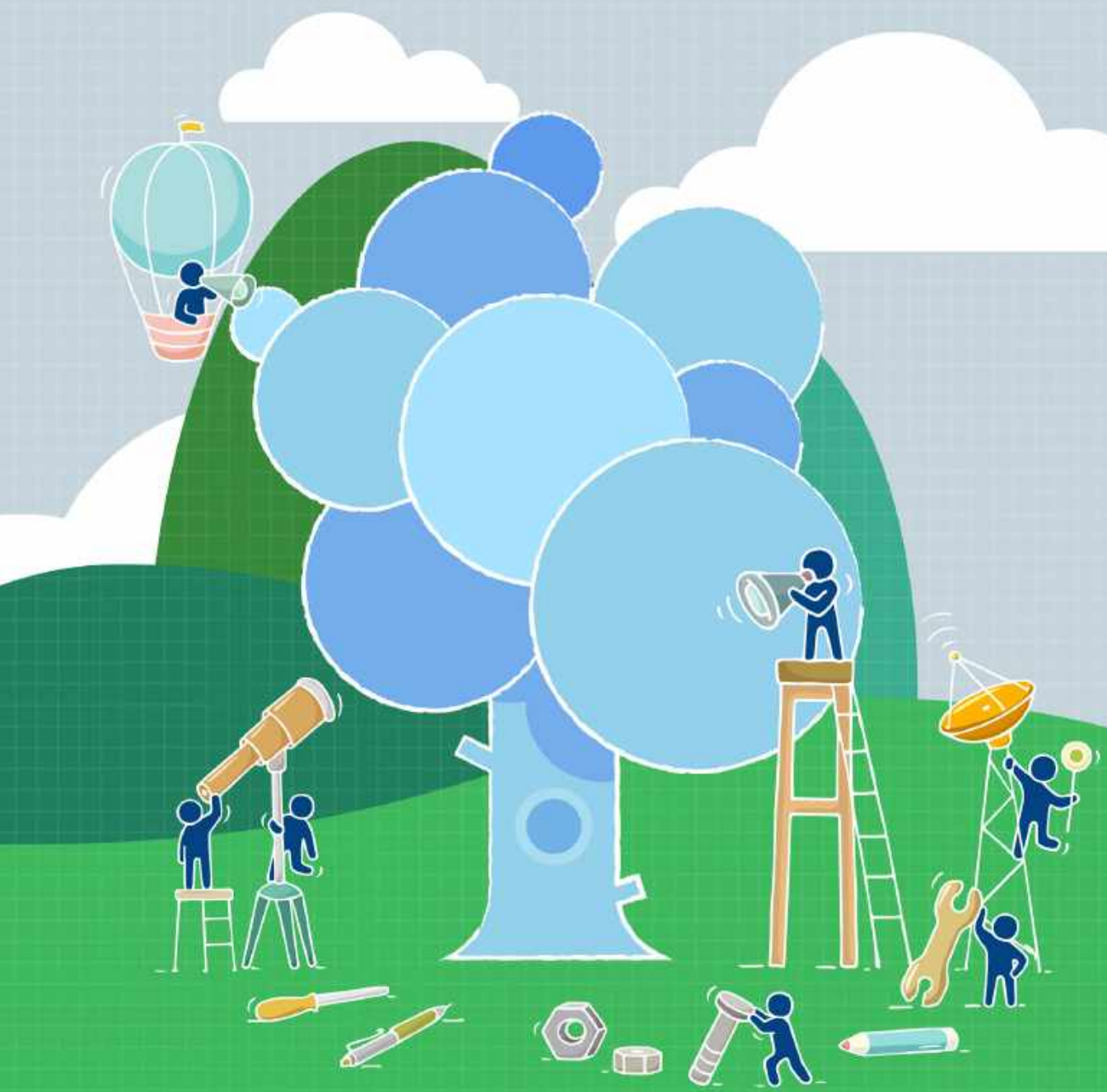


# BUILDING UPON OUR STRONG ROOTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2015 - 2016





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**Marley Carhart**, B.S. Ed., Co-Head Teacher

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# Message from Head of School



West End Day School is a community that has always nurtured acceptance and understanding. This has been an incredible year in so many ways, but most of all, it has been amazing to see the remarkable progress our students have made. We have focused on the importance of how children can create influential social change through

the arts. The basis of our building blocks allow us to continue to create a safe haven for learning and cultivate our students' inner strengths, but we look forward to deepening our strong roots and strengthen our future.

This year we launched new capital campaign plans that will transform all of our classrooms. Innovative plans are under way to raise funds for changes that will enhance learning for our students. We will revise classroom play spaces for our students to display and share their work and achievements, add formative resources, and boost natural light in the classrooms. These are critical enhancements, and we are so grateful to our community for their support and enthusiasm in launching these initiative.

While I am clearly eager to look forward, I also want to take this time to look back on another successful year at West End Day School. We made literature a bigger part of our lives, evolved our science program, took a global approach to art and so much more. We couldn't have done any of it without you—our truly amazing team of faculty, parents, donors, board members, and of course, our students. Together, we make West End Day “More Than a School”.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carrie Catapano".

Carrie Catapano, LCSW  
Head of School



# Our Mission Statement

## **WEST END DAY IS “MORE THAN A SCHOOL”**

it is a community of students, staff and parents who have a shared vision. We create a safe haven for learning, strive to be a trusted partner for parents and foster the development of resiliency in children to build a strong foundation for their lifelong success.

### **TOGETHER WE:**

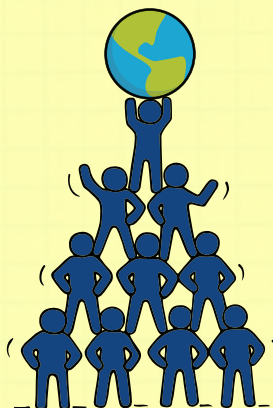
Establish an individualized and challenging educational program that supports our bright students and their unique learning styles.

Cultivate our students' inner strengths by recognizing the impact emotions have on learning.

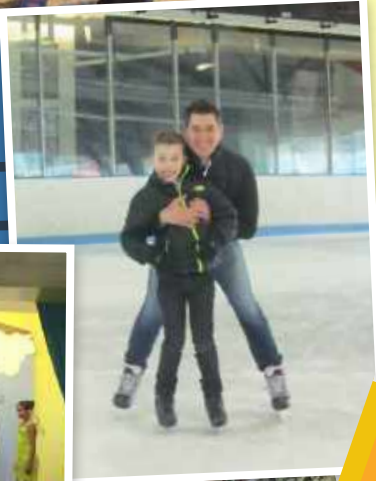
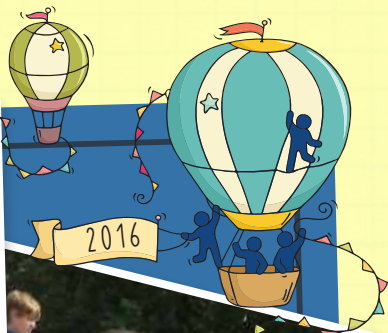
Provide a flexible atmosphere, where children feel comfortable meeting high expectations.

Promote, nurture and engage relationships, because they are central to our well-being.

Ensure that families feel valued, supported and understood.



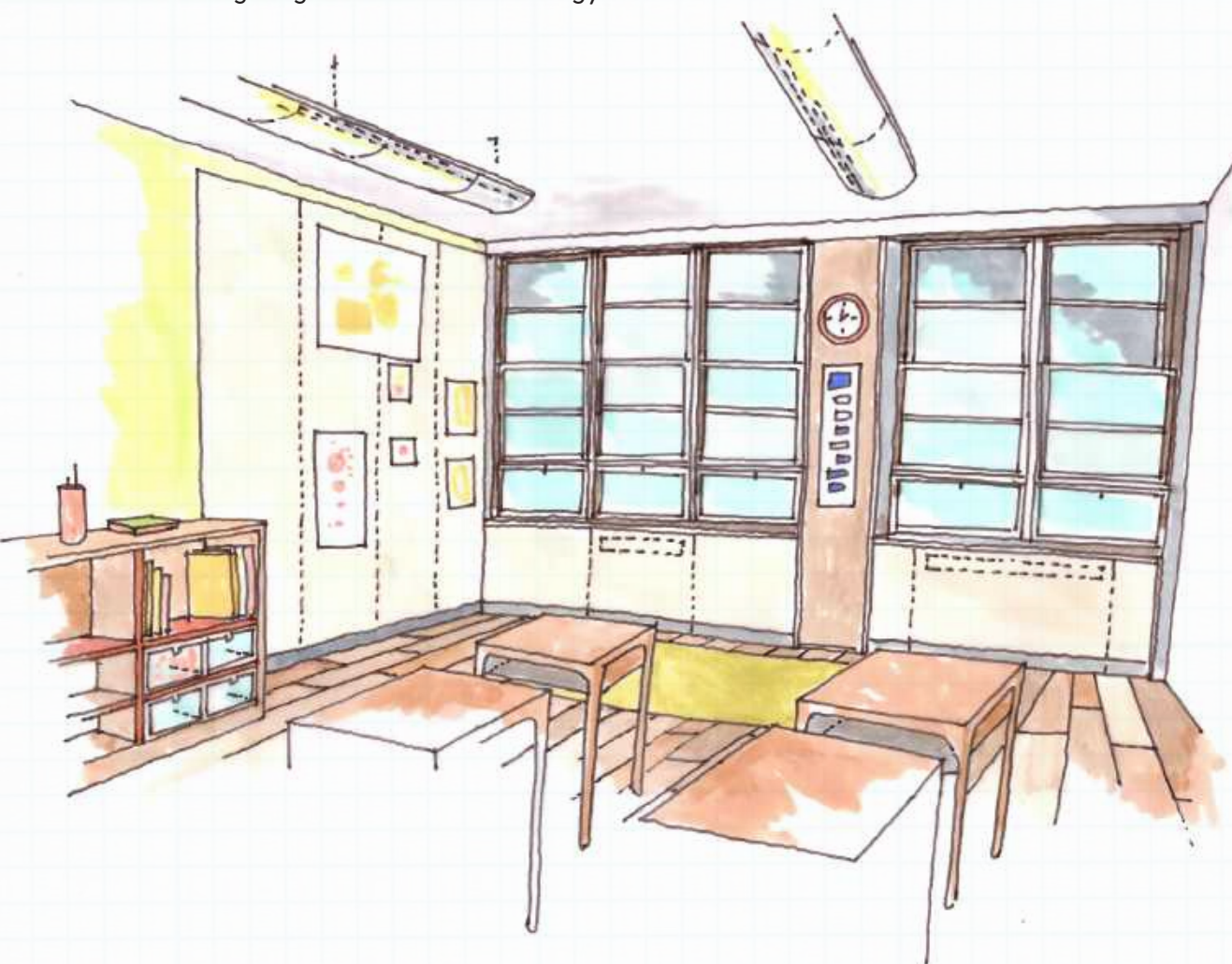






# Classroom Transformations: Setting the Scene for Successful Learning

This year we launched our new Capital Campaign, “Classroom Transformations: Setting the Scene for Successful Learning.” This effort has a focus on improving our physical space to provide the most successful environment for our students. We brought back our visionary partners, Michael Schmitt and Ann Doyle from Michael Schmitt Architect, who designed our beautiful library as well as our innovative Science and Art Center. Schmitt and his team will continue to work hand-in-hand with our leadership team to create a plan for substantial improvements—ones that will maximize space and light, as well as utilize cutting-edge tools and technology.





We are imagining the possibilities that can transform our classrooms and reshape the learning atmosphere. We will examine expanding all of our classrooms and increasing our breakout rooms so we can focus on creating individualized educational curriculum for each student.

Our plans not only include incorporating natural light and brightening our classrooms through creative design, but will reshape the structure each classroom. Significant advancements are in the works and we look forward to the development of these transformations.





# Weaving literature into our day-to-day

Our students love to spend time in our newly redesigned library space. And our teachers love it too because it gives them the opportunity to recommend books that our children may not know, broadening their tastes and expanding their minds and vocabularies. This year, we also wanted to bring the magic of literature outside of the library and into the classrooms. So we did—incorporating fictional characters, far away places, and exciting plots into reading, as well as writing.



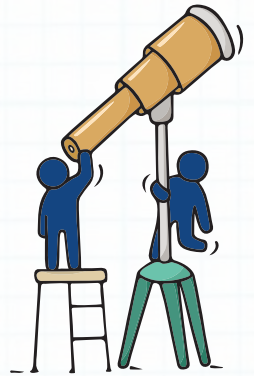
One of our favorite literature-loving highlights is “I Love to Read Day.” During this full-day celebration, each class has a special staff member read aloud to them inside the library, and older classes visit the ground floor to read to the younger classes. Our wonderful PA also hosts a book fair, which gives students the opportunity to peruse and purchase new books of their very own.





# An evolved approach to science and art

Our science program has evolved physically, as well as academically. From a physical standpoint, our newly redesigned Science and Art Center grants our students an ideal space to create, imagine, experiment, discover and grow. The aesthetic is driven by natural resources, such as wood, organic tile, cork walls and robust stainless steel. The room also boasts a new storage system that not only holds all of our science equipment (including new science kits for all grades!), but serves as a display area for our students' work.



Our science curriculum has also evolved to mirror our innovative new space, and we've enhanced our already inquiry-based science curriculum to create an even more interactive and collaborative learning experience. Within this evolved curriculum students will implement lots of new science and engineering practices, such as asking questions and defining problems, developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, and analyzing and interpreting data. Students will also be constructing explanations and designing solutions, as well as obtaining, evaluating and communicating information.

For our older classes, we've expanded our neuroscience curriculum with a variety of hands-on experiments and multisensory activities relating to the brain and nervous system. These activities keep our students' brains engaged, and include dissecting a cauliflower and comparing it to a brain and understanding how the brain perceives beauty in art and music.

And science is just the start. This space also allows students to create and explore different and more complex mediums of art related to science. With lots of open space and large working areas, students are participating in larger-scale projects that make use of more interesting materials and experiment with 3-dimensional art.



# Artists inspired by cultures near and far—new and old.

## ART SHOW

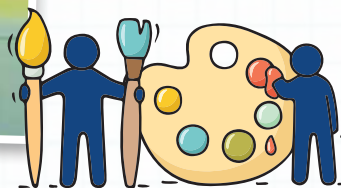
Just like West End Day is “more than a school,” this year’s art show was, indeed, “more than an art show.” A collaboration of inspirational art and writing, it was entitled “The Art of Inspiration: An Exploration of Global influences,” and each class drew inspiration from a specific culture and used the art from that culture to inspire their work.

Our youngest class drew their inspiration locally from their surrounding city. The students created mixed media collage portraits of well-known New Yorkers and wrote an autobiography about past and present influential people from New York City.

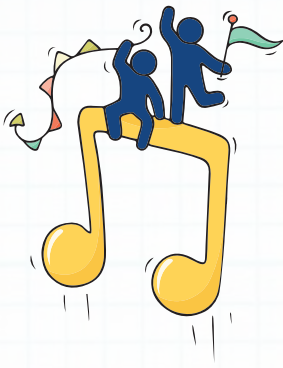
Our other classes found their inspiration from around the globe. The younger classes drew inspiration from the ancient Egyptian and Mayan cultures, designing their own pharaohs and Mayan influenced Stelae sculptures out of clay. The students wrote letters from the point of view of the famous pharaohs from Ancient Egypt and poetry in the shape of a pyramid about various aspects of Mayan culture.



Our older classes drew their inspiration from Europe and Asia. After researching European Explorers, students chose an explorer to focus on and created life-sized portraits of them based on their learned. Students also wrote letters in the voice of the explorer, writing to family members back home to tell them all about their discoveries.







In our study of Asian countries, our students learned about various cultures and influential people within each. They were inspired to design and create their own mixed media vases based on the examples studied from the Ming Dynasty of China and wrote about inspirational people they had learned about.

## WINTER SING

WEDS continued the theme of inspiration in this year's Winter Sing entitled "Music that Inspires Change." Each class chose a song that not only inspired them personally, but at one point in time, inspired change around the world. "Three Little Birds" by Bob Marley was sung by our youngest students and represented Bob Marley's lifetime of work appealing for justice, peace and equal rights. "Imagine," by John Lennon, was another class choice because its message asks people to imagine a world at peace and without division.



Our older classes sang "One" by U2, a song all about unity and the importance of human rights and social justice. The WEDS chorus sang their own rendition of Michal Jackson's "Man in the Mirror," a song that sends the message that change begins with all of us. The event was a memorable one, and it closed with the entire school coming together to sing "We are the World," a song that raised over \$63 million for humanitarian aid in Africa and the U.S. more than two decades ago. The Winter Sing stage was decorated by our students as well, and its design highlighted the featured songs as well as the theme of coming together to make positive change.



# When our Giving Tree grows, our children blossom

We are so thankful for the support West End Day School receives each year from our generous community of families, alumni, trustees, faculty and friends. Our Giving Tree continues to blossom and is more green and fuller than ever! Thank you all for your tremendous support. Your commitment to our mission and students is truly amazing!

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# A Spectacular Evening: A Decade in the Making

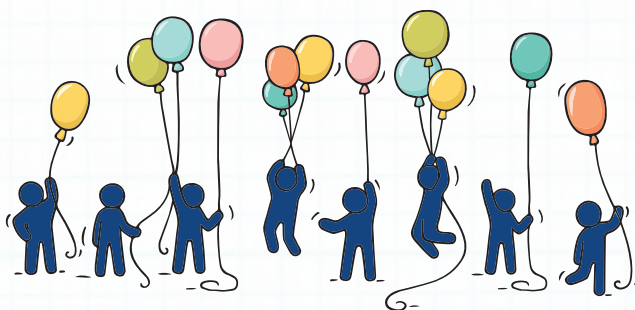


Our Spring Benefit never disappoints, and this year was no exception. It was a spectacular evening in so many ways. The event was completely sold out—which made for a huge celebration and a hugely successful fundraiser. Our venue, The Milling Room, was milling with excitement as we launched our new capital campaign



“Classroom Transformation: Setting the Scene for Successful Learning.” “Together We” raised a gross total of \$143,185. Wow! We are endlessly grateful for the commitment and generosity of our community of faculty, board, alumni and friends on this special night—and every other day throughout the year.

The night also celebrated our Head Social Worker, Jenna Stogsdill, for her 10 years of service at West End Day School. Throughout the years, Jenna has been dedicated to helping our students and families with her amazing ability to understand our children’s unique needs and make each of their challenges an opportunity. She is an unwavering source of strength and guidance for our entire community—our children, families and parents have benefited from her insight and her approach. We couldn’t be more grateful for Jenna’s true dedication to West End Day School; she is the type of person who makes our school way “more than a school.”







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