THE WILSON SCHOOL

2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Our Mission

To prepare students for success in an ever-changing world, our exceptional educators combine classic and innovative methods within a warm, nurturing environment.

Providing our students:

- an outstanding academic education
- an awareness of their creative abilities
- an understanding of their social responsibilities
- a respect for and value of differences in people and points of view
- a sense of responsibility for their personal and physical well-being

The Wilson School • Pre-Kindergarten — Sixth Grade

Report from the Head of School

Dear Friends of Wilson,

The Wilson School is a special place to all who know it, whether for a few decades or just a few months. We are a school community that values academic excellence and a nurturing environment. We are equally as committed to teaching foundational skills as we are to incorporating innovative methods that engage and inspire students to be lifelong learners. We have been a St. Louis institution for more than a century and yet, we welcome and attract families from all over the world.

Our focus on Wilson's mission certainly came to life in exciting ways in 2014–2015. We opened the year with the completion of the outdoor classroom, the final project of the Centennial Capital Campaign. And, through the generosity of our families and friends at this year's 32nd Annual Thistle Auction, we closed the year with funds for a new surface on the lower playground. Through these projects, we are deepening the learning experience for our students as we carry our instruction fluidly from a space such as our formal library, to the innovation room with its high technology, to the real world outside.

As we continue looking forward to what's next for our students, it is important we plan for our school's future as well. This takes several forms, including the launch of our 2015 Long-Range Plan, which The Wilson School Board of Trustees completed and published in February.

In the present, it means that we take full advantage of the many community partnerships we have formed and secure new opportunities to take those relationships further. For example, students this year had the wonderful experience of working with the Saint Louis Zoo in their box turtle research. We continued with the Washington University writing partnership, which has been highly successful with our students, and this year six faculty members participated in the graduate-level class related to this collaborative approach to writing. We had student work featured in an exhibit at The Sheldon entitled "In Their Eyes" from the sixth grade French Colonial studies. And, we forged a new relationship with The St. Louis Mosaic Project, becoming the first Mosaic Ambassador School in the area.

Another exciting advancement in 2014–2015 was the introduction of flexible scheduling for all technology classes (first through sixth grades) and library classes for the upper grades (fourth through sixth grades). Flexible scheduling allows for even more collaboration between faculty members. Within this approach, technology and library lessons now better support classroom projects and align with existing curriculum. The results of this change produced projects such as the first grade's Bug Museum, which was a great example of how STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics) learning can be fostered in an elementary setting.

This year, we welcomed back to Wilson two teachers; fourth grade teacher Darla Hart and fifth grade teacher Rachel Dixon. And Kevin McGinnis, formerly part of the fifth grade team, transitioned to the role of Social Studies Specialist, a new position that supports our departmental approach in upper grades.

At the close of the year, we said goodbye to a Wilson legend. Laura Hartung retired after 17 years as the Director of Admission. In a touching sendoff at Jazz at the Bistro, the Wilson community gathered to share memories and celebrate Laura. Gifts to the school's endowment, made on Laura's behalf, will honor her outstanding tenure at the school for years to come.

In 2014–2015 we came together as a community in many powerful ways. We set a course to help us achieve our mission over the next five to seven years, we laid the groundwork for continued collaboration among our stellar faculty, and we continued to enhance the beautiful spaces our students can enjoy each and every day. Thank you for helping shape the present and the future of our students. It is a true honor to partner with families to help the amazing Wilson students strive toward, and reach, such impressive levels of excellence.

Sincerely,

Thad Falkner

Thad Falkner,
Head of School

Report from the Board President

Dear Friends of Wilson,

As President of The Wilson School Board of Trustees for 2014–2015, I am both proud and humbled by the accomplishments and generosity of the Wilson community in the school's 102nd academic year.

On the heels of an extraordinary completion of the Centennial Capital Campaign in 2013–2014, we entered the 2014–2015 year with great momentum. One of most important directives of the board this year was to complete and publish Wilson's next long-range plan. The strategic planning process we undertook involved representation from our many constituents, including trustees, faculty, administration and parents. We looked internally and externally; evaluating trends in independent education, global and national strategic themes, as well as Wilson's own historical data.

In February 2015, we launched a visionary roadmap that will guide the school for the next five to seven years. The Wilson School's 2015 Long-Range Plan outlines three strategic pillars: Leveraging our Global Competencies, Seeking New Revenue Sources and Establishing Excellence in Marketing. Each of these pillars serves as an area of focus, setting into action very specific initiatives that support the mission and ensure the school's long-term sustainability.

What I believe sets Wilson apart today, and what will continue to be our strength as we move forward with this plan, is our collective commitment to the school's mission to prepare students for success in an ever-changing world – a mission that continues to grow in its relevance and poignancy. We see this not only in the enhancements we made this year to our staffing and structure, we see this in what remains constant, such as Wilson's hallmark programs, our school motto "Make Your Mark A Good One" and Buddies.

As a parent of a Wilson alumna and two fifth grade students, I have been an active member of the Wilson community for twelve years. Throughout this time, my family has directly experienced the benefits and opportunities afforded by a Wilson education. Current students and graduates of Wilson aren't just prepared academically, they are strong individuals who are confident in who they are and caring of others.

Thank you to the generous community of supporters, parents, friends and alumni who make it possible for the school to continue on this trajectory, continually raising the bar for Wilson, and I believe, for elementary and early childhood education as a whole.

Sincerely,

Kelly Fleming
2014-2015 Board President

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***Deceased**

For more than 100 years, The Wilson School has been providing children from throughout the St. Louis region with an exceptional education.

The Wilson School is a special community where students are encouraged and supported in their pursuit of academic and extra-curricular experiences.

New and Notable in 2014-2015

This year brought many exciting new opportunities for Wilson students and the community.

Students Conduct Field Research in Saint Louis Zoo Box Turtle Project

Wilson's fourth through sixth grade students were zoologists-in-training, working with the Saint Louis Zoo in a grant from the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund for continued research on the St. Louis Box Turtle Project. This project focuses on studying the box turtle, its movement and its health, as a means to connect children and their families to nature.

The Wilson Outreach Workshop is Formed

Parent volunteers formalized Wilson's many community service efforts throughout the grades into a program entitled Wilson Outreach Workshop. Among other activities, students participated in food drives and helped plant seeds for Operation Brightside.

Our sincerest gratitude goes to parents Tanya French and Melinda Bierman for spearheading this effort.

st.louis MOSAIC

St. Louis Mosaic Project

The Wilson School Named First Mosaic Ambassador School

The Wilson School was named the first St. Louis Mosaic Project Ambassador School. The St. Louis Mosaic Project is a regional initiative managed by the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, World Trade Center St. Louis and a 22-member committee. Formed in 2012, the project's goal is to transform St. Louis into the fastest growing major metropolitan area for immigration by 2020 and promote regional prosperity through immigration and innovation.

Alumni Reconnect Through The Wilson School Alumni Leadership Group

Led by Wilson alumnus, Steven Shepley, a steering committee of ten Wilson alumni and parents of alumni met for the first time in 2014-2015 and held their first alumni event.

Members of this group, and their event sponsors, included:

Christy Cavallini
Jen Cross
Kelly Esposito
Vicki Kirchoff
Jessica Liss
Kenneth (Chip) Mallin, Jr.
Anne Mayes
Linda Noel (faculty)
Steve Shepley
Emily Siegel
Paul Turner

Sponsored By

Christy Cavallini
(Taylor Conrad's Mom, class of 2012)

UPPER END PROPERTIES

DELMAR FINANCIAL CO. MORTGAGE BANKERS

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BAILEY'S RESTAURANTS

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Thad Falkner

Assistant Head of School
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First Grade
Lauren Cappell
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Second Grade
Miguel Figueras
Maureen Zeman

Third Grade
Carolyn Cady
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Fourth Grade
Darla Hart
Lisa Leuther

Fifth Grade
Rachel Dixon
Laurie Finkenkeller

Sixth Grade
Charla Gray
Joseph Thomas

Art
Diane Signor
Mary Beth Tipton

French/Latin
Joana Ocros-Ritter

Library
Pamela Comello

Music
Rebecca Donaldson

Physical Education
Rachel Simpson

Science—Grades 4, 5 and 6
Angie Zinkl

Social Studies—Grades 4, 5 and 6
Kevin McGinnis

Technology
Melika Panneri

2014-2015

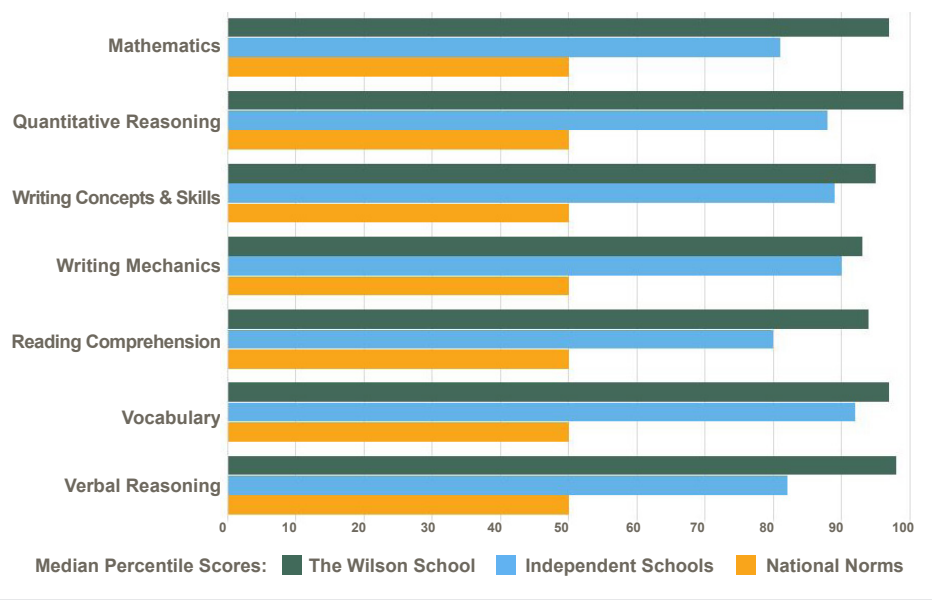
Measuring Success

Graduates of The Wilson School are well prepared and ready for the next step in their education.

Students in the class of 2015 were accepted to the following schools:

- Chaminade College Preparatory School
- Crossroads College Preparatory School
- John Burroughs School
- MICDS
- Saint Louis Priory School
- Thomas Jefferson School
- Villa Duchesne
- Visitation Academy
- Westminster Christian Academy
- Whitfield School

2014-2015 Scores from the Comprehensive Testing Program by Educational Records Bureau (ERB)



Since The Wilson School graduated its first class, alumni have attended the most prestigious colleges and universities in the United States, including:

- Boston University
- Brown University
- California Institute of Technology
- Columbia University
- Duke University
- Harvard University
- Northwestern University
- Princeton University
- Stanford University
- University of Notre Dame
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Wellesley College
- West Point U.S. Military Academy
- Yale University

Recent Achievements of Wilson Alumni:

- Presidential Scholars
- National Merit Scholars
- National Merit Semi-Finalists
- National Merit Letters of Commendation
- National Achievement Awards for Outstanding Black Students
- Missouri "Bright Flight" Scholarships from the Missouri General Assembly
- St. Louis Post-Dispatch Scholar Athletes

2014-2015 Giving

Annual Giving Campaign 2014-2015

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Angela Zeng and Shawn Hu
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Christine Moody and Stephen Tillery
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Allen Outdoor Solutions
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Ashley George Gill and Scott Gill
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K. C. and Fernando Mercé
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Endowment

Gifts to the Endowment

Janet and Tom Horlacher
Pointer's Pizza
Frank Seeger

Legends of Wilson Gifts to the Endowment in Honor of Laura Hartung

Cynthia and Alex Berger III
Suzzanne and Lee Bouchard
Trisha Becker and Eric Carmichael
Seema and Michael Dahlheimer
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Floyce and Jack Scherrer
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Mabel Wilson Society Founder's Circle, Planned Gifts to the Endowment

Herbert Atherton*
Catherine and Hal* Faught
Ashley George Gill and Scott Gill
Steven Shepley
The Thomas Hill Ward Foundation

**Deceased*

Special Recognition

100% Annual Giving Participation:

- Wilson School Board of Trustees
- Wilson School Faculty & Administration

In-Kind

Allen Outdoor Solutions
Anheuser-Busch
Baileys' Restaurants

Alumni Reunions

Christy Cavallini
Delmar Financial Co. Mortgage Bankers
Upper End Properties

Special Gifts and Projects

Catherine Faught
Ashley George Gill and Scott Gill
Chris Merryman
Veena Uberoi and Raju Mukhi

Legend of Wilson, Laura Hartung, retired after serving 17 years as The Wilson School's Director of Admission

Alumnus, Steven Shepley, joined the Mabel Wilson Society's Founder's Circle with his planned gift to the school.

2015 Prom Night Thistle Auction

Volunteer Leadership

Auction Steering Committee
Devon Fischer
Hélène Urvoaz

Acknowledgements and Mailings
Melinda Bierman
Elise Frisella
Abby Goldberg
Molly Gray
Melissa Greene
Cole McBride
Kristin Scully

Advertising
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Cole McBride

Advertising Design and Program Book
Rob Akred
Jeannette Thompson

Auctioneer
Ray Hartmann

Dance Coordinator
Kristen Buchard

Sign-Up Parties
Keith Fuller
Megan Philip

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JK Class
SK Class
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2nd Grade Class
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Blueberry Hill / PinUp Bowl
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Brentwood Dental Group
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Butler's Pantry
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Cahokia Mounds Museum Society
Cakes by Lynn
Candicci's
Cantina Laredo
Lauren Cappell
Casa Loma Ballroom
The Center of Clayton
Central Bank of St. Louis
Chaminade College Preparatory School
Chandler Hill Vineyards
Cheesecake Factory
Chesterfield Athletic Club
Chipotle
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City Sprouts
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Femme
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Laurie Finkenkeller
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Four Seasons Hotel St. Louis
Frazer's Restaurant and Lounge
Tanya and Bart French
Friends Image Design
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Garden Heights Nursery
Gateway Crossfit
Gateway Grizzlies
The Gifted Gardener
Gifted Resource Council
Ginger Bay Salon and Spa
Ginger & MaryAnn Boutique
Mara Goldschmidt
Charla Gray
Molly and Peter Gray
Melissa and Michael Greene
Sarah Griesbach
Gringo
Gus' Pretzel Shop
Jim Hacking
The Hairy Elephant
Hampton Inn & Suites, St. Louis at Forest Park
The Haven
Hidden Valley
Michael Hinkebein
Hodak's
Amy and Andrew Hogenson
Mary and Brad Hohenberg
How Sweet Is This - The Itsy Bitsy Candy Shoppe
Helen Hume
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IndieMats
Infinity Laser Hair Removal & Skin
Jazz St. Louis
Joe Clarke Wash U Soccer Camp
John Burroughs School
Johnny Macs Sporting Goods
K. Hall Design
Kennedy Farms
The Kennedy Space Center
Kennelwood Pet Resorts
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Kristin Scully Photography
Angela Pang and Seng Kuan
Laugh Factory Chicago
Laurie Solet
Lisa Leuther
Jackie Long
Look After Hair Company
Penny Lyles
Elizabeth Macanufo
Mad Science of Saint Louis
Maplewood Bicycle
Mary and Michael McKown
The Melting Pot
Menchie's
Meramec Caverns
K.C. and Fernando Mercé
Michael's Bar and Grill
Missouri Botanical Gardens
Missouri History Museum
Modesto Tapas
Morgenthaler's Cleaners & Custom Window Treatments
Moshiri Orthodontics
Museum of Transportation
Myseum Scientifically
Nadoz Bakery and Cafe
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Sweetology
Swing Around Fun Town
Team Central Gymnastics
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The Triumph Grill
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Tower Tee Golf
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Traube Tents & Structures
Tropicana Bowling Center
Upper Limits Rock Gym
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Wheel of Fortune
The White Rabbit
Woodard Cleaning & Restoration, Inc.
Jennifer and Jason Woods
World Chess Hall of Fame, Saint Louis Chess Club & Scholastic Center of Saint Louis
YogaSix
Maureen Zeman
Angie Zinkl

Joy Liss Faculty Appreciation Fund

The Joy Liss Faculty Appreciation Fund was established in honor of the many years of outstanding service given by Mrs. Joy Liss to The Wilson School. Contributions to this fund underwrite faculty attendance at the Thistle Auction.

Heather and Rob Akred
Anonymous
Kelly Fleming and Philippe Ballet
Cynthia and Alex Berger, III
Lisa and David Christenson
Christina and Sean Doherty
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Kelly and Scott Eidson
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Nancy Joist
Brooke Shadel and Steven Lawrence
Joy and Jay Liss
Lusso
Jennifer Maranz
K.C. and Fernando Mercé
Betsy Tuttle-Newhall and Philip Newhall
Mary and Dave Philip
Megan and Matthew Philip
Erin and Jim Quattromani
Rachel Shoup and Mike Swiston
Elna Nagasako and Leon Waxer
Wells Fargo
Marian Nunn and Tom Wendel
Jennifer and Jason Woods

Auction Underwriters

Lisa and David Christenson
Christina and Sean Doherty
Judith A. Hartung

Lower Playground Renovation Donors

Heather and Rob Akred
Saima Ahmad and Ahmed Ali
Anonymous
Maggie and Zak Baisch
Kelly Fleming and Philippe Ballet
Cynthia and Alex Berger, III
Melinda and Jeffrey Bierman
Lisa and David Christenson
Christina and Sean Doherty
Reneé and Marvin Dufner
Hillary and Daniel Elfenbein
Kelly and Joseph Esposito
Fritz Fahrenkamp
Hélène Urvoaz and David Farrell
Catherine Faught
Elizabeth and Christopher Feldmeir
Tanya and Bart French
Elise and Anthony Frisella
Terri and George Fujii
Ashley George Gill and Scott Gill
Roberta and Maury Goldfeder
Miechele Catt and Josh Goldstien
Molly and Peter Gray
Jim Gueck
Cynthia Whited and Michael Hinkebein
Amy and Andrew Hogenson
Marye Gleva and Charles Huddleston
Mary and Ray Jaeger
Tania Beasley-Jolly and William Jolly
Friederike and Daniel Kreisel
Brooke Shadel and Steven Lawrence
Kim and Eric Livingston
Cyndi and Rob Ludwinski
Melanie and Chris McKean
Elizabeth and James Macanufo
Chris Merryman
Heather Flabiano and Ross Murfin
Melika and Nick Panneri
Parents' Association
Megan and Matthew Philip
Martha Phillips
Erin and Jim Quattromani
Farheen and Furqan Raja
Linda and Ronald Roby
Rachel and Scott Rose
Leila Sadat and Andrew Ruben
Andrea and Justin Ruth
April and Brian Schnuck
Nikoleta Kolovos and Douglas Schuerer
Kristin and Ben Scully
Nicole Deptula and Karna Sherwood
Alison and Scott Silvestry
Michelle and Tim Swanson
Lindsay and Joe Thomas
Jessica Liss and Steve Traube
Marie Unanue
Elna Nagasako and Leon Waxer
Wells Fargo Foundation
Marian Nunn and Tom Wendel
Jennifer and Jason Woods

In-Kind Donors

Dominic Greene
TKO DJs

Dedicated parents and trustees who made significant contibutions to the fire restoration efforts were honored at the Thistle Auction

Parents' Association

Summary of Activities

The Wilson School Parents' Association (PA) supported many wonderful activities and events for The Wilson School community during the 2014-2015 school year.

PA Fundraising

Book Fairs
Innisbrook Wrapping Paper & Specialty Gift Sale
Parent Dues
Passive Fundraising:
- **Gift cards**
- **Schnucks**
- **Target**

Wilson Family Sports Nights
Wilson Wear

Activities Supported by PA

Birthday Book Club
Book Fairs:
- **Barnes & Noble Book Fair**
- **Scholastic Book Fair**
- **Used Book Sale**

Centennial Capital Campaign
Class Trips for 5th & 6th Grades
Cosmic Bowl
Innisbrook School Supplies
Parent Coffees
School Picnic
Speaker Series Event
Staff Appreciation:
- **Birthday Gifts**
- **Conference Day Luncheons**
- **Teacher Appreciation Week**

Wilson Family Sports Nights:
- **Blues**
- **Cardinals**
- **Rams**

Wilson Wear:
- **Fall and Spring Collections**
- **Lands' End**
- **Team Uniforms**

Parents are a vital part of the school community volunteering their time and resources to make Wilson a very special, welcoming place.

Parents' Association Leadership

Officers

President
Molly Gray

Vice President
Christy Doherty

Secretary
Melanie McKean

Treasurer
Kaisa-Leena Stucke

Committees – Chair/Co-Chairs

Artsonia
Christine Moody

Birthday Book Club
Marie Unanue

Birthday Bulletin Board
Canan Bayazit

Barnes & Noble Book Sale
Lori Roth
Mary McKown

Cosmic Bowl
Sally Gelfman
Lysa Sayad

Family Sports Nights
Keith Fuller

Scholastic Book Fair
Tanya French
Rachel Rose

School Picnic
Shelly Porter-Connon
Scott Rose

School Supplies
Monica Witherspoon

Speaker Series
Brooke Shadel
Christy Doherty

Staff Appreciation
Shelly Edwards
Rachel Rose
Alison Silvestry

Used Book Sale
Tanya French
Sarah Griesbach

Wilson Wear
Melinda Bierman
Megan Philip

Wrapping Paper Sale
Heather Akred
Reneé Dufner

Parents' Representative Committee

PK – Maggie Baisch
JK – Sarah and Matt MacEwan
SK – Mary Hohenberg
1st – Hélène Urvoaz
2nd – Shelly Edwards
3rd – Reneé Dufner
4th – Rachel Rose
5th – Mary Tricamo Park
6th – Tanya French

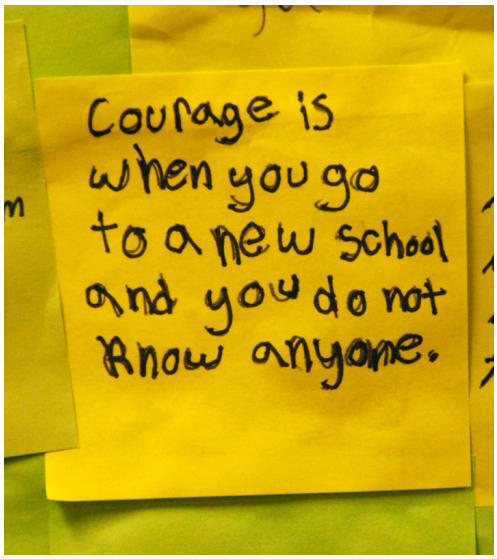
Alternates

PK – Katie Scaggs
JK – Devon Fischer
SK – Shelley Porter-Connon
1st – Devon Fischer
2nd – Angela Zeng
3rd – Anne Marie Greene
4th – Robin Prakken
5th – Shannon Parker
6th – Melinda Bierman

Wilson Students Made Their Mark a Good One by Showing Courage

This year's "Make Your Mark a Good One" (MYMAGO) theme of courage came to life in student assemblies, classroom activities and a collective mural of heart-felt messages featured prominently in the school.

Through programs such as MYMAGO, Wilson students learn and demonstrate positive character traits that reinforce a strong and nurturing school culture.



The Wilson School
Financial Summary of Activities

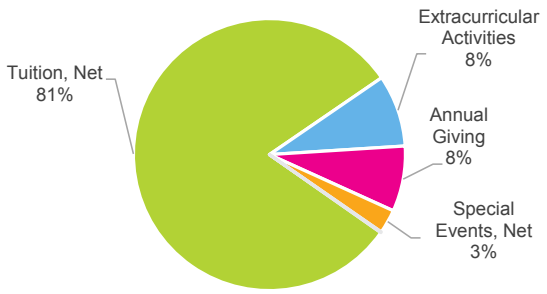
Summary Statement of Activities
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

Revenues & Support		
Tuition and Fees	$ 3,176,171	
Tuition Assistance	(395,760)	
Tuition, Net	2,780,411	81%
Extracurricular Activities	294,555	8%
Annual Giving	268,172	8%
Special Events, Net	98,332	3%
Other	3,119	-
Total Revenues and Support	3,444,589	

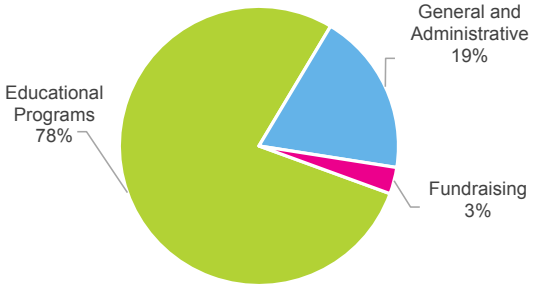
Expenses		
Educational Programs	2,977,880	78%
General and Administrative	712,707	19%
Fundraising	130,858	3%
Total Expenses	3,821,445	

Other Revenues (Expenses)*	
Capital Campaign Contributions	11,158
Legends of Wilson Contributions	34,145
Extraordinary Gain	219,154
Total Other Revenues (Expenses)	264,457
Change in Net Assets	$ (112,399)

Revenues & Support Summary



Expenses Summary



* Other Revenues (Expenses) are not included in the summary pie charts.

Summary Statement of Financial Position
As of June 30, 2015

Assets	
Current Assets	$ 1,319,687
Promises to Give, Net Current Portion	145,003
Investments	66,991
Property and Equipment, Net	7,919,593
Investments, Donor Restricted	307,049
Total Assets	$ 9,758,323

Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	$ 1,439,864
Long Term Liabilities	3,430,332
Total Liabilities	4,870,196

Net Assets	
Net Assets	4,888,127
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	$ 9,758,323

The financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, were compiled by an independent accounting firm. The following is a summary of that information and is not intended to be a full set of financials. The compliled financial statements, in their entirety, are available upon request.

Thank you for your generous support of The Wilson School.

The Wilson School
400 DeMun Avenue
Clayton, MO 63105

314-725-4999

wilsonschool.com
emacanufo@wilsonschool.com

This report honors donors who have made gifts to The Wilson School during the 2014-2015 fiscal year. We have reviewed the names of the contributors listed as carefully as possible, but errors may still occur. If your name has been omitted, misspelled or incorrectly listed, please notify the Development Office.