



annual report

Little Star SCHOOL



Little Star School 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,

Every day at Little Star, I am reminded how many connections begin here. I see friendships growing between children, bonds strengthening between students and teachers, and relationships developing between families. I also see connections growing between organizations and generations, as elders' eyes light up at Jamie's Place when our students visit with a musical parade, as we collaborate with Room One to support families with young children, and as Little Star and Methow Valley Elementary teachers work together to ease our graduating students' transition to the "big school".

A strong early learning program is part of a strong foundation for an entire community. It underpins the social and emotional health of our children, provides a support system for families, and is key for our local economy to thrive. And at the heart of this foundation are our teachers. Every time I see a teacher skillfully guide children to work together, or resolve a conflict, or greet a parent with a smile at the door as they drop off their child, I see new connections spark. Without our teachers, our foundation would crack and crumble.

This is why we need to do more for our teachers. In the absence of public funding for preschool programs, early learning teachers across the country are not paid enough. The majority don't receive health insurance. Many qualify for state and federal subsidy programs. And we see the impacts as teachers leave the field and early learning centers close.

At Little Star, we are proud to be a part of a community that stands up for teachers. It is your generosity that makes it possible to pay our teachers above-average wages for our sector. While we continue to pursue change at the state and federal levels, your support carries us strongly into the future.

Thank you for all you do! If you'd like to learn more about how you can support teachers and children through Little Star's annual fundraising, endowment, or financial aid program, please connect with me at brad@littlestarschool.org.

In Gratitude,
Brad Halm, Executive Director

teachers + staff

early childhood teachers

- Robbie Carver
- Kim Claussen
- Jen Ellsworth
- Mary Fultz-Valenta
- Zanna Gable
- Nick Hershonow
- Quinn Kenworthy
- Bonnie Klein
- Meghan Lentz
- Nicole O'Driscoll
- Emily Plott
- Caroline Sancken
- Michelle Shaffer
- Olivia Wareham

toddler teachers

- Nimbe Cruz
- Tania Gonzalez
- Ortega
- Megan Jepson
- Michelle Larsen
- Vanessa Levine
- Isolde O'Driscoll
- Carmi Paz
- Florence Sawyer
- Barbara Szalay

infant teachers

- Molly Bonham
- Kristina Erickson
- Elena Hall
- Joanne Hunold
- Elise Knight
- Jongmu Lepcha-Hunsdorfer
- Anita Lince
- Mariah Paz
- Mia Tomatich
- Bri Veleber

board

- LaTanya Ott, Board President
- Will Kiefer, Vice President
- Steve Hirsch, Treasurer
- Tracey March, Secretary
- Alieta Gregg
- Leverett Hubbard
- Soleil Kelley
- Anna Patterson
- Sam Rayachoti
- Lurline Sweet

administration

- Brad Halm, Executive Director
- Erin Clark, Office and Finance Manager
- Sarah Heller, Early Childhood Program Director
- Emily Nelson, Program and Operations Manager
- Jamie Rock, Infant and Toddler Program Director

teacher spotlight

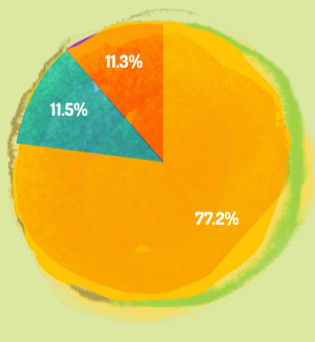
michelle shaffer



I am inspired by following the child's wonder and passion for learning. I love the community that is formed within the school, and the knowledge that by participating in shaping and supporting our Little Star community we help create a deeper, richer community within the Methow Valley.

Michelle grew up in the Methow Valley and after graduating from the UW, returned to raise a family. When she brought her son to Little Star in 1998 and witnessed the world of wonder, curiosity, and joy that filled this Montessori school she knew this was where she wanted to give her energy and her love of teaching. All four of her children graduated from kindergarten at Little Star. She has taught at all age levels in the school, as well as serving on the Board and as a curriculum coach and teacher mentor.

financial snapshot

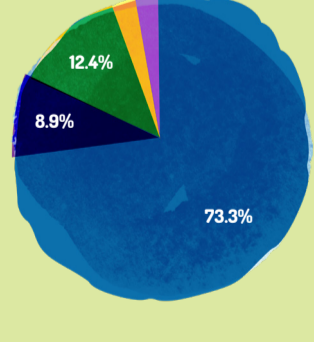


income

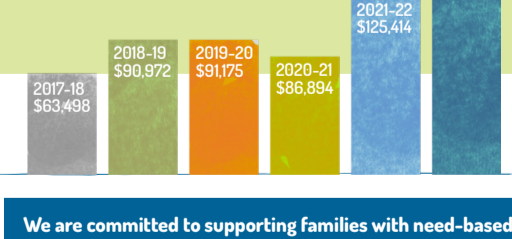
Tuition Income	\$1,186,334
Fundraising, State and Federal Grants	\$176,346
Transfer from Past Auction Fundraising, Operating, and Financial Aid Reserves	\$173,861
TOTAL 2022-2023 INCOME	\$1,536,541

expenses

Staff Support: Payroll, Retirement Matching Plan, Health Stipend	\$1,120,149
Building, Utility and Maintenance	\$189,371
Financial Aid	\$135,900
Administrative	\$42,359
Education Program	\$41,369
TOTAL 2022-2023 EXPENSES	\$1,529,148



financial aid



We are committed to supporting families with need-based financial aid. We rely on donors and our biennial Auction to meet the growing need for this program.

If you would like to contribute, please contact brad@littlestarschool.org

donor spotlight

jerry + julie palm

Our kids, now adults, accredit Little Star with much of who they are today. It taught them how to be a part of a community, be empathetic to others and also that individuality is what makes you special. Every child benefits from these traits, which is one of the reasons why we support the financial aid program at Little Star.

parent spotlight

baylie & jb huyett

For our kids, Little Star is a place of joy, richness, wonder and attention — somewhere to be special, known, and supported. For us as parents, Little Star is a safety net as a helping hand, the village that supports our work as parents and professionals, but also as healthy, balanced human beings.