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GROTON
COMMUNITY
SCHOOL



Soaring

ANNUAL REPORT

2016-2017



GCS Children and Teachers Visit the State House to Celebrate “Peace” With Governor Baker

An abundance of articles have been written, and studies have been conducted, demonstrating the numerous benefits of a quality early childhood education. It is true that a solid preschool experience prepares a young child for success during their school years and also later in their chosen profession. Groton Community School has shown this time and again during its more than 70-year history in our community. What GCS really excels at, and what sets this preschool apart from others, is its dedication and focus on encouraging the children who enter its door to be kind and caring citizens.

One of the hallmarks of this philosophy, on which the school was founded, is the emphasis on the theme of “Peace” throughout the curriculum. Children sing about peace, read stories that promote peace, talk about what peace means to them, and even have an annual rededication of the school’s Peace Pole.

This year the children in the Aqua Room did something truly special to promote the concept of “Peace”. The children dictated and illustrated an original *Peace Book*. Their ideas --- including a new baby sister, butterflies and stars, the ocean, reading, and dinner with families --- were then designed and crafted into a beautiful quilt by GCS friend and Master Quilter Milly Cunningham. Milly’s incredible artistry and

quilting expertise provides a “window” on the children’s visions for Peace.

On June 29, two dozen Aqua Room children with their families and teachers, and of course their good friend Milly and her family, visited the State House and received a warm welcome from Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Polito, and their staff on the Grand Staircase.

Jennie Fitzkee read their *Peace Book* to those in attendance, the book written by the children in her classroom that inspired this beautiful quilt.

When it was Gov. Baker’s turn at the podium, he noted that the quilt was a good reminder of how children always have peace within them naturally, and that they are taught to hate. “We

should learn peace from the children, the next generation,” Gov. Baker stated.

We are so grateful to the Governor’s office for being so welcoming and gracious, and to Milly for her friendship with and dedication to the children. Groton Community School is very proud of the Aqua Room Class, and their teachers, for helping to spread the message of teaching Peace that we hold so dear. The Peace Quilt will now hang in the Massachusetts State House for six months.

Your gift to the Groton Community School Annual Fund, each year, makes experiences like these possible for the many young children that GCS serves. **Thank you** for helping us to develop the next generation of kind, caring citizens, committed to spreading peace in our community and in our world. We couldn’t do it without you!

With gratitude,

Linda Kosinski, Director
Groton Community School

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Help Me Understand the Difference between the Annual Fund and Capital Campaign

Groton Community School has just wrapped up its fifth successful year of the GCS Annual Fund, with more than 140 donors recognized in this issue. Over this five-year period, GCS has raised approximately \$220,000 from generous people like you. For this, we are tremendously grateful!

You most likely have also heard talk in recent months about the **Forward Motion Campaign** for Groton Community School. **Forward Motion** is a comprehensive campaign with a building renovation and expansion project as well as the development of special funds to secure the future of our school.

Many people wonder what the difference between the **Annual Fund** and **Capital Campaign** is, and why we ask you to give to both. Others wonder, which is more important?

An **Annual Fund** is money raised for the current year's expenses, like teacher salaries, operation costs, and financial aid. These dollars make up the difference between

tuition and what it actually costs to provide the exceptional first school experience that GCS delivers. **Annual Fund** gifts provide recurring, reliable income that supports the day-to-day needs of our non-profit school.

Capital Campaigns are special, intensive fundraising efforts directed at achieving a specific goal within a specified period. **Capital Campaigns** raise funds for new facilities and renovations, as well as longer-term investments in the school. Some **Capital Campaigns** include the creation of endowed funds. **Capital Campaigns** are larger, with gifts often ranging from 10x to 100x greater than those for an **Annual Fund**. Because of this, there is the opportunity to pay over a few years, typically three to five years. While **Annual Fund** gifts usually come from a donor's income, Capital gifts may also come from a donor's assets.

We ask that you continue to give to the **GCS Annual Fund** during the **Forward Motion Capital Campaign**. While we renovate and grow our facility and plan for our future, we still need to deliver an excellent

early childhood education each and every day. **Capital Campaign** gifts will help us grow, and **Annual Fund** gifts will help us continue doing what GCS does best!

For more information, please visit www.grotoncommunityschool.org/annual-fund to learn more about the GCS **Annual Fund** or www.gcsforwardmotion.org to be in the know about our **Forward Motion Campaign**. Thank you for your interest in and support for Groton Community School in every way!





110 Boston Road, Route 119
Groton, MA 01450

Generous Community Members Donate \$60,000 to GCS Annual Fund

Groton Community School gratefully acknowledges our Annual Fund donors in this special issue of our Soaring newsletter. Their commitment to GCS helps provide an unparalleled first school experience to the children in our community. Over the past five years, the Annual Fund has grown from 60 donors and \$20,000 in its first year, to over 140 donors and \$60,000 this past year!

Those donors who give year-after-year are critical to the growth and sustainability of the Annual Fund. We are fortunate to have 30 families who have given for five consecutive fiscal years (2013-2017) and we are so thankful for their continued support. These families are indicated with a + symbol on our donor honor roll.

GCS would especially like to recognize the members of the Adelaide Luca Giving Society. Named for one of the first directors of GCS, Adelaide Torrey Luca (or “Miss Adelaide” as she was affectionately known), the Society distinguishes those generous friends of the school who have contributed \$1,000 or more to the 2017 Annual Fund. Members are indicated with a * symbol on our donor honor roll.

Know that each and every gift made to the GCS Annual Fund directly benefits the children of our school. YOUR donation, no matter the size, makes a real difference. We sincerely THANK YOU!

