



CAMBRIDGE  
Montessori School

# Donor Report

2015-2016





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Welcome to Cambridge Montessori School!

Cambridge Montessori School (CMS) has been a staple in Cambridge and beyond for over 50 years. Whenever I meet alumni, former employees, or listen to current students and parents describe their experience at CMS, one word always resonates - community.

We recently hosted a long anticipated Reaccreditation Visit from the American Montessori Society (AMS) and the Association of Independent Schools in New England (AISNE). The visiting team was comprised of six educators from various independent schools all over New England. They represented all types of schools: Montessori, progressive, traditional, large, small, day, boarding, and the many age ranges that they serve. The visit was part of the 10-year reaccreditation process that we have been planning for quite some time. It was imperative for CMS to seek dual re-accreditation with both organizations; although time consuming, schools that are accredited have experienced a rigorous process that requires thoughtful self-examination, reflection, action and accountability. They are held to a high standard and are required to seek continuous improvements.

One of the many highlights of the 2015-2016 school year was a community-wide self-study process that resulted in a comprehensive report describing our program, including highlights, challenges and future plans. CMS received accolades from both AMS and AISNE. Both organizations agreed that the process itself was dynamic and the database that our Director of Technology and Curriculum Coordinator developed to carefully monitor the process was the first of its kind and has since been the model that AISNE and AMS recommend schools follow! We also initiated a new Three-Year Strategic Plan that helped us celebrate our previous accomplishments while setting lofty and attainable goals in the following five areas: program, faculty & staff, community, finances and facilities. It was certainly a productive year.

In 2015-2016, students from Toddler through Middle School thrived in all aspects of our program. We had our most successful secondary school placement process ever, with an 85% acceptance rate to some of the most highly sought independent schools! Faculty morale was high, which helped us retain 80% of our full-time faculty and staff. We worked closely with parents to increase family involvement and revitalized the critical role of the Parents Association, which had a positive impact on attendance at school-wide events and enhanced communication between home and school. Our faculty and administrators presented at national conferences throughout the year, which further enhanced our visibility in and beyond Cambridge.

The consistently strong fiscal health of CMS allowed the school to expand its footprint in Cambridge by purchasing property that will be a vital part of the school's future! Our future is very bright! We continue to engage life-long learners who think critically, act responsibly and make a tremendous impact wherever they go. We established mutually beneficial partnerships with local nonprofits and schools. We are at a critical juncture in the school's history and we could not have accomplished all that we did last year without your support.

Your generosity to Cambridge Montessori enabled us to:

- Offer competitive compensation and benefits to faculty
- Invest in school-wide professional development
- Enhance programs in and beyond the classrooms
- Acquire property that is invaluable to the school
- Provide financial aid to 43 families

We have so many reasons to celebrate 2015-2016, none of which would have been possible without you! We are eternally grateful to you and humbled by your financial commitment to CMS. Giving comes from the heart and we recognize that you made a choice to give where your heart is. Our hearts are with you as well, along with our students and all the families that we serve daily; not for a year, but for a lifetime. Recently, upon completion of our Reaccreditation Visit, the Visiting Team Chair confirmed what we already knew. She said "Cambridge Montessori has many strengths, but what sets you apart from most schools is the strength of your community." Thank you again for being such an integral part of our community. We value and appreciate you!



With gratitude and humility,

Dr. Ingrid W. Tucker



# Board of Trustees

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## 2015 - 2016 Board of Trustees

*Rachel van der Voort, Chair*  
*Sarah Stock, Vice Chair*  
*Annie Lawson, Treasurer*  
*Jay Sampson, Clerk*

*Eldene Chugani*  
*Bette Colombo*  
*Robert Cooke*  
*Matt Cressotti*  
*Richard Fredkin*  
*Maryam Kamvar Garrett*  
*Ally Ladha*  
*Anja Langbein-Park*  
*David Morland*  
*Tanisha Sullivan*  
*Jon Turner*



# Volunteer Leadership

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Volunteers are an essential part of Cambridge Montessori School's success. Without the help and expertise of parents, CMS would not be the same. We thank and acknowledge those who provide leadership in assisting with a wide variety of events and planning. Thank you to all our volunteers who take time out of their days and lives to make Cambridge Montessori their priority.

## ROOM PARENTS

*Debbie Bowman  
Bette Colombo  
Kristen Caulfield  
Holly Chueh  
Jodi Ekelchik  
Megan Foskett  
Corinne Foster  
Jadra Gamble  
Maryam Garrett  
Margarita Goodpaster  
Taj Goodpaster  
Jennifer Hollis*

*Peter Kirby  
Kristie Nagpal  
Paula Narain  
Kyoko Ono  
Sara Ontiveros  
Laura Schifter  
Nadia Sharif  
Rhiannon Sheapare  
Jyl Slopnick  
Anne Marie Sweeney  
Casey Sweeney  
Saira Yunus*

## ESSENTIAL HELPERS AND UNTIRING VOLUNTEERS

(INCLUDES AUCTION, LIBRARY, BOOK FAIR)

*Jill Becker  
Debbie Bowman  
Nicole Coman  
Christine Cooper  
Matt Cressotti  
Esther Dominguez  
Jodi Ekelchik  
Corinne Foster  
Margarita Goodpaster  
Taj Goodpaster  
Pamela Lipson*

*Jessica McLearn  
Karen Mellor  
Kristie Nagpal  
Sara Ontiveros  
Maura Ragster  
Darius Sinha  
Pawan Sinha  
Jyl Slopnick  
Karen Stevens  
Casey Sweeney*



# Spring Auction Highlights

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# Annual Giving

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## Total Giving Including CMS Fund, Auction and Financial Aid Fund

### MONTESSORI SOCIETY (\$10,000 OR MORE)

Anonymous (4)  
Matthew and Tina Cressotti  
Richard and Ingrid Fredkin  
Jessica and Gavin McLearn  
Rachel van der Voort and Michael Cragg  
Peter and Kathy Wege

### PEACE TABLE: \$5,000 - \$9,999

Claudine Gay and Chris Afendulis  
Anonymous (2)  
Bethan and Christopher Bailey  
Robert and Lisa Cooke  
Paula and Niven Narain  
John and Casey Sweeney  
Jonathan Turner and Esther Dominguez  
Lei Wang and Todd Case

### FOUNDER'S CIRCLE: \$2,500 - \$4,999

Nicole Barna and Dudley Wyman  
Eldene and Gunish Chugani  
Asya Grinberg and Alexander Ivanov  
Branka and Nenad Grubor  
Christine and Avak Kahvejian  
Anne Lawson  
Maitreyi Mazumdar and Amit Srivastava  
Katrin and Alan Peterson  
Ester Riu and Julius Moschitz  
Jay and Suzanne Sampson  
Lucy and Thomas Scanlon  
Laura Schifter and Matthew Scriven  
Will and Ella Shi

### COMMUNITY CIRCLE: \$1,000 - \$2,499

Anonymous  
Moungi Bawendi  
Jill Becker  
Deborah and Zeke Bowman  
Tracy Ellice Chen and Daniel Chen  
Bette and Costantino Colombo  
Megan and John Foskett  
Ann and Stephen Gardiner  
Margarita and Taj Goodpaster  
Todd Goulet and Konstantin Linnik  
Maria Iglesias and Alberto Cavallo  
Guillaume Kalere and Sandra Kalere  
Joan Lawson  
Leader Bank  
Bruce and Eleanor Mclear  
David and Sarah Morland  
Kristie & Sumit Nagpal  
Jennifer O'Brien  
Francis O'Sullivan and Christina Cosman  
Lay Lee Ong  
Kyoko Ono and Peter Kirby

Sachin and Poorvi Patodia  
Chico Sajovic and Yena Do  
Jessie Scanlon and Tommie Shelby  
Rosemary and Robert Sheehan  
Munir Shiuji  
John Shriver  
Sarah Stock and Simon McLain  
Ingrid and Phillip Tucker  
Claire and Jason West

### GOLDEN BEAD SOCIETY: \$500-999

Anonymous  
Julia Austin  
Stella Bae and Wontak Kim  
Ann Braude and Andrew Adler  
Century Bank  
Maria Chapián  
Nicole and Drew Coman  
Corinne and Justin Foster  
Jampa Ghapontsang and Thinley  
Ghapontsang  
William Holcombe  
Jill and Greg Kunkel  
Thomas Muller and Myriam Walter  
Joyce Nett  
Andrew Oldman and Madeleine Otani Oldman  
Mahmoodur Rahman and Saira Yunus  
Caitlin Smith and Paul Warkentin  
Katherine Spyropoulos and John  
Athanasopoulos  
Catherine and John Sweeney

### PINK TOWER CLUB: \$250-499

Mussie Araia and Sarom Zemo  
Andrea Ault-Brutus and Ralph Brutus  
Susan Barba and Philip Walsh  
Sarah and Jeremy Bond  
Cambridge Medical Supply  
Holly and Henry Chueh  
Margo and Sunil Dhaliwal  
Rohit and Renu Goyal  
Natalya Gromyko  
Elizabeth Heilig and Michael Schmidt  
Jana and Jakov Kucan  
Hassanally Ladha  
Karen and Brent Lanoue  
Amelia and Scott Newbury  
Kenneth and Patricia Paynter  
Maura and Albert Ragster  
Sandra Sato  
Orly Shacham and James Rider  
Olya Shepova and Boris Shepov  
Karen Stevens and George White  
Helena Taylor and Stephen Sullivan



# Annual Giving

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## Total Giving Continued

### HUNDRED BOARD CLUB: \$100-249

Susan Adams  
Anonymous (2)  
Genoveva Calvo-Rey  
Ali Causer and Nadia Sharif  
Bonnie Chen and Kris Snibbe  
Elisa Cheng and Benjamin Lubin  
Patrick and Yu-Ting Dingle  
Jodi Ekelchik and Mark Davidson  
Jian Fu and Gang Li  
Jonathon Gillen and Yi-Chia Lin  
Greer Goodman and Sam Marks  
Bruce Herrmann and Erin Hoffer  
Ann Kao and Sydney Cash  
Marcia and Manuel Lipson  
Anuradha Makin  
Lena Marillo  
Darlene and Brian Matthews  
Daniel Medwed and Sharissa Jones  
Howard Medwed and Mameve Medwed  
Alison Mitchell and Andrew Upton  
Virginia Morrison and Azmat Khan  
Bernhard Nickel and Susanna Siegel  
Laura O'Leary  
Agnis Pena-Toro  
Drew and Jenica Phelps  
Michael Raposa  
Pauline and Sam Richmond Brown  
RSA Daycare Supplies  
Karlene Sekou  
Emil Sit and Aleksandra Mozdzanowska  
Holly Stoehr  
Mary Sullivan  
Jeffrey Sutthoff  
Charles and Kaye Terranova  
Elka and Lee Walter  
Elizabeth Warner  
George Whiteside and Jean Cho  
Daniel and Suriya Ziblatt

### CHILDREN'S HOUSE: \$1-\$99

Rahimah Ahmad  
Mike Anteryassian  
Ajay Bala and Shilpa Govada  
Owen Bell  
Inga and Dennis Bellach  
Tucker Bennett  
Genevieve Boland and Michael Steigman  
Emily and Michael Bowler  
Merel Brandt Corstius  
Hetal Buch and Chintan Vaishnav  
Lee and Krysten Caulfield  
Tine Christensen  
Lyndsay Cox Hicks  
Nicole DeCesare  
Alexis Degelmann  
Teresa and Thor Degelmann  
Jenny dosSantos  
Sameena Dost and Murtaza Moochhala  
Bria Dunham and Mark Murphy

Jadra Gamble and Nicholas Sherwood  
Katia Gauyo  
Marion Geiger  
Will Gibbons  
Jessica Gill-Grant  
Julia Goodman and Stuart Pitchel  
William Gordon  
June Griffith-Gomes  
Piyush Gupta  
Charles Harris and Christine Polek  
Carrie Heim Binas and Peter Binas  
Nell Henry  
Yas Ishibashi  
Dina Jacir  
Sabrina Jacobs  
Dominique Jaffrennou  
Beth Johns-Thomas  
Susan and Francis Juhasz  
Anne Kaduboski  
Sachie and Santosh Karmacharya  
Leah and Adam Kerr  
Angela Kim  
Shaina and Kenneth LaFlamme  
Anne Lawson  
Edyta Lehmann and John Shriver  
Marissa London  
Shakirla Lymon  
Ibrahim Mahmud  
Anna and Matthew Matteson  
Peter and Karen Mellor  
Cerridwen Mendoza  
David and Jasmine Mercado  
Elisabeth Meurer and David Levy  
Montessori Movers  
Forrest Moy and Ellen Moy Derosa  
Charlotte Petty  
Angelica Piz and Perry Lubin  
Diana Plascencia  
Cristina Ramos  
Kira Repici  
Elizabeth Riley and Brian Kardon  
Diane Rocheteau  
Eleanor Rogers  
Jyl Slopnick and Rajeev Chillakuru  
Terry Spadea and Pierre Lermusiaux  
Dena Stearns and Daniel Kibler-Stearns  
Inez Stein  
Michael and Penelope Stein  
Eden Steinberg and Peter Muz  
Meghan Stempel  
Laura Stiffler  
Lauren Studer  
Susan Sullivan  
Dacia and Dwayne Thompson  
Nicole Toon  
Alexander Tzelnic  
Sapana Varaiya and Vivekraj Devaraj  
Mary Velasquez  
Cheryl Vernick and Howard Vernick  
Sara Zaghlul and Yalcin Ozaraydin

# Annual Giving Highlights

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## 2015-2016 Total Fundraising:

- 100% participation from faculty, staff and board of trustees
- 82% participation from current families
- Gifts ranged from \$5 - \$500,000
- Total raised was \$1,290,464
  - Annual Fund Unrestricted: \$192,371
  - Scholarship Fund: \$22,400
  - Auction & Financial Aid Fund: \$74,193
  - Capital Fund: \$1,000,000
  - Webster O'Brien Alumni Travel Scholarship Fund: \$1,500



## In Honor - In Memory

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The following contributors have made gifts to CMS in loving memory of family, friends, and faculty.

*Susan Adams (in memory of Webster O'Brien)*  
*Alexis Degelmann (in memory of Sumiko Jarmain-Otani)*  
*Thorolf and Theresa Degelmann (in memory of Sumiko Jarmain-Otani)*  
*Forrest Moy & Ellen Moy Derosa (in memory of Sumiko Jarmain-Otani)*  
*Lay Lee Ong (in memory of Sumiko Jarmain-Otani)*  
*Sandra Soto (in memory of Sumiko Jarmain-Otani)*  
*Inez Stein (in memory of Sumiko Jarmain-Otani)*

## The following contributors donated to the Webster O'Brien 5K

<i>Nathan Abramson &amp; Sara Ontiveros</i>	<i>Jessica &amp; Gavin Mclear</i>
<i>Susan Adams</i>	<i>Myriam Walter &amp; Thomas Muller</i>
<i>Todd Coffey</i>	<i>Martha Omara</i>
<i>Sheila English</i>	<i>Mayra Sanchez</i>
<i>Brank &amp; Nenad Grubor</i>	<i>Rosemary &amp; Robert Sheehan</i>
<i>Dave Hojlo</i>	<i>Aracelys Toro</i>
<i>Christine &amp; Avak Kahvejian</i>	<i>Rachel van der Voort &amp; Michael Cragg</i>
<i>Sachie &amp; Santosh Karmacharya</i>	<i>Caitlin Smith &amp; Paul Warkentin</i>
<i>Lucinda Linde</i>	

## Shoutouts

***“Thank you for an amazing educational experience for our three children!”***  
— Margarita Goodpaster

***“We love CMS”*** — Bria Dunham

***“My daughter’s 6 years at CMS continue to shine through to this day when she is 26 years old!”*** — Elizabeth Warner (alum parent)

***“Thanks to all, especially Mary!”*** — Zachariah Herrmann (alum)

***“Thank you for the education Cambridge Montessori School is providing to our children.”*** — Guillaume Kalere

***“CMS is an exceptional institution. We are honored to be a part of the CMS family.”***  
— Dacia K. Thompson

***“Thank you CMS!!!”*** — The Cavallo Family

# Memories from the past year

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# Alumni Profile

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## Carolina Ramos

### **What year did you graduate from CMS?**

2012

### **If you attended / are attending college, please provide the name of your school and graduation year / anticipated graduation year.**

Northeastern University 2021

### **What is your favorite CMS memory, such as a favorite class or teacher, room, social event, tradition, etc?**

My favorite CMS memory is going to Farms and Cities where we would spend half a week working on a farm and the other half in Boston. I loved being in the middle of nowhere with my classmates, just working away and sharing an adventure.

### **How has a Montessori education shaped you as a person?**

Montessori education has helped me to become more of a critical thinker. We never had to do busy work, we were always asked to truly think. As challenging as this was at the time, it prepared me for the real world where people are expected to problem solve and think critically on their feet.

### **In what academic areas do you feel a Montessori education helped you to excel?**

Before coming to CMS, I was not confident on my reading and writing skills. I truly thought that I was not a competent writer and would become frustrated when I did not comprehend a text right away. CMS helped me learn to be patient and appreciate the learning process of my English skills. Essentially I was empowered to believe in myself and with that I naturally improved.

### **Where do you live now?**

Boston, MA

### **Did you enjoy your time at CMS?**

Yes! Although I was at CMS for only two years, the experience completely changed me. I am incredibly grateful for the school and all of its people. I have a very special place in my heart for CMS.

### **Was it difficult for you to transition to your next school from CMS?**

The transition was very smooth.

### **What was your most memorable moment as a student?**

We had a project in eighth grade where we were required to build a bridge using only a limited quantity of toothpicks, rope, and glue. That was one of the hardest projects I have had to do, and I will never forget it. What's most memorable about it is how proud of myself I felt once it finally worked, after days of hard work.

### **Are you still friends with anybody you met at CMS?**

Yes! I still have CMS friends who I am very close to even now in college.

### **Would you send your children to CMS?**

Without a doubt!

# Alumni Profile

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## Adon Goodpaster

**When did you graduate from CMS?**

2016

**What is your favorite memory?**

Definitely the Puerto Rico trip.

**Would you send your kids to CMS?**

YES!

**How are you doing academically after CMS?**

I am doing very well academically. This is my first semester at a new school and I have gotten all A's except for one B+ that I am working on improving.

**What is your extra-curricular involvement in high-school?**

In the Fall season I played football for the first time and coming from CMS where there was soccer and cross-country exclusively, it was a big change. It ended up being a lot of fun. I am now doing rock climbing and plan to play lacrosse in the Spring.

**Socially, how was your transition from a small school and small community of friends you had known for a long time?**

I think that for me the social transition was really easy. Our school had a two and a half week camping trip for freshmen at the beginning of the year and we all camped out together and got to know each other. I now have many friends and like my new school because I feel that the community is very similar to CMS in how warm it is.

**Do you think the Montessori background gave you advantages over traditional school?**

I think going to Montessori really helps you with time management and learning how to organize my schedule. It also helped me become interested in learning all sorts of different things and made me curious. It gave me the drive to want to do better in classes. I think that some kids might feel burnt out after a while with some classes whereas Montessori has taught me how to stay focused and remain interested in learning.



# Alumni Profile

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## Bennet O'Brien

**What year did you graduate from CMS?**  
Spring of 2013.

**What is your favorite CMS memory, such as a favorite class or teacher, room, social event, tradition, etc.?**  
The weeks of Farms & Cities, without a doubt.

**How has a Montessori education shaped you as a person?**  
While there is a lot of “grade grubbing” and academic pressure at my current school, the education I received at CMS allowed for me to be unfazed by either. I try to work hard on all assignments while also ignoring the external pressures and stigma concerning said assignments.

**In what academic areas do you feel a Montessori education helped you to excel?**  
Science and public speaking, for I have developed an insatiable curiosity and academic confidence. These combined, allow for me to work diligently and then present my work comfortably.

**Where do you live now?**  
Arlington, MA

**Did you enjoy your time at CMS?**  
Yes, I actually had no negative experiences. Granted, certain weeks and projects were better than others, but overall there was nothing that was negative.

**Was it difficult for you to transition to your next school from CMS?**  
To be overly simplistic, no. My transition was far from smooth, but other incoming freshmen were equally, if not more, stressed than I was during the first few weeks.

**What was your most memorable moment as a student?**  
Eighth grade graduation. By that point I had decided what high school I was going to attend, and knew that none of my classmates would be attending it with me. But instead of the days leading up to graduation being dreary or bittersweet they were actually very nice. Everyone was congratulatory and kind towards one another, making the entire experience supportive and positive.

**What was your funniest moment as a student?**  
The Rube Goldberg projects, as they were glorious failures. My partner and I had spent weeks building the device only to have it break down in a blaze of glory.

**Are you still friends with anybody you met at CMS?**  
Yes, I have managed to stay in contact with people who were in my grade and in the grades immediately above and below mine.

**Would you send your children to CMS?**  
As I am fairly certain I will not be living in the area as of next year, sending my children to CMS might be a bit unfeasible (a daily commute from Indiana or California might be slightly unreasonable). I would send my child to a school that is akin to CMS however, because the values I learned and the experiences I had at CMS were essential for my personal growth.

**Describe CMS in 3 words.**  
Compassionate, maturing, and safe.

**What is your lasting impression of CMS?**  
That it is a place at which learning is important, but human relations and civility are more so. Thus, a comfortable place at which learning can occur unfettered.

# Ways to Give

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Your gifts of time, talent and treasure convey a powerful message that you believe in and support the mission of our community. Cambridge Montessori is an independent, non-profit, tax-exempt organization that receives no public funding. Each gift is important, and no gift is too large or too small.

There are various ways that you can proudly support Cambridge Montessori School:

- **The CMS Fund**

This annual program is the cornerstone of philanthropy at Cambridge Montessori School. Funds from the CMS Fund are unrestricted, which means that they are used for the general operating budget.

- **Auction**

The annual auction is held each spring and is a great way to get involved, either through the donation of products and services, time spent helping with classroom projects, or with spirited bidding at the event. All proceeds from the auction are designated to financial aid.

- **Matching Employment Contributions**

These funds are available by many employers who will match their employees' contributions to Cambridge Montessori. All paperwork should be initiated with your employer. This program is an opportunity to double your donation to our school.

- **Specific Campaigns**

Cambridge Montessori School may embark upon a "specific campaign" to raise revenue for new capital or programmatic projects. These campaigns are targeted to achieve specific goals aligned with our Strategic Plan.

We are grateful for your spirit of philanthropy and could not do what we do without your support. To learn more about how to get involved, or for instructions on how best to structure your gifts, contact Christine Kahvejian, Director of Development and Communications, at (617) 499-0099 ext. 212 or [ckahvejian@cambridgemontessori.org](mailto:ckahvejian@cambridgemontessori.org).





Work the mind.  
Reveal the child.  
Unleash the potential.

