

St. Vrain Community Montessori School

Report to the Community 2016-2017

Welcome

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Welcome

Message from the Board of Directors

Dear Families,

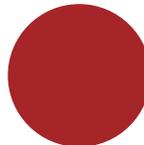
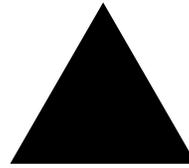
The St. Vrain Community Montessori School Board is excited to present this Periodic Report to the Community, which is intended to review our progress in the context of data from the 2016-17 school year. It is our hope that the information presented here both informs and educates the reader about the high-quality, high-fidelity Montessori program available to children ages 3 years through grade 8, as a school of choice within the St. Vrain Valley School District.

Since opening our doors in September of 2009, SVCMS has striven to create an environment in which students can become independent, self-directed and enthusiastic learners with the guidance of well-prepared and credentialed Montessori guides. Our Board believes that it is through this great work that we will prepare the leaders, the entrepreneurs, and the peace-makers of the future.

This work is not always easy, nor is it well-funded; like all public schools in Colorado, SVCMS operates under a very tight budget. The Board works with our Head of School to carefully manage our finances and our rate of growth while providing an authentic Montessori education to our students. As you read through this report, it is our hope that you will join us in reflecting back on what SVCMS accomplished in 2016-17, and looking forward at our collective vision of how we hope to grow the school in the future.

Finally, our Board would like to recognize Katie Torres, our dedicated Head of School, as well as the SVCMS staff and our families, for ensuring that our children arrive at school each day excited to see their friends and guides, eager to tackle challenging works, and ready to engage joyfully and whole-heartedly in the pursuit of their growing passions. Our students' enthusiasm and determination as they settle down to each day's work are the daily reminders that SVCMS is more than just a school, it is a community.

Jennifer Kemp, Board President



Message from the Head of School

Dear Families,

I'm so grateful for our joyful, intentional community. As I reflect on our shared history, I can't help but appreciate the good fortune those of us at school have to experience the wonderful moments that occur each and every day within our walls. SVCMS has built a school that embodies the core tenets of an authentic Montessori education.

*We have attracted and retained **dedicated faculty** who have the ability and dedication to put Montessori methods into effective practice for their students.*

*We have established **meaningful partnerships** with our families who play an integral part of our student's Whole Child development.*

*We have joyful classroom communities populated with **three-year, mixed-age** heterogeneous groupings of students.*

*We provide **Montessori materials**, activities and experiences, which are designed to foster physical, intellectual, creative and social independence and interdependence.*

*Our schedules **prioritize uninterrupted work-cycles** for concentration in order to foster self-construction of the individual.*

*And our classroom atmospheres encourage social interaction for cooperative learning, peer teaching and **Whole Child development**.*

We must continue to embrace and vigilantly protect these essentials every day.

Through mindfulness, organizational discipline, and on-going reflection about what matters and how we can best serve our students, we continue our good work. The SVCMS Faculty and Staff are committed to the ideals of Dr. Montessori and hopeful about our ability to serve our community with the faithful implementation of an authentic Montessori education for all of our students.

My sincere gratitude for your continued support of SVCMS,

Katie Torres, Head of School

History of SVCMS

	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
	After two years of planning and preparation, SVCMS opens its doors.	Third Lower Elementary classroom added.	SVCMS expands with a modular classroom added for first Upper Elementary classroom.	SVCMS adds 5th grade and begins to use the Grove.	The Grove now includes a full UE suite with Willow North, Willow South, the UE Library, Upendo Room, and Assembly.
Grades Served	PK-2	PK-3	PK-4	PK-5	PK-6
Classrooms	4	5	6	6	7
Number of Staff	12	15	19	21	23
Funded Full Time Equivalent	72	99	116	139	158
Students	99	111	139	170	198
Annual Fund	\$29,750	\$49,328	\$56,334	\$71,542	\$80,745
Total Revenue	\$1,142,152	\$1,140,723	\$1,202,772	\$1,405,565	\$1,628,473

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
	Middle School opens, occupying an additional classroom at The Grove and space at The Orchard for Occupations.	8th grade added to Middle School.	SVCMS announces future plans to move to new campus, though its request for bond funding is denied.	Third UE classroom added with additional modular space for UE and MS at the Grove.
Grades Served	PK-7	PK-8	PK-8	PK-8
Classrooms	8	8	8	9
Number of Staff	28	29	35	38
Funded Full Time Equivalent	178	191	199	219
Students	219	231	239	270
Annual Fund	\$83,605	\$92,518	\$97,905	\$95,000 (goal)
Total Revenue	\$2,272,007	\$2,098,886	\$2,270,963	\$2,512,198

Our mission *is educating the Whole Child within an Authentic Montessori Program in a public charter school environment.*

Guides credentialed for the level they are teaching

A full complement of Montessori materials in every classroom

A partnership with families

An uninterrupted three-hour work cycle every day

Three-year, mixed-age grouping based on Dr. Montessori's Planes of Development (3-6, 6-9, 9-12, 12-14)

An atmosphere that encourages social interaction, peer teaching, and emotional development

Our vision is that SVCMS students will develop their intellectual, social, emotional, and physical capabilities in order to embrace the world as it is and can be.

Strategic Plan

Deliver an Authentic Montessori Education

- Guides credentialed for their levels
- 3-year, mixed-age groupings
- Full complement of Montessori Materials
- Uninterrupted 3-hour work cycle every day
- Partnership with families

Support the Self-Construction of the Whole Child

- Cognitive development
- Social skills
- Emotional growth
- Physical condition & wellness

Ensure the Operational Health and Sustainability of the School

- Adequate financial resources
- Three-to-five-year growth plan
- Comprehensive facility plan
- Strong governance and committee structures
- Recruit and retain high-quality staff

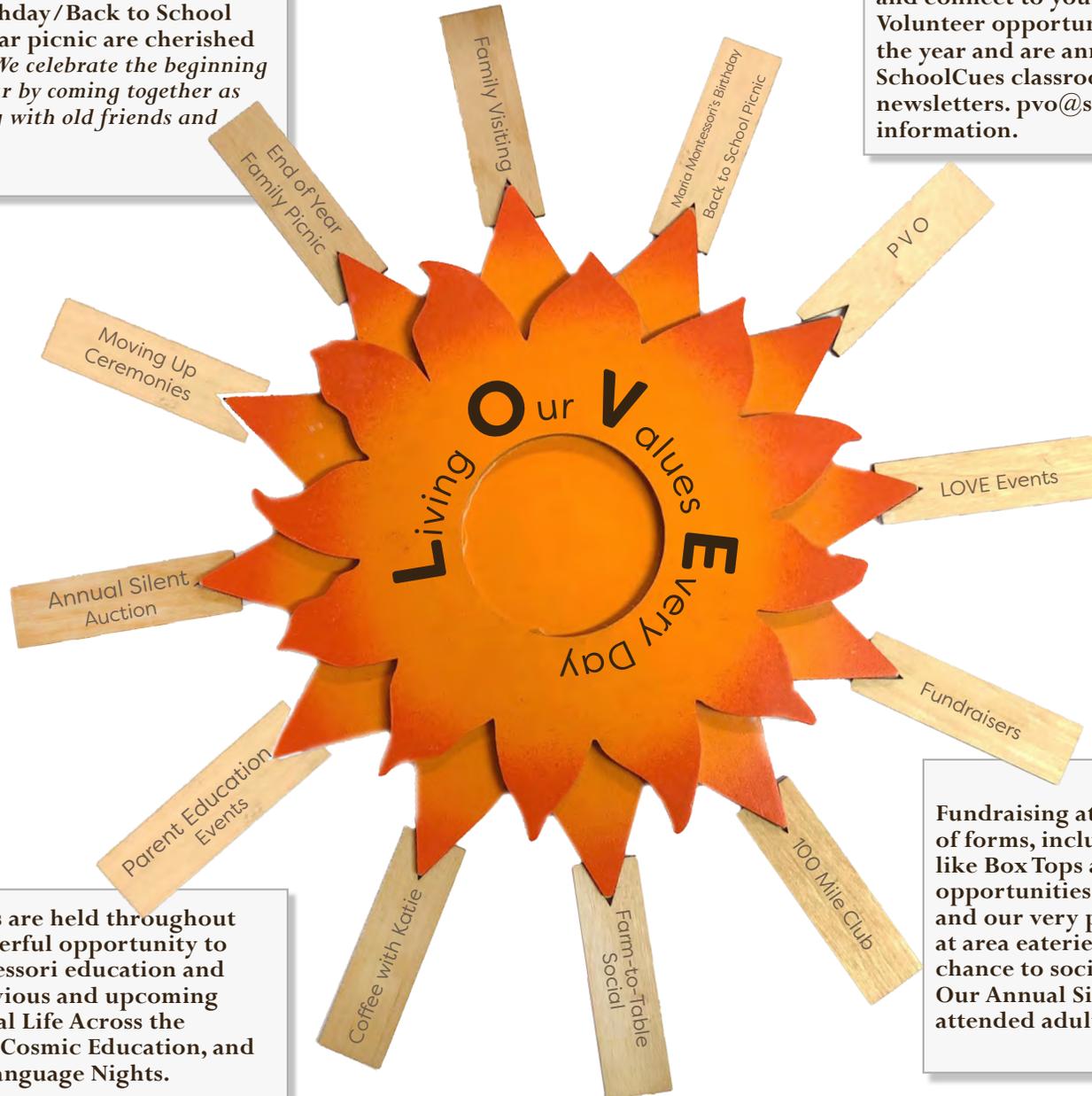
Build a Thriving and Engaged Community

- Community engagement
- Parental support
- Communication plan
- Staff satisfaction
- Family satisfaction

Community

Maria Montessori's Birthday/Back to School Picnic and the End of Year picnic are cherished community traditions. *We celebrate the beginning and end of each school year by coming together as a community, reconnecting with old friends and welcoming new ones.*

Volunteering is a great way to support SVCMS and connect to your school community! Volunteer opportunities develop throughout the year and are announced through SchoolCues classroom updates and weekly newsletters. pvo@svcmontessori.org for more information.



Parent Education Events are held throughout the year and are a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Montessori education and classroom practice. Previous and upcoming sessions include Practical Life Across the Planes of Development, Cosmic Education, and Montessori Math and Language Nights.

Fundraising at SVCMS takes a variety of forms, including national programs like Box Tops and Shutterfly, local opportunities like Milk Caps for Moolah, and our very popular restaurant nights at area eateries, which offer families a chance to socialize while raising funds. Our Annual Silent Auction is our most attended adult event of the year.

Faculty, Staff, and Board of Directors



Children's House



Lower Elementary



Upper Elementary



Middle School



Integral Staff



Office Staff



Board of Directors

Measuring What Matters

Observation is a cornerstone of the Montessori practice. Montessori guides are highly trained observers; they observe the child at work in the classroom and use the information they gather to shape their lessons.

The Three Period Lesson of the Montessori method is a tool of fluid instruction used across the Planes of Development by guides to deliver lessons, observe progress, and assess student learning. We prioritize and value insights we receive from these well-established tools of the Montessori method.

80% of SVCMS families volunteer their time and talents at least twice during the school year.

94% of parents say they are highly satisfied with SVCMS.

**from the 2016-2017 Parent Survey*

Type of Assessment	Formative/ Diagnostic	Interim (Benchmark)	Summative	Progress Monitoring
Purpose	What student knows and what student needs to learn	Where student is at this moment in time	Yearly Growth	Assess progress
Grades	ALL	K-6	3-8	All
Some of Our Specific Assessments, Which Vary by Age of Student	DRA DOG Early Skills Evaluation	Writing prompts Math benchmark DIBELS 3 Period Lesson Progress Monitoring Early Skills Evaluation Kindergarten Readiness	CMAS MAP ACCESS (for English Language Learners only)	Montessori Workspace (demonstrating mastery) Normalization checklist Progress Report (Social, Emotional and Executive Function.)

ACCORDING TO THE 2016-2017 PARENT SURVEY, PARENTS BELIEVE SVCMS IS...

- *effective in fulfilling its mission of providing an authentic Montessori education for their child*
- *effective in balancing the needs of the Whole Child*
- *providing adequate feedback about their child(rens) progress*
- *responsive to their questions and concerns*
- *making a sincere effort to keep students safe*

In our Alumni Teacher Survey, our alumni's high school teachers report that our alumni are intellectually curious, focused, able to peacefully resolve conflict, and successfully work as part of a team.

Our alumni themselves report that they feel well-prepared for work in their high school environments.

Finance and Funding

Charter schools in Colorado face a unique set of challenges in terms of financing and operating their schools compared to district public schools.

Charter schools receive the same per pupil revenue (PPR) as other district public schools, minus district administrative charges of about 5% to 10%, which are used for specific overhead costs and purchased services.

Last year, this fee amounted to nearly 8% for SVCMS.

Despite funding challenges, SVCMS provides its students with thoughtfully planned, beautiful classrooms with a full complement of Montessori materials, prioritizes paying competitive salaries, offers employees comprehensive medical and dental insurance, and provides opportunities for professional development.

The need for family donations is even more critical in 2017-2018.

Annual Fund Goal: \$90,000+ from SVCMS families and friends

\$95,000 provides ~1/3 of the total salaries and benefits for the exceptional second adults employed in classrooms.

Every donation helps advance our school's mission to nurture the whole child and enrich the lives of every student

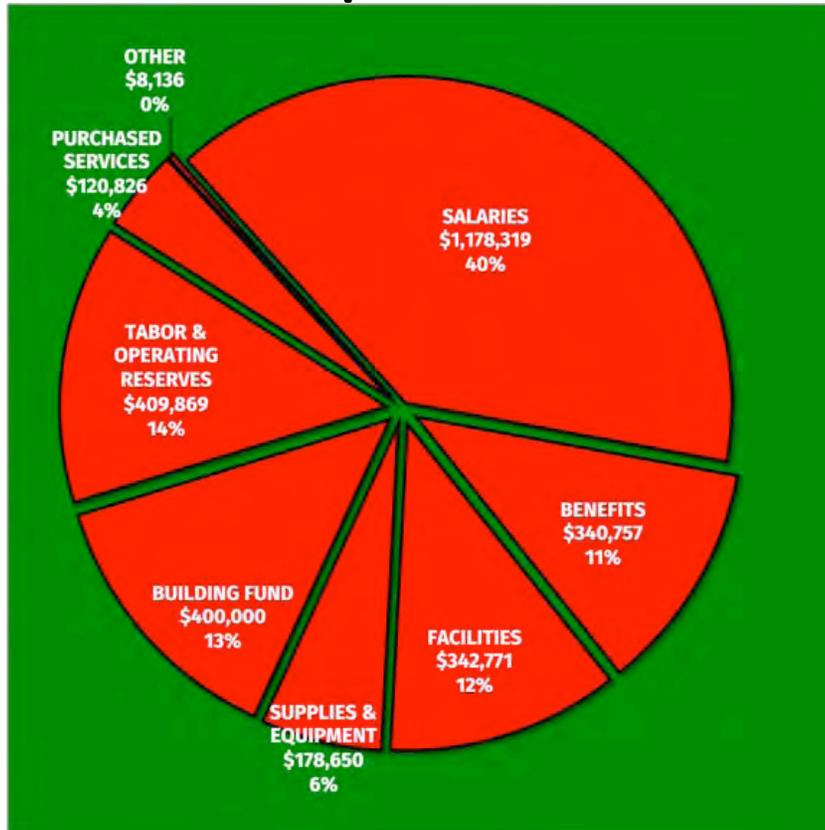
When seeking funding, it is important to show that each and every one of our families supports the school, no matter how large or small their donation.

Annual Fund Goal: 100% of families donating

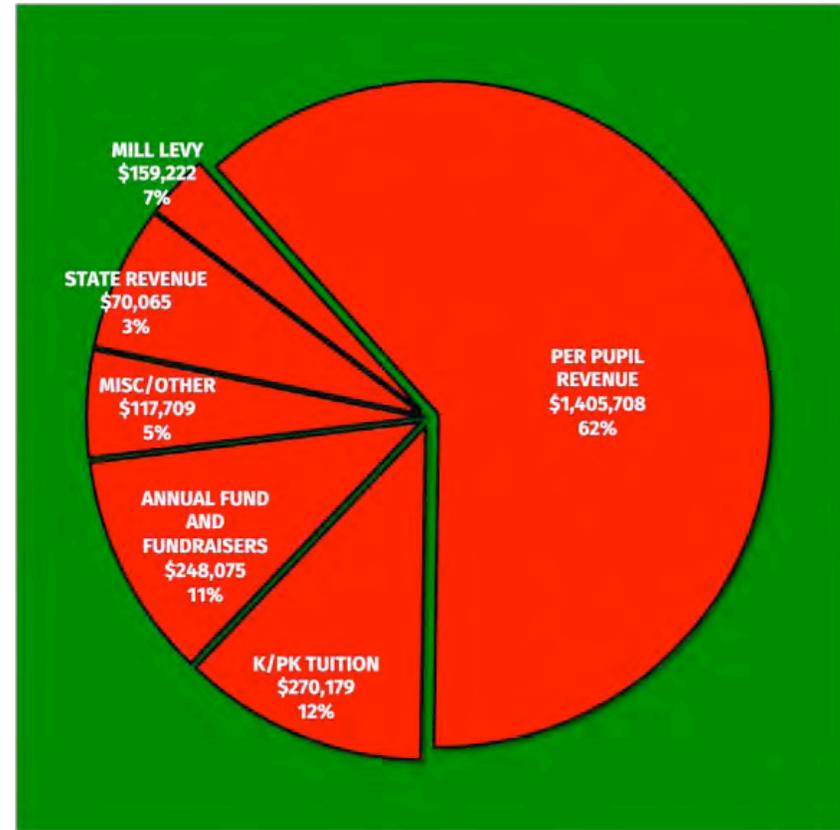
We hope that you will participate in our annual family giving program.

2016-2017

Expenses



Revenue



Inadequate K-12 school funding in Colorado requires all schools to engage in vigorous and robust fundraising efforts throughout their lifetimes.

2016-2017 Annual Giving

Family donations	\$71,495
Friends and family	\$18,236
Matching donations	\$7,058
TOTAL	\$96,789

2016-2017 Fundraising Activity

Butter Braids	\$3,237.20
Grocery cards	\$3,200.58
Silent Auction	\$13,832.22
All other	\$2,104.41
TOTAL	\$22,377.21

DONATIONS & FUNDRAISING

TOTAL:
\$119,166.21

Gifts and Donations



Anna-Liza & Ken Armfield
 David Barbee & Angela Rios-Barbee
 Thomas Bender & Nicole Neuert-Bender
 Leigh & Ben Burman
 Debbie & Keith Coniglio
 Rebekah Cook
 Ginny & Bob Crawford*
 Bethany & Josh Crigger
Jessica Davidson
Kate Goss
 Brandi & Steven Greff
 Todd Hawkins
 Erik Hinkley & Deborah Mayer
 Maria Ivy & Gabe Searle
 Kate Johannesen*
 Rachel & Joel Mansfield
 Justin Marcellus & Toni Ortiz
 Kelly & Jacob Myers
Robin Nosek
 Dartiniano Omran & Casey Omran
 Kristina & Ernie Rodgers
 Nancy Sohm*
 Liz & Eric Swan
 Stephen Truex & Rachael Harp
 Shirley & Richard Visser*
 Cindy & Mark Waldron
 Shaylyn & Tyler Wilson



Brian Altman & Jeri Dulitz-Altman
 Brian Benner & Sally Tiede
 Emily & Paul Bliss
 Lisa & Matthew Bobby
 Marisa & Paul Busic
 Lori & Angel Carranza
 Clover & Katherine Collardson
 Richard Cottrill
 John & Nancy Cousins*
 Amy & Joseph DeLaTerre
 Whitney & Kevin Doty
 Nicholas Dronen & ChengHsi Ho
 Amy & Nicholas Ellis
 Jessica & Max Fink
 Ben Ford & Mary Geitner
 Layla Forshee
 Phillipe Haussy & Trista Gage
 John Gibson*

Paul Graham & Marcy McGurgan
 Linda & Steve Gunn
 Shari & Chris Hardies
 Paula & Clark Harshbarger
 Charlie Hickman & Maria Stepanyan
 Lindsay & Micah Holmes
 Mary Huron Hunter & Mark Hunter
 Jamie & Aaron Jurkovich
 Leland Keller & Darlene Rooney-Keller
 Laura & Michael Langford
 Michelle & Benjamin Lee
 Nicole & Christian Lee
 Theresa & Andrew MacFarland
 Patrice & Doug Markum
 Jessica & Greg McGuire
 Amy Miller
 Rod & Lori Ohmart*
 Rachel & David Osborn
 Sabine & John Percarpio
 Brian Pierce
 Ed Rankin
 Leila Rankin
 Vicky & Stefan Reinold
 Mary Rose & Michael Stahlman
 Susan & David Roth
 Jill Ryerson & David Goldhammer
 Eve Shelden
 Michelle & Jeff Skagen
 Jayme & Laura Stone
 Elizabeth & Chad Straka
 Eric Turner & Stephanie Violette
 Michelle Visser
 Amy & Kevin Walters
 Kristin Weber
 Jennifer & Jason Wood
 Meghan & Wesley Wright



Stephen Barnes & Rachel Mueller
 Todd Eichorn & Andrea Bullard
 Amanda & Christopher Bybee
 Michelle & Matthew Cain
 Karla & Ezra Castillo
 Mark Edmonds
 Joseph Falke
 Erick & Kim Finnestead
 Mark & Kena Guttridge
 High Country Beverage

Dale Hoffman*
 Kelly & James Hunter
 Jill & Stuart King
 Paul Moeller & Carolyn Morris
 Jason Nardell
 Lorene Nardell
 Michael Santulli & Dangol Sunanda
 Katie Torres
 Amanda & Adam Williams



Julie & Scott Adair
 Jason Berkowitz
 Ann Marie & Stephen Carr
 Elise & Peter Champe
 Gwenevere & Ethan Davis
 Jennifer & Bill Davis
 Sarah & Carl Feitler
 Tonya Goodwin & Chris Balsley
 Kimberly & Tom Graber
 Adam & Natalie Hecht
 Alex Herda & Jeanie Parsons
 Amelia & Douglas Hurst
 Carley & Dylan Hushka
 Brooke & Adam James
 Nichole & Julian Kain
 Tiffany & Samuel Kasanicky
 Jennifer Kemp & Scott Holwick
 Sheri & Bryant King
 Jeanne McAdara
 Cindy Moran & Tom van der Hoeven
 Tammy & Jason Ornstein
 Jitka & Anthony Perez
 Franklyn Quinlan & Catherine Bond
 Laura & Alan Somers
 Heather & Matthew Stratton
 Susan Sweeney
 Susan & Richard Waldvogel
 Sharon Wherry
 Beth & Jacob Wilson
 Alison & Paul Zemanek



Suzan & Ken Green
 William & Leigh Gustafson*
 Brian & Jennifer Harper
 Tama & Wade Heinrichs
 Patti & Jim Kemp*

* indicates friends & family donations. Italics indicate staff donations.

Featured: Good Deeds Tree

Planning for Our Future

Our Situation

After nearly nine years in operation, SVCMS has yet to be housed in a permanent facility, and we are bursting at the seams. In 2017-18, we squeezed 270 students into a space intended for 200. For the upcoming 2018-19 year we have no choice but to turn away more than 200 students who applied for our programs because there is simply no physical space for them. We lack the basic amenities of a permanent school facility, such as a gymnasium and suitable outdoor play space.

The SVCMS Board of Directors and Head of School have been working to obtain land and funds for a “forever home” for our school.

Although the District declined to include our SVCMS facility in the 2016 bond issue, they did offer us a 10-acre parcel for potential development. This parcel remains encumbered by a conservation easement from Boulder County, and negotiations to modify the terms to allow placement of the school there were upended in 2017 by staff changes at the County. In the meantime, a series of meetings with potential financiers for the building project shows that SVCMS would likely need the support of a larger entity, such as the District, to secure sufficient financing to construct a campus once land is secured.



Our Need

Negotiations with the County, the District, and financial markets are active and ongoing; in the meantime, SVCMS is already at 135% of capacity and, while we will turn away hundreds this year, we still must admit at least a dozen new students in order to honor our commitment to admitting all siblings. *While we continue to work toward our forever home, we must identify stop-gap measures for the 2018-19 school year to relieve pressure on our physically overcrowded classrooms and play spaces.*



Our Opportunity

SVCMS has overcome many challenges in its nine years of operation, while always prioritizing our promise to provide for our students' well-being and for their right to an authentic Montessori education. *With resolve, creativity, and continued perseverance, we will realize our vision.* The SVCMS Board and Head of School continue to work with the District and County toward resolving the land gift and securing facility financing. Should that effort be successful, we will initiate infrastructure development in 2018-19. In the meantime, we are also actively evaluating additional, satellite space for a stop-gap expansion to accommodate our needs in 2018-19. Thus, while all of us continue to keep our sights firmly on the end-goal of building a permanent home for our school, we wish to recognize that it is our community's engagement and commitment to Montessori principles that are the essential elements in our students' success as citizens of the future.