

PRESCHOOL OF THE ARTS

2022-2023 YEAR END SUMMARY

DEAR *PSA* COMMUNITY,

Each of my four years at Preschool of the Arts has pushed us to understand and live by our unique mission – **to offer a vibrant and innovative learning community committed to child-focused exploration, creativity and collaboration.** This isn't something we have taken lightly, and for 50+ years, PSA has worked tirelessly to make sure this is a wonderful place where children can explore, laugh, learn, and most importantly, be themselves. While the last four years brought about their own challenges, they have allowed us to grow in new and wonderful ways. Each task we have completed, we have done so with our mission at the heart.

Focusing on the needs of our children meant that we had to explore our facility's inner workings. After recognizing the ever-growing number of children who are potty training and listening to our teachers' thoughts and wishes, we were able to install a new bathroom between the Gold and the Snowflake Rooms. This was a labor of love, and we are grateful for the resources to make this happen. It has really made a difference in the flow of our school day.

Taking care of our teaching staff also meant that we needed to create a wage scale that was competitive. Our teachers are some of the most hard-working, dedicated staff I have ever had the pleasure of working with, and staff recognition and retention are two ways we can continue to provide the absolute best care of our students! Our new wage scale was overdue, and we are proud to be able to make these changes.

I look forward to the future. We want to be a dynamic, innovative school that provides an incredible learning experience and a home away from home for all those who enter. We will continue to focus our intention on our children and best practices in early childhood and in the Reggio inspired experience, which will always include what is best for our families and staff. With continued financial stability, we will be able to embrace the future while honoring the wonderful foundations that make Preschool of the Arts the magical place it is!

IN PEACE, Dr. Penny Robbins



HIGHLIGHTS and GOALS

Accomplishments of the year, and visions of the future

NEW BATHROOM

PSA's biggest facility project this year was to add a new single toilet bathroom! As the demographic of our student population has veered younger, we've experienced congestion in our shared bathrooms, particularly when many classrooms are potty training at the same time. To help alleviate this, we added a bathroom between the Gold Room and Snowflake Room. This was a major project that involved changing the plumbing throughout our building. Now, our hallways are a little less clogged up!

TEACHERS' LOUNGE

In celebration of National Teacher Appreciation Week, we gave our teachers' lounge and teacher resource room a complete makeover. New tables and chairs for lunches, new comfy furniture, new computers, new appliances and even new coffee cups! Our teachers are the heart and soul of our school, and they deserve a nice space to relax. Our hope is that the new refreshed space nurtures our teachers as much as they nurture our students!

ART STUDIO LAB MODEL

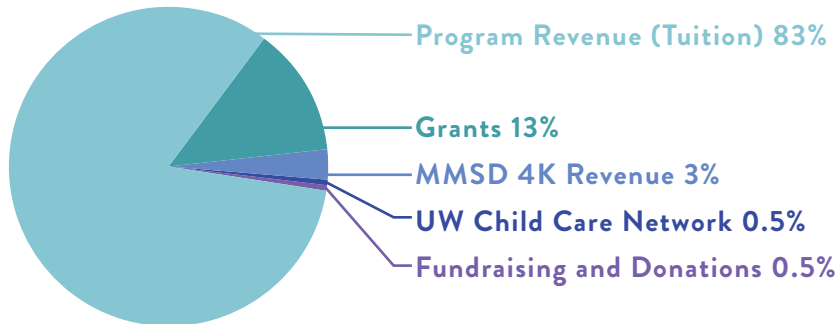
This school year saw a transformation in our Art Studio, as we transitioned to a "lab model". The Art Studio began looking at a single artistic medium or idea at a time, allowing the students to develop skills, build on knowledge, and become fluent. Over the course of many weeks, all of our students explored the same language: first clay, then printmaking, collage and more. This transition allows our Art Specialists to completely overhaul the Art Studio with each focus, tailoring the space to reflect the ideas, needs and techniques of each language.

NEW PORTFOLIO SYSTEM

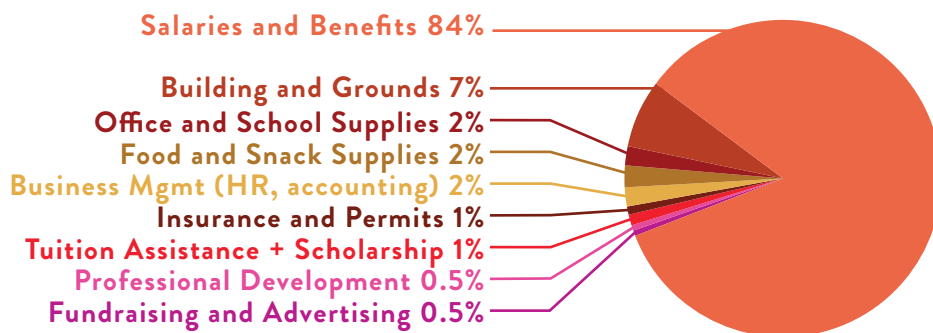
For the 2023-24 school year, we hope to revamp and rework the child developmental portfolios that we use as an assessment tool. Our Pedagogical Specialists will work in collaboration with teachers to create a framework that is strengths-based. We aim to tell the story of each child's learning, who they are individually, and how they interact with the classroom group. Additionally, we hope that this new system will create consistency among classrooms, and ensure that our developmental tools reflect best practices in the field from a wide variety of sources.

BY THE NUMBERS

income - \$4,520,213



expenses - \$3,944,636



This school year was a very strong year for PSA from a financial perspective, thanks in large part to continued Child Care Counts funding from the Department of Children and Families. This program allows PSA to apply for a grant on a monthly basis. While the monthly funding has decreased slightly over the year, the Wisconsin legislature has committed to continuing the funding through June 2025.

The stability that these grant funds have given the school allowed us to completely reassess and restructure our wage scale. Child care is a notoriously underpaid field, and a competitive job market has put significant strain on the whole industry. For the 2022-23 school year, PSA raised our starting wages, and adjusted our current staff salaries to reflect the new pay scale. We hope these adjustments will make our salaries more competitive within the child care market, and that we can continue to assess and increase our salaries.

During the 2022-23 school year, PSA was able to expand our Debbie Hemb Tuition Assistance Fund, which supports families facing hardships. We also offered our first ever scholarship, a

complete year of tuition paid in full. Overall, we committed over \$35,000 to financial aid and scholarship this year. It is our hope that responsible management of our finances will allow PSA to continue to offer scholarships in years to come.



LANGUAGES PSA FAMILIES SPEAK

Chinese
English
Farsi
German
Hebrew
Hindi
Italian
Hmong
Japanese
Korean
Mongolian
Serbian
Spanish

