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Dr. Kathleen Gallagher, Head of Lower School, Co-Director of Summer Programs, Student Advisor

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a conversation with our Headmaster

What gets you up in the morning?

I get excited about the students—thinking about them coming into an environment where they're happy and want to learn. Someone once told me, "You have to find your spinach—what gives you inner strength, what keeps you going." These kids are my spinach.

You've recently presented at a number of conferences on learning differences. Give a highlight of a recent session. What struck you?

This February, I moderated a daylong conference at UCLA Medical School in Los Angeles. It was on executive function, mostly for public school educators, on linking research to practice. It was live streamed to schools all over, including a group here at TSS. I find experiences like this to be empowering. There is so much misinformation out there on these issues. It's great to be able to provide evidence-informed and research-informed practices that really work for kids like ours.

What do you see in kids today with learning differences?

There is a lot more awareness of dyslexia and attentional issues than there was even 10 years ago. And there are many more tools that kids can use—readily available technology like iPhones that allow you to dictate. The technology is great; however, the frenetic pace we keep as a society is also technology driven. Things like social media put a bigger demand on the printed word. That can be particularly problematic for our kids and cause a lot more anxiety. And in the broader world, there are definitely greater expectations on both the amount of work and amount of independent work expected of kids than there was 10 years ago.

Segueing to the Annual Report, why does the school print one?

Our whole school is built on generosity of all different kinds. The Annual Report gives us an opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support and optimism in the future of this school. We're able to acknowledge donors for their giving to the capital campaign, annual fund, our annual spring benefit or an endowment fund gift. It's also a chance for us to highlight volunteers and a few donors, and the difference their support has made.



What is the importance of the annual fund?

The annual fund is all about the student experience. It's a key piece of our budget that allows us to enhance the type of programs we offer and bring new programs to the school. It helps us care for our facilities. In short, it turns a great experience into an exceptional experience.

What is the importance of the campaign?

Typically, schools plan for and then launch a fundraising campaign. Not in our case. The Arts, Music, and Movement Building came on the market unexpectedly. The board had to decide: did we want to purchase it before we had raised the money? It was a risk, but they decided "yes." The new space has allowed us to completely transform the co-curricular program. Kids are able to move around during the day, and the building is embedded with all of this incredible technology. All of these positive changes would not have been possible without the campaign and the generosity of so many.

Five quick questions

FAVORITE CANDY: Haribo Peaches

FAVORITE BOOK: The Hunt for Red October

FAVORITE MOVIE: I have 10 or so that I enjoy in rotation.

The most recent is *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*.

BEST PLACE EVER TRAVELED: Ecuador

PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT: My four kids.

SHARE THE VISION

The Campaign for The Southport School

The Southport School is deep in a capital campaign since spring 2017, when we launched a quiet phase of *Share the Vision: The Campaign for The Southport School* simultaneously with the groundbreaking of the newly purchased historic Southport Savings Bank, which is adjacent to the main building. The expansion of our campus was an exciting solution for more teaching space as well as new academic and student programming with a direct focus on more—*much more*—art, music, and co-curricular activities.

While the building was under construction, we secured over 50 major campaign gifts to help offset the costs. Each and every gift was a personal and generous one and successfully kicked off our fundraising efforts. The unrestricted monies gave us a solid foundation to transform the building structure into an inspiring and modernized hub for our next generation of learners, leaders, and makers. Aptly named for its use, the Arts, Music, and Movement Building provided 25% more teaching space and also created a new Main Entrance for the school, an Advancement Suite, and multi-purpose space for The Southport CoLAB.

We kicked off the 2018–2019 academic year with the opening of the new AMM Building and since then the space has exploded with energy, creativity, and new learning experiences. The added space and new curriculum allows active, multisensory learning that engages visual, auditory, and kinesthetic-tactile learners across all academics. It is also a space where we can train educators, professionals, and parents through courses, workshops, and presentations as part of The Southport CoLAB.

The Southport School values its deep roots in the community, and we are excited by our campus expansion and program initiatives. Our *Share the Vision Campaign* continues to raise funds to pay for this unique facility. As of August 2018, we raised \$3 million toward our goal of \$3.5 million. We thank each of you who has given to this special fundraising effort. We're very close to our goal!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE about the short- and long-term goals of the campaign and how you might want to participate in the future of the school, please contact the Development office.



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WELCOME TO OUR NEW

Arts, Music, and Movement Building



AMM BUILDING AWARDS

The renovation earned the **Best in Show Award** from Associated Builders and Contractors of Connecticut in October 2018 for Peterman Architects and contractor C.E. Floyd.

Right Media Solutions received the 2018 Elevate Award for the best digital signage deployment in a school or non-profit setting, at the ICX Summit in June 2018.













- Main Entrance
- Lobby & Reception
- Advancement Suite
- Daniel E. Offutt III Creative Arts Classroom
- Music & Movement Classroom

New Arts Classroom

Named for Daniel E. Offutt III

Last December we received one of the largest gifts ever given to the school—a \$500,000 charitable donation from The Daniel E. Offutt III Charitable Trust.

With the guidance of Trustee Richard Orenstein, the dynamic 649-square-foot Creative Arts Classroom on the second floor will be dedicated in the late Mr. Offutt's name to recognize the impact of his significant contribution to The Southport School. Framed within a permanent plaque are the words of recognition and appreciation of Mr. Offutt's generosity.

In grateful recognition of The Daniel Edward Offutt III Charitable Trust, whose generosity in fulfilling Mr. Offutt's vision to provide opportunities for people to engage their imagination made The Daniel E. Offutt III Creative Arts Classroom possible. Mr. Offutt was a traveler, sailor, metal sculptor, wood worker, fixer of anything, collector of everything, lover of projects, stock market investor, a good friend, and a local Weston, Connecticut, resident. His positive nature and passion for the arts and all such creative endeavors reflect his philanthropic generosity and love of life.

Our program encourages students to approach new projects and tasks in their own individual way and to take risks—aspects from Mr. Offutt's life that resonated so well with how we teach our program. The goal is for students to become more confident as they learn and recognize their abilities and strengths through an art medium.

Mr. Offutt resided in Weston, Connecticut, for more than 30 years and passed away in 2016. Mr. Orenstein emphasized that Offutt wanted his legacy and philanthropy to bring future benefits to those engaged in the arts and such similar endeavors. Born in Oakland, Maryland, Mr. Offutt was educated at the University of Maryland and received an M.B.A. from Columbia University.

If you would like to learn more about other TSS naming opportunities, please reach out to our Development office.





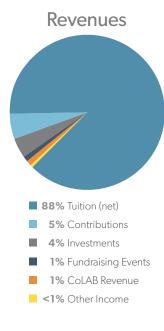


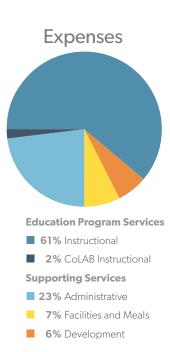
Financials

Statement of Activities

for the years ended August 31, 2018, and 2017

REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT	2018	2017
Tuition and fees	\$5,715,190	\$5,247,615
Financial aid	(309,150)	(366,675)
Net tuition revenue	\$5,406,040	\$4,880,940
Contributions, net	316,855	370,680
Investment return used for operations	218,471	213,458
Fundraising event income, net	79,172	81,995
CoLAB revenue	79,043	_
Other income	11,089	20,315
Net assets released from restrictions	_	_
TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT	\$6,110,670	\$5,567,388
EXPENSES		
Education programs services		
Instructional	\$3,726,125	\$3,483,396
CoLAB instructional programs	104,047	_
Supporting services		
Administrative	1,405,407	1,282,357
Facilities and meals	449,919	408,420
Development	383,238	360,915
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,068,736	\$5,535,088
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		
from operating activities before depreciation	\$41,934	\$32,300
DEPRECIATION	(85,378)	(81,307)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		
from operating activities	(\$43,444)	(\$49,007)
OTHER CHANGES		
Restricted contributions	\$626,123	\$1,122,984
Investment return (loss) net	509,924	611,722
Investment return utilized for operations	(218,471)	(213,458)
Change in value of minimum pension liability	367,322	184,628
Loss on sale of assets	15,598	(46,494)
TOTAL OTHER CHANGES	\$1,300,496	\$1,659,382
Increase (Decrease) in net assets	\$1.257.052	\$1.610.375
Increase (Decrease) in net assets Net assets—beginning of the year	\$1,257,052 7,380,707	\$1,610,375 5,770,332
Increase (Decrease) in net assets Net assets—beginning of the year NET ASSETS, END OF THE YEAR	\$1,257,052 7,380,707 \$8,637,759	\$1,610,375 5,770,332 \$7,380,707





2017-2018

Annual Giving Gifts

The 2017–2018 Annual Fund Campaign, for the first time in TSS history, celebrated 100% participation by our current parents! For the last two years, our faculty and staff have shown 100% commitment to the annual appeal. Our Board of Directors continuously supports the school with 100% dedication every year. Thank you!

Your participation reflects the strength of our community and ensures the school's viability and flexibility in program investments. The Annual Fund is a critical part of the current operating budget and helps the school meet immediate needs bridging the gap between the budget and tuition costs.

Annual Giving Donors

Donors of \$20,000 or more

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Donors of \$1,000-\$2,499

Mr. Jim Adrian Mr. Santiago Alfageme & Ms. Leah Gambal 35
YEARS
in Operation

3,000+
Students Served

110
Current Students

12
YEARS
Average
Faculty
Tenure

Your choice to make an annual gift to TSS demonstrates your belief in the difference we make for our students today. **Thank you alumni, parents, staff, neighbors, and friends** for your gracious and generous support today, yesterday, and in the future.

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"I give a tremendous amount of credit to the teachers These kids bounce out the doors. They clearly love it."

Barbara Evans

As a retired teacher, Barbara Evans can't help marveling at The Southport School. "There's a light touch while they're doing heavy-duty stuff. The teachers are very conscious of their responsibility and the kids love it. It's impressive," says Evans, who served on the school's board of directors from 2002 through 2010.

Though neither Evans nor her family members experience learning differences, Evans was drawn to the school by its mission and prominence in the local community. "People in the community are willing to spend their time at this little school. And Ben [Headmaster Ben Powers] is wonderful. They all seem to just fit so nicely together. There's a happy spirit that is contagious. You feel you can really make a contribution; it's very transparent."

Even as an emerita board member, Evans stays in close touch with the school. She recently coordinated a lecture at the school by Professor Maryanne Wolf, director of the Center for Dyslexia, Diverse Learners, and Social Justice at the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies.

Evans believes that the school's blend of appropriate learning opportunities and self-esteem development makes the critical difference. "Morning meeting is just full of laughter and movement. The teachers all seem so in-sync with each other and playful. It's obvious that they are very respectful, so they have fun, but they don't waste time," she says.

"I know that many kids are scared when they walk in the door, that their parents are apprehensive, but they all walk out happy," says Evans. "It's a small school so you don't have as many people to fill the coffers; they count on people like ourselves and the community."

"I give a tremendous amount of credit to the teachers because they work miracles every day. These kids bounce out the doors. They clearly love it."



100TH DAY Celebration 100% PARTICIPATION

Headmaster Ben Powers and students show off thermometer reading 100% Annual Fund participation by current TSS parents in February 2018. The campaign countdown coincided with our celebration of 100 Days of School. One hundred was captured in many ways.

"We felt such a sense of relief to find a place where Ben could discover his strengths in a close-knit community."



Dick Ferguson

My son Ben was identified as having learning differences early on by a teacher at Wilton Montessori. But he was already feeling beaten down. We heard good things about The Southport School and made an appointment to visit. I totally broke my parenting rules when the day came for Ben to spend the day. He refused to go, so I bribed him. My son walked out of the school six hours later and said, "Can I start tomorrow?" For us, this moment rivaled the joy of college acceptances. We felt such a sense of relief to find a place where Ben could discover his strengths in a close-knit community. Throughout Ben's years there, the school delivered on its promises. The extraordinary expertise and personal commitment of the educators at Southport helps kids discover how to be successful learners. The caring environment builds their confidence, and they go on to do great things in college and beyond.

I wanted to pay back TSS for what the school did for my son, and so, when I was asked if I would join the Board of Trustees, I said yes. I had three decades of experience as a board member of private and charter schools that I could put to work. I think the most exciting assignment I had as a TSS trustee was serving on the search committee in 2011 to name a successor to our much-admired founding head, Len Tavormina. We chose Ben Powers from a field of excellent candidates. He has done an incredible job, working with his leadership team to reimagine this small school of 110 students to extend its reach regionally and nationally as a resource to train public and private school teachers in structured literacy through the establishment of Southport's new CoLAB program.

The generosity of alumni, parents, grandparents, and friends has made our physical and educational expansion dreams come true. As chairman of the capital campaign to acquire and renovate the adjacent historic bank building, I can say that our community is dedicated to a school with a very big vision. My own gratitude is immense.

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Lori Fernandes

The Fernandes family caught what they call "a lucky break." When their son, Dan, was in preschool, one of his teachers was pursuing a master's degree in special education. "She told us there were some things that were not quite right, so we got Dan tested," recalls Dan's mom, Lori Fernandes. That testing revealed that Dan had ADHD and some learning differences.

With that knowledge in hand, Lori and her husband, Rick, sought accommodations for Dan when he started kindergarten. At the end of first grade, the family visited The Southport School (then known as Eagle Hill Southport School). After visiting classes and "shadowing" students, Dan, then 7, said to his parents, "I'm not going back to my other school. I want to stay at this school because they know how to teach me." That moment stands out in Lori's memory. "He could see the difference in the way people treated him and made him feel comfortable," she recalls. "At public school, Dan told us that when he looked around, he had no idea what everybody was doing."

Dan spent second through eighth grades at the school. "For our family, it was a game changer," says Lori. "He felt like he was among people who cared, and he didn't have to feel like the only one in the class who was different." TSS also introduced Dan to sports. "These are things he would never have done," says Lori. "The opportunity to have those types of experiences, being on a team, was so important to building his self-esteem."

After TSS, Dan attended Oxford Academy and is now taking part in a gap-year program (he deferred two college offers of admission). Meanwhile, Lori and Rick have continued their relationship with TSS. Lori joined the board of directors in 2014, and they have been involved in promoting the annual fund and serve on the Capital Campaign Committee. "We want to help other families down the road," explains Lori. "It was such a positive experience for our family. We want the school to be available to as many people as possible, to make sure it's around for kids in the future because it can really make a difference for them in their foundational learning."



"We want the school to be available to sure it's around future because it can really make a difference for them in their foundational

The Southport School Kindness Project, Lower School Students Mr. & Mrs. Pearson Spaght The Store at First Church, Fairfield Mr. & Mrs. David Sullivan Ms. Dawn Sullivan lacob Sussman T'10 Ms. Stephanie Swinkin Switzer's Pharmacy, Southport Stephen & Deborah Sylvestro John & Jessica Theisen Mr. & Mrs. Patsy Tiriolo Carl Tobey & Elizabeth Myer Mr. & Mrs. Robert Tolan Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Tracey Mr. & Mrs. Edward Trippe Mr. & Mrs. Carlo Valente

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Vayda

Mrs. Kristyn Ventresca

Mr. & Mrs. August Vlak

Voya Financial Advisors

Andrew & Lisa Walker Mr. & Mrs. DeVer Warner Ms. Susan W. Watson Mr. David Wenger Mr. & Mrs. Brian Wenzel Mr. leff Wieser Dr. Betsy Wolfe Mr. Simon Worraker & Ms. Anne McGarvev Kenneth & Diane Yormark Mr. & Mrs. Glen Zimmerman

Wakeman Boys & Girls Club

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wald

In Honor / Memoriam

Mr. & Mrs. Johann Andreasson in honor of Tristan Andreasson Mr. & Mrs. Brain Angerame in honor of Katie Angerame

Ms. Anna Csernovics in honor of Kevin Artale T'18 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Berger in honor of Lily Moyn T'18 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Brennan in honor of Sean Brennan T'18 Mr. & Mrs. Tavis Briechle in honor of Jayson Briechle Mr. & Mrs. Donald Carrington & Ms. Cathryn Carrington in honor of Dr. Hallie A. Buckingham Mr. & Mrs. Colin Christ in honor of Ella Christ Mr. & Mrs. Michael Clear in honor of Mikey Clear Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Condlin

in honor of Emma Condlin

in honor of Caroline Craco

Mr. & Mrs. James Craco

Mr. Kevin Artale &

Mr. & Mrs. Salvatore D'Aquila in honor of Caden D'Aquila Mr. David Dean in honor of Sutton Dean Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Fahey in honor of Kenzie Fahey Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Fiorillo in honor of Avery Fiorillo and Dr. Kathleen Gallagher Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Flamini in honor of Lauren Flamini T'15 Ms. Stephanie Frost in honor of Morgan Frost T'12 Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Gervolino in honor of Charles Gervolino Mr. Ari Greenman & Ms. Michele Cosentino in honor of Uzi Greenman T'18 and Bianca Cenatiempo Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Holtzapffel

in honor of Jack Holtzapffel T'18

- Frank & May Ellen Hopper in honor of Anna Hopper
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hopper in honor of Anna Hopper and Samantha Berg
- Mr. & Mrs. Anders Hurst in honor of Carter Hurst
- Mr. & Mrs. Jordan Kanfer in honor of Abbe Kanfer
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Keller in honor of Dr. Kathleen Gallagher
- Ms. Molly LeVan in honor of Det Newton T'01
- Mr. & Mrs. Josh Lewis in honor of Ella Lewis
- Mr. & Mrs. Henry Lindgren in honor of Tyler Disotell
- Mr. & Mrs. Bruce McDermott in honor of Rachel McDermott T'07
- Mr. & Mrs. Phillip McInerney in honor of Caylin McInerney T'18
- Mr. & Mrs. Brian Miles in honor of Wendi Miles T'04
- Ms. Mona S. Mulvey in honor of Katherine Viteretto T'08

- Mr. & Mrs. Edward S. Mundy in honor of Nat Mundy T'91
- Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Murphy in honor of Sean Murphy
- Mr. & Mrs. Theodore O'Neill in honor of Grace O'Neill
- Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Olefson in honor of Talia Olefson
- Ms. Lee Passios in honor of Matt Passios T'18 and John Robbins
- Mr. Alex Perlmutter &
 Ms. Debbie Cassidy
 in honor of Sophia Cassidy T'18
 and Dr. Hallie A. Buckingham
- Mr. & Mrs. Henry Pfeifer in honor of Patti Provoost
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Pollack in honor of Noah Green
- Dr. & Mrs. Edward Portnay in honor of Samantha Portnay T'18 and Dr. Hallie A. Buckingham
- Mr. & Mrs. Warren Pullen in honor of Will Pullen

- Mr. & Mrs. John Riley in honor of Zach Riley
- Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Schiefferle in honor of Emma Condlin
- Shepley Bulfinch, Boston in honor of Virginia Cargill
- Mr. & Mrs. Kelly Sheppard in honor of Noah Sheppard
- Mr. & Mrs. David Sullivan in honor of Quinn Sullivan and Kim Ruggerio
- Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Sweetland in honor of Lila Sweetland
- Ms. Lea Sylvestro in honor of Dave Sylvestro and Dr. Hallie A. Buckingham
- Stephen & Deborah Sylvestro in honor of Dave Sylvestro
- Mr. Joseph Tammaro & Ms. Nicole Ross in honor of Luca Tammaro T'18
- Mr. Curt Tobey & Ms. Elizabeth Myer in memory of Carolyn Lavender †
- Mr. & Mrs. Edward Trippe in honor of Teddy Trippe

- Mr. & Mrs. James Veghte in honor of Grace Veghte T'07
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wald in honor of Eli Wald
- Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Walker in memory of John D. Upton †
- Ms. Susan W. Watson in honor of William Glassmeyer
- Mr. & Mrs. Herbert J. Willcox in honor of Lyosha Willcox
- Mr. & Mrs. Glen Zimmerman in honor of Caitlin Zimmerman

Gifts in Kind

Mr. Derby Anderson

Corporate Matching Gifts

GE Foundation
Goldman Sachs Gives
Google Inc.
Prudential Financial
Strada Education Network

† Deceased

Paul Quinsee

Like so many parents who find their way to The Southport School, Deb and Paul Quinsee were worried about their daughter, Isobel, who was struggling in a traditional school. When a friend suggested they check out TSS (then known as Eagle Hill Southport School), they arranged for a visit. "Isobel was very frustrated and unhappy," recalls Quinsee. "We took her for an interview at Eagle Hill and immediately realized things could be much better, that the school could help."

During the three years that Isobel attended the school, her success and confidence blossomed. "It was a very accepting environment for her. She had a sense that she wasn't different in some way or challenged. She fit right in," says Quinsee. "Her sense of hope and progress was very infectious for our family."

The Quinsees' connection to TSS didn't end when Isobel graduated in 2008. Deb Quinsee served on the school's board of directors for seven years, and their eldest daughter, Rebecca Lazorick, is a part-time teacher at the school. And Paul Quinsee, who is managing director and Global Head of Equities at J.P. Morgan Asset Management, has served on the board of directors since 2016. He chairs the investment committee, helping TSS to manage and grow its endowment to ensure a solid financial future for the school. For Quinsee, serving on the board and returning to campus for meetings and events is a pleasure. "I think it's an amazing community of people. It's a very friendly, warm place. I love going to the benefits because we see so many friends."

As for Isobel, she went on to attend The Harvey School, Syracuse University and is currently applying to graduate nursing programs. Quinsee takes great pleasure in noting that she is thriving. "The school knows how to make things better," he explains. "These struggles are intensely personal and difficult for children and parents alike."



'It was a very accepting environment for her. She fit right in. . . . Her sense of hope and progress was very infectious for our family."

CONNECTING OUR VISION AND THE

Greater Community



The Southport CoLAB

The Southport CoLAB offers three specialized training programs this year: Structured LiteracyTM (using the Orton-Gillingham approach), executive functioning, and assistive technology.

Partnership with Social Venture Partners

Last year, our newly launched Southport CoLAB was awarded a grant from Social Venture Partners Connecticut (SVP), an organization that invests financial resources and human capital for sustainable solutions to social problems. SVP Connecticut's social impact focus is to close the opportunity gap within education and workforce development. Since the spring of 2018, SVP has supported our efforts to

expand teacher training in Structured Literacy as a means to improve children's reading levels in Connecticut. Our shared objective is to help promote literacy outcomes through educational partnerships that include teacher professional development. We look forward to continuing our collaborative work to effect positive change in reading outcomes for all children in Connecticut.

OUR VISION for The Southport School remains steadfast as we create a world where people with language-based learning differences and ADHD are embraced for their strengths and potential, and where teachers have access to training in best practices and current research.

I am enthusiastic and optimistic about the changes and opportunities for people of all ages with learning differences. I feel confident and hopeful that together as a community, we can make an impact on the nearly 1 in 5 students who have learning and attention issues, including the 1 in 10 students with dyslexia.

The Southport School mission is to integrate research, practice, and advocacy to effect positive outcomes for people with learning and attention issues. Putting mission into practice, TSS has founded three programs under the umbrella of The Southport CoLAB.

- DR. BENJAMIN N. POWERS, **HEADMASTER OF THE SOUTHPORT** SCHOOL AND FOUNDER OF THE SOUTHPORT CoLAB



COLAB BY THE NUMBERS

OF TSS FACULTY

are trained in Orton-Gillingham instruction, the time-tested knowledge and practice about how individuals learn to read and write.

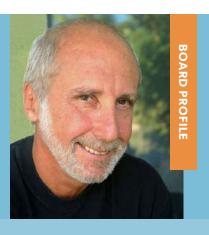
116 EDUCATORS & 167 PARENTS

from TSS and the community participated in Executive Functioning workshops.

outside educators and teachers were trained in the Orton-Gillingham approach through CoLAB.

educators and practitioners were reached through 11 Educational Technology presentations off campus.

more educators participated in 7 CoLAB presentations on campus in summer and fall 2018.



"This is a school where you learn about life and

Gary Cosgrave

At 77, Gary Cosgrave is a confident, successful, self-aware person with a deeply spiritual outlook on life. That wasn't always the case. "In the early 1940s and 1950s, when I was a kid, none of this stuff [diagnoses for learning differences] was around," recalls Cosgrave. "They classified kids who couldn't learn as troubled, and I was one of them. They threw all the troublemakers into one room and that was it."

Cosgrave barely graduated from high school. "I felt inadequate because of my lack of education," he recalls. "I was very ashamed."

Married at 20 and with two children by his mid-20s, Cosgrave made a living changing tires in gas stations and doing manual labor. But, fortunately, he found a path to success. "I had the opportunity to join a small company. It grew and I grew with the company, and eventually, 15 years later, I ended up acquiring it." Cosgrave, now retired, went on to own four companies in five countries.

"It took me a long time to understand the disadvantages I was wrestling with," recalls Cosgrave, who realized he had dyslexia in his mid-20s. "Ultimately, I found other areas in myself that I could leverage, so that's what I did. I relied on my verbal skills." And, he adds with a chuckle, "Secretaries wrote all of my letters."

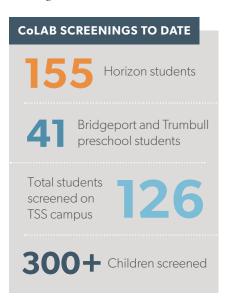
When a friend told Cosgrave about The Southport School, he was intrigued. "Southport does such an incredible job of living its mission statement and reaching out to connect students to the world."

Cosgrave joined the Board of Directors in 2016. He has provided support for scholarships as well as new high-tech audio-visual equipment to enhance the student experience, our teacher training programs, and our outreach efforts.

Cosgrave embraces the school's emphasis on building confidence. "Self-esteem is so important," he says. "I struggled for a good portion of my life with these handicaps not knowing what they were. At Southport, children get a sense that people relate to them, that they're not just being talked to, that they have so much to contribute. This is a school where you learn about life and how you can learn. You become who you are, not what you were."

Free Reading Screenings

Challenges in reading can be identified before a child begins school, and we offer free reading screenings to parents of young, elementary-aged students to help identify students who may struggle with learning to read. Screenings are available at no charge for children pre-K to 3rd grade.



Community Lecture Series

We continue to offer our Community Lecture Series, which draws to TSS local and nationally recognized speakers who share their expertise in the learning differences field or their experiences as adults with LD. Through these free lectures, our hope and intention is to connect others in the broader community who have a stake in how individuals with learning disabilities are treated and to positively affect how people think about and teach students who learn differently. For the last five years, we have hosted four to six lectures annually. These presentations draw 500 attendees a year.

GUEST LECTURERS INCLUDE:

• Connecticut special education attorneys Nora Belanger, Annie Treimanis, and Lawrence Berliner

- Dr. Jennifer Zuk, neuromusic specialist, Harvard University and Boston Children's Hospital
- Dr. Maryanne Wolf, Director, Center for Dyslexia, Diverse Learners, and Social Justice, UCLA
- Dr. Honi J. Bamberger, Professor Emerita, Department of Mathematics, Towson University
- Jamie Martin, assistive technology expert
- Kyle Redford, advocate and LD expert
- The late Diana Hanbury-King, world renowned leader in the field of teaching students with dyslexia
- Dr. Rick Lavoie, expert in the field of LD, educator, and author
- Rocketman Ky Michaelson, led Civilian Space eXploration Team to launch GoFast rocket to altitude of 72 miles; also a 9th grade student dropout with dyslexia
- We also host an annual simulcast of The Dyslexia Foundation conferences from Harvard Medical and UCLA Medical Schools

Summer Programs

Summer is a chance for us to open our school doors to others in the community who might not have the opportunity to attend our school, and may benefit from our individualized and grade-appropriate programs within a positive learning environment. We recognize this need with elementary and middle school children and established our extended school year summer program more than 25 years ago. Regardless of school setting and academic curriculums, many students lose considerable momentum when they are away from school during the summer months.

Every year we continue to offer varied and integrated programs that are handson, dynamic, and fun for students entering grades K–9. We offer several

five-week and two-week programs including workshops in math, writing and reading, and study skills. All classes are taught by our expert teaching staff. Last year we enrolled 80+ students.

Students Give Back

With the guidance of faculty advisors, TSS' **Student Council for the Upper School** promotes school spirit, responsibility, and community involvement through school activities, fundraisers, and food/clothing drives.

The Lower School Kindness Project is a monthly student initiative where we partner with organizations to bring kindness into the community. It provides an opportunity for our students to make their world a better place.

Organizations TSS has partnered with or contributed to during the 2017–2018 academic year:

- Ben's Bells Project, Bethel, CT:
 A program founded from loss and grief that symbolizes kindness and its power in healing
- Alex's Lemonade Stand, PA: American pediatric cancer charity founded by Alex Scott, who lived in Connecticut
- Meals On Wheels, Fairfield CT: Dedicated to addressing senior isolation and hunger
- TSS Scholarship, Southport, CT: Money raised through student-driven events to help families in need of financial aid
- Operation Hope, CT: Working to disrupt poverty and empower inclusion for low and moderateincome youth and adults
- Letters to Veterans, local to Fairfield County: Letters written to express support and appreciation of our military veterans in honor of Veterans Day

- "Our Community Lecture Series allows us to connect with others in the broader community who have a stake in how individuals with LD's are treated, and to positively affect how people think about and teach students who learn differently."
 - DR. HALLIE A. BUCKINGHAM,
 DIRECTOR OF CLS PROGRAM
 AND HEAD OF UPPER SCHOOL
- Caring for Grace Childhood Cancer, Stamford, CT: Raising awareness for childhood cancer research and care
- Westport Humane Society, Westport, CT: Created home-made, fun dog toys for four-paw friends
- Cesar A. Batalla School, Bridgeport, CT: Holiday gift giving to lowincome families
- New Reach in Bridgeport, CT: Building hopeful futures for those experiencing homelessness and poverty in Connecticut
- Person-to-Person, Norwalk & Darien, CT: A resource to help people in times of need, whether in the form of financial assistance, food and clothing, or household necessities
- Youth Service Opportunity Projects (YSOP): A nationally recognized leader in providing high-quality volunteer service-learning experiences in NYC

2017-2018

Endowment Funds & Gifts

Endowment Donors

General Endowment Fund

Unrestricted

Financial Aid Endowment Fund

Locker Maintenance Fund

Est. 2015 for family and friends who wish to name a Southport School locker in honor of a student, teacher, or any community member deserving recognition of their experience or dedication to the school.

Beckerer Family Scholarship Fund

Est. 2005 by Bob Beckerer to provide support for

Mr. Frank S. Beckerer, Jr. The Beckerer Foundation

Casey Coleman Scholarship Fund

Est. 1999 by George and Katie Coleman to provide support for financial aid.

Stephen D. Colhoun Scholarship Fund

Est. 1991 by friends and family in memory of Stephen Colhoun to provide support for financial aid.

Fernandes Family Scholarship Fund

Est. 2010 by the Fernandes Family to provide support for financial aid.

Andrew Kostin Technology Fund

Est. 2008 by Susan Kostin in honor of her son, Andrew, to provide support for classroom technology.

Madison Hui Kwong Fund

Est. 2007 by Timothy and Chelsea Kwong in memory of their daughter to provide support for professional development.

Carolyn Lavender Scholarship Fund

Est. 2013 by friends and family in memory of Carolyn Lavender to provide support for financial aid.

Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Aversano

Mr. & Mrs. Evan Berg

Mr. William A. Buckingham

& Dr. Hallie A. Buckingham

Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Forry

Mr. Kenneth Gallagher

& Dr. Kathleen Gallagher

Dr. Benjamin N. Powers

Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Ruggerio

The Carolyn Lavender and Kelly Wieman Fund

Est. 2011 by the Wieman Family in honor of Carolyn Lavender, who first suggested TSS to their daughter, Kelly. The funds are unrestricted.

Mr. Allan Wieman & Ms. lo Shute

The Daniel E. Offutt III Scholarship Fund

Est. 2018 on behalf of The Daniel E. Offutt III Revocable Trust to benefit students worthy of a scholarship.

The Daniel Edward Offutt III Revocable Trust

Quinsee Family Fund

Est. 2010 by the Quinsee family to be used at the discretion of the Headmaster and the Board of

Mr. & Mrs. Paul A. Quinsee

Walter S. Robbins Fund For Service Learning

Est. 2009 by the Robbins children in honor of their father to support service learning at the school.

Grant V.A. Roberts Fund for Art and **Music Education**

Est. 2005 in memory of Grant V.A. Roberts by his family to support art and music programs.

Southport Congregational Scholarship

Est. 1992 by the Southport Congregational Church to provide support for financial aid.

Southport Congregational Church

Tavormina Endowment Fund

Est. 2002 by the Tavormina family to be used at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Mr. & Mrs. Michael F. La Porta

John D. Upton Scholarship Fund

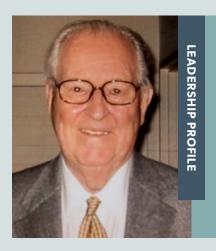
Est. 1990 by John Upton to provide support for financial

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew B. Walker Estate of John D. Upton

Barbara & Frank Wendt Scholarship Fund

Est. 2004 by Barbara and Frank Wendt to provide support for financial aid.

Barbara & Frank[†] Wendt



"'People give to people'; it is the primary reason people part with their 'treasure(s).' Whether it be an organization's president, executive director, faculty member, staff member, board member, or a dedicated volunteer, one person can and does make a difference."

Frank Wendt: a gentleman remembered for his generosity, leadership, and high standards

Last fall we mourned the loss of our longtime friend and supporter of The Southport School and the community, Mr. Frank Wendt. Mr. Wendt is survived by his wife, Barbara, who continues to live in Southport, CT. They were married for 70 years.

Mr. Wendt was born in Chicago on November 8, 1925, and died on October 18, 2018, at the age of 92. A memorial service celebrating his life was hosted for him on October 26, 2018, at the Southport Congregational Church.

As a young man, Mr. Wendt attended the Admiral Farragut Academy, having received a scholarship to play the trumpet. In 1940, he became the Band Co. Ensign and in 1942 graduated as the Salutatorian of his class. He then enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was assigned to the Navy's V-12 ROTC Unit, which was established shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He was assigned as a 2nd lieutenant in the USMC Reserve at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center. At the end of the war, he completed his degree at Northwestern University, graduating in 1946.

Mr. Wendt was a successful financial executive who started his 40-year career as a trainee at John Nuveen & Co., Investment Bankers of Chicago and New York, and moved through positions eventually to become president, CEO, and chairman. Mr. Wendt's strong appreciation of the scholarships he received during his own education, combined with his Wall Street financial experience, ignited his passion and solidified his belief and interest in helping many nonprofit organizations, including The Southport School.

Thirty-five years ago, Mr. Wendt, along with 11 other visionaries, saw the potential of The Southport School and what it could offer to students (and families) struggling with learning differences. Together they officially founded the not-for-profit school in 1984 in the original Pequot School building that we occupy today. The pilot program served 12 students in its first year.

In one interview by a philanthropic publication,* Wendt said, "'People give to people'; it is the primary reason people part with their 'treasure(s).' Whether it be an organization's president, executive director, faculty member, staff member, board member, or a dedicated volunteer, one person can and does make a difference."

Mr. Wendt made a difference. His strong beliefs and guiding principles for better educations, investing in young learners and future generations, and making the world a better place were the core values that drove his philanthropic involvement and giving.

Mr. Wendt embodied exactly how we salute him every day in the Front Hall of the school's main building: Leadership, Generosity, and Wise Counsel. He was a good-natured and good-hearted person who made a difference in the world, and TSS will celebrate him and his legacy in the years to come.

*Sharpe Group newsletter reference.















ANNUAL SPRING BENEFIT

"Magical Mystery Tour"

APRIL 26, 2018

CO-CHAIRS: Michele Cosentino Mandy Dalzell

This evening is a community event for friends and families of The Southport School. If you would like to receive an invitation to this or other future events, please contact the Special Events office at 203, 254, 2044.







Inspired by our passionate and creative parent co-chairs Michele Cosentino (alumni parent of Uzi) and Mandy Dalzell (alumni parent of Sawyer), last year's Annual Spring Benefit captured the theme "Magical Mystery Tour" that celebrated our individual journeys to find The Southport School and "coming together, right now!" as a community.

PENNED BY MICHELE AND MANDY, THE INVITATION INCLUDED AN ODE TO JOHN LENNON...

Famously, John Lennon struggled with dyslexia. Thirty years after his death, we remember Lennon as one of the most influential artists of all time. Yet, like most dyslexic students, he struggled in school. His teachers noticed his difficulties and would encourage Lennon to express himself in other ways. Thus, Lennon used his imagination to create worlds of Walrus Gardens and Strawberry Fields. He is an inspiration to us all!

The cocktail attire was ROY G. BIV (ask your kids, grandkids, or Siri what it means) which complemented the evening décor of bright rainbow colors, Beatles-inspired photos, and beautiful, ocean views from The Inn at Longshore in Westport. Surrounded by great energy, color, music, and creativity, the event was attended by more than 175 guests including parents, board members, faculty, alumni, alumni parents, and friends of the school.

The Benefit Committee lent many hours and helping hands in creating such a successful evening. The Live and Silent Auction items were at the mercy of online bidders outbidding each other all evening for coveted items like private golf outings, exclusive Yankee and Red Sox tickets, one-of-a-kind outings with our headmaster and teachers, and a getaway at the luxury resort Winyian Farm, to name a few.

Always a favorite is the students' involvement in the art projects for the event—thanks to our most talented art teacher Sarah Kelly. Check out photos on these pages of the repurposed vinyl records, musical notes, and a one-of-akind painted guitar.

This event is the school's largest annual fundraiser and benefits current students, faculty, ongoing academic programs, the athletics department, professional development, financial aid, and more.

OUR ANNUAL

Potluck Supper

OCTOBER 18, 2018

CO-CHAIRS: Jennifer Andreasson

Melissa Clear

SPEAKERS: Peter Beltz

Suzanne Schneider Dr. Hallie A. Buckingham

Members of the TSS community are always invited to this event. If you are interested in attending our fall 2019 October Potluck Supper, please contact the Special Events office at 203 254 2044

Tradition in its years and savory dishes, the annual Potluck Supper continues to be a Southport School favorite, always creating camaraderie amongst new and old friends who share in similar stories and journeys while navigating the LD world. This year was no exception. With last year's build up to the unbeknownst yet imminent school's name change, we embraced a theme that represented our presence in Southport Village for the last 35 years. This year, with the enthusiastic guidance of our parent co-chairs Jennifer Andreasson (mother of son Tristan) and Melissa Clear (mother of son Mikey), we continued the community theme—yet went bigger and wider with our LD compass.

At each table, the co-chairs profiled leaders and influencers who faced LD challenges, yet persevered and eventually succeeded in their own right—including writer Agatha Christie, business magnate Richard Bronson, real estate mogul Barbara Corcoran, engineer Bill Hewlett, fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger, former Connecticut governor Dannel Malloy, and chef/TV personality Jamie Oliver.

Our guest speakers: **Alumnus Peter Beltz** was a TSS student from 2004 to 2008. After leaving TSS, Peter attended Amity Middle School, Notre Dame High School in West Haven, Fairfield University, and the University of New Haven. He is currently a mechanical engineer for Johnson Controls. His stories of TSS and his journey through school, and now a blossoming career, gave genuine hope to a room full of parents with young children.

Current parent Suzanne Schneider is the mother of 6th grader Drew and has a master's degree in special education. Suzanne's incredible story of generations of family members struggling with dyslexia and other learning differences gave perspective to how it impacts a family both negatively and positively throughout the decades. Suzanne expressed her deep appreciation and relief to have academic and social success for Drew and how it has been life-changing.

The evening concluded with the heartfelt, wise, and humble words of **Head of Upper School Dr. Hallie Buckingham**, who spoke to a professional choice she made 30 years ago that made all the difference in her life.

While not represented in person, a presence was felt by our very own coming-of-age 8th grade students who expressed their own self-awareness with wonderful self-portraits and descriptors identifying their own path and interests. A special thank you to teachers Meg Aversano and Melanie Higgins for guiding this project.



TSS student self-portraits



















THANK YOU 2017–2018 Volunteers

Julie Blakeman

Lydia Bourne

Leslie Boxer

Sara Brown

Melissa Clear

Michele Cosentino

Seena Cushman

Anna Csernovics

Mandy Dalzell

Kim Fahey

Leah Gambal

Cathleen de Graaff

Kathleen Gisby

Laura Green

Sarah Hering

Jennifer Kanfer

Madeline Macanka

Keri O'Neill

Andree Palmgren

Michele Parnell

Sonia Penagos

Kelly Pullen

Nicole Ross

Lauren Schiller

Gina Scinto

Tiffaney Sheppard

Kathleen Willcox



























ways of Giving

GIVE ONLINE www.SouthportSchool.org/giving.

CALL US at 203.254.2044 or email Kelly Murphy, Associate Director of Development at KMurphy@ SouthportSchool.org. The Development Office can be reached Monday through Friday, 9:00 am–5:00 pm.

MAIL US A CHECK to 214 Main Street, Southport, CT 06890. Please include a note indicating how you would like your name listed in the Annual Report and if you would like to honor someone with your contribution.

GIFT APPRECIATED STOCK to TSS. For instructions on how to transfer stock, please contact the Development Office.

DOES YOUR EMPLOYER MATCH YOUR GIFT? Many employers will match your contribution to TSS. Check with your employer's office of human resources to see if they participate, or call the Development Office.

GIVE A LEGACY GIFT. Setting up a trust, including TSS in your estate plans, or naming TSS in a life insurance policy are ways you may consider supporting the school. For more information and to find out how your gift can best support the students, please contact us.

INVEST IN TSS. Donors who choose to contribute to the endowment are investors in the future of TSS. The named funds and restricted accounts are important resources that ensure the school will have a support system for years to come. These funds strengthen our academic programs, athletics, and financial aid offerings, and provide for continued professional development. Donors are encouraged to support these funds in addition to their annual gift each year.

THANK YOU!



214 Main Street, Southport, CT 06890

203.254.2044 Info@SouthportSchool.org www.SouthportSchool.org



2019 Save the Dates

MAY 10

Grandparents & Special Friends Day

MAY 30

Alumni Reunion Event

JUNE 6

Year End Recognition for Lower School Students

JUNE 10

Year End Recognition for Upper School Students & 8th Grade Graduation Celebration

IUNE 12

Students' Last Day of School

JUNE 15

Pancake Breakfast, Southport Village Parade, and Blessing of the Fleet

OUR MISSION is to provide transformative educational experiences that have lifelong impact on our students as well as thought leadership that engages the learning differences community.