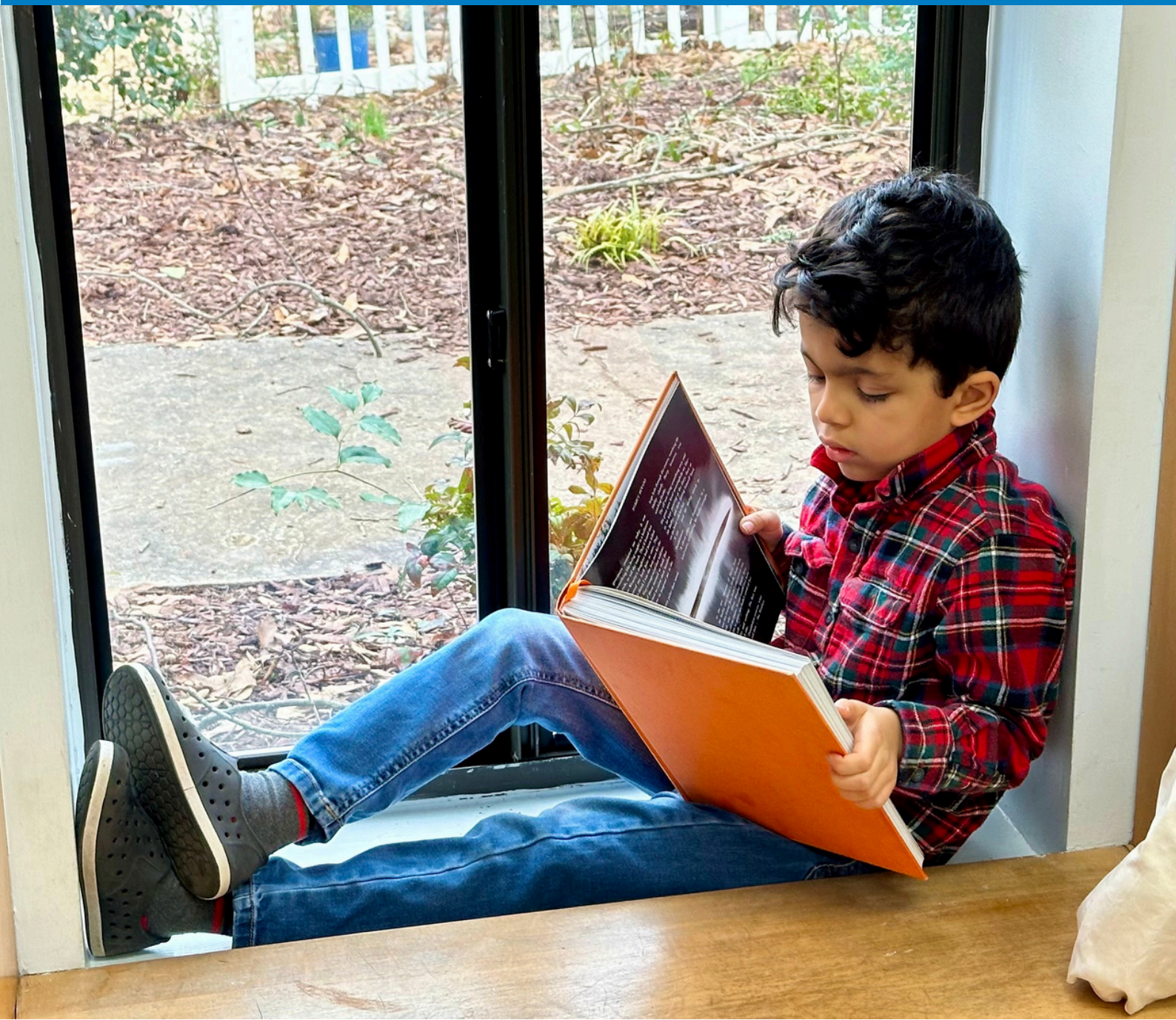




2023-2024 Annual Report

**Empowering children in a community faithful
to the teachings of Maria Montessori.**



“Perhaps a great future leader or a great genius is with us and his power will come from the power of the child he is today. This is the vision that we must have.”

- Maria Montessori



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REFLECTIONS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Welcome to Omni's 2024 Annual Report – a review of the past school year, a celebration of our accomplishments as a community and a formal thanks to the many generous volunteers and supporters whose time and talents make the Montessori experience come to life every day for all our students. Your generous support has made an incredible impact on our school community, and we are deeply grateful for your dedication to our mission of empowering children in a community faithful to the teachings of Maria Montessori.

Your contributions and your volunteering efforts over the past year have directly supported:

- **Tuition Assistance:** Your donations have enabled us to provide financial assistance to families in need, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to experience the transformative power of Montessori education regardless of their financial circumstances. In addition, we were able to provide a tuition benefit to our employees who have children enrolled in the school.
- **Enhanced Learning Experiences:** With your support, we have been able to expose students to a variety of environments through going-outs, field trips and overnight adventures. Trips to Mountain Trail Outdoor School, Fort Caswell, Joyce Kilmer and Ensenada bring our students closer to nature, fostering a reverence for the environment.
- **Professional Development:** Your generosity has allowed us to invest in ongoing training and development opportunities for our guides and staff, empowering them to continue growing as educators and providing the highest quality Montessori education to our students. Four of our employees are in the process of completing their Montessori training and all employees benefitted from courses on school safety, mental health first aid and belonging.
- **Community Outreach:** This year, we were able to host Play & Learn sessions again, expanding our reach within the community, sharing the principles and benefits of Montessori education with more families and educators, and fostering greater awareness and appreciation for our school's mission.
- **Facility Improvements:** Your support has allowed us to work with an architect and civil engineer to design two new buildings at our Blakeney Campus, the construction of which we plan to begin in the next few weeks. We have also made improvements to our school facilities, creating a safe, welcoming, and inspiring environment where children can thrive and reach their full potential.

Our accomplishments this year are also the direct result of a supportive Board of Trustees, which was led by Ellen Olson. The Board has remained focused on Omni's future and what steps are necessary today to ensure that our school remains sustainable well into the future. We thank Nikki Eason, Nic Finelli, Katherine Gutierrez, Ruth Jaimes, Matt McCusker, Colleen Nicol, Ellen Olson, Hannah Rankin, Rick Tanner, Christy Trimmer, Holly Trotter and Marie Watkins for their leadership, dedication, and commitment to Omni.

Over the past year, we embraced the theme inspire. At Omni, we inspire our students to explore their community environments, discover the skills of which they are capable and internalize a love for learning. We encourage self-discovery and independence and ultimately, we inspire our graduates to achieve their potential. We could not do this without you - every student, every employee, every parent, every grandparent, every alumnus, and every friend who provides inspiration.

With deep gratitude and appreciation,
Cindy Curry, *Head of School*



FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



From the Board of Trustees

Dear Omni Montessori School Community,

Reflecting on the past year fills us with pride as we recognize the remarkable achievements and progress of Omni Montessori School. Upholding our dedication to excellence in Montessori education and community, we are excited to share some key moments that have shaped our collective journey.

A significant highlight of the 2023-2024 school year was the warm welcome extended to new families joining our community. Their presence has enriched our school environment, fostering a stronger sense of belonging at Omni Montessori School.

In line with our commitment to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all, we have enhanced our safety protocols to ensure a space where students can thrive with confidence. In addition, we are thrilled to have taken strides in expanding our campus to meet the changing needs of our school. This expansion will provide enhanced learning opportunities and prospects for growth, paving the way for a brighter future for every individual within our community.

The success of both the Annual Giving Campaign and the Omni Annual Auction, Artful Night, has been truly remarkable. With widespread participation from nearly every member of our community and generous contributions from various community members, these efforts have significantly enhanced the educational experience at Omni Montessori School.

The Board wishes to express deep gratitude to our guides, assistants, staff, and leadership team. Their commitment to our students plays a vital role in fostering the positive development we observe in our children every single day.

Looking forward with optimism, it is clear that Omni Montessori School is set for ongoing growth. Our combined efforts, guided by a mutual commitment to Montessori educational excellence, will help us connect with more families and create lasting effects in their lives.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the entire Omni Montessori School community. Your trust in our school to provide an empowering Montessori education within a community guided by Maria Montessori's teachings is deeply appreciated. You are the heartbeat of Omni, and we sincerely thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our school.

Warm regards,

Ellen Olson, *President, Board of Trustees*

Officers:

Board President - Ellen Olson

Vice President - Nikki Eason

Secretary - Nic Finelli

Treasurer - Holly Trotter

Members:

Cindy Curry (Administrative Representative)

Katherine Gutierrez

Ruth Jaimes

Matt McCusker

Colleen Nicol

Hannah Rankin

Rick Tanner

Christy Trimmer

Marie Watkins

OMNI BY THE NUMBERS

211 Number of students enrolled
at Omni Montessori School in
2023-2024.

111 Number of families who
toured Omni this year.

23 Number of Friday Fun on the
Playgrounds at the Blakeney
Campus.



75 Number of student visits
scheduled during the
2023-2024 school year.

18 Number of stories explored
in Primary drama lessons.

77 Number of elementary
students who participated in
ENCORE!

2 Number of guinea pigs added
to the Sycamore classroom.

99 Number of bowls of popcorn
popped in the Ginkgo class.

427 Number of worms consumed by
the Sassafras class bearded
dragon.



OMNI BY THE NUMBERS



1,700+

Number of books checked out of the Owl's Nest Library.

360

Number of lessons completed by the Sycamore class.

61

Number of plates sold at the Annual Pancake Breakfast.

120

Number of crickets eaten by Martha, the Dogwood class tarantula.

70

Number of pots of tea brewed by the Red Maple class.

5

Number of families who took home the sugar gliders in the Ginkgo class.



90

Number of hours spent on the quilt auction art made by the Red Maple class.

7.5

Number of hours of sharing appreciation for each other in the Sassafra class.

37

Number of meat chickens raised at the AP campus

OMNI BY THE NUMBERS

38

Number of books read for novel studies across the Upper Elementary.

180+

Number of hours spent outside across the lower elementary.

5

Number of AP students and staff who have completed the NC Certified Beekeeper Program (3 more to come).



48

Number of indoor plant varieties in the Primary classrooms.

37

Number of mice consumed by Copper, the Red Maple pet snake.

13

Number of AP Markets held on the Blakeney campus.

1,000+

Number of seeds planted by the Primary classes.

50

Number of wheelbarrows filled with sticks by the Red Maple class.

35

Number of Math Ponderances given at the AP campus.

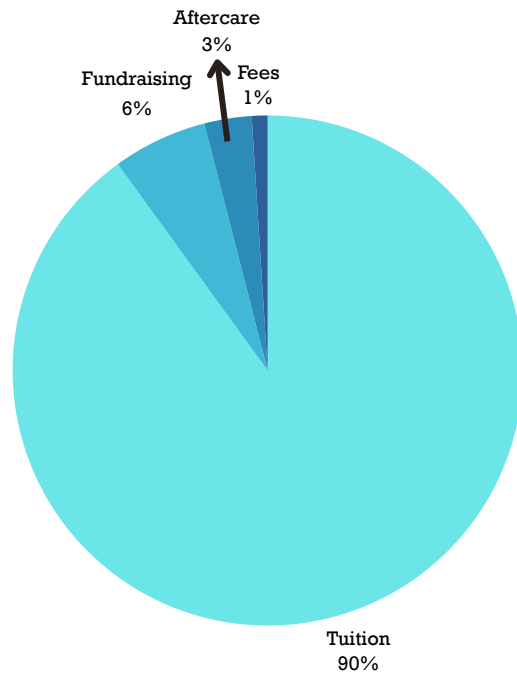


FINANCIAL REPORT

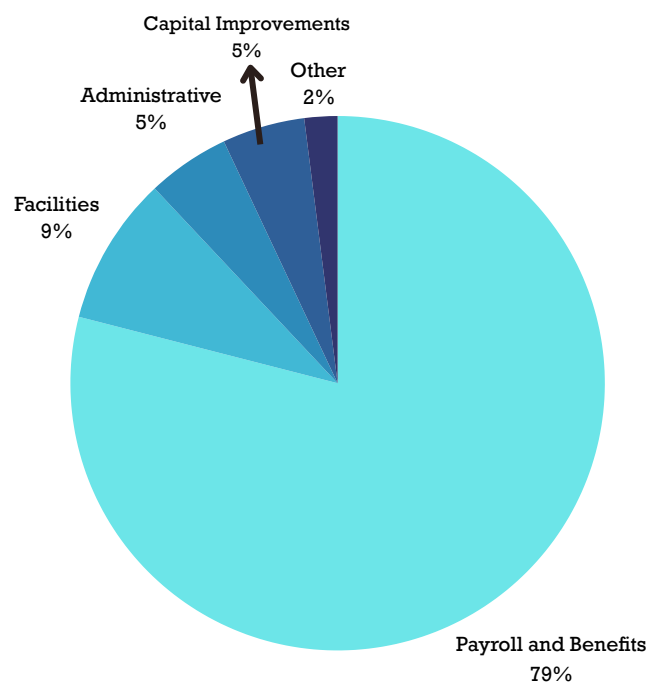
2022-2023 School Year



Where does the money come from?



Where did the money go?



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



Dear Friends,

At the end of my third year at Omni Montessori School (Omni), I am still inspired by the immense amount of generosity that makes up the Omni Community. I believe the faculty and staff would echo my sentiments of gratitude for your continued support and commitment to our mission of empowering children in a community faithful to the teachings of Maria Montessori.

For the last two years, I have revealed our goal shattering achievements with the Annual Giving Campaign and I am pleased to share that we did it once again. The Omni Community donated and pledged nearly \$105,000 during the 2023-2024 Annual Giving Campaign. The money raised through the Annual Giving Campaign provides our students with access to more than tuition actually covers. Contributions to the Annual Giving Campaign support the people that make Omni Montessori School so special - the students and the guides. Donations create innovative learning tools and education environments, improve maintenance and facilities, support exceptional faculty and staff and their professional development, as well as provide financial aid for our students.

On March 16, 2024, the Omni Community came together for Omni Montessori School's Annual Auction – An Artful Night, at Providence Country Club, right around the corner from the Blakeney campus. The Auction was an excellent opportunity to sip, socialize, and support the amazing work of Omni Montessori School. All the items auctioned were donated by businesses in our surrounding communities and by school

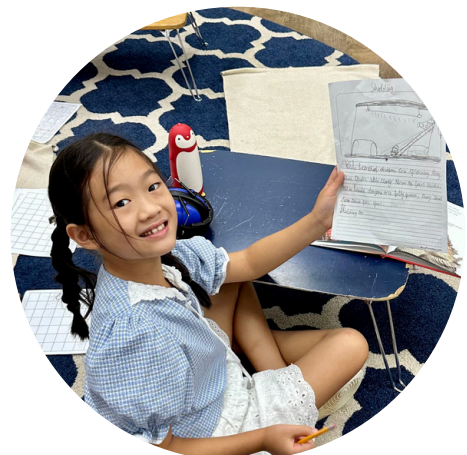
families. The proceeds from the Auction kicked off our efforts to raise funds for our newly appointed fundraiser, the Renovation Campaign.

Omni Montessori School is taking very exciting steps to renovate and expand the Blakeney campus in order to grow and share the amazing education offered through Omni with even more individuals. Similar to the Annual Giving Campaign, the Renovation Campaign will run annually to support the expansion. We will have both campaigns, one specific to unrestricted needs of Omni, the Annual Giving Campaign as well as the renovations through the Renovation Campaign. The community will see both of these campaigns during the 2024-2025 school year.

I feel so lucky to work in a community who never waivers in their commitment to the school. I look forward to the next steps we will take together in the growth of Omni Montessori School. In the words of Coretta Scott King, "the greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

With thanks,

Hannah Earnhardt, *Director of Development*



ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

Through the support of our board, Omni families, friends, and alumni, **nearly \$105,000** was raised and pledged through the **Annual Giving Campaign**.

The generosity of many positively impacts the lives of our students and our guides. Whether it's through financial aid, updates to the learning environments, campus maintenance, or professional development, each dollar makes a difference. Thank you!

RESPECT \$5,000-\$9,999

Jason and Aurora Brick
Patrick and Cindy Curry
The Hendrix Family

HONOR \$1,985-\$4,999

Patty Aluskewicz
DJ and Maureen Baudhuin
Tricia and Cat Cotman
Nikki Eason
The Gutierrez Family
The McDaniel Family
The Oakley Family
The Shaw Family
The Singh Family
Sloane, Harvey, Dan, and Megan Wilson

CELEBRATION \$1,000-\$1,984

Anonymous
The Brand Family
The Carlson Family
The Graham Family
The Jolobovski Family
The Lombard Family
The Malison Financial Group, LLC
The McEvoy Family
The McCusker Family
Barry and Lee Ann McGinnis
Kajel and Ambarish Mhaskar
The Milan Family
The Naik Family
The Nicolette Family
Ellen and Brandon Olson
Amit and Sara Patel
Greg and Charlene Patrell
The Percy Family
Stacy and Minty Ralston
Hannah and Murray Rankin
Denis Ryzhikov and Olga Ryzhikova

The Sabates Family
The Strubbe Family
The Sturgeon Family
The Tanner Family
The Trimmer Family
The Upadhyay Family
The Wilson Family

JOY \$500-\$999

The Andriotis Family
Anonymous
The Becker Family
The Biahun Family
The Butler Family
The Cai Family
Barbara and Ted Carpenter
CrossFit Charlotte
Suzanna and Stephen Dawes
The Ferguson/Steier Family
The Kendrick Family
Gary and Jane Green
The Hemler Family
The Jaimes Family
The Jambusaria Family
The Jayaseelan Family
The Jacobson Family
Crystal and Mike Jordan
The Kashyap Family
The Maghdouri Family
The Mansour Family
Preston A. Morgan
Omni Montessori Family
The Obertan Family
Anish and Anjana Patel
The Pinnamaneni Family
The Phillips Family
Setu Raval and Zach Seivers
The Van Leer Family
The Zape Family
The Zhang Family
The Zu Family

DISCOVERY \$250-\$499

Anonymous
Kate and John Brown
The Caffery-Draa Family
Frank and Donna Carbonneau
Millie Castleman
The Cristini Family
Paul and Sandra Davidson
Hannah and Douglas Earnhardt
The Eskind Family
The Finelli Family
The Giblin Family

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

The Greeno Family
The Gronemeyer Family
The Hawse Family
Erin and Daniel Hodges
The Kohler Family
The Leavenworth Family
Amy and Tony Losasso in Honor of all Montessori Alumni
The Mehta Family
Shelley Morgan
The Nandi Family
Randi Odom
Omni Loving Family
The Porter House Co.
The Smith Family
The Smolczynski Family
Mr. and Mrs. J. Kevin Trimmer
The Valluru Family
The Watkins Family
Rowan Webster
The Wick Family
Sutton and Angie Yamanashi

FRIENDSHIP - \$249 AND BELOW

Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Banks
The Behringer Family
The Bharadwaj Family
Chris and Nikki Bidell
Margot Caffery-Draa's Grandmother
Jennifer Chapman
Daisy Corbett
Marley Couillard
Ken and Jeanne Dowd
Mr. and Mrs. Duer
Ms. Cecilia Estrada
The Ewing Family
The Fair Micetich Family
Mr. and Mrs. Farouk
Lea and Mike Finegan
The Florian Family
Maria Garcia Zabaleta
Donna Garrison
The Gleason Family
The Gonnelli Family
Raquel Gonzalez
Sarah Hagerty
The Hawkins Family
Kenneth Hendel
Holli Henin

The Hussels Family
Nate and Melissa Jesse
The Kelley Family
The Kocak Family
The Laughner Family
Lori Lauman
The Lavie Rodriguez Family
The Lee Family
Jess Lovins
The Martin-Ferguson Family
Betsy Martinez
Heather Massaro
Diane McCalmont
Darcy McDonnell
Timothy McGinnis
Jon, Shari, and Ethan Mudd
The Musa Rodriguez Family
Lynn Nielsen
Maria Nemeth
The Novitsky Family
The Odom Family
Kristen O'Reilly
Carson Orner
Esther Orner
Julian Orner
Miranda Orner
The Ortiz-Kostur Family
Connie Pendergast
The Quinn Family
Bhumika Rajdev
The Rivenbark Family
Kati Roy
The Samarasinha Family
The Sanchez Family
The Schreiner Family
The Schwab Family
The Sharp Family
Pamela Shaw
Monica Simpson
The Spangenberg Family
Betsy and Jon Strubbe
Lavanya Suresh
The Uehara Family
John and Kate Vassallo
Alec and Mayleng Watson



ANNUAL AUCTION

ARTFUL NIGHT - SIP, SOCIALIZE, & SUPPORT

Saturday, March 16, 2024 at 6:30 PM at Providence Country Club

The Omni Montessori School Annual Auction is one of the school's signature fundraisers. Through the support of our generous sponsors, ticket registration, silent auction, live auction, raffle, and donations from the Omni Community, the school grossed \$70,500.00. The money raised through the 2024 Annual Auction supports the renovation efforts in the works at the Blakeney campus. Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2023-2024 Annual Auction. We appreciate YOU!



ARTFUL NIGHT

Thank you to our generous sponsors. We appreciate your support and commitment to Omni Montessori School.

PRESENTING

TEISA

TECNOLOGIA EN EQUIPOS INOXIDABLES, S.A.

OMNI PARTNER

The Hendrix
Family

MALISON FINANCIAL
GROUP, LLC

RAYMOND JAMES®

OMNI CHAMPION



Adam's Mart
An Omni family-owned
Shell Station located at
11924 Elm Lane, Charlotte, NC 28277



The Book Rack



QUEEN CITY SMILES
— ORTHODONTICS —

OMNI PATRON

Patrick and Cindy
Curry



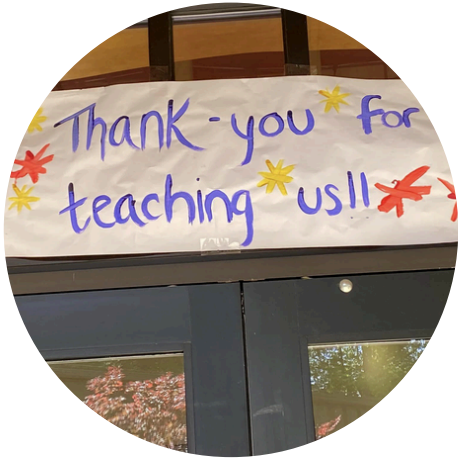
Denis and Olga
Ryzhikov



Banks Wilson &
Jessica Manner



PARENT ASSOCIATION



The Parent Association (PA) is a volunteer body which coordinates activities, such as school-wide celebrations and community events to strengthen the Omni community. Additionally, the PA aligns with the school's core values to support faculty, staff and the student body.

The PA provides all parents the opportunity to become involved and be part of the special traditions that make Omni vibrant and unique. Thank you to the Parent Association for their commitment to Omni Montessori School!



PA Officers & Committee Chairs:

President — Jessica Jacobson

Vice President, Communications — Nanda Jayaseelan

Vice President, Fundraising — Haley Obertan

Vice President of Community Affairs — Brittany Toth

Treasurer/Secretary — Heather Becker

Social Outings/Parent Social — Ashlee McLaughlin

Restaurant Nights — Ruth Jaimes and Ryan Toth

Merchandise — Haley Obertan

Omni Appreciation Week — Lauren McEvoy

Box Tops, HT Vic, Target, TIE Program, Publix

Education, Amazon Smile — Savannah Tanner



FACULTY AND STAFF

“We serve the future by protecting the present.”

- Maria Montessori

Faculty and Staff

Alphabetically by last name

Holli Andrews – Lower Elementary Assistant
Larry Barnes – Coach for Aftercare
Nikki Bidell – Upper Elementary Assistant
Kate Brown – Elementary Learning Support
Jing Chai – Upper Elementary Assistant
Jennifer Chapman – Business Office Assistant
Daisy Corbett – Administrative Assistant
Tricia Cotman – Lower Elementary Assistant
Cindy Curry – Head of School
Hannah Earnhardt – Director of Development
Cecilia Estrada – Primary Assistant
Nicole Fuller – Upper Elementary Guide
Maria Garcia-Zabaleta – Spanish Language Specialist
Donna Garrison – Director of Finance
Sara “KK” Gleason – Primary Assistant
Raquel Gonzalez – Primary Assistant
Sarah Hagerty – Primary Guide
Crystal Jordan – Primary Coordinator
Veronica Kocak – Primary Guide
Amy Losasso – Director of Admissions
Jess Lovins – Adolescent Program Guide
Guillermo Martin – Spanish Language Specialist
Darcy McDonnell – Librarian and ENCORE! Coordinator
Angie McHenry – Floating Primary Assistant
Maria Nemeth – Transportation
Charlene Patrell – Adolescent Program Guide
Connie Pendergast – Lower Elementary Guide
Bhumika Rajdev – Primary Guide
Stacy Ralston – Primary Assistant
Kati Roy – Primary Guide
Megan Sharp – Adolescent Program Guide
Monica Simpson – Facilities Coordinator
Ashlyn Spangenberg – Director of Adolescent Programs
Lavanya Suresh – Upper Elementary Guide
Jennifer Tamalone-Breareley – Primary Assistant
Jen Wallace – Lower Elementary Guide
Rowan Webster – Elementary Coordinator



CONGRATS GRADS!



Miles Ewing



Gabriela Gutierrez



Jane Wieland

Congratulations to our 9th year graduates

“But, above all it is the education of adolescents that is important, because adolescence is the time when the child enters on the state of adulthood and becomes a member of society.”

- Maria Montessori, *From Childhood to Adolescence*



RENOVATION

Omni was founded in 1985 by a group of parents who were committed to providing Montessori education for their children. It all began on seven acres of land accompanied by a basic metal building, a small office, and a faithful group of parent volunteers. Since its start, the school has expanded from the singular building with two classrooms to two campuses serving children ages 3–15 years with dedicated faculty and staff. The demand for growth continues to blossom for Omni Montessori School.

After completing a Master Facilities Plan in 2018, the Omni Montessori School Board of Trustees (BOT) selected an architect and a civil engineering firm to begin developing Phase One of the plan in 2019. Then, in 2020 and 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic caused the BOT and the administration to re-evaluate the Master Facilities Plan and to prioritize building an All-Day Montessori building and to expand the Upper Elementary and administrative spaces. During the 2022-2023 school year, architectural and civil engineering designs were developed in consultation with the City of Charlotte. Civil engineering permits were submitted in November 2023 and building permits were submitted in December 2023 to begin this next venture for Omni Montessori School.

This innovative work will allow Omni Montessori School to continue to expand and thrive in the years ahead. With the commitment of the Omni Montessori School community as well as the Renovation Campaign, the school will see exceptional growth, not only in physical space, but also in the number of students served in the Charlotte-area and beyond.



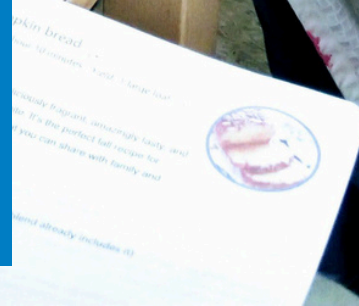
Two-story Upper Elementary extension



All day Primary classroom



**“The hand is the instrument
of intelligence.”
- Maria Montessori**





OMNI MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Blakeney Campus
9536 Blakeney Heath Road
Charlotte, NC 28277
704-541-1326

Waxhaw Campus
7118 McWhorter Road
Waxhaw, NC 28173
704-843-3335

www.Omni-Montessori.org