



2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



FROM OUR NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL



Dear Pinewoods families,

I am sitting outside at a picnic table on the Primary playground watching over our After School group. It is hot and humid, as is the norm in August in North Carolina, but there is a bit of a breeze. Our playground is a magical place in many ways, not the least of which is that it stays bearably cool on the hottest of days.

Children from different classes and levels have formed small groups of 3-4, and are deeply involved in their play with one another, or in conversation while they swing side by side. All are wearing masks. If it weren't for the masks, this would look like any scene on any warm afternoon at Pinewoods. As I find my footing as the newest Head of School in the midst of a pandemic, I find peace and solace in the knowledge that we are staying true to ourselves in spite of everything.

Pinewoods is a special place. That is apparent in the joy and contentment of the children we are so lucky to know, and in their families who feel that we are the right match for their values and the intentions they have for their children's education. Our teachers are passionate and dedicated Montessorians, who ground themselves in the teachings of Maria Montessori daily, over and over, again and again. Our administrative team holds our mission and values in mind both in each interaction with our community and in our bigger-picture planning. We are thriving, in spite of being in our third school year affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, because we continue to stay true to who we are and work to become who we want to be.

Pinewoods has a bright future. We now have a beautifully renovated building that aesthetically matches the quality of our services. We are fully enrolled, with interested families reaching out daily to learn more about this wonderful school they've heard about in the community. We are a small school, and intentionally so, with big dreams. We may not grow in size in the coming years, but we do intend to grow in other ways.

While managing the unpredictability of the pandemic, we are also looking ahead to the ways in which we can meet our goals and ensure the success and viability of our school for decades to come. We intend to increase our efforts in development and fundraising to move toward making 109 Millstone Drive a more permanent home, realizing our intentions to be a diverse and inclusive community, beautifying our grounds, providing inspirational staff development, and expanding our programmatic offerings.

At Pinewoods, we offer children a true Montessori education in a safe and peaceful environment in which they develop a deep love of learning. How lucky we are to be here, now, doing this most important work. Thank you for your continued support, trust, and partnership..

Gratefully,
Jessica

MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING CHAIR

Dear Pinewoods Friends & Families,

Over the past three years, it has been my pleasure to serve as the Chair of our School Board. The group of highly skilled, dedicated volunteers serving on the Board has been unmatched in their commitment to the Pinewoods Mission and Values. In particular, as we faced the many challenges brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, this small group of volunteers has given tirelessly of themselves with lots of late night strategy sessions and countless Zoom calls, as we worked with the school administration to balance our financial needs with our mission of a "safe and peaceful setting" and an overwhelming desire to take care of the teachers, staff, and families that make Pinewoods such a special place.

As I enter my family's 8th year in the Pinewoods community, and 6th year on the Board, I am reflecting on how fortunate I have been to work with our outgoing Head of School, Caroline Carman, and the volunteer Board members over the years. Together we oversaw a significant renovation and expansion of our school while holding tight to the values and community that make Pinewoods such a special place for children to learn and grow. In addition to the current wonderful team of Board Members, I'd like to thank recent, but former, long-term Board members Cory Foy, Anne Fox, Camille Tewell, and Masha Pascal for their tireless dedication to our community.

As a school, we are committed to providing an authentic Montessori education in which children develop a love of learning within a safe, peaceful setting. As the Board, we are committed to long-range strategic planning, serving as excellent financial stewards to ensure that the school has the resources necessary for a successful future.

Under the leadership of our new Chair, Dr. Jennifer Melerski, and our new Head of School, Jessica White Winger, I am confident that Pinewoods Montessori will continue to partner with families in developing confident, independent, life-long learners and that we will continue to be led by our Mission and Values. I am proud of where we have been and excited for where we are going!

Sincerely,
Kerry Plunket
Pinewoods Montessori School
Board Chair (2018-2021)
Vice Chair (2021-2022)



2021-2022 CHAIRPERSON

Dear Pinewoods Friends & Families,

It is my honor and pleasure to serve as the new Chair of the Pinewoods Montessori Board of Directors. This is our family's 5th year at Pinewoods and we feel very fortunate to have found a school home which focuses on building a strong community through shared values of teaching respect and kindness for all. We are grateful for the dedicated teachers and staff who have inspired in our son (now in second grade!) a love of reading, science, and history. We look forward to another wonderful year of adventures in learning!

Our Board of Directors has been fully committed this past year to conducting a thorough and nationwide search for a new Head of School. We interviewed a number of exceptionally strong candidates. Ultimately, it remained clear that the best person for the job was right here already. We are thrilled that our own Assistant Head of School, Jessica White Winger, accepted our offer! I look forward to supporting her as she continues to lead us forward to what is sure to be a bright and vibrant future for our school.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our previous Head of School, Caroline Carman, and wish her all the best in her role of new mom! We are grateful for her many positive contributions during her leadership at Pinewoods.

I also want to express my deep gratitude to our outgoing Pinewoods Board Chair, Kerry Plunket. Kerry has put in countless volunteer hours in her role as the Board leader; her commitment went well above and beyond. In the last two years it has been my privilege to work under her leadership in partnership with school administration to balance the financial needs of the school during a pandemic while adhering to our mission of a "safe and peaceful setting." As a result of these tireless efforts, Pinewoods has continued to thrive financially and academically - attracting outstanding talent in the classrooms, all while offering both on campus and remote learning options. Kerry played integral roles in hiring our past two Heads of School as well as a major school renovation project. It is truly impossible to enumerate her many contributions. She has left a significant legacy with her work on the Board.

What I love about Pinewoods is that we are a community of families committed to each other, to our children, to our teachers, and to the health and well-being of our community. Our school has been, and will continue to be, a haven of mutual respect and support while we traverse uncertain times. Thank you for selecting Pinewoods Montessori School for your family.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Melerski, Psy.D.

Contact:
Dr. Jennifer Melerski
Pinewoods Montessori School
Board Chair
board@pinewoodsmontessori.com





MISSION

Pinewoods Montessori in Hillsborough, NC provides an authentic Montessori education in which children develop a love of learning within a safe, peaceful setting.

VALUES

CHILDREN

We believe in the dignity and ability of children and in their inherent right to our respect, protection, assistance and guidance in fulfilling their potential.

EDUCATION

We are committed to the Montessori philosophy and follow a traditional Montessori approach to education.

FAMILIES

We wish to support families' efforts to raise capable, joyful, confident children without undue stress or financial hardship.

OURSELVES

We are dedicated to share our lives with children and to grow and learn alongside them.

COMMUNITY

We are dedicated to the well-being, integrity and development of the larger Montessori community and of the Hillsborough community in which we live and work.

WORLD

We desire to help bring about a peaceful world in which every person's contribution is cherished and in which all barriers to understanding and acceptance have been removed

PORTRAIT OF A PINWOODS GRADUATE

The Pinwoods Graduate has a Love of Learning

- They seek out new experiences and opportunities to learn
- Have discovered, and continues to discover, interests and passions

The Pinwoods Graduate is a Global Citizen. They are prepared to relate and contribute to their community utilizing their compassion, a strong sense of service, and cultural competence.

The Pinwoods Graduate has Strong Work Habits and Ethics. They have determination and perseverance and see a project through to completion.

The Pinwoods Graduate values Social Emotional Intelligence. They utilize self-awareness, empathy, self-regulation, and social skills to successfully navigate situations.

The Pinwoods Graduate is a Critical Thinker. They are able to identify, analyze, and solve problems rationally by utilizing multiple sources of information and reflecting upon ideas using logic.



Next School Choices

The Triangle area offers dozens of exceptional middle and secondary school options—from public schools and charters to highly respected independent schools—and Pinwoods students have been extremely successful in many of them.

Here are where some of our recent graduates have selected for Middle School:

AL STANBACK MIDDLE SCHOOL
ENO RIVER ACADEMY
EXPEDITION SCHOOL
IMMACULATA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
MONTESSORI COMMUNITY SCHOOL
ORANGE MIDDLE SCHOOL
STERLING MONTESSORI SCHOOL
TRINITY SCHOOL OF DURHAM AND CHAPEL HILL

FUNDING AND SPENDING

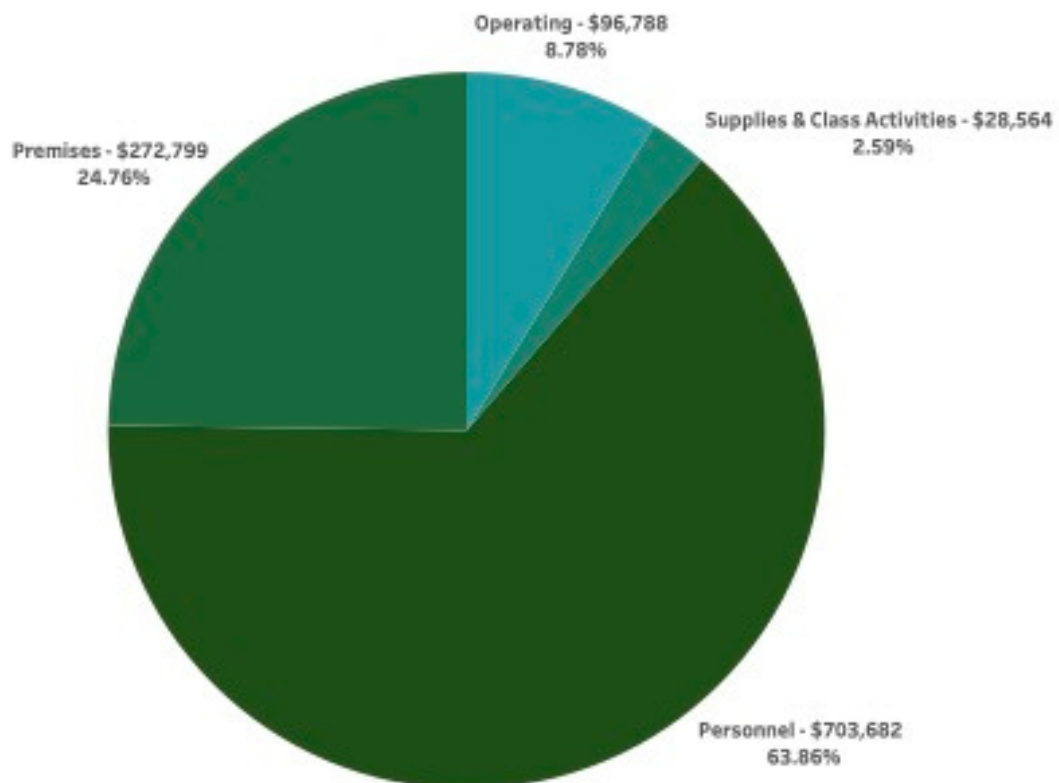
Unlike traditional public & charter schools, Pinewoods presently receives no outside funding or subsidies. Our school is solely run off the tuition payments of parents and guardians like you and our fundraising efforts. Each year we develop a budget based off projections and signed contracts. Our goal is to run a lean school with a surplus to provide a buffer for the unexpected.

Our board works to ensure excellent stewardship of the money we receive and to make sure we are delivering the highest value for our students, community, and staff.

2020-2021 REVENUE

Tuition and Fees	\$995,875	77.63%
2nd PPP Funding 2/12/21	\$144,042	11.23%
Summer Camp	\$78,583	6.13%
Fundraising	\$63,727	4.97%
Other	\$678	0.05%
Total Income	\$1,282,905	100.00%

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES



THE PINWOODS MONTESSORI TEAM

With a combined total of 79 years at Pinewoods Montessori School, our 2020-2021 faculty and staff are educated, committed, and passionate.

We are proud to have:

9 Lead Teachers

4 Assistant Teachers

5 Resource and Interdisciplinary Personnel

3 Administrators



- All lead teachers Montessori trained and certified in the level in which they teach.
- All lead teachers have an Associate's degree or higher.
- Our toddler and primary classrooms each have a lead teacher and an assistant teacher.
- Elementary classrooms have three lead teachers in lower elementary, and a lead teacher and assistant in upper elementary.
- Additionally, students in the K-6 programs have Enrichment Programs, such as Physical Education, Art, Spanish and Music.
- We currently have two assistant teachers enrolled in Montessori training at the Center for Montessori Teacher Education in Charlotte, NC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Pinewoods Montessori Board of Directors is committed to supporting the mission of the school by taking viability-focused action for the next generation of students.

The Board of Directors of Pinewoods Montessori School are fully committed and dedicated to ensuring that the School provides an authentic Montessori education in which children develop a love of learning within a safe, peaceful setting. This group of volunteers embrace the privilege and responsibility to serve the School and work to support and promote the mission, craft the strategic goals, provide fiscal oversight, and monitor the overall success of the School.

The Board of Directors, acting solely as a unified whole, oversee the mission of Pinewoods Montessori School and broad policy, fiscal, and strategic issues, but have no individual oversight nor any group oversight of the daily operation of the School, which is delegated solely to the Head of School and his/her representatives on the administrative team.

If you are interested in volunteering to serve on a Board committee, we would love to hear from you! Please email board@pinewoodsmontessori.com or reach out to the Head of School.

2021-2022 Board Members

Board Officers: Dr. Jennifer Melerski, Adam Haber, Erik Pearsall, Kerry Plunket
Board Members: Cynthia Abell-Brown, Laura Arneman, Carly Bailey, Brittany Palacios, Dr. Janelle Sturtz, Jessica White Winger



Pinewoods
MONTESSORI SCHOOL