

# Springmont School

ATLANTA'S FIRST MONTESSORI SCHOOL



IMPACT REPORT ► LEADING WITH VISION





# LEADING WITH VISION

Dear Families, Friends, Faculty, Staff, Alums, and Alumni Families,

When we look ahead for Springmont, we must consider what and who we want to become as a school community. In the picture book *The Spyglass: A Story of Faith* by Richard Paul Evans, an old traveler comes upon a kingdom that is run down, its people hungry, tired, and full of complaints about their hardships. The traveler stops at the castle and asks to spend the night in return for helping the king understand the problems in his kingdom. The next morning, the traveler lends the king his spyglass and asks him to look out over his kingdom. Instead of the barren, windswept fields and people hunched over at their tasks, he sees lush crops, children playing, and people happily engaged in their work. However, when the king puts down the spyglass, the land returns to its previous state. He sighs and says, "Nothing has changed." The traveler responds, "No, change requires work. But one must see before doing." [Adapted from *The Power of Our Words* by Paula Denton].

What do we see for our school when we look through the spyglass? And then how do we make it so? Springmont is already an amazing school, in no way like the kingdom described in the book I have referenced, but it is a community of people seeking to learn and grow with goals we want to work towards, even as there are aspects that anchor us and should remain unchanged.

Setting a vision for a school isn't the work of one person; rather, it is the shared work of the community. We must know our history, ground ourselves in our values, tell our stories, and consider what is possible for our future. While our community knows itself best, it is often helpful to bring in guides to help set and realize our vision. Our "traveler" comes in the form of two consultants, Abbi De Lessio and Marc Frankel from Triangle Associates.

Our strategic planning work begins with data collection on Springmont and the Atlanta education market and incorporates listening sessions and a strategic planning forum to hear from members of our community - parents, students, employees, and alums and their families. Listening sessions will be held on Monday & Tuesday, November 11th & 12th and a strategic planning forum will occur on Saturday, December 7th. We will all be asked to look through our spyglasses and together envision what Springmont can be.



Once we set a vision as a community, we will need action steps that allow us to get there and accountability measures to keep us on track. Following through on our strategic plan is the responsibility of the Head of School and Board of Trustees but is carried out by each community member. Our day-to-day work will be guided and informed by this vision and plan, helping us make decisions, big and small.

We hope you will join us in our visioning work. We value your perspectives and ideas as we seek to build a bright future for Springmont School. Look for an email invitation to our listening sessions and strategic planning forum.

With gratitude,

Elizabeth Lener  
Head of School

*“The child  
is both the  
hope and the  
promise of  
mankind.”*

Maria Montessori





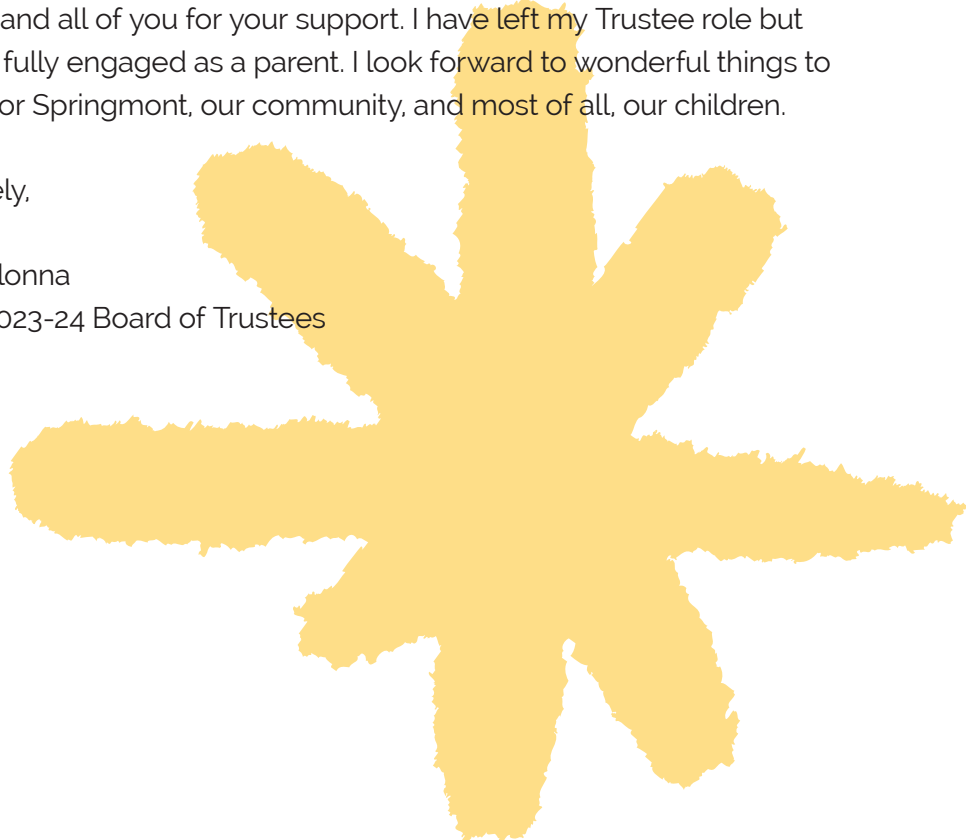
Dear Families, Friends, Faculty, Staff, Alums, and Alumni Families,

I am very proud to report that Springmont did very well this past school year and is well-positioned for the future. Our new Head of School, Elizabeth Lener, finished her first full year and has worked closely with the Board of Trustees to move forward on key initiatives and changes that will strengthen the school and our commitment to providing the finest Montessori education for our children. Springmont is operationally and financially healthy. Last year, we were able to bring back all of our signature community events – The Springmont Festival & Montessori Mile, Field Day, our CommuUNITY Dinner, and the Auction, to name just a few. These events allow us to come together and show our support for the school and each other. Part of the success of a Montessori education is fully engaged parents, faculty, and administration, all working for the success of our children. It has been great to see us return to the pre-pandemic level of engagement that creates a positive and nurturing environment for our children and ourselves. In the 2024-25 school year, the school embarks on a renewed Strategic Planning process. Participation by all of us will ensure that the Strategic Plan reflects what we want to see for the future. So, when asked, please share your thoughtful feedback.

Finally, as I reflect on two terms on the Board and my time as Board Chair, I want to thank my fellow trustees, Elizabeth, the faculty, staff, administrative teams, and all of you for your support. I have left my Trustee role but remain fully engaged as a parent. I look forward to wonderful things to come for Springmont, our community, and most of all, our children.

Sincerely,

Joe Colonna  
Chair 2023-24 Board of Trustees







*“The great gifts  
we can give  
our children  
are the roots of  
responsibility  
and the  
wings of  
independence.”*

Maria Montessori

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Amazon Web Services • Chubb Insurance • Coca Cola Foundation • Deloitte • State Farm

*“The education of even a small child, therefore, does not aim at preparing him for school, but for life.”*

Maria Montessori



## REVENUE & SUPPORT

Net Tuition .....	\$ 5,626,022.00
Contributions/Fundraising .....	\$86,023.29
Ancillary Programs .....	\$251,463.41
Other** .....	\$137,012.30
<b>Total Revenue &amp; Support .....</b>	<b>\$6,100,521.00</b>

## EXPENSES

Instructional Program .....	\$ 4,037,853.00
Facilities .....	\$ 366,118.00
General & Administration .....	\$ 1,384,825.00
<b>Total Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$5,788,796.00</b>

**Net Operating Value .....** **\$311,725.00**

\* Other Income includes \$92,846 in Stable Grants received throughout FY '23. In the financial statements prepared for 22-23, the classification of Stable grants was moved from Other Income to Contributions/Fundraising. Fiscal Year 22-23 also includes \$14,921 of proceeds received from the Montessori Mile. \*\* Net Operating Revenue does not include Interest Income or other Investment Gains/Losses. In 22-23 this was \$48,512.

# THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS ► 2023-2024

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Robert Stachowiak  
Chris & Kimberly Shorter

*"We can only  
better humanity  
through the child."*

Maria Montessori

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Jay Williams  
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Fiscal year 23-24 final revenue, support and expense figures will be released at the completion of annual audit review.





## APOGEE

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*“The goal of early  
 childhood education  
 should be to activate  
 the child’s own natural  
 desire to learn.”*

Maria Montessori

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Destiny Walker  
Christine Ward  
Justin Watson  
Laura Weiss  
Bahar Zadeh  
Maurice Zadeh  
Amanda Zeigler







Dear Families, Friends, Faculty, Staff, Alums, and Alumni Families,

I hope you feel as excited as I am about Springmont's 61st school year and our collective opportunity to continue to build and strengthen Springmont's future. Today's Springmont is a powerful place. We are capable of sparking discovery, learning, and high achievement for a diverse and inclusive array of students. If we all pull together, tomorrow's Springmont can be even more.

I am so pleased with the success of the 2023-24 Springmont Fund campaign and the improvements to campus infrastructure and programs it has already funded. With over \$120,000 raised and our awesome annual auction tradition renewed, our 60th year was one to remember!

Whereas tuition signifies the great value we place on today's Springmont experience for our own children, contributions to the annual fund are our down payment on the future value of tomorrow's Springmont experience. We pay it forward to enable a more diverse population of students to experience Springmont, to develop and retain great educators, to enhance Springmont programmatic offerings, and to build the facilities that support a top-notch Montessori education for the 21st century.

It's my honor to chair a Board of Trustees who aspire to lead Springmont to even greater heights. Our 2024-25 Springmont Fund goal is 100% family participation. We also aim to inspire more major gifts to this extraordinary school.

We embrace this exciting challenge with a smile, and your contributions suggest you do, too. Thank you for your contributions to the 2023-24 Springmont Fund. I look forward to seeing you on campus!

Sincerely,

Will Johnson  
Chair 2024-25 Board of Trustees





Dear Families, Friends, Faculty, Staff, Alums, and Alumni Families,

As I reflect on my first year at Springmont School, I am moved by all the ways the Springmont School community has demonstrated its extraordinary spark.

One of my earliest memories of experiencing this spark was witnessing the entire community come together for the 2023 Springmont Festival & Montessori Mile. It brought me incredible joy to see the smiles of people racing up the hill and down again, to witness parents fellowship, to see middle schoolers organizing and managing the festival and everyone chatting about the chili, and to welcome alums who share such fondness for their dear school. Meeting our farm animals and watching students care for them was also endearing. The spark of Springmont is apparent every day in the eyes of our students as they make new discoveries, develop their passion for learning, and find their places in the world. The spark is evident in the classrooms with teachers and assistants who care deeply for our students and demonstrate a commitment to authentic Montessori education. The spark shines brightly when parents volunteer at the Montessori Mile, CommUNITY Dinner, and auction and for classroom presentations, gardening days, book fairs, and so much more.

But it was in preparing for the auction that I truly saw the spark. You showed up in your denim and diamonds, and you gave. You also gave to the Springmont Fund and through Apogee to support Financial Assistance. Thank you for your generous donations and for your Gifts of Time. Thank you for welcoming me into the Springmont community and working with me to continue the extraordinary legacy that is Springmont, Atlanta's First Montessori School.

I also want to thank you in advance for your part in Springmont's continued success. Each contribution is important and valued. Our community's engagement in all aspects of Springmont indicates to me that we are poised for another extraordinary 60 years!

With gratitude,

Karen Poyser  
Director of Development & Alumni Relations



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# Springmont School

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