



ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

Little Star SCHOOL



OUR MISSION

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

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

With all the uncertainty facing our community from COVID 19 and recent wildfires, it is heartwarming and grounding to look out my office window and see children laughing, smiling, and playing together. We know children need this for their socio-emotional and neural development, and we know we need it to return to work!

COVID 19 has brought childcare and early learning into the spotlight at the national level. Issues that faced our industry long before COVID are now heightened under the additional strain of the pandemic. With 30-50% of licensed childcare facilities at risk of permanent closure across the US, many ECE teachers making poverty wages, and working parents financially stretched by tuition payments, we know we need to make a collective investment in the system for our children, our teachers, and our families.

We are so fortunate that our community has made that investment locally in Little Star! Thanks to you, our financial aid program is here to help families, our teachers are paid above average wages for early learning providers, and we've been able to stay open since early in the pandemic to serve working families.

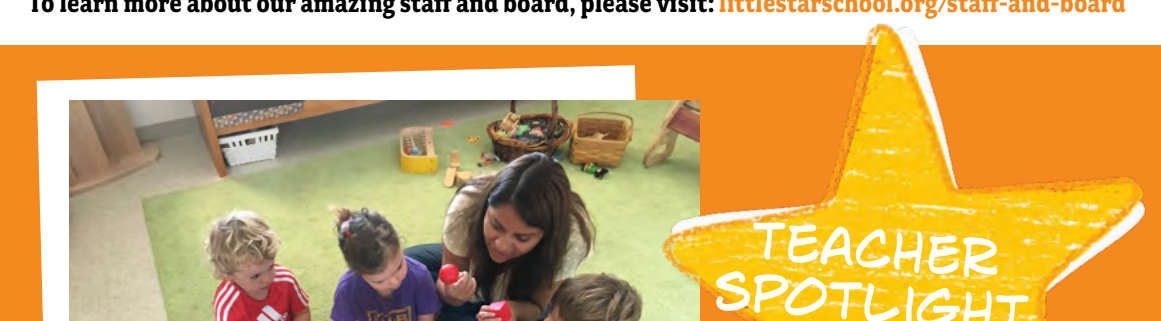


But there is more work to do! We've joined a state-wide effort to advocate for a system that ensures all children and families can get the care they need, teachers are fairly compensated for their important work (and have health insurance!) and childcare centers can operate with long-term financial sustainability.

With your partnership, we will continue to forge ahead on behalf of our community!

WITH LOVE & GRATITUDE,
DANI REYNAUD

2020-2021 STAFF & BOARD



To learn more about our amazing staff and board, please visit: littlestarschool.org/staff-and-board



VANESSA LEVINE ESPICHAN
Little Star Winthrop Toddler Teacher

Vanessa hails from Peru and worked as a Montessori teacher there before she moved to the Methow. She has been a toddler teacher at Little Star for the last 3 years and we are so lucky to have her!

When I arrived in the Valley I had a personal dream of continuing to be a Montessori guide. Soon after I was introduced to Little Star, I wanted so much for my daughter to study in this wonderful place. The Universe took care of everything- I was able to fulfill my dream of continuing to be a guide and my daughter was able to attend Little Star! It is a joy to see the children achieve goals and to be part of this important stage of child development.

I feel blessed to be in a place where I not only do a job that fills me with joy, but I am also surrounded by wonderful people (children and adults) that are my support and my family far from my home country.

HERE'S WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER THIS YEAR IN THE FACE OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC!



CLOSED OUR SCHOOL TEMPORARILY TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY FROM COVID-19.

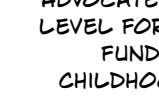
SUPPORTED FAMILIES DURING THE CLOSURE WITH DIGITAL RESOURCES AND ONLINE PARENT MEETINGS.



AND SUSPENDED TUITION BILLING FOR 2 MONTHS TO SUPPORT OUR FAMILIES.

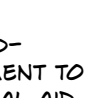


DISTRIBUTED \$91,175 OF FINANCIAL AID TO OVER 30% OF FAMILIES ATTENDING LITTLE STAR.



PROVIDED CHILDCARE FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICE WORKERS THROUGHOUT THE STATEWIDE STAY HOME, STAY HEALTHY MANDATE.

SECURED A PPP FORGIVABLE LOAN AND EXPANDED FUNDRAISING TO ENSURE ALL TEACHERS WERE COMPENSATED DURING THE CLOSURE.



ADVOCATED AT THE STATE LEVEL FOR MORE PUBLIC FUNDING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.



ESTABLISHED A BOARD-DESIGNATED ENDOWMENT TO SUPPORT OUR FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM AND HAVE FUNDRAISED 25% OF OUR GOAL.

LOVED AND NURTURED 130 CHILDREN



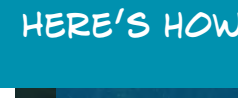
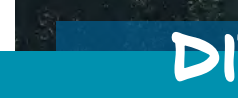
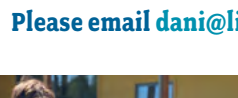
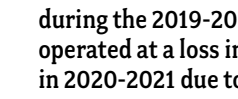
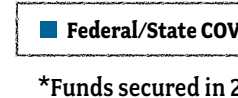
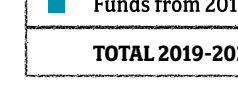
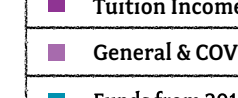
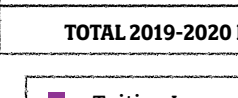
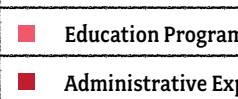
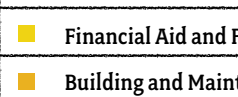
EMPLOYED 40 TEACHERS AND STAFF MEMBERS!



SUCCESSFULLY AND SAFELY OPERATED SUMMER CAMPS IN TWISP AND WINTHROP.

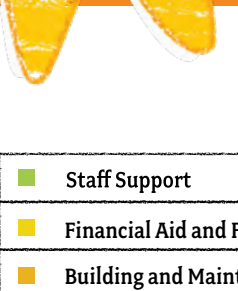


CELEBRATED OUR 38TH BIRTHDAY & THE 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE TWISP CAMPUS!



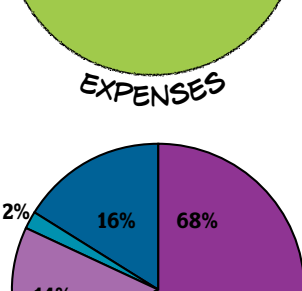
ALEX & LATANYA OTT
(Little Star Board Member)

Little Star was a game changer for us after moving to the Methow and knowing no one. We found a loving community which welcomed us, and a place where our children can grow and thrive. The Financial Aid Program helped make it possible for us to attend. Little Star helped us learn the importance of Early Childhood Education and without it the Valley wouldn't feel as much like home.

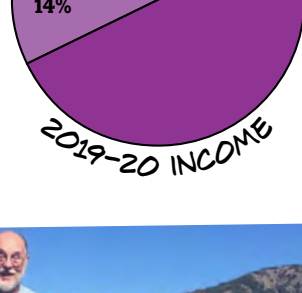


2019-2020 FINANCIALS

Staff Support	\$911,114
Financial Aid and Family Support	\$91,175
Building and Maintenance Expenses	\$77,402
Education Program Expenses	\$35,800
Administrative Expenses	\$19,847
TOTAL 2019-2020 EXPENSES	\$1,135,338



Tuition Income	\$844,208
General & COVID Mitigation Fundraising	\$168,372
Funds from 2019 Auction used for fiscal year 2019	\$25,000
TOTAL 2019-2020 INCOME	\$1,037,580



Federal/State COVID 19 Support Grants: \$201,300*

*Funds secured in 2020 to be used to offset operating losses during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 fiscal years. Little Star operated at a loss in 2019-2020 and is budgeted to do so again in 2020-2021 due to reduced class sizes.

My late wife Marilyn and I believe that Early Childhood Education is the most important part of a child's life, especially for those who are most vulnerable. That is why I support the LS Financial Aid Fund, to ensure all children in our community have access to this important early start.



LEYLAND (LEE) WHITTAKER

In October, you can support Little Star and other important organizations through www.GiveMethow.org The CFNCW will cover your credit card fees! Please email dani@littlestarschool.org with any donation questions.



DID YOU KNOW

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP LITTLE STAR SERVE FAMILIES:

- ★ Make a tax-deductible donation: littlestarschool.org/giving
- ★ Consider a planned gift to Little Star in your financial or estate plan
- ★ Thank a teacher
- ★ Volunteer on campus or join our substitute teaching team
- ★ Call your representative to advocate for public support of early childhood education

