



Annual Report 2016/17





A Letter from the Head of School

Dear CMS Community,

What a great year our 50th was. Thanks to all of you for making this landmark year such a special one. It was a true pleasure to honor our founders, Frank and Annette Kulle, who guided CMS for more than 40 years, establishing a lasting culture for families and staff that we continue to enjoy.

I am also excited by the progress we made on our goals established in our Strategic Vision. Our Social Committee was successful in planning events for families and parents that were so well attended. Our Parent Ambassador program helped new families to feel welcome and oriented to the CMS community. And finally thank you to all the parents who chaired, volunteered and participated in our annual events.

Enrollment in the school was strong, but the goal of increasing it remains primary on our agenda. We continued our work with the pilot organization, Montessori Peer Review Council: two of our teachers (Veronica Armenta and Guy Calise) served on the team at Near North Montessori this year. CMS was again the host site of the MTIPS Summer Institute for more than 100 teachers from all over the United States. Topics our teachers attended included Math for the Adolescent, Upper Elementary Math Extensions, Elementary Literature, Art, and Work with Toddlers. Presenters included CMS staff Guy and Wendy Calise, Michele Aspinall, and former CMS faculty member, Lisa Sanden.

*"I think that all of CMS graduates are tough, and they are the people who know how to keep going when things aren't going your way."
- CMS Alum, Beckett Cummings*

As I look ahead to year 51, I am filled with optimism about our mission and shared vision for our students. We have truly created a community within a community: a place where we are all striving to create the best conditions for our young people to reach adulthood both in age and character when they are 18, ready to take their places in society, whether that be in college or the workplace; a place where we continue to honor the values of grace and courtesy; and a place where we care for one another when

times are hard. We remain steadfastly committed to our mission: Respect, Responsibility and Resourcefulness.

Wendy Calise
—Head of School



Class of 2016 in Spain

Our spirited 8th grade graduates from 2016 organized a Summer trip to Spain with Mr. Calise and Señora Depilla in tow.





A Letter from the CMS Board Chair

Dear CMS Community,

As we celebrate 50 years of Countryside Montessori School, we celebrate more than what the school has become. We also celebrate the impact that CMS had on so many children and their families over the years. The trustees bring a variety of backgrounds, business expertise and life experiences to the job, but they have one thing in common: each has seen, through personal involvement with CMS, the benefits of character-based education. This shared understanding is the foundation of all board activities. It helps the trustees work together to serve the school as it continues to grow.

With this strong continuing commitment to the school's mission, and the school's enrollment numbers, we're looking forward to celebrating Countryside's next milestone anniversary.

- Allison Shank, *CMS Board President*

There are times Barry and I wonder, who is the adult. Renata or us, as the level of her maturity and compassion can, at times, overshadow our own. - CMS Alum Parents



From left:

Wendy Calise (ex officio), Peter Villa (CMS Alumnus), Allison Shank (CMS Board Chair), Pete Olsen, Dan Kemper, Donna Giannis, Marty Fishman, Annette Kulle (ex officio), Frank Kulle (ex officio)



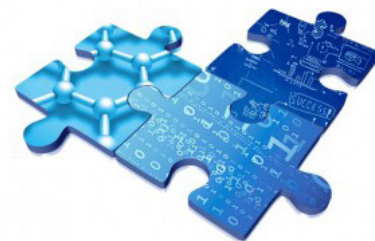
Strategic Initiatives at CMS

CMS continues work with its Strategic Vision and Initiatives. There are three areas of focus:

1) Maintain a commitment to a balanced education that delivers both rigorous academic content and a deep commitment to the development of character—particularly the qualities of respect, responsibility and resourcefulness. CMS will continue to offer education to parents about how they can support the development of strong character in their children with choices in their own parenting.

2) Grow enrollment to enrich the diversity and social community of the school and the vigor of cross-cultural learning in academic endeavors. The CMS community is committed to increasing enrollment to 200 students by the End of Year 2019. Due to increased demand, CMS increased the size of one of its toddler classes for the first time in its history. Mrs. Armenta's class will now have 13 students instead of 10, with the addition of another assistant to lend a hand. Elementary and Middle School enrollment remains strong. Middle School will have 16 students in 17-18! PreK/K classes remain the place where we have the most room for growth.

3) CMS seeks to build opportunities for a deeper and more robust parent community and parent experience. CMS families stepped up in a huge way this year to make this initiative a reality. Our social committee planned numerous events over the course of the year which were very well attended. (See if you can find a few pics – ask Heather Reardon or Karen Laskey). In addition, we started a Parent Ambassador Program to welcome new families and assist them in making a smooth transition into the CMS community. We also brought back room parents who help teachers with events and keep families informed of the goings on.



 Middle School Graduates: Class of 2016



Willem Aspinall
transitioned to



Beacon Academy

Sydney Caporusso-
Hartman
transitioned to



Glenbrook North

Grace Chung
transitioned to



Glenbrook North

Matthew Corley
transitioned to



New Trier

Emma Hogan
transitioned to



Glenbrook
South

Helena Wyville
transitioned to



Chicago
Waldorf

 Congratulations Graduates!





Special News and Awards

CMS Community Awards

Presidential Fitness Awards:

Jessica Armenta, Chesine Ciota,
Madeleine Hoffman, Claire Huston,
Lily O'Malley, Samia Rizzo,
Olivia Spencer, Joey Zheng

Gabriel Garcia Marquez Spanish Award

Olivier Coppieters and Oliver Hawes

Leonard Bernstein Award for Excellence in Music

Sophia Ullmann

Volunteer of the Year

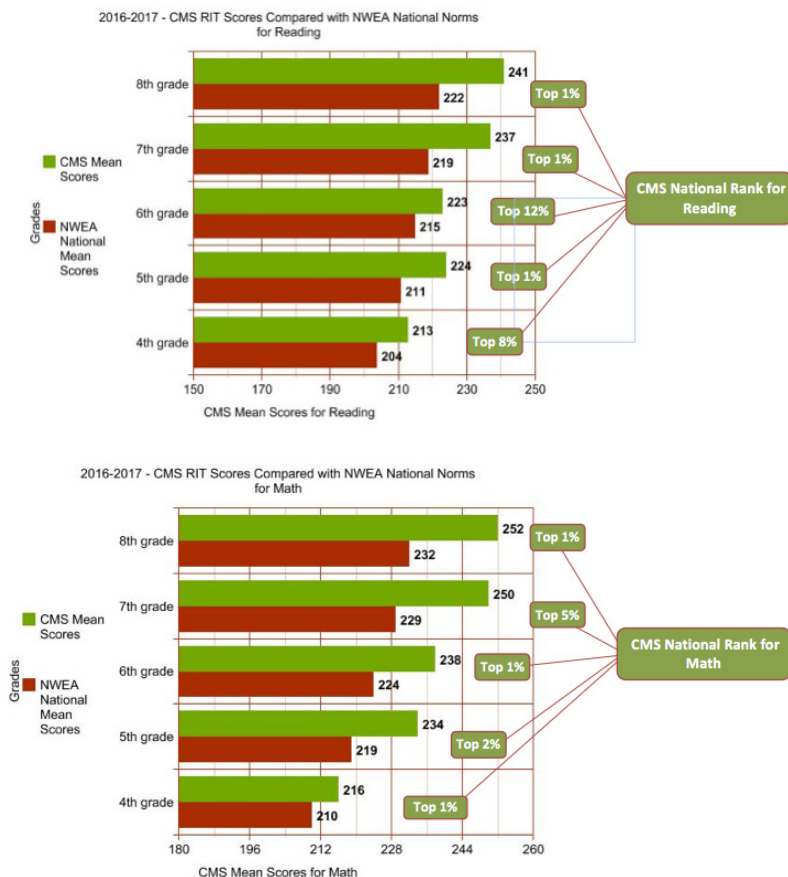
Rich Ciota

*Every teacher knew every single student
what their strengths and weaknesses
were, where they could improve, how
to kind of elevate the resources that
they had available to make everyone's
experience a lot better. - CMS Alum
Peter Villa*



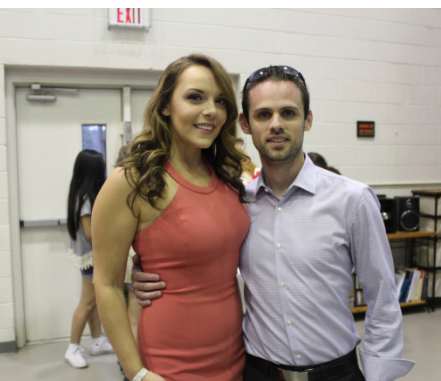
CMS Students' NWEA MAP Results

NEWA MAP Test Score Comparison Graph (School Year: 2016-2017)





50th Anniversary Celebration



Head of School, Wendy Calise, and School Founders, Mr. and Mrs. Kulle





50th Anniversary Celebrations



Spring Picnic



Founders' Day



Golf Outing



Ice Cream Social



Fall Picnic



Parent Orientation Dinner



Camp Countryside 2017

Summer camp offerings were a big hit this year. Toddlers- elementary children enjoyed an array of different themes during this years camp.



Toddler Camp



Master Chef Junior



Nerf Skills and Strategies



Cooking and Baking



Nature Camp

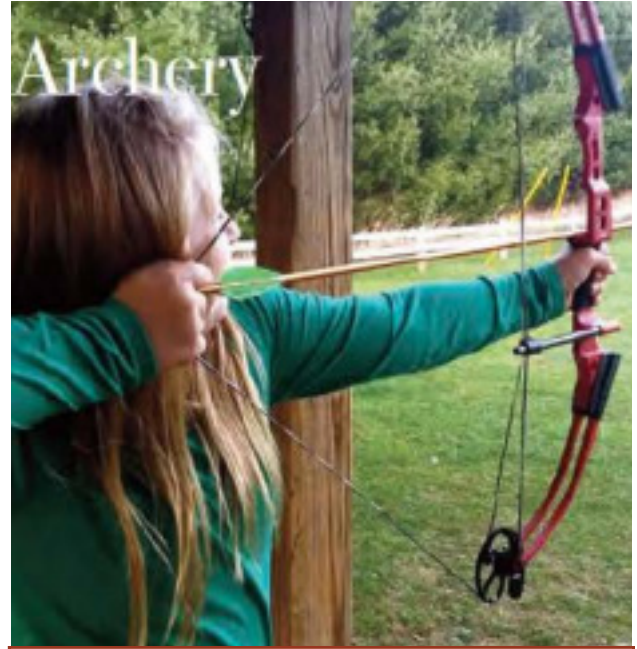


Opera Camp

Camp Countryside 2017



Swimming



Archery



Dodgeball Around the World



Art and Science



Music and Drama



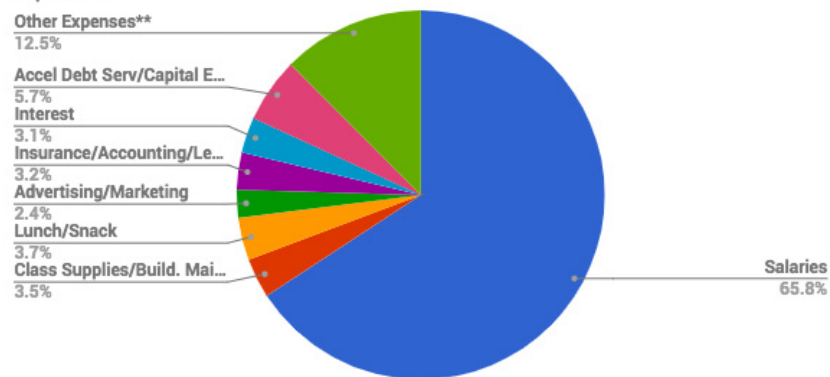
Toddler Camp



Finance and Operations

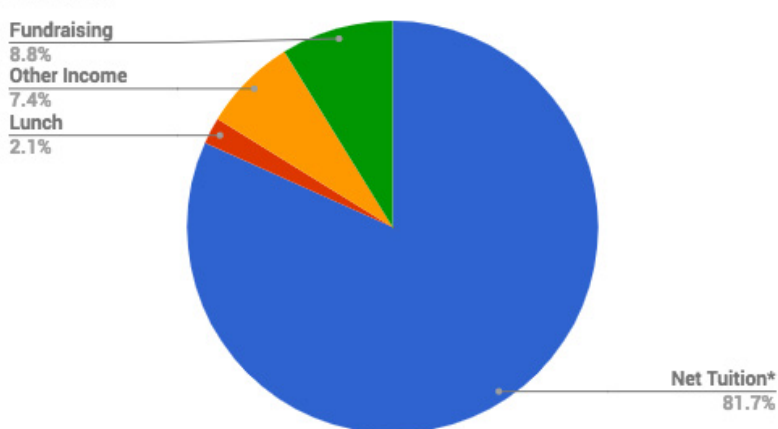
Expenses	
Salaries	2,108,000
Class Supplies/Build. Maint.	111,000
Lunch/Snack	120,000
Advertising/Marketing	78,000
Insurance/Accounting/Legal	104,000
Interest	100,000
Accel Debt Serv/Capital Exp.	182,000
Other Expenses**	400,000
	3,203,000
**Includes: class trips, accreditation and subscriptions, office expenses, professional development, teacher training, utilities, phone	

Expenses



Revenue	
Net Tuition*	2,617,000
Lunch	67,000
Other Income	236,000
Fundraising	283,000
	3,203,000
*Financial Aid	\$448,000

Revenue



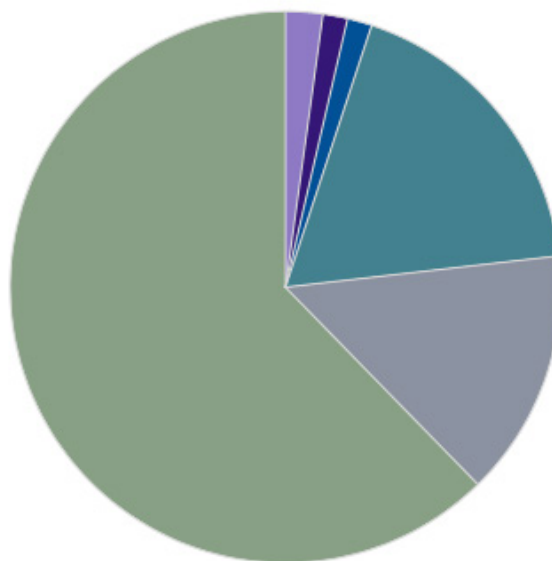


Annual Giving 16/17: Results by Gift Type

2016-17 Annual Giving Chairpersons: Corrie and Chris Carrigan

Annual Giving 16-17 Results: Total Gifts: \$255,438.91

- Legacy Gift (10,000- \$14, 999)
- Leadership Gift (\$7,500- \$9,999)
- Life Gift (\$5,000-\$7,499)
- Liberty Gift (\$2,501-\$4,999)
- Fair Share Gift (2,500)
- Loyalty Gift (up to \$2,500)



Distinguished Commitment to Annual Giving

The following families are distinguished by their longstanding commitment to participating in Annual Giving:

10-14 Years

The Aspinall Family
The Chakravarthy Family
The Chung Family
The Corley Family
The Dadwani Family
The Jaffe Family
The Jou Family
The McDougal Family
The Noordover Family
The Rizzo Family
The Clark Family

15+ Years

The Anderson Family
The Armenta Family
The Calise Family
The Ullmann Family



16/17 Annual Giving Participants

Legacy Gift

(\$10,000 - \$14,999)

The C. Carrigan Family
The Corley Family
The Osman Family

Leadership Gift

(\$7,500 - \$9,999)

The Calise Family
The Portis Family

Life Gift

(\$5,000 - \$7,499)

The Simerson Family
The Wyville Family

Liberty Gift

(\$2,501 - \$4,999)

Austria Family
Borre Family
Chagas Family
Chakravarthy Family
Coleman Family
Din Family
Feldman Family
Greenhouse Family
Jaffe Family
Jou Family
Junkovic Family
Kulle Family
Mehta Family
Mynatt Family
Noordover Family
Nudera Family
Ozgit Family
Powell Family
Price Family
Sandhir Family
Schoen Family
Selvaraj Family
Spencer Family
Zeidman Family
Zhao Family

Fair Share Gift

(\$2,500)

Bokar Family
Botev Family
Brewer Family
B. Carrigan Family
Coppieters Family
Endo Family
B. Carrigan Family
Coppieters Family
Endo Family
Gandhi Family
Huston Family

B. Kim Family

J. Kim Family

Kolb Family

Myers Family

Paik Family

Priovolos Family

Rouse Family

Samaras Family

Shank Family

Singal Family

Weinzweig Family

Loyalty Gift

(up to \$2,500)

Ajani Family
Al-Basit Family
Andy Ali Family
Aziz Ali Family
An Family
Anguiano Family
B. Anderson Family
C. Anderson Family
Armenta Family
Aspinall Family
Berke Family
Berkson Family
Beswick Family
Bogdanov Family
Buss Family
C. Chung Family
D. Chung Family
Ciota Family
Clark Family
Cole Family
Cordova Family
Dadwani Family
Dean Family
Decker Family
Delaney Family
DePilla Family
K. Doyle Family
S. Doyle Family
Elko Family
Fishman Family
Fitzpatrick Family
Francavilla Family
Gadjev Family
Garzelloni Family
Gharib Family
Giannis Family
Gordin Family

Ham Family

Hamdan Family

Hawes Family

Hemani Family

Henofer Family

Hirani Family

Hoffman Family

Hogan Family

Hur Family

Ip Family

Kassam Family

Kemper Family

Khan Family

N. Kim Family

Klingler Family

Kober Family

Krasavin Family

Lalani Family

Lane Family

Laskey Terry Family

Littlefield Family

Manshio Family

Martensen Family

McDougal Family

McGough Family

Mendoza Family

O'Brien Family

Oen Family

Olsen Family

K. O'Malley Family

J. O'Malley Family

Pai Family

Pool Family

Reardon Family

Rivera Family

Rizzo Family

Robinson Family

Ross Family

Shatek Family

Shestopal Family

Shukla Family

Shultz Family

Sroka Family

Ullmann Family

Varcille Family

Wessenberg Family

Wos Family

Youhanna Family

Younus Family

50th Anniversary Donations

Brewer Family

Brzezinski Family

B. Carrigan Family

C. Carrigan Family

Corley Family

Cram Family

Cummings Family

Endo Family

Feinberg Family

Feldman Family

Gambaccini Family

Gharib Family

Giannis Family

Gordin Family

Grumhaus Family

Hirani Family

Jaffe Family

Junkovic Family

Khodosh Family

Krasavin Family

Kulle Family

Lewis Family

MacBlane Family

McKeown Family

Meixner Family

Price Family

Reardon Family

Rouse Family

Sandhir Family

Schoen Family

Shank Family

Sprauer Family

TOPS, Inc.

Villa Family

Whitted Family

Matching Companies

Abbott Labs

Discover

Evanston Capital Management
ITW

Kirkland and Ellis

Leo Burnett

Motorola

MSCI

Salesforce.com

Truist



The Faculty and Staff of Countryside Montessori School



Second Row:

Uli Soto, Kathleen Al-basit, Kim Shultz, Kim Anderson, Bhavini Shah, Andrea Rivera, Rebeca English, Yuritzi Garduno, Magali Depilla, Sean Doyle, Guy Calise, Janeth Mendoza, Kathy Wos, Shana Brunell, Dianna Hamdan, Hanna Klingler, Shaneequa Pool, Maya Munson, Veronica Armenta

First Row:

Michele Aspinall, Jim Aspinall, Jennifer Robinson, Wendy Calise, Krista Delaney, Karen O'Malley, Joe Francavilla, Taylor Wesenberg

Administrative Team

Wendy Calise (28 yrs. at CMS)
Jim Aspinall (11 yrs. at CMS)
Karen O'Malley (21 yrs. at CMS)
Janeth Mendoza (4 years at CMS)

AYM Team

Michele Aspinall (29 yrs. at CMS)
Kathy Wos (10 yrs. at CMS)
Shana Brunell (first yr. at CMS)

Toddler Team

Veronica Armenta (20 yrs. at CMS)
Jennifer Robinson (6 yrs. at CMS)
Rebecca English (4 yrs. at CMS)
Andrea Rivera (2 yrs. at CMS)
Yuritzi Garduno (2 yrs. at CMS)
Uli Soto (2 yrs. at CMS)

Pre-k/Kindergarten Team

Kim Shultz (22 yrs. at CMS)
Bhavini Shah (first yr. at CMS)
Dianna Hamdan (4 yrs. at CMS)
Maya Munson (first yr. at CMS)

Art Teacher

Jinny Hyun (5 yrs. at CMS)

Middle School Team

Guy Calise (28 yrs. at CMS)
Kathleen Al-Basit (2 yrs. at CMS)

Elementary Team

Kim Anderson (16 yrs. at CMS)
Sean Doyle (5 yrs. at CMS)
Taylor Wesenberg (6 yrs. at CMS)
Hanna Klingler (2 yrs. at CMS)

Spanish Language Team

Magali DePilla (5 yrs. at CMS)
Veronica Armenta (20 yrs. at CMS)

Physical Education Team

Krista Delaney (39 yrs. at CMS)
Shaneequa Pool (2 yrs. at CMS)

Music Education Director

Joseph Francavilla (17 yrs. at CMS)

Facilities Team

Juan Armenta (23 yrs. at CMS)
Jim Aspinall (11 yrs. at CMS)

Founders

Frank and Annette Kulle

