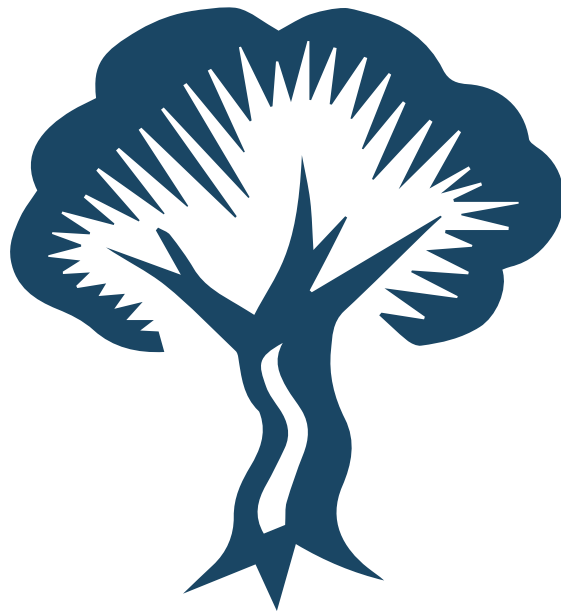


SANTA CRUZ MONTESSORI

Educating for Peace



Annual Report 2022-2023

At Santa Cruz Montessori, we value:

Respect

Respect for our children and families, our staff, our volunteers, our school's prepared environment, for diversity, for the natural world and larger community, for Santa Cruz Montessori as a living institution.

Growth

Growth of all our students, academically, physically, emotionally and socially to reach their full promise, of parents in their understanding of Montessori principles, and of our staff members as they continue their development.

Integrity

Integrity in our code of ethics and communication, our educational, administrative and policy decisions, in how we compensate our staff, in how we set our tuition and fees and conduct our fundraising, in how we manage our finances.

Openness

Openness in how we craft school policy, in accepting suggestions from our school community, in communication.

Responsibility

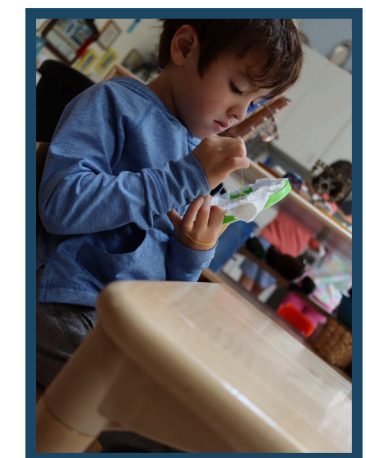
Responsibility for funding our programs and maintaining our school community, recruiting, training and retaining staff, for creating opportunities for parent participation, for using natural resources wisely, for meeting our school's mission, and for responding constructively to the larger community and world.

Commitment

Commitment to Montessori principles and assisting families in understanding and implementing these principles, to increase awareness and application of Montessori principles, to encourage joyful, lifelong learning, and to create a more just and peaceful world through the education of the children in our care.

Our Mission

As a Montessori learning community, we inspire life-long learning and a peaceful world by nurturing the natural development of the whole child.



Letter from the Head of School

Dear Santa Cruz Montessori Community,

As we look back on another exciting academic year, I am filled with gratitude for the vibrant spirit and unwavering dedication that define Santa Cruz Montessori. Throughout our 58-year history, the school has consistently inspired generations of students to become self-motivated, compassionate individuals. Having been a part of this nurturing community for over two decades, I have frequently witnessed the enduring commitment to Montessori values that sets us apart.

***"The task of educators is immense because human progress and world peace are in their hands."
- Maria Montessori***

During a recent parent event, I once again found delight in an alumni panel of speakers, showcasing the remarkable achievements of our graduates. These alumni, along with many others from SCM, serve as true ambassadors for joyful lifelong learning, and consistently contribute positively to society. They are the voices of our future.

Within this report, you'll find the names of those who have made personal investments on behalf of our children. Our community thrives due to your support, and I treasure the relationships with every family at our school. Together, we eagerly anticipate witnessing our students learn, grow, and evolve into individuals who not only care for themselves, but also for others. They leave an incredible impact on our community and are well-prepared to embrace new challenges as they venture into the world.

The achievements and growth of the 2022-23 school year are a testament to the genuine care and collaborative effort contributed by this community. It brings me immense joy in being a part of such a loving community and I extend a heartfelt appreciation for your personal and collective investment in making a profound difference in the lives of our children.

In gratitude,



Kim Saxton / Head of School

Letter from the Board President

Dear Santa Cruz Montessori Community,

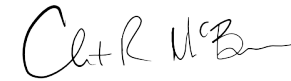
It's been a fantastic first year as Board President at Santa Cruz Montessori. As I sit and reflect on how the year went, I am proud and excited by our teachers, administrative staff, and parent volunteers. We as a community are the direct beneficiary of all this greatness and I am excited to be a part of it. I would like to take a moment to share my reflections from this past year and looking into the 2023-2024 school year and beyond.

First, under the head of the school's leadership and staff we moved through the Covid restrictions and got to a new normal for the way we handle things within our community. I was proud to see events return and the community connecting and growing. And even after Covid, the school continues to have a fiscally responsible budget with enough cash reserves to allow us to handle financial curve balls that may be thrown at us in the future. At the same time our financial picture is strong and we have been able to start some exciting projects around the Main Campus and Winston Campus this summer.

Through Covid, our Montessori teachers held strong to the goal and objective of educating our children through a scary and unprecedented time. And with our financial stability and management by the board and school leadership, we were able to match salary increases at local, publicly funded schools in the area and provide raises of 15% for teachers going into the 2023-2024 school year. Being able to do this for our teachers made me feel so proud that we as a community value and honor our fabulous educators.

In the 2023-2024 school year we are excited to work to create and develop our new strategic plan—the vision, goals, and framework for how we would like to see SCM continue to grow and evolve over the next five years. We will work with our community in a variety of ways to create and design this plan and I am excited to see what we all create together as we continue to grow SCM into the future.

With Appreciation,



Christine R McBroom

Board President, SCM Parent

Board of Directors for 2022-2023. Left to Right:
Pearl Vickers, John Haskins, Christine McBroom, Josh Blick, Eden Mendel-Holt, Nikki Legassick, Kim Saxton, Julie Parriguire, Amy Geller, Brian Heim, Mariah Lampert, Trey Garlough.
Not pictured: Angela Bridi-Milligan and Chris Ohlsen



Program Stats

Enrollment
YCC: 19
Primary: 82
Lower El: 55
Upper El: 46
Jr High: 25

Staff Numbers

YCC: 7
Primary: 15
Elementary: 8
Junior High: 5
Learning Support and Program Specialists: 8
Administrative, Development, and Other Support Staff: 9

Spotlight On Our Programs

Young Children's Community

Our Young Children's Community has been created specifically for our youngest children to foster the incredible intellectual, emotional, social and physical growth occurring during this developmental phase. The community becomes a second home to our toddlers with activities that address their quest for independence within a safe and secure environment. Under the care of their guides, children experience respect, friendship and love.

"The Young Children's Community provides a unique opportunity for parents and children to learn about what it means to be forming what Dr. Montessori called the Spiritual Embryo. The will, emotions, intellect, movement and language are the foundations for life as a human being. The guides in this environment are privileged to witness the children blossom into their full potential utilizing this pedagogical approach. Supporting this monumental growth into a human of our time and place is an honor. Our youngest citizens are supported in finding their truest expression in their very own unique ways."

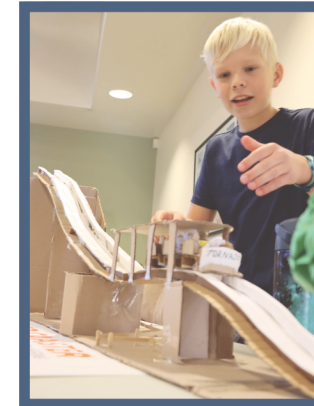
Elise Arevalo, Fireside Class Guide

Primary

Maria Montessori recognized the spontaneous interest that arises within the three to six year-old child. It is through the child's interest and active engagement that the love of learning arises. The guides observe and record each child's progress, knowing when to allow a child to engage with genuine interest on self-chosen activities, and when to introduce a new challenge or point of interest. Young children respond to the respect, beauty and order of their environments with joyful learning, respectful friendships and a sense of their own accomplishment.

"When you are lucky enough to stumble on to a Montessori Primary classroom, it is a day you won't soon forget. There is a thoughtfulness that fills the air, and the attention to detail is acute and beautiful. The children thrive in this environment, designed just for them. They feel it, and rise to the expectations of showing respect for the environment, each other, and working as a little community away from home. These are their first steps of being independent and figuring out how they fit in the world around them. Children in the primary level are in the midst of constructing themselves as children. They have moved through toddlerhood, and now are three to six year olds. This plane of development is a critical time in forming who they are. As a primary guide for many years, I am still in awe of these little ones, and how extremely intelligent, capable, and independent they can be. Giving them room to grow, and learn through their mistakes, creates confidence, and empathy for others. Learning to take responsibility for their actions, will guide them through their life, and helping facilitate that is an honor."

Annie Morris, Monarch Class Guide



Our elementary environments provide a place for children to continue to develop their reasoning, imagining minds. Our guides inspire elementary students as they contemplate all aspects of the world around them, the universe, and their responsibilities as part of a society. The Montessori materials bring the children into contact with the concrete means of exploring and mastering a rich curriculum. Students study the interdependence of life, the development of civilization, language and culture, and their roles as contributors to and stewards of life on Earth.

"As a Montessori educator I am constantly in awe of how our elementary classrooms allow each child to be who they are. I admire how the classroom truly becomes a loving community, where each child has a place as an individual to be seen, heard and valued. We can then use their individual learning style to help guide them with their studies and ignite their love of learning."

Nina Noorzad, Adobe Class Guide

"One of the greatest joys of working in elementary is getting to know each child as an individual. With this knowledge of their particular interests and strengths, we can truly inspire great work. I am always amazed at the creative ways that they show their learning and collaborate together."

Kristin Tosello, Junior Class Guide

Junior High

Wavecrest Junior High Program is designed to foster self-discipline, confidence and a supportive peer community. The staff guide the students in the classroom and in the community. Students are encouraged to be active participants in their educational process while they build a personal vision of themselves working in society. Wavecrest offers a challenging academic experience within a developmentally based approach to educating the student.

"One of the greatest joys of working with the adolescent is when I see them engaged in work that supports their individual strengths, and empowers them, allowing them to feel valued, that what they do and say matters. This is a stage of flux, between childhood and adulthood, and as adolescent guides we have the pleasure of helping them to navigate these new waters. Wavecrest is a beautiful bridge between elementary and high school, a capstone to their journey through Montessori. Our work here is to not only facilitate learning within our curriculum, but to also build on the strengths of the adolescent, encouraging them to engage in critical thinking, exploration, and supporting their choice in work of interest. Through a prepared environment that stretches far beyond our individual classrooms, we provide experiences and tools to help them realize their interests and work towards their goals beyond their years with us. It is a privilege to be a part of their journey."

Angela Bridi-Milligan, Wavecrest Director & Humanities Guide



Santa Cruz Montessori embraces all people and recognizes the richness, complexity, and depth of an individual's race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, family constellation, socioeconomic status, age, religion, or physical and mental abilities. Diversity is a core value, central and indivisible from our mission to guide and nurture the natural unfolding of the whole person.

Our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee works to make our Montessori curriculum anti bias and anti racist. We are interested in supporting our children to be aware of and engage in dialogue about systemic injustices in the world.

Being able to perceive the needs of others, knowing when to suppress one's own needs for the good of others, and knowing when to assert one's own needs emerge naturally in a Montessori classroom.

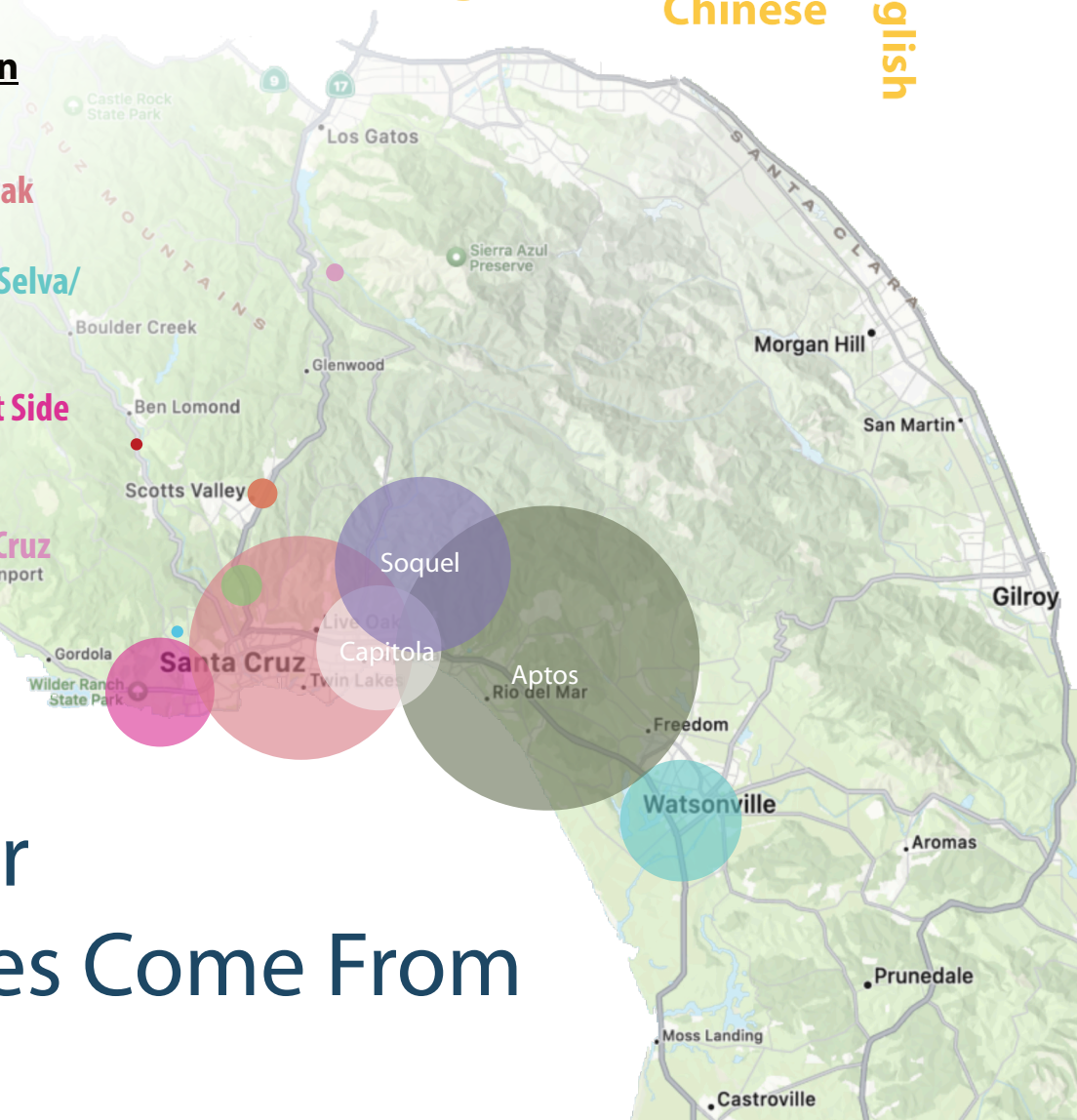
We embrace all of the places and backgrounds which our students and families contribute to our school community.

Languages

Spoken at Home

Swedish
Russian
Farsi
Norwegian
English
Chinese
Italian
Japanese
French
Portuguese
Spanish
Afrikaans
Mandarin

Number Of Households	Location
50	Aptos
37	Santa Cruz Midtown/Live Oak
29	Soquel
20	Watsonville/La Selva/Corralitos
20	Capitola
18	Santa Cruz West Side
7	Santa Cruz
5	Scotts Valley
3	Summit/Santa Cruz Mountains
2	Felton
2	UCSC
1	Salinas



Where Our Families Come From

The Annual Drive supports supplemental classroom materials and supplies, staff professional development, and facility improvement. It allows us to create the best supportive environment for our students.

This school year it allowed us to have a range of professional development for our staff. Including launching the year with Britt Hawthorne for her anti-racist and anti-bias training. This included a day training for staff as well as a training for the board of directors at the board retreat at the start of our school year. It is one of the many ways our staff focuses on continuing growth and development.

"Embracing your children's curiosity will support them in becoming open-minded, science-driven, and empathic. Differences do not divide us; it's our fear and unfair treatment of differences that do. It's always important to stress that there's not a superior characteristic, and it's never okay to treat others unfairly because of their differences."
- Britt Hawthorne



Annual Drive Donors 2022-2023

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Larry Abitbol & Shannon Durham | Eirich Family |
| Stan & Lynne Abraham | Fillner Family |
| Absolute Auto Glass | Flowers Wang Family |
| Sybil Albrecht Lewis & Art Lewis | Robert & Claire Fraser |
| Juana Alfaro | Edith P. Frick |
| Amarante Family | Frick Heady Family |
| Anonymous | Trey Garlough & Julie Morken |
| Antonakos Carlson Family | Amy Geller Family |
| Apple Matching Gifts | Rich Gellert Family |
| Athenour Family | Gillen Ercanbrack Family |
| Colleen Ayotte Family | Glazowski Mallory Family |
| Baldacci Family | Godsy Family |
| Barker Cappelloni Family | Goebel Wheaton Family |
| Blick Family | Goodland Bonura Family |
| Mark Block & Gretchen Werner | Google Matching Gifts |
| Allison Bridges | Greenfield Krog Family |
| Luciano Bridi | Eduard & Marie Gregor |
| Patricia Bridi | Grillo Family |
| Bridi Milligan Family | Gunter Ross Family |
| Thomas & Constance Broz | Haley Family |
| Dave Bunton | Penelope Hargrove |
| Calzetta Family | Barbara & John Harker |
| Campbell McDade Family | Haley Hedlin Family |
| Bruce Christopher & Christy Hertzberg | Heim Family |
| Cisco Matching Gifts | Hendrix Family |
| Anne Clunan Family | Angela Henrickson |
| Kevin & Kimberlee Collier | Herrick Family |
| Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County | Taylor Holter |
| Cathy Conley & Bill Merikallio | Madeline Horn Family |
| Robert & Patricia Craig | Hughes Family |
| Stacy Craig | Anthony & Helen Intintoli |
| Crawford Family | Cristina Intintoli |
| Cross Huang Family | Jones Family |
| Daoud Tholmer Family | Juniper Networks US |
| Della Davis | Kato Family |
| DeNike Family | Lynne Keener |
| deSieves Family | Kenneth & Glyndon Ruth Kimbrough |
| deSieves Null Family | Kimbrough Radan Family |
| Michael Destro | Kling Vickers Family |
| Diener Family | Krakovski Family |
| DiPiero Family | Trudy & Ted Kretschmer |
| Blake Dixon | Lanai Financial Solutions |
| Michelle & Robert Dixon | Lansing Family |
| Donnell Midgley Family | LeGassick Family |
| Paul & Maureen Draper | Levig Penrose Family |
| Driscoll Strawberry Associates, Inc. | Dan Likeness & Lucy Ramee-Likeness |
| | Lucas Family |



Annual Drive Donors 2022-2023

Mack Family
Madsen Sullivan Family
Mansfield Family
Robert Manson & Katherine McDonnell-Manson
Dom & Karen Massaro
McBroom Family
McGuffin Family
McNulty Family
Jason & Elizabeth Miller
Montgomery Family
Bob & Toni Montreuil
Moss Family
Carolyn Myoraku
Linda Neher
Netflix Matching Gifts
Novick Family
Nisan O'Connor Family
Christopher & Molly Ohlsen
O'Wren Hong Family
Pacific Yachting and Sales
Page Nyburg Family
Pantos Family
Julie Parraguirre
Patterson Bonura Family
Nico Peruzzi & Ann Bolger Peruzzi
Elizabeth Posner
Tom Postlewaite & Maryse Lepoutre
Powers Stimpert Family
Prestwich Family
Restrepo Smith Family
Jane Reyes Family
Kathy & Leif Rideout
Kathy Robbins

Roche Family
Rosen Family
Rublee Family
Kim & Brian Saxton
Seikel Miles Family
Selix Family
Sita Shapiro Family
Shuler Family
Singh Tut Family
Katherine Smith Family
SolSPACE
Carol Spivey
Stauffert Lai Family
Stubblefield Family
Talkovic Family
Talley Ramacho Family
Jenny Taskey
Thomas Family
Thomas Family Farm
Tiller Family
Timucin Family
Kristin Tosello & Nina Noorzad
Kate Green Tripp Family
Jann Turner
Hannah Wallis Family
Waluk Benoit-Bird Family
Kathleen and Robert Warfield
Rebecca Warton Family
Wharf to Wharf Race
Williams Family
Constance Wingate
Witte Family
Wulf Destro Family



Thank you for all of our donors who helped us reach **117%** of our Annual Drive goal this year and **129%** of our Tuition Assistance Drive goal!

Over
\$77,000
Donated for
Tuition
Assistance

Over
\$93,000
Donated to
Annual Drive

\$120,000
Donated for Arts
and Classroom
Enrichment

Tuition Assistance
Endowment ended
the year at over
\$284,000

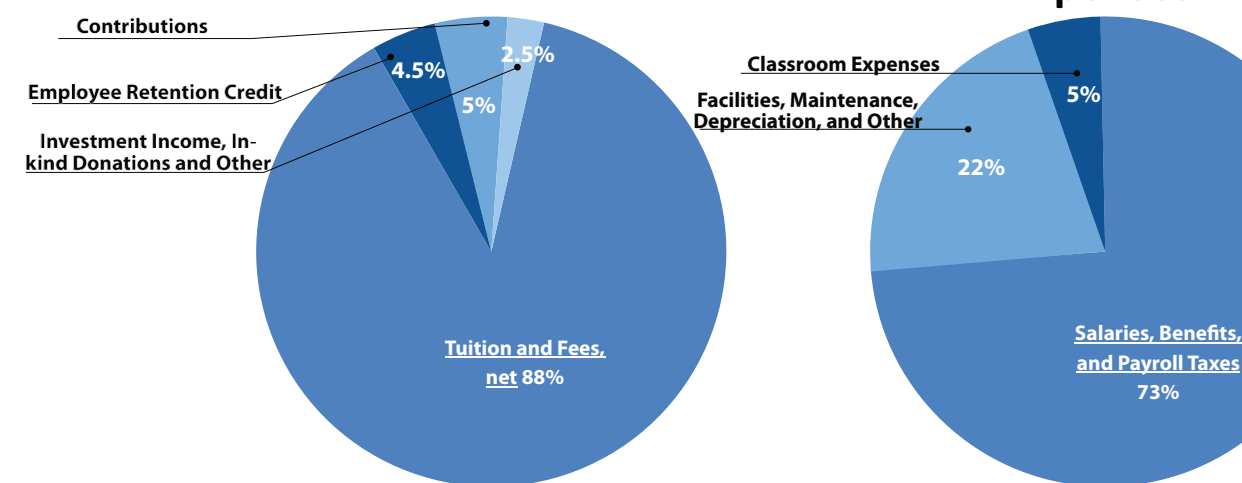
Operating Reserve
Fund ended at over
\$500,000



Financial Report

Statement of Financial Position Information	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Assets		
Total current assets	\$3,255,607	\$2,256,095
Property and equipment, net	\$6,232,793	\$6,319,204
Endowment principal and investments	\$697,141	\$682,909
Total assets	\$ 10,185,541	\$ 9,258,208
Liabilities		
Total current liabilities	\$434,337	\$440,683
Total long-term liabilities	\$4,031,102	\$4,200,017
Total liabilities	\$4,465,439	\$4,640,700
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions	\$5,085,026	\$3,991,224
With donor restrictions	\$635,076	\$626,284
Total liabilities & net assets	\$ 10,185,541	\$9,258,208
Statement of Activities Information		
	Fiscal Year Ended June 30,	
	2023	2022
Revenue		
Gross tuition & fees	\$ 6,562,301	\$ 6,324,880
Less: tuition assistance discount on tuition & fees	\$(1,267,697)	\$(1,356,241)
Net tuition & fees	\$5,294,604	\$4,968,639
Contributions	\$289,651	\$314,476
Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness	-	\$149,675
Employee retention credit	\$278,524	-
Investment income, in-kind donations and other	\$156,973	\$(12,973)
Total revenue	\$6,019,752	\$5,419,817
Expenses		
Academic program	\$ 3,864,138	\$3,510,185
Management and administration	\$910,867	\$931,252
Fundraising	\$142,153	\$168,704
Total expenses	\$4,917,158	\$4,610,141
Change in net assets	\$ 1,102,594	\$809,676

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023



Arts and Classroom Enrichment Donors 2022-2023

Ace's Flowers	DiPiero Family	Huang Family	Nester Family
Aisling Marie Photography	Robert & Michelle Dixon	Hughes Family	Novick Family
Sybil Albrecht Lewis & Art Lewis	Donnell Midgley Family	Jensen Family	Christopher & Molly Ohlsen
Alfaro Family Vineyards	Paul & Maureen Draper	Johnston Viotti Family	Page Nyburg Family
Amarante Family	Eirich Family	Kantek Family	Pantos Family
Antonakos Carlson Family	Martina Ersunay	Kato Family	Trisha Pastor
Avery Aquilanti	Edith P. Frick	Kaysen Larson Family	Patterson Bonura Family
Elise Arevalo	Friedlaender Casey Family	Lynne Keener	Nico Peruzzi & Ann Bolger Peruzzi
Athenour Family	Gallardo Family	Kimbrough Radan Family	Prestwich Family
Colleen Ayotte Family	Trey Garlough & Julie Morken	Tami Kinna	Jane Reyes Family
Baldacci Family	Amy Geller Family	Kling Vickers Family	Kathy & Leif Rideout
Blick Family	Michael & Lisette Gerald-Yamasaki	Krakowski Family	Kathy Robbins
Mark Block & Gretchen Werner	Yamasaki	Kroeker Biss Family	Rosen Family
Max & Barbara Boyer	Gillen Ercanbrack Family	Lanai Financial Solutions	Roush Family
Luciano Bridi	Glazowski Mallory Family	Emily Lansdale	Rublee Family
Bridi Milligan Family	Godsy Family	LeGassick Family	Sachs Family
Keith & Ruth Britany	Goebel Wheaton Family	Levig Design Group, Inc.	Kim & Brian Saxton
Campbell McDade Family	Google Matching Gifts	Levig Penrose Family	Warren & Diane Seider
Jessica Cannarozzi	Greenfield Krog Family	Dan Likeness & Lucy Ramee-Likeness	Seider Feder Family
Chaos2Content	Grillo Family	Ester & Gary Lucas	Seikel Miles Family
Flor Chavez	Haley Family	Madsen Sullivan Family	Selix Family
Vanessa Chavez Family	Hansen Family	Mahan Family	Sita Shapiro Family
The Christmas Light Pros	Skip Hanson	Mansfield Family	Singh Tut Family
Anne Clunan Family	Barbara & John Harker	Sharla Martin	SolSPACE
Cochran Sarto Family	Haskins Family	Dom & Karen Massaro	Carol Spivey
Stacy Craig	Healthy Beginnings Montessori House	McBroom Family	Strock Family
Crawford Family	Haley Hedlin Family	McGuffin Family	Strock Real Estate
Cross Huang Family	Heim Family	Jason & Elizabeth Miller	Stubblefield Family
Daoud Tholmer Family	Hendrix Family	Montgomery Family	Woutje Swets
Della Davis	Herrick Family	Bob & Toni Montreuil	Talley Ramacho Family
deSieves Family	Holmes Family	Carolyn Myoraku	Talmadge Family
deSieves Null Family	Holt Mendel Family	Ness Family	Jenny Taskey
Diener Family			Tillman Family
			Trexel Christey Family
			US Bank
			Hannah Wallis Family
			Waluk Benoit-Bird Family
			Kathleen & Robert Warfield
			Wonderland Toys
			Wulf Destro Family

Tuition Assistance Donors 2022-2023

Absolute Auto Glass	Paul & Kristin Ferlito	The Norman & Joan Kinsey Foundation	Jane Reyes Family
Sybil Albrecht Lewis & Art Lewis	Frick Heady Family	Kling Vickers Family	Rosen Family
Amarante Family	Trey Garlough & Julie Morken	Krakowski Family	Rublee Family
Amazon Services, LLC	Amy Geller Family	Lanai Financial Solutions	Kim & Brian Saxton
Anonymous	Michael & Lisette Gerald-Yamasaki	Emily Lansdale	Selix Family
Apple Matching Gifts	Glazowski Mallory Family	Lansing Family	Sita Shapiro Family
Elise Arevalo	Godsy Family	LeGassick Family	Sinclair Insurance Services, Inc.
Colleen Ayotte Family	Google Matching Gifts	Levig Penrose Family	Katherine Smith Family
Luciano Bridi	Greene Shipman Family	Lucas Family	SolSPACE
Bridi Milligan Family	Gunter Ross Family	Mack Family	Strock Family
Calzetta Family	Haley Family	Mansfield Family	Talkovic Family
Chaos2Content	Barbara & John Harker	McBroom Family	Jenny Taskey
Cisco Matching Gifts	Haskins Family	McGuffin Family	Gregory Timm
Cathy Conley & Bill Merikallio	Healthy Beginnings Montessori House	Montgomery Family	Kate Green Tripp Family
Nancy Clark	Hendrix Family	Netflix Matching Gifts	Hannah Wallis Family
Anne Clunan Family	Taylor Holter	Christopher & Molly Ohlsen	Waluk Benoit-Bird Family
Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County	Hughes Family	Julie Packard	Kathleen & Robert Warfield
Stacy Craig	Cristina Intintoli	Pantos Family	Wulf Destro Family
Daoud Tholmer Family	Kaysen Larson Family	Julie Parraguirre	
DiPiero Family	Kimbrough Radan Family	Nico Peruzzi & Ann Bolger Peruzzi	
Michelle & Robert Dixon	Tami Kinna	Prestwich Family	



All Campaigns by the Numbers

204

Donors

106

donors have given for

5+

years

Gifts sizes ranged from **\$1.00** to **\$30,000**

\$24,655

In Corporate Matches from:

- Apple
- Cisco
- Google
- Juniper Networks US
- Netflix

Tuition Assistance strengthens SCM for everyone. It allows us to keep our programs at full enrollment and balanced by age and gender. It improves our economic diversity so that the school can better reflect our community. Tuition Assistance also helps to retain our SCM families, which stabilizes our learning environments and keeps friends together.



Featured Alumni

Mara Peruzzi

Mara graduated in the Wavecrest class of 2015. She currently is a Visual Arts Major at UC San Diego.

My Montessori education began when I was almost 3 years old at San Jose Montessori School. Then I began at Santa Cruz Montessori in 1st grade in the Sequoia classroom, moving on to Cypress, and finally to Wavecrest. After graduating from Wavecrest, I transitioned into Mount Madonna High School in Watsonville where I excelled in volleyball and in my classes. Since then, I've been wrapping up my final semester at the University of San Diego where I was the President of the Women's Club Volleyball Team and Italian Club. I will be graduating with a BA in Visual Arts and two Minors in Psychology and Italian Studies. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to explore jobs in the creative industry and eventually apply for a Master of Fine Arts within the next couple of years.

My passion for art began in my early Montessori education. I remember standing at the paint aisle for hours, learning how to write in cursive, and how to sew and weave yarn into small purses. In Sequoia, I loved making booklets on lessons like the parts of a flower, and decorating my journal with hand-drawn borders; in Cypress, I took pride in writing a story and crafting a fuzzy blue cover with the title embroidered in yellow string; in Wavecrest, I designed the yearbook cover for my 7th-grade year, and then with my best friend Natalie Walker for 8th-grade. Because I had the freedom to choose what I spent my time doing at SCM, I was able to nurture this creative talent inside of me.

As I began college, I was excited to pursue a liberal arts education to engage in multiple subjects. One of my favorite classes this March was an interdisciplinary class called "The Desert Sublime," which integrated

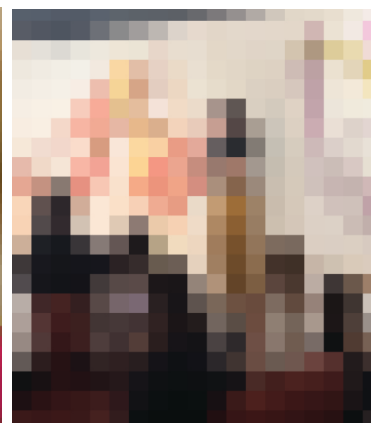
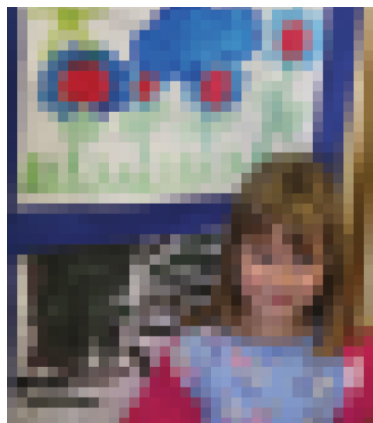
the subjects of Philosophy and Geology. It included a 3-night trip to Death Valley and I had the opportunity to bring my black and white film camera to shoot photos. For my final project, I combined these subjects in a discussion on whether the method of black-and-white film photography was able to effectively capture the element of the "sublime" in the desert.

Being exposed to an array of experiences at SCM allowed me to investigate my interests and thrive in multiple subjects. Some fond memories I have are of the overnight camping trips at WOLF Camp doing team-building games, playing a lead role in our 6th-grade production of An Odyssey, and learning how to take care of the farm animals, harvest fresh produce, and cook lunch at Live Earth Farm every Thursday. I loved having different activities to express myself while building lasting friendships. To keep my options open in college, I enrolled with an Undeclared major. After COVID-19 during the second semester of my Freshman year, I felt stuck about which subject to pursue and chose Psychology as a major. It wasn't until I reflected on my Montessori journey that I



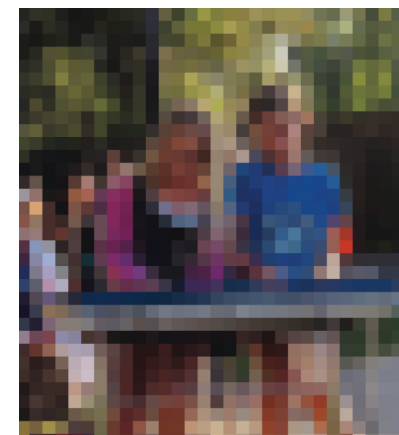
realized I was meant to pursue a creative direction. I am grateful for my Montessori education because it continues to guide me as I embark on my post-college journey.

After completing a semester abroad in Rome last Spring 2022, my love



for graphic design blossomed. I enrolled in a Corporate Identity and Branding class, and it was pivotal to my journey as a designer. In this three-hour class, I was tasked with completing a semester-long brand identity project for the famous Piazza Venezia – along with some cappuccino breaks in between at local Roman cafes... I'll never forget going onsite to the piazza, climbing the stairs to take the elevator up to the roof of the Victor Emmanuel II monument, and gazing down at a bird's eye view of the bustling roundabout before me. I observed the traffic patterns and sketched the movement of cars, vespas, pedestrians, and bicyclists as they made their way across the city. This inspiration not only drove the creation of my logo for this assignment but also ignited my excitement for creative problem-solving; I channeled the observational skills that I fostered in my early education at SCM. Recently, I have completed graphic design work as a freelancer within my personal network, and I have also been establishing myself as an artist, where I cut paper with an X-Acto knife to create 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional works as my primary medium.

This summer, after writing a grant proposal, I was selected out of a competitive applicant pool to complete a 10-week student-led creative project under the mentorship of an art professor. It was this opportunity that shaped my direction as an artist and acted as the basis for my Visual Arts Senior Thesis Exhibition that I completed last month. I titled my show *Befriending Change: From Hyper-fixation to Flow* and centered it on the Buddhist principle of impermanence which asserts that everything is always

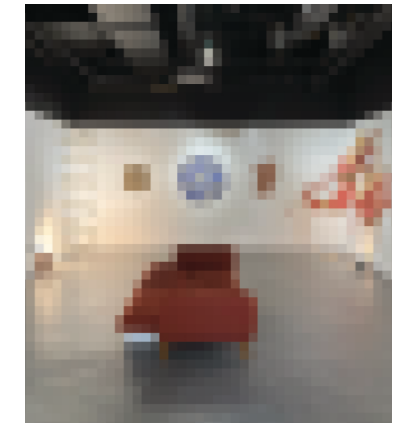


fluctuating and changing and has a beginning and an end. Under the mentorship of an art advisor, I installed eight pieces of work in a gallery space on campus, wrote a thesis paper, and

completed an hour-long oral defense among faculty and peers. (Check out my website for more information: <https://maraperuzzi.myportfolio.com/>).

It is worth noting that the close relationships I had with teachers at SCM aided me in establishing lasting connections with professors in college, whether they were in my major, or beyond. For my thesis, I was happy to have my Italian professor and Philosophy professor visit my art exhibition because we had created lasting relationships. Thanks to the small class sizes, I've been able to make lasting connections in our senior studios with other art majors as well. SCM's small class sizes with multiple grades in one classroom have continued to inspire me to mentor others and nurture a humanitarian aspect in my character.

In general, my Montessori education helped me form and embrace who I am as a person; the education I received will continue to aid me in my success as a young professional, wherever opportunities may lead me. For students at SCM today, I would encourage you to dive into the subjects you love, while also creating room for subjects that you may not gravitate towards at first. Don't be afraid to try something new and step out of your comfort zone!



Santa Cruz Montessori Wavecrest Class of 2023



Isabella Bridi-Milligan



Ada Geller



Elsa Gellert



Ananda Haskins



Hannah Herrick



David Kantek



Hikari Levig



Bethany Mansfield

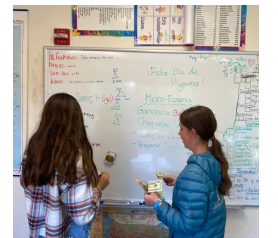


Claire Nordahl



Milana Wilson

Wavecrest Through the Year



We wish these students the best of luck at all of the schools they are attending:
Soquel High School, Delta High School, Santa Cruz High School, and Kirby



We're So Grateful!

Thank you for all of your support!

Each year, Santa Cruz Montessori depends on fundraising campaigns to fully fund our programs. Like most independent schools, SCM charges less in tuition than actual costs. The school's tuition generally covers about 92% of expenses. The balance is made up each year through generous donations to our fundraising campaigns.



We are so grateful and proud of our community of parents, staff, directors, alumni, grandparents, friends and community supporters who give so generously each year to support our school. Your commitment to Santa Cruz Montessori is an inspiration. We thank you!

In addition to the funds that support our programs we appreciate all of the hours parents, family members have contributed to our program this school year. Over **250** loads of laundry, over **210** grocery and snack trips, **10** nights supporting elementary camping trips, countless going outs, setting up for the Arts Auction, Harvest Festival, and supporting all of the events throughout the year!

Plus parents have supported the growth and engagement of their students by working on their own learning at the following parent development events:

- *Social/Emotional Thinking—Mindfulness, Conflict Resolution, and Social Thinking*
- *Montessori Theory: Independence/Responsibility, Going Outs, and Planes of Development*
- *Screenagers: Growing up in the Digital Age Film Screening*
- *Montessori Curriculum and Lesson Examples*
- *Supporting Toilet Independence*
- *Montessori in the Home*
- *Planes of Development/Importance of the 3rd Year*
- *Development of Language in the Primary Community*



Overall, we're had over **2300 hours** of community engagement and support for 2022-2023!

Thank you to all of the committees!

- Development Committee
- Community Support & Social Events Committee
- Finance Committee
- Yearbook Committee

Thank you to all of our 2022-2023 Classroom Ambassadors!

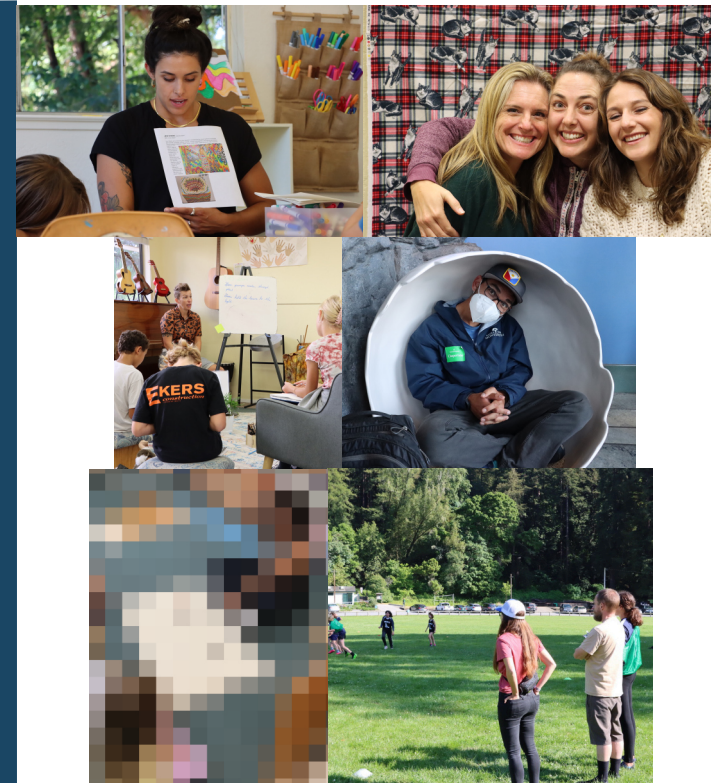
- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| • Hannah Biss | • Heidi Nyburg |
| • Caroline Montgomery | • Jamie deSieyes |
| • Lola Destro | • Allison Haley |
| • Anne Kato | • Sita Shapiro |
| • Kevin High | • Sara Hendrix |
| • Stephanie Midgley | • Amy Geller |
| • Rory McBroom | • Deauna Mansfield |
| • Eden Mendel Holt | • Courtney Pantos |

Thanks to all of our staff from the 2022-2023 School Year

Alaya Davila	Danit Christensen	Karina Chavez	McKenzie Martinez	Sophie Davenport
Angela Bridi-Milligan	Elise Arevalo	Sixtos	Melissa McGuffin	Stacy Craig
Angela Henrickson	Emily Lansdale	Kathy Warfield	Melissa White	Taylor Holter
Annie Morris	Flor Chavez	Kim Miles	Michael Ann Jacobson	Victoria Frichner
Barbara Harker	Gabi Ibarra	Kim Saxton	Michelle Dixon	Avery Aquilanti
Cassandra Steele	Jenny Taskey	Kristen Hutson	Mikayla Kraatz	Dave Bunton
Chris Nestlerode	Jill Matthies	Kristin Tosello	Molly Di Piero	Amanda Crawford
Christy Hertzberg	John McGuffin	Leonor Medina	Nina Noorzad	Pearl Vickers
Cristina Intintoli	Juana Alfaro	Lizzy Miller	Nisan O'Connor	Adrienne Stater
Dalila Leon	Julie Parraguirre	Madison Gillen	Patty Stone	Braydon Booher
Danieka Erasmus	Julie Patterson	Martina Erusnay	Regina Radan	
		Mariah Lambert		

2022-2023 Staff Professional Development

- Adolescent AMI Training
- Social Thinking Training
- AMI Elementary Training
- Crisis Management Training and Consultation
- Whole School Leadership Class
- Positive Discipline Training
- AMI 29th International Montessori Congress in Thailand for 3 head guides
- Building an Equitable Holiday Approach
- Practical life in the Toddler Environment
- Structured literacy-focused Teacher Training
- Brit Hawthorne Anti-Racist and anti-bias training and materials for all staff and board members
- CPR/First Aid Training
- Pickling/Fermentation Class for the Wavecrest Farm Stand



We are so grateful to the many generous donors who supported Santa Cruz Montessori during the fiscal year of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information and listings in this report. Please accept our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions. Please bring oversights to the attention of the SCM Development Office.



Ways To Give

Give In Person

Drop off your tax-deductible donation at the main office or the Development office.

Donate By Mail

Mail your donation to Santa Cruz Montessori, 6230 Soquel Drive Aptos, CA 95003

Give Online

Make a credit card donation at scms.ejoinme.org/donations. Gifts may be made all at once, or may be scheduled for recurring payments.

Make a Pledge

Contact the Development office or use the online pledge form at scms.org/pledge to make a pledge. Payments can be made any time during our fiscal year, July 1- June 30.

Gifts of Securities

Gifts of stocks and other appreciated assets may result in additional tax advantages to the donor. A number of our larger Annual Drive and Capital Campaign gifts come in this form. Contact the Development office if you wish to learn more.

Endowment

Gifts to endowment are a way to invest in the future of Santa Cruz Montessori. The principal of these gifts remains intact, and can grow over time, while a portion of the earnings on the endowment can be used to support school programs and needs. SCM currently has a Tuition Assistance Endowment Fund. Endowment gifts can be given to the Tuition Assistance Endowment Fund, or you may contact the Development office if you have an interest in establishing a new endowment fund.

Gifts-in-Kind

Items or professional services that are necessary to the operation and advancement of the school are considered gifts-in-kind. Past gifts include auction items, computer software, and services such as architectural planning. Gifts-in-kind are appreciated throughout the year.

Matching Employer Gifts

Check with your employer to see if they have a matching gift program for charitable donations.

Planned Giving

Bequests are the simplest of planned gifts. By naming Santa Cruz Montessori in your will, you can make a gift which ensures the future of our school. Bequests can be placed into endowment so that their impact is a legacy to the future. Please notify the Development office if you want to include Santa Cruz Montessori in your will.



For more information, contact the Development office.

dev@scms.org - (831)465-7683 - Tax ID# 94-1573507