

This bulletin is our 3rd installment of a regular series of updates to our school community about the Mark Day School Board of Trustees. Last month, you read about the work of the Finance side of the Development and Finance Committee. This month's *In Step With the Board* describes the work of the Development side of this committee.

The Development and Finance Committee is charged with the oversight of the school's fundraising and development activities. How important is fundraising to Mark Day School? Beginning on May 10, the cost of educating **every** student for the remainder of the school year is completely covered by the contributions of *The Mark Day Fund*, the school's endowment, and the Parents' Association revenue. It is that important!

Fundraising supports many special programs and initiatives including capital projects, our endowment, Indexed Tuition, technology, and so much more. This work is accomplished through the incredible generosity of our current families, grandparents, trustees, alumni families, and other friends of the school.

Our fundraising efforts are guided by our seven-year 2014 Strategic Plan. These initiatives include the following:

- *The Mark Day Fund*, our annual fund, helps to bridge the gap between tuition and the actual cost of educating each of our children. Donations are put to work immediately, during the current school year. We strive for 100% participation from the family community, and we are nearing that goal during 2018-2019 with current participation at 92%. Our community's generosity this year has been unprecedented. Under the leadership of Amy Carlson McConnell and board member Peter Supino, we have raised a record \$783,000 so far this year. That support comes not only from current families, but also from alumni, alumni parents, grandparents and friends of our school. If you have not yet participated, please join with the entire Board of Trustees and the vast majority of Mark Day School families in contributing. We are grateful for your support!
- In March 2018, we opened our new Learning Commons, Creativity Lab, Amphitheater and Quad thanks to the remarkable generosity of our community, and the 2018-2019 year is the first in which our entire student body is taking full advantage of the amazing learning and gathering opportunities these facilities provide. We reached our Capital Campaign goal of \$6.55 million raised in March 2018. The unique, creative, inclusive and forward-edge curriculum of our school is immeasurably enhanced by these spaces. Thank you to all who have helped make them a reality!
- Our Endowment is \$8.9 million as of 3/31/19. Monies contributed to the fund are invested and become the fund's principal. The endowment principal remains intact each year as the school only uses a portion of the return generated to fund initiatives, with the spend rate ranging between 3% and 3.5% annually over the past several years. The

Endowment supports Indexed Tuition and teacher salaries, keeps us secure in volatile times, and puts downward pressure on tuition annually.

- In 2015, we launched Mark Day School's Legacy Society, a planned giving program that allows families to name Mark Day School in their will or trust and provide for students in perpetuity. Six families have already included the school in their estate plans. [Click here for more information](#). We are especially appreciative to those 92 supporters who have consistently donated to our school over 10 or more consecutive years, and they receive special recognition in the Mark Day School Annual Report. In addition, we now have 88 families and other community members as part of Mark Day School's 8th Pillar, which recognizes those who have been especially generous on a cumulative basis to our school. Such tremendous and consistent generosity enables us to provide an exceptional program year after year, providing lifelong value to our graduates.
- This year's community-wide social -- Mark Day School Night Live, held on March 16th -- was a tremendous success and a lot of fun. The money we raise through auction items, socials and our Fund-A-Need is a critical piece of each school year's budget. It takes many hands to create this event, and this year we are so grateful to have had parent Maeve Mosher at the helm, with Ashley Ransom, the President of our Parents' Association, providing her usual level of tireless support. We are happy to share that Mark Day School Night Live grossed \$275,000, with \$117,000 raised for Fund-A-Need to in support of our Indexed Tuition program. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this night special, and to all who attended.

The Development and Finance Committee is chaired by Carl Reichardt and Treasurer Alexander Fraser, both of whom work closely with Director of Finance and Operations Bella Chang, Director of Development Wendy Levine, and Head of School Joe Harvey. Committee members include: Board President Robert Hee, Alumni Representative Trent Boorman (Class of 2003), Board Assistant Treasurer Julian Allen, Aimee Foreman, Reetika Grewal, Steve Polsky, David Shapiro, Mark Day Fund Co-Chair Peter Supino, and Chris Mazzola.

Please stay tuned for future editions of *In Step With The Board*. Our goal every year is to be transparent about much of our work in service of our wonderful school.

For additional information about the board, please visit the [Board of Trustees section](#) of the school website. If you have any questions about the Development and Finance Committee, please contact Carl Reichardt or Alexander Fraser.

Sincerely,

The Mark Day School Board of Trustees