

ANNUAL



2023-2024

REPORT

OUR MISSION

Peninsula School creates a space where children thrive and develop their full promise as confident contributors in the world. Here they learn about themselves and others, discovering their passions and growing intellectually in an inclusive community rich with choices, exploration, and play.

INTRODUCING JOHANNA AESCHLIMAN, HEAD OF SCHOOL



Welcome to Peninsula! Tell us about your background in education.

I have been an educator for thirty years. For the past five years, I was Director of the Lower School at Redwood Day School in Oakland, CA, leading efforts aimed at educating the whole child, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and enhancing the Faculty professional growth and evaluation system to build accountability. Prior to this, I was the Head of Middle School at Brooklyn Heights Montessori School for five years, where I spearheaded widespread transformation in close collaboration with school leadership.

I also serve on the Northern California People of Color in Independent Schools Board of Directors. I am a proud graduate of Howard University, with a B.S. in Psychology and a M.A.T. in Curriculum and Instruction, and earned an M.Ed. from Lesley University. Two fun facts about me are that I was transracially adopted and grew up in Cambridge, MA.

Why did you choose to come to Peninsula?

From the minute I set foot on campus, I could feel that the Peninsula community is a special place. The joyful students, and the dedicated staff were immediately evident and incredibly compelling. As a lifelong learner, and teacher by trade, I understand the kind of dedication and care that it takes to create a learning environment that centers students and that gives teachers the tools to make learning rich, connected and meaningful. This is why I chose Peninsula.

What is your favorite thing about Peninsula so far?

I've had two distinct moments since I started at Peninsula that stand out so far at the time

I'm writing this. The first moment took place on our first day of school. We held an assembly in the Big Field, with students from Kinder through 8th grade gathered to begin the new school year. The new staff were introduced, followed by the 8th graders sharing what they value about Peninsula. To cap it off, their class led the school in a collaboratively written version of a Peninsula Pledge of Allegiance. This was a really special moment for me.

Second, the camping trip talent show led by the 8th grade. On the last night of

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I pledge my love to the united community of Peninsula, one school, under the trees in which we stand, in the dirt, in the mud, barefoot and dancing, playfully observing chameleon tag, with freedom and responsibility for all.

The 8th Grade's Pledge written on the 1st Day of School

JOHANNA AESCHLIMAN

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camping, everyone in 5-8th grade came together for a burger feast and talent show. The 8th graders organize and host the show. I had heard from the fifth graders that there was a skit called *Beans* that was a long standing tradition at Peninsula. These skits did not disappoint! In addition to *Beans*, a few highlights of the show for me were *The Microwave*, the Cat song and The Moose. Clearly I am fangirling the 8th graders! They are the leaders of Peninsula and have prepared their whole lives to lead these special moments.

What's a fun fact about you not related to work?

One fun fact about me is that I love the beach, sea life, and pretty much anything that has to do with the ocean. To date, I have visited 10 aquariums around the United States (New England and Atlanta are the best I have visited, sorry Monterey Bay). During the first week of school, a parent told me that if you stand on the shore at Pacifica State Beach where the surfers are, you can actually see whales swim by around dusk. She let me know that she had seen humpback and orca whales there regularly. This year on my birthday, I decided to head to Pacifica after work to see what I could see. I pulled into the world's fanciest Taco Bell's parking lot, ordered three chicken taco supremes (and an adult beverage) and sat out on the back deck facing the ocean. Two tacos in, I spotted a spout. Spouts are unique because they come out as a V, and there are usually flocks of birds circling directly above. When I looked closely, I saw a dorsal fin right above the surface of the water. Keep in mind that the only other times I have seen whales is at SeaWorld in San Diego, and after a two hour boat ride way out in the Atlantic Ocean in Cape Cod. Wowza! I was mesmerized. How amazing to see such massive and majestic creatures so close to shore. I sat there until dark watching the whales feed. While I did not see lobtailing or breaching, this was absolutely the most amazing birthday gift I have received in a while!

Why are you contributing to this year's Annual Giving Campaign?

This is an easy one! I am going to give to Peninsula this year because I believe in the mission. I have been warmly welcomed to Peninsula by caregivers, staff, students, grandparents, and alumni. I feel fortunate to have joined such a warm, welcoming, and inclusive community. Giving to the Annual Giving Campaign is my way to give back to a community that gives so much to its students and community. I hope you'll join me!

THANK YOU FOR RAISING YOUR PADDLE FOR SCIENCE!

IN THE SPRING OF 2023, Peninsula hosted its annual Community Party with the theme *Peninsula After Dark*. Our families were able to experience the joy of Activities that their children go to every day. Throughout this event, we fundraised for our annual Raise Your Paddle (RYP) initiative, which is designated for a specific purpose each year.



In the past, Raise Your Paddle has solicited gifts for tuition assistance, upgrading technology in our classrooms, water system replacement, and more. In 2023, Raise Your Paddle was designated to upgrade the Science Cottage!

The Science Room moved from its longtime location in the Gallery of the Big Building, and now is in what used to be the Caretaker's Cottage on campus, just between Nursery Blue and the Basketball Court. After months of planning and organizing, this past summer we were able to complete the Science Cottage with the funds raised at *Peninsula After Dark*.

To all of you who helped us bring this to fruition by Raising Your Paddle for Science, we want to say a huge thank you!

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN LETTER

Each fall, Peninsula community members receive a letter with their Annual Giving Campaign materials in the mail, but did you know that we have a few different letters every year? This year, one of our writers was Greg Moran, current parent and Peninsula Alum ('98). Read on for his letter below, and feel free to check out our other 2024-2025 letters on the [Peninsula School website!](#)

Dear Peninsula Families,

Every time I pull into the driveway and see the Big Building, I feel like I'm home. I'm not sure it's normal to feel that way about your grade school, but that's a mark Peninsula has left on me. My wife and I are both Peninsula alums, and we feel so lucky to be able to give our son the incredible gift of a Peninsula education.

My wife and I are very different, and Peninsula both nurtured and challenged us in just the ways we needed. For her, academics came easy, and if there was a high score to achieve, it was going to be hers. Peninsula pushed her not to maximize her GPA, but to explore her passions and try new things even if she might fail. Because of Peninsula she developed a life-long love of weaving, and we have a loom the size of a sofa in our bedroom to prove it (if she asks, I think it really pulls the room together)!

For me, school was more of a challenge due to my learning differences. At Peninsula, education wasn't about high scores or letter grades. It wasn't about being the best or the worst. Instead, I was allowed to grow, gain confidence, and define my self-worth as an individual and a member of my community. In this very competitive world, being able to find confidence independent from my performance in reading, writing, and math was a life-altering gift. With confidence and time, you learn to

take on the difficult challenge in front of you, and Peninsula did that for me without me knowing. Looking back, Peninsula consistently put us in situations where learning happens naturally, without us even realizing it – and without any pressure. We learned how to communicate, work through problems, and gain confidence, all while playing, climbing, camping, and running around in the dirt. All while being a kid!

As our son enters his second year of Nursery Green, it is a joy to see him thriving. From digging moats in the sandbox, to engaging in elaborate imaginative play with his friends, to building a life-size robot out of cardboard boxes, every day he is engaging his curiosity. All the while, he is learning to be a member of a community, and problem solving in a fun, caring, and safe environment.

We all have choices about where we send our children and where we choose to donate. I'm no tax expert, but we see the opportunity to donate to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that directly supports our child's education as a tax-deductible way to live up to our progressive values. So, we ask that you reflect on the joy Peninsula brings to your child's life and consider giving at whatever your capacity allows. Peninsula is a magical school and we should all do our part to ensure it continues to provide this unique education at the highest possible level. The Peninsula School education will be our children for a lifetime.



Greg Moran
Current Peninsula Parent, Class of '98

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE 8TH GRADE COMMEMORATIVE FUND!

ON PAGE 5 OF THIS ANNUAL REPORT, you'll see 8 endowed funds listed. While our community is familiar with the School's Annual Giving Campaign, which contributes 5-6% to our operating budget annually, a lesser known aspect of the School's finances is the endowed funds. These specified use funds contribute to maintaining the school's programs, facilities and flexible tuition program. Among these endowed funds is the 8th Grade Commemorative Fund.

The 8th Grade Commemorative Fund was created for families of graduating 8th graders to honor their child's time as a Peninsula School student by giving to the next generation of Peninsula students. Founded in the 2015-2016 school year, the 8th Grade Commemorative Fund raised \$36,000 in its inaugural year with generous contributions from the Peninsula School Community.

As an endowed, specified use fund for affordability and accessibility, the 8th Grade Commemorative Fund's available money may be used in accordance with the funds general statement of purpose, including but not limited to:

- Keeping Peninsula School financially affordable, supporting items in the school's budget specific to financial assistance for tuition and other school-related expenses for families.
- Supporting the school's budget specific to compensation and benefits for staff.
- Supporting initiatives to make the school culturally accessible, supportive and welcoming to families and staff, continuing to honor all the differences that enrich our community.

Donations to the 8th Grade Commemorative Fund will accumulate and not be used until the fund balance is at least \$250,000. Once the fund balance exceeds \$250,000, money over and above that number will be available to enhance the school's Affordability and Accessibility initiatives.

Currently the 8th Grade Commemorative Fund has a balance of \$157,304. When a family contributes to it, their gift helps build a fund to support teacher compensation and tuition support for families who, without it, would not be able to send their children to Peninsula. The Fund will have a lasting impact on Peninsula School for years to come, and every gift is deeply appreciated by the school.

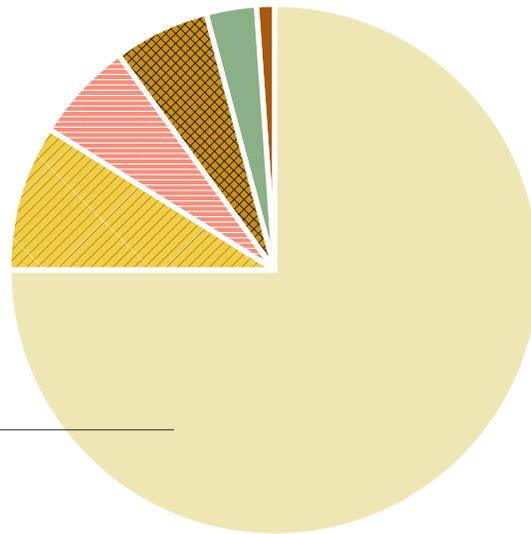
Peninsula School is pleased to present our

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Operating Revenue & Support

- 9% TRANSFER FROM TEMP RESTRICTED
- 6% AGC, GIFTS & EVENTS
- 6% AUXILIARY PROGRAMS (NET)
- 3% INVESTMENT INCOME
- 1% OTHER INCOME

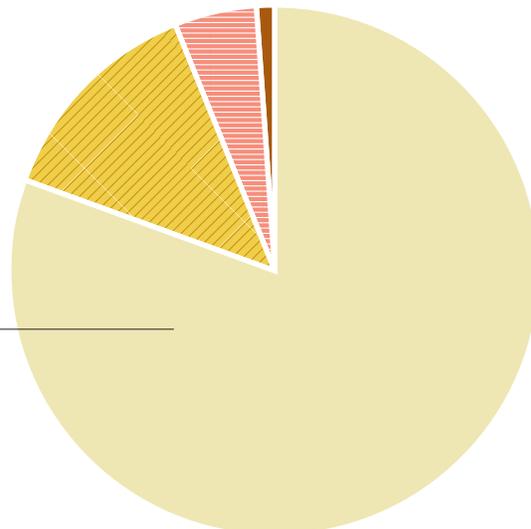
75% TUITION (NET OF TUITION ADJ)



Operating Expenses

- 13% PROGRAM & ACADEMIC SERVICES
- 5% MANAGEMENT, GENERAL & FACILITIES
- 1% FUNDRAISING

80% STAFF COMP & BENEFITS



PENINSULA SCHOOL is in a stable financial position thanks to its strong community support, both past and present, which provides the foundation for serving our children, families, and mission. Our primary source of revenue is tuition, which covers about 75% of the school’s needs, with an additional 6% coming from fundraising and 6% from auxiliary programs. To ensure accessibility, about a quarter of our families benefit from our Flexible Tuition program. Generous contributions from families also support endowments like the 8th Grade Commemorative Fund, which will help sustain the school financially once fully endowed at the \$250,000 level. With the school owning its property and maintaining 90 days of operating reserves, Peninsula’s financial position allows 80% of its budget to go directly to compensating its dedicated staff. For those interested in supporting Peninsula’s mission into the future, please consider donating to one of Peninsula’s restricted funds.

Peninsula’s Endowment & Donor Restricted Funds

FAIR MARKET VALUE OF NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

As of June 30, 2024 and 2023

Donations restricted to purpose or time restrictions:

	2024	2023
Charitable Remainder Trust	\$ 83,842	71,962
Facilities	38,586	20,144
Tuition Assistance	1,111,896	1,294,170
Staff Wellness	9,889	14,589
Subtotal	<u>1,244,213</u>	<u>1,400,865</u>

Donor-restricted endowments*:

Restricted in perpetuity	3,389,468	3,323,716
Endowment earnings available	<u>3,088,997</u>	<u>2,717,406</u>
Subtotal	<u>6,478,465</u>	<u>6,041,122</u>
Total	<u>\$ 7,722,678</u>	<u>7,441,987</u>

***Endowment funds:**

Sawyer/Wald Fund
Tuition assistance

Major Gifts Fund
Building improvements and teacher compensation

Archive Fund
Develop and maintain school history archive

Dimond Fund
Assistance for children with learning differences

Rock Fund
Support for capital and educational purposes

Ed Development
Staff development

Music Fund
Support for the music program

8th Grade Fund
Access and affordability initiatives for staff and students

A full set of 2023-2024 financial statements is available on request from the school’s Director of Finance, Beth Lee.

Thank You for Your Generosity

We extend our heartfelt thanks to so many generous donors who gave to Peninsula School during the 2023-24 school year – current parents and parents of alumni, board and staff members, alumni, grandparents, friends, former staff, community partners and employer matching programs. Together you help us carry on our rich tradition of progressive education that creates a joyous place for our students to learn and grow, climb trees and stomp in puddles – all supported by our fabulous teaching staff.

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

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 Susan Coyle

In honor of Brynn Miura
 Patty Wilson

In honor of Eliana Elias and Adam Mansour
 Laura Barker & Adnan Mansour
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In honor of Ella Solano
 Ed Solano

In honor of Gottfried Paasche
 Franz Paasche

In honor of Hale Burmeister
 Janice & Stephen Pickering

In honor of Julian Edward Mason
 Mary Ann Sweeney & Edward Ricco

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 Tabitha Doniach

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In memory of Isadore Friedman
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In memory of Sylvia Anne Browne
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In memory of Ted Lee
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In memory of Steve Walling-Brown
 Sarah Irvine Korsunsky & Boris Korsunsky

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AmazonSmile
 Benevity Community Impact Fund
 The Blackburn Giving Fund
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 eScrip
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 ImpactAssets
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 Mabel's Labels
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 PayPal Charitable Giving Fund
 Renaissance Charitable Foundation
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 Alethea & Jesse Van Hiller

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 Tori & Jason Burmeister
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 Jan Smiley
 Alexandra Stein
 Judy Thalheimer
 Jennifer Thompson & Dean Lee
 Izumi & Masatoshi Ueno
 Alethea & Jesse Van Hiller
 Mark Wagner
 Katie Wang & Dennis Li
 Keith Weng & Philein Wang
 Libby Werba & Aaron Rubin
 Chad Williams
 Xavier Zapata
 Rachael Zats
 Ying Zou & Hang Ye
 Jen & Ethan Zweig

2024 8TH GRADE COMMEMORATIVE FUND

In honor of Aliza Juneau
 Kara Juneau & Dan Harrington
In honor of Audrey Yang
 Peipei Chang & Calvin Yang
In honor of Hanna Heck
 Karin & Jochen Heck
In honor of Kolby D'Elia
 Nicole Zannini
In honor of Henry Lonnemann
 Mina Kim & Henry Lonnemann

8TH GRADE CLASS GIFT

Mina Kim & Henry Lonnemann

Continued on back page

100 YEARS STRONG: PENINSULA'S CENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN BEGINS!

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? Peninsula School is about to turn 100!

We're thrilled to launch a year-long celebration in 2025 to **commemorate a century of joyful learning** and an incredible community that has supported and sustained us through every challenge and change.

Peninsula was built on a pioneering vision of progressive education designed to ignite creativity and foster a deep sense of community. The school's founding was spearheaded in 1925 by Josephine Duveneck, who was joined by a group of parents dissatisfied with the state of education available to their children. Their goal was to create a place where children could explore, grow, and become compassionate individuals. Over the past century, our students have splashed in creeks, climbed trees, gone camping, discovered passions in the art studio and math class, and have experienced the magic of learning in ways that only Peninsula can offer. This year, we're excited to honor and celebrate that history!

The Centennial celebrations will span the entire year of 2025, with a variety of events designed to bring together current and former students, alumni, families, and staff. From exciting outdoor festivities focused on our current students, to heartwarming community



gatherings with old and new friends, these celebrations will offer opportunities to reflect on Peninsula's enduring values and strengthen our collective commitment to progressive education.

We invite all of our alumni, families, staff, and friends – whether you've been here for 100 years or just joined us yesterday – to come together for this milestone year. Dust off your favorite Peninsula stories, get ready to share some laughs (and maybe a few happy tears), and let's celebrate our incredible legacy together!

Save the dates for our Centennial Community Party on Saturday, March 15,

2025, and our Centennial Spring Fair on Sunday, May 4th, 2025!

Stay tuned for more details in the coming months via [Peninsula's website](#), Hot News, email, and [social media](#).

Cheers to 100 years!

Your Centennial Planning Committee,

Ali Berlin, Andrea Parkes, Anu Sanghvi, Ellen Wilkinson, Joanna Oshman, Kaitlin Moran, Kate Shaw, Laurie Friedman, Lydia Jamie Meraz, Milly Siegel, Moira McNamara

YOUR GENEROSITY

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Because our Fall publication is now dedicated to the Annual Report and all things happening at school, this isn't where we'll be meeting all of our new staff and saying our farewells to those who have left. Expect to see something in the early months of 2025!

Please contact communications@peninsulaschool.org if you need additional copies, hope to add someone to the mailing list, or no longer wish to receive future mailings from us.

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