



Montessori
ACADEMY OF LONDON



ALWAYS GROWING. ALWAYS CHANGING.

2013-2014 Annual Report



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD & PRESIDENT

As the Board of Governors of Montessori Academy of London, we are honoured to be part of an organization that touches so many lives in such powerful ways.

The Academy's curriculum not only cultivates a caring community within its walls, but outside them as well. The students learn from a very early age that we are part of a global community, and that supporting our neighbours is the right thing to do – whether that's raising money for a local charity or helping a community in a far-away country.

These activities demonstrate how the whole organization continues to support our Vision of "compassionate and engaged citizens who think globally, act responsibly and collaborate successfully to create a humane world."

Just as the Academy's programs are designed to ensure the long-term success of its students, it is the Board's role to support the long-term success of the Academy. We do this through strategic and thoughtful financial planning that supports the Academy's needs and government regulation to make sure our students receive the best Montessori education possible.

Each year we are thrilled to see what we have all accomplished toward our collective goals. The Board congratulates the administration and teaching teams for the great things they do to make this one of the preeminent Montessori schools in the world. And we applaud the Academy's families and friends for making this such a warm, welcoming community. This Annual Report highlights what we, as a community, have accomplished over the past year, as well as the changes and opportunities we face moving forward.

With sincerest thanks,

CHRISTINE HAAS

President, The Board of Governors
Montessori Academy of London

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2013-2014 Annual Report

CHANGES & OPPORTUNITIES: WHAT'S NEXT FOR 2014-2015

Change is inherent in life – especially in childhood. We see it daily as our children grow, master skills and acquire new knowledge.

Growth and change are also experienced by organizations of every shape, size and age; Montessori Academy of London is no different.

Because we are a privately funded school that is registered with the Ministry of Education and offers programs for children under age 6, we must comply with the Day Nurseries Act (DNA) by January 2016. We are committed to making our programs compliant by September 2015 to reduce any disruption to our students.

This entails many changes for the Academy's community over the next year. Still, we remain focused on long-term sustainability and many of the plans set out in our Strategic Priorities & Initiatives 2012-2017.

DNA will support our efforts to recruit and retain a diverse student population, which will enrich both the Montessori community and all of London by offering area families a strong, Ministry-approved Montessori education option.

Compliance will ensure the Academy continues to have excellent facilities and strong pre-kindergarten programs, which first benefits our youngest students, but also supports the long-term wellbeing of our whole school; a healthy number of graduating Casa students will sustain our Lower Elementary and Junior High programs for years to come. However, some projects set out in our Strategic Priorities will take a backseat to the renovations required to become DNA compliant. This need to be adaptive is nothing new to the Academy, which has faced many changes over the last 46 years.

In the end, we will have an even stronger school than the one that stands today. One that supports our Vision and provides the community a unique value: the only fully accredited Montessori Toddler-Junior High program in London.



Our Vision is a community of confident, compassionate and engaged citizens who think globally, act responsibly and collaborate successfully to create a humane world.

SHARING OUR VISION BEYOND OUR WALLS

2013-14 Highlights

When we look back at 2013-2014, there are so many highlights to recall. The renovation of 719 Waterloo Street – home of our administrative offices and Lower Elementary classrooms – is one of the most visible changes for our neighbours, visitors, families and students.

Other Academy events had an impact outside our walls. A group of our students represented Spain in the United Nations on our Montessori Model UN (MMUN) trip to New York. This annual exercise supports our Vision of fostering a community of engaged citizens who think globally.

Some of our older students and alumni took part in our first international service trip with the "ME to WE" program. They travelled to Ecuador over March Break to help build a shelter for a women's social economic project. The trip shaped our students' understanding of the world, and had an indelible effect on the community they served.

Closer to home, the Academy's curriculum and community supported local social services, enterprises and community programs, including our Junior High Micro-Economy, which supported Women's Community House through a donation of its profits; fundraisers for Children's Health Foundation and other charities; our Adopt-a-Park participation that helps maintain and beautify Piccadilly Park; and our teachers' fundraising efforts for charities such as the CIBC Run for the Cure.

These are just a few examples of how our programs support our Vision and serve our greater community on a local, national and international scale.



MONTESSORI ACADEMY'S COMMUNITY PARTNERS

A Book for Every Child
Children's Health Foundation
CIBC Run for the Cure
City of London Adopt-a-Park
London Food Bank
Free the Children
Growing Chefs! Ontario
London Children's Museum
London Humane Society
Mission Services of London
Merrymount Family Support
and Crisis Centre
Pillar Nonprofit Network
Ronald McDonald House
St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre
Women's Community House

MONTESSORI ACADEMY OF LONDON FAST FACTS

348

STUDENTS 2013-2014

12,000+

HOT LUNCHES SERVED
EACH YEAR

45

TEACHING STAFF

400+

ALUMNI HAVE
GRADUATED FROM
OUR JUNIOR HIGH
PROGRAM

100%

OF ALUMNI ARE
ACCEPTED INTO
POST-SECONDARY
PROGRAMS

8

ADMINISTRATION AND
SUPPORT STAFF

24

GRADUATES IN JUNE 2014

15%

OF OUR STUDENTS RECEIVE
SOME TYPE OF FINANCIAL
CONSIDERATION FOR TUITION

FINANCIAL REPORT 2013-2014

As a not-for-profit organization and a registered charity, we make great efforts in the stewardship of our resources and take responsibility in the reporting of our income and expenses. With increasing government regulation on the horizon, we know this will continue to be a priority for the Board and the Academy.

OUR REVENUE

Overall, we are proud to report another fiscally sound year. Our revenues were \$4,517,686 for the year ending June 30, 2014.

- **TUITION AND FEES** contributed \$4,328,667 to our revenue.
- **FUNDRAISING** brought in \$144,190, an increase of almost 60%.

These generous gifts allowed us to offer Staff professional workshops; establish the Senior Class gift fund that purchased a new stove for Junior High; buy new material and classroom furniture; and improve our phone system. This is only a small sample of the ways our valued donors support the Academy's programs and priorities, and we thank each and every one for their support.

OUR EXPENSES

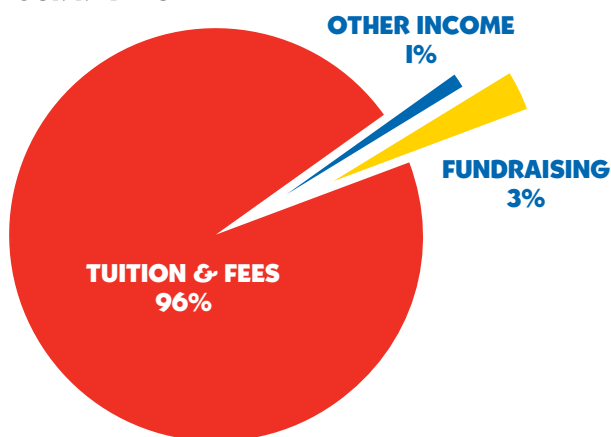
We are committed to investing in our people, places and programs. There is no doubt that in any educational environment, the children come first. To provide the best Montessori education possible, we must make our specially trained Faculty a top priority.

The following is an overview of how our dollars were spent for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2014:

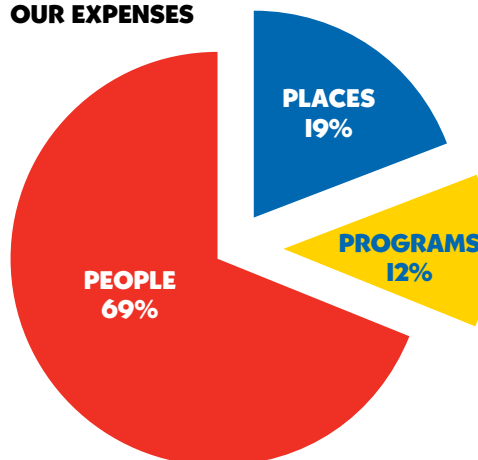
- **PEOPLE:** Wages paid to our teachers and administrative team were \$2,970,481.
- **PLACES:** We invested \$790,592 in our places last year, including our Oxford Natural Learning Environment (ONLE).
- **PROGRAMS:** We invested \$528,142 in authentic Montessori materials and programming.

We look forward to a successful year and know that compliance with the Day Nurseries Act (DNA) will be a major priority in 2015. This compliance will help make our school stronger and ensure we continue to provide our families and community a world-class Montessori education.

OUR REVENUE



OUR EXPENSES



OVER 75%

OF OUR JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS ATTENDED THE ACADEMY FROM EITHER OUR TODDLER OR CASA PROGRAM

ACCREDITED

FOR THE FOURTH TIME IN 2013 BY THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF MONTESSORI ADMINISTRATORS (CCMA)

MORE THAN

25

PART-TIME STAFF SUPPORT EXTENDED HOUR PROGRAMS AND SUBSTITUTE FOR TEACHERS

SINCE 1968, THE ACADEMY HAS HAD OVER

3,000

STUDENTS ATTEND OUR PROGRAMS

ESTABLISHED CANADA'S

FIRST

MONTESSORI JUNIOR HIGH PROGRAM IN 1988

MONTESSORI ACADEMY OF LONDON ESTABLISHED IN

1968

\$108K

RAISED IN 2013-2014



Montessori
ACADEMY OF LONDON

FRIENDS OF THE FRESH FOOD FRENZY

Growing Chefs! Ontario's innovative program has roots in Montessori Academy of London's curriculum.

"Montessori Academy has been incredibly open to working with us," explains Growing Chefs! Ontario Executive Director Andrew Fleet, whose fresh idea – a local, farm-to-table food education initiative – has been growing in popularity since it first germinated in London in 2008. In fact, you might say Growing Chefs has become a "rock-star chef" in its own right. The initiative received a wealth of local media coverage in October 2014 for its popular programs and for successfully garnering a hefty grant through The Ontario Trillium Foundation.

As he downplays his program's star status, he's quick to thank the program's community partners for the stellar success of Growing Chefs. Among them is Montessori Academy of London.

THE GROWING CHEFS 'TEST KITCHEN'

"Montessori Academy has been involved with just about every project we've had," Fleet says enthusiastically. "Our program wouldn't be where it is today if it weren't for Montessori." The partnership, he says, allowed Growing Chefs to develop its programs quicker than it would have otherwise.

"Teaming with Montessori Academy helped us approach the Thames Valley School Board with an innovative food-education program that was tried and tested with local teachers and students."

London-area families and students now benefit from Growing Chefs' programs, which get children "excited about wholesome healthy food." The Fresh Food Frenzy, the School Project for Grades 5-8 students, and The Beet Café catering provide students everything from food-prep skills to work experience to a greater appreciation of where their food comes from.

WHIPPING UP FRESH IDEAS

Growing Chefs had a children's curriculum when it first connected with Montessori Academy's Casa pre-school program. After this successful trial, Growing Chefs approached the Academy to help pilot the Classroom Kitchen Project for Junior High students. "We were able to share our earliest ideas with Montessori Academy students and gather feedback on what worked and what didn't. From there, we improved and tailored our programs for the public-school system," Fleet says.

The relationship didn't stop there. "When we launched our catering program, The Beet Café, Montessori was once again ready to work with us. Our first catering project was the Montessori Academy of London's AGM in March 2014."

These programs, which have waiting lists of schools interested in them, benefit the greater community in London-Middlesex – and beyond. "I've told other non-profit organizations across Ontario that if you want to pilot an education program, look at schools like Montessori Academy of London," Fleet says. "They are community-minded, and love innovation and new ideas."



THANK YOU

As educators, we are fortunate to witness change on a daily basis – children learn and grow right before our eyes. It is with our help that they navigate their way to become active citizens and successful leaders. ... And it is with the help of our generous donors that we are able to provide our students the best authentic Montessori education possible.

We are extremely thankful for the support from all of the members of our community: faculty & administration, parents & students, extended families, and our community partners & local businesses. Through your gifts, we continue to offer an education that provides our greater community a constant stream of confident, compassionate and engaged citizens.

The following people have contributed in extraordinary ways to our school through their time, talent, expertise, and gifts to our ongoing fundraising initiatives. A heartfelt thank you goes out to each and every one!

MISSION: To provide a world-class Montessori education that promotes academic excellence and prepares children and young adults to engage the world as active citizens and successful leaders.

Ali and Hina Islam
Alison and Michael Hannay
Amy Murphy
Anderson Family
Andrea Dean
Andressa Calderari and
Atila Daminelli
Angela and Mike Matthews
Ankers Family
Ann Marie Harding
Anne Cunningham
Anne Marie and Paul Thompson
Barb and Dave Gerber
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Beth Belanzsky and
Jean-Pierre Brunet
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Christine and Rob Haas
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Claire and William Danaher
Cornerstone Architecture
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Dr. Thomas Tam and Dr. Karen Lo
Elgie Family
Elizabeth Abbott
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Loredana Onesan-Bowler
Gail and Steve Fletcher
Gillian Thomas
Growing Chefs! Ontario
Halina Grabarczyk
HArtistree Portrait Studio,
Aroha McKaig
Heather Bowman and Cyrus Hsia
Hollis Wealth, Andrew Martens
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Sarah Harding and Mark Ouweleen
Sarah Kirshin
Sarah McCarthy and David Edgell
Sartori Family
Scotia McLeod, McDonald Group
Selena Coupland
Shawna Allum-Schmidt
Sheila Powell and David Tweddell
Shonagh Stevenson-Ramsay

Stinson Security Services,
Shana Mechefske
Sue and Doug Wastel
Sumit and Zahra Agrawal
Sunningdale Golf and Country Club
The Watling Family
Tim and Lindsey Harris
Tina Mele and Robert Riccardi
Tracy Brennan
Varsha and Dipesh Patel
Zana Day Spa, Dinha and
Oswaldo Rangel

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Current Parent
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Community Member
Megan Clements, Secretary,
Finance Director, Ex-Officio

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Member representation
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Montessori
ACADEMY OF LONDON

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