Dear Parents,

Thank you for your support of Woodland Hill. This year we are completing our reaccreditation process through the New York State Association of Independent Schools, Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, and the American Montessori Society. This required an extensive and thorough look at our processes and methods. This work has helped us to continue to be an excellent school and provides us with the insight we need to improve what we offer here. Thank you to all who were involved in this hard work.

We had a wonderful year, with some new experiences to add to our time-honored traditions. In addition to the Lantern Walk this year, we added a Middle Eastern dinner to highlight and celebrate Middle Eastern culture. Al-Bustan, a Syrian band, played beautiful music and delicious food was served.

This past spring, the Middle School went on their very first Civil Rights trip. The students traveled to Selma, Birmingham, Memphis, and Atlanta, and learned about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights movement. They were given tours by those who were there. It was a very moving experience to be on the trip.

This year was also the 100th anniversary of the women’s right to vote in New York. We commemorated this date by having ‘Susan B. Anthony’ and a SUNY history professor visit our school and speak to the students about the suffrage movement. Displays and books were also part of our recognition of this historic milestone.

Dr. Derrick Gay also visited our school to present at our annual back-to-school professional development for faculty. His diversity talk, The Double-Edge Sword: Reframing Diversity for the 21st Century was very well-received by faculty, and later he also spoke to parents. The workshop was provocative and informative.

This year marked our 15th year of being here at our school on the hill. We would not be the outstanding school we are without the talented and dedicated faculty, our skilled administrative team, our caring parents, and eager students! I continue to be grateful to have such a great place to not only be every day, but also to be able to provide this wonderful learning environment to our students.

Sincerely,

Susan Kambrich
Head of School
NEW FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS

We welcomed five new faculty and staff members this year.

Cassandre Hall
Olga Febus
Kristi Favaloro
Jennifer Graham
Mary Dame
Ashley Ciccone
Patrick Cartwright
Ashley Campion
Liz Cahrenger
Sandy Blakeman
Cindy Bishop
Ann Ayers
Owusu Anane
Assistant Teachers
Head Teachers &
FACULTY

Paloma Cuprill was hired as the Business Manager over the summer. Paloma has worked as an accountant for the Albany Symphony Orchestra and as controller for Eriksen Translations Inc. She has a bachelor’s degree in business administration from The Sage Colleges.

Kathleen Lyons is our new Primary-Middle School Art Teacher. She recently retired from the East Greenbush School District. Kathleen has a bachelor’s degree in art education and a master’s degree in education from The College of St. Rose.

Jaclynn Santilli is the Assistant Teacher in Julie’s class. Jackie has a bachelor’s degree in child development from Syracuse University and a master’s degree in childhood education from Sage Graduate Schools. She taught elementary students in schools in New York and Hawaii.

Alisa Scapatici is our new ELA teacher in the Middle School. Alisa was the English teacher at Albany Academies for 21 years and the Chair of the English Department there for the past eight years. Alisa has a bachelor’s in comparative literature from Hamilton College, a master’s in English and education from Union College, and a doctorate in English from the University at Albany. Alisa will also be serving as director of the Writing Center to assist our older elementary and middle school students in writing.

Andrew Snow is our new violin teacher. He has been a violin and viola teacher and coach for the Empire State Youth Orchestra and CHIME, as well as in his own studio for the past seven years. He was also a teaching assistant at the Eastman School of Music and Brigham Young University Department of Music. Andrew has a bachelor’s and master’s degree in music from Brigham Young University, and a doctorate of musical arts from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester.

We also have six faculty changes this year.

Michelle Edwards is now the Assistant Head of School. She has previously served as the Director of Curriculum and Faculty Development and Head Toddler Teacher. She has a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Grove City College in Pennsylvania, CMTE Toddler Certification, and is currently a candidate in the Masters of Education in Educational Administration program at Lamar University. Michelle holds an AMS Infant and Toddler certificate.

Iggy Calabria is teaching Upper Elementary and Middle School music. Iggy has a bachelor’s degree in jazz guitar performance and a master’s of teaching degree in music education from University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Iggy taught STOMP as a UE and MS elective last year, and is continuing that elective this year.

Ashley Campion will work as the Head Toddler teacher in the afternoon, and as an assistant in the morning session. She joined the Toddler classroom last year as an assistant. Ashley has a bachelor’s in early childhood education from the College of Saint Rose. She is currently enrolled at the Center for Montessori Education and is in the process of completing her Infant and Toddler Montessori certification.

Mary Dame has joined the Toddler II (PM) class as an assistant. Mary has worked in school care and the summer program since 2016. Mary has a bachelor’s degree in history from the State University of New York at Oswego with a specialization in American History.

Nicole Lenihan is the new Assistant Teacher with Stephanie in Primary. Nicole recently completed her Montessori training at the Northeast Montessori Institute. Nicole has served as a long-term substitute and assistant in the Toddler program at WHMS. Nicole has a bachelor’s in psychology from the Sage Colleges, and a master’s in industrial/organizational psychology from Capella University.

Erin Mergill is now a Head Teacher, after working with Stephanie last year. She is an experienced Montessori teacher, previously working at Escuela Montessori del Valle in El Paso and Castle Island in Albany. She has a bachelor’s degree from the University at Albany in Spanish and linguistics. Erin is credentialed from the Center of Montessori Teacher Education. She recently completed her master’s in Early Childhood Education with a concentration in Montessori studies.
There are **302 students** at WHMS this year, including 30 in Toddler, 111 in Primary, 72 in Lower Elementary, 56 in Upper Elementary, and 33 in Middle School. This marks our highest enrollment.

**The Junkman** came to WHMS on Tuesday, December 6 with his special brand of music and a message of recycling and reuse. The Junkman is Donald Knaack, a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, a member of the Louisville Orchestra and Buffalo Philharmonic, and a percussionist and composer. All of the students were thoroughly entertained by him.

Middle School students visited residents at **Kenwood Manor**, a nursing home in Delmar. They went on three different occasions and made Valentine’s, St. Patrick’s, and Easter crafts.

On January 20 the **kindergartners and their families enjoyed a celebration and recognition of the important part their children play in their primary classrooms as leaders and role models.** The group performed the songs *Funga Alafia* and *The Courage of the Dandelion* and each child spoke into the microphone to describe themselves and their favorite work in the classroom. The WHMS community looks forward to this lovely event every year!

The Upper Elementary hosted a **Lunar New Year Parade** on January 30. All of our students joined in the parade to the gym with their handmade noisemakers, where they learned about the Lunar New Year and how it is celebrated around the world.

**WHMS held its 4th annual National Geographic Bee on Tuesday, January 31. Caitlin Chung** won the bee for the second time, the first being in 2015.

**Sia Shah** won the 2017 WHMS Spelling Bee for the third time (2014, 2015, and 2017). Caitlin Chung won the 2016 WHMS Bee and came in second place at the 2016 Capital Region Spelling Bee, earning her a spot in the 2017 Bee. Both students participated in the Capital Region Spelling Bee, which was held on Tuesday, February 7 at Proctors Theatre. **Caitlin Chung** was a finalist and finished in second place overall.

**Middle School students visited residents at Kenwood Manor, a nursing home in Delmar. They went on three different occasions and made Valentine’s, St. Patrick’s, and Easter crafts.**

**Opera Saratoga** presented *The Bremen Town Musicians* on March 2. The opera told the story of a donkey seeking to form a band with outcast farm animals. The group comes to appreciate the importance of putting their differences aside and working together.

On Saturday, March 4, WHMS competed in the **U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl at GE.** The Science Bowl is a nationwide academic competition that tests students’ knowledge in all areas of science and mathematics. The WHMS team was comprised of five eighth-graders and one sixth-grader, and was coached by Leah Johnson and Toni Roland. Leah says the team had a fantastic day, winning four out of five rounds against other local middle schools.

**Sarah Grossman, Ana Stackelberg, Isabel Lopez-Camacho, and Kaylie Millar** traveled to the Saratoga Springs City Center to participate in the **Olympics of the Visual Arts.** The students worked on a long-term art project that they brought with them to display at the city center, and worked on a spontaneous prompt once they were there. Sarah participated in the drawing category, and the other students presented tableware based on an artist for the industrial design category.
of handling on their own, such as someone cutting in line or not playing by the rules on the playground. "Big" problems are situations that may cause threat or harm to another person OR if a person has tried at least two ways of resolving a “small” problem on their own and the other person does not stop.

In September, Upper El students spent the entire day outside as part of the Flying Deer Nature Center program. The students learned valuable information about shelter building, fire starting, and foraging for food. It also teaches them community cooperation and respect for their environment.

Lyndon Cudlitz, formerly from the PRIDE center, gave an informative talk on sexual identity and gender at our Parent Education presentation on September 28. About 40 parents attended the event. He also presented to the teachers in February.

The 12th Annual Friends Fall Family Fun Day took place on Saturday, October 14. Hundreds of guests enjoyed live music, a petting zoo, touch-a-truck, rocket and marshmallow launching, acorn painting, mystery boxes, a chili cook-off, balloon creations, and caramel apples.

WHMS students celebrated Diwali on October 17. Students, faculty, and parents gathered in the gym to commemorate India’s Festival of Lights. Students learned about the traditions of Diwali, watched dances, and learned songs. Parent volunteers made holiday foods for each classroom so the students could sample the Diwali snacks.

WHMS is now home to a Native American wigwam. The wigwam is entirely hand-made with the same materials that would have been used 400 years ago! In addition to the dwelling, there are replicas of dugout canoes and furs and pelts.

300 members of the Woodland Hill Montessori School community gathered for a Middle Eastern Dinner and Lantern Walk on October 27. The event featured a performance by the Al-Bustan Ensemble, and a menu including pita, kibbeh, falafel, tabbouleh, hummus, labneh, and mujadara. After the performance, dinner, and discussion about Middle Eastern culture, the traditional lantern-lit walk through the woods began. The walk ended at the soccer field, where families gathered for songs. The lantern walk was started in 2012 to celebrate the transition of seasons. This was the first year for the Middle Eastern Dinner.
Woodland Hill Montessori School Statement of Activity
for the year ended June 30, 2017

**INCOME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition-Net of multi-child discounts &amp; financial aid</td>
<td>$3,154,898</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income-Net of expenses</td>
<td>$271,584</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extra-curriculars</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aftercare</td>
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<td>Summer Program</td>
<td>$160,072</td>
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<td>Other</td>
<td>$129,893</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Fund</td>
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<td>Friends Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enrichment Program</td>
<td>$51,040</td>
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<td>Gala-Net of expenses</td>
<td>$44,168</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Funding</td>
<td>$43,387</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,339,230</strong></td>
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**EXPENSES**

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll, Taxes and Benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher/Staff Tuition Benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation &amp; Amortization</td>
<td>$175,565</td>
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<td>Insurance</td>
<td>$155,623</td>
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<td>School Supplies &amp; Materials</td>
<td>$140,186</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Maintenance &amp; Utilities</td>
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<td>Interest</td>
<td>$117,545</td>
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<td>Field Trips &amp; In-house performances</td>
<td>$82,082</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$68,514</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>$68,205</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Staff Development</td>
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<td>Bad Debt</td>
<td>$21,718</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,840,879</strong></td>
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**CHANGE IN ASSETS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$498,351</strong></td>
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</table>
Financial Aid

Woodland Hill is committed to serving families of diverse socio-economic backgrounds through a growing financial aid program and affordable tuition. The amount of financial aid is dependent upon demonstrated financial need and available financial aid funds.

Statement of Financial Position
As of June 30, 2017*

ASSETS
Cash and cash equivalents $836,894
Investments 2,642,981
Receivables (net) 250,347
Prepaid expenses 15,110
Land, building, and equipment (net) 4,581,944
Total assets $8,327,276

LIABILITIES
Accounts payable 43,705
Accrued expenses 215,024
Deferred revenues 1,039,051
Long-term debt 2,184,616
Total liabilities $3,482,396

NET ASSETS
Unrestricted $3,160,438
Board designated 1,666,928
Temporarily restricted 17,514
TOTAL NET ASSETS $4,844,880

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS $8,327,276

* draft of audited financial statements
Thanks to our generous supporters, WHMS raised over $81,000 for our 2016/2017 Annual Fund. The Woodland Hill Montessori School Annual Report gratefully acknowledges gifts received between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

**SCHOLARS’ CLUB $5,000+**
Nidhi and Vikash Agrawal
Nina and Bob Green

**HEAD OF SCHOOL CIRCLE $2,500-$4,999**
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Caroline and Eric Steinborn
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Maureen and James Tusty

**2016-2017 Annual Fund Chairs**
Tamara and Robert Gatchell
Congratulations to the Class of 2017!

Our 2017 graduates are attending the following schools:

• Albany Academy for Girls
• Albany High School
• Bethlehem High School
• Darrow School
• The High School at Brown School
• Niskayuna High School (3)
• Shaker High School (4)
• Shenendehowa High School
• Troy High School (2)

On Friday, June 16, fifteen eighth-graders graduated from Woodland Hill Montessori School.

Neshima Vitale-Penniman was the senior speaker, having been nominated by her classmates and teachers.

The keynote graduation speaker was Rex Tien, an alumnus of the Montessori School of Albany, as WHMS was known then. Currently, he is a doctoral candidate at the University of Pittsburgh. Rex attended the Montessori School of Albany from kindergarten through 6th grade, and graduated in the year 2000.

Our 2017 graduates are attending the following schools:

• Albany Academy for Girls
• Albany High School
• Bethlehem High School
• Darrow School
• The High School at Brown School
• Niskayuna High School (3)
• Shaker High School (4)
• Shenendehowa High School
• Troy High School (2)
More than 200 parents, faculty, alumni parents, and community members attended the event, which included cocktails, a sit-down dinner, silent auction, raffles, a live auction of classroom events, and dancing.

The Wednesday Hot Lunch founders, Jolanta Botti, Susan Calyer, Sara DeLeonardis, Shari Mantini, and Janna Mendonça, were honored at the Gala. Since the Hot Lunch inception in 2013, these five WHMS parents have volunteered each Wednesday to prepare food for our students.

Almost $44,000 was raised for the school through the live auction, safe deposit box raffle, silent auction, Raise a Paddle, and tuition raffle.

We thank everybody who attended the event, or supported it for making it so fun and successful!

GALA COMMITTEE
Kristine Abele, Chair
Sara DeLeonardis
Simone Esch
Danielle Hemmid
Susan Kambrich
Sarah Kenning
Jenny Malatras
Neelam Mehta
Laura Moody
Marcus Q. Pryor
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Kerri Scheib
Sandy Schneider
Deepak Vashishth

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Bouchey & Clarke Benefits/Bouchey Financial Group
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Empire Wine and Liquor Outlet*
Perreca’s Bakery/MORE Perreca’s Italian Kitchen
Repeat Business Systems
Solutions by Design
Wainschaf Associates, Inc.

*In-Kind donations

Woodland Hill Montessori School’s 19th Annual Gala was held at 60 State Place in downtown Albany on Friday, April 7.
AUCTION DONORS

16 Handles
333 Cafe
9 Maple Avenue Jazz Club
Albany Center Gallery
Albany Country Club
Albany Institute of History & Art
The C.H. Evans Brewing Company at The Albany Pump Station
Albany’s Indoor Rockgym
Elisa Albert
AllSquare Wealth Management
B.M.T. Hospitality
Jennifer Baltrush
Dr. Michael and Madeline Baltrush
Billy Beez
The Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza
Bountiful Bread
Buffalo Bills
Capital Repertory Theatre
The Cheesecake Factory
Garden Bistro 24
Giennpeter Jewelers
Glimmerglass Opera
June Graham
Christopher Griffith
Sarah Grossman
Hampton Inn & Suites, Downtown Albany
Hancock Shaker Village
Harvest Spirits Farm Distillery
Hedonic Tonic
Hilton Albany
The Hollow Bar & Kitchen
Home2 Suites by Hilton
Honest Weight Food Co-Op
I Love Books
Indian Ladder Farms
J. Leigh Louisa Beauty Salon
Jack’s Oyster House
Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival
James Kambrich
Lake George Steamboat Co.
Eric and Cheryl Ledet
Lucky Strike Social
MASS MoCA
Mirror Lake Inn
miSci
The Music Studio
National Baseball Hall of Fame
Old Songs, Inc.
Omi International Art Center (Art Omi)
Orangetheory Fitness
Pearl Grant Richmans
Pearl Street Pub
Perreca’s Bakery
The Pilates Principle
The Placid Baker
The Pottery Place
Pure Elements
Radiance Hot Yoga
Renaissance Hotel
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Athletics
Riverview Orchards
Rocky’s Music Studio
Rome’s Pizzeria and Restaurant
The Sagamore Resort
Saratoga Awareness
Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC)
Edward Schwarzschild
Shogun Sushi
Siena College
Siena College Athletics
Silver Parrot
Michael and Anne Skrebutenas
Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park
Solasus Web Solutions
Sondra’s Fine Jewelry
SPORTIME
Springfield Museums
Stewart’s Shops
Strut, Spalonitique
SUNY Poly CMOST
Swifty’s - Albany
Tantrums Spa Boutique
Tri-City Fitness, Inc.
Tri-City ValleyCats
Troy Savings Bank Music Hall
Twist N Flip Gymnastics
Uncle Sam Lanes
The University at Albany Foundation
Via Aquarium
Victoriana Visions
Cynthia Ward
Whole Foods Market
Williamstown Theatre Festival
Yogibo
Yono’s

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Amanda Boyd-Groot and Douglas Groot
Kevin and Monica Brady
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Michael and Sara DeLeonardis
The Doriot Family
Marisa and Allan Eisemann
Emma Willard School
Suzan and David Evans
Tara Fracalossi and Thomas Lail
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Robert and Tamara Gatchell
Wendy and Charles Gilman
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Portia Melita, Kim O’Brien, and Dick Melita
Christine and John Powers
Dr. Anthony and Jaclyn Santilli
Edward Schwarzschild and Elisa Albert
Peter Sinclair and Allegra Edelman
Deepak Vashishth & Valerie Vasselon-Vashishth
Robert and Gwenn Witko
OUR MISSION

Woodland Hill Montessori School—
a diverse and engaging educational
partnership of parents, teachers,
children, and community—nurture
a child’s love of learning and sense
of personal and social responsibility,
using the child-centered Montessori
philosophy and curriculum to develop the
intellectual, physical, spiritual, artistic
and academic excellence inherent
in each child.

Every gift matters.