Dear Woodland Hill Families,

This year we reached and celebrated a milestone with our 50th anniversary. Woodland Hill Montessori School now enters its 51st year! We have accomplished much in the past years thanks to our outstanding leadership. It is with profound gratitude that I would like to thank Michael Endler for his years of service to Woodland Hill’s board of trustees. His tenure as president has produced a strong foundation for our school. It is with his vision and guidance that our school grew in strength and structure. The board of trustees acknowledges Michael’s hard work and dedication. He warrants the highest of accolades for his accomplishments. Michael is a gracious leader who has eased my transition into the position of president. Thank you, Michael.

Our school is a working machine with many different moving parts. Our dedicated staff puts forth great effort to get the job done right. They put their heart and soul into everyday decisions. This solid infrastructure supports the teachers, allowing them to dedicate their full attention to our children. Our talented teachers holistically teach the Montessori philosophy in a way in which each child is engaged. Our children thrive within the classroom. They are excited to learn. They are challenged. They are respected and loved. The children feel as though our wonderful school is their second home. Everyone knows their name, and chances are, the names of their family members. Our parents give every ounce of themselves to our school and community by countless ways of giving their time, resources, and knowledge. Our mission states that we are “a diverse and engaging educational partnership of parents, teachers, children, and community.” Each of us contributes to what makes Woodland Hill Montessori School the outstanding institution it is today.

The positive energy within our school is palpable. We look forward to the future and strengthening our school. Thank you to all who have generously contributed to our success!

Sincerely,
Katie Singh
President of the Board of Trustees

Dear Woodland Hill Families,

Thank you for your support of Woodland Hill this past year. We had a wonderful year, with some new experiences to add to our time-honored traditions. One of the highlights this past year for me was to attend the American Montessori Society Conference in Philadelphia with all 35 members of our faculty and staff.

This past year we also have been working on the development of our new Strategic Plan. We accomplished many of the goals from our previous plan, most notably adding a Toddler program to our school. Other accomplishments included further development of our Middle School program; two of our Middle School teachers were trained in Cincinnati Montessori Secondary Teacher Education Program and Latin was added to the curriculum. We also significantly increased teacher salaries and added a full-time administrator to help support our many programs.

Improvements to our campus have included a beautiful new pavilion to allow our children to have a shaded and dry area to play and new trees and plantings on the grounds that provide beauty and shade.

I was so inspired by a talk and book authored by Finnish educator Pasi Sahlberg (Finnish Lessons) that I visited a Finnish school in April. The opportunity to see the school and talk to educators was motivational and confirmed many of my beliefs about education and independence.

Our school cannot be the outstanding place it is 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.

Thank you to Michael Endler for the many years of dedicated service to Woodland Hill. I look forward to my continuing work with Katie Singh.

Sincerely,
Susan Kambrich
Head of School
OUR MISSION
Woodland Hill Montessori School— a diverse and engaging educational partnership of parents, teachers, children, and community — nurtures 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.

NEW FACULTY MEMBERS
We welcomed five new faculty and staff members this year.

Bethany Burroughs joined WHMS as our School Counselor in June 2015. Bethany received a bachelor’s in Psychology from SUNY Oswego, and a master’s in Professional School Counseling from Sage Graduate School. Before coming to Woodland Hill, Bethany worked in the Shenendehowa School District, and in a variety of roles providing counseling services to youth and families as a Behavior Specialist for children with Autism and Dual-Diagnosis, as well as youth in foster care settings with Serious Emotional Disturbances and Developmental Disabilities.

Nicole Lenihan worked as assistant teacher in the Toddler classroom and is currently assisting in the Primary classrooms. A WHMS parent for several years, Nicole’s also served as a substitute teacher at WHMS. Nicole has a bachelor’s in Psychology from the Sage Colleges, and a master’s in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from Capella University.

Mary Maher provides support to students who need additional help in math. Mary is a seasoned teacher with bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the College of St. Rose. She taught grade 2, 3, and 4 at Troy’s School 18 and currently also teaches math to fourth through sixth graders at Maimonides Hebrew Day School.

Sara O’Connell is our new Spanish teacher. Sara is NYS-certified to teach Spanish for all ages. She has a bachelor’s in Spanish Secondary Education with a minor in theater from Russell Sage and a master’s in liberal studies from the University at Albany. Sara has over ten years of experience as a Spanish teacher, with nine years at Bethlehem middle and high schools, and has been a teacher since 1993, taking time to be at home with her family for the past few years.

Toni Roland provides math support for Middle School students. Toni is a veteran teacher who has taught math to elementary through high school students for many years. Toni has a bachelor’s degree in education from SUNY Geneseo, a master’s in Human Resources and Curriculum from Georgia State University, and a master’s degree in Mathematics Education from Texas State University.
There are 287 students at WHMS this year, including 32 in Middle School, 56 in Upper El, 72 in Lower El, 106 in Primary, and 21 in Toddler/Toddler II. Our students come from 30 school districts across seven counties: Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, and Schoharie.

Sia Shah won the WHMS Spelling Bee in December 2014 for the second time in a row. She represented Woodland Hill at the Capital Region Spelling Bee at Proctors on February 24.

WHMS violin students and several parents enjoyed performing in the Winter Holiday Jam in the lobby on December 16.

In preparation for WHMS’ Strategic Planning, workshops were held on January 10 and January 14. Tobi Saulnier, a current board member and former WHMS parent, facilitated the workshops and is leading the Strategic Planning committee.

Upper Elementary held an Oxfam banquet on January 16. The banquet was a great success, raising almost $1,000 for Oxfam. The UE holds the banquet every three years.

Caitlin Chung won our second annual National Geographic Bee on January 28.

On February 6, WHMS held a panel discussion centering on the Islam and Middle Eastern culture(s) and faith. Student teacher Pinar Karabulut, WHMS parent Mansoor Mustafa, and local high school student Emaan Effendi talked to the Upper El and Middle School students about what it means to be a Muslim. The program was informative and well-received by the students and the parents that attended.

After a four-year absence, the WHMS Talent Show returned on February 26. It was coordinated by Shari Mantini.

In early March, the WHMS Green Team held a Family Dance led by Paul Rosenberg of Homespun Occasions. Before the dance, Paul taught our Primary-Upper El students a mix of contra, square and international folk dances.

Opera Saratoga’s Opera to Go brought The Three Little Pigs to WHMS on March 4. The Opera’s annual performance is sponsored by the Friends of WHMS.

WHMS held its first ever Eco Fair on Friday, March 20. Students from grades 1-8 created projects that were on display in the gym. The projects featured an electric car, chickens, solar cookers, beekeeping, composting, invasive species, geothermic energy, urban farming, uses for bioluminescence, upcycling, wind power, and fracking, to name a few of the exciting projects and demonstrations.

Ranna and her mother decorated our lobby for Nowruz, the Persian New Year. Nowruz is celebrated when the vernal equinox occurs. The most important activity in the celebration of Nowruz is making the haft-seen table.

On March 3, Maru and her family set up a display in our lobby with Hinamatsuri dolls to commemorate “Girls’ Day,” a Japanese celebration for girls’ healthy growth.

Thirty-seven members of the WHMS faculty and staff spent the weekend of March 13-15 in Philadelphia at the annual American Montessori Society conference. The teachers attended seminars and keynote speeches and connected with fellow Montessori teachers form around the world.

Blueberry Buckle performed Celtic and bluegrass songs and played along with our violinists for St. Patrick’s Day.

Johanna Kuehnhenrich served as an in-resident student teacher this fall. Johanna was from Germany and is working on her bachelor’s degree studying Math, German and English at the Westfaelische Wilhelmsuniversitaet in Muenster. She worked in Julie and Megan’s classroom.

On May 5, Mrs. Rose Westheimer returned to WHMS to speak to the 6th - 8th grade students about her experience during the Holocaust. The talk helped bring to life the human aspect of a time in history that sometimes feels very far removed from the lives of today’s students.

Award-winning singer and songwriter Tom Chapin performed for WHMS students on Monday, May 18. His career has spanned five decades, 23 albums and three Grammy awards. At WHMS, he’s best known for his song, This Pretty Planet, which WHMS students learn at age 3, and perform annually.

On February 9, Middle School students, their teachers, Tami Meek, and Susan Kambrich explored Old San Juan, the El Morro Forest, Arecibio Observatory, Camuy Caverns, and kayaked in the Bioluminescent Bay.
Over spring break, Susan Kambrich went to Moscow, St. Petersburg, Russia, Helsinki, Finland and Stockholm, Sweden. Susan visited a Finnish School and learned a lot about how their school operates. Susan shared her Russian experiences with the Lower El classes, and wrote an article about Finnish education which was published in the Times Union on May 17.

Our annual Fall Family Fun Day was held on September 26. The event had a BBQ theme, and was attended by 500 people.

The WHMS Green Team held their fourth annual Potluck and Lantern Walk on October 16. The group made their own lanterns out of mason jars, walked through the woods, and gathered on the soccer field with their lit lanterns.

In mid-October, our 8th graders and teachers traveled to New York City to participate in the Global Citizenship Action Project. GCAP provides middle school students the opportunity to see and better understand the work of the United Nations.

As part of the DEC’s “A Day in the Life of the Hudson River” WHMS teachers Christine Caruso and Stephanie Puchner entered the river with seine fishing nets at the Rensselaer Boat Launch on October 20. Their class of three- to six-year olds stood on the banks with their parents and watched as they dragged the net.

On Friday, June 12, fifteen 8th graders graduated from Woodland Hill Montessori School. The commencement address was given by Dr. John B. King, Jr. Dr. King was a WHMS parent until June and is now the Acting United States Secretary of Education. Aidan Singh was the senior speaker.

Our 2015 graduates are attending the following schools:

- Academy of the Holy Names
- Albany Academy for Girls (2)
- Albany High School
- Bethlehem High School
- Christian Brothers Academy (2)
- Emma Willard School (3)
- LaSalle Institute
- Miss Hall’s School
- Niskayuna High School (2)
- Voorheesville High School

Join us on Friday, April 8 at 60 State Street in Albany

We will be honoring Fred and Laura Galt.

We hope to see you there!
## Woodland Hill Montessori School Income and Expense Statement

**WHMS STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND EXPENSES**

for the year ended June 30, 2015*

### Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition-Net of multi-child discounts &amp; financial aid</td>
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<td>Aftercare</td>
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<td>Extra Curricular</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>Summer Camp</td>
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<td>Annual Fund</td>
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<td>Friends Income</td>
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<td>Investment Income-Net of expenses</td>
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<td>Annual Gala-Net of expenses</td>
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<td>Enrichment</td>
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<td>State Funding</td>
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**Total Income** $3,979,297

### Expenses

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll, Taxes and Benefits</td>
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<td>Teacher/Staff Tuition Benefits</td>
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<td>Building Maintenance &amp; Utilities</td>
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<td>Depreciation &amp; Amortization</td>
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<td>Interest</td>
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<td>Staff Development</td>
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<td>Bad Debt</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Auditor</td>
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</table>

**Total Expenses** $3,537,545

### Change in Assets

**$441,752**

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* DRAFT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Debbie and Jonathan Ripchick
50th Anniversary Annual Fund Chairs
This report gratefully acknowledges gifts received between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015. Great care was taken to ensure the accuracy of this report. If there are any errors, please accept our apologies and notify Moira K. Rienzo, Director of Development at 518.283.5400 or mrienzo@woodlandhill.org.

* Denotes WHMS Grandparent
† Designated to Susan LaVigne Scholarship Fund

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(bold name is honoree)
Vasanthi Shekhar
Vinita Shekhar

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Julie Adams and Vinita Shekhar
Umamaheswaram Pulliela & Mahalakshmi Devarakonda
Dominick Flexer
Grace Cascio
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Frederica Cushman and Steven Wallis

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Yes, I would like to contribute to the WHMS Annual Fund

Name(s) ____________________________________________________________

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Gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Gifts made from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 will be credited to the 2015-2016 Annual Fund.

- I am making a gift of $ ________________ for the 2015-2016 Annual Fund.
- I would like to pay by check. (Please make payable to Woodland Hill Montessori School.)
- I would like to pay by credit card: □ Visa □ Mastercard
  - I wish to pledge $ ________________ for the 2015-2016 Annual Fund.
    - Please send me: □ quarterly □ monthly reminders until June 2016.
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Acct No. __________________________________________________________________________ Expiration Date ______________________

Please recognize my gift: □ In Honor of ____________________________ □ In Memory of ____________________________

City ____________________________________________ State __________ Zip __________
On Saturday, May 2, nearly 300 members of the Woodland Hill Montessori School community gathered for our 50th Anniversary Gala.

Parents, faculty, staff, former parents, and community members enjoyed the festive event, which was held at 90 State Street in downtown Albany. The elegant evening included a performance by the WHMS violin students, cocktails and a sit-down dinner, an auction of classroom projects, dancing to sounds of Body and Soul band of the NY Players, and a beautiful cake to commemorate the 50th anniversary of WHMS.

The highlight of the evening was recognizing Head of School Susan Kambrich and outgoing Board President Michael Endler. Susan received the Montessori Excellence Award, in honor of her 15 years of as head of WHMS, and Michael was given the Montessori Achievement Award to mark his tenure as board president. NYS Senator Kathleen A. Marchione presented Susan and Michael with a proclamation from the New York State Senate honoring their awards, and U.S. Rep. Paul Tonko delivered a Congressional Commendation.

Almost $45,000 was raised for WHMS through our Live Auction, Raise a Paddle and our Best of Live Auction raffle. The evening’s success was due to the Gala chair, Kate Singh, and the entire Gala committee who worked hard all year.

Thank you to everyone who made the evening so much fun, and such a huge success!

50th Anniversary Gala Committee
Katherine Singh, Chair
Kristine Abele
Monica Brady
Susan Calyer
Sara DeLeonardis
Simone Esch
Shveta Garg
Wendy Gilman
Marisa Eisemann
Susan Kambrich
Sarah Kenning
Nicole Lenihan
Neelam Mehta
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Deepak Vashishth
Koji and Sachiko Watanabe
Morgan and Marshall Whalen