OUR MISSION

Portland Waldorf School educates children for the whole of life in order to uplift humanity. Out of the insights of anthroposophy, the school nurtures the imagination, cultivates the intellect, and recognizes the unique spirit of each child in the community. In this way, children are surrounded by striving adults and strengthened individually and socially to meet the challenges of life. Students emerge as creative, independent thinkers who meet the world with initiative and purpose.
A Message from Our Board Chair

The 2018-19 school year was a busy one for the Board of Trustees. Supporting our new School Chair was our priority, and with her we endorsed the “All In” theme for our Annual Support Campaign. We joined forces with our School Chair and the College of Teachers to shepherd our 2018-2022 strategic plan to fruition as a unifying and guiding document. We finalized our new governance manual; pursued an investigation into our building needs, clarifying them greatly; and focused on community building, culminating in the spring Bloom Gala.

Internally we took up the study of white privilege as a basis for discussing and beginning to plan the board’s role in the school-wide endeavor to support equity and diversity. Simultaneously we worked to recruit and refresh board membership, succeeding with the onboarding and training of four new trustees.

We look forward to the new school year with strengthened forces and the Strategic Plan to guide us. The Board remains “All In!”

Maya Muir, PWS BOARD CHAIR

Fundraising

Our 2018-19 fundraising efforts showed the power of a unified community! Inspired by a generous donor matching funds up to $100,000 we saw the participation in giving to our annual support campaign rise to nearly 80%. Giving to the annual support campaign supports our operating budget, funding critical elements such as tuition adjustment and professional development opportunities for our faculty.

TUITION ADJUSTMENT

In 2017, our family was living in Dallas, Texas, homeschooling our children with Waldorf curriculum due to the lack of accredited Waldorf schools in the area. After a turn of events that was nothing short of amazing, a job opening in Portland became available with the non-profit that I have been working at for 13 years. We moved across the country knowing that the Portland Waldorf School was the community we wanted to grow with. Thanks to the culture of support and generosity, we were awarded tuition adjustment, getting both of our children into their classes. We look forward to giving back so we too can contribute to removing the financial barriers for other families to join this wonderful community. Our sincerest thanks to every PWS donor; your gift opened the door for our family.

Gratefully,
Ryan Buck and family (Eden, Louis and Addie)

In 2018-19, tuition adjustment was awarded to two families, a total of $627,065. The tuition adjustment was awarded to students who are entering school for the first time or transferring from another Waldorf school.

Gratefully,
Ryan Buck and family (Eden, Louis and Addie)

Operating Results

Net tuition* $3,618,134 84%
Donations & Fundraising $264,963 6%
Student Fees & Activities $398,266 9%
Other Revenue $58,512 1%

Salaries & Benefits $3,249,122 77%
Operational Expenses $954,204 22%
Faculty Professional Development $42,724 1%

TOTAL INCOME $4,339,875 100%
TOTAL EXPENSES $4,246,050 100%
Change in net assets $93,825

Thank you to all our donors for your generosity. We look forward to continued growth of support in the coming school year as we celebrate 100 years of Waldorf Education. Together we are strong as we step lively into the next 100 years—educating creative, independent thinkers who meet the world with initiative and purpose.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Over the summer, I attended a course called Literacy in the Early Grades at Sunbridge Institute. The workshop was led by Margot Amrine, a seasoned Waldorf teacher from the Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor. The workshop focused on developing an imaginative and sequential approach to building skills related to speaking, listening, reading, and writing in first through third grade, with an emphasis on reaching students at various levels, including those struggling with challenges such as dyslexia and dysgraphia.

I am grateful for the insights gained and look forward to integrating them into my teaching.

— Mr. Palmer, 1ST GRADE TEACHER
Strategic Plan 2019–22

After a year-long collaborative process, the school, led by the Board of Trustees and College of Teachers, developed a detailed plan to guide the ways we strengthen our program and support the work of the school over the next three years. The five areas of concentration are:

1. **Promoting Excellence in Teaching**
   - Improve support for faculty and students
   - Collaborate with other Waldorf schools

2. **Promoting Excellence in Programming**
   - Enhance educational support for students
   - Increase extracurricular opportunities
   - Strengthen curriculum review, integration & innovation

3. **Expanding & Improving Space & Campus Safety**
   - Improve security on campus
   - Complete evaluation of solutions to space needs & seismic insecurity
   - Evaluate readiness & early steps to capital campaign

4. **Building Strong Community Internally & Externally**
   - Increase parent education
   - Collaborate with other Waldorf schools for professional development & publicity
   - Build & nurture connections with broader community

5. **Long-Term Vision & Planning**
   - Develop 5–10 year vision & strategic plan to guide PWS into the future

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**2018-2019 at a Glance**

- **307** students
- **2,080 tuition adjustments**
- **132,000 morning jump rope jumps in 2nd grade**
- **70 students received tuition adjustment:**
- **82%** math problems done in 7th grade
- **35%** buns baked in early childhood
- **90,718 high school graduates now attending their 1st choice school:**