chemistry, physiology, oceanography, ecology, acoustics, molecular biology and genetics ...)

The Elementary program is designed according to developmental characteristics of the child aged 6 - 12: A heightened imagination, a reasoning mind, a deep desire to work in groups and a huge appetite for knowledge. All this shapes a curriculum that allows the child to investigate the great questions of this age: Where did the stars, the Earth and everything come from? How old is the sun? How do plants grow? How did people live in the ancient past, in deserts, in the arctic, in wild forest?

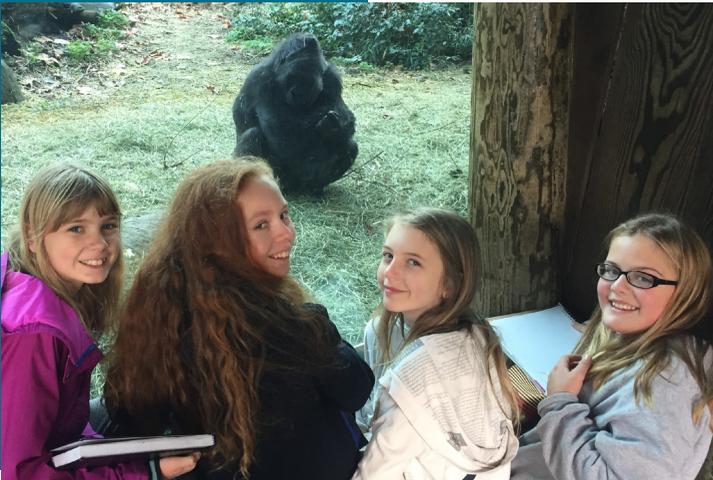
Our Elementary program begins each year with a series of Great Lessons that provide a broad framework within which children can organize all of their discoveries. We introduce the beginning of the universe and its laws, the beginning of life and its evolution, the story of human culture and civilizations, and the development of writing and mathematics. Through these stories and the resulting explorations, the child integrates the sciences and humanities. The child also discovers the innumerable gifts that both nature and humanity have inherited from the work of the elements, the cycles of living creatures and the anonymous and famous innovators who came before us

Increasingly drawn to work in groups, students must develop the skills that allow for fruitful collaboration. By planning and leading outings necessary to their own projects, children develop greater independence in practical and social situations. They learn how to work with adults in the broader community to find resources, gather information or make a difference in the lives of others. Throughout their years in the Montessori Elementary program, lessons and school participation encourage

creativity, independent thinking, and self-discipline as these older children learn to balance their own needs and interests with the needs of others.

"Our aim is not merely to make the child understand and still less to force him to memorize, but to touch his imagination as to enthuse him to his innermost core."

-Maria Montessori



help me find my place in society"

...The Adolescent Years

Maria Montessori believed adolescence to be a time of great possibility- Increased creativity, sensitivity to beauty and justice, critical thinking and a sensitive period for the development of a social being. Our program embraces the value of both intellectual and practical work as avenues to self-

construction and to fostering the development of the adolescent through academic study, creative expression, practical work, and the creation of an intentional community.



through our Occupations program, adolescents participate in and lead economic enterprises, acquiring concrete experience and self-sufficiency in systems of service and exchange that

“Adolescence is the time, the ‘sensitive period’ when there should develop the most noble characteristics that would prepare a man to be social: a sense of justice and a sense of personal dignity.”

- Maria Montessori



The Middle School utilizes the farm as a key part of our curriculum. The Pacific Crest Farm is an ideal place to study the interrelationships of natural and human systems on a simpler, more observable scale. Academic classes are also centered around a pedagogy of place, where the elements of each discipline are studied in relation to the real world we live in. Academic work also involves participation in community projects, making connections with neighbors and going on outings to observe the natural systems and human institutions that surround us. Our writing program, art studio, and annual play provide students with opportunities for creative expression. And through our Occupations program, adolescents participate in and lead economic enterprises, acquiring concrete experience and self-sufficiency in systems of service and exchange that form the foundations of human society. Creating and caring for a healthy community is an active part of the life of our Middle School students.

Through all of this, we aim to create a safe space for adolescents to practice the roles of adulthood - with adult-like work and responsibilities, relationships with caring adults, and opportunities for reflection.



the farm

Since the purchase of Pacific Crest Farm in 2004, countless hours of effort have gone into its renovation, improving many of the facilities for prolonged student visits and community events.

This hard work by students, parents, teachers, farm managers and interns has created an organic fruit and vegetable production business featuring more than two hundred varieties, bringing animals to the land and developing an integrated curriculum for all grade levels

The farm has become an important rural campus for the students and a beloved gathering place where the greater school community can work and celebrate together.

The farm supports our educational mission, providing a working farm and land extension of the urban campus that allows students to participate in the entire cycle of production on the land.

It invites us into relationship with a particular ecosystem and place where nature and human civilization meet and evolve together.

Primary students take special outings to the farm to explore this peaceful place with all of their senses through the changing seasons. Elementary students visit regularly in small groups to

join in the daily work of planting, harvesting, digging, hauling and some care of the farm animals. New studies are often sparked by or expanded through these farm experiences. Over time,

students develop a deep connection to and love for this rich piece of land and its unique community of lives.

Maria Montessori's vision for the adolescent program is based on living and working on a farm. The Farm meets the developmental needs of Middle School students for adult-like work, real and relevant experience that stretches their understanding of the relationship between nature and society.





Middle school students visit the Farm regularly and engage in crop production, food preparation, science investigations, and art/design projects. Through these learning experiences, our oldest students grow aware of their strengths and of the ways in which they can contribute to their communities.

In 2014, platform tents and composting toilets were purchased thanks to the funds generously donated at the Starlight Auction. These additions allow Middle School students to comfortably extend their visits overnight, strengthening their independence and letting them fully emerge in the hard work they practice at the Farm.

“Those with hands and no head and those with head and no hands are equally out of place in the modern community.”

-Maria Montessori

Pacific Crest Farm is an integral part of our community, an outdoor classroom that fills us with pride, and our students and their families with joy. With continued support, the Farm will continue to thrive and one day become self-sufficient.

4,859

Pounds of tomatoes grown

122

Number of days students worked on the farm

4,992

Total eggs collected

60

Number of students who bottle-fed Cooper the lamb

\$688

Earnings from the student-run farmstand

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2017!

Emma Sindel-Dempcy, Abbie Knapp, Ellie Knapp, Attilio Ramig, Shanti Chier, Rachel Schachter,

Anna Fina, Jack Cousins, Alice Rupp, Samone Alberts, Kaela Nyland, Susan Roberson

These students will be attending a range of local high schools including

SAAS

Nathan Hale

Ballard High School

Roosevelt High School

Garfield High School

ShoreCrest High School

Seattle Waldorf School





Gratitude

We extend our deepest appreciation to each of you who ensure we can provide academic excellence and a rich community life experience through your generous donations and volunteer support.