

WEST END DAY SCHOOL

# WHEN YOUR **SCHOOL** IS YOUR **SECOND HOME**

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022





# THE WEST END DAY SCHOOL TEAM

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

**Sarah Auslander**, M.S., Head Teacher

**Andrew Barnes**, M.S. Ed., Business Manager

**Jessica Block**, M.S. Ed., Head Teacher

**Sanda Bulvanoski**, M.S. Ed., Associate Teacher

**Carrie Catapano**, Head of School

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

**Akelah Geary**, M.S. Ed., Head Teacher

**Liza Gershen**, L.C.S.W., Counselor

**Jennifer Greene Susser**, L.C.S.W., Admissions Head

**Catherine Hall**, M.S. Ed., Head Teacher

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

**Christine Kim**, M.S., Speech-Language Pathologist

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

**Anastasia Manes**, L.M.S.W., Counselor

**Emma Marks**, M.S. Ed., Head Teacher

**Aiyana Matondo**, COTA/L, Occupational Therapy Assistant

**Madeleine McGowan**, M.S. Ed., Head Teacher

**Kelsey Monfort**, M.S. Ed., Associate Teacher

**Abigail Moore**, M.S. CCC-SLP, Head Speech-Language Pathologist

**Katie O'Keife**, L.C.S.W., Counselor

**Florence Perry**, Bookkeeper & Payroll Manager

**Dalton Richardson**, B.S., Director of Advancement

**Samantha Rosenbaum**, B. S., Co-Head Teacher

**Jennifer Rothman**, L.C.S.W., Counselor

**Alyson Rumley**, M.S. CCC-SLP, Co-Education Head

**Jacqueline Sibille**, M.S. Ed., Associate Teacher

**Melissa Spitz**, M.S., OTR, Occupational Therapist Consultant

**Jenna Stogsdill**, L.C.S.W., Clinical Head

**Samantha Strahl**, L.M.S.W., School Counselor & Associate Teacher

**Sarah Treanor**, B.M. Ed., Music/Drama Specialist & Associate Teacher

**Juan Carlos Vernaza**, Handyman

**Emma Yovanoff**, L.C.S.W., Supervising Counselor & DEIB Leader

## MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

of-a-kind and has always focused on understanding each child in such a meaningful way, while equally engaging parents in the work that we do. West End Day School is simply unlike any other.

As the world faces a mental-health crisis, I couldn't be more proud of our Mission, centered around our students' social-emotional needs. Since our inception in 1985, WEDS students have had the support of an entire team that's dedicated to understanding them on an individual level, while also helping them succeed in a classroom setting. Threading our counseling program into all aspects of programming makes this possible. This year, we didn't miss a beat. Our students and their families were all nurtured, supported, and understood, resulting in incredible learning and social leaps that can only happen when children feel truly safe to make those leaps.

Being *More Than A School* means giving more, and I am so grateful to our incredible team for making WEDS the magical place it is. They make all the difference - and make our second home feel like home. This team, our WEDS family, deserves all the credit for yet another successful year. There is no question that our students, no matter how many challenges school brings, genuinely love school (often for the first time) and prefer to be in school than not. I always see this highlighted on the last day of school where instead of seeing children running out of the building in celebration, you see lots of heartfelt goodbyes and maybe even a few tears over the school year ending. WEDS is so fortunate to have a team that is dedicated to reshaping children's school experience and their love of learning, which ultimately reshapes their path forward in life in the most meaningful way.

Our small school has achieved several big things this year, but a standout was completing our Capital Campaign to renovate the center of our home, our Gym and Auditorium. I'm so grateful to our dedicated Board of Trustees, parents, alum, and friends who helped make this happen and support our loving school in so many ways. I can't wait for us to all come together in this reimagined space and start planning for our next BIG thing. For me, I can only hope I am lucky enough to serve WEDS for another 20 years.

Lastly, I always end with thanking our students - who thrive in their second home and always make me so proud - you rocked this past year!



**Carrie Catapano**  
Head of School



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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We DID IT!

## Our Capital Campaign Gym Renovation: *Shaping Up for Big Changes*

This project was a long time in the making. We officially launched our campaign in 2018 with the hope of completing our vision by the summer of 2020. While our needs shifted during the pandemic, it was unable to stop the growing enthusiasm of our community. This past year, we were overwhelmed by the support and dedication of our families, faculty, Board of Trustees, alum, and friends to make this happen. We partnered with Michael Schmitt Architect to truly transform our gym and community space and look forward to celebrating the fully completed renovation this winter.

WEDS will be forever grateful to the late Glenda Shasho-Jones and her family for kicking off this project three years ago and granting us this beautiful wish.

We are thankful for the entire WEDS community for rallying behind this amazing campaign!



# Our Ongoing DEIB Work & Initiatives

This year our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Task Force laid the groundwork for the work ahead and were ready to further build upon that foundation by focusing their attention on the aspect of Belonging. The goal was clear - to have every person who enters our building feel like they belong, that they have value, and are valued in return.

We understand the importance of having students feeling a strong sense of belonging when they can see themselves reflected in their school. The necessity of this allows for our students to feel vulnerable enough to learn comfortably, which is an integral part of our social-emotional approach to learning. Our faculty collaborated with students on a variety of tasks including updating our Rooftop Mural to more accurately reflect our student body, enriching school wide celebrations with different holidays and customs, and using literature and resources that center children of color as the focal point of lessons. The positive response from our students was overwhelmingly visible, both in and out of school, and we are so proud of the impact we have made and look forward to continuing the progress ahead.





# Being Together Matters: A Roundup of the Year's Events



## Parent and Faculty Cocktail Party

Let us just say...this party delivered! The Parent and Faculty Cocktail Party on our Rooftop had it all – food, drinks, views, mingling, and lots of reconnecting. We are still on cloud 9 thinking back to this gathering which was the perfect way to kick-off the school year together!

## Halloween Carnival

We are so grateful that our faculty and parents made sure no one missed Halloween this year! *WITCH* did we love more: the costumes, trick-or-treating, or the Halloween Carnival on the Roof? We can't decide, but we're still happily reminiscing about that evening and all of the spooky fun we had.



## Fine Arts Exhibit and Performance

Belonging was this year's theme and our young artists showcased their talents with their creative pieces of work, all centered around this important topic. The Fine Arts Exhibit was accompanied by our talented musicians who filled the room with their beautiful voices. And what better way to match the joy of music and art than welcoming parents back into WEDS to join us in the fun! These moments between our students and their parents is what made our Fine Arts Exhibit and Performance even that much more special.



## Family Game Night

Between the buzzing energy, big smiles, and jumbo-sized games, it was a big win for everyone at Family Game Night! The community came together for a playful night of gaming with all of the board game classics.

## Spirit Week

What a wonderful week celebrating the love and spirit of West End Day School! Students showed their school spirit with Pajama Day and Animal Print Day, and the week culminated in a school-wide field trip to go ice skating at American Dream – our best all-school skate yet! Thank you to our amazing Spirit Week Committee for making it all happen.



## Field Day

There's no day like a WEDS Field Day! We were excited to get outdoors for fun and games with the whole community at Riverside Park. From water balloon toss to a parents versus student tug-of-war, there was no shortage of games and friendly competition at one of the most anticipated community socials of the year!

## June Show

Lights, camera, action! Our June performance of *Sing: A WEDS Musical* brought the whole community together for a stellar production. Bravo to our Director, Ms. Treanor, for overseeing this production and a special thank you to Mr. Robert for the set design and Mr. Kinsey for tech operations! And a very special thank you to our cast, crew, teachers, and Show Committee for an incredible performance!



HALLOWEEN



STEM



SPIRIT WEEK!



FIELD DAY

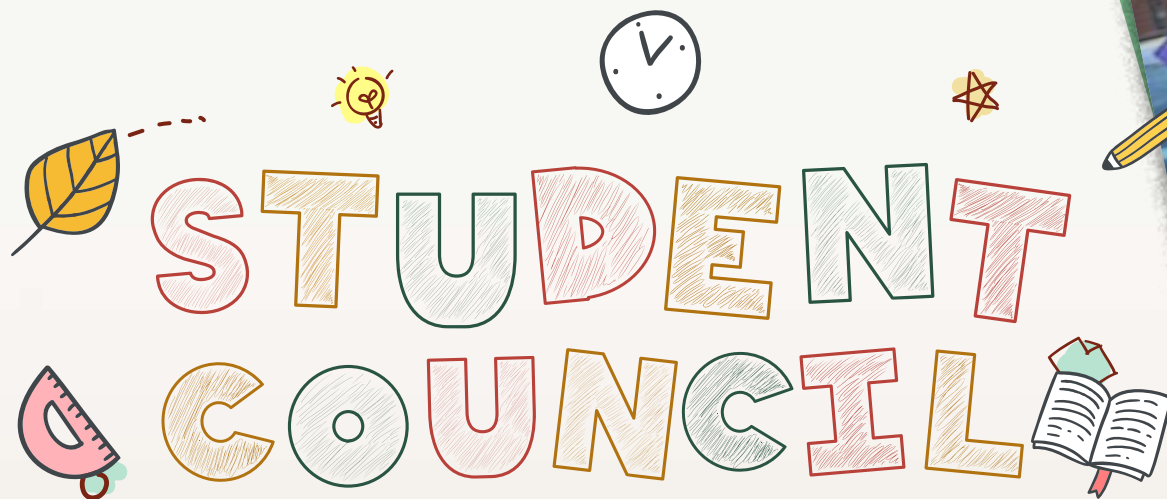


GAME NIGHT



PAJAMA DAY!





# STUDENT COUNCIL

Making a Positive Difference  
Inside School - and Out

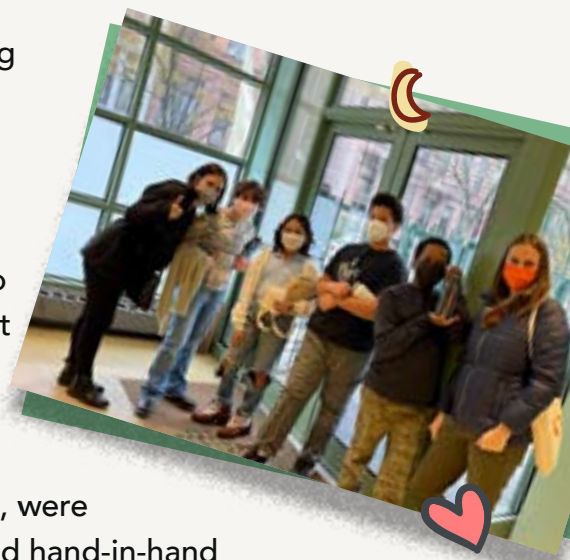


We are so proud of our Student Council and the many initiatives they made happen this year. Their Baby Supplies Drive collected 60 boxes of diapers, 70 packages of wipes, and 10 containers of formula. That's about 3,000 diapers for babies and toddlers in need, and these much-needed supplies were delivered first-hand to the Child Development Support Corporation in Brooklyn, NY! It's no wonder this amazing work was recognized in *No Kid Hungry* New York's *HUNGER HEROES* Blog.

In addition to our Student Council giving back to the outside community, they also wanted to give back to their own student body. The creation of "Cool Down Kits" was one of the Student Council's most meaningful initiatives. These innovative packets, filled with mindfulness activities, were distributed to students and could be used hand-in-hand with our **Mood Meters**, a social emotional learning tool, from Yale's **R.U.L.E.R.** program.

Near the end of the school year, our Student Council led Pride Month by organizing a school-wide Pride Celebration in June.

Students took this opportunity to share messages of what Pride means to them, as well as bake (and enjoy!) rainbow cookies, and dance and engage in fun pride activities. Seeing our students advocating for themselves and others, and standing in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community, was so incredibly heartwarming.







## It.Was.ON! Thank You for A Successful Spring Benefit!

Our return to an in-person Spring Benefit was one that was two years in the making! The love, magic, and WEDS spirit was bursting throughout the night and we are so grateful to the entire WEDS community for rallying behind our loving school. Not only were we able to honor two of our most talented faculty members, Aly Rumley and Emma Yovanoff, for their over twelve years of service to WEDS each, but we were also able to raise over \$120,000 in support of our Capital Campaign Gym Renovation: *Shaping Up for Big Changes*.

We are overjoyed by the overwhelming enthusiasm and contributions from our entire community and want to once again extend our gratitude for making the benefit a true success! We would also like to thank our amazing Spring Benefit Committee - Jill Margolies (Chair), Sarah Ashfaq, Tana Chung, Hillary Lipstein, Amanda Robbins, & Leslie Spitalnick - for all of their hard work and support. We couldn't have done it without you!



Aly Rumley

Aly Rumley first started as a Speech and Language Pathologist in 2011 and since then has stepped into many leadership roles including directing our Speech Department, Summer Learning Program, and now serving as our Co-Education Head. Aly works to guide our overall educational program which includes supervising teachers and specialists, developing and implementing the curriculum, and evaluating each child's unique learning needs. Aly also jumped in during the pandemic and ran our Advancement Department - she is truly a jack of all trades! Thank you Aly for your endless dedication to West End Day School's program, mission, and the whole WEDS community for over a decade!

Emma first joined WEDS as a School Counselor in 2011 and now serves as a Supervising Counselor and also leads our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging initiatives. Emma has changed the lives of so many of our children, their families, and is also an incredible resource to our faculty. She is deeply committed to ensuring that WEDS is a home for everyone. Emma works with all members of the community on programming and services that link issues of diversity, multiculturalism, inclusion, equality, and social justice for students, faculty, staff, and families. Thank you Emma for your incredible love and support of our students, families and of us!



Emma Yovanoff



# Benefit Donations

## Benefit Sponsors

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Alyson & Blake Rumley  
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## Benefit Contributors

Quiara Alegría Hudes & Ray Beauchamp  
Sarah Ashfaq & Josh Lantos  
Michael & Erica Barrish  
Becky & Frank Cania  
Ivan Ciment & Karen Heilig  
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Living Room Laughs  
Rachel Rothman Podell  
Alexandra Schwartz  
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Adam Weisler

## Staff Contributions

Marley Carhart  
Jessica Chambers  
Carrie Catapano  
Liza Gershen  
Katy Jenkins  
Marielle Lewis  
Anastasia Manes  
Abigail Moore  
Kati O'Keife  
Alyson Rumley  
Samantha Strahl  
Jenna Stogsdill



## Gifts in Kind

Chess at Three  
Beth Clarke & Brian Whaley  
Angela Dirks & Ronald Dooley  
Sara Elisa Miller  
Elite Island Resorts  
Jim Fantaci  
Michele Gaton  
Paul Ghermezian  
Quiara Alegría Hudes & Ray Beauchamp  
Christine Kattan & Tom Bergen  
Rebecca Kobrin  
Jon & Rachel Lowy





# Annual Fund: Our Commitment Never Wavered

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 more green and full each year and we thank you all for your tremendous support. Your commitment to our Mission and students is what makes us *More Than A School!*

## The Trunk \$20,000

Anonymous

## Branches \$7,500

Herbert Moskowitz

## Gold Leaves \$5,000

Kara Alfonso & Jeremy Tennis  
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The Menes/Lederman Family

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Robert & Stacey Seltzer

## Silver Leaves \$2,500

Sarah Ashfaq & Joshua Lantos  
Christine Kattan & Tom Bergen  
Robert Moskowitz & Jennifer Schimmel  
Pfeizer Inc.  
Kristin and Doug Peta

Sandra Seligman  
Michael Shopsin & Anna Livak  
Edward & Zahra Sowder  
Caroline Turner

## Bronze Leaves \$1,000

The Barrish Family  
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Ivan Ciment & Karen Heilig

Linda & Mark Gruenbaum: In Honor of  
Benjamin Greenspan  
Beth Jurewicz & George Tasolides  
Susan Ramer & Mark Coleman

## Green Leaves \$500

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Tamar Gruenbaum: In Honor of Benjamin  
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Ellen Hagopian & Armand Cacciarelli  
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## Friends of WEDS \$499

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Peter Bloom  
Emily Boucher  
Laura E Diaz & David Hernandez: In Memory  
of Grandmothers  
Delphia Dirks  
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Maria Goodridge  
Michael Greenspan: In Honor of Carrie  
Catapano & Her Incredible Team  
Leon Hoffman  
Myron & Karen Jenkins  
Rebeca Kobrin: In Honor of the Incredible  
WEDS Team

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Albina Miller  
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Seecharran Family  
Debbie & Ethan Semmel  
Beth & David Shaz  
Davida Sherwood  
Leslie Spitalnick & Josh Kaplan  
The Susser Family  
Adele Ursone  
Keith Krasney  
Jane Newman  
Barbara LaVallee  
Gloria Hernandez Diaz

## Gifts in Kind

Karl Benware  
Angela Dirks

Anonymous  
Hyun Kim

## Parents' Association - PA Officers

Angela Dirks  
Co-President

Jill Margolies  
Co-President

Christine Kattan  
Treasurer

Beth Clarke  
Secretary

We would like to thank our wonderful PA Officers - Angela Dirks, Jill Margolies, Christine Kattan and Beth Clarke - for their unwavering support throughout the school year. We are so grateful for all that you do for our community!

We gratefully acknowledged the donors who have supported West End Day School with gifts between July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022. Every effort has been made to include each person or organization who contributed to West End Day School during this period. If a name has been omitted or listed incorrectly, please accept our apologies and notify the Office of Advancement at [drichardson@westenddayschool.org](mailto:drichardson@westenddayschool.org).





2022-2023

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