



# 2021-2022 Report

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## 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

### Faculty Chair/Head of School

Lelia True

### Advancement

Jane Christenson  
High School Theatre Arts  
Alia Goodyear  
Director of Marketing and  
Communications

Torie Gorges  
Enrollment Associate

Stephanie Hanson  
Director of Development

Lezlie Lawson  
Director of Enrollment

Lelia True  
Head of School

Miriam Zarin  
Director of Alumni and  
Community Relations

### Trustees Council

Vanessa Beckman, Chair

Lisa Pitillo Bechmann\*

Michael Danzansky\*

Tove Elfström

Tom Holmberg

Maria Monteverde-Jackson\*

Marilyn Noguera\*

Taisto Saloma

Lelia True\* (ex officio)

James Wise\* (Treasurer)

*\*Indicates new members this year*

### Diversity Statement

The Washington Waldorf School is committed to educating children in a welcoming school community that reflects the rich diversity of the greater Washington metropolitan area. WWS is an inclusive community of students, families, faculty, and staff that strives to maintain a diversity of race, color, religion, sex, gender, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, familial status or responsibilities, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, and genetic information. We educate our students to respect the dignity of all people.

### College of Teachers

Lisa Pitillo Bechmann

Nevin Bender

Lezlie Lawson

Claire André

Laurent André

Barbara Buchman

Jane Christenson

Laura Cox

Wendy Jackson

Judith Graff

Linc Kinnicutt

Valerie LeBlanc

Gabrielle Schilz

Lelia True



## Our Mission

Washington Waldorf cultivates each student's capacity to think clearly, feel compassionately, and act purposefully in the world. We are committed to the education movement inspired by the pioneering work of Austrian philosopher Rudolf Steiner and advanced by Waldorf teachers worldwide.





## Dear Friends,

Recently, our High School Art Teacher, Barb Bancroft, hung the seniors' self-portraits in our school lobby. These beautiful paintings hold stories. They are portraits of young adults who are at the culmination of their time as students here and beginning their journey into the world. When I look at them, I can't help but pause and reflect on the

past two years in particular and what this class of students, and our whole community, has come through. We are honored and humbled to have been entrusted with shepherding all of our students through such a pivotal and challenging time.

I am enormously proud of this community for how we have come to where we are now. During the 2021-2022 school year, we were committed to in person schooling with strong COVID mitigation practices in place. For the entire school year, each student and faculty member participated in weekly testing on campus, paid for through a partnership with Montgomery County. The community commitment to staying home when sick was a key factor. When prudent, we all wore masks. Our goal of having school in person and on campus every day of the school year was achieved. We were ready as we began to resume class outings, including the 3rd Grade farm trip to Hawthorne Valley Farm.

Part of growth and change is looking ahead towards our school's future. Our long term vision of a Gym on our school's campus reached a critical point during the 2021-2022 school year. What began as a \$5 million campaign in 2018, grew to a \$7 million campaign due to increased costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the leadership of alum parent Brad Clark, who committed to match each and every gift to the Room to Move campaign, up to

the total goal of \$7 million, I was able to sign an agreement with Whiting-Turner to begin construction in June 2022. This milestone event was a highlight of the year. The Gym will be a place for our community to cheer at home games, and also to come together for our annual Fall Bazaar, Gala, and other important community events.

I am inspired by the many important, and often difficult, conversations around diversity, equity, and inclusion that our school has undertaken. Furthering the work of seeds sown over many years, this work has continued to take place among the faculty and in our wider community. Early in 2022, our Anti-Racist Curriculum Group held a series of Curricular Conversations to share examples of how their work is reflected in what is taught in the classroom. Together, we strive to be a place where every member of our community feels welcomed, valued, and at home.

Thank you for all you've given during this time of immense change for our school community. We are buoyed by the positive spirit and support of so many, as we aim to do our best each day.

At our foundation, Washington Waldorf School is guided by Waldorf values and principles, while growing to meet the changing world around us. As we move into the future, we are confident in this—the seniors whose portraits hang in our foyer, and the students who came before and who will come after, leave our school able to appreciate the beauty in each day, stand confidently as themselves, and use their free, creative thinking to meet the challenges of their time. There is no better preparation we can offer them.

**Lelia True**

Faculty Chair/Head of School



## Dear Friends of Washington Waldorf School,

On behalf of the Trustees Council, I would like to thank you for your continued support of Washington Waldorf School. After several years on the Trustees Council, I have had the opportunity to see first-hand how the enthusiasm, generosity and dedication of our entire community have enabled our school to

continue to thrive. I am deeply honored to serve as the chair of the Trustees Council, and I am pleased to report that our school is financially sound and on solid footing.

The 2021-2022 school year began with many unknowns, and yet our community never wavered from our mission of providing our students with an education that promotes independent thinking, cultivates creativity, builds confidence, and develops practical skills. While pandemic considerations remained integral for strategic decisions, we began the school year by reintegrating our community in ways that focused on relationships and restoration. Throughout the year, we witnessed a profound evolution taking place. Many moments that may have been perceived as mundane in the past, were newly experienced as remarkable. Some of these moments were when parents and guardians were once again allowed access to the classrooms and the campus, when children unmasked and saw a friend's smile for the first time, and when we heard singing and music once again throughout the hallways. It was a school year of renewed excitement and optimism.

As you may know, tuition alone does not cover the cost of an independent school education. Like other schools, Washington Waldorf School relies on the generosity of our community members to help meet annual expenses,

including financial assistance for 40% of our families. In 2021-2022 we, once again, achieved success for the One Fund by raising over \$350,000 for operating expenses and financial aid. Additionally, interest in our school continued to increase and our enrollment, especially in the younger grades, continued to grow. These financial highlights reflect the health and well-being of our school and community.

The trustees spent much of 2021-2022 actively engaged in the Room to Move capital campaign. The campaign will finance the building of a gymnasium at our school and provide optimal space for our students to engage in unstructured play, games, eurythmy, and competitive sports, and support our community life through festivals and events. The Trustees Council and the Room to Move campaign and site committees worked diligently to reach our capital campaign financial targets with a goal to break ground in September 2022. In the quiet phase of the campaign, we were able to raise more than 80% of the funds needed to construct the gymnasium while simultaneously working with the county to secure all necessary permits and approvals.

As a parent and longtime community member, I am grateful for your steadfast support of Washington Waldorf School and our shared commitment to inspiring a lifelong love of learning in every student. We hope you'll continue to support all of our school's efforts to continue to make Waldorf education thrive at our school and in the Greater Washington, DC community.

Blessings on our school.

**Vanessa Beckman**  
Trustees Council Chair

*“It is up to the College in every school to try to read the signs of the times and the needs of its community. It is up to each College to perceive what the present times need and to determine how their school can strive to meet those needs.”*

—From a 2021-22 college study, *Thy Will be Done: The Task of the College of Teachers in Waldorf Schools* by Roberto Trostli

The objectives of the College are to ensure that Washington Waldorf School remains a Waldorf school, ensure the long term spiritual health of the school, and to provide oversight on program and personnel work, the areas in which it is the decision making body.

The overarching purpose of the College is to continuously build long-term goals for Washington Waldorf School and to make sure the school follows that course. The College is charged with ensuring that the work of the school is in accordance with and furthers the central tenants of Waldorf education.

As an AWSNA (Association of Waldorf Schools of North America) and WECAN (Waldorf Early

Childhood Association of North America) member school, some of the principles that guide our work include:

- Waldorf schools foster social renewal by cultivating human capacities in service to the individual and society.
- The conscious development of human relationships fosters individual and community health.
- Collaboration and shared responsibility provide the foundations of school leadership and governance.

In collaboration with the Trustee’s Council, the important work of hiring a permanent Faculty Chair/Head of School was a significant portion

of the College’s work in 2021-2022. As we considered new leadership, the College took up a study of our school governance and what changes could meet the current needs of the school and prepare us for an exciting future. This work continues, and we look forward to collaborating with the Trustees Council on strategic planning.

Budget, program and facilities development, hiring of new faculty and teacher development, mentoring and evaluation are also responsibilities of the College.

As the above quote from our study illustrates, the College is charged with looking at the world to “perceive what the present times

need.” The pandemic has required us to reflect on how a Waldorf school in our time can strive toward Rudolf Steiner’s vision of social renewal. The Anti Racist initiatives in our community are an important part of social renewal. Members of the College participate in the initiatives of the LC4DESJ, and the Anti-Racist Curriculum Group and the College continues to support and collaborate in this vital work.

With Gratitude to all College members for their commitment in service to WWS.

**Lezlie Lawson & Lisa Pitillo Bechmann**  
College Co-Chairs '21-'22

## 2021-2022 College of Teachers

Clare Andre	Barbara Buchman	Wendy Jackson	Valerie Le Blanc
Laurent Andre	Jane Christianson	Linc Kinnicut	Gabriele Schilz
Lisa Pitillo Bechmann	Laura Cox	Lezlie Lawson	Lelia True
Nevin Bender	Judith Graff		

## MESSAGE FROM THE PARENT LEADERSHIP GROUP

Through another year with limited opportunities to gather together, the Parent Leadership Group (PLG) is pleased to have contributed to the community life of the Washington Waldorf School through active organization, advocacy, and community-building efforts. Your involvement in the life of the school supports all of our children and provides an opportunity to create meaningful connections. We are grateful to all who contributed time, talents, money, and ideas.

Entrusted with the Parent Organization budget, the PLG spent funds in 2021-2022 on the initiatives listed below and, because there were fewer events to produce, reserved a portion for future adult education opportunities. Highlights of the 2021-2022 school year are listed below.

- Created a group email list for WWS families on the groups.io platform, where community members can ask questions and share resources; we look forward to enhancing this platform through the creation of interest-based subgroups.
- Produced the Remote Fall Bazaar Store to replicate the primary fundraising component of the traditional Fall Bazaar, digitized the Store's inventory on the Square platform, and recreated some elements of a typical Fall Bazaar for the children.
- Provided opportunities for parents and families to connect through Craft & Conversation morning and evening sessions, encouraged class captains to plan social connection opportunities for classes, and held open meetings when Covid guidelines permitted.
- Encouraged the formation of affinity and other groups that support anti-racism and inclusion.
- Requested more information about the Anti-Racist Curriculum Group's work, resulting in several "Curricular Conversations" that provided families an opportunity to learn more about antiracist revisions underway in the curriculum.
- Advocated for reinvigorated post Covid technology and media use guidelines from WWS faculty, and formulated plans to offer information and resources to—and gather information from—families about technology and media use.
- Supported and recognized the dedication of faculty and staff with scheduled Appreciation Days and other gestures of gratitude throughout the year.
- Founded and remotely operated the WWS Gear Shop, reselling gently used donated outdoor gear to other WWS families at reduced prices, with proceeds going to the One Fund.

**Jennifer Robinson** Co-Chair  
Grade 1 and Waldorf in the Woods

**Jesse Travis** Co-Chair  
Grade 2 and Songbirds

**Linda Goodwin**  
Songbirds

**Sarah Yakkur**  
Grade 9



# Achieving Our Goals, Together

The 2021-2022 school year was an important year in our school's evolution. Supporting our school remains a community wide endeavor, with each individual gift making a difference.

The Room to Move campaign was built on the leadership, generosity, and commitment of many families who are currently enrolled in our school, as well as those who walked our school's hallways in previous years. In Spring 2022, we announced that our lead donor and parent of three WWS alums, Brad Clark, was matching all gifts up to our total campaign goal of \$7 million. He also requested to name the gym after two long time faculty members at our school, John and Mary Brauer.

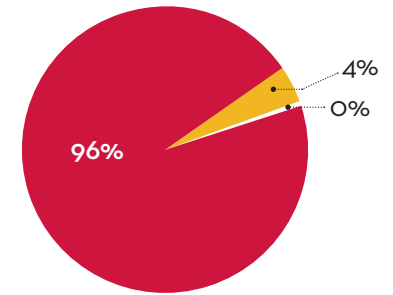
While the Room to Move campaign was funding our school's future, the One Fund campaign supported our school's day-to-day operations and financial aid. In November 2021, we raised over \$45,000 in one day on Giving Tuesday. We were also grateful to host our annual Spring Gala in person for the first time since 2019. This event raised funds specifically for financial aid, and is an important part of our overall One Fund goal.

Fundraising income is critical in ensuring that our school has the funds necessary to provide a robust Waldorf education. Our school succeeds when we all work together. Thank you for being an integral part of our community, and our school's legacy. Your participation matters, and we are grateful for your commitment to our school.

**Stephanie Hanson**  
Director of Development

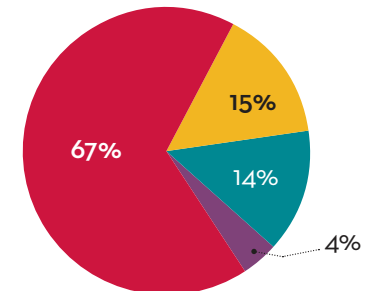
## Unrestricted Revenue

Tuition	\$ 8,265,408
Fundraising	\$ 355,876
Unrealized Losses on Investments	(\$ 37,986)
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$8,583,298</b>

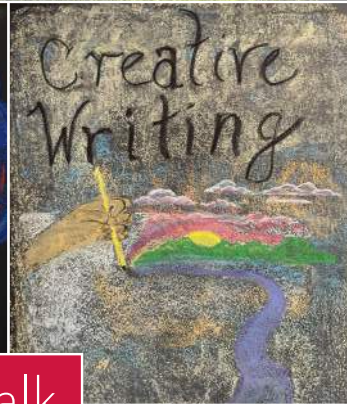


## Expense

Faculty and Admin	\$ 5,760,006
Financial Aid	\$ 1,307,078
Facilities and Capital Improvement Reserves	\$ 1,208,284
Programs	\$ 307,930
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 8,583,298</b>



\*In addition to the unrestricted revenue and expenses outlined above, Washington Waldorf School raised \$3,972,533 in the 21/22 fiscal year towards our Room to Move capital campaign to build a Gym at our school. These funds are restricted for use on construction, architectural, and permitting fees towards the Gym, as well as campaign expenses.



2021-2022 in Chalk



WASHINGTON WALDORF SCHOOL  
**BRICK by BRICK**  
*Campaign*

**We invite everyone to participate by personalizing your very own bricks!**

Celebrate your child, grandchild, or Waldorf graduate ■ Honor a teacher or faculty member ■ Commemorate a winning team or alum class ■ Classes or multiple individuals can purchase a brick together.



**Leave your legacy at Washington Waldorf School**

[washingtonwaldorf.org/bricks](http://washingtonwaldorf.org/bricks)



If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Hanson, Director of Development and Alum Relations at [shanson@washingtonwaldorf.org](mailto:shanson@washingtonwaldorf.org) or 301.229.6107, ext. 127





WASHINGTON  
**Waldorf School**

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