











A year in review

Annual Report 2019-2020



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Mission Statement:

The nationally accredited Walnut Farm Montessori School provides a Montessori education honoring community and individuality by promoting peace and empowering children for life-long learning.

Guiding Principles:

- **Foster** a lifelong love of learning.
- **Retention** we strive to retain knowledge, community, and staff.
- **Impart** a challenging curriculum that supports and respects individual learning styles in multi-age classrooms.
- **Educate** the whole child by recognizing and respecting the physical, emotional, and intellectual individuality of each child.
- **Nurture** in each child, creativity, independence, self-confidence, and the joy of discovery.
- **Develop** a community in and out of the classrooms by encouraging cooperative learning, problem solving and family involvement.

Strategic Pillars:

Growth

- Enrollment, optimal & diverse
- Facilities including classrooms and outdoor areas
- Tools and technology
- Brand in NWA
- Fundraising

People

- Students
- Faculty and staff, including Head of School
- Parents/Guardians and families
- Alumni outreach
- Broader NWA community
- Board of Trustees

Montessori

- Full Montessori curriculum
- Maintain AMS Accreditation
- Enhance outdoor Montessori learning
- Build pipeline of trained faculty





AMERICAN
MONTESSORI
SOCIETY

Accreditation:

Walnut Farm Montessori School started its second cycle of accreditation in May of 2018 and will become reaccredited in 2025.

Walnut Farm Montessori School meets the five core components of an exemplary Montessori School according to AMS:

- 1. Trained Montessori teachers:** A properly credentialed Montessori teacher has the skills and expertise to implement high-fidelity Montessori.
- 2. Multi-age Classrooms:** Classes with 3-year age spans facilitate mentorship among the students and encourage leadership development.
- 3. Use Montessori Materials:** A hallmark of Montessori is specially designed materials that provide a hands-on approach to learning.
- 4. Child-directed Work:** Students are given agency to self-select work, leading to intrinsic motivation and sustained attention.
- 5. Uninterrupted Work Periods:** An extended period of "free choice" enables students to work at their own pace and without interruption.

HOS year in review message

As the new head of school, it is my pleasure to contribute to this annual report for the 2019-2020 school year. Walnut Farm continues to exhibit a pursuit of excellence and leadership in Northwest Arkansas. We are the only American Montessori Society accredited Montessori school in the state of Arkansas, which means we have accomplished the highest standards of Montessori education nationally. We continue our pursuit of life-long learning as we look forward to our reaccreditation process, which we will begin preparing for in the spring of 2022!

The school had many shining moments and challenges to face during the 2019-2020 school year. Our teachers focused on sharing parent education with our families through our annual Silent Journey. This is a favorite of teachers and parents alike because parents are able to observe the classroom environments and receive lessons across all levels in the classrooms from the teachers. In December, a meeting about Simplicity Parenting took

place with a visiting guest, Elaine Glier. This meeting was based on the book of the same name and incorporated Montessori principles into the presentation.

The annual Fall Festival, hosted by our Parent Association was a great success in 2019! The day provided lovely weather and a great turn out, bringing in over \$13,000. This money was used to provide each lead teacher with a new classroom computer and other technology needs.

The Upper and Lower Elementary participated in their annual campfire night in November. The weather was cold, but the bonfire and gathered families provided warmth and cheer. The night remained clear for the students' and teachers' night hike where they were able to spot some of the famous constellations they were studying that month.

Family Discovery Nights were held in October and February. These events allow the students to escort their families into their classrooms, show them around, and



present lessons that they are working on. We always witness many smiles from families and students alike at these special events and last year's events were no exception!

In December, our school celebrated the completion of a new Toddler building. Our Toddler B class moved into the new addition in January. This new building now allows for both Toddler environments to be close together and share an updated outdoor play-space. The addition of this building also allowed for the six enrolled Upper Elementary students to move into the space previously utilized by our Toddler B class, and out of the upstairs space shared with our Lower Elementary.

As the spring semester moved into full swing, the world faced the spread of Covid-19. In order to help reduce the spread of the virus in Arkansas, our governor, Asa Hutchinson announced the closing of all schools in mid-March. Walnut Farm made the difficult choice to move all classes online and remain closed through the summer. This closing allowed for many lessons on how to properly implement online learning as well as the needed time to optimally prepare for our reopening in August. (For more detailed information on the policies and procedures we put into place, please see the section titled, Covid-19 Response.) The summer also brought a change in leadership as our board of trustees offered me the position of head of school, and I began this position in early June.

As I write these words, we are ending our fifteenth week of school and we have had zero cases of Covid-19. This is due to the careful research and preparations the board, administration, and I were able to put in place over the summer months, the hard work of our dedicated staff, and the continued vigilance of our small, yet mighty community at Walnut Farm! We are so grateful for such a caring and supportive group of people.

While Walnut Farm has always provided a safe and welcoming space to families and children from all over the world, we recognize our need to continue growth in the area of adding more diversity and



providing a more inclusive atmosphere for all people. This year we committed to further work in this area. Our board president, Leila Runyan participated in an intensive two day anti-bias and anti-racism training. Our school also signed a pledge implemented by the NWA Council to address systemic racism as an organization. These efforts and other events have lead us to address and update our statement and policies on diversity.

This year has provided the world and our Walnut Farm community with many challenges, but through these difficult times we know our community will grow stronger and our school will weather this storm. As we continue our work to provide the safest learning environment possible, we also hold our Montessori best practices close to our hearts and look forward to the day when we can allow the classrooms to mingle and the masks worn in our classrooms are a thing of the past!

With gratitude and devotion,

Lynette Goss

Meet the Staff



Lynette Goss
Head of School

Lynette Goss, (she, her, hers) has lived in NWA since she was a child and has been a part of the Walnut Farm community since 2004. Lynette holds Montessori credentials to teach 3 to 6-year-olds and 6 to 12-year-olds. She taught in both environments, but spent most of her teaching career as the Lower Elementary teacher. Having a Bachelor's Degree in Music, she also taught Music part-time at our school for 15 years. Most recently, Lynette was the Curriculum Specialist and holds a Master of Arts in Education. She assisted with the school's first accreditation process with American Montessori Society and led many aspects of our most recent re-accreditation in the fall of 2017. Lynette's past experience as a Montessori guide, as a parent at this school, and further training in leadership helps her understand the many aspects and needs of Walnut Farm's whole community. She believes that having Montessori in her life has made her a better person and a better parent.



Karel Hayre
Administrator

Karel Hayre has been with Walnut Farm since 1997, she is the longest standing member of the WFMS community. Her well rounded experience in the Montessori environment has led her to be an expert in her current position as Administrator. Prior to serving as the School administrator, Karel assisted in a Primary classroom for 2 years and an Elementary classroom for four years. It has been a delight for her to be part of the WFMS community for 24 years.

Meet the Staff



Leslie Johnson
Financial Officer /
Administrative Assistant

Leslie Johnson, a native of Oklahoma, graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, she worked as an accountant for 25 years before joining Walnut Farm. Leslie began volunteering in a Tulsa Montessori school when her children started their Montessori education. She eventually became a full time employee, subbing in the classrooms and working in the administration office. Leslie is excited to offer her accounting expertise and love for Montessori education to the WFMS staff and community. Leslie and her husband, Todd relocated to Arkansas for his work in 2013. Together they have four amazing children.



Perla Delgado
Technology / Spanish Specialist

Born and raised in Mexico, Perla graduated from UIA in Mexico City with a Bachelor's Degree in Graphic Design and a specialty in Museum Exhibits Design. Upon graduation, she taught Graphic Design courses at her alma mater. She worked as a packaging designer for 10 years and enjoys freelancing for national and international clients since 1998 . Perla and her husband Luis moved to Cincinnati in 2007 where they welcomed their two daughters. They moved to NWA in 2016 and, after enrolling her youngest in the Primary program, joined the Walnut Farm faculty staff. Perla is a wellness enthusiast who loves running, cooking and working out. You can often find her volunteering for local running events since one of her passions is building a community that supports and promotes equality and diversity.

Toddler A



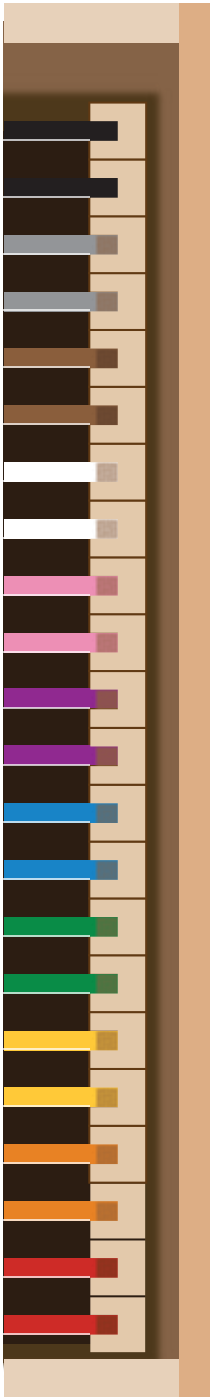
Whitney Kimbro
Lead Teacher

Whitney Kimbro began working at Walnut Farm in 2005 and quickly fell in love with the Montessori Philosophy. During the summer of 2011 she received her Associate Infant and Toddler credential from the Montessori Education Center of the Rockies. She finds working with toddlers very rewarding as she is able to connect with them, help them reach their potential, and guide them toward meaningful growth. Whitney was born and raised in NWA and is a huge Razorback fan. She is married to her High School sweetheart and they have two dogs. She enjoys traveling, hiking with her dogs, and spending time with her family



Rita Stutzman
Assistant Teacher

Rita has been working at Walnut Farm for 4 years and has been working with different age groups. She also has past experience working in local public schools. The love of small children and watching them grow makes working at Walnut Farm a pleasure. She and her husband, Ben raised two daughters.



Toddler B



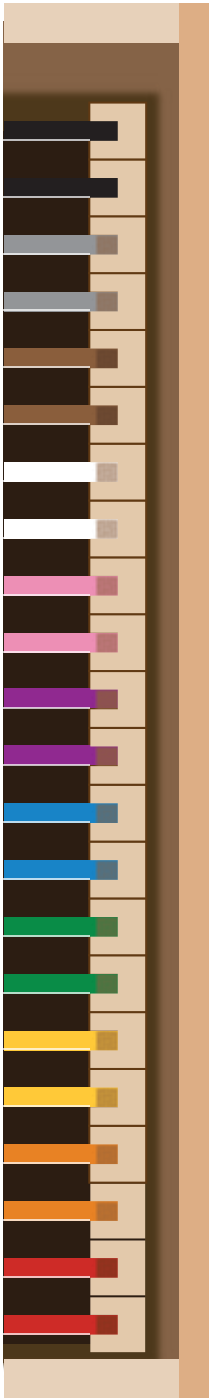
Kendyll Murray
Lead Teacher

Kendyll has worked with toddlers for ten years and has been part of the Walnut Farm community since 2017. Kendyll recently received her infant/toddler credentials by completing the eighteen month program through the Center for Guided Montessori Studies. She is passionate about working with children and feels it's her calling in life. She is a Children's pastor at her church and works closely with The Call of Northwest Arkansas. Kendyll lives in Lowell with her husband and two dogs. She is originally from West Virginia, but has called Arkansas home since 2009. She loves the mountains and all of the beautiful hiking trails around the area. One of her favorite things about Montessori education is how the environments are set up to aid the child's independence and peaceful nature



Brandy Wilson
Assistant Teacher

Brandy relocated to Northwest Arkansas nine years ago with her husband Mike and their three children. She has over twenty years of experience teaching preschool. She has served in multiple roles with various organizations involving children of all ages. Brandy is excited to be a part of Walnut Farm Toddler program and further her education and knowledge with the Montessori method.



Primary A



Azusa Crawford
Lead Teacher.

Azusa Crawford was born and raised in Sapporo, Japan. She came to the U.S. in 2001 to study English as the second language. Azusa originally planned to stay in the U.S. for one year, but quickly fell in love with the culture and diversity, and has lived in 4 States (AZ, NJ, SC, and UT) before settling in Arkansas.

Growing up, she played piano, trained in Kendo (martial art), and practiced Japanese Calligraphy. Azusa loves to read, listen to music, cook, and recently started Sashiko (Japanese embroidery).

In 2007, Azusa joined the Walnut Farm community as a parent when her daughter Hannah started in Primary. While she was looking for a school for Hannah, Azusa learned that she also attended a Montessori school in Japan as a young child. She remembers it as her favorite school experience. At Walnut Farm, Azusa worked as a sub, then an assistant in Primary prior to going through the training at Montessori Education Center of the Rockies in Boulder, CO to gain her Early Childhood credential from American Montessori Society. Working with children was Azusa's childhood dream, and she is excited to continue guiding the children with the Montessori method at Walnut Farm!



Christy Hrycun
Assistant Teacher

Christy was born in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She grew up on a small 40 acre farm in the Elm Springs area, raising pigs, cows and horses. She is a Springdale High School graduate. She is now married and has 3 girls ages 14, 10 and 8 years old. She loves spending time outdoors with her family fishing, swimming, having campfires and riding horses. Christy was a sub for Walnut Farm for a while before going to Bentonville Public schools as a para for special needs students. This is her second year back with Walnut Farm as a Classroom Assistant Teacher.



Sally Davis
Outdoor teacher / Aftercare

Sally Davis moved to NWA from Asheville, NC in March. She grew up in a small town in South Carolina and spent years working with youth in Wilderness Therapy in Georgia and the Four Corners. She also has experience running summer camps hosting a range of special needs children affected by cancer, diabetes, and hemophilia to name a few. In more recent years she worked as a Paramedic in North Carolina and now Arkansas. Her strong desire to serve and history of modeling experiential education lends itself well to a role at Walnut Farm Montessori. Sally enjoys white water rafting, biking, painting, comedy, and cooking with her family. Shifting gears from EMS to working with youth again has already proven to be a refreshing and soul nurturing move.

Primary B



Stephanie Throop
Lead Teacher.

Stephanie is from Bentonville. She has worked at Walnut Farm for over 10 years and also has experience as a parent at our school. She previously served as an assistant teacher in a Primary classroom and as the Primary Art teacher. Stephanie is now a lead Primary teacher and currently in training to receive her Montessori Primary Credentials. Raising her own children on her family farm, Stephanie has a passion for children and farm life, which complements her work in Montessori. She is grounded in tradition, and she is looking forward to more work in the Montessori lifestyle and global peace work.



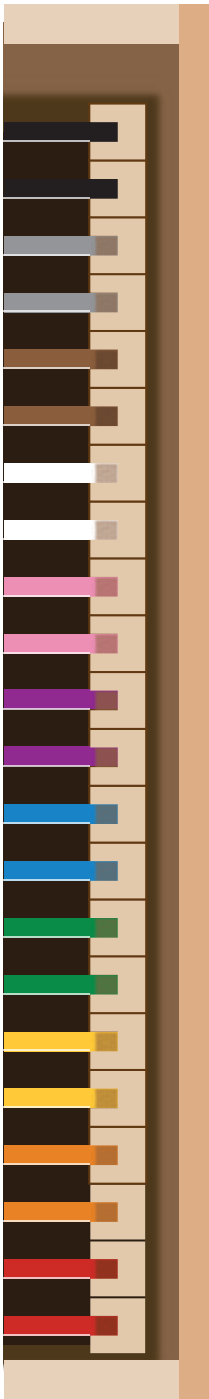
Misty King
Assistant Teacher

Misty is from Northwest Arkansas. This is her 11th year at Walnut Farm as a staff member and she has been a parent here for many years. Misty has her infant/toddler Montessori Credential and she lead one of our Toddler Classrooms for seven years. She is married and has two girls and a dog. Her Montessori background and experience brings added skills to her position as a Primary Assistant.



Joe Love
Outdoor teacher / Aftercare

Joe Love (they/them/their) has experience in professional outdoor education and leadership, and completed their Master's in Divinity in May. As the new Outdoor Classroom Assistant for Primary B, Joe wants to cultivate attitudes of curiosity and wonder for the world through exploration.



Primary C



Jamie Van Horn
Lead Teacher.

Originally from Texas, Jamie has been in NWA for over 20 years. She has been working at WFMS for over 15 years having followed her children to school. Her love for her children brought her to Walnut Farm and her love for children has kept her here. Jamie graduated from Texas A+M University with a B.S. in Journalism and received her MACTE certification to teach Montessori many years later. Jamie loves the outdoors and spends many hours hiking, biking and canoing all over Arkansas with her husband Greg. They have two children, Judge 21 and MaryJane 18, both currently attending the University of Arkansas. She and her husband began a non-profit organization to free Little Sugar Creek and are currently actively fighting to do so.



Kristal Price
Assistant Teacher

Kristal is from Fayetteville and now lives in Springdale. She is married to Scotty, and together they have 2 boys, Gage, 17 and Garrett, 13. They also have 2 dogs, Rio and Bentley, and 2 cats, Bonz and Marvin. Kristal has worked with children for over 10 years and has loved every minute of it. She enjoys kayaking, camping, and gardening-pretty much anything outdoors. Kristal is very excited to be a part of the Walnut Farm Montessori family, and looks forward to getting to know the staff, children and families more this year.



Tim Bare
Outdoor teacher / Aftercare

Tim has worked at Walnut Farm for a total of 11 years in a variety of roles, primarily in the outdoor classroom and aftercare. He is a self-taught naturalist, focusing mainly on local plant life. Originally from Gravette, Arkansas, Tim has lived in the NWA region for most of his life. Working at Walnut Farm allows him to share his love of nature with children.



Elementary



Heather Ayers
Lead Teacher

Heather Ayers has been a parent, a volunteer, a substitute and a teacher here at Walnut Farm. She has her Lower Elementary Montessori training from the Montessori Education Center of the Rockies (MECR), and she is currently in training for Upper Elementary through the Center for Guided Montessori Studies (CGMS). She also has her B. S. in Behavioral Science-Human Development from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She is a lifelong learner; currently expanding her Spanish studies and learning woodworking. Heather and her partner, Jody, have three kids all Walnut Farm alums (Aidan, Hadley and Isaac) They are long-time Bentonville residents who love living downtown close to the trails where they bike and hike, and enjoy all the restaurants. She does Crossfit and also plays and coaches Ultimate Frisbee.



Skeet Lewis
Assistant Teacher

Skeet Lewis recently graduated from the University of Arkansas with a degree in Educational Studies. He spent most of his college career working at an afterschool educational program helping students pursue their academic and personal interests. Skeet hopes to foster a learning environment in which students feel free and safe to engage in a healthy academic atmosphere.



Sara Lopez
Assistant Teacher / Aftercare

Sara is from Bella Vista, Arkansas and has worked at Walnut Farm for 3 years. She is currently a college student working toward her degree in Special Education. Being at Walnut Farm has fostered her love of Montessori education and her love for working with toddlers.



Meet the Board of Trustees

The WFMS Board of Trustees ("Board") is a self-governing body that is tasked with maintaining the school's mission and long term health, including creating a strategic plan and providing financial stewardship through operations and fundraising. The Board meets monthly and is guided by a set of bylaws. The Board elects a President, a Vice President and a Secretary and may elect other officers if it deems it appropriate to do so. Trustees volunteer their time and include parents and independent members. The Board also hires, supports and evaluates the Head of School.



Leila Runyan
President

As the daughter of parents with a combined 80+ years of teaching experience, it is no surprise that Leila Runyan has spent a lot of her time and resources on childhood development. She is originally from Tennessee but has called Northwest Arkansas home for almost 20 years. She graduated from the Sam Walton School of Business at the University of Arkansas with a BS in Business Administration. After graduating, Leila spent 15+ years as an apparel industry professional in multiple roles for some of the world's largest manufacturers. That experience as a direct seller to Walmart added value to her personal tool box to include expertise in team building, relationship management, executive level communications, financial and strategic planning. Recently, Leila left the supplier industry to focus on family and building a health and wellness business.

For the past 7 years at least one of Leila's children attended Walnut Farm. Her two sons, Rhett and Luke attended WFMS and her daughter Delilah is currently enrolled in Primary. She has been a member of the WFMS Board of Trustees for five years, leading the Trustee and Governance Committee and is currently the board President.



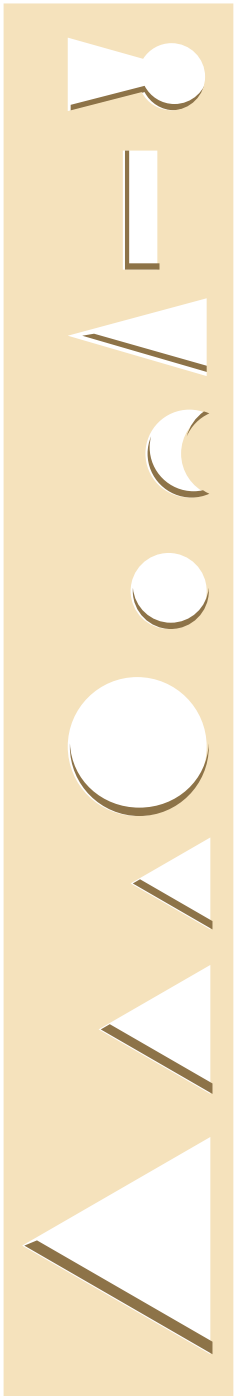
Katie Bloodworth
Vice President

Katie Bloodworth is a small business owner and avid volunteer in the Northwest Arkansas community with a formal education in speech language therapy. Katie has been a parent at Walnut Farm for almost 6 years and has served as the Parent Association President and on the Board of Trustees for 5 of those years. Katie, an Arkansas native, lives in Bentonville with her husband and two children who both attend Walnut Farm.



Smita Vadlamani
Treasurer

Smita Vadlamani is a seasoned retail and consumer goods professional with experience as an investor. She has deep knowledge in merchandising, finance, strategy and supply chain. Prior to retailing, Smita was an institutional investor and made equity and fixed income investments in the US and Europe. Smita has been a parent at Walnut Farm for more than five years. She has served on the WFMS Board of Trustees for three of those years, serving on and leading the Finance Committee. Smita has a BS in Finance from DePaul University and an MBA from the University of Chicago. Smita lives in NWA with her husband, her three children and her cat. Two of her children attend Walnut Farm.



Meet the Board of Trustees



Amanda Phillips
Secretary

Amanda Phillips serves as the Board Secretary and is entering her third year as a Trustee. Before serving on the Board Amanda played an active role in Parent Association leadership at Walnut Farm and can still occasionally be seen taking pictures at school events. She has two children, one of which is a former student at Walnut Farm Montessori School, and one who is part of Primary B. Amanda attended the University of Arkansas earning degrees in History, Anthropology, Biology, and Religious Studies.

She is currently teaching classes at the University of Arkansas while she works to finish her Doctorate Degree in Anthropology. When not focusing on school or work you can find her photographing the world around her, mountain biking, hiking, reading, and enjoying the trails of Northwest Arkansas with her family.



Megan Overbey
Trustee

Megan Overbey originally moved to NWA in 2007 from Cincinnati, Ohio to pursue a role within the supplier community. In 2009 Megan and her husband, Pat took a promotional move and relocated to New York City where they lived for several years. It is here that Megan welcomed their daughter Avey (currently in Lower Elementary at WFMS) and found out they were pregnant with their son Jack (currently in Primary at WFMS). In 2014, Megan and Pat moved back to NWA, where they currently reside and call home.

Megan has over 14 years of professional experience on the supplier side within many categories and retail channels. Within her current role, Megan is focused on team development and integration of sustainability through closed loop and made in USA products. Megan has been on the WFMS Board of Trustees for over 4 years and spent several years as the room mother when her children were in the toddler environment.

In Megan's spare time she enjoys spending time with her family and loves to travel!



Max Berenstein
Trustee

Max Berenstein moved to NWA in 2012 from New York City. His wife, Sabrina, was recruited by Walmart. Max also works at Walmart as a product manager designing and launching technologies, developing processes and managing change. He leads a team of nine in the Energy and Facilities Maintenance organization, responsible for Walmart's energy and facilities management and sustainability initiatives.

Max emigrated from the Soviet Union in 1979, settling in Chicago. Following his father's profession, Max became an engineer working in Silicon Valley, Singapore and New York, before moving to Bentonville. When not on a zoom call, Max spends time with Sabrina and his son Henry and their adopted cat Jelly. Morning runs, reading and martial arts fill out the rest of the days.

Meet the Board of Trustees



Charles Halliburton
Trustee

Charles Halliburton is a 35 year veteran of Walmart, most recently in Merchandising and Supplier Finance Education. He has a Bachelors in Accounting from the University of Arkansas. Charles has experience in higher education: he has served as an instructor at the University of Arkansas in the Masters of Marketing program, and at NWACC in the Retail Analyst program. He serves on the advisory board at NWACC. For the past several years, Charles has worked as EVP and General Manager at Bridge Purchasing Solutions. He has also worked in various roles at WilleyX and RxGiftCard, and has run Trail Dawgs Consulting since 2010. Charles has been a member of the Walnut Farm Board of Trustees since 2020.



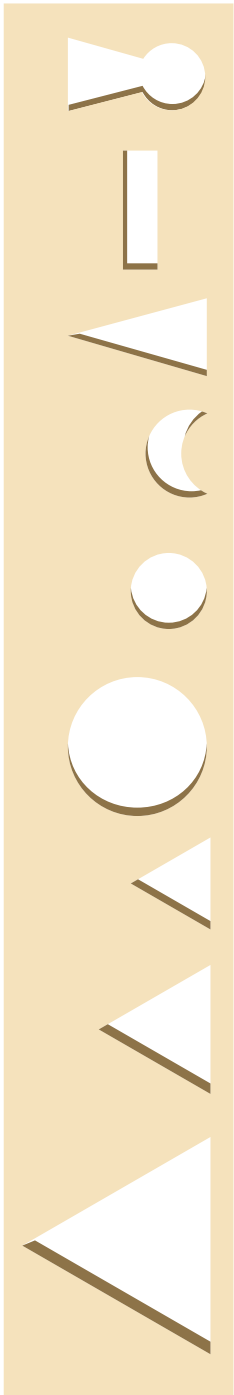
Runa Howard
Parent Assosiation

Runa is currently a Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Solutions Real Estate in Bentonville, AR, where she works with buyers and sellers of residential, commercial and investment properties. Prior to real estate, Runa spent 20 years in the corporate world, working for some of America's most iconic brands. Her experiences encompass Information Technology, eCommerce, Marketing, Sales Operations, Finance and Organizational Change Management. Runa currently serves on the board of the NWA Women's Empowerment Initiative and is also the chairperson for the Greater Bentonville Area Chamber of Commerce Small Business Council. She previously served on the boards of Goodcity and The Merit School of Music, both in Chicago. She has a B.S. in Computer Engineering from Case Western Reserve University, and an M.B.A. from University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. Runa is also Six Sigma Black Belt certified.



Lina Scroggins
Parent Assosiation

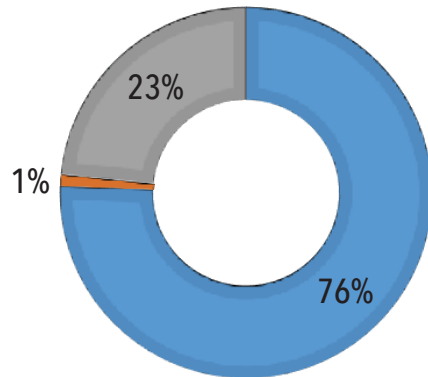
Lina Sestokas Scroggins is a Program Manager on the Consumer Health product team at Google. Responsible for managing technical projects and processes that support product development for Google's suite of consumer health products, she moved to Bentonville in 2017 with her family to support her husband's role in Walmart data analytics with Mastercard. Her professional experience includes running a learning and development program for Google's Information Technology Resident Program, hardware operations for Google's Chromebook team and graduate education in psychology. Steve and Lina's older daughters, Klara and Rita, are in the Primary program at Walnut Farm, and their youngest daughter, Indre, is excited to join the Toddler program in the fall of 2021. In her spare time, Lina likes to read, bike and spend time with her family.



Financial Overview

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

■ Tuition and Fees ■ Fundraising ■ Contributions/Grants



Statement of Activities 7/1/2019 - 6/30/2020

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Tuition and Fees	\$ 1,184,936
Fundraising	\$ 15,214
Contributions/Grants	\$ 367,007
Interest/Other Income	\$ 4,290

TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Less Donor Restricted Grants

EXPENSES

Payroll/Staff Expense	\$ 803,356
Facility Expense (\$51,198 depreciation expense)	\$ 134,458
Program Expense	\$ 40,759
Administrative Expense	\$ 39,821

TOTAL EXPENSES

Change in Unrestricted Net Assets

\$ 1,571,447
\$ 278,559
\$ 1,018,394
\$ 274,494

Statement of Financial Position 6/30/2020

ASSETS

Total Assets	\$ 3,141,721
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 3,141,721

LIABILITIES

Total Liabilities	\$ 1,657,321
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NET ASSETS

Donor Restricted Net Assets	\$ 278,559
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 1,205,841
Total Net Assets	\$ 1,484,400
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 3,141,721

Due to our net revenue and generous contributions and grants, Walnut Farm was able to complete the construction of our new toddler building and purchase beautiful outdoor playsets for our toddler and primary environments. We began construction on the new terraced rock patio attached to our elementary building and look forward to creating a new peaceful labyrinth area. During the summer we purchased supplies and prepared our school for re-opening during the COVID crisis. Walnut Farm is also planning future projects to better serve and care for our Montessori community.

Covid-19 response

When the threat of Covid-19 entered our state in mid-march of 2020, Walnut Farm made the difficult decision to close and provide virtual learning through the end of the 2019-2020 school year. The school was fortunate to receive the PPP loan to help with paying staff and was also given a grant to help purchase needed items to prepare for Covid-19 during the 2020-2021 school year. We remained closed over the summer to provide the new head of school with the time to research, consult, and produce the best possible safety measures for our school. The Board of Trustees recruited several well-qualified people from the Walnut Farm community to implement a task-force for reopening. The task-force included doctors, educators, WFMS staff and board members.

After consulting with the WFMS task-force, attending virtual meetings and webinars with other Montessori school leaders, and our state's DHS, the head of school shared Covid-19 policies and procedures with our school community in mid-July. A copy of this document is currently available on our website.

Overview of our safety precautions:

- All staff and children must go through a screening process through Transparent Classroom (digital platform) each morning.
- A second temperature check is given mid-day.
- Children are asked to frequently wash their hands and all classrooms are sanitized twice per day.

- Primary and Elementary classrooms are divided into cohorts.
- Elementary's class size has been reduced from 24 to 19 students and Primary classrooms have been reduced from 24 to 20 students.
- Toddler classrooms have been reduced to 10 children in each classroom to facilitate the children spreading out.
- Primary classes have been modified to have a lead teacher, an assistant and an outdoor classroom assistant.
- All classes are utilizing our outdoor spaces more frequently.
- We encourage children in primary to try wearing a mask, but it is not requirement.
- Elementary children are required to wear a mask when social distancing is not possible.
- Children bring their own lunch at this time.

Due to the restrictions of the pandemic, our traditional community events for celebrations and fundraising will not occur in the 2020-2021 school year. We are hopeful that we will be able to resume these special events next year. However, our priority is the wellbeing of our families and broader community, so our return to tradition will occur when regulations and safety permit large gatherings.



Around Campus

New Toddler B building



Community events



Community events



Looking Ahead

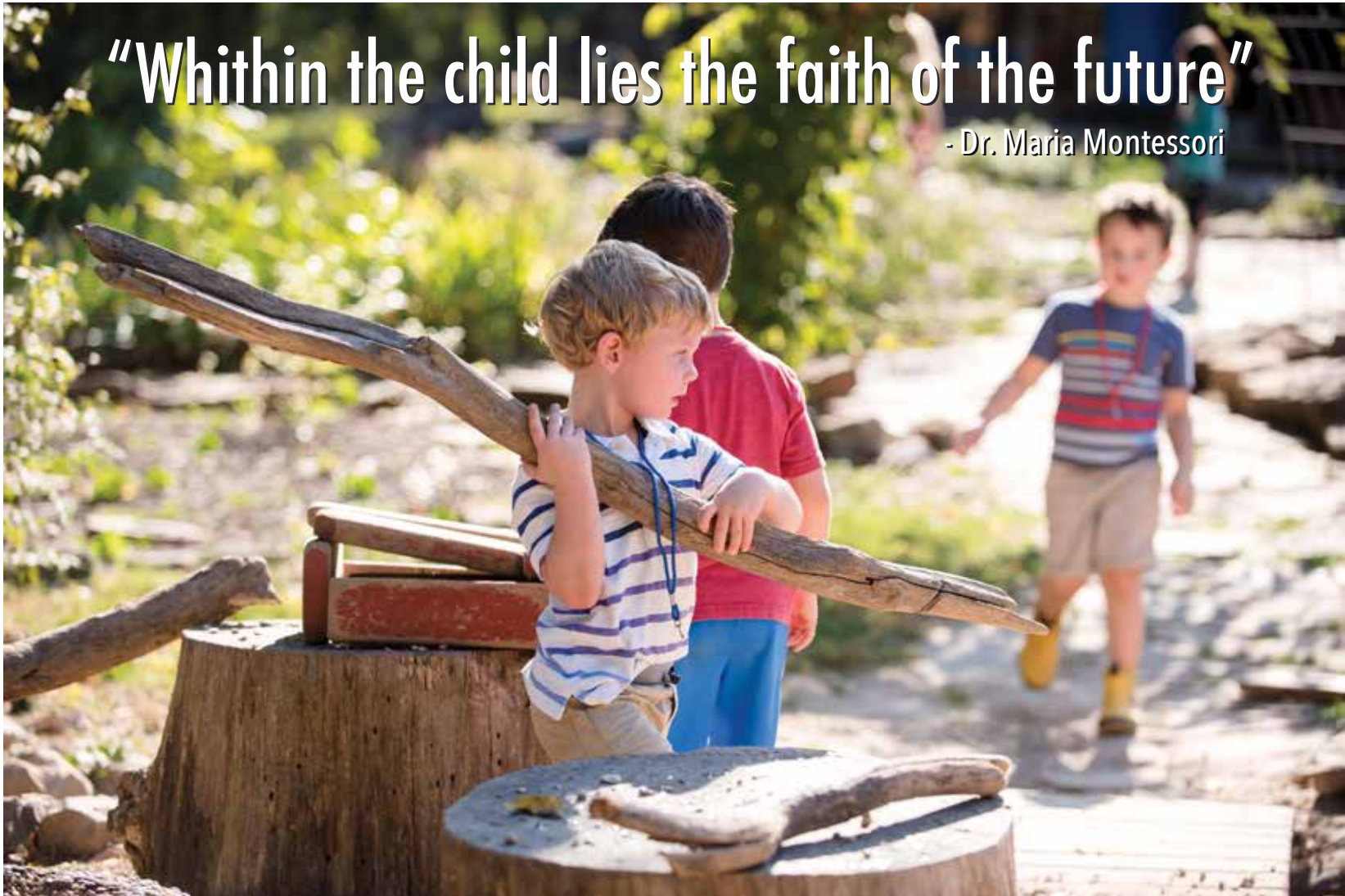
As we look ahead to next year and years beyond, our beautiful campus and outdoor areas are a focus. We are utilizing some of our grant funds to not only enhance the outdoor learning experiences for all levels, but also increase spaces for our community to sit, reflect and be calm. The new Elementary patio will not only serve as an outdoor workspace for that level, but will also be a place for all of the children to perform at community events. The labyrinth will serve as a walking meditation; a place for the children and staff to carefully walk and enjoy the sounds of nature. Future plans include improvements to our natural playground, a garden area for our toddlers, and adding points of interest to our acreage behind our buildings for all to explore.

Elementary Patio



“Whithin the child lies the faith of the future”

- Dr. Maria Montessori



Annual Report Credits:

Photography: Amanda Phillips and Emily McArthur

Graphic Design: Perla Delgado-del Val