

DEAR FRIENDS,

In founder Peggy Kiscadden's spirit of togetherness, we are driven by a focus on collaboration.

Recently I was watching a video interview from the 1980s of Peggy, who commented about the "spirit of togetherness between the parents, and the board, and the children" back in Miquon's early years. Crediting our success over time to this spirit, Peggy called it "extraordinary" that "that spirit has always held on."

We believe that it's a modern-day sense of togetherness and community that still draws people here—and also, the search for something better, something different, something special.

Collaboration is pervasive and so critical in everything we do—in our work with families, as a staff, and especially with children. As a community, we've spent the last year collaborating on a new Strategic Plan that sets some ambitious but essential goals to sustain a Miquon education for generations to come.

Working together yields more connections and a more cohesive program. It cultivates genuine, truly symbiotic relationships between students and teachers, and between students and their peers. We've seen the fruits of this so many times, observing children building their confidence and their voice throughout their time here at Miquon. It's this symbiosis that forms the most wonderful sense of agency in children that they carry with them well into adulthood.

As you read through this annual report, you will find stories of children and adults working together over this past year. It's the collaborative spirit that Peggy noted all those years ago that continues to bring us all such joy here in these woods. We hope you will consider the many ways you can join Miquon in a collaboration in the year ahead. Please reach out to us with your ideas!

Sincerely,

Susannah Wolf '81, Principal

NOTES FROM THE CLASSROOM:

Students Learn about Scale Models, Measurement, and Win Honors from The Barnes Foundation

Supporters like you know that Miquon students have a rigorous academic experience through collaboration and the authentic, deep exploration of topics.

One such exploration—The Barnes Foundation Art of Math Challenge—provided such an opportunity to demonstrate the strength of a Miquon education with a wider audience in March, and our students won awards for their work.

Students were tasked with designing and building a three-dimensional scale model—using polymer clay, paper, paint, cardboard, glue, and more—based on one of three well-known paintings.

A weeks-long, very hands-on opportunity ensued: Students developed a deep understanding of two- and three-dimensional shapes, studied works of fine art, and honed their skills working collaboratively in groups. Grappling with concepts like number, vertical/horizontal positioning, negative space, and size, they produced accurate 3D scale models based on a 1:1 ratio of 2D work—specifically, measuring a projection of the painting that was the same size and dimensions of the physical base of the model they would create.

A constructivist approach

Much of this work entailed the constructivist approach that Miquon does best: It's the idea that children are encouraged to formulate their own understanding as much as possible. With the Art of Math project, teachers did not provide a step-by-step guide. Instead, the students



Measuring the projection of *Bathtub and Cat* by Angelo Pinto before creating the scale model.

were given just enough information to think through the measurement and building process, and arrive at their own conclusions.

Evan Mohr, a first grader, shared what he knew with the class. "The painting is 32 inches," he said.

He explained he used that information to determine how large to build the bathtub in their scale model. "I measured with my eyes and the bathtub is half as wide as the painting."

From there, other students had the opportunity to build on Evan's suggestion. Second grader Declan Aptowicz measured to check Evan's thinking. She found that in the painting, the bathtub was 16 inches.

"That's half of 32," said Evan, and the class worked to mold the Sculpey bathtub to the correct dimensions.



Building Models, and 21st Century Skills

In addition to acquiring experiential knowledge in measurement, shape, and scale, the students were able to collaborate, practice decision making, listen to partners, and speak up with their own ideas—all 21st century skills that will be so critical for the jobs these children will take on when they enter the workforce.

"[We had to] write all of our materials and next steps. We talked about what we wanted to do in pairs. We counted and measured and then we started building," explained second grader Maxine Dezort Reynolds.

Of Miquon's seven entries, one first and second grade group was selected as the winner for Mathematical Reasoning and another won the popular award.

Annie Fetter, Math Education Specialist at the 21st Century Partnership for STEM Education remarked, "[It was] perfect for Miquon. You have the flexibility to allow students to really dig into something. It [was] so fun to hear their experiences working in a group."

IN MEMORIAM: SHERRY MOMAN

On January 21, 2019, we lost a mother, a dedicated teacher, and our dear friend, Sherry Moman. The community remembered Sherry and celebrated her light and her life on Sunday, April 7, 2019 on the Miquon campus. Friends, family, alumni, and staff joined together, donning Sherry-inspired scarves

and recounting tales of our beloved teacher, her passions for creating origami, raising hens, and most importantly for us, helping to shape the lives of Miquon children for more than 20 years. Sherry, whose own children Dave ('06) and Eddie ('03) are Miquon graduates, reflected that "through their eyes I could see that this was the best place for me to follow my dreams of helping children to construct their own knowledge."

Children and time spent at Miquon—most of which was in our Kindergarten alongside her longtime teaching partner Toni McDonnell—were among her greatest joys, and without a doubt, Sherry impacted a generation of those who passed through our woods. She was a master at truly meeting children where they are, sitting quietly with them, and providing comfort and calm when needed. In our memory, we can still see Sherry cranking the cider press, hanging name cards on trees, and leading children in the call-and-response Che Che Kule up the hill by the pond.



2018-2019 FINANCIALS & GIVING:

LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

Your generous gifts helped make wonderful learning possible at Miquon this year.

The Annual Giving Campaign exceeded its goal of \$135,000, raising \$150,760! This increase allows Miquon to provide more professional development for teachers, more support for financial aid for families, and better address the upkeep of our magical and beautifully complex, campus. Annual Giving supports everything Miquon does, and without philanthropic contributions, we could not balance our budget each year.

370 Donors made gifts to Miquon this year

122 Alumni Parents 98 Alumni 35 Friends & Staff 49 Current Grandparents 48 Current Parents 20 Organizations

CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION GIVING

Gifts through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Programs (OSTC) totaled \$109,176 last year, all of which support financial aid. In addition, we received generous contributions from corporations that provide matching gifts and foundation support for work on our campus grounds and for the Heart of Miquon Capital Campaign. We are grateful to the following organizations that made gifts last year:

Amazon Smile CEO America Children's Scholarship Fund Exelon Corporation Gradian Health Systems Hardy Plant Society Mid-Atlantic Group

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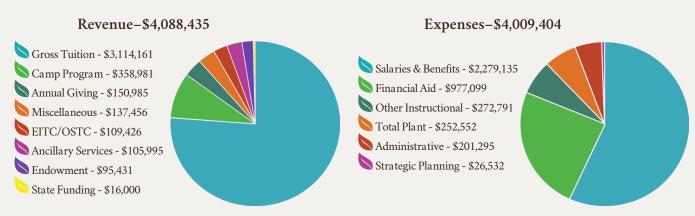
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Last year Miquon was also approved to accept EITC gifts from individuals. Many thanks to the following donors whose generosity in giving through this fund also directly supports financial aid:

Anonymous (II)
Lara Coviello
The Robinson-Zahren Family
Abigail Wolf & Jonathan Weiss
Susannah Wolf & Douglas Gauck

To learn more about both corporate and individual giving options through the EITC and OSTC programs, which provide significant tax benefits for donors, contact Charlotte Boulay, Director of Development, at charlotteb@miquon.org or 610.828.1231, ext 206.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



THE HEART OF MIQUON CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

This is Miquon's largest capital campaign to date, and we want everyone to be a part of it! Thanks to our wonderful extended community, the Heart of Miquon Campaign continues to move forward. The goals for this project include building a new library and two new classrooms, as well as growing our endowment. We remain extremely grateful to all who have given to the campaign. Early gifts have helped to provide a strong foundation of support for this project, and we will keep you informed as plans develop! To learn more about the Heart of Miquon Campaign, please contact Deborah Crocker, Campaign Director, at deborahc@miquon.org or at 610.828.1231 ext 206.



FIRST FIFTY YEARS REUNION









On May 17, 2019 nearly 100 alumni and staff who were at Miquon during the years 1932-1982 gathered at Miquon for a party! It was a beautiful night and we were treated to music from Lynn and Tony Hughes and from visiting artist and alumnus Jon Gailmor ('60). A special thanks to Anne Leblond Thompson ('63) and Matt Taylor ('84) for their help organizing the reunion. We captured some alumni stories on video and look forward to sharing them soon. It was a delight to welcome so many alumni back to campus. If you are in the Philadelphia area and would like to visit Miquon, please get in touch! We'd love to show you around and hear about your memories of Miquon.

2018–2019 DONORS THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Alumni are listed alphabetically by class year, then by first name. Friends and supporters are listed alphabetically by first name, family name, and foundation name.



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Mary Spring ('47) & Peter Albrecht
Robert Israel, MD ('47)
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Edward Clisby ('49)
In memory of Charlie Clisby
Marion Appel Gibbon ('49) &
Robert Gibbon

Deborah Sussel Berman ('50x)

1950s Alumni

Anne Scattergood Fogg ('52) Joan Mesirov Sperans ('53) In memory of Sylvia & Leon Mesirov / In honor of Judy Mesirov Alex Maguire ('54) Wendy Miller ('54) Brina Caplan ('56) In honor of Libby Caplan & Bernard Caplan, M.D. Edward ('56) & Nancy Maguire Fred Grinnell ('56) Sandra Perloff Morris ('56) Judy Mesirov ('57) & Emmett Miller Rima Miller ('57) Carla Bregman ('58) Stephen Alloy ('58) & Sharron Freeman Robert Aronson ('59)

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