

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Good news about Neighborhood Schools, Inc. Vol. 18, Issue 3 * Summer 2019

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A Loving Launch



NS Graduation is an annual love-fest that reminds all who attend of the difference learning at NS makes in the lives of children and their families. Our nine graduates were shining as they recounted challenging and rewarding times in their journeys at NS as learners and friends. Some spoke of how terrifying it was when they realized something was not typical or effective in their learning; NS proved to be a place where they found strategies and methods that worked, alongside teachers and classmates who cared. Some spoke of the challenge of feeling “other” in a place intended to feel like home and their journey to find allies and understanding. All recounted the benefit of becoming known well enough to let down defenses, make mistakes, learn, and HAVE FUN!

Speaking of having fun, our last day of school featured a Boolie Day carnival at the church followed by a backyard assembly complete with Recorder, Rock Band, Grad Skit, Good-bye Books, and Wood Chip signing. We go the distance in helping our students, teachers, alums, and parents know each one is seen, loved, and equipped to make a good difference in our communities. Cheers!! *



Recent High School Grads (NS Alums, class of 2013) were invited to Boolie Day as a reunion. Callie Demos, Teresa Lourie, Nick Morrow, and Nia Hart (with sister Zora, not pictured) stopped by and joined the fun. Nia's dad, Sherman Hart, shared a joke (per usual) with Donna and Joyce. Let's grow this new tradition!



We thank Peg Bonnice for eight plus years as a creative and dedicated NS teacher. From quilting to Maker Space, with lots of reading and math throughout, Peg engineered memorable projects. Always a learner, we wish Peg well and all the best in her next endeavors!



Hazel Glory Higgins Blazes (3-22-19) made her NS debut at graduation with her adoring parents Johnny Blazes and Brendan Higgins.

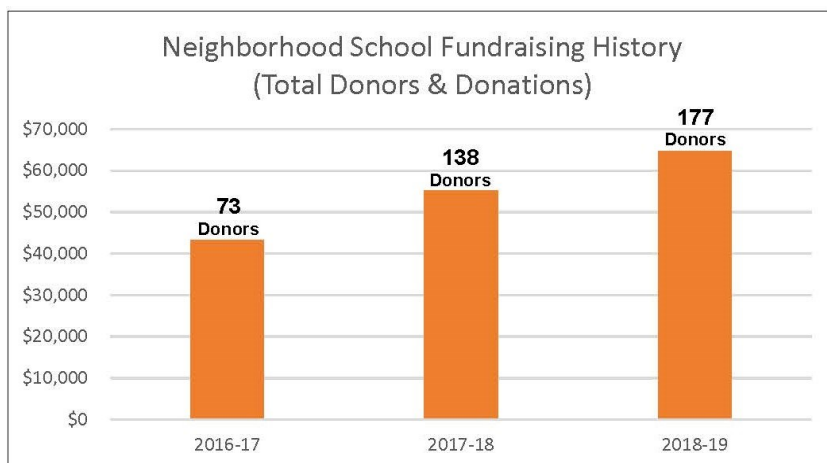
Current Parents Hit 100%!

Thanks to the gracious leadership of NS Parent Malaika Moses and her steady parent team of “reminders”, NS Parents for the second year in a row achieved their goal of 100% participation in the Annual Appeal. In addition to keeping their commitments to tuition and aftercare fees, NS Parents understand the importance of balancing the books as the school regularly “gives” (in program services) more than it requires in fees. Giving makes the difference and NS Parents are “all in” for sure! *



Common Cents

Children of Neighborhood School contributed their artwork on Annual Appeal envelopes and reminder cards this year in order to help achieve our goal of raising \$65,000 in total giving and increasing the number of contributors. Their artistic efforts reaped an encouraging reward when it was announced at our final assembly in May that we had reached our goals, thanks in large part to their help. The children cheered wildly knowing they had made a good difference. We're raising the bar in 2019-2020 and looking for more Sustainers of NS to go deep towards Scholarship and for more alumni and alum parents to join us in keeping NS financially healthy as it grows on beyond its founders. *



Sustainers Making an Impact

The Spring Sustainers meeting in March was held at the home of Eleanor Chin and Kevin Gillespie. David Gibson shared an update from the **Tech Committee**. Goals for the coming school year include an improved school database, enhanced network to accommodate FIOS, and coordinated communication. The work of the **Leadership Committee** is focused on supporting the development of a Leadership team at the school, and developing an Employee Handbook. **Fund Development**, led by Leslie Belay, presented goals and solicited input as a newly formed group. This group moved forward in June to present a proposal to the board to fund grant writing and donor cultivation in the new school year. A **Space Committee is needed** this year and Board President Linda Camp (alongside Tricia and Scott Morrow and Joyce Mallory) sat with an informative participant, Jeanne Pinado, who brainstormed first steps in forming a group to discern space needs and alternatives for the school as it grows beyond its founders. **The Sustainers Circle is open to former or current NS Parents/Teachers/Friends** who are interested and have time and resources to offer in supporting Neighborhood School. Contact Linda Camp (lindawellscamp@gmail.com) or Tricia with your interest. *

2018-19 Contributions

Our sincere thanks to the more than 170 individuals and organizations who contributed to the Annual Appeal, Scholarship Fund, and Simone Johnson Memorial Fund.

Alan Lazar • Alfred & Sarah Gracombe • Amanda & Gareth Cook • Amy Lloyd & Max Gruner
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