A sense of optimism and enthusiasm for the future was the predominant theme throughout the ceremony where the 19 members of the Class of 2011 said their farewells to Washington Montessori School.

Whether they had attended WMS since YCC or enrolled in 6th Grade, the graduates agreed the time spent at WMS was unforgettable. Several graduates thanked individual teachers who influenced them. Many thanked their parents for sending them to Washington Montessori.

In her welcoming address, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Denise Trevenen, quoted from essays that each of the graduates had written. Based on the international project entitled “This I Believe,” students were required to write essays evaluating their own core values. Many of the essays reflect lessons taught at WMS.

Preetam Beram believes “perseverance will be a part of the rest of my life. It changed my life and can change the lives of others, too.” Ava Mennin believes “winning is just what a scoreboard or a piece of paper
says. Doing your best is concrete and memorable.” Harper Pratt believes “that my
course in life isn’t set for me. I’m the one who
will choose it.” Cam Gardner believes “success
is when you work hard to achieve a goal.”

In her remarks, Head of School, Pat
Werner, noted the Class of 2011’s in-
fluence on the whole school had been
“positive and inclusive.”

“Your parents and teachers all want to
preserve your natural optimism and support
your view of the future as one with all kinds
of possibilities, so that you’ll see opportu-
nities and challenge yourself,” Pat said. “We
send you off today with confidence that you
are well prepared for what lies ahead.”

NEWs FROM THE RECORDER CLUB

This Spring the WMS Recorder Club
played with Wykeham Consort, an ensemble
of recorders, voices, viola da gamba,
guitar and percussion. The concert, “Birds of
a Renaissance May” took place at The First
Church of Bethlehem and was sponsored by
the Woodbury-Bethlehem Community Music
Foundation, Inc.

Members of the WMS Recorder Club are
Annika Chiang-Boeckmann, Julius Chiang-
Boeckmann, Brady Grustas, Ally Merritt,
Eli Taylor, Amber Willen and Ben Willis.

They opened the concert processing in 2
groups into the sanctuary, while playing the
traditional English May tune “One Bright
and Sunny Morning” with the sound of
Cuckoos playing so sweetly on the recorders.
They played a Baroque piece “Fanfare” in two
parts with ornaments. The students joined
Wykeham Consort to play two English
country dances, arranged as trios.

The concert was followed by Maypole
dancing on the lawn of the church. Matilda
taught dancing and intricate weaving of the
Maypole.

The recorder club spent many weeks pre-
paring for this May concert, which was a
wonderful opportunity for the students; and
they all played beautifully, the audience was
very pleased and so was I.

Recorder Club 2010-2011 began last
September, and any interested 4th and
5th year students were invited to join. We
met after school on Tuesdays from 3:15-
4pm. The Club is meant to offer a fun and
relaxed atmosphere for making music as
an ensemble, improvising and sharing our
music with others.

We played at the nursing home, Rose
Haven, in Litchfield last fall. We also played
Christmas carols and seasonal music for
our WMS Winter Solstice Celebration,
accompanied by Erica Warnock on bass viola
da gamba and Wendy Rhodes on piano.”

by Sarah Jane Chelminski
Grandparents & Special Friends Day begins with breakfast in the library

Music teacher Matilda Giampietro leads a Lower School performance for grandparents and special friends

Helen Brown with daughter Amber Willen
Marydale deBor with special friend Truman Reid
Jessica Travelstead with her grandmother Louisa Onglia and her daughter Eliza Travelstead

Paula and Leon Root with grandson Beau Root
Lynn Veleas with grandson Cedar Veleas
Frank Mooney with granddaughter Olivia Mooney
Cuckoo for Milos

This past April WMS was honored to welcome back to its stage Academy-award winning director Milos Forman and actress/humanitarian Mia Farrow for a special screening and discussion of one of the most iconic films of all time.

Forman’s “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” is one of only three films in history to sweep the major categories at the Academy Awards winning best picture, best director, best actor, best actress and best screenplay at the 1975 Academy Awards. The film is #20 on the American Film Institute's 100 Years...100 Movies list and was added to the Library of Congress National Film Registry in 1993.

“This is one of the greatest films ever made,” said Mia upon welcoming Milos to the spotlight. “I’ve seen it maybe 10 times and it’s an honor to be in your presence, never mind asking questions.”

Although Mia and Milos have never worked on a film together, they have joined forces for the benefit of WMS. Last year Milos interviewed Mia for a discussion on Mia’s career as an actress and specifically her role in Woody Allen’s film “Purple Rose of Cairo.” They shared a warm rapport during that interview. Without hesitation, they both said yes when asked if they would consider working together in the future. Mia suggested she interview Milos next time.

Mia came ready to ask Milos several questions about the film that put him high on the A-list of directors. “For us, you have made a perfect film,” said Mia. “Did you have a sense that you were making one of the great films of all time?” “Did you ever have the sense that you were making great movies?” he asked.

“Never,” she said. “No,” he agreed. “It doesn’t happen. It doesn’t exist.”

“One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” was based on Ken Kesey’s 1963 novel of the same name. It follows the story of inmate Randle McMurphy (Jack Nicholson) who finds himself in a mental asylum after pretending to be insane. His stay there is punctuated by power struggles between himself and Nurse Ratched (Louise Fletcher.)

The film was shot on location at the Oregon State Hospital where Milos actually lived during production. The real superintendent of the hospital, Dean R. Brooks, surprisingly was cast to play the head of the hospital in the film. He appears in one of the first scenes of the film—a scene that was completely improvised according to Milos.

“Improvised in the way that I had (Randle McMurphy’s) dossier and gave it to the doctor and told him ‘just do your job as a doctor.’ And that’s what he did,” said Milos. “He talked to Jack like he was one of his patients about whom he learned from the dossier. Jack was just brilliant in reacting to and answering him.”

“What was it like working with him (Jack)?” asked Mia.

“I love that man,” said Milos. “From the moment he comes on set until the moment he leaves set, he is the most responsible, prepared, professional, generous actor,” Milos said. He then joked, “before and after he comes on set… to this day, I don’t know if he’s crazy or not.”

After the question and answer session Mia and Milos joined guests in the library for a reception of wine and hors d’oeuvres.
FIELD DAY

LEFT. Lower School Play Day: Hannah Travelstead and Piper Skilton, Edward DeVos, Graham Ince, John Paul Szewczuk and Joshua Marlowe


TOP RIGHT. Field Day: Emily Garfinkel, Alex Hubbell, Justin Blake and James Brown

CENTER. Lower School students watched older siblings compete in Field Day: Andreas von Strasser, Lucy Sanchez, Anna Karps, Sophia Oldakowski, Pink Wright, Jenma Paolucci, Joshua Marlowe, Graham Ince and Edward DeVos

BELOW. Mimi Gillen leads the school in the Boot Scootin’ Boogie

Highlights from 2010-2011
UPPER ELEMENTARY SHAKESPEARE

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Amy’s class performed Henry IV, Pt. 1. Avery Rikhoff as Lady MacBeth and Jyne Dunbar as MacBeth, Brady Grinstas as the Earl of Westmoreland, Christina Khalil as King Henry IV and Eli Taylor as Sir Walter Blunt. Jané’s class performed MacBeth.

WMS IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE COLLEGE CHOICES OF OUR CLASS OF 2007.

WE WISH YOU LUCK IN THIS NEXT STEP OF YOUR LIFE.

Peter Bresnan
New York University

John Charles
St. John’s College

Leah Cooper
Bates College

Chris Corsico
New York University

Austen Flamand-Browne
Deferred

Julie Grome
Wheelock College

Lilly King
Lesley College

Grant Luhman
Reid College

Ana Piscuskas
New York University

Alex Slohm
Shenandoah Valley College

Mitchell Stone
Hampshire College

Hannah Swomley
Swarthmore College

Ben Tarsa
Quinnipiac University

Alex Theisen
Clark University

Sam Willson
Deerfield Academy, PG year
The following is an article I wrote during the 1998-99 school year to appear in the summer edition of On Circle. It was written in collaboration with Middle School Teacher Tom Fahsbender, Montessori colleague William Maier, Librarian Norma Mitchell and Board Member John Friedman. Over the course of the 2010-2011 school year, I have been often reminded of this article and the fact that its message is even more relevant today than it was 12 years ago.

WIN WIN COMPETITION
by Pat Werner

"THE WORLD IS A COMPETITIVE PLACE."
So says conventional wisdom. Afterall, it is through years of fierce competition that our own species was able to evolve from some beastly ancestors. Darwin called it “Natural Selection.” Herbert Spencer called it “Survival of the Fittest.”

If human beings evolved through fierce competition, it seems reasonable to assume society’s institutions must be made out of that same stuff. Those who ignore this would fail and drag down their associates with them. To make it in such a society, individuals must compete and win, or be left behind. The pedagogy and culture of our nation’s schools reflect this conventional wisdom. Class ranking, curved-grading, academic and athletic prizes, and ever-present contests make many of our educational institutions training grounds for future competitors.

Some educators and parents believe that such a competitive environment is essential if we are to encourage our children to strive to do their best, to run their fastest. They fear that, in the absence of competition, children would lose motivation and sink into mediocrity. Independent schools, like public schools, strive for high ranking in public opinion, endowment, SAT scores and athletics. Today, despite the widespread discussion on new ways of preparing children for the twenty first century, school culture in the United States continues to accept common assumptions about competition.

An Alternative to Competition
At WMS we believe competition has its place. But we know that competition alone cannot sustain true motivation. Some parents, when first introduced to our methods at Washington Montessori School, question whether our children will be adequately prepared for the competitive conditions they will face when they enter the real world of secondary schools and the workplace. They may concede that our method is fine for preschool children, but they urge that we get serious with older students. As parents’ experiences of WMS deepen, they usually find that our educational philosophy reflects their own beliefs, and realizes many of the hopes they have for their children. At times, though, they second-guess themselves, worrying about the conventional wisdom regarding competitive training. So, what is the rationale for WMS’s nurturing ways?

It’s About the Process
No task is too rigorous for such a self-disciplined mind! They follow their own standards of excellence, they strive to do better and learn more because their accomplishments are deeply satisfying. As Montessorians, we emphasize the learning process. We might go so far as to say that the products that our students generate are but the means for their real learning.

We teach children all the usual basics—reading and writing, mathematics, the sciences and the arts. But, more importantly, we help them to discover how they learn so that they enjoy learning as a lifestyle. We help them discover their inner resources and the discipline to persevere and achieve. We don’t try to teach children everything; we choose depth over breadth. At an early age, Montessori children learn to follow rather than to suppress their curiosity. Their inner drive sustains them as they practice.

WMS classrooms are largely devoid of rivalry and failure. Our students see their classmates as collaborative partners, rather than rivals. They call on each other for help, as well as companionship. We want our children to think of themselves, and of their classmates, in a multi-contextual way. We value their daily learning outside the school, from their family and from their other activities, just as we do in their classroom learning. Our students regard their mistakes as challenges to be overcome, rather than irreparable failures.

Prepared for Life Beyond Montessori
We believe that these attitudes are the best preparation for real life. Most of our students will spend more time with us than they’ll spend at any other school in their lives, and they possess a magical, absorbent mind during these wondrous years. We are confident that the attitudes that are nurtured here are lasting ones, and the conversations with alumni confirm this. “Montessori was a place not to be competitive,” said a 1983 graduate, “it was a place to love learning. When I competed, I competed with myself.” Another WMS graduate who went on to earn a BA in Psychology said “I learned independence, motivation, concentration, and, most important, the value of cooperation.”

With their family, and in their extra-curricular activities, our children have plenty of opportunities to witness the dynamic of their culture. But the best preparation for hardship is not hardship. It is supportive, successful experiences. So WMS is an island on which children’s origins and spirits are still divine, where they construct themselves as powerful, self-aware, expressive individuals. And, yes, they can compete and win, too!
Emily Cousins-Scott has spent the last four years living with her family on the Navajo Nation. “This summer, we traded in the red rock desert for the green forests of Seattle,” she said. “For now, my 9-year-old son Colm and 5-year-old daughter Fiona still view the rain showers as a novelty.” Emily continues to enjoy writing about environmental issues for the Natural Resources Defense Council and about life after cancer for young survivors on the Stupid Cancer Blog.

Mara McDonald is happy to be “an aunt to the cutest baby around.” (See Class of 1986) She continues to work in the insurance health care business.

Jesse Johnson lives in Brooklyn with his wife and two children, Cole age 4 and Ellie age 20 months. He works in sales for iMANY, a software company.

Colby Green Rifkin lives in Kingston, New Jersey and is the director of marketing at Grounds For Sculpture—a gloriously, magical 42-acre sculpture park and arboretum in central New Jersey. “When I’m not working, I divide my time (not necessarily evenly or in this order) between the pool, the beach (Jersey shore!), time with friends, dating and happy hour,” Colby said.

Heidi Ross lives in NYC with her 4-year-old daughter Ela Nawab who attends a Montessori school. She works at Beth Israel Medical Center as a social worker in the emergency department and a therapist in the hospital’s victim services program, which helps survivors of trauma. “Ela and I love living on the upper west side of Manhattan,” Heidi said. “We enjoy visits to my mom in Connecticut and to good friend Madeleine DelVicario ’86 in Hatfield, MA.”

Arthur Ware lives in Sao Paulo, Brazil with his wife Clo and his 3 boys, aged 8, 6 and 4. “I have a secret fantasy of buying 15 acres of land in Washington and returning to show my family how to take long walks up Steep Rock and swim in the lake,” he admitted. “But that will have to wait a few more years yet.”

Trevor Johnson lives in Milford, CT, and has a daughter Skylar who is six years old. He works in sales for BMW in Greenwich.

Megan McDonald and her husband Bob welcomed a daughter, Mary Grace Murtha, on June 6 at 6 lbs. 2 ozs. “My father Bill and his wife Alitz are also in the process of adopting a 6-year-old boy, Kaylan, from St. Lucia, who is thrilled to be an uncle,” said Megan. “Everyone is healthy and happy. I am taking some time off from teaching to stay home with Mary for the next year or so.” Megan still lives in Eliot, Maine.

Elizabeth Rand recently returned from a family trip to Israel. Her older boys, Noah, 11 and Eitan, 9, enjoyed their first overnight camp this summer while Jethro, 3, and Lilian, 6, stayed home with mom. Elizabeth writes a cooking blog at www.feedemright.tumblr.com. “I’m also working with my tie dye and crafting business and generally keeping busy,” she said. “Looking forward to more On Circle news!”

Dr. Mandy Risley lives in Seattle, WA with her husband Brad. They welcomed a baby boy named Conrad Risley Gandt this July. He joins big sister Phoebe. Mandy is a Naturopathic physician at the Institute of Complementary Medicine in Seattle www.icmedicine.com (See Alumni Spotlight, Page 9)

Cassandra Purdy is still splitting her time between the U.S. and France where she is working on a book. She spends the summers in Bridgewater dedicating her energy to her catering business Radical Roots. You can check out her goods at the Westport Farmer’s Market. She also owns a mobile, wood-fired pizza oven and can be found at pizzatothepeople.net.

Sarah Douglas has relocated to Northern Virginia. Her focus this last year has been helping her father go through treatment for pancreatic cancer, and she’s happy to report that he’s now doing very well. She has connected with Patrick Dorton ‘82 and his family in nearby DC,
and she and her parents, Hal and Ruth, were delighted to meet up with Pat and Ed Werner at Patrick’s house during their visit this spring.

**1990**

Christopher Eanes is getting married this December to Kelly Ann Nelson. She will be moving to Cincinnati where Christopher is the Director of the Cincinnati Boychoir.

Chris Leone has resigned as Superintendent of Torrington Public Schools to become Chief Operating Officer in the Bloomfield school district, effective August 12. “The offer in front of me is to do what I love—focus on education and reform,” Chris said.

**1991**

Sarah Schell Anderson welcomed a baby girl named Ariana Lyon Alcott Anderson on January 5. She joins big brother Aengus, age 4. Sarah is finishing up her MFA in writing from Warren Wilson College.

Derrick Picton works with his family business Picton Brothers General Contracting. He lives in New Milford and has a 2-year-old son named Isaac.

**Dr. Mandy Risley ’86 is a Naturopathic physician and mom to 2-year-old Phoebe and newborn Conrad.**

Choosing a career in naturopathic medicine was not an obvious choice for me at a young age or even as a college student. It wasn’t until a couple of years after graduating from Rollins College in 1994, with a BA in English literature, that I discovered I was interested in medicine. I then returned to school to complete the pre-med requirements for attending Bastyr University’s Naturopathic Doctorate program. There were many aspects of my experience at WMS that helped me in the decision to choose and create a slightly more unconventional career as a Naturopathic Physician.

Naturopathic Medicine is based on the philosophy that the human body has an innate ability to heal itself. It aims to combine the wisdom of nature and cutting edge medical research to create treatment plans for patients. Naturopathic doctors (NDs) strive to identify the root cause of their patient’s illness and treat the cause. They use diet, exercise, lifestyle modifications and natural therapies to enhance the body’s ability to prevent and combat disease. Naturopathic physicians treat many different conditions ranging from allergies, digestive issues and hormonal imbalances to autoimmune diseases and cancer. NDs are currently licensed in 16 states (including CT) and the District of Columbia. They are required to graduate from an accredited 4-year residential medical school and pass an extensive post-doctoral board examination. A Naturopathic Doctor’s scope of practice depends on the state laws in which they choose to practice. In Washington State, we are considered primary care physicians and have broad prescriptive rights. To learn more go to [www.naturopathic.org](http://www.naturopathic.org).

The foundations of my career in naturopathic medicine took their roots and were nurtured at WMS. Central to the school’s mission to develop a child’s self-esteem, responsibility, and independence, WMS provided an environment and community that encouraged me to cultivate these personal attributes.

WMS helped me to develop confidence at such a delicate age. Despite the inevitable or unpredictable challenges we face in our childhood, the school’s community helped me to have a strong sense of self-esteem. In fact, if you were to ask my teachers in 1986, they may have reported that I had a little too much confidence. It is possible that I spent some time in Pat’s office learning how to redirect that strong sense of self.

The nature of the Montessori philosophy to be supportive and to give to your community in service, are qualities that were modeled by both the faculty and extended family of WMS. The feeling of gratification of helping others that I experienced during my elementary years at WMS, have stayed with me. I feel extremely fortunate to be able to help my patients and my community in the capacity of being a Naturopathic physician.

At WMS you have complete ownership of your education. You choose your path. The educational methodology of Montessori combined with the supportive faculty and community give a student a life-long ability to be a risk-taker, in the best sense of the term. Many of us WMS graduates are not fearful of unconventional views or approaches to life and life’s challenges. This attribute has been a driving force in my ability to choose and create a career as a Naturopathic doctor. I am forever grateful to WMS for providing me with these fundamental building blocks for which I have built my career.
1993

Rebecca McNeill Couto graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 2006 and spent almost 5 years in private practice in Los Angeles before moving to San Antonio, Texas, to join the Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund (MALDEF) as a Staff Attorney. She is very happy in her new position defending civil rights. Rebecca married Octavio Couto on Leap Year Day in 2008, and they welcomed Olympia in October of 2009.

Owen Muir just graduated from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, and is thus now an M.D. He began work at North Shore/Long Island Jewish Health System in June as a Psychiatry Resident.

Dominick Picton lives in Virginia Beach with his wife Katie and their two sons named Jackson and Nicholas.

Katherine Rahilly was married to David Altman on June 5.

Ryan Sager is a Commissioning Editor at The Wall Street Journal. He lives in New York with his wife Emily Gitter. (See Alumni Spotlight, Page 11)

1994

Dan McArdle married Marcie Braden on April 30, 2011. They have bought a home in Las Vegas where they will be working for several years.

Julia Ruchman is a writer for the USA Network television show Covert Affairs.

Nell Solley is a teacher at a Montessori-inspired school in Stamford. She also teaches yoga both for adults and children. During the summer months, she enjoyed spending time with fellow alums Sarah Graham Needham ’94 and her 8-month-old Charlotte, Ariel Pasch ’94 and Christina Oneglia Rossi ’94 and her two little ones Anna and Jake.

1995

Courtney Merz Saulnier owns and operates Lakeville Interiors with sister Ashley ’97. (See Alumni Spotlight, Page 13)

Anna Nelmes-Stoughton earned her 6-year Masters in Education Leadership from Teachers College at Columbia University. She is now Vice Principal at the Six-to-Six Magnet School in Bridgeport, which serves continued on page 12
I've never considered it a coincidence that a good deal of my career to date has been spent in start-up environments. My earliest journalistic endeavor, aside from whispering to classmates instead of paying attention “on circle,” was starting a student newspaper in high school. After college, I got the opportunity to join the founding staff of a real start-up paper in the city, the New York Sun—which in 2002 revived the name and motto (“It Shines for All”) of the famed paper (best known for its 1897 editorial “Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus”), which was absorbed in the newspaper consolidation of the 1950s. The Sun was the first general-interest broadsheet newspaper launched in the city in decades. You may have heard that print is dead, but there are those of us who still have faith in the power of ink and paper, and we did what we could to power our journalistic enterprise on coffee, cheap Pakistani food and young, also-cheap blood. Under the leadership of legendary newspaperman Seth Lipsky, an inexperienced, ambitious staff of us, perhaps none with an operative memory of the Carter administration, kept the daily operation running. Called “news assistants”—presumably to thwart some obscure child labor law—we put our lack of seasoning and absence of other marketable skills to work reporting, writing editorials, hashing out photo captions, puzzling out the Associated Press style guide, and, God help us, laying out newspaper pages in a computer system called Quark, on which none of was formally (or informally) trained. The Sun had a six year run before its doors were shuttered in 2008, and I like to think we struck more than a few blows in that time for our ideals—education reform, free markets, free immigration, and low taxes. At the very least, I got thrown out of a senator's office for asking him a question he found particularly annoying. (It was Chuck Schumer's office.) I also met my wife, Emily, whom I've been known to annoy on occasion as well.

After stints at the New York Post, quitting to write a book about the disintegration of the Republican Party, and blogging about cognitive science at a start-up blog network that ended up being sold to Forbes, I’ve most recently landed at what’s been something of a dream job at the Wall Street Journal. Brought in to help revamp their Saturday essays in December 2009, I got the opportunity last year, when the paper was re-launching its weekend section, to design the prototype of what is now the Saturday Review section of the WSJ Weekend—a newspaper section devoted to essays, books, humor, science, and culture. Designing a newspaper section or magazine was something of a nerdy dream realized. But how might one go about the exact mechanics of it? There’s not an off-the-shelf piece of software to sketch out where this bell or that whistle might go on a newspaper page or where a page might go in the section’s page plan. So I folded over a bunch of 11”X17” pieces of paper into a mock/miniature “newspaper” and sketched everything out in pencil. Honestly, I felt like an idiot when this wad of papers eventually made its way before the editor-in-chief of the Wall Street Journal. “Are you sure he should see this? It looks like a kindergartener did it,” I beseeched the various editors between me and the top. “There must be some more formal, non-stupid-looking way.” But there wasn’t. And those ridiculous wadded papers eventually became page designs in the hands of our skilled designers. Those page designs became a prototype. And that prototype, with the hard work of our small staff and fabulous contributions from outside writers, became a new section of the Wall Street Journal.

When I wadded up those papers and started drawing—that was Montessori. Knowing how to move forward, when there’s not an off-the-shelf solution, when there’s not a roadmap, is what a school like Montessori teaches kids. When I designed a newspaper page over Chicken Makhani, almost 10 years ago now, figuring out the difference between leading and kerning on the fly, that was Montessori. When I got kicked out of a senator’s office…well, that one’s on me.
5 towns with pre-school, elementary and middle school.

Vanessa Simpson is now living in Reston, VA. She has earned her certificate in accounting from UVA and plans to take a few more courses and sit for the CPA exam.

1996

Tory Solley lives in Hamilton, New Zealand with her fiancé Andrew. They will be getting married back in Washington in October 2012. Tory recently finished a graduate program in primary level teaching and learning and is hoping to start a teaching career in January when the New Zealand school year begins.

1997

Ashley Merz Marchand owns and operates Lakeville Interiors with sister Courtney '95. (See Alumni Spotlight, Page 13)

1998

Kathleen Bernard has relocated to New York City and will begin her studies at Mount Sinai Medical School this year.

Maggie Horne recently finished up her first year in the graduate textiles program at Savannah School of Design. She is happy and making beautiful art!

Lela Ilyinsky lives in NYC and is working in marketing and events for a new restaurant. She sees Scotty Ryan ’98 and Betty Gilpin ’00 often.

Dustin Picton lives in Caucos, California on a farm with his girlfriend. David Ruchman visited WMS last fall when he spent several months back here while making a film nearby. He loves his life in CA in the film industry.

Scotty Ryan graduated from Pratt Institute with a degree in communications design.

1999

Quinn Pendleton recently finished her fourth year with Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo in Monaco. “We had a very exciting season, especially touring to Damascus, Beijing, Shanghai, Torino, Venice, Lyon and Sicily,” she said. “We have performed several ballets including Cinderella, Sheherazade and Midsummer’s Night Dream.” She is preparing for one of her first leading roles in an upcoming performance. She has been accepted to Harvard Extension School for the Bachelor of Liberal Arts and plans to major in Humanities. “I will work slowly towards my degree online,” she said. “This summer, I spent two weeks in Turkey with my boyfriend, before coming home to Connecticut for three weeks. I am looking forward to next year with the Ballet Monte-Carlo, where we have tours planned for Beirut, Hong Kong, Madrid, Tokyo, and (finally!) New York!”

Liza Solley works as an Account Manager for EnerNOC, an energy management company based in downtown Boston that runs demand response and energy efficiency projects across the country. She lives in Cambridge and is enjoying summer in Boston with lots of outdoor activities. “I’m still playing some hockey for fun and skate with alumni at Harvard throughout the year.”
2000

Ronan Farrow was recently named the Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for Global Youth Issues and director of the State Department’s Global Youth Issues office. He is responsible for implementing and amplifying youth policy and programming throughout the Department. Ronan also gave the commencement speech at Bard College at Simon’s Rock last spring.

Taylor Kilian married Rebeccah Amendola on July 3, 2010. Rebeccah teaches at Greenwich Academy and grew up in Guilford, CT. Taylor is entering his 4th year of a PhD program at Yale for Geology and Geophysics, where his concentration is palaeomagnetics. His research has brought him to many places around the world including Siberia, India, Australia and Italy. He spent the summer doing research in Wyoming.

2001

Luke Brigham is working on a Ben Affleck movie, *Argo*, shooting in LA and Turkey, as part of the “Brigham and Brigham” production company. He is also pursuing his passion of rock climbing in Joshua Tree Park as time allows.

Amanda Horne teaches at Farmington Valley Academy Montessori in the fall. She also teaches yoga and will get her yoga certification this winter.

Jacob Kramer and his wife Andrea traveled all over Europe with friends in June. They still live in New Milford and are looking forward to getting a giant schnauzer. For work, Jacob is following in the family auctioneering tradition in New York City.

Sisters Courtney Merz Saulnier ’95 and Ashley Merz Marchand ’97 own and operate Lakeville Interiors.

In our years since graduating from WMS we continued our education together at Loomis Chaffee. Our bond as sisters grew with Courtney helping Ashley with living away from home as a prefect her freshman year. In college we found our identities away from being “The Merz Girls” at separate colleges where Courtney studied at Hobart and William Smith College and Ashley attended Union College. Upon graduating Courtney traveled to Hawaii for two years experiencing the slower paced island lifestyle.

When Ashley graduated from Union College we knew we wanted to go into business together but were left wondering what the best route to take was. We discovered a research facility in Boston where through multiple tests and questions they provide guidance on a person’s strengths in reference to what careers they would excel at as well as enjoy. The results listed Interior Design as the top career for Courtney and second for Ashley behind Civil Engineering.

With these results we were even more determined and encouraged that a business together would work. Over the next year we apprenticed with a designer in Lakeville, CT who was looking to sell her business. The next 3 years were a whirlwind of learning, buying the business, buying our building, Courtney getting married, having her first child, Ashley getting married, Courtney having her second child, and finally Ashley having her first child. Things have no sign of slowing down. With three children between us and a thriving business, we always looking for ways to grow as designers and provide our clients with the best service possible.

When we took over the business in 2006 it already had an extensive library of fabrics, trim and wallpaper. In the last 5 years, that library has grown and we have expanded to use the entire 10,000 sq. ft. building where we are located in Lakeville, CT. We also now have a large retail space where we sell everything from furniture to plates to bedding. As our family has grown, we discovered the need for a place to buy the type of toys we grew up with—ones that could be handed down rather than the throw away toys we were finding. To answer this need we now have a toy section of our business “Kidaroos.”

We can confidently say that we wouldn’t be the businesswomen or designers we are today if it weren’t for WMS. There are the parts that are as mundane as knowing how to budget our time and having the discipline to get our “assignments” done without a “teacher/boss” overseeing our progress. Then there are the elements of WMS that gave us the confidence we have to take creative risks. We have memories of teachers encouraging us to explore our interests. That was one of the greatest tools WMS gave us because we now have the ability to follow through on any endeavors we wish.

As we take notice of the things we are grateful for in our lives one at the top of our list is that our lives have circled back to WMS. Courtney’s daughter, Callie, is starting her third year at WMS and her son, Rad, is starting his first year. Their cousin, Tucker, will follow in their footsteps in the fall of 2012. We feel so lucky that our children can walk down the halls of WMS, and while they are different hallways, they are experiencing the same joys and getting all the benefits we did from our time there.
2002

Harry Ryan is still involved with making sound for films. He worked on the submission of a film to the 48 Hour Film Festival and it was screened at NYU.

Gavin Shapiro graduated from NYU a year ago and is working for The Onion doing special effects on television.

2003

Christian Ebersol graduated from Bowdoin this year and received the Raimondi Italian Prize. He spent the summer in London training with Deustche Bank. He now works for them in New York City.

Sam Gilpin graduated this spring from the University of Vermont with a degree in English. He is considering a career in sports entertainment.

David Haber is working and studying in Burlington VT. He will graduate from UVM in December.

Billy Lovotti graduated from the University of Pennsylvania’s Huntsman Program, with a BS in Economics from the Wharton School and a BA in International Studies from the College of Arts and Sciences. He began work in August as a Junior Analyst with Analysis Group in New York.

Nora Lovotti graduated from Vassar College in May, having double majored in Film Studies and History. She is living in New York City and interning at Gawker Media and the Maysles Institute.

Sara Schoon graduated from Skidmore and will be starting a second bachelors program in nursing at NYU in the fall.

Cristina Tafuri graduated from Eugene Lang College - The New School for Liberal Arts with a BA in Visual Arts. She will go on to attain her MA from NYU Steinhardt in Visual Arts Administration with a concentration in For Profit Markets. She works as a freelance contemporary art curator in New York City.

Andrew Wells-Qu received his second All-American citation with a third place finish in the 800 meter run at the NCAA Divisions Track and Field Championships in May. He also was a member of the University of Chicago Men’s A Capella group.

2004

Sam Hunt became engaged in July 2010 to Arleyrose Betteridge of Miami, Florida. They met while both attending Lesley College and reconnected on Facebook. Sam took a course at the Community Cuisine School of Northwestern Connecticut and found a passion. In November 2010, he moved to Miami Beach and he began working for Eggwhites Catering.

In addition to his cooking responsibilities with Eggwhites, he is the Event Coordinator, responsible for getting everything needed for an event. Every day is different, and it is not unusual for him to put in 90 hour weeks.... he loves it.

Grace Kalinosky has been working this year and will be going to American University in the fall.

Harrison Kramer will be a senior at Syracuse University this year, majoring in rhetoric and minoring in photography. He loved the six months he spent in Chile last summer and fall. Harrison continued his juggling this summer and appeared at the Levitt Pavilion in Westport every Wednesday night.

Marika Lendl entered her senior year at the University of Florida and is a member of the golf team.

Ariel Picton spent the summer out west working at a ski mountain.

Skylar Shapiro is going to be a senior at BU and is focusing on the business end of fashion. She was in London for her junior year and has had some great internships in the fashion world.

2005

Sam Funk finished his sophomore year at Syracuse University by traveling to London, Paris and Athens with a group studying the Olympics.

Sarah Haber was an intern at the Cannes Film Festival last spring and is taking two acting for film classes in NYC this summer. At the end of August she left for Denmark to attend the European Film College for the year.

Caroline Lendl transferred to The University of Alabama for her junior year to study advertising. She spent the summer in Chicago working at Cramer-Krasselt, the nation’s second-largest independent communications agency.

Isabelle Lendl entered her junior year at the University of Florida and is a member of the golf team.

Brooke Shaw has been traveling the world as a competitive snowboarder. She is considered one of the nation’s top young female snowboarders. She earned a spot on the US Olympic snowboarding team, but was unable to compete in Vancouver due to a torn ACL.

2006

Bella Boutet enjoyed her first year at Connecticut College very much. This summer she worked at a vineyard in Bourdeaux with a friend.
Kevin Hubbard graduated from Millbrook School a year ago. He enjoyed the University of Maine at Farmington last year. This summer he worked at his old summer camp on an island on a lake in Maine. He is taking the fall semester off from school to hike the Appalachian Trail with Jason Feinman ’06.

Ali Quinones finished her freshman year at Elms College in early May. She made the Dean’s List and was chosen to partake in a dinner with Cory Booker, the mayor of Newark, New Jersey. For the summer, she worked in Watertown. She also did observation hours at a local speech pathology and audiology center. She’ll be back at Elms in the fall as an orientation leader and move-in assistant.

2007

Luke Dougherty is looking forward to his senior year at Litchfield High School after a long bout of Lyme disease.

Lilly King stopped by WMS after finishing up her year at Putney. She worked as a landscape gardener this summer before going off to college.

Daniela Lendl graduated from Indian River Charter School and will attend the University of Alabama and will be a member of the golf team.

Spencer Shaw graduated from Stratton Mountain School and recently earned a spot on the US Olympic rookie team.

Sam Willson is doing a PG year at Deerfield Academy next year. He is playing basketball at various camps this summer.

2008

Eve Brigham is looking forward to her last year at Westover School, as she was recently elected to be the First Head of School for her senior year. To be chosen as First Head of School is a great honor at Westover. Three Heads of School are elected by their peers each year to lead the student body and act as a liaison between administration, faculty and students. “I was shocked when I found out I was elected First Head,” said Eve. “I just sat there for a few minutes.” Along with several serious responsibilities, including serving on the school’s disciplinary committee as well as the student council, the First Head of School is also considered responsible for building school morale. “It should be a lot of fun. I’m looking forward to hopefully leave a lasting mark on the school.” Eve spent the summer working at the Institute for American Studies in Washington and traveling to Los Angeles to be with family.

Doodle Funk finished her junior year at Forman. She is captain of the cross-country team and won the HVAL Championships. She spent the summer working at the Litchfield Historical Society and going to running camp at Dartmouth and the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Thomas Hart is going into his senior year at the Gunnery. He enjoys playing in the band The Solid Suns, which he started with Harris Owens ’09. He attended Litchfield Jazz Camp at Kent School this summer with his cousin and bandmate John Carroll.

Sarah Hubbard has one more year to go at Millbrook School and is busy showing her horses in the junior jumpers.

Jacob Hunt just very successfully completed his Junior year at the Forman School where he continued to be on the Honor Roll as well as on the Effort Honor Roll. He is in the process of investigating colleges, thinking he would like to major in Civil Engineering. This summer he did some special painting projects to earn gas money.

Oliver Martinez transferred to Canterbury this year and is “very happy there!” He is a triple music major, in Jazz Band, Rock/Blues Band, and has made the honor roll.

Phoebe Rohn traveled as an exchange student to Germany and England this spring. In England, she took classes at Cambridge University as part of their Sixth Form Law Conference. In Germany, she attended the Munich Schwabing Waldorf School. For the past two years, Phoebe has played on the Yale University Interscholastic Polo Team, and this past year was the captain and will be again next year as well as riding hunter jumper horses. She has also been playing soccer at her high school, and was the captain, and will be again this year. She was accepted at Yale Summer Session, and took classes there this summer. In the fall, she begins her senior year at the Great Barrington Waldorf High School.

Isabel Steiner was accepted to be a part of the National Honor Society for her senior year at Shepaug Valley High School.

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2009

Ariana Brighenti will spend next year in China on the Andover School Year Abroad Program.

Stephen Brighenti is boarding at the Kent School this year.

Jane Funk is boarding at Westover this year. She spent the summer working at R. Derwin’s Clothiers in Litchfield and going to surf camp in Costa Rica. She also played soccer for the Northwest Rovers this summer.

Harris Owens plays drums for The Solid Suns, a band he started with WMS alum Thomas Hart ’08. He is a junior at the Gunnery.

Kellen Rikhoff had a great year at Shepaug. He was on the honor roll, named to the second team of the Berkshire League in soccer, and played in the Berkshire League double tennis finals.

Oliver Salk finished his sophomore year at The Taft School where he found an interest in film. He directed and produced a student film in Maine as part of the Taft summer film program. He also completed the summer program at the New York Film Academy.

Serena Shaw has been making her mark as a competitive snowboarder. This winter she competed in the Burton AM Series, the top regional amateur snowboarding competition. Her first-place finish in halfpipe landed her a place at the US Open Snowboarding Championships at Stratton Mountain in Vermont.

Andrew Trevenen completed his sophomore year at The Taft School where he spent the year studying hard and playing JV Soccer, Varsity Downhill Ski racing and JV Lacrosse. He spent the summer catching up with old WMS pals and learning to drive. This fall when he returns to school he will be rooming with WMS graduate, Joe Paduano ’09—the school will never be the same!

Cassie Willson was at the “Center for Creative Youth” summer art program at Wesleyan this summer, studying piano and music theory for five weeks. She is spending her junior year abroad in Zaragosa, Spain as part of the School Year Abroad Program.

2010

Alex Amato had a great first year at Shepaug Valley High School. He received an academic achievement award for High Honors.

Anthony Amato enjoyed his first year at Shepaug receiving an academic achievement award for High Honors.

Alex Berg enjoyed his first year at Canterbury School. He liked his classes, especially History of Rock and Roll and English. Alex found sports challenging, but really enjoyed cross-country and track.

Sam Blitt had a great year at Shepaug Valley High School, where he made the honor roll and received an academic achievement award for “Excellence in Drawing.” He enjoyed this summer hanging out at Buck’s Rock Camp, playing guitar and making music.

Caroline Hermans enjoyed her first year at Shepaug and received High Honors. She spent the summer volunteering at Village Center for the Arts and face-painting on the weekends.

Anthony Amato ’10, Sam Blitt ’10, and Kellen Rikhoff ’09 at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Caroline Hermans ’10

Alex Berg ’10 and Margaux Janowicz ’10

The Solid Sons performed a concert for WMS students this spring. FROM LEFT: Thomas Hart ’08, John Carroll, Harris Owens ’09 and Oliver Salk ’09
Message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees and the Head of School

The 2010-2011 school year started off on a good note when on September 1, 2010—after a year of negotiations with several financial institutions—Washington Montessori retired its $8-million CHEFA (Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority) Bond Debt. Replacing the bond is a $6.5-million loan from RBS Citizens Bank with a 10-year fixed rate locked in when interest rates were at historic lows.

The switch to RBS Citizens, which finances several other schools and universities throughout the northeast, represents a significant stabilization of our school’s debt and eliminates the requirement of a “letter of credit provider” and other restrictive policies.

As the school year progressed, the WMS community was thrown a curve ball in the form of a proposed cell tower just a hundred feet from our beautiful campus. True to form, the WMS community came together to protect our school and our students. There was an impressive showing of Washington Montessori parents, teachers and students at a public hearing on the tower application. Ultimately AT&T withdrew their proposal. The experience reinforced for us what we already knew—ours is a dedicated community.

It is this level of dedication and loyalty that makes what we do worthwhile. It is our yearly pleasure to honor the donors and volunteers who gave to our school throughout the year. We know it takes the collective talents of everyone—parents, teachers, staff, grandparents, alumni, parents of alumni, children and friends to stay on course; and the WMS community never ceases to amaze with their generosity of time, talents and resources.

This year, we were also fortunate to expand our community to include new corporate donors to the WMSCPP, our scholarship program for students from Waterbury’s Children’s Community School.

As you read through this report, we hope it is obvious how important each family’s efforts are in our success. We are fortunate to have such generous and committed families.

Pat Werner and Denise Trevenen
THE WMS LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

The WMS Leadership Circle has been established to honor the donors who have made lifetime cash gifts exceeding $100,000 to express the utmost gratitude and appreciation for their contributions. Because of their generosity, the vision of our founder Elvira Charles lives on and the children of Washington Montessori School—past, present and future—have flourished.

Ann Barry
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Susan & Murray Haber
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Nancy Shits
Angela & Kevin Siebrecht
Pamela & John Siemon
Jessica & Jason Travelstead

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DEVELOPMENT CORNER
by Ali Grimes, Director of Development

As most of you know, tuition covers only about 80 percent of the actual cost of a WMS education. This is true of nearly all independent schools, which is why nonpublic schools and universities alike rely on donations from their alumni, parents, grandparents, parents of alumni and friends. WMS also receives a small amount of foundation funding—almost always through someone personally connected to that foundation. If any of you have a connection like this, please let me know!

Each year, money raised from the Washington Montessori Fund (WMF) allows us to cover the gap between tuition rates and actual costs. This year we raised $245,417—an accomplishment for all of us to celebrate during these shaky economic times. I am pleased to acknowledge that 80 percent of our families made gifts to the fund this year. This number is evidence of the strong commitment our community has to WMS.

In addition to our WMF efforts, we set out this year with a goal to specifically raise money for the Washington Montessori School Community Partnership Program (WMSCPP), which allows middle school students from the Children’s Community School in Waterbury to attend WMS on scholarship. In our first year, we raised $30,800 mostly from individuals and companies outside of our typical giving community. We hope to continue this success each year to ensure the viability of this wonderful program—extending the opportunity to receive a WMS education to students who would not otherwise be able to attend.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to Washington Montessori School throughout the 2010-2011 school year. Contributions, both large and small, make for a thriving school environment for WMS children.
2011 AUCTION “Building Great Kids”

Barrie Birge
Auction Co-Chair
Linda Greenberg
Auction Co-Chair

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Susie Berg
Co-President
Barrie Birge
Co-President
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Wendy Rhodes
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Data Entry
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Laura Neminski
Janice Uhl

Decor
Karen Davis

General Support
Ali Grimes
AnnMarie Ovitt
Jill Skilton

Food/Bar
Kathy & Michael Gold

Set-up
Johannes Boeckmann
Maura Coyne

Technical Help
Jim McDonald

Classroom Projects
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Susie Berg
Chris Bruck
Deborah Chabrian
Valerie Cooper
Christine Davenport
Rebecca Dibb
Jana Dunbar
Martina Forman
Heather Grustas
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Alex Ince
Priscilla Loomis
Philippa Malkin
Laura Martin
Robin Oldakowski
Toula Ousouljoglou
Wendy Rhodes
Kathy Root
Courtney Saulnier
Jon Veleas

Special Thanks
Jack Gilpin for hosting the party
Barry Blitt for the catalog artwork
Erik Hawvermale and Greg DeRosa
for helping with endless requests
Olive Salk, ’09, for producing the video tribute to WMS teachers
Cherry Thurlow and Ellen Filchak for always being there for the PA

Thanks to the Following
for helping to turn our
gym into a party
Big Wave Events
Davis Raines Design
Executive Cuisine
Litchfield Hills Wine Market
Preferred Building Maintenance
Taylor Rental of Torrington

Thanks to the Following Individuals for their
Generous Underwriting
Laura & Robert Benn
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Joan Barry Bernstein
Christine & Jim Davenport
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Phil Willis

Donors, Bidders & Patrons of the 2011 Auction
A Room For Frances, New Preston
Ace Baseball School, Roxbury
Adrienne Restaurant, New Milford
After School Arts Program (ASAP),
Washington Depot
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New Preston
All Aboard Pizza, New Milford
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B&B Mason Supply, New Milford
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Bachi’s Ristorante & Bar, Torrington
Jaime Bachrach & Timothy Clew
Back Stage Restaurant, Torrington
Backcountry Outfitters, Kent
Bank St. Book Nook, New Milford
Bank Street Tavern American
Restaurant & Bar, New Milford

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Jack Gilpin graciously served as auctioneer this year. He’s seen auctioning a one-of-a-kind walking stick hand-carved by Middle School student Joscie Norris.
DONORS, BIDDERS & PATRONS OF THE AUCTION

LEFT TO RIGHT: Wendy and Rick Rhodes; Sarah Jane Chelminski places a bid during the silent auction with the encouragement of Antonia Davidson; Liz and David DeVos peruse silent auction items.

Bank Street Theater, New Milford
Bantam Cinema
Bantam Fuel
Be Yoga, Litchfield
Aimee Bida
Barrie & Chuck Birge
Barry Blitt
Ben Berg
Susie Berg
Rebecca & Ted Bent
Big Wave Events, Roxbury
Bike Express, New Milford
Nancy Binns
Carol Singer & Jonathan Binzen
Black Sheep Yarns, Kent
Lauren Booth
Bosson Optical, Litchfield
The Boulders, New Preston
Antonia Davidson & Michael Boyd
Brazen Betties, Torrington
Brickhouse Pizza & Restaurant, New Milford
Helen Brown
Chris & Adam Bruck
The Business Center, Litchfield
C. Smyth Salon, Bantam
Sandra Canning
Canterbury School, New Milford
Cardinal Christmas Tree Farm, Morris
Bev & Ed Caceres
Deb Chabrian & Ed Martinez
Sarah Jane & Michael Chelminski
Anne Chiang & Johannes Boeckmann
Heather & Randy Chirumbolo
Chowderheads, Bantam
Toula Ousuojoglou & Paul Ciancio
Clapp & Tuttle Framing, Woodbury
Kenyon Clark
Sheila Coad-Bernard & Randy Bernard
Colonial Photo, New Milford
Compass Capital Management, Southbury
Anthony Comunale
Connecticut Sports Arena, New Milford
Valerie & Craig Cooper
Country Wine & Spirits, New Preston
Craig’s, Bantam
Cricket Hill Garden, Thomaston
Sharon Cunningham
Sharon & Stephen Curry
D.N.A. Etc. Uniform Shop, Torrington
Emily Dalton & Matthew Karpas
Christine & James Davenport
Davis IGA, Inc., Kent
Karen & Elliot Davis
Davis Raines Design, Washington
Jessica & Michael Dell’Aera
Betsy & Michael DeLuca
Barat DelVicario
Dental Associates of Connecticut, New Milford
The DeVos Family
Di Franco’s Restaurant & Pizzeria, Litchfield
Rebecca Johnson-Dibb & Michael Dibb
Distinctive Pools, Washington
DK Schulman Design, New Preston
Doc’s Trattoria, Kent
Jacek Dolata
Dolly’s Wine Boutique, New Milford
Kerry Horton ‘83
Patrick ’82 & Erin Dorton
Liz Doty
Joline & Gregg Douglas
Miki Duisterhof
Jana & Bill Dunbar
EHL Consulting, Washington Depot
Eliash Van Breems Interiors, Washington Depot
Elite Gymnastics Center, New Milford
Dawn Hathaway & Evan Estern
F & H Architectural Design and Consulting LLC., Fabric Studio, Litchfield
Fajitas & Margaritas Restaurant Bar & Grill, New Milford
Blaire Farrar
Pat Farrell
Fife ‘n Drum Restaurant and Inn, Kent
Fineline Theatre Arts, New Milford
The Firehouse, New Preston
Deirdre Fischer
Sunday & Stephen Fisher
Fitness Matters of Kent
Lori Fitzgibbon
Emily Fitzhugh
Bettina & Frank Flacke
Marie Flaman
Julie Flanders
Martina & Milos Forman
The Forman School, Litchfield
Fox Crossing Equestrian, Morris
G. W. Tavern, Washington Depot
Gager, Emerson, Rickart, Bower & Scalzo, Llp, Southbury and Bethel
Stacey Gardner
Geppetto’s Toys, Woodbury
Geron Nurshing, New Milford
Joanne & Greg Gersten
Matilda Giampietro
Jennifer & Tom Gianfagna
Gilded Lily Jewelry, Woodbury
Mimi & John Gillen
Ann & Jack Gilpin
Goldsmith’s Art & Frame Gallery, Waterbury
Grape in the Shade, Washington Depot
Theo Grayson
Green Hill Home & Garden, Washington
Linda & Mark Greenberg
Gregory James Gallery, New Milford
Kathy & Michael Gold
Carolyn Gordon
Griffin Woodworks, Bethlehem
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Carly & Eric Grimes
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Hopkins Inn, Warren
House of Books, Kent
Anna & David Hubbard
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Hunt Hill Farm Trust, New Milford
J. Robert Hutchings
Ida’s Bridal Shop, Torrington
Alex & Brandon Ince
Cindy & Michael Italiaander
It’s The Perfect Party, Torrington
J. Mclaughlin & Co., Washington
depot
J. Seitz & Co., New Preston
J.C. Merritt Inc General Contractors,
New Milford
J.P. Gifford Market & Catering, Kent
Jacek Dolata Photography, Riverton
Robert Jaeger
Janet Janssen & Craig Puffenberger
Jimmy’s Barber Salon & Hairstylists,
New Milford
Joan’s Candy Cupboard, New
Milford
Joanna John Collection, Woodbury
Joe’s Salon & Spa, New Milford
Joseph Abdella Tile and Flooring
Contractor, Washington Depot
Liz Kay & Rob Shaver
Roula & Magdi Khalil
Myrna & Michael Kenanakis
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Miriam & Sam Lauffer
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Sherry & Eric Leitz
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Beth Lillard
Litchfield Athletic Club
Litchfield Bancorp, Washington
Depot
Litchfield Candy Company
Litchfield Hills Family Dental,
Torrington
Litchfield Hills Nursery Inc., Litchfield
Litchfield Pet Supply, Bantam
Little Town Mechanical Contractors,
Inc., Bethelhem
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Loomis Creative Woodworks LLC.,
Morris
Priscilla & Lance Loomis
Lore’s Lanes, New Milford
Ann Lowe
Marina Belica & Steven Lowy
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Luz & Bill MacArthur
Shari & Mike Mahan
Philippa & Jonathan Malkin
Elena Manas
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New Milford
Ashley Marchand ‘97
Dani Shapiro & Michael Maren
Lynn Marlowe
Laura Martin
Gabriella Martinez
Oliver Martinez
Marty’s Café, Washington Depot
Stacey Matthews
The Mayflower Inn and Spa,
Washington
Jim McDonald
Jane McMahan
Alex McNaughton
The Men of Montessori
Marcia DeSanctis & Mark Mennin
Theresa & Jeff Merritt
Betty & Ken Merz
Michael’s Jewelers, Torrington
Mommyandpoppins.com
Bola & Brian Mooney
Teri & Lon Most
Kimmie & Duane Morikawa
Morrison Gallery, Kent
Mother Goose, Litchfield
Michele Murtha & Dennis Grotex
Nail Chalet, Washington Depot
Anne & Martin Nance
National Iron Bank, Washington
Depot
Laura & Perry Neminski
April & Sandy Neubauer
New Milford Sports Club
New Preston Kitchen Goods
Nine Main Deli, New Preston
Nirvana Cafe & Juice Bar, Torrington
Nordine’s Smokehouse, Torrington
Noica Necklaces for Children, Kent
Nordica, New Milford
Norimaki, Washington Depot
Josie Norris
Kim & Chris Norris
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Robin & Stephen Oldadkowski
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Mary & T.J. Oneglia ’89
Gretchen Hachmeister & Randy
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Eliza & Mike Paolucci
Ann Herberg & Tom Paron
Percy Thomson Meadows, Bethlehem
Pergola, New Preston
Personal Touch Car Wash,
New Milford
Pet Acoustics, Roxbury
Photography by Heidi Johnson,
New Milford
Play, New Milford
Popey’s Ice Cream Shoppe, Morris
Power House Appliances,
New Milford
Jan & Paul Prenoveau
Gillian Desjardins & Fletcher Previn
Privet House, Warren
Craig Puffenberger
Quassy Amusement Park,
Middlebury
Quo Vadis, Fine Italian Accessories,
Washington Depot
Natalie & Greg Randall
Rare Occasion, Bethel
Carol Leskanic & Michael Regan
continued on page 24

LEFT TO RIGHT: Laura Neminski and Heather Chirumbolo; Head of School Pat Werner and Director of Development Ali Grimes; Auction Co-Chair Barrie Birge.
Photos by Jon Veleas

Washington Montessori School On Circle, Fall 2011 - 23
DONORS, BIDDERS & PATRONS OF THE AUCTION

Carolina & Darren Reid
Marsha & Rodger Reid
Remember When, Torrington
Wendy & Rick Rhodes
Eloise Ribis
Rich Pomerantz Photography, New Milford
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Katie & Eric Scheidt
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Beverly Smith
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Jill Skilton
Fourgie Smith
South Kent School
The Spa at Litchfield Hills, Litchfield
Sportsmen’s of Litchfield
Spruce Home & Garden, New Milford
Eloise Stager
Star Nail, New Milford
The Stationer, Washington Depot
Steven Lowy Studio, Kent
Karen Stevens
Straight line Bikes & Snowboards, New Milford
Steven Lowy Studio
Sugar Hoot, New Milford
Sundog Shoe & Leather, Kent
The Sweet Spot, New Milford
Sweeets, New Preston
Ann & George Taylor
Taylor & Son True Value Hardware, New Milford
Temenos Advisory, Litchfield
Terston Home Accents & Women’s Wear, Kent
Three Brothers Family Restaurant, New Milford
Three Monkeys and Me, Kent
Cherry Thurlow
Tile Spaces, Woodbury
Tivoli Restaurant, New Milford
Top Flight Sports Center, Home of Planet Play, New Milford
Mary Anne & Alex Toppan
Torrington Gold & Coin Exchange
Torrington School of Ballet
Toys Galore & More, Kent
Jessica & Jason Travelstead
Denise & John Trevenen
Trevenen & Coploff, Washington Depot
Unsurpassed Chocolate Sauce, Washington Depot
The Upper Crust, New Milford
Linda Valletta
Jill Hirshfeld-Veleas & Jon Veleas
The Venetian Restaurant, Torrington
Teresa Venture
Village Center for the Arts, New Milford
Village Green Cleaners, New Milford
The Village Restaurant, Litchfield
Villarina’s, New Milford
Vinny’s Pizza, Torrington
Katie & Christoph von Strasser von Strasser Winery, Calistoga, California
WMS Parent Earth Team
The Warner Theater, Torrington
Washington Food & Liquor
Washington Supply Company
Washington Sports, Washington Depot
Jennifer Waupotic
Pat & Ed Werner
West Street Grill, Litchfield
Western Connecticut Dental Arts, New Milford
Westover School, Middlebury
What?! White Horse Country Pub, New Preston
Bob Williams
Dawn Willis
Phil Willis
Woodbury Ski Area
Amy & John Yarbrough
Zero Prophet Coffee Roasting, Washington

Ed Werner won the Heads and Tails raffle.
## Operating Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>3,922,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Montessori Fund (WMF)</td>
<td>245,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMSCPP Fund</td>
<td>30,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Gifts</td>
<td>7,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents Association Fundraising</td>
<td>79,845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Programs</td>
<td>241,465</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>37,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>12,799</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total 4,577,388

*Annual Appeal includes Gift of Professional Artwork.

## Operating Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>301,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>185,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>313,988</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Benefits</td>
<td>2,710,853</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Aid</td>
<td>614,923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Expenses</td>
<td>268,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Expenses</td>
<td>176,029</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 4,571,659

*The endowment covered the operating deficit.
The Kid’s Marathon program was started by runner Rod Dixon, who won the prestigious New York City Marathon in 1983. He describes the event “as an amazing life-changing fitness program resulting in a tremendous feeling of accomplishment and self-confidence.” It is an extremely popular event that is run annually in schools around the world. At Washington Montessori the event takes place year-round.

“It has become a really great community event here at WMS,” said physical education teacher Mimi Gillen. “The students and parents both look forward to the mornings we run. Everyone has been having a lot of fun with it.”

Mimi organized a series of 5 Kid’s Marathons throughout the 2010-2011 school year. Each marathon took about 7 weeks to complete with participants running together three days a week and on their own at least once a week. At the end of each 7-week marathon, participants had run a full marathon at 26.2 miles.

The motto of the Kid’s Marathon is “finishing is winning … winning is finishing.” The goal is to create a climate where all kids can feel secure in their ability to succeed. The program also teaches students sustainable exercise and nutrition habits as a foundation for life-long health and happiness.

At WMS, teachers have also observed that running before school in the morning helps many if not all children arrive in class more settled and prepared to learn. “Many teachers have noted the positive impact running has had on the students,” said Head of School Pat Werner. “Those who run in the morning seem to be more focused and ready to start the day.”

Rod Dixon visited WMS this spring, warming up with runners and completing their morning run. He generously sat down with 7th-grader Zoë Cameron to answer questions about his career. Zoë completed 5 Kid’s Marathons this year as part of her Hero’s Journey project. In total, she ran more than 130 miles.

Hero’s Journey is a project based on “The Hero with a Thousand Faces,” a non-fiction book, and seminal work of comparative mythology by Joseph Campbell. A well-known quote from the book’s introduction summarizes the universal journey of heroes. “A hero ventures forth from the world of common day into a region of supernatural wonder: fabulous forces are there encountered and a decisive victory is won: the hero comes back from this mysterious adventure with the power to bestow boons on his fellow man.”

Hero’s Journey is the 7th-grade life skills program at WMS. Throughout the course of the year, the goal is to learn more about yourself through a variety of activities and challenges. The program includes a retreat, journaling, projects and a personal challenge. My personal challenge was to run 5 Kid’s Marathons by the end of the school year.

My mom had encouraged me to start running at the beginning of the year before I had even picked my goal. I didn’t really like running to start off with, because I was not the best runner. It was tough to run three days a week before school and then on the weekend as well. When it came time to pick a challenge for Hero’s Journey I chose running, hoping that it would motivate me to stick with the Kid’s Marathon program.

A great part about choosing running as my Hero’s Journey goal was that I got to meet Olympic gold medalist Rod Dixon, founder of the Kid’s Marathon Program. He came to run and stretch with us. I was lucky enough to interview him afterwards. Rod told me that his hero is his brother. When he was younger, Rod’s older brother would run and, like all young kids, Rod wanted to follow in his footsteps. Of course, at first, Rod didn’t run as many miles as his brother, but eventually he could run longer and longer distances. That’s how he got to where he is today.

Running is so much easier for me now. This spring, I beat my fall mile time by 2 minutes! The whole running experience has been great. I’ll definitely be running Kid’s Marathons again. I deeply encourage kids to come run next year.
8th Grade Service Trip to Puerto Rico

Clockwise from top: Eun Bin Lee, Kaley McNeill, Hannah Liebman, Emma Nance, Preetam Beram, Zach Pereira, Stephanie Schor, Cam Gardner, Sophie Randall and Julia Cooper; Cameron Gardner reads to a local student; Planting trees in the rainforest; Kaley McNeill, Katie Young, Jessica Lewis and Harper Pratt.

Photos by Jared Russell

Kid's Marathon founder Rod Dixon with runners Hugo Delve-Broughton, Ella Paolucci, Axel Orzano, Nathaniel Ince, Graham Ince, and Angie Delve-Broughton.

Mimi Gillen and Rod Dixon

Rod Dixon and Zoe Cameron

Kid's Marathon founder Rod Dixon with runners Hugo Delve-Broughton, Ella Paolucci, Axel Orzano, Nathaniel Ince, Graham Ince, and Angie Delve-Broughton.
PHOTO CONTEST

Can you name the people in this photo?
And the year it was taken?

Please submit replies to:
agrimes@washingtonmontessori.org
to win one free item of your choice at
the new WMS Store.

Answer to Last Photo Contest:
BACK: Tad Webber, Owen Bailey and Heather Fairley; FRONT: Ahi Mahasa,
Kerry Dorton, Marsha Reid, Namino Glantz and Paul Dumas
Kerry Dorton, ’83, was able to identify herself, her classmates
and their teacher in this photo. She received an item of her
choice at the WMS Store.

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TFD STUDIO

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