



Stronger Together

ANNUAL REPORT 2020 – 2021


Springmont School
ATLANTA'S **FIRST** MONTESSORI SCHOOL


We started the 2020-21 school year with cautious optimism. To best serve our community, we planned for in-person learning, but the waters were uncertain. The administration spent the summer reviewing and implementing robust health & safety measures and working up contingency plans should (and when) COVID-19 reach our campus.

Parents, students, faculty and staff were called upon to create and manage a supportive Montessori environment under strained and unpredictable circumstances. Teachers and Assistant Teachers modified lessons and classrooms for safe learning and maintained rigorous health & safety protocols. Parents were unable to visit campus and were asked to trust the direction and discretion of faculty and staff while supporting their children through a challenging period. Students had to adapt to masks, new procedures, and restricted campus access, an unfamiliar concept in an open-campus Montessori environment.

We couldn't be prouder of the results. Faculty and staff worked overtime to serve our students with the best curriculum possible. Parents found new ways to maintain community and offer their support, even forming the Faculty/Staff Appreciation Committee, and students demonstrated that no matter the circumstances, they remain engaged and eager to learn!

Not only did our community pull together to deliver a world-class Montessori education during a pandemic and demonstrate a strong sense of community despite physical distancing guidelines, but our donors demonstrated an incredible commitment to our program and the legacy of our school. During a year of decreased student enrollment, the Springmont Fund had its second strongest outcome in the 58-year history of the school.

Thank you! Thank you for your vital role in this community! Our efforts during the last school year certainly demonstrated we are ***Stronger Together.***



*"Our care of the child
should be governed, not
by the desire to make
him learn things, but by
the endeavor always to
keep burning within him
that light which is
called intelligence."*

-Maria Montessori



Dear Springmont Community,

I am honored to contribute to the 2020-21 Annual Report as your Interim Head of School. While I served in this role for only a few months of the last school year, I have a 10-year history at Springmont as a parent, donor, volunteer, and member of the Board of Trustees.

I'd like to take this chance to applaud our community for successfully navigating a challenging school year. Today I look around campus and see our core values in action and know we are educating the next generation of leaders who will build on the Springmont legacy and make our community, and the world, even stronger and more beautiful than they found it.

I'd like to call your attention to some major community wins during the 2020-21 school year. We avoided school-wide closures, experiencing only a few class-specific and short-lived quarantines. Faculty, staff, parents, and board members continued their important Diversity, Equity & Inclusion work with iChange Collaborative. The administration secured over \$775,000 in grants and forgivable loans to help offset the revenue loss and increased expenses resulting from the pandemic. (Please note that the \$562,000 Payroll Protection Program forgivable loan we secured in Spring 2020 is NOT reflected in the 2020-21 Statement of Activities but will be included in the 2021-22 Statement of Activities.) Additionally, the Springmont community pulled together to raise a near record-breaking amount for the Springmont Fund; paid homage to the efforts of faculty and staff with monthly appreciation events; and ended the year welcoming parents back to campus for time-honored traditions, such as Lower Elementary class performances, Field Days, and Middle School Graduation.

As we look ahead, the future is bright. Our enrollment exceeds pre-pandemic levels, we were able to reopen classrooms for Parent Observations, visitors have returned to campus for community events, Enrichment programs have restarted, we have added a school counselor to address the unique experiences of our students over the past two years, and the Middle School resumed overnight trips, including a spring trip to the newly refurbished Landschool - thank you 2018-19 Springmont Fund donors! We have high hopes for returning to beloved traditions like the Montessori Mile and International Night next year.

Thank you, again, for your support of this vibrant community. What we have long believed, you have without a doubt proven. We are truly **Stronger Together**.



Megan Hakerem
Interim Head of School

"The most useful and influential people in America are those who take the deepest interest in institutions that exist for the purpose of making the world better."

-Booker T. Washington

Dear Springmont Family and Friends,

It is fitting to open this letter with a heartfelt “Thank you.” If you are reading this report, chances are you are a committed and supportive member of our Springmont community. It is upon this community strength that we stand today. Nationwide, many independent schools experienced permanent closures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020-21. Thanks to a strong legacy of community support, we were able to sustain our beloved institution through a very difficult time.

First, I’d like to recognize the efforts of the faculty and staff. An incredible amount of resources – both human and financial – had to be directed to health & safety measures to keep our students and community safe. The administrative staff worked diligently to not just mitigate the risk of COVID-19 but seek funding sources to help offset the expenses incurred by implementing additional health & safety protocols. Faculty was on the front lines of maintaining health & safety procedures while caring for students navigating a very scary time in their lives.

There is another debt of gratitude owed to parents, students, alumni, grandparents, and every member of this incredible community. The trust you placed in us with your children, donations, and other resources and forms of support in a time of great stress and uncertainty took conviction and a healthy dose of patience and understanding.

The Board of Trustees demonstrated rigorous expense management while remaining committed to health & safety measures and the delivery of a world-class Montessori education. Additionally, we opted to maintain our budgetary standard for Tuition Assistance, believing that enabling our community to stay together in times of economic hardship was central to our core values. As individuals, many of the Trustees stepped up with considerable financial contributions to the school.

Finally, as the close of the school year approached, the Board of Trustees made the very difficult decision to change the Head of School. Once again, our community was asked to place their confidence and faith in our leadership and legacy. Together we pushed through the challenges and have new opportunities ahead as we look for the next Head of School.

We look forward to building on the strong foundation laid by generations of families who have supported Springmont over the past 58 years. You are a part of that history, and we are incredibly grateful.



Greg Lamps
Chair, Board of Trustees

*“Don’t judge each day by the
harvest you reap, but by the
seeds you plant.”*

-Robert Louis Stevenson

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*"Educating the mind without
educating the heart is no
education at all."*

-Aristotle



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*"We make a living
by what we get. We
make a life by what
we give."*

-Winston Churchill

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Financials 2020-2021

Revenue & Support

Net Tuition	\$3,382,049
Contributions/Fundraising	\$212,260
Ancillary Programs	\$59,758
Investment	\$61,165
Other	\$52,810
Total Revenue & Support	\$3,768,042

Expenses

Instructional Program	\$2,567,016
Facilities	\$561,080
General & Administration	\$1,274,541
Total Expenses	\$4,402,637
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$(634,595)

*"What we become
as our lives evolve
depends on the quality
of our experiences
here and now."*

-Ken Robinson



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