



ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Dear Woodland Hill Families,

It seems like a long time ago when we did not have gymnasium and the other beautiful spaces in our new wing, but in fact it has been only a short time since May 8 of this past spring ...and we have enjoyed every minute of it! The children are thrilled with their new playground and large spaces for music, art, after-school programs, Spanish and physical education. Staff and students in our Summer Program enjoyed the central air conditioning too!

There has been no downtime since finishing our tremendous building addition, as we also worked simultaneously on re-accreditation through the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and the American Montessori Society this past year.

The Visiting Team came to Woodland Hill the week before Thanksgiving. The Visiting Team carefully examined our school. They reviewed all of our documentation in addition to our Self-Study, including attendance records, schedules, financials, safety plans and curriculum. They also observed all classes and met with students, teachers, parents and staff. Although we do not have a final report, the oral report was extremely positive and had wonderful things to say about our school.

Thank you very much for your support of Woodland Hill. Our school community is a better and richer place for all of us because of your participation and dedication to our school.

Sincerely,
Susan Kambrich, *Head of School*

Welcome and thank you so much for joining us at our annual meeting in our school's 45th year. As we look around at all of our incredible teachers, breadth of programs and beautiful campus, it's hard to imagine that this was all started by a handful of dedicated parents and teachers. Now that we have the building expansion behind us, it is a good time for us to take stock of our roots and our mission to nurture a child's love of learning and sense of social responsibility using the child-centered Montessori philosophy and curriculum.

Last year, the Board, with the help of the entire WHMS community, began a strategic planning process which led to the adoption of a new Strategic Plan which will serve to focus the Board's goals and priorities for the next five years. If there is a central theme of the new Strategic Plan, it is one of refinement of our current curriculum, programs and facilities. With the Strategic Plan in place, the Board will continue to work hard to enable the school to continue to develop and flourish in a manner consistent with our mission. We should all be mindful of the fact that just because there isn't any heavy construction equipment on site, does not mean that there isn't a tremendous amount of activity going on to improve upon our already amazing school.

We look forward to working with you in the new year and thanks again to our entire community for your time, energy and support.

Sincerely,
Michael Endler, *President of the Board of Trustees*

Highlights

A Sampling of WHMS Events

- ☞ On Friday, May 29, the new addition was officially opened at a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony. All of the students attended the event, along with alumni, board members, parents, local politicians and business leaders.
- ☞ One of the first events in the new space, this year's Upper Elementary Shakespeare production, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, was, by all accounts, a rousing success. Students, parents and guests gave rave reviews about the actors, directors, costumes and set design.
- ☞ Barry Keegan, with the help of UE teacher Andrew McClain, the other UE teachers and students, has been working on resurrecting the Longhouse. The project received attention with two full color pictures on the front page of the *Times Union* Capital Region section.
- ☞ WHMS held a Mexican Exchange program in January. Ten middle school students from Monterrey, Mexico and their teachers arrived for a week in Albany. Activities included tubing, skiing, a trip to New York City, parties and laser tag. They also went to the Nanotech center, NYS Museum, the NYS Capitol building, and attended classes with our students.
- ☞ In February, ten of our MS students, along with Cora, Susan and Nieves went to Monterrey, Mexico. They attended school, visited museums, toured the caves in Garcia, and took a boat ride though a man-made river in the center of town.
- ☞ In celebration of Earth Day, the Upper Elementary students and teachers spent the afternoon aboard the Clearwater Sloop, a 106-foot wooden replica of a 19th Century Dutch Sloop.
- ☞ Fall Family Fun Day was held on Saturday, October 3. It was a wonderful event, attended by over 200 people. Games, raffles, craft vendors, food, a bouncy slide, and a bake sale were all part of the fun-filled day.
- ☞ WHMS parents, organized by teacher Cassandre Hall, created a beautiful Diwali celebration for the Primary children. The celebration included Indian dress, arts and crafts, food, dance, decoration and storytelling.
- ☞ In May, the Middle School students performed *Dear Edwina, Jr.*, a musical that follows the adventures of advice-giver extraordinaire, Edwina Spoonapple.
- ☞ WHMS alumna Lilah Montgomery came to Woodland Hill as our artist-in-residence to create masks with our Elementary and Middle School students. The masks were part of this year's Native American/Hudson River theme.
- ☞ The Lake George Opera presented the "Billy Goats Gruff" to all WHMS students in February. It was very well-received.
- ☞ The Middle School attended Leadership Development training at the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA - Berkshire Outdoor Center. The educational program emphasizes teamwork, cooperation, communication and leadership skills through physical, mental and emotional challenges and risk-taking.
- ☞ On Monday, April 20, our Government and Water Club students visited the State Legislature and met with members of the New York State Assembly and Senate. Students were excited to talk to Legislators about their Playground Project and our sister school in Babati, Tanzania.
- ☞ To celebrate International Day of Peace on September 21, the whole school gathered together in the gymnasium at 10:42 a.m. to sing "Light a Candle for Peace." The song went all the way around the world, from New Zealand to Hawaii, with over 80,000 Montessori children in 35 countries participating.
- ☞ In October, the 8th Graders traveled to New York City to participate in the Model UN project, a gathering of Middle School Montessori Schools around the county. Maria Montessori supported the work of the United Nations as a forum where peace could be created. In Model UN, students step into the shoes of ambassadors to debate current issues.
- ☞ The Cultural Fair was held on March 19. The projects were very well done and quite varied. The countries beginning with the letter "I" seemed to be predominant: Italy, India and Ireland!
- ☞ Our Spring Concert was held on May 28 and was a wonderful demonstration of our students' musical talents. The concert included performances by our School Band, Chamber Ensemble, our new Handbell Choir, and our recorder players.
- ☞ This fall, the Disability Puppets did a presentation for our students. The puppets and dolls demonstrate the challenges many face in life and help children become more aware and accepting of differences of all kinds.
- ☞ Three Middle School students attended the Albany Chamber of Commerce event that featured Dr. Sean Covey, the author of the book, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, which our Middle School uses as part of their leadership curriculum. Our teens explained how we use the book in school.
- ☞ Field trips this fall have included visits to Kristy's Barn, Goold's Orchard, Albany Visitor's Center, Albany Institute of History and Art, Indian Ladder Farms, and the East Greenbush Public Library.
- ☞ Lower Elementary students performed class plays last spring. Sandy and Olga's class performed "The Magic Paintbrush," Maryann and Valerie's class performed "The Crowded House," and Julie and Astra's class performed "Forty Fortunes."

Professional Development

The full-day teacher workshop this year was entitled “Living Like a Writer,” and was conducted by Val Falco and Mignonne Philips, teachers who have been trained by the Columbia Teachers’ College Writers’ Workshop Model.

The Northeast Sustainable Energy Association held a workshop, “A Solar Kit for the Classroom,” on Saturday, November 7. Two of our teachers, Andrew McClain and Sandy Blakeman, attended the workshop to learn more about solar and wind energy concepts and how to integrate the lessons with our curriculum surrounding the development of our playground.

Parent Education

Dr. Anna Flik, Albany Medical College Assistant Professor, pediatrician and WHMS parent, spoke to WHMS parents this fall regarding the H1N1 flu pandemic. In addition to general information, she helped parents understand more about what treatments and vaccinations are available.

The Parent Education Breakfast on Wednesday, October 7, featured representatives from the Honest Weight Food Co-Op who presented healthy ways to prepare food for our families.

Two Voyage of Discovery events were held this year; The Math Curriculum was featured in the winter Voyage and this fall’s Voyage focused on the Writing Curriculum.

Public Relations

As part of Montessori Education Week, representatives from WHMS, along with three other local Montessori schools, went to the Legislative Office Building at the Empire State Plaza to promote awareness of Montessori Education.

To cap off Montessori Education Week, our Elementary students sang at the Empire State Plaza, and met with Assemblyman Ron Canestrari, who presented us with a Legislative Resolution for Montessori Education Week.

In July, a group of five WHMS 8th graders, along with parents and teachers, flew to the Sinai School in Babati, Tanzania. They spent their time plastering and painting classrooms, building new cooking stoves, playing soccer with the students, and surveying the site for the solar tower and playground equipment to power the water well at the Sinai School. The WHMS group also went on a two-day safari at Tarangire National Park and Lake Manyara. The story was covered by WTEN.

Lower Elementary students learned about the Iroquois Indians and then drew landscapes reflecting mountains and lakes and other land forms using crayon and chalk. The artwork is currently on display at The Little Book House in Stuyvesant Plaza.

Accomplishments

NYSERDA presented Woodland Hill with a High Performance Building award, given to buildings that reach a certain level of energy efficiency. *Greenbush Life* and the *Times Union* published articles about the award.

Woodland Hill Montessori School helped form the Montessori Alliance of Update New York, an alliance of fifteen local Montessori schools.

Summer Program

The summer program was a success again this year, with revenues exceeding \$102,000. The more popular programs this year were *Tracking and Orienteering*, *WHMS School of Rock*, *Paint Play* and *Camping in the Great Outdoors*.

As a culminating activity for the *Tracking and Orienteering* camp, students went geocaching on August 7 in the East Greenbush Town Park. Geocaching is a worldwide game of hiding and seeking treasure. The *Times Union* printed a photograph of the trip on the front page of their Capital Region section.

New Programs

On Saturday, March 21, WHMS held its first-ever “Alumni College Search Seminar.” Thirteen WHMS alumni and their parents gathered to glean insiders’ tips on the college search process.

The *Friends of WHMS* held a Book Swap in January, which was very successful and is being held again this year. Over 30 families participated with over 1,300 donated books from which to choose!

WHMS has joined the Troy-area CYO basketball program. Currently there are two teams at WHMS, one for students in grades 2-4 and one for students in grades 4-8.

Community Service

On Wednesday, April 22, Woodland Hill Water Club students and their families celebrated Earth Day with a production at Proctors GE Theater. Following the event, a live auction was held to raise money for the Sinai School in Tanzania.

The Middle School students collected food for Concerns-U this fall and delivered it in mid-November. They collected over 275 items for the food pantry.

The Lower Elementary classes were able to collect 311 pairs of shoes for the “Shoes for the Shoeless” campaign. The shoes are being distributed to families in need throughout Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia.

Twenty violin students, along with teacher Marla Bracco, performed in the second annual WHMS Violin Play-A-Thon at Colonie Center to raise money for Make-A-Wish foundation.

As part of their community service, and as a community-building project, the students and teachers from the Upper Elementary recently visited the Regional Food Bank’s Farm to harvest vegetables that will be donated to local food pantries.



Make a Difference

WHMS ANNUAL FUND 2008-2009



HEAD OF SCHOOL CIRCLE

Priscilla F. Hafner

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Anonymous

Frank and Pat Bossolini

Karen Cavanagh and John Mason

The Edmunds Family

Michael Endler and Lise Hafner

Charles and Lore Ferguson

Dr. Phyllis Norton and Dr. Patrick Mottolese

SEFCU — State Employees Federal Credit Union

Terri M. Simmons,

in honor of granddaughter, Kaley Arnof

INVESTORS

Marianne DeMario and Paul Simeone

David Devaprasad and Tracy Berger

The Fogel Family

Frederick and Laura Galt

Robert and Jocelyn Kivort

David and Jen Krygowski

Lane and Sandra McCarthy

Courtney and Victor Oberting

The Fredericka V. Slingerland Family Foundation

Dr. Charles Weissman and Dr. Susan Weaver

BENEFACTORS

Robert and Patricia Altman

Anonymous (2)

Christopher and Natasha Bang

The Chung Family

Daniel and Sherrie Clune,

in memory of Judy Grossman

Ryan Decker and Laura Moody

The Earley Family

Dave and Susan Evans

Anne Marie Haber and Mitch Cohen

David and Carla Key

Howard Kibrick and Christine Wasik,

in memory of Thomas and Ruth Wasik

Susan LaVigne

Peter and Diane McCorkle

Dr. David Picchione and Dr. Nancyann Quimby

Stuart and Amy Poole

Jeff and Marie Stark

FRIENDS

Meredith and Ray Andrews

Lisa Elovich Avella,

in honor of Nico and Camille Avella

Taeim Bang,

on behalf of grandson, Alexander Jonathan Bang

Mary Berger

Jonathan Berk

The Blind Family

Leah Blind

Cheryl Bovair and Michael Ardman

Marla T. Bracco

Janeen and Lorne Browe

Curtis and Jane Cappellano

The Chan Family

Barbara and Mark Changizi

Norberto and Suki Cintrón,

in honor of Amar Cintrón

Jim and Emmy Cole

Dora and Jerry Connolly,

in honor of their grandson, Jack Altman

Sarah and Thomas Crowell

Terry Cunningham

Christian Day and Carmel Schettino

Donna DeLong-Pugliese and Lou Pugliese

Pat and Emil DeToffol

Theresa Dott

Wanda and Don Drazan

Mary-Jo Ehrlich

Lee Evans

Ted and Rachel Eveleth

Bob and Mary Ann Fantauzzi

Kyle and Anna Flik

Susan Jefferson Ford

Levi Freinberg-Trufas

Robert and Tamara Gatchell,

in memory of John P. Bayly

Sigrid Gernert

The Gernert-Dott Family

Laura and John Giarruso

Wendy and Charles Gilman

Sharon Graves

Heather M. Gray

Bob Green and Nina Loewenstein

Marilyn Hajar and Thomas Neubauer

Cassandra and Aaron Hall

Bernie and Nancy Hillengas

Rita Hillengas

Ken Jacobs and Lisa Nissenbaum,

in honor of Dorothy Nissenbaum

Oscar and Karina Juarez

Jim and Susan Kambrich

Stephen and Gina Kasper,

in honor of Gabby Kasper

Latif and Saira Kassam

Josie and Stanley Kivort

Mr. and Mrs. Karl Klein

Laura Koennecke

Kim Kronau and Jim Dunn

Mohan and Veeneta Lakhani

Evelyn and Ernie Lail

Thomas Lail and Tara Fracalossi

Diane Lanci

Ann Lapinski and Fred Barker

Fathima Magdon-Ismail

Malik and Zainab Magdon-Ismail

Joe and Stephanie Mahoney

The Martuscello Family

Edward and Sandra McGinnis

Daniel & Emilie-Anne Michaud

Marion Newton and Chris Heller

David Nichols and Kathryn Eastman

Betsy Nicholson,

in honor of Cadence Rong Young

Cristin and Francisco Palacios

Meg Parascandola

Denis Phayre and Nieves Gonzalez-

Montejano

Anne and Gary Redmond

Doug Reilly and Gretchen Geser

Moira Rienzo

Janis and Fred Rink

Mrs. Catherine Rinn,

in memory of Joseph Rinn

Cyril and Lydia Rodriguez

Catherine Sager

Kim and Steve Seabury

Ben and Barbara Schaffer

The Schmonsky Family

Dick and Judy Schmonsky

Cora and Olaf Stackelberg

Paul and Megan Stackelberg

Dan and Erin Sterantino

Nancy and Norman Tellier

Denise and Hugo Walpurgis

Matt Toomey and Leah Walsh

Patricia A. Ward,

in honor of Isabella Mesko

Kevin and Jean Wynne

The Zhou Family

Woodland Hill Montessori School

INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT

WHMS STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND EXPENSES for the year ended June 30, 2009*

INCOME

Tuition-Net of multi-child discounts & financial aid	\$2,099,849
Capital Campaign Contributions	291,525
Extra Curricular & Lunch Program	124,786
Aftercare	117,184
Summer	102,778
Other	84,875
Contributions	60,717
Enrichment	35,334
State aid	22,138
Special Events-Net of expenses	19,208
Investment Income	-95,575
INCOME TOTAL	\$2,862,819

EXPENSES

Payroll, Taxes & Benefits	\$1,579,979
Teacher/Staff Tuition Discounts	225,261
School Supplies & Materials	177,537
Depreciation & Amortization	120,675
Interest & Allowance for bad debts/pledges	130,608
Building Maintenance & Utilities	103,031
Advertising & Fundraising	81,901
Insurance	72,791
Extra Curricular & Lunch Program	42,535
Professional Fees	19,843
Bus Program	17,815
Professional Development	9,890
EXPENSES TOTAL	\$2,581,866

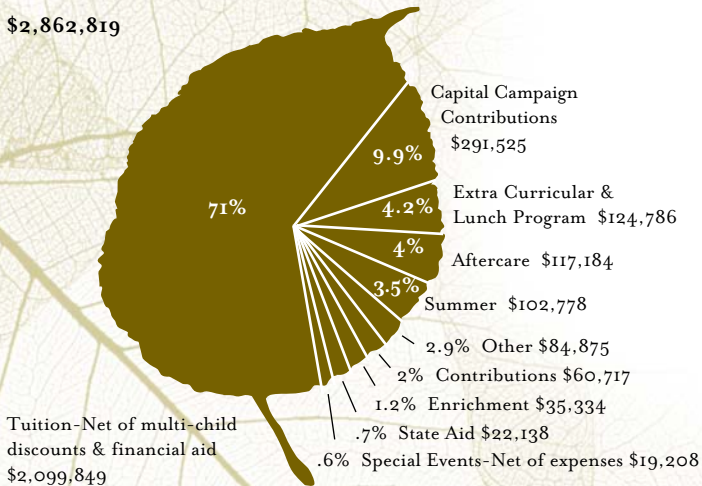
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

\$280,953



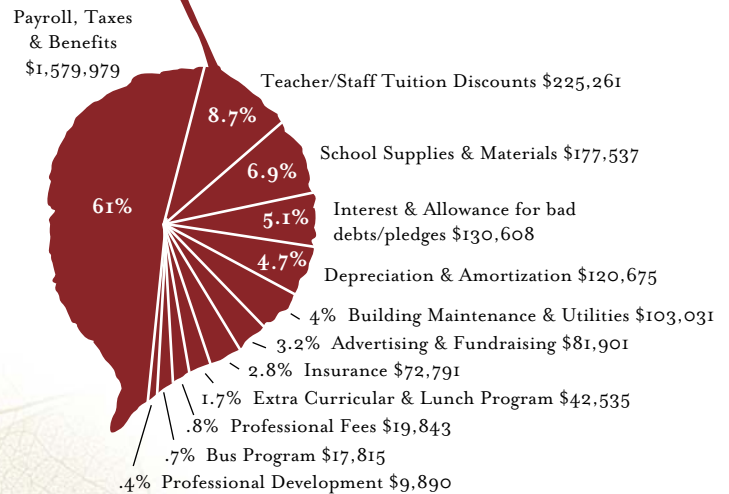
INCOME **

\$2,862,819



EXPENSES

\$2,581,866



* Unaudited financial statements

** The loss from investment activity has been excluded from the chart

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PRESIDENT	Michael Endler
VICE PRESIDENT	Robert Kivort
TREASURER	Marianne DeMario
SECRETARY	Frederick Galt
PAST PRESIDENT	Bernie Hillengas
TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE	Sherrie Clune

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Patricia Altman	Cristin Palacios
S. David Devaprasad	Kenneth Ringler Jr.
Karen Cavanagh Mason	Robert Stulmaker
James Nickens	Jeffrey Wetherbee

FACULTY AND STAFF

PRIMARY TEACHERS

(Head Teachers & Assistant Teachers)

Valerie Ang & Julie Murphy
Liz Cahrenger & Kristen McDermott
Emmy Cole & Diane Lanci
Cassandre Hall & Lourdes Ortega
Nancy Hillengas & Marion Newton

ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Julie Adams & Astra Rodrigo
Sandy Blakeman, Olga Febus & Amy Poole
Maryann Montgomery & Ann Ayers
Cindy Bishop, Sherrie Clune, Andrew McClain, Michele Praileau & Megan Donnelly-Heg
Cora Hamm, Leah Blind & Terry Cunningham

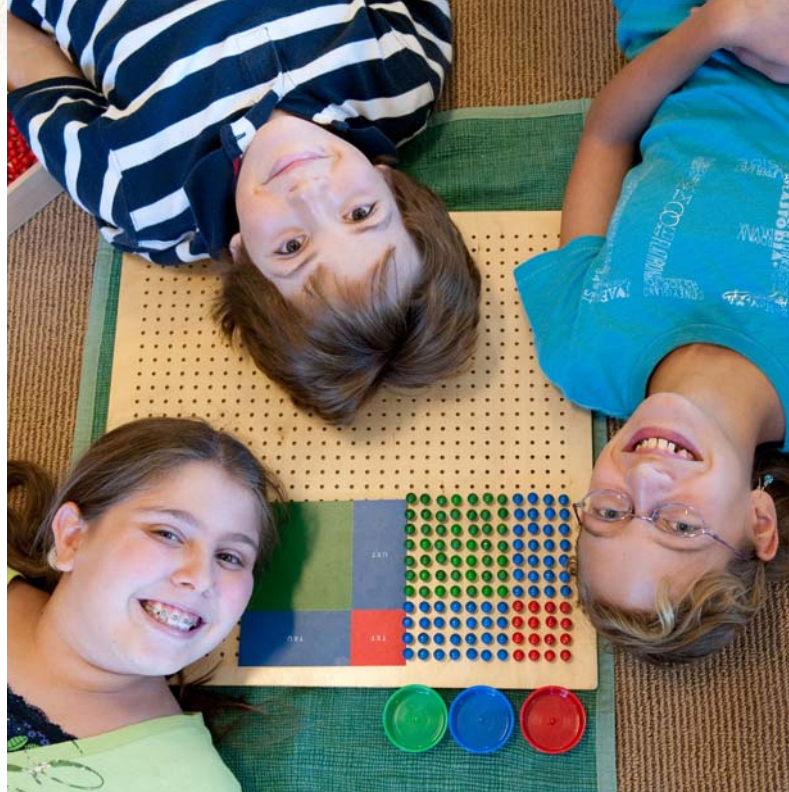
SPECIALS TEACHERS

Nieves Gonzalez-Montejano, *Spanish*
Dan Sedia, *Primary Music*
Marla Bracco, *Violin*
Livia Denis, *Piano*
Christina Pickreign, *Elementary Music*
Charles Austin, *School Band*
Annika Pfluger, *Cello*
Wanda Drazan, *Physical Education*
Janis Rink, *Art*
Maggie Schmonsky, *Reading Specialist*
Karen Green, *Consultant Teacher*
Jane Benson-Rivera, *School Counselor*

SCHOOL CARE STAFF

Director of School Care: Meg Parascandola
Assistant Director: Amanda Bentley

Tory Bogado	Cindy Roy
Ashley Ciccone	MaryJane Resty
Kaitlin Ciccone	Jada Schmidt
Rae Hammond	Melina Smyres
Corie Hart	Esma Ulcay
Krysten Houser	



ADMINISTRATION

Susan Kambrich
Head of School

Susan Evans
Business Manager

Kris Gernert-Dott
Director of Admissions and Community Outreach

Moira Rienzo
Director of Development and Communications

Meg Parascandola
Office Manager

Catherine Sager
Office Coordinator

Sue LaVigne
Office Administrator

Nicole Castler
Accounting Assistant

Bob Lucas, *Facilities Supervisor*
Lucy Wood
Roger Fallon
Building and Grounds

FRIENDS OF WHMS

Co-President	Jennifer Krygowski
Co-President	Blythe Thompson-Hurlburt
Vice President	Diane Carusone-McGinn
Treasurer	Mary Houghton
Secretary	Susan Pantano