



Working Together to Build a Vibrant Community

Dear Community and Friends,

With two major initiatives accomplished — launching our new name and the accreditation process — the 2014-2015 year positioned us to enhance the Waldorf School at Moraine Farm experience and to focus on efforts leading to increased enrollment. An important facet of this enhancement was stretching beyond the physical walls of our school and more fully utilizing our campus.

Key to this expansion was the launch of the Science & Nature Program. The faculty embraced and explored the land surrounding our school more than ever before, and brought the campus into the curriculum with deeply localized study of such subject areas as botany and geology. Students farmed at the Moraine Farm CSA in the fall and continued their farming curriculum on our own campus in the spring. This year also marked the introduction of the Nature Kindergarten, which brought the Kindergarten outside to explore the world around them for most of each day, throughout the seasons. The Nature Kindergarten had the added benefit of reinvigorating enrollment. In addition, we saw growth in our Green Earth Art Camp attendance which also thrives on this beautiful campus.

Our programming stretched beyond our walls quite literally this past year, as the

Gatehouse became the center for all of our Parent & Child classes. Having a dedicated and beautiful space to host this gem of a program resulted in a 40% increase in registration compared to the prior year. For many families, Parent & Child classes — often the first introduction to Waldorf Education — will become the “gateway” to Waldorf School at Moraine Farm.

We also brought more community-based activity to our campus. We participated in the Moraine Farm Fall Festival and held the first annual Winter Festival. We joined with the broader community in marking national Screen-Free Week with “Up and Out” — a week-long series of free events that were open to the public. Lastly, we invited family and friends of our eighth grade to celebrate our first eighth grade graduation ceremony held on site at Moraine Farm.

The 2014-2015 academic year saw the culmination of the work of the Tuition Review Task Force and the implementation of the new Tuition Adjustment program. Assessing and adjusting tuition based on a family’s economic picture helps make a Waldorf School at Moraine Farm education available to families across the economic spectrum. It strengthens our current families’

ability to sustain their commitment to our school and broadens our reach to more families in the North Shore area.

Notable among the commendations were our steadfast commitment to our school’s mission and our cultivation and stewardship of a “remarkably dedicated community of parents, faculty and staff, and friends of the school.”

This past year, we were proud to receive news of our accreditation with the Association of Independent Schools of New England (AISNE) and re-accreditation with the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA). In addition, Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN) renewed our membership. We are heartened by the distinction of receiving more commendations than recommendations. Notable among the commendations were our steadfast commitment to our school’s mission and our cultivation and stewardship of a “remarkably dedicated community of parents, faculty and staff, and friends of the school.” We also embrace the challenge of meeting necessary goals, including those related to diversity and

developing tools to better gather information from our graduates.

As we move into the mid-phase of our Strategic Plan, we recognize that the implementation of a generous grant has fortified efforts to initiate and attain goals. This allowed us to attract and retain experienced personnel through a more competitive salary structure, in addition to increased opportunities for professional development and curriculum development.

On a final note, this past year we engaged in a search for a new Administrator. Through collaborative conversations among the leadership bodies of the school, we evaluated where our school is in relationship to its past and what is called for in our next Administrator as we head into the future. At the conclusion of this process, the Board of Trustees hired Susan Viets to be the next Administrator. We look forward to her joining the school.

Susan White

Susan White
Administrator

Cathy Kennedy

Cathy Kennedy
Chair of the Board



Opening Doors

New Programs Encourage our Students to Explore their World

The Science & Nature Program

Moraine Farm and nearby JC Phillips Nature Preserve offer a perfect setting for our experiential approach to science, and throughout the 2014-2015 academic year our Science & Nature Program blossomed. This program is designed to bring the natural world into our curriculum, and to bring our students outside for learning, work and health-giving activities. The Science & Nature Program also provides activities and educational opportunities for our families and the broader community, strengthening our ties to the wider world both literally and figuratively.

Much is on tap for the coming year, including a “Visiting Scientist” program, curriculum enhancements and stronger community partnerships. We are grateful to a generous donor for supporting this program, and to the many teachers and parents who are contributing their energy, enthusiasm and creativity to this work.

Science & Nature Program Highlights Included:

- A talk and workshop with author and educator David Sobel, “The Peace of Wild Things: Nature Education for a Frenzied World,” which showcased our school for educators and parents throughout New England.

- The flourishing of our Nature Kindergarten.
- A new eighth grade block on environmental sustainability.
- A middle school elective on sustainable beekeeping.
- A “Pi Day” celebration in the middle school on 3-14-15; we measured tree diameters and used pi to estimate tree age.
- A new library of environmental science and other curricular resources for our faculty.
- Outdoor activities led by our faculty for “Up and Out” during Screen-Free Week.
- Our school’s first Winter Festival, where many families came to enjoy outdoor fun: snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and snowman building, to name a few!
- Waldorf School at Moraine Farm’s participation in the North Shore Sustainability Partnership and other aspects of the “green schools” movement.

The Nature Kindergarten

Waldorf School at Moraine Farm Kindergarten students open their circle time as they always have, saying, “Here is the earth, here is the sky, here are my friends and here am I!” Now, with the introduction of our Nature Kindergarten, as those words are spoken, the children are outdoors truly connecting with the earth and sky.

While indoor work and play remain a part of the kindergarten curriculum, meals and circle time have been brought outside, and a nature walk and extra time for gardening have been added to the students’ routine. Each day the campus is abuzz with the happy voices of our kindergarteners exploring and engaging with the world around them.

Waldorf School at Moraine Farm’s Nature Kindergarten has influenced the Parent & Child Program, which is also spending more time outdoors. We are also seeing a positive impact on enrollment interest, with many new families inquiring about the program. The most important benefit of this program is that, from the earliest years forward, we are helping to deepen students’ connection to nature and reaffirming our commitment to one of the core foundations of Waldorf Education.





Beyond our Doors

New Events Invite the Broader Community to Explore our School

This year marked a number of community-wide, free and open campus events, none of which would have been possible without a tremendous outpouring of volunteerism from parents, faculty and friends. Waldorf School at Moraine Farm is truly stretching itself, enhancing its presence across the campus and to the broader community beyond our doors.

We began the academic year with incredible participation in the September Moraine Farm Fall Festival. This initiative was a rewarding partnership between Waldorf School at Moraine Farm, The Trustees of Reservations, Project Adventure, Friends of the Olmsted Landscape at Moraine Farm and Essex County Greenbelt Association. Over the course of the day, we had nearly 1,500 visitors come to Moraine Farm to hike, visit the Project Adventure Ropes Course, listen to music, join us for nature journaling, share our huckabuck bread and tour our school.

In November, as part of the launch of the Science & Nature Program, we hosted a visit from David Sobel, author and national speaker on the philosophy of place-based education. Sobel conducted a workshop for parents, faculty and educators from the area and delivered a lecture entitled, “The Peace of Wild Things: Nature Education for a Frenzied World.” This event explored the need for reconnecting children with nature and delved into best practices. In addition to bringing a topic of keen interest to our own faculty and parents, we were able to attract the interest of educators and parents in our local community, broadening our reach and introducing more people to our school.

Embracing one of the snowiest winters in memory, the WCA hosted a Winter Festival in February that coincided with our Admissions Open House. On offer was an afternoon of cross-country skiing, snowman building, hearty soup, warm fires and friendly conversation. This event brought many new faces to the campus and also resulted in a very busy season for Admissions.

In May, Admissions spearheaded “Up and Out at Moraine Farm” during Screen-Free Week. This free event was open to all and offered a week filled with such outdoor events as yoga, nature walks, painting classes, science activities and potluck dinners. Working with Marketing, this event was promoted throughout our key geographic region, both online and with radio support. We also earned the distinction of being listed as a Screen-Free Week Endorser on national affiliated Screen-Free Week websites. Our goal is to make “Up and Out” an annual event and to grow both community interest and the number of activities we are able to offer.





Moving Forward

A Stronger School and a Thriving Community

New programs, new events and new enrollment are all aligning to strengthen our school and build community. While success is the result of the hard work of this community as a whole, much is also due to the solid foundation on which these efforts are built.

Our newly accredited status is one part of this foundation. Our accreditation work resulted in one of the high points of the 2014-2015 academic year: accreditation with the Association of Independent Schools of New England (AISNE), re-accreditation with the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA), and membership renewal with the Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN). Taking a broader view, the most notable and long-term result of this process is that we reaffirmed our values and goals, reinvigorated our mission and re-examined our identity as a school and as a community. Our ability to communicate who we are and what we have to offer—from robust programs, documented benchmarks and thorough curriculum guides, to streamlined processes and AISNE peer status—has never been so clearly focused.

The introduction of the Tuition Adjustment program this year was another important milestone. We have moved away from the more traditional “tuition assistance” model to a Tuition Adjustment approach, in which we strive to find the right tuition for each family according to their economic situation. This approach is helping us fulfill the social and educational mission of Waldorf Education. Vibrant, inclusive classrooms, where people with different backgrounds work and learn together, benefit every student and the whole community. Tuition Adjustment has also generated increased interest in the school, sparked national news coverage and was behind a significant uptick in website traffic, when announced.

From the youngest members of this community through the grades, our school and our community are growing. The addition of the Gatehouse to our campus allowed us to broaden our offering of Parent & Child classes, resulting in a 40% increase in program enrollment. With the growth of the Parent & Child program, we are continually introducing new faces to Waldorf School at Moraine Farm. With increased interest in the Nature Kindergarten and the grades, our school is stronger and our community is enlivened with new perspectives. We should all look back with pride in the work we have done as a community to ensure that Waldorf School at Moraine Farm will become ever more vibrant with each passing year.





We are grateful to have so many new and longtime supporters of Waldorf School at Moraine Farm. Thank you all.

We are grateful for the support of so many individuals and organizations who respect the work we are engaged in here at Waldorf School at Moraine Farm. Their gifts in 2014-2015 have resulted in a number of positive strides forward for the School. We would also like to thank the many parents, staff members, faculty, Board, Advisory Council, and alumni who have generously given their time and attention throughout the year.

ANNUAL FUND

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** In honor of Chris Dowley
 and Family*

ADDITIONAL FUND-IN-NEED 2014

Christopher and Jennifer Benoit
 Jonathan Cosco and Elise N. Zoli
 Chris Dowley and Laura Freysinger
 Wells Fargo Foundation
 Waldorf Schools Fund, Inc.

FUND-IN-NEED 2015

Craig Akers and
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 Training Foundation
 Mazza Foundation for Education
 Virginia Wellington
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 Wells Fargo Foundation
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Financials 2014 - 15

As we continue to grow into this new home at Moraine Farm, our school community is rising well to the challenges of both a new location and a new name. While revenue from tuition and fees were down 5% over the previous year, our program income rose by 16% thanks to marketing efforts that bolstered enrollment in the early childhood programs and expansion of our aftercare programs. Both build enrollment for the future which feeds our upper grades and is good news indeed. Within the fundraising total, unrestricted fundraising increased nicely (15%), showing continued support from our donor base. While restricted gifts were robust, total fundraising shows a decline due to a non-recurring grant in the previous fiscal year. The total revenue picture continues to indicate that increasing enrollment is key to our school's sustainability.

Academic and program expenses increased as additional upper school services were supplemented with the support of a restricted gift. Continued emphasis on marketing and fundraising efforts are reflected in an increase in general administrative and fundraising expenses, some of which were covered by restricted gift income.

The school's net assets continued to grow with a healthy cash position to support future growth. Efforts to reissue the school's tax-exempt bond were initiated in April 2015 and were successful in that they resulted in lower payments and a more predictable structure over the life of the loan. The costs of the restructure will be offset by the savings in cash flow in the 2016 fiscal year and will be reflected in next year's report.

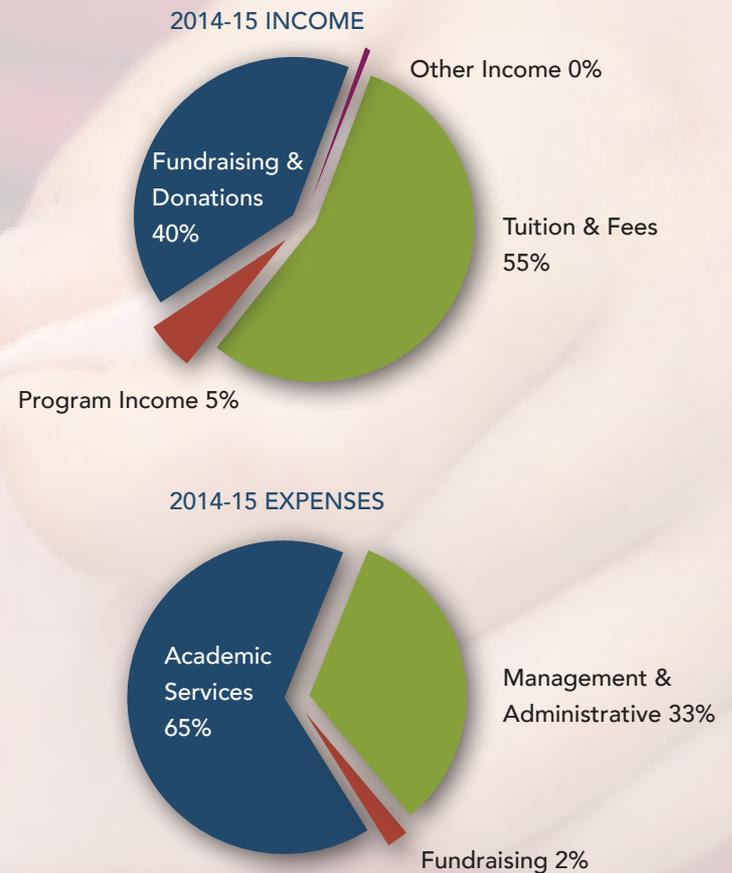
- *The Finance Committee: Chris Benoit, Chris Dowley, Kristen Fehlhaber, Marc Hazel, Scott MacKilligan, Luciano Sappia*

REVENUE & SUPPORT	2015	2014
Tuition and Fees	\$ 1,109,861	\$ 1,166,852
Program Income	\$ 99,401	\$ 85,508
Fundraising and Donations	\$ 791,551	\$ 1,009,322
Other Income	\$ 3,557	\$ 3,207
Total Revenue and Support	\$ 2,004,370	\$ 2,264,889

OPERATING EXPENSES	2015	2014
Academic Services	\$ 1,243,741	\$ 1,127,995
Management and Administrative	\$ 627,317	\$ 538,769
Fundraising	\$ 33,468	\$ 25,578
Total Expenses	\$ 1,904,526	\$ 1,692,342

Change in Net Assets	\$ 99,844	\$ 572,547
Net Assets, Beg. of Year	\$ 2,459,023	\$ 1,886,476
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 2,558,867	\$ 2,459,023

**draft audited financials for the period July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015*





BALANCE SHEET	2015	2014
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 1,041,662	\$ 1,022,381
Accounts Receivable	\$ 3,123	\$ 7,927
Store Inventory	\$ 8,411	\$ 10,320
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 50,392	\$ 34,499
Total Current Assets	\$ 1,103,588	\$ 1,075,127
Property and Equipment		
Building	\$ 2,770,574	\$ 2,716,151
Furniture & Fixtures	\$ 101,624	\$ 69,932
Land	\$ 739,050	\$ 739,050
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(\$ 402,578)	(\$ 311,079)
Total Property and Equipment	\$ 3,208,670	\$ 3,214,054
Total Assets	\$ 4,312,258	\$ 4,289,181
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 9,122	\$ 9,071
Deferred Revenue	\$ 24,873	\$ 74,299
Refundable Enrollment Deposits	\$ 58,900	\$ 65,050
Current portion of long-term debt	\$ 51,649	\$ 44,498
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 144,544	\$ 192,918
Long-Term Debt		
Loans Payable	\$ 1,660,496	\$ 1,681,738
Less: Current portion of long-term debt	(\$ 51,649)	(\$ 44,498)
Total Long-Term Debt	\$ 1,608,847	\$ 1,637,240
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,753,391	\$ 1,830,158
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	\$ 1,800,344	\$ 1,715,473
Temporarily Restricted	\$ 758,523	\$ 743,550
Total Net Assets	\$ 2,558,867	\$ 2,459,023
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 4,312,258	\$ 4,289,181

**draft audited financials for the period July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015*





Tribute to Susan White

It is with abundant gratitude that Waldorf School at Moraine Farm says “farewell” to its Administrator, Susan White.

Susan joined our school in 2002 when her daughter Lila, class of 2012, joined the Kindergarten. Already inspired by Waldorf Education—she had helped to run a Waldorf-inspired pre-school on Cape Ann—Susan soon joined the faculty at Waldorf School at Moraine Farm. She contributed in many capacities; as a Kindergarten assistant, Parent & Child teacher, Nursery teacher, Handwork teacher and carrying class teacher for the Class of 2011. During these years, she also served on the College and Board.

In 2008, Susan became the school’s Administrator, helping to steer the school through a period of growth and forward momentum. In addition to her role as Administrator, Susan also continued to serve on the Board and College, led the Management Team, sat on a number of committees and sub-groups, mentored faculty, met with parents and touched every aspect of the life of the school. Susan was instrumental to the work that was done to establish our permanent home here at Moraine Farm. She led efforts to secure our recent accreditations. She also represented our school out in the world—through collaboration with partners here at Moraine Farm, and through her work as the first delegate to represent our school with AWSNA. Susan’s commitment to Waldorf Education and to Waldorf School at Moraine Farm is steadfast and inspiring. She has always served from a place of deep love, and our school has been fortunate to have her leadership during these important years.

This past year, Susan worked to formalize a relationship with the House of Peace in Ipswich to bring into our school community children of families they serve. Susan was passionate about the positive effects this will have for our school, the benefits of providing a Waldorf Education to these children, and the broader healing effects of these actions. In recognition of Susan’s dedicated service to the school, and with the support of the House of Peace, it was decided that any scholarships granted through our relationship with the House of Peace will be awarded in her name.



Susan and her husband, Guy, now live in Wilton, N.H. with their daughter who is a senior at High Mowing School. We look forward to welcoming them back to Waldorf School at Moraine Farm often.



The mission of Waldorf School at Moraine Farm is to help students discover and develop their individual capacities so that they can fully engage in the world and contribute meaningfully to society. We aim to cultivate clarity of thinking, compassion and moral strength, and purposeful action in our students.

Our educational approach is founded on the time-tested insights into human development applied by Waldorf schools throughout the world. We integrate a rich, age-appropriate curriculum in the humanities, math, and science with music, visual and practical arts, and movement. We work to make lessons active, filled with imagination, and connected with practical life. We recognize that the heart of education is the relationship between teacher and students, which grows and changes to meet the distinct developmental stages of the child.

Building community is also vital to our mission. Faculty, parents, alumni, and friends collaborate to tend and grow the school, modeling the lifelong learning, fruitful cooperation, and purposeful work we aim to develop in our students.

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Waldorf School
at Moraine Farm

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Pre-K through Grade 8

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