

PRESCHOOL OF THE ARTS 2024-2025 YEAR END SUMMARY

DEAR PSA COMMUNITY,

As I end my fifth year at PSA, I have been reflecting on the path that we have taken over the past year and what I am looking forward to as 2026 arrives.

Our teachers and staff are incredible, and I am grateful for the emphasis we have put on their training, support, professional enrichment, and compensation. As I'm sure you are aware, preschool teachers are some of the lowest paid, direct contact professionals in our country, and as such turnover can occur. We have worked hard at making sure that our professional development is supportive, enriching, and comprehensive. Our benefits are consistent and competitive. It is this focus that allows our teachers to feel valued and helps us maintain a solid retention rate. As a matter-of-fact, we celebrated one of our beloved teacher's 35th anniversary in October!

When I began my journey at PSA in January 2020, we were in an uphill financial battle. When COVID hit, the stress of a less-than-desirable financial situation meant that we had to make some very difficult decisions. Fortunately, through the generous grant programs (Child Care Counts and Bridges), as well as some very solid financial planning and budgeting, we have not only greatly improved our financial position, but we have prepared for the future, whatever it may hold.

I am excited to watch the next year unfold. Embarking on a major kitchen renovation project will certainly be a trial, but one that will bring us so much joy. I look forward to watching our children become a part of the kitchen. The most important part of the future is our community right now. I am proud of our administration, board, teachers, support staff, and all of the parents and children that continue to push PSA to be the best preschool in Madison!

IN PEACE, Dr. Penny Robbins



HIGHLIGHTS and GOALS

Accomplishments of the year and visions for the future

LEARNING TOGETHER

This year, we took advantage of the Child Care Counts funding and invested heavily in staff professional development. A cohort of six teachers enrolled in a course with Project Zero (Harvard), a Pedagogical Specialist attended a year-long leadership intensive with The Studio For Playful Inquiry, a number of staff members attended either in-person or virtual conferences, both regional and international. On the other side, we were asked to present our work at multiple schools in Wisconsin, and at the Early Learning Connections conference. Additionally, two of our teachers co-authored an article for *Young Children*, a national publication associated with NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children).

NEW MASCOT - RABBITS!

Parallel to the Presidential election, PSA held our own school-wide election. Each classroom had the opportunity to nominate a candidate to serve as our school mascot. After a primary election, we narrowed it down to three candidates: Monarch, Rabbit and Tiger. Classrooms were encouraged to create posters to endorse their favorite choice. On election day, all members of our community had the opportunity to vote for their favorite mascot. It was a close race, but the Rabbits won! Our school bunnies, Reggie and Honey, are thrilled.

BIG KITCHEN UPDATE

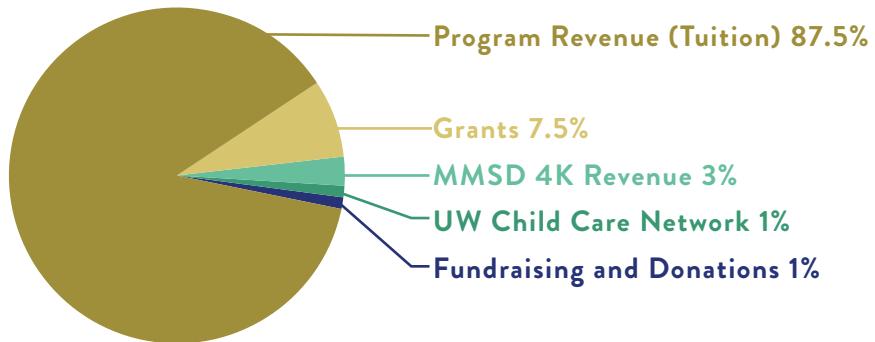
Since 2022, PSA has been discussing upgrading our kitchen to commercial standards, and in the 2025-26 school year, we are making it happen! Our updated kitchen will have a dedicated HVAC system, a new range oven with an exhaust hood, and a child-friendly space. This is a much needed update to improve the efficiency of our kitchen and snack program. Along with greatly improving our capacity for snack output, this remodel will create opportunities for a true teaching kitchen, allowing us to expand our cooking projects with children!

PLAYGROUND UPGRADES

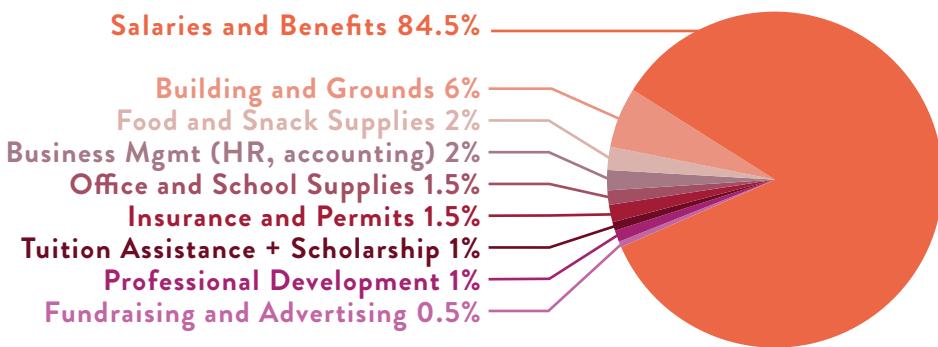
After 30 years, our swingset finally took its last swing. In late May, we replaced our old swing set with a brand new one, complete with our first accessible swing seat. At the same time, we also upgraded our old, wobbly teeter totter with a newer, sturdier one. The children got right to swinging and bouncing!

BY THE NUMBERS

income - \$4,613,681



expenses - \$4,245,816



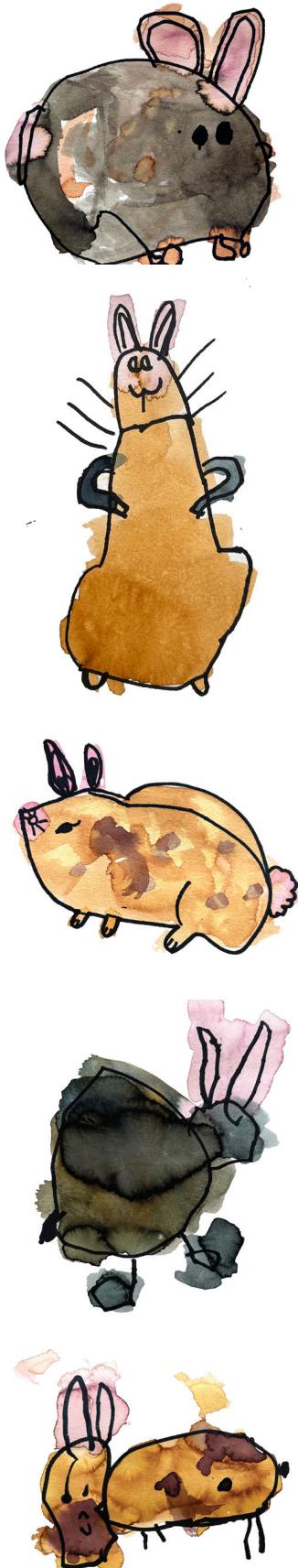
Preschool of the Arts is fortunate to have come through the 2024-25 school year with financial stability. Once again, we benefited from state investment in the Child Care Counts program, which has allowed our school to find solid financial footing, prioritize staff, and create long lasting security through investment.

Our spending is in line with our values. PSA wouldn't exist without our teachers and staff, and if the school is thriving, our teachers should be too. We invested heavily in professional development this year, doubling the amount we spent to send teachers to conferences, attend workshops, and pursue their interests. We also funded both our scholarship and tuition assistance programs, with 15 families benefiting from these programs.

With careful planning, we have also been able to build a reserve fund that will allow the school

to have a bit more breathing room as we face a very different picture for the 2025-26 school year. The state investment payments, now called Child Care Bridges, will be ending in June 2026 with no chance of continuation. Thanks to our Board of Directors' focus on fundraising, we increased our total amount raised by more than double previous years.

The expansion of the Madison Metropolitan School District 4k program, which is a wonderful thing, means our enrollment picture is changing, and our ages are trending younger. We are facing some uncertainty in the 2025-26 school year, but we're confident that we've done what we can to build a bright and stable future for PSA. None of this would be possible without the dedicated efforts of our staff. Here's to many more years learning alongside one another!



LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT PSA

Bulgarian
Chinese
English

Farsi
German
Hebrew

Hindu
Japanese
Korean

Serbian
Spanish
Tibetan

Turkish
Ukrainian
Urdu