

Yet again, we were able to achieve 100% family participation in the 2024-25 Annual Fund. This unified support speaks volumes about the shared belief in Hilltop's mission and the deep connection our families feel to the school. We are profoundly thankful for every contribution, which not only strengthens our financial foundation but also celebrates the spirit of collaboration and care that defines our community.

We also had increased grant funding and are greatly indebted to the foundations and organizations that provide grants to specific projects and to the general operations of our school.

This enabled the year to end with a slight surplus on paper. That funding, along with an additional draw from the school's investments, was immediately put into the renovation project of the 2025 summer. Adding a second toddler classroom had been a goal for many years, as that program has had a long waitlist every year since the first toddler class in 2014. The renovation completed last summer accomplished so many goals:

- Making a second toddler classroom in the former lobby, very much connected with the existing toddler and Children's House spaces.
- Creating two new "Breakout Classrooms" used by the Learning Specialist Team and the Children's House Olders and teachers.
- Providing a new, obvious front door and entry lobby!
- Building a small second floor with two new admin offices, which freed up space for the breakout rooms and new lobby.

This renovation enabled us to provide more toddler spaces, currently and into the future. It helped to fill an unmet need in our community for more early childhood care and provided a stable source of more tuition income from families and from the Childcare Financial Assistance Program.

During this Fiscal Year, we were surprised and thrilled to receive a donation of \$350,000 to be used to augment our Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math curriculum. After brainstorming and planning with a STEM Committee consisting of teachers, parents, and Board members, we embarked on a capital campaign to fund a project to enlarge the Elementary space and make room for more STEM materials to be used during and after school. While the bulk of the efforts for this will take place in subsequent years, the initial gift was in the 2024-25 Fiscal Year, and further demonstrates the positive trajectory of funding and support for the financially diverse students at our school.

This past fiscal year, our Investment Committee continued to hold the school's investment funds in socially responsible Vanguard funds at Charles Schwab. The gains from these socially responsible investments, combined with responsible draws, allow us to continue supporting our community by funding school grants through our Indexed Tuition program. These grants are a critical component of our mission to foster accessibility and inclusivity, ensuring that as many families as possible can benefit from the Hilltop experience.

As we reflect on the 2024-25 school year, we are filled with deep gratitude for the support and dedication of our vibrant Hilltop Montessori community. This year has been marked by growth, renovation, and significant progress—all made possible by the unwavering commitment of our families, faculty, staff, and Board members.

As we look ahead, we do so with a profound sense of gratitude for each member of the Hilltop community. Your trust, engagement, and generosity form the bedrock of our mission, ensuring that Hilltop continues to be a place of joyful learning, exploration, and growth for generations to come.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for being part of this extraordinary journey.

With gratitude,
Douglas Flood, Board Treasurer
Tamara Mount, Head of School