



LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



We are so excited to have welcomed many new and returning families back to GCS in what is our second full year in our beautifully renovated and expanded school building! It is definitely rewarding to be able to work inside such a remarkable facility, especially after more than 10 years in the making.

While we continue to be affected by COVID, we remain cautiously optimistic about the current

path. Many opportunities have opened up for us as restrictions can be more relaxed. Children have full use of the beautiful new Library and can mingle with other classes during outside play and extended day sessions. Families and guests are welcome inside the building, and the expanded foyer and wider hallways allow for gathering and conversation with teachers and other adults. I know the entire GCS community is grateful for the additional social connection these changes provide for the children and their families.

We continue to put the finishing touches on the facility, including the recent installation of beautiful landscaping at the front of the school and the fenced in dismissal area. As part of the master plan for the school grounds, the Memory Garden was relocated, and child-sized picnic tables were added to the playscape. Projects slated for later this year include acoustical work, cabinetry, and a meandering brick walkway that families will be able to personalize.

Your support of the Annual Fund makes all of this happen. There is still more work to do to fully realize our dreams for Groton Community School. With friends like you, I know that we will achieve all the goals we have set to continually deliver an exceptional first school experience to the young children and families in our community. Without your friendship and generosity, we could not do what we do. Please know how grateful I am for each of you and your contributions that allow GCS to help children SOAR every day.

With Gratitude,

Linda Kosinski, Director

Groton Community School

HOW WE HELP CHILDREN SOAR



"To reach real peace in the world, we will have to begin with the children."

- GANDHI

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DID YOU KNOW?

- Groton Community School has been serving young children in the community for more than 75 years
- GCS Head Teachers hold degrees in a variety of disciplines, including Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Child Psychology, Brain Development, Music Education, and Growth & Development, to name a few
- The GCS staff has a history of longevity, with experienced and highly educated teachers who combined have over 250 years' experience teaching at Groton Community School ALONE

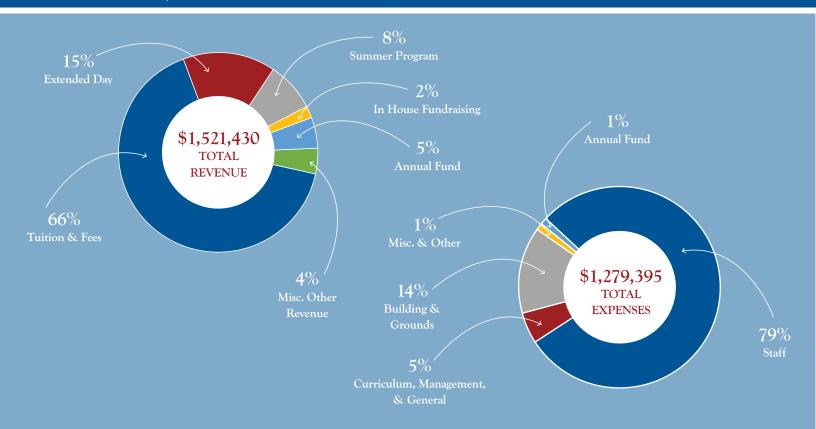
The cornerstone of every successful early childhood school is the teaching staff!! Your gift to the GCS Annual Fund helps to ensure that we can continue to recruit and retain. high quality educators so that every child who comes through the GCS doors has an exceptional first school experience.

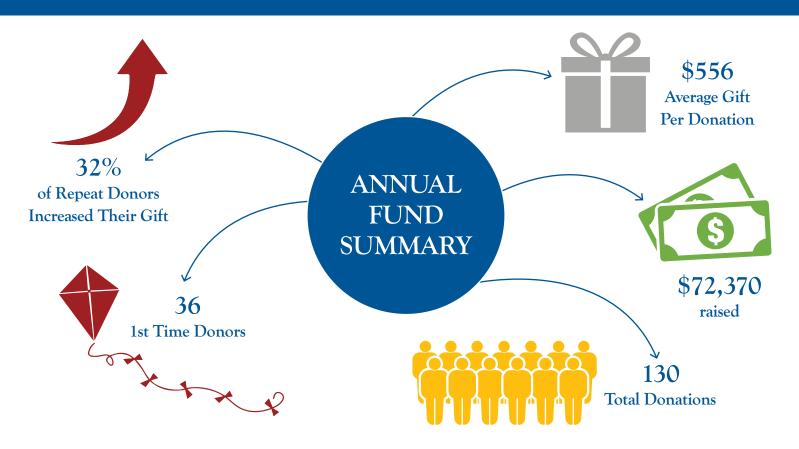


"Teachers have three loves: love of learning, love of learners, and the love of bringing the first two together"

- SCOTT HAYDEN

FINANCIALS | 2021-2022





DIGITAL LITERACY AT GCS

We are so grateful for your support of our 2021-22 GCS Annual Fund! Donations this year were focused on upgrading and introducing new technology in classrooms and throughout GCS, to the benefit of children, families, and staff. Each classroom now has a large, wall-mounted screen for mirroring activities from their classroom iPads.

In addition, we have also added large interactive panels in our GCS Library, Staff Room, and Big Room which are essentially computers in and of themselves, with touch capability for teachers and children to engage in a variety of online activities, educational games, whiteboard experiences, Zoom opportunities to connect with others, and more! We have a training in the works for our October Curriculum Day to more fully utilize these tools for experiences with children, and also for collaboration among staff, families, our Board of Directors, and our Trustees.

Our philosophy is to introduce children to digital literacy activities, just as we do with reading and writing literacy activities. Interactive flat panels, iPads and screens enable teachers to utilize technology to enhance and expand the curriculum in many areas. All technology activities and apps must be age appropriate, have educational value and be nonviolent, with a strong preference for activities that are interactive, collaborative, and self-paced.

"Technology will never replace great teachers, but in the hands of great teachers, it's transformational"

- GEORGE COUROS

In addition to these technology improvements, GCS has also earmarked Annual Fund contributions to the following goals:

- Library laptop for tracking our incredible collection of children's books
- Staff laptop for portable family communication, lesson planning, curriculum research, assessment and children's observation writing
- Essential and overdue upgrades to staff and administration hardware and software

GCS is always learning and growing together and your support is crucial to this endeavor!!







DONATIONS | BY GIFT CLUB

Groton Community School is tremendously grateful for the following individuals and corporations who supported the Annual Fund in 2021-22, Your gifts help GCS children to soar!

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Deborah and Scott MacDonald*† David Moulton*† Albert Stone*†

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^{*} Have given to Annual Fund 5 consecutive years

[†] Members of the Adelaide Luca Giving Society

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^{*} Denotes persons applicable to the designation



DONOR PROFILE | BETSY KEHOE



Former GCS parent, past Board member, and current Trustee Betsy Kehoe recently shared her thoughts on her family's experience with the school and her motivation for continuing to support Groton Community School.

When Betsy and her husband Scott moved to Groton in 1994, they surveyed many friends about local preschools. "Everyone with whom I spoke said that GCS was by far the best place for a child's first school experience. As soon as our twin girls were of age to attend GCS, we enrolled them in the Preschool Program. They both continued to attend GCS through Kindergarten, including many summers participating in GCS's Camp Kaleidoscope," said Betsy.

"Seeing how much our girls enjoyed GCS, I did not hesitate when I was asked to join the Board of Directors. I wanted to volunteer for the school that was making such a difference

in our children's lives. I enjoyed working with the other parents as well as the GCS administration and staff to ensure that GCS continued to be the amazing school that it is." Betsy ultimately became President of the Board of Directors, and 10 years ago joined the Board of Trustees. She shared, "I have so enjoyed being a part of GCS and I want to inspire other people to give and get involved in GCS."

Betsy appreciates the continued impact GCS has on the community, "From the various fundraisers that bring the school families, staff members and community together, to the children singing to the residents of Rivercourt, to the scholarships that GCS offers, and so much more, I continue to be amazed at the impact GCS has on the town."

In addition to donating to the GCS Annual Fund every year, Betsy and Scott also made a pledge to the Forward Motion Campaign

MATCHING GIFTS

that supported the renovation and expansion of the decades-old building. Betsy shared their reasoning, "We donate to the annual fund every year as we believe it is essential that GCS can meet expenses that may otherwise not be covered by tuition alone. It is gratifying to know that contributions to the annual fund support teacher development and curricular excellence."

"As a Trustee, I was involved in the Forward Motion campaign that allowed GCS to grow and expand. Whether you are an alumnus of the school, a parent, a member of the community, or just a supporter of early childhood education, you should consider donating to GCS. Your contribution is helping young children receive the most positive first school experience. This will be the foundation for his or her future development and will provide a strong base for life-long learning."

When friends ask why Betsy is still so involved with GCS now that her twins are in college, she tells them, "I volunteer as a Trustee, and we continue to donate, because we believe that our daughters' educational success is due in large part to the positive and enriching experience they had at GCS. It is a school that prioritizes a child's uniqueness in a nurturing, caring, and learning environment. The welcoming and committed administration, and experienced teaching staff are a testament to Director Linda Kosinski's leadership and support of the community in making GCS a success."

When she is not volunteering for Groton Community School, Betsy can be found traveling, visiting her daughters at college to watch them play lacrosse, reading or working out.

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