

Montessori Center School



2013 - 2014 A YEAR IN REVIEW

From the Head of School



With great pride I invite you to enjoy this 2013-14 school year review. These pages summarize the many accomplishments and experiences from which our community benefited as a direct result of the generous support of the people listed in these pages. Symbolized by the young girl crossing the bridge on the cover, our school provides a solid base for children to journey from preschool to elementary and beyond, surrounded by warm, beautiful surroundings. MCS is a magical school that offers children a safe and challenging place to learn, grow and reach their potential! Grounded in the Montessori philosophy, our teachers work hard to inspire children to love learning, develop independence, and become caring citizens of the world.

My deepest gratitude extends to all who contributed in many ways to our school's successes this year. MCS is a reflection of all of its community members and this publication highlights accomplishments that belong not only to MCS students, but to all of you as well.

Patricia Colby, PhD
Head of School



Montessori Center School is happy to provide this annual report to our parents and donors. Annual reports offer the opportunity to share our achievements.



3%

total income growth



63

newly enrolled students



56%

parent participation in Fund for MCS



About Our Great School

Montessori Center School has been thriving in the Santa Barbara community since 1965. Our future is bright and we want to share it with you.

MCS has a 48 year history of preparing students, ages 18 months through 6th grade, for academic excellence. MCS students develop critical thinking, social collaboration, and creative problem solving skills. These skills, coupled with global and environmental awareness, will prepare them to become the next generation of innovators and global citizens.

Adding to the richness of the Montessori curriculum, the MCS garden campus includes a low student to teacher ratio, credentialed teachers, fully equipped classrooms, a library, music and art studios, performing arts, after-school care center, outdoor classroom environments and play areas.

With an enrollment of approximately 280 students, our school community offers a nurturing social environment and dynamic teachers.

Quick Facts

1965 - MCS is founded

1971 - MCS becomes not for profit

1977 - After school child care program added

1979 - MCS relocates to La Colina Campus

1983 - Toddler program added

1988 - First MCS Auction Benefit Gala

1997 - Introduction of Upper Elementary & Foreign Language Program

1997 - MCS relocates to Goleta garden campus

2015 - MCS upcoming 50th Anniversary

Board of Trustees

Our board is engaged in developing strategic initiatives to respond to the challenges ahead while providing positive direction to uphold the MCS mission.



Scott Ehrnstein
President of the Board of Trustees

Scott Ehrnstein has been married for more than 20 years. His wife Julie and he feel fortunate to be raising their two children in Santa Barbara. The family enjoys outdoor activities, reading and laughing together.

Scott has a rewarding career as a real estate professional since graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Economics/Accounting from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1986. His focus has been on the acquisition, disposition and management of income properties and is a partner of Towbes Capital Management.

Currently, Scott volunteers at Santa Barbara Hillel and his children's schools. Other activities he enjoys include playing golf, running with friends and a variety of ocean activities.



Lindsay Shinn
Vice President



Brian Johnson
*Vice President
Board Secretary*



Dale Haslem
*Past President
and Treasurer*



Rashi Bahri



Jeff Brookshire



Ken Cohen



**Suzanne
Cohen**



Greg Jensen



Nicki Parr



Steven Schott

Dear fellow parents

My name is Scott Ehrnstein and I am the incoming board president for Montessori Center School (MCS). I am excited to have an opportunity to collaborate with the dedicated professionals and volunteers who provide the means and support that allow MCS to continue as an amazing place for our children to grow and learn. As board president, I look forward to focusing primarily on four areas: oversight of the financial stewardship of MCS; assisting the MCS fundraising efforts; interacting closely with our wonderful head of school, Dr. Patricia Colby; and supporting the site development committee.

Like many of you, my family and I have a personal and vested interest in ensuring that this institution, approaching its 50th year, continues to serve our community. My son has begun his final year as a 6th grade student. My wife, Julie, and I are thankful that he has had the opportunity to be a part of this great learning institution. He has benefited from the individualized attention, the culture of support and cooperation, as well as the Montessori teaching methods.

When he came to Orange Door as a 3rd year student, he transferred from a school with a playground culture that was not aligned with our family philosophy and values. We learned at his prior school he would be studying the same material he had mastered the prior year. My wife and I researched other schools and concluded that MCS had the philosophy that would best support our son and provided a curriculum with which he could grow at his pace. We get pleasure from hearing our boy speak about quadrinomials and seeing the latest library book he is going to devour at the librarian's suggestion. He not only gets to learn from inspiring teachers, yet also spends some of his time teaching his classmates. More importantly, we have seen him develop into a fine young man who: looks people in the eyes when speaking to them; cares about



***MCS had the philosophy that
would best support our son and
provided a curriculum with
which he could grow at his pace.***

fairness and justice; and supports and is supported by his friends. If you want to know how MCS will help your children grow, spend a lunch watching the Brown door children. It is a thing of beauty. In fact, I am so thankful for what MCS has given our family and so strongly believe in its mission that I have agreed to stay on the board even after our son has graduated.

While the MCS staff is fully prepared to provide you with all information you will need, if you so desire, please feel free to reach out to me for more about the MCS experience.

Respectfully and gratefully yours,

Scott Ehrnstein
Board President



The Sutherlands in Big Bear, CA during a trip they won at the annual Benefit Auction.

Interview with Kim and Hugh Sutherland

“Rows of desk-chairs facing a chalk board were not what we were looking for in an educational program that would build the foundation for our children to move confidently and nimbly into the future.”

What drew you to MCS?

Though wowed by our visits to other campuses, something was missing. At MCS we found a positive approach that redefined the relationship between the student, the teacher, and the institution. While visiting “Green Door” we witnessed a serene classroom, creatively set-up with a variety of work areas. No rows of desks there! Some children



worked independently, others in a group, all focused on the learning of the moment with self-directed discipline. The emphasis on natural materials, the

open classroom divided into learning zones full of rich and varied educational resources, and the comfortable atmosphere reassured us that MCS was not a “worker mill”. The tactile educational tools reaffirmed to us the connection between the thinking and the doing for learning and problem solving.

When did you start?

Our twins were born in December 2002, so we started in Lower Elementary in 2007. They were young by age, but were more compatible with the mix in “Lower EI”. They spent four years in Lower Elementary. When starting Upper Elementary, they had matured well and were ready for the wonderful challenges that awaited them in Brown Door. Brown Door has been the “icing on the cake”.

What made you choose the Montessori Method?

Our prior experience with another “alternative” education program taught us a great deal about what kind of program would provide the maximum opportunity and encouragement for our children to flourish. The right program for us turned out to



be the Montessori Method, and Montessori Center School specifically.

Montessori Center School is a place where learning occurs from the inside out, a holistic approach that nurtures our children's innate curiosity and desire to learn. In combining self-direction, collaboration, mentoring, and community the Montessori Method fosters responsibility, leadership, cooperation, respect, and humility. With the Montessori emphasis on how to learn, not just what to learn, we know our children are developing the right principles and intellectual tools to create fulfilling lives in a dynamic, if not uncertain, future.

What makes you volunteer at the school?

Volunteering has allowed us to see how the school works, to help where needed, and to show our children that we are actively involved in the school community. Of course, volunteering feels good too!

As a donor, how do you see your donations being used?

Recognizing that tuition does not fully cover the operational costs of the school, we take part in funding the balance. This ensures the quality of program we desire, the resources necessary to educate our children, the special programs that enhance the experience, and the diversity of families that make up the MCS community.

What is your favorite MCS activity?

United Nations Peace Day has to be one of our favorites. It speaks to the depth and richness of the MCS experience. Seeing the awe in the eyes of the younger children as the 6th graders carefully guided the peace dove was a wonderful sight.

What are one or two aspects of the learning at MCS that you hope your children will carry their entire lives?

There are many things our children will take with them: knowing themselves; knowing how to learn; responsibility; leadership with humility; collaboration benefits everyone; the power and strength of community – “the We around the Me”; play can be fun, even without competition; there's a place and purpose for everyone, no matter what one's capabilities.

What are some things you've learned as a parent through your experiences at MCS?

1. To relax, listen and observe.
2. To trust the process.
3. Less is more.
4. Teaching methods beyond our imagination.

5. Encouragement, patience and understanding are the most effective paths to the healthy enrichment of our children. Rich soil (the Montessori institution), healthy fertilizer (the teaching staff), and regular watering (caring, involved parents) brings strong and vibrant growth.
6. The MCS community of families, educators and staff are developing

a population of young people who, through their kindness, preparation and enthusiasm, earn respect and admiration from the institutions beyond the campus, such as Nature Bridge, Catalina Island Marine Institute and Astro Camp.



Preparing for the Future

MCS is extremely proud of its Upper Elementary students in Brown Door. We'd like to highlight a few accomplishments that illustrate the achievements of the 13-14 school year.

- **The MCS Robotics Team visited Raytheon in Goleta, where company employees were so impressed with the students' robots, that the next week they donated six EV3 Lego Educational Robot Kits to MCS.**
- **Brown Door students took 3rd and 5th in the 2014 Santa Barbara County Spelling Bee.**
- **Brown Door North 5th graders took home 3rd and 2nd place in the 2014 City of Goleta Arbor Week Photography Contest.**
- **Two Brown Door students had their poems selected to be in the 2014 "April is Poetry Month" window display at Chaucer's Bookstore. The boys were two of only a few students selected city wide.**
- **Four math lovers from each grade in Brown Door attended and excelled at the 33rd Annual South Coast Math Superbowl. Out of 32 schools, the MCS team placed 4th.**



Honoring our Donors

Each year, donors generously support MCS by giving to the school. Thank you to those who have financially supported the Fund for MCS during the 2013-2014 year. The success of the Fund is not only measured in dollars, but also in the joy seen among our students each day who benefit. Without these gifts, we could not create the exceptional learning environment that characterizes MCS.

The Fund for MCS is part of the Montessori Center School culture. The Fund for MCS enables us to provide a robust curriculum and nurturing environment that provides your children an incomparable education. Tuition alone does not cover the costs of providing an MCS education. As with most independent schools, annual giving fills this gap.

Thank you to all the 2013 - 2014 donors to our Fund for MCS. Together we raised \$110,639 with 56% parent participation, 100% Board participation and 100% faculty and staff participation. The following is a listing the generous gifts received as of June 30, 2014. Your support is appreciated and needed!

Benefactor

\$5,000 +

Anne and Tom Goodson
Gaile and Dale Haslem
Masha and Kevin Keating
Cliff and Phyllis Ruddell

Leader

\$2,000 - \$4,999

Stephanie Liu and Alessandro Castellarin
Annie Pham-Cheng and George Cheng
Jillian and Peter Muller
Lori and Mazy Ostovany
Kim and Hugh Sutherland
Amy and George Tharakan
Heather Terbell and Mark Wilson

Sponsor

\$1,500 - \$1,999

Jennifer and John Berger
Leonard Chen
Amy and Sam Chesluk
Deborah and Mendel Fygenon
Shelley and David Neubauer
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Patron

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Shelly and Matthew Willis
Cami Ferris-Wong and Derrick Wong
Crystal and Clifford Wyatt
Finola and Russell Young

Friend

\$250 - \$499

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Dorothea and Rafael Amezcaga
Sandy Avery
Rita and Bruce Bailey
Kevin Barthel
Maria Elosu and Robert Brace
Erin Neil and Jeff Brookshire
Maria and Tyler Clark
Ariana and Josh Cobb
Erin Ervin
Lisa and John Derrick
Michelle Taylor and Steve Gully
Eunice Lee and Alex Kaay
Karl-Storz Veterinary Endoscopy-America, Inc
Roberta Sengelmann-Keshen and Tamir Keshen
Cristina and Roy Killgore

December 31, 2013 marked a milestone for MCS as it reached its financial goal within three months!

Rashmi Sethi and Prashant Rajvaidya
Priti Gagneja and Muhammad Salman ul Haq
Madeleine Sorapure and Bob Samuels
Maggie and Christian Saunders
Abby and Steve Schott

Michelle and Tim Kirkelie
Stephanie and Sol Linver
Skye McGinnes
Julie Schneiderman and Carl Meinhardt
Lorelei and Daniel Moosbrugger
Julie and Nick Morello





Brooke and Peter Morris
Shreya and Primit Parikh
Carole Ryan
Jill and Ian Smith
Melinda Staveley
Kim Kotnik and Andrew Vonnegut
David and Julianna Wexler
Kimberly and Brian Wilson
Peijin Ruan and PeiLun Zhang

Contributor

\$25 - \$249

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Felicitia Torres and Gerardo Aldana
Andrea Marcus and Geoff Alexander
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Laura and John Baker
Helen and John Baker
Sherri Ball
Dell Barden
Barry Semler
Ingrid Bowman and Alejandro Andreatta
Kim Keller-Box and Loric Box
Laura Bradford
Chelsea Rangskitpho and David Bradley
Kath and Larrie Brainard

Heather Burkhardt
Sarah Case and Jay Carlander
PJ and Douglas Carmean
Pat Jessup
Tiffany and Dan Carter
Bridget and Ross Cathie
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Frank and Bea Cheng
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Birgit Crable
Kacy Cristofani
Nate Cultice
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Dena Chachakos
Patty and Steve Diaz
Jim and Sallie Dougherty
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Richard Drake
Nancy Dubie
Garrett Durand
Kelly and Leif Eason
Gloria Easter
Julie and Scott Ehrnstein
Elinor and Robert Emanuel

Laury Oaks and Doug English
John and Marilyn English
Kirsi Aulin and Bara Fall
Kathy Finck
Liz Finnegan
Julie Harris and Russell Ghitteman
Delia Gorey and Larry Manson
Sandy and Mike Gorman
Marilyn and William Gully
Sharmila Gunasekara and Asiri DeSilva
Gloria and Jeff Hadsall
Patricia Haro
Kelly Bedard and John Hartman
Heidi and Mark Helfand
Patty Hodgson
Wendy and Simon Ibsen
Melanie and Rob Jacobs
Christine Emanuel and Daniel Janssen
Mikki Jee
Rosa Elena Jimenez
Dawn and Joel Kaufman
Allie Kelleher
Dorothy and Everett Kirkelie
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Mary Kuntsal
Claude-Lise Lafranque
Sharon Liddy
Clare and Terry Lombardi
Denise Mabardi
Sheri and John Mardiat
Avanthi and Colin Masthoff
Carola and Jamie Matera
Lisa and Joe McCorkell
Rachel and Kevin McDonald
Cathe and Larry McEnerney
Amanda and William Meller



Laura and Eric Miller
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 Michelle and Chad Stevens
 Chiyoko Suzuki
 Angela and Martin Tanner
 Ericka and Garrett Te Slaa
 Jody Kaufman and Bryan Thompson
 United Way of Santa Barbara
 Kalai Kennedy
 Jamie and Jason Weaver
 Krista and Graham Williams
 Michelle Wyman

Above and Beyond

Total giving is inclusive of all support to MCS. We would like to thank our generous donors who have given in many different ways to the school.

We honor those who have made significant gifts of \$1,500 ("the gap") or more to MCS over this last year.

Benefactor

\$5,000 +
 Stephanie Liu and Alessandro Castellarin
 Anne and Tom Goodson
 Gaile and Dale Haslem
 Hollye and Jeff Jacobs
 April Leon and Troy Jacobsen
 Christine Emanuel and Daniel Janssen
 Crystal and Gregory Jensen
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 Kim Kotnik and Andrew Vonnegut
 Mariaelena and Stewart Welch
 Tiffany Corby and Luke Werkhoven
 Heather Terbell and Mark Wilson
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 Misook Heo and Tom Burk
 Leonard Chen
 Amy and Sam Chesluk
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 Loriel and Bruce May
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 Erin and Jon Ohlgren
 June Parr and Dennis Marable
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 Irene Barnett and Jim Semick
 Claudia and Edward St. George
 Yeonwook and Steve Uyeno
 Cami Ferris-Wong and Derrick Wong





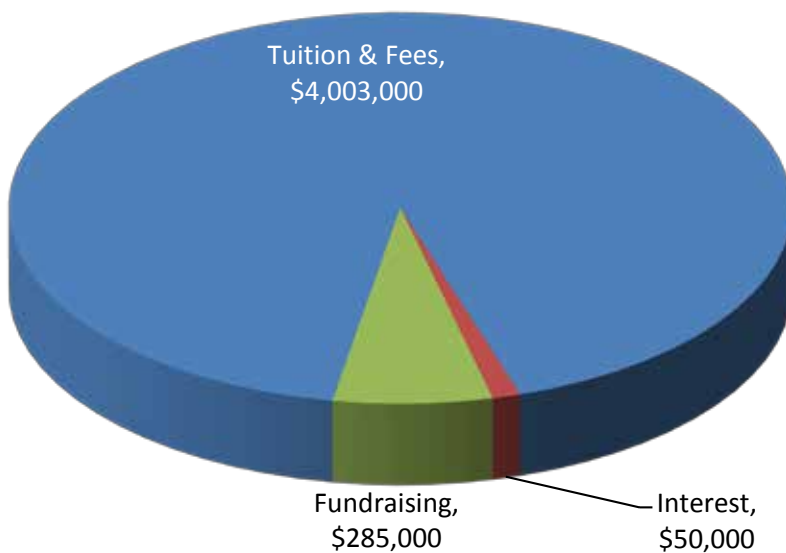
“The Montessori Method continues to receive accolades from around the globe.”

Financial report

MCS prides itself on year after year growth and success, while providing an effective and unique education compared to other schools in the area. The Montessori Method continues to receive accolades from around the globe as providing children with one of the most effective forms of education. MCS graduates continue to excel in a variety of schools and careers.

Income

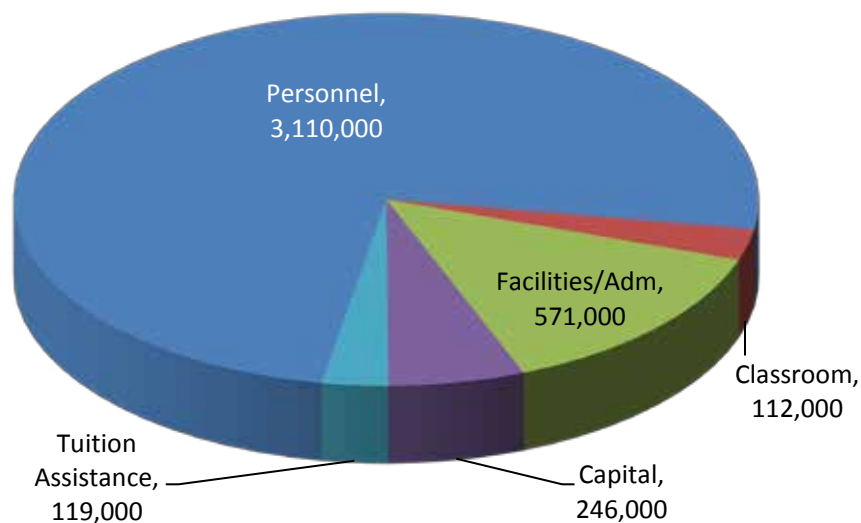
■ Tuition & Fees ■ Interest ■ Fundraising



MCS receives most of its operating income from tuition and fees while supplementing its educational programs with fundraising events and donations.

Expenses

■ Personnel ■ Classroom ■ Facilities/Adm ■ Capital ■ Tuition Assistance



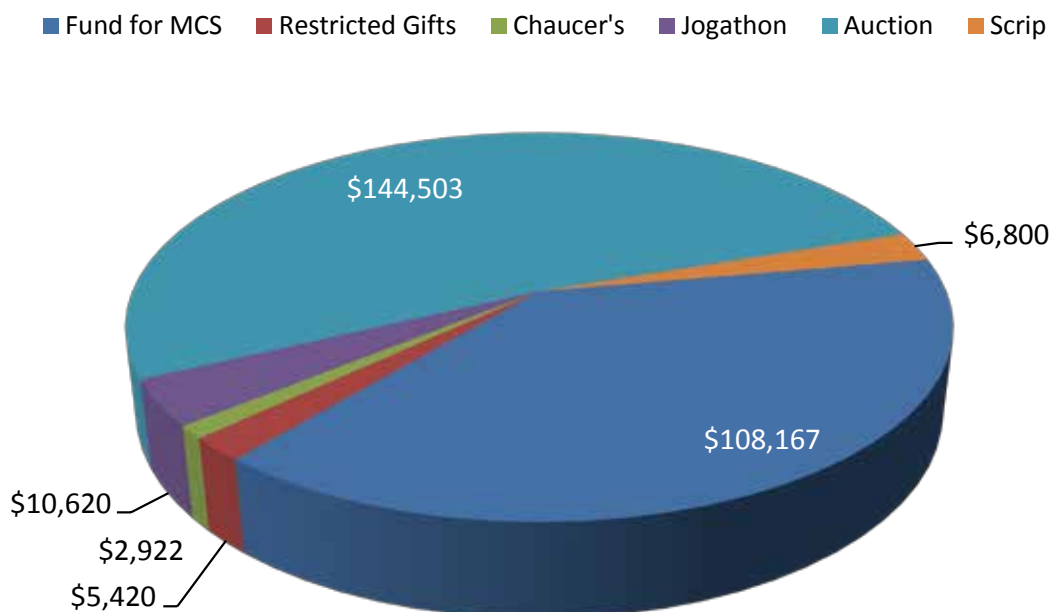
Fundraising at MCS

As an independent school, Montessori Center School not only relies on tuition income, but income from fundraising. The reason for this is because there is a gap between tuition charged and actual costs to educate the children. For the 2013-2014 school year, this gap was \$1,500 per student.

MCS only holds five fundraisers - one direct mail, one large event and three smaller events

1. **The Auction Gala** - This is the annual benefit gala event held at one of many unique Santa Barbara locations featuring a silent auction, live auction, dinner and dancing. Ticket sales are used to offset the costs of the venue expenses, while bids on auction items raise much needed dollars for MCS. There is also a paddle raise in which funds are restricted for program needs, such as technology and development, all the way to future campus improvements. Auction is our biggest fundraiser of the year.
2. **The Fund for MCS** - This is the annual fund. Each year in the fall, MCS sends out an appeal to parents, grandparents and alumni. The fund is unrestricted and the school relies heavily on the money donated for all expenses. The Fund for MCS is our second largest fundraiser of the year.
3. **Jogathon** - Ready, get set, GO! Jogathon is one event where the students AND the parents get together to run laps on the elementary play field for fitness and raising money for MCS. Each student asks friends and neighbors to sponsor them for laps run at the event. MCS encourages all students and parents to reach out to their community and to run laps! Jogathon grows larger every year!
4. **Chaucer's Night** - Chaucer's Bookstore holds an annual evening where the entire community can come shop at Chaucer's and 25% of all proceeds including gift card purchases benefit MCS. This event, while only a few hours, generates essential funds for the school
5. **Scrip** - Scrip are gift cards, featuring most local retailers that you visit every week. Families may purchase gift cards to grocery stores, coffee shops or retail outlets and up to 10% comes back to MCS on every card we sell. This is one of the easiest ways to raise money for MCS. Before any big shopping trip, visit the office and purchase your estimated amount needed in scrip!

Fundraising Revenue



The Effect

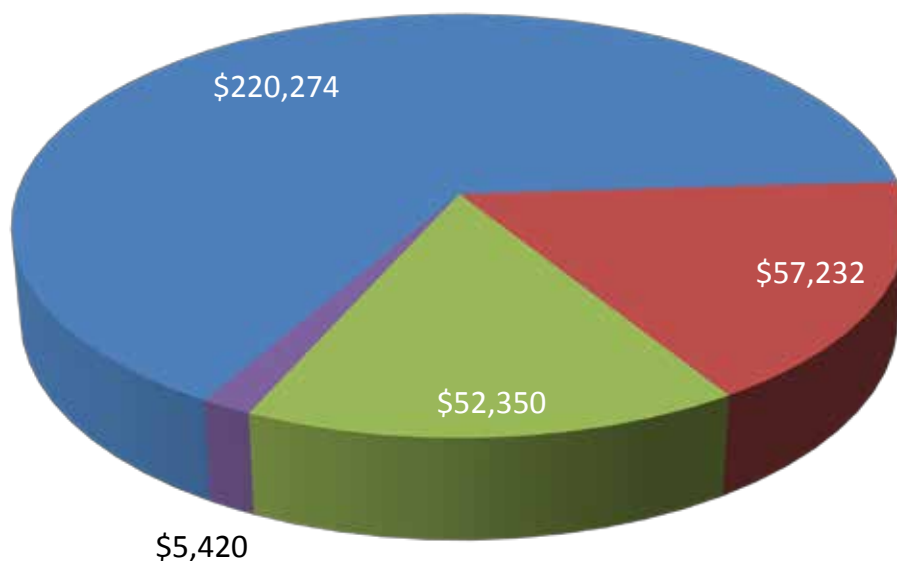
To provide as much transparency as possible to parents, we prefer to show you exactly how you are making a difference at MCS through your donations. Your donations are an investment not only in the future of MCS, but the future of your children.

Here is where your dollars were put to good use:

1. **Operations** - Fundraisers raise essential unrestricted funds that the school can devote to the most immediate need. This includes operational expenses such building and campus improvements, salaries, gardens, etc.
2. **Expenses related directly to the fundraiser** - It's no secret that events cost money. MCS strives to keep the cost for these extraordinary events to a minimum; yet aims for each event to be exquisite. We want to be sure that MCS retains its roots, while current trends or best practice models are used to better serve our parents.
3. **Campus Improvement and Development** - MCS strives to make capital and site improvements each year to provide the best learning facilities for your children. Improvements can include buildings, gardens, furnishings, new campus expenses, Montessori materials and technology.
4. **Restricted Gifts** - Some funds has special designations. If parents wish their gift to only be used for a certain program, classroom or even a specific item such as a television set or supplies, this money is then restricted to that use. Every classroom receives a budget for items and MCS advises parents to have all gifts be unrestricted so that they may be put towards the greatest need at the time.

Fundraising Allocations

■ Operations ■ Expenses ■ Campus Imp. & Dev. ■ Restricted





California Dreamin'

This year, MCS held its annual benefit gala at the Bacara Resort on April 26th with the theme of California Dreamin'. This glamorous evening is an unforgettable night of bidding, dinner and dancing!

What happens when you have an amazing group of people from California put together the biggest fundraiser of the year with a 'California Dreamin' theme? You get the most fun event of the year which also raised nearly \$200,000! Held at the Bacara Resort and Spa, the MCS annual benefit Auction is the most important and entertaining event for MCS parents.

The evening kicked off with a silent auction and cocktails. Guests perused classroom art projects and partybooks in the rotunda gallery. A sumptuous buffet dinner followed in the main ballroom. For entertainment, a contortionist surfed into the room on the shoulders of some beach boys followed by a tandem surf act on stage.

***Our 2014 Auction was one of the
most fun Auctions held to date!***

Congratulations to the Committee!

Zack Krone, professional auctioneer, and his right hand man, Kenny, started the live auction with lively banter, an opportunity drawing for \$800 in cash, and the always exciting and competitive bidding for classroom art projects.

The evening was complete with shadow dancers and a dance floor which was rocking for the rest of the night as guests were 'gambling' at the casino tables and socializing.



Auction Sponsors

We couldn't have such a spectacular event without our dedicated community of sponsors who graciously donated products and services to MCS.

Above All Aviation	Drishti Yoga Essentials	Corporation	Santa Barbara Polo and Racquet Club
Aldo's Italian Restaurant	Drs Lloyd Suzuki and Karen Lin	Mira Bella Salon & Spa	Santa Barbara Rock Gym
Alexandra Essex Exquisite Jewels	Duncan Turner, MD	Monte Farris	Santa Barbara Sailing Company
Ali Wilson	El Capitan Canyon	Montecito Family YMCA	Santa Barbara Skin Institute
Aqua Nail Bar & Boutique	Eladio's Restaurant & Bar	Montecito Yoga	Santa Barbara Symphony
Arigato Sushi	Ensemble Theatre Company	Montessori Services	Santa Barbara YMCA
Arlington Tavern	Evolutions Medical & Day Spa	My Gym	Santa Barbara Zoo
Astrocamp	Eye and Vision Care	Naila Lewis	SB Training
Benihana	Fairview Car Wash	Natalie Raring	Segway of Santa Barbara
BenInked	Fit Buddha	Nila Shinday	Shaunah and Eric Berg
Bess Rochlitzer	Fitness 805	Ocean Point Equestrian	Shelley & David Neubauer
Bicycle Bob's	FLOAT Luxury Spa	Ojai Valley Inn & Spa	Shine Blow Dry Bar
Bikram Yoga Santa Barbara	Gaile Haslem	Old Spanish Days in Santa Barbara	Silvergreens
Blenders In The Grass	Gauntlet Creative	Olio E Limon Ristorante	Simi Sports
Brasil Arts Cafe	Gillio Fine Jewelry	Olio Pizzeria	Simon Thibodeau
Brian Pearson	Girls Rock SB	one.Soccer Schools	Skydive Santa Barbara
Bryant & Sons, Ltd.	Goleta Valley Optical	Organic Valley	Skyline Construction
Byron Winery	Goleta Valley Tennis Academy	Oriental Trading Company	Sloane Real
Ca'Dario Pizzeria	Granada Theatre	Pacific Plastic Surgery	Spectrum Athletic Clubs
California Learning Center	Gull Wings Children's Museum	Palazzio	Stampin' Up
Cambria Estate Winery	Gustafson Dance	Park Music Studio	Sundance Beach
Canvas On Demand	Halper Fine Art	Pascale's Kitchen	Sunnybrook Ranch and Farm
Cargarsacchi Wines	Highlights for Children	Patricia Colby	Sunshine Wellness Institute
Carlyle Salon & Style Bar	In-N-Out Burger	Paveloff Vision Center	Sweat Outdoors
Caron Miller Collection	Island Packers	Peg Quinn	The Adderley School for the Performing Arts
Catalina Styles	Jane Restaurant	Persona Neapolitan Pizzeria	The Biltmore
Cathedral Oaks Athletic Club	Jay Farbman Photography	Pet House	The Cutting Edge
Celadon House	Joe McKenna	Pink Calyx	The Dailey Method
Channel Islands Ice Center	JoEllen's Skincare Studio	Pixi Beauty	The Daily Method
Channel Islands Outfitters	John Kinsella	Pizza Guru	The Lobero Theatre
Chateau Ste. Michelle	John Mardiat	Powell-Peralta Skate Shop	The Painted Cabernet
Cheri Bibi Salon	Julie & Nick Morello	Rachel McDonald	The Paisley Family
China Pavilion	Julie Schneiderman	Redbox	The Upham Hotel
Chumash Casino & Resort	Kelly Smith	Relais de Paris	Tim & Michelle Kirkelie
Circle Bar B Guest Ranch	Ken Nishiya	Renaud's Patrisserie and Bistro	Trader Joe's
City of Santa Barbara	Killer B Fitness	Return to Freedom	UCSB
Coastal Creative Landscapes	Killer Shrimp	Richard Solomon	UCSB Athletics
Colleen Elizabeth Spa	Knit Fit	Rubicon Theatre Company	UCSB Department of Recreation
Community West Bank	Land and Sea Tours	Sage Center For Health	Walnut Car Wash
Core Power Yoga	Lil' Toot	Salt Cave Santa Barbara	Wency Elaine
Corks n' Crowns	Lindamood Bell Learning Centers	San Ysidro Ranch	Wendy Fereday Swim School
Costco	Los Arroyos Mexican Restaurant & Take Out	Santa Barbara Adventure Company	Whole Foods
Country Meat Market	Lovebird Boutique & Jewelry Bar	Santa Barbara Art Foundry	Xavier Home Cleaning
Cutting Edge	Mammoth Moving	Santa Barbara Children's Dental Practice	Yellowbird Music
Cydney Miller	Marborg	Santa Barbara Gymnastics	Zodo's Bowling & Beyond
David Bermant Foundation	Margaret Cota	Santa Barbara Museum of Art	
Dioji K-9 Resort	Massage by Mohammad	Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History & Ty Warner Sea Center	
Disneyland	McConnell's Fine Ice Creams		
DJ Carmin Wong	Metropolitan Theatres		
Dog Adoption and Welfare Group			



Bubble Festival

It was a bright sunny morning as lower elementary students took to the elementary field for the annual Bubble Festival. Students made their way to the field for a morning of discovery. Armed with straws, water bottles, hula hoops and string they experienced science and geometry first hand, while having a lot of fun too!

UN Day

United Nations Day at Montessori Center School is a day filled with celebrations of sharing family cultures and honoring those who are working towards creating a peaceful world. Each year on UN Day, MCS displays the flags of many nations. Students walk together on the fields to sing songs of peace, greet the Peace Dove, and honor our sixth year students who carry the Dove as a symbol of the work they will bring into the world.





Jogathon

The Jogathon gets children and parents running!

You can't go wrong letting all the children in the school literally run all of their energy out on the elementary play field! All ages participated, including Gold and White Doors, who had a smaller inner track on which to run. The Brown Door graduating class ran wheelbarrow races around the track to get things started, followed by the Brown Door students charging the field with the entire school behind.



Harvest Picnic

MCS's biggest community building event

Bringing together the entire school is a grand affair, and we do it every year at the Harvest Picnic. Harvest Picnic is an annual gathering of all the families at Montessori Center School hosted by the Montessori Parents Organization. Games, live animals, craft booths, a bake walk, bake sale, cake auction and live DJ, oh my!



School House Rock

Upper Elementary children shine during the annual end of year musical. Students spend countless hours rehearsing and reviewing scripts. This year's production was worthy of five stars!

Administration

Patricia Colby PhD, Head of School
Birgit Crable, Business Manager
Garrett Durand, Director of Development
Alyssa Morris, Director of Admissions
Cindy Pratt, Office Manager
Melanie Newhouse, Assoc. Administrator
Shereen Ramawtar, Bookkeeper
Steve Diaz, Groundskeeper
Michelle Wyman, Student Support Services

Pre-Primary

Gold Door

Margaret McCleery Cota, Head Teacher
Sharmila Gunasekara, Assistant Teacher
Wook Uyeno, Assistant Teacher

White Door

Nicole Staska, Head Teacher
Sandy Gorman, Head Teacher
Sharon Liddy, Assistant Teacher

Primary

Blue Door

Dell Barden, Head Teacher
Pat Haro, Assistant Teacher

Navy Door

JoAnn Serpa, Head Teacher
Krista Williams, Assistant Teacher

Red Door

Mikki Jee, Head Teacher
Patty Hodgson, Assistant Teacher

Silver Door

Denise Mabardi, Head Teacher
Carla Shapiro, Assistant Teacher

Yellow Door

Liz Finnegan, Head Teacher
Kacy Cristofani, Assistant Teacher

Lower Elementary

Gray Door

Anne Raiter, Head Teacher
Heather Burkhardt, Assistant Teacher

Green Door

Irene Morales, Head Teacher
Alexandra Stagis, Assistant Teacher

Orange Door

Rick Drake, Head Teacher
Nicole May, Assistant Teacher

Purple Door

Melanie Jacobs, Head Teacher
Chloe Milligan, Assistant Teacher

Upper Elementary

Brown East

Loric Box, Head Teacher
Nancy Dubie, Assistant Teacher

Brown North

Cydney Miller, Head Teacher
Allie Kelleher, Assistant Teacher

Brown West

Kim Keller-Box, Head Teacher
Katy Parker, Assistant Teacher

After School Care

Coreen Snow
Suki Contreras
Kathy Finck
Dorothy Miller
Caitlin Tufts

Specialists

Peg Quinn, Art
Caitlin Tufts, Spanish
Mary Kuntsal, Library
Anna Hatfield, Library
Crystal Jensen, Library
Claude-Lise LaFranque, Music
Derrick Curtis, Physical Education
Amy Love, Theater

Playground Support

Helena Dahlin



Our Logo

*Our logo is an Eastern symbol which,
in education, represents the three
equal parts of learning:*

*the body of knowledge
those who teach
those who learn*

*These three together form the whole;
one cannot exist without the other.*

