

# ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018





## Teachers Are the Most Important Part

As I write, we are about two months into the new school year, and so many amazing things are happening in classrooms here at Groton Community School. Children are making new friends and learning new routines. They are stretching their imaginations and growing their vocabularies with hands-on play and wonderful literacy opportunities. There is so much creativity and curiosity, and the children are eager to explore everything around them. As this happens, our teachers are guiding them in activities designed to fuel their love for learning.

In fact, it is these teachers who have the most profound impact on the children's early school experiences, setting them up and paving the way for future academic success. "In an effective (preschool) classroom, the first thing you would see would be a lot of activity that is organized and directed by the teacher and a lot of engagement on the part of the kids," says Dr. Robert C. Pianta, a nationally recognized early childhood education expert and Dean of the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia. "It would be a classroom in which it is very evident the kids like what they're doing, there's a level of energy, and the teacher is engaged with the children - not just with the group, but also with each individual

child – moving around the room, involved with conversation, stretching them along."

Dr. Pianta continues, "Far and away, teachers and their actions account for the majority of students' achievement gains in early learning."

At GCS we are fortunate to have some of the best early childhood educators in our field. With an unmatched longevity, one third of our teaching team has been with the school for more than twenty years. Another thirty percent have taught at GCS for more than a decade. This school year Jennie Fitzkee, Head Teacher in our Full-Day classroom, is celebrating thirty-five years of teaching at GCS. Jennie shares in one of her blog posts, "In the classroom, I pay attention to the little things, how children

behave and respond to what is happening. My continuous personal goal is 'to become one with a child', to forget that self-imposed teacher/ child wall and develop a close relationship of understanding so learning can happen." Jennie's passion for connecting with children is exactly what Dr. Pianta writes about. This effort to engage with every child in a meaningful way can be seen across our entire staff community and is a secret to our success.

With staff salaries, benefits and professional development accounting for 86% of our operating budget, when you make a gift to GCS's Annual Fund, you are investing in the teachers that make an extraordinary early school experience possible for the greater Groton community's young children. And as we know, teachers are the most important part of that experience.

Thank you for your continued support.

Linda Kosinski, Director

Linda)

## Thank you!

As a loyal supporter of Groton Community School, you have made a difference in the lives of hundreds of children! Gifts to the GCS Annual Fund provide critical resources to close the gap between revenue from tuition and the full cost of providing the GCS experience. Those of you who give year-after-year are the foundation for the growth and sustainability of the Annual Fund. You make it possible for GCS to recruit and retain an exceptional team of educators who ignite a love for learning in our youngest community members. Every one of your gifts has had a meaningful impact on a child. You are the reason we are able to do the work we do. Thank you. We couldn't do it without you!

## GCS Annual Report - Affiliations

#### Alumni/ae

Wesley Cline Joshua Kosinski Ryan Kosinski Anna MacDonald Christopher MacDonald Daniel MacDonald Scott and Deborah\* MacDonald Elizabeth Reeves Steve\* and Nancy Webber

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Dean and Shannon\* Baxevanis Michael Burgess and Shagufta\* Rahman Michael and Jennifer\* Burke Ieremy\* and Erin Chapman Patrick and Emily\* Crouse Matt and Kate\* Ferriola Ed and Cindi\* Hand Brett Laidlaw and Heather\* Spinney-Laidlaw Dan\* and Katie Quinn William\* and Katy Rochefort Chris and Jessica\* Snow Joe Walch and Laura\* Cummings Evan and Brianne\* Weider Scott and Trisha\* Winroth

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Anonymous

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Acacia Communications BAE Systems BMS Matching Gift Program Boston Scientific

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Dave and Patty\* Barr
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Scott and Deborah\* MacDonald
Rob\* and Laura Moore
David Moulton
Peter\* and Andrea Myette
Steve\* and Nancy Webber

## The Numbers





Over \$61,000 from 120 gifts

was raised for the GCS Annual Fund during the past fiscal year.



have given for five consecutive fiscal years (2014-2018)



43 gifts totaling \$132,200 have been

honored with membership in the Adelaide Luca Society.



2/3 of our teaching staff

has been with GCS more than a decade



of the annual budget supports teacher salaries, benefits and professional development.

## GCS Annual Report Donor List - By Gift Club

#### 1930s Circle\* \$10,000+

Steve and Nancy Webber\*†

#### Leaders\* \$5,000+

Scott and Deborah MacDonald \*†

#### Partners\* \$2500+

David Moulton\*†

Albert Stone\*†

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#### Associates\* \$1000+

Anonymousx †

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Thomas and Christine Horsman

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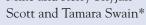
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Matt Arner and Mini Singh-Arner\* **BAE Systems** 

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Steve and Jennie Fitzkee

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Joseph Horvath and Tina Galanti

Steve Kalter and Lisa Stafford\*

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Thierry and Sarah Laverdure

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#### Friend's Circle up to \$99

Acacia Communications BMS Matching Gift Program George and Denielle Babey Dave and Patty Barr Michael and Amanda Barry John and Virginia Bates Dean and Shannon Baxevanis George and Marie Bearer Randy and Rachel Blaisdell Jonathan and Ruth Bruneau Michael Burgess and Shagufta Rahman Jeremy and Erin Chapman Wesley Cline\* Iohn and Lisa Conner\* Patrick and Emily Crouse Iames and Christine Doherty Matt and Kate Ferriola William and Tracy Gerner David Grigglestone and Peg Devine David and Kathy Grimwood Ed and Cindi Hand Robert and Lindy Hanninen Peter and Kelli Hnath Dan and Sandy Irvin Ioshua Kosinski\* Ryan Kosinski\* Rev. Harold and Margaret Lloyd\* Peter and Claire Macy Ned and Mary Mitchell\* Raj and Priva Palakkal Erik and Krishna Paulson John and Marcia Pauly\* Mike and Debbie Penney Steven and Danielle Phaneuf Blase Provitola and Linda Hoffman David Quintin and Bonnie Stanton Elizabeth Reeves Michael and Martha Resch\*

David and Kelly Rowe

Chris and Jessica Snow

Bill and Cheryl Townsend

Evan and Brianne Weider

Katy Sutton-Brown

Dr. David and Bobbie Spiegelman

<sup>\*</sup> Have given to AF 5 consecutive years

<sup>†</sup> Members of the Adelaide Luca Giving Society



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## The Power to Change the World

"Let us bring equality, justice, and **peace for all.** Not just the politicians and the world leaders, we all need to contribute. Me. You. It is our duty."

- Malala Yousafzai (Nobel Prize Winner 2014)

No matter where you stand on the many critical issues facing our world today, one of the greatest challenges we face as parents, as educators, and as a community is determining how to pave the way for our children toward a world where there is *equality*, *justice and peace for all*. The time when the youngest members of our society will become the leaders, decision makers, and influencers will come quickly. If we expect them to have a positive impact and change things, we need to teach them about these important concepts.



At GCS we believe that this starts with our youngest community members. A commitment to teaching peace, kindness and empathy is a guiding principle on which Groton Community School was founded, and it has remained one of our core values for more than seven decades.

This month we shared an important tradition with GCS children and families: the annual rededication of our Peace Pole, which says, "May Peace Prevail on Earth"

in seven languages. We come together as a school community to share songs, words and stories that demonstrate and inspire the peace, kindness, and empathy for which our world hungers. In fact, one of our young friends commented, "I love it! This is the best song *EVER*!" regarding this year's theme song, "Power to Change the World" by Red Grammer. With your support, we can continue to nurture and grow the future that the world longs for through our young children. Me. You. It is our duty!