

THE WEST END DAY SCHOOL TEAM

Omar Afzaal, M.S. Ed., Co-Head Teacher

Robert Aitchison, B.F.A., Art Specialist

Andrew Barnes, Business Manager

Marielle Berger, M.S. Ed., Head Teacher

Marley Carhart, M.B.S. Ed., STEM Teacher

Carrie Catapano, L.C.S.W., Head of School

Jessica Chambers, M.A. Ed., Co-Education Head

Emily Cotton, M.S.W., M.S. Ed., Associate Teacher

Vanessa D'Auria, M.S., CCC-SLP, Speech-Language Pathologist

Sara DiBona, Associate Director of Advancement

Liza Gershen, L.M.S.W., Social Worker

Casey Halper, M.S., OTR, Occupational **Therapist**

Emma Henry, B.A. Ed., Co-Head Teacher

Leon Hoffman, M.D., Psychiatrist/ **Psychoanalyst**

Katy Jenkins, M.S. Ed., Co-Education Head

Brett Kassel, M.P.S. Ed., Senior Head Teacher

Brendan Kelly, M.S. PE, Physical Education **Specialist**

Greg Kinsey, M.A. Ed., Technology **Specialist**

Nicole Kronfeld, M.A. Ed., Co-Head **Teacher**

Anastasia Manes, L.M.S.W., PE Group Social Worker

Emma Marks, M.S. Ed., Associate Teacher

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Sharon Michilovich, M.S. Ed., Head Teacher

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Courtney Moss, M.S. Ed., Head Teacher

Katie O'Keife, L.M.S.W., Group Social Worker

Florence Perry, Bookkeeper & Payroll Manager

Melissa Putterman, M.S., OTR, **Occupational Therapist**

Karla Roman, Administrative Clerk

Felix Rosa, Building Custodian

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Alyson Rumley, M.S., CCC-SLP, Senior Speech-Language Pathologist

Alexandra Scacalossi, Administrative **Assistant and Receptionist**

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MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

When it comes to the way children learn, their feelings matter. Their relationships matter. At West End Day School, the importance of social-emotional learning has always been important to us. In fact, it's been deep-rooted in our mission since we opened our doors more than 30 years ago. And social-emotional learning isn't just something we talk about—it's a principle that's woven into every aspect of our program.



This focus on feelings and the role they play is yet another aspect that makes West End Day School "More Than a School," and it's our goal to make sure everyone—every child, parent, and faculty member—understands their meaningful role as well. To that end, over the years, we have tripled our clinical team and devoted vast resources to truly support social-emotional learning on every level.

While we've grown our abilities within the social-emotional learning space, our small size and individualized approach have remained very much intact. Our focus on the right kind of growth can be attributed to the generosity of our incredible community of donors. They have made so many positive enhancements possible, and it's been an honor to experience firsthand the impact they've had on our school—and the impact they will continue to have in the future.

Speaking of the future, our community is already working hard to raise funds for our next big transformation: shaping up our Gymnasium and performance space! I, for one, can't wait to add this improvement to our growing list of our amazing accomplishments. It just goes to show, when we all join together to realize a shared vision, there is simply no limit to what we can do.



Each day, I'm honored to be a part the most loving school, and I feel so muchgratitude for our students, faculty, alumni, trustees and friends. When you read through the pages ahead, you will get a glimpse of all the dynamic events happening here every day.

So, I will close with a big thank you to the whole WEDS community for always staying true to our roots and forever growing in the right direction.

Carrie Catapano, LCSW

Carril Catapano

Head of School

OUR MISSION

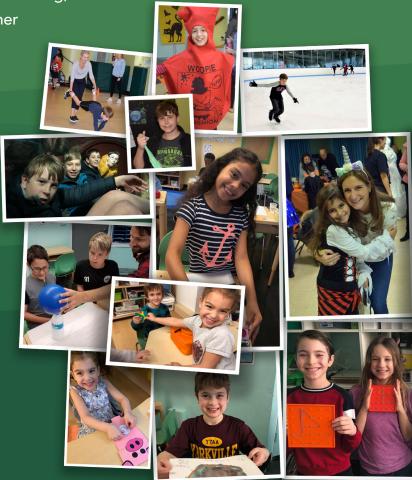
WEST END DAY IS "MORE THAN A SCHOOL":

it is a community of students, staff and parents who have a shared vision.

We create a safe haven for learning,

strive to be a trusted partner

for parents and foster the development of resiliency in children to build a strong foundation for thei lifelong success.



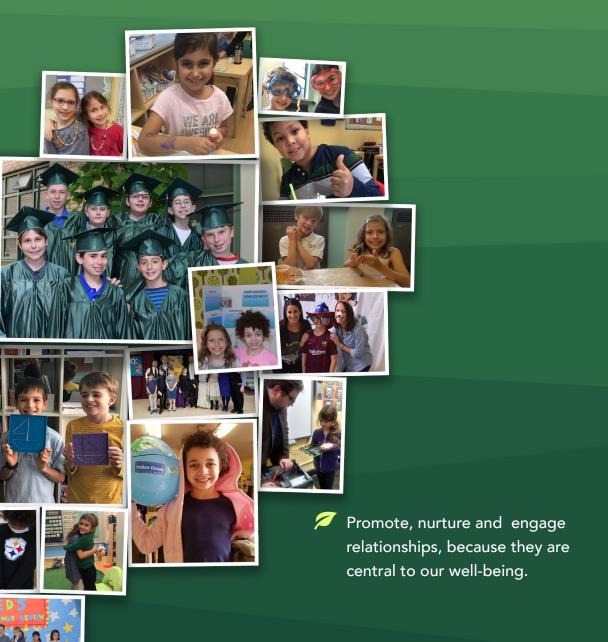
TOGETHER WE:

- Establish an individualized and challenging educational program that supports our bright students and their unique learning styles.
- Cultivate our students' inner strengths by recognizing the impact emotions have on learning.





Provide a flexible atmosphere, where children feel comfortable meeting high expectations.



Ensure that families feel valued, supported and understood.

SHAPING UP FOR BIG CHANGES

With the transformation of our ground-level classrooms complete, we are eagerly embarking upon the next phase of our Capital Campaign, which we are calling: "Gym Renovation: Shaping Up for Big Changes." This two-year campaign will enable us to renovate and maximize our gym space by modernizing its flooring, ceiling, and the performance area. We'll add natural light, as well as additional sources of innovative lighting, protective wall cushioning; and we'll also enhance the technology within our performance area.

Physical Education that goes way beyond being physical.

West End Day School's athletic program is more than a Physical Education program. Our Physical Education team has a dual focus on both physical and emotional development. In fact, our staff is comprised of a Physical Education teacher and a School Counselor. Through sports, games, skills, balance, hand-eye coordination, gross motor movements, cooperation, sportsmanship, self-control, and healthy behavior, our students have a very well-rounded experience that has a positive impact both physically and emotionally. When it comes to competition in class, we are very aware that competitive situations (no matter how well-planned) can bring up a lot of feelings for students. This is where our School Counselor can step in to address group dynamics, self-confidence, effective problem solving, growth mindset and more.





Adding even more Drama!

Like all programming at West End Day School, collaboration and the importance of understanding others is a focus of our Drama program. Now featured as a weekly class activity, Drama helps our students build on their creativity, confidence, and communication skills. To bring their dramatic stories to life, students write scenes, craft monologues, act, and perform improv! They use their knowledge of different genres, poetry, history, and science to bring it all together—as a team. At the end of each year, our drama program collaborates with our art and music program for our big June Show, which showcases our students' strengths while celebrating the arts. Watch the drama unfold for yourself at our next show!

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY



Giving back to our veterans who give so much

Our students are innately kind and generous, and we try to build on this by teaching philanthropy in many ways. For the third year in a row, we held our Annual Community Thankfulness Day. This year, we had the honor of "giving back" and expressing our gratitude to our veterans and active military members—and their four-legged friends! Aptly titled "Caring for Vets and Pets," our students worked hard by baking for a bake sale to raise money for America's Vet Dogs, which provides service dogs to our veterans. In addition, our community was thrilled to have the opportunity to write and design postcards of appreciation to our active service members through the organization A Million Thanks! We hope our work helped veterans see—and feel—just how much we appreciate all they give to us.









PA Bookfair: Reading plays the biggest of roles

Reading is a cornerstone of our curriculum, and so is collaboration. Our Annual "I Love to Read Day" is an event where we can bring the two together and truly share our collective love for reading as a community. To celebrate our love of reading, we did a few things. We started by having a special faculty member read aloud to each classroom. Then our oldest class visited our younger students to be their reading buddy for the day.



We also hosted a bookfair which had an exciting selection of literature, giving our teachers the opportunity to recommend new books and broaden our students' tastes. And last but not least, we were visited by therapy dogs from New York Therapy Animals and our students had the opportunity to read to some adorable pets. Of course, it was a day that was loved by all—humans and furry friends alike!

Art Exhibit: The Cultural Kaleidoscope

This year's Art Exhibit focused on the concept of "The Cultural Kaleidoscope," exploring how many different ideas and images can come together to create a single beautiful environment. As a community, we explored how diversity enriches all of our lives. Each class focused on different aspects of this theme to showcase a wide variety of art and writing that reflect the richness of culture in the United States. This was a wonderful example of cross-curricula collaboration between Mr. Robert, our Art Specialist; our Speech and Language Pathologists, Ms. Rumley and Ms. Moore; our teachers; and of course, WEDS' wonderful artists.



It's Game On at WEDS



WEDS has a new favorite tradition: Family Game Night—an evening where we bring our families in for a night of "Games Group." It's all fun and games for our families and faculty—with lots of delicious food to feed all of the hungry competitors! We added new jumbo games into the mix, which can now be seen throughout our play areas. The night was a total win-win!

Planting the seeds of conservation

In honor of Earth Day, our students learned about the importance of plants and the integral role they play in their habitats. They talked about what they could do to help the environment and how planting gardens or trees is just one great way they can have a positive impact on their community. Our PA-led garden committee saw this as a great opportunity for the students to get involved in the rehabilitation of our courtyard garden and organized a special activity for Earth Day. With the help of Trish Jackson and Ed Sowder, they enlisted the students to help to plant pachysandras in the garden. The students will see their work in full bloom in the spring!





OUR SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM: SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING YEAR ROUND

Social-emotional learning takes place all year long at West End Day School. Our six-week Summer Learning Program helps children improve upon their learning and social skills through a combination of academic curriculum and social activities. Campers are engaged in multi-sensory reading, writing, math, science and social studies groups, as well as swimming, playing in the park, and going on field trips. We definitely fill those long summer days with lots of fun—and learning!











This past summer, our Summer Learning Program went on an exploration around the world with the theme, Passport Around the World. Each week, students focused on a different continent, learning about multicultural events that take place there, unique aspects about different country's cultures, famous historical landmarks, and much more.

And because summer is the perfect time to get outside, most Language Groups, Cooking Groups, Arts & Crafts Groups, and Social Skills Groups are run outdoors so our kids can enjoy learning in the perfect summer setting.



OF EVERYTHING WE DO

We have so much gratitude for the support West End Day School receives each year from our generous community of families, alumni, trustees, faculty, and friends. Our Giving Tree continues to become greener and fuller each year! "Together we" raised \$111,070 which has helped our students blossom in so many ways! Thank you all for your tremendous support. Your commitment to our mission and students is what makes us "more than a school!"

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CELEBRATING A DECADE OF GROWTH

Our Spring Benefit is always an incredible night for our community, and this year did not disappoint! Our venue, The Atlantic Grill, was the perfect space for our amazing community to celebrate all of the milestones and achievements from the past year. The room was filled with excitement as we launched Phase Two of our Capital Campaign, "Gym Renovations: Shaping Up for Big Changes." Together we raised a gross total of \$131,384 towards this project. We are endlessly grateful for the commitment and generosity of our community of parents, faculty, board, alumni, and friends on this night—and every other day throughout the year.

We also took this opportunity to honor our long-time Trustee and Treasurer, Keith Krasney, for his incredible decade of service here at WEDS. Like many of our parents, Keith became part of our community as an active parent. His passion and commitment for our school led him to our board, where he has served as a Trustee and Treasurer for 10 years! Keith has continued to be a great champion of West End Day School and has worked tirelessly to secure resources that have ensured our students have the tools they need to be successful. As Treasurer, he has provided knowledge and insight that has ensured we maintain our strong financial position. His passion, innovation, and support have brought great things to WEDS.



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