

LITTLE STAR SCHOOL 2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION

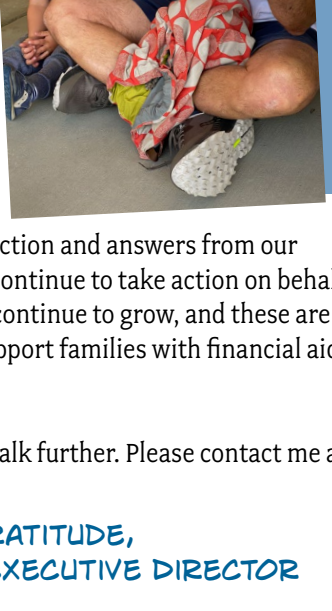
LITTLE STAR MONTESSORI SPARKS CHILDREN'S CURIOSITY, COMPASSION, AND SENSE OF COMMUNITY THROUGH JOYFUL LEARNING AND DISCOVERY.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Little Star Friends and Families,

As I begin my first school year as Executive Director, I think often of the legacy our founder Rayma Hayes, our founding teachers, and our former Executive Director Dani Reynaud established. Rayma and all those who came before us truly understood the magic of the early childhood years, and they turned that understanding into an incredible early learning program that has had a profound impact on the children in our community.

Rayma's Montessori-inspired approach has been backed up by decades of data, and the results are clear. What our amazing teachers do every day at Little Star sparks children to develop empathy, compassion, motivation, respect for self and others, and inspiration to turn their curiosity into self-guided learning – attributes that will serve them for the rest of their lives.



This begs the question: with all the critical cognitive and socioemotional development happening from birth through age 6, why is early childhood education still dramatically underfunded on a federal level? Why do our teachers still not have access to health insurance? While we press for action and answers from our representatives, I am so proud that we as a local community continue to take action on behalf of our teachers. Our endowment and our annual fundraising continue to grow, and these are the tools we use to expand compensation for our teachers and support families with financial aid for the long-term. Thank you!

If you'd like to learn more about how you can help, I'd love to talk further. Please contact me at brad@littlestarschool.org.

WITH MUCH GRATITUDE,
BRAD HALM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STAFF & BOARD

ADMINISTRATION

- Brad Halm, Executive Director
- Geva McAdow, Managing Director & Early Childhood Program Supervisor
- Erin Clark, Office & Finance Manager
- Jamie Rock, Infant and Toddler Program Supervisor
- Emily Nelson, Program and Operations Manager
- Michelle Shaffer, Teacher Guide and Curriculum Coach

TEACHERS

Early Childhood Teachers

- Jodee Adams-Moore
- Molly Bonham
- Stephanie Carter
- Kim Claussen
- Dakota Dalebout
- Jen Ellsworth
- Arcana Ferschke
- Zanna Gable
- Tania Gonzalez Ortega
- Nick Hershenow
- Meghan Lentz
- Cailee Maestro
- Nicole O'Driscoll
- Emily Plott
- Celeste Roberts
- Arlene Rodriguez
- Sarah Werneken

Toddler Teachers

- Malisa Finney
- Rebecca Haase
- Kaydin Haase
- Elena Hall
- Cassia Hershenow
- Michelle Larsen
- Vanessa Levine
- Florence Sawyer
- Montessa Sutton
- Barbara Szalay
- Faythe Tissell
- Amanda Tomatich

Infant Teachers

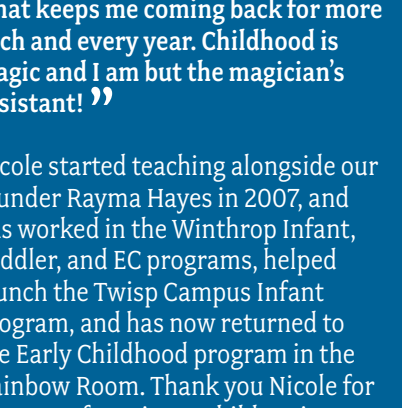
- Krista Breckenridge
- Jongmu Lepcha-Hunsdorfer
- Elise Knight
- Haley Preciado
- Signe Shaw
- Jan Sundt
- Bri Veleber

JANITORIAL

- Amanda Dwinell
- Alondra Ramos

BOARD

- Korrie Bourn, President
- Benjamin Washam, Vice President
- Steve Hirsch, Treasurer
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- Leverett Hubbard
- Baylie Huyett
- Soleil Kelley
- Will Kiefer
- Tracey March
- LaTanya Ott
- Lurline Sweet



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

NICOLE O'DRISCOLL
Little Star Early Childhood Teacher

“Have you ever seen the twinkling magic of an 'ahh ha!' moment in a child's eyes? From letting go of the shelf and taking their first steps to mastering reading their favorite book...All these small moments are what keeps me coming back for more each and every year. Childhood is magic and I am but the magician's assistant!”

Nicole started teaching alongside our founder Rayma Hayes in 2007, and has worked in the Winthrop Infant, Toddler, and EC programs, helped launch the Twisp Campus Infant program, and has now returned to the Early Childhood program in the Rainbow Room. Thank you Nicole for 16 years of service to children in our community!

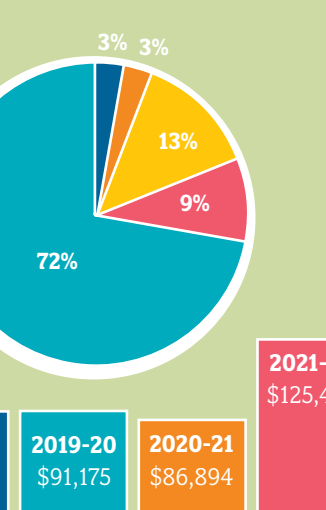
TOGETHER IN 2021-2022, WE...

- ★ Celebrated our 40th Birthday, raising over \$47,000 for financial aid and teacher compensation
- ★ Graduated our largest class ever, sending 43 students into the world full of curiosity and compassion
- ★ Employed 42 teachers and staff members and continued our commitment to increasing wages and benefits for our inspirational educators
- ★ Got outside and into the community, expanding our nature-based programming and collaborating with community organizations such as:
 - Jamie's Place
 - Loup Loup Ski Bowl
 - Methow Valley Interpretive Center
 - TwispWorks
 - Winthrop Public Library
- ★ Welcomed Brad Halm as our new Executive Director, and celebrated the immense contributions of Dani Reynaud's 11 years as the leader of Little Star

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

INCOME

Tuition Income	\$1,146,574
Fundraising, State and Federal Grants	\$296,493
Transfer from Financial Aid Reserves*	\$76,036
TOTAL 2021-2022 INCOME	\$1,519,103



*Little Star continues to spend down our financial aid reserve fund to support families each year. This year, federal pandemic relief for childcare gave us a buffer that will allow us to put some funds back into the reserve.

EXPENSES

Staff Support: Payroll, Retirement Matching Plan, Health Stipend	\$998,987
Financial Aid	\$125,414
Building and Maintenance Expenses	\$170,551
Education Program Expenses	\$43,336
Administrative Expenses	\$44,263
TOTAL	\$1,382,551



2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
\$63,498	\$90,972	\$91,175	\$86,894	\$125,414

*Enrollment down due to Covid

Every year, Little Star makes a significant commitment to support families with need-based financial aid. The program has grown as need has grown in our community!

If you'd like to donate to the financial aid program or consider a larger gift to the Rayma Hayes Endowment, please contact brad@littlestarschool.org.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

ED & CHAR ALKIRE

“Supporting Little Star puts young minds on a promising path for lifelong learning and future success in the workplace and global economy at large. Because there is very little public funding for early childhood education, we have chosen to make a multi-year pledge to Little Star's Endowment fund. This will allow Little Star to stabilize the financial aid fund so more families in need can access financial aid and will provide expanded pay and benefits to teachers.”



“I'm so grateful to the school community, and especially Zev's teachers, for supporting the development of his social emotional skills, encouraging both freedom and responsibility, for bringing Zev closer to the natural world through science and exploration, and for the care and respect shown to us during the 4 years that Zev attended Little Star.”

-Rachel

PARENT SPOTLIGHT

RACHEL LEVI & ROBBIE CARVER

Little Star Winthrop



YOU CAN HELP LITTLE STAR SERVE FAMILIES BY:

- ★ Making a tax-deductible donation: littlestarschool.org/giving
- ★ In October, you can support Little Star and other important organizations through www.GiveMethow.org
- ★ Volunteering on campus or joining our substitute teaching team

SAVE THE DATE!
The Little Star Auction returns May 20, 2023