



our vibrant community

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017



Casa di Mir
MONTESSORI SCHOOL

LETTER FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Families, Staff and Alumni,

The values, curriculum and Casa di Mir's commitment to Montessori education continued to flourish during the 2016-17 school year, adding to the legacy that was started decades ago.

- Casa teachers continued guiding students to be joyful learners and caring global citizens. So parents could experience more of their children's daily lives at school, our teachers increased communications using a new parent-teacher software program.
- Casa students grew in a multitude of ways as they began comprehending the possibilities of who they are and what they can accomplish. 2016-17 was remarkable for the "aha" moments of learning, the service students gave the community, and the actions taken to make the world a better place beyond the school.
- Casa Board members put in a year of very intense, hard work in visioning the future of Casa.
- Casa's wonderful parent community were generous with time, energy and contribution to the mission of Casa di Mir.
- Casa alumni continued to amaze me with their positive perspectives on their role in the betterment of life. It is such a joy to hear from alums about what they have taken with them from Casa and how it guides their positive thinking even years later.

These elements of deeply held universal values, Montessori curriculum, and a group of committed individuals – whether teachers, parents, staff or students – make Casa di Mir a special place and moves us onward in our mission. Thank you all for a successful, strong year!

Wanda Whitehead

Head of School



FOR CASA STUDENTS,
2016-17 WAS REMARKABLE

... FOR THE "AHA"
MOMENTS OF LEARNING,

... FOR THE SERVICE THEY
GAVE TO THE COMMUNITY,



... AND FOR THEIR ACTIONS
TAKEN TO MAKE THE WORLD
A BETTER PLACE.

LETTER FROM
BOARD PRESIDENT

*“We are all Casa—
whether children, teachers,
parents, administration
and Board—and we are
in this world together.”*

Jessica Lee-Messer,
Board President

Dear Casa Community,

I have been a member of the Casa Community since 2009 (this is our ninth year here!), and a member of the Casa Board of Directors since 2010. I have two children who demonstrate the benefits of a Montessori—really, a Casa—education every day. And I have participated in the planning of two Strategic Plans for our school.

Strategic Planning is about the future direction of our school. We have done, and continue to do, so many important things! In this past year alone, our teachers, administration and parent volunteers have worked incredibly hard to increase and facilitate our connections to one another as a community, as well as improve our understanding of Montessori and what is happening in our children’s classrooms. The more connected our community is, the stronger we become as a school. We are all Casa—whether children, teachers, parents, administration and Board—and we are in this world together.

I recently attended Middle School Information Night and listened to our gracious, delightful middle schoolers and alums tell us about their experiences. It was very rewarding to see what a Casa alum is like, and to be able to think to myself, “My kids have a pretty good chance at being like these kids! How extraordinary!” And what it reminded me of is this: Throughout all my time here, through growth and change, expanding to two campuses, adding a middle school, changes in our world, some things have been remarkably consistent: What makes Casa Casa, what makes us us. You can see it in our middle schoolers, as they speak to us with such poise and honesty. You can see it in our teachers, who go above and beyond to make sure our children understand what it means to have a Code of Living in each classroom, who want to hear from us our observations of our children at home so they can better teach them in school, and who welcome us into their classrooms. You can see it in our parents, who role model for our children the importance of service and supporting your community. We are confidently and consistently a home for Peace Education, a home of children willing to try new things in pursuit of their interests, a home of global citizenship, a home of warmth and belonging for us all.

My thanks to everyone for your part in making us who we are,

Jessica Lee-Messer
Casa di Mir Board President



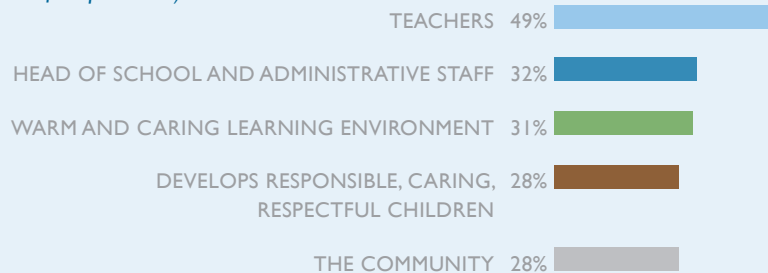
2017 PARENT SURVEY OUR COMMITMENT

Casa di Mir is committed to being the best authentic Montessori school in Silicon Valley. In April 2017, the Board of Directors conducted a survey of parents to help Casa determine its strengths and where it could improve. An impressive 73% of parents responded, with solid representation across all programs. The overall takeaway was that Casa families were satisfied with and supported Casa di Mir. In fact, a full 93% would be likely or very likely to recommend Casa to a friend. They also identified specific areas where we have begun taking action to improve. A big thanks to all who responded. Here are just a few highlights of the survey*:

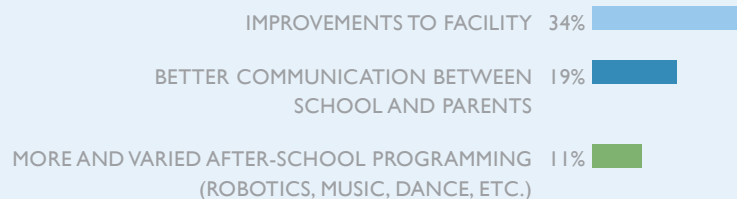
Q. Please select the top three reasons you chose Casa di Mir, and rank in order of importance.



Q. What are Casa's greatest strengths? What do you love most about the school? (Codified from freeform responses. Only showing categories named by at least 10% of respondents)



Q. What changes or improvements would you like to see? (Codified from freeform responses. Only showing issues named by at least 10% of respondents)



To see more survey results, visit <https://www.casadimir.org/blog/2017-parent-survey>

2016-17 HIGHLIGHTS

LAUNCHED TRANSPARENT CLASSROOM
SOFTWARE FOR DAILY COMMUNICATIONS
BETWEEN TEACHERS AND PARENTS

CONDUCTED
BOARD-SPONSORED PARENT SURVEY

CREATED PARENT 2 PARENT (P2P) GROUP

SAW RECORD ATTENDANCE
OF SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

LAUNCHED "THE JOURNEY,"
CASA'S NEW ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

BROKE ALL ANNUAL FUND RECORDS
WITH OVER \$129 THOUSAND IN DONATIONS

WHAT A YEAR! THANK YOU!





ALUMNI Q&A: NIUNIU TEO

*“I’ve always
been grateful
for my Montessori
experience.”*

Niuniu Teo, Alumni

WHAT MEMORIES FROM CASA DI MIR STILL MAKE YOU SMILE?

Aikido, the peace making table, Wanda’s Buddhist singing bowl, warm fuzzies...everything!

WHAT SKILLS DO YOU STILL DRAW ON FROM YOUR EXPERIENCE AT CASA DI MIR?

So much. Everything from the way I consciously avoid “accusatory” sentence structures when I work through disagreements with people to the way I break big projects down into manageable assignments and write them down in an old school planner.

WHERE DID YOUR EDUCATION LEAD YOU AFTER CASA?

I attended Pinewood School 6th-12th grade, Stanford University for undergrad (majoring in History). And now I am at Peking University in Beijing, China for my master’s degree in Chinese Studies.

TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR CURRENT STUDIES. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART?

As previously mentioned, I’m now getting my master’s in Chinese Studies at Peking University through a scholarship program called Yenching Academy. My favorite part of this experience is how international our community is — my cohort consists of 126 students from more than 40 countries, and getting to know just how small and interconnected our world truly is has been an incredibly enlightening experience.

My research interests primarily focus on modern Chinese history. Something I find fulfilling about this, aside from understanding a part of my own history, is examining how humans can have identical wants and needs, yet create ways of collectively being that are incredibly different from each other, and often unintelligible to each other.

WHAT’S NEXT ON YOUR JOURNEY?

My penchant for telling stories and explaining people to each other has also led me to gravitate towards journalism. One of my favorite jobs I’ve had thus far is working for KQED’s Forum. I find journalism to be rewarding and grounding in ways that academia isn’t, and so I hope to continue my involvement in the more “public” sphere of journalism, even as I apply to PhD programs for this upcoming year.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU’D LIKE TO ADD?

I’ve always been grateful for my Montessori experience.



ANNUAL FUND
IMAGINE THE RIPPLE EFFECT



WOW! AND WOW, AGAIN! The Casa Community joined together and supported the school and our students in the biggest way to date. The 2016-17 “Imagine the Ripple Effect” Annual Fund goal was \$100,027. Our community came through with a spectacular (drum roll, please): **\$129,324!** That’s more than **129% of goal** and almost \$25,000 above the prior year!

The vast majority of the gifts came directly from our families’ own funds. Thank you, thank you, thank you, families! The school also received generous giving from alumni families, friends, grandparents, faculty, staff and board members. Thank you, too! These gifts amounted to \$94,171 of the total.

You may wonder what accounted for the other \$35,199 that vaulted Casa over the goal. It was our families, again! More than any other year, they matched their already generous gifts through their employer match programs. In fact, employer match gifts increased nearly threefold over the previous year and accounted for 27% of the total!

The combined funds closed the gap between tuition and operating expenses. Those expenses cover programs that translate into an authentic Montessori education for each and every student — the value of which ripples far into the future.

And having the additional funds that came in above goal meant that the school could afford much needed expenditures. Those included:

- **Technology improvements, such as an upgraded server; and administrative software to eventually make it easier for parents to fill out paperwork.**

- **Professional development for Casa teachers with the Montessori course “Teach 4 Life,” which supports Casa di Mir’s nonviolent communication and character development programs.**
- **Recovered parking lot, fresh paint, and HVAC repairs/upgrades.**
- **Additional field trips and in-school programs like Taiko drumming and the Syrian dance and drummer performance. These added cultural depth and enrichment to our students’ studies.**

And what about the participation rate, which shows the overall percentage of Casa families who made a financial gift? While the goal was 100% participation, meaning that all families would give, the final tally came in at 90% (or 94 out of 105 families). That’s a good figure and is 2% above the previous year.

Thank you to all community members who came together to support our students and Casa di Mir Montessori School, the South Bay’s only Montessori school offering preschool thru 8th grade. You have continued to build on the Casa di Mir legacy and reinvigorate the learning environment for the next generation of leaders.

REVENUE AND EXPENSES 2016-2017

OPERATING REVENUE

2,354,164
NET TUITION/FEES 94%

129,324
CONTRIBUTIONS 5%

12,159
OTHER INCOME 1%

\$2,495,647
TOTAL

OPERATING EXPENSES

1,658,760
WAGES AND BENEFITS 69%

506,989
FACILITY EXPENSE 21%

115,209
INSTRUCTIONAL EXPENSE 5%

135,016
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE 6%

\$2,415,974
TOTAL

OPERATING SURPLUS

79,673
TOTAL

NON-OPERATING INCOME (CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FEES)

24,700
TOTAL

CAPITAL EXPENSE (EQUIPMENT, FURNITURE AND FIXTURES)

21,074
TOTAL



INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Shashank and Neha Agarwal

Michael and Kazuko Agueros

Richard Altherr

Ramin Amini and Soudabeh Sheikhi

Carlos Avendano and Alex Velasquez

Guksil Baek and Jeongboo Lee

Ken Bower and Trisha Bergthold

Eric Calamia and Elizabeth Jourdin

Christophe Callaud and

Christelle Guyart-Callaud

Todd and Stephanie Chipman

Alex and Rosetta Chow

Bogdan and Arunica Ciuca

Bill and Ksenia Coffman

Ben Cohen and Helen Clark

Leah Cohen

Paul Cohen

Lee and Theresa Cooper

Nick and Nithya Cox

George and Karin Curkovicz

Diane Dunning

Dan and Christine Forster

Alan and Polly Fry

Evan and Sarah Goer

Jamey Graham and Sharon Kojima

Pierre Greborio and Rosella DeTursi

Brian Gregory and Kerri Green

Rajat Gupta and Aarti Dewan

Seth and Alissa Harbeck

Emad and Diane Heiba

Mischa Hepner

Richard Hsu and Jasmine Liu

Alain and Jen Jobart

Nathan and Melissa Johns

Phillip Jung and Rose Chang

Hoon Kang

Mark and Michelle Kelleher

Sulabh Khandelwal and Preeti Taneja

Amar Khanna and Lindsay Kenzig

Matt and Jennifer Knoth

Selcuk and Sima Kopru

Arnd and Brit Krueger

Matt and Kelly Kucic

Derek and Jieb Kumar

Paul Lam and Gilda Lee

Kevin Lang and Ruth Adepoju-Lang

Sean and Nikki Larkin

Ehsan Lavassani and Amene Mahboobi

Jonathan Le and Danagra Ikossi Le

Christopher and Jessica Lee-Messer

Topaz and Lisa Levenberg

Jeremy Lim and Vivian Ng

Mayukh Majumdar and Ratna Raha

Gourav Malhotra and Shrutee Dogra

Rick and Julie McDonald

Margie McNeil

Meredith McKenzie

Ayman Metwally and

Venus Martinez-Sharp

Jeff Moore and Morena Moda

Kevin and Stephanie Morris

Sean and Jane Mulcaster

Mark Muzzio and Shannon Kelly

Seitaro and Sachi Nagao

Amith and Teresa Nair

Vinh Ngo and Summer Thornton

Cathy Niezen

Dave Oesterreich



Andrew and Meryl Oliver

Adam Osenkowski and
Katarzyna Osenkowska

Todd and Macy Otake

Kumara Venkatesh Palani and
Lakshmi Thamizhmani

Guy Peled and Bay Thongtheppairot

Manikandan Radhakrishnan and
Karthyayini Chinnaswamy

Ravi Ramachandran and
Krithika Rajagopalan

Gopalakrishnan Ramalingam and
Jaya Ramaswamy

Suresh and Mira Raman

Luis and Adriana Rangel

Robert and Katrina Renfrew

Diego Rodriguez

Javier and Erika Ruiz

Paul and Karen Rust

Martha Ryan

Adam and Marianne Schondelmayer

Ray and Karen Schuler

Craig and Elena Scull

Andrew Sparks and Jennifer Davis

Raja Srinivasan and
Lakshmi Madhavan

Ed Tam and Bernadette Milan

Eichi and Vida Tanda

Sanusi Tandun

Kumara Tharmalingam and
Neera Sivarajah

Louis and Chie Tieu

Stephan Tremblay and
Catherine Ambrozewicz

Derek Tuttle and
Meredith Brown-Tuttle

Sanjay Varma and
Meghna Kumar Varma

Binh Thanh Vo and Nhat-Tien Lu

Tuyen Vo and Mai Vu

Erich and Sophia Volkert

Yoav and Tamar Wainshal

Dirk and Paula Walker

Kenn and Wendy Walker

Te Sheng Wang and Sujung Kim

Russell and Catalina Webb

Harvey and Wanda Whitehead

Michael and Monica Wiemer

Philip Yang and Ivie Chen

Alberto Yap and Anne Yang

Jay Zaveri and Avani Tolia

FOUNDATION DONORS

AMERICAN ONLINE
GIVING FOUNDATION

BRIGHT FUNDS FOUNDATION

EDWARD & GLADYS
BAKER FOUNDATION

SILICON VALLEY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

BUSINESS/CORPORATE/ MATCHING DONORS

ADOBE

AMAZON SMILE

APPLE

APPLIED MATERIALS

AVAGO

BROADCOM

CADENCE DESIGN SYSTEMS

CISCO SYSTEMS

EBAY

GOOGLE

INTEL

JUNIPER NETWORKS

MICROSOFT

MOOYAH BURGERS,
FRIES AND SHAKES

NETFLIX

NVIDIA

ORACLE

PAXTI'S PIZZA

PAYPAL

SEIMENS AG

SPORTS BASEMENT

SYMANTEC

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

VMWARE



Explore.
Learn.
Lead.

“We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe, and are connected with each other to form one whole unity.” – Maria Montessori, To Educate the Human Potential

Casa di Mir Montessori School
90 East Latimer Avenue | Campbell CA 95008
phone 408-370-3073 | fax 408-370-3153
website www.casadimir.org | email admissions@casadimir.org

THE SOUTH BAY'S ONLY MONTESSORI SCHOOL FOR PRESCHOOL THRU 8TH GRADE

