



RIVERBEND  
SCHOOL

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



## **Our Mission**

Within a collaborative and respectful community, Riverbend School develops curious, self-confident, and independent lifelong learners by using Montessori principles to help each child flourish socially and thrive academically.

## **Diversity Statement**

Riverbend School believes in the importance of diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice in our community. By embracing differences, valuing multiple perspectives, and developing a profound appreciation for our humanity, we hope to ensure that our campus spaces are safe and respectful for all children, families, and employees.

## **Riverbend School strives to:**

- Create and sustain a diverse community of faculty, staff, students, and families
- Root our Montessori curriculum in developing the whole child, through practicing grace and courtesy, peace education, and multiculturalism
- Develop our awareness of implicit bias by rejecting stereotypes and prejudice
- Promote anti-bias educational practices
- Appreciate difference and interconnection
- Guide children to become global citizens who stand up for social justice

*This report acknowledges gifts received during Riverbend's fiscal year from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022. We have made every effort to correctly list our donors and volunteers. If your name was omitted or listed incorrectly, please accept our sincere apologies and contact Katelyn Lincoln, Director of Development & Alumni Relations at 508-655-7333 x225 or [klincoln@rvbs.org](mailto:klincoln@rvbs.org).*

# From our Head of School



*Dear Riverbend Community,*

This is always one of my favorite communications to the community — the big **THANK YOU**. Riverbend is a special place because of the support we receive from our community, parents, alumni,

Board members, grandparents, and friends. So, from the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Besides a thank you, it is also a place to acknowledge people for their extraordinary service to our school. First and foremost, we need to thank Board Chair Shana Salzano. Shana has been part of our community for many years and has served in multiple roles: parent, volunteer, donor, Board member, and for the past three years, Board Chair. Shana has embodied the values of hard work, collaboration, support for the Montessori pedagogy, and above all a deep connection to the Riverbend community. Thank you, Shana.

2021-2022 was quite a year for our school. The first full year on our new campus; emerging from strict Covid protocols; meeting our new mascot: Riley the Raven, and welcoming families back to events on campus, like the first ever spring concert in our new gym. We began to feel some sense of normalcy.

In this report, you will notice a change in how we acknowledge our donors. As part of our DEI efforts we have made the decision to list our donors alphabetically, rather than by giving level. Listing supporters this way underscores the sentiment that gifts of all levels are important, needed, and appreciated. The Advancement committee feels strongly that this is a more inclusive way to list donors, and is a symbol of our support for creating a community that supports diversity, equity and inclusion.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Whitney Slade.

Whitney Slade  
Head of School



# From our Board Chair



**Dear Riverbend Community,**

First and foremost, I want to say thank you for the steadfast dedication and continued support of the donors and volunteers who make Riverbend a priority, allowing our School to thrive and grow. Your gifts — of time and treasure — signal to the community that you share in the vision of Riverbend and make you a participant in shaping our future.

**Thank you to our Advancement Committee for your part in raising \$163,649 in Annual Fund gifts this year — a 14% increase in funds over the previous year.** This is a significant achievement as the Annual Fund is a critical part of our operations budget, a strong indicator of fiscal health of the School, and helps ensure our longevity for future generations

**I also want to recognize Riverbend faculty and staff for reaching 100% giving participation for the sixth consecutive year.** It is a powerful claim to say you have full support within an organization, and you set a shining example for the rest of us.

This is my third and final year serving as Board Chair at Riverbend, and I leave the Board with the monumental task of appointing a new Head of School. This past spring current Head of School, Whitney Slade, announced his departure; the

upcoming 2022-2023 school year will be his last at Riverbend. The Board has already begun preparations for this transition, and will appoint a new Head of School this fall. Whitney joined Riverbend in an interim capacity in 2017, followed quickly by his official appointment as Head of School for the 2018-2019 school year. During his tenure Whitney has seen Riverbend through momentous growth, including a capital campaign resulting in the expansion and unification of campus, furthering our DEI efforts, and many more achievements that have contributed greatly to the institution Riverbend is today.

With heartfelt gratitude for every one of you who put endless time and energy into supporting our School, I personally thank you. Because of you, Riverbend continues to evolve and can nimbly respond to the needs of our community. It is clear to me that Riverbend is on the precipice of yet another new chapter. I am grateful to have been a part of it, and I look forward to seeing the School enter a new era.

Warm regards,

A blue ink signature of Shana Salzano, written in a cursive style.

Shana Salzano  
Chair, Riverbend Board of Directors



# Riverbend 2021-2022 Board of Directors

The Riverbend Board of Directors, in partnership with the Head of School, guides the overall direction of the School in accordance with both the mission and strategic plan. In addition, the Directors act as fiduciaries for the school and ensure the current and long-term fiscal health of Riverbend. Composed of current parents, alumni parents and independent community members, these exceptional volunteers represent an abundance of talent and provide significant financial support and guidance while dedicating countless hours in support of the school. We are deeply grateful for their passion and commitment for Riverbend.



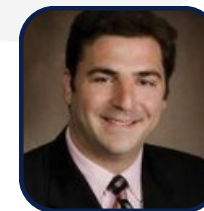
**Shana Salzano**  
*Chair*



**Jessica Baur**  
*Vice Chair*



**Melissa Fletcher**  
*Treasurer*



**Michael Tauer**  
*Governance Chair*



**Miguel Camargo**  
*Plant Chair*



**Dena Patterson**  
*Advancement  
Co-Chair*



**Emeka Iffih**



**Elizabeth  
Milewski**



**Sarah Spence  
Adams**



**Diana Baruni**



**Jim Hartman**



**Smith Utubor**



**Jane Ventrone**



**Catherine  
Zhang**

# Thank you volunteers

At Riverbend, volunteers contribute greatly to our success. Family volunteers help foster an alignment between home and school life, underscoring the holistic approach to education that is a pillar of Montessori philosophy. Through the years, volunteering at Riverbend has taken many forms, and as a young school we are still finding the volunteer model that works best for us and our community.

In updating to a new model for our volunteer program during the 2021-2022 school year, our goal was to provide more accessibility for all families who wish to be involved, taking into consideration that our community members have varying degrees of availability.

Today, **Riverbend's Power of Community (RPC)** is our family volunteer program made up of four branches: Family Connection; Outreach; Service Learning; and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Each branch has a **Community Group Leader (CGL)** and a Riverbend staff liaison to provide support and guidance throughout the year.

**Community Group Leaders:** Sarah Hahn, Lindsay Galvao, Allison Kates, Deborah Farmer Kris, and Sarah Tauer.

**Family Connection:** Tanya Angeloni, Somwang "Burke" Buramongkol, Michael and Karen De Jong, Christa Del Camp, Lauren Foley, Audra Friend, Lindsay Galvao, Stefanie Gambino-Carter, Lisabeth Jorgensen, Sarah Larson, Sara Lemke, Neeti Mehta, Christina Papageorgiou, Linda Lu Pauley, Poornima Santas, Jen Schaeffer, Vivian Scherer, Miriam Waldheter and Jennie Wilkinson.

**Plant Committee:** Miguel Camargo, Melissa Fletcher, Emeka Iffih, Dena Patterson, Shana Salzano, and Michael Tauer.



# Thank you volunteers (cont.)

**Advancement Committee:** Maggie Fang, Jim Hartman, Karen Kim, Deborah Farmer Kris, Elizabeth Milewski, Dena Patterson, Shana Salzano, and Zhen Wang.

**Alumni Volunteers:** Noah Banthin '19 and Preethi Ganesh '19

**Alumni Graduation Speaker:** Preethi Ganesh '19

**Extensions Coordinator:** Christina Papageorgiou

**Extensions Volunteers:** Lauren Foley, Artemis Joukowsky, and Larry and Amrit Stephen.

**World Children's Book Day Coordinator:** Bindy Fleischman

**Aesop's Fable Book Fair Coordinator:** Deborah Farmer Kris

**8th Grade Graduation Coordinator:** Ocllo Mason

**Science Sleep Under Volunteers:** Aaron Levy, Adrianna McLaughlin, Demetri Papageorgiou, Jen Schaeffer, Vivian Scherer, and Leah Schwartz.

**Community Service Partner Organizations:** Natick Service Council, Birthday Wishes of Natick, Riverbend of South Natick, Natick Fire Station and Natick Police Station, and Coats for Kids and Families.

*A special thanks to the many parent and family volunteers who made Fall Fest, Rivertopia, and other on-campus events a success.*





# 2021-2022 Annual Fund Highlights

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED  
  
**\$163,649**



**71%**  
giving participation  
from current families

**40**  
  
FAMILIES  
INCREASED  
THEIR GIVING  
OVER FY21

AVERAGE GIFT  
AMOUNT  
**\$1,206**  


 MOST GIFTS WERE BETWEEN  
**\$100 - \$499**

 BOARD  
GIVING  
TOTALLED **\$30,198**



## PARTICIPATION RATES

**62%** CHILDREN'S HOUSE  
**73%** LOWER ELEMENTARY  
**84%** UPPER ELEMENTARY  
**80%** MIDDLE SCHOOL

PARTICIPATION BY  
FACULTY & STAFF IN  
ANNUAL FUND

**100%**



# Gifts to Riverbend

Riverbend relies on contributions from our community to support the operating budget and allow us to fund special projects. Dollars raised impact every area of our school including teacher salaries and professional development, classroom supplies and materials, financial aid, field trips, enrichment programs and so much more.

We are exceedingly grateful for the generous support from our community, and especially proud of our Faculty and Staff for reaching 100% giving participation for the sixth year in a row. We would like to extend a special thanks to our donors who are part of the Raven's Circle and have supported our Annual Fund for three or more consecutive years.

FS Faculty/staff

A Alumni

AP Alumni Parent

G Grandparent

AG Alumni Grandparent

RC Raven's Circle

(3+ consecutive years of Annual Fund giving)

Ravi and Kalpana Acharya G

Mr. and Dr. Craig and Sarah Adams RC

Echo Chen and Shaohua Cheng

Tanya and David Angeloni

Sarah Banister and Nicholas Todd

Patience Banister G

Fraenzi Bapst FS

Mr. Thomas Barone FS RC

Ms. Karin Riggs Barton FS RC

Diana Baruni

Mr. and Ms. Gerret and Jessica Baur RC

Bethany and Mark Bayer

Mr. and Mrs. Urs and Joanne Berger AP

Beatrice Bezmalinovic and Anirudh Dhebar

Kristin Black FS

Sarah Bourque FS RC

Mrs. Fadia Brangwynne FS RC

Leland Brewster

Shaplaie Brooks FS

Kathryn Brown FS

Phillip and Christa Bruso

Kim Burk FS

Jingjing Cai

Mrs. Monica A. Caldas and Mr. Jonathan M. Benton RC

Mr. and Mrs. Luiz and Evelyn Camargo AP RC

Jessica Campbell FS

Angela Carroll FS

Alvin Carter III and Stefanie Gambino Carter

Tina Chen

Mr. Changjian (Jimmy) Chow and Dr. Jin Zheng RC

Scott and Dorian Cohen

Katie and Andrew Creedon

Steven Cunningham and Lisabeth Jorgensen

Mr. Tim Dalia FS RC

# Gifts to Riverbend (cont.)

FS Faculty/staff

A Alumni

AP Alumni Parent

G Grandparent

AG Alumni Grandparent

RC Raven's Circle

(3+ consecutive years of Annual Fund giving)

Mr. and Mrs. Kirk and Laurie Davis AP

Jeff Day FS

Michael de Jong

Mr. and Mrs. Brian and Helena Delgado

Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Joan DiChiaro RC

Mr. and Mrs. Allen and Lisa Downey AP RC

Michael Dunkley and Kristen Arent

Michael and Kerry Early

Melissa Ennulat FS RC

Ms. Laura Barbara Faberman A RC

Dorinda Ferguson G

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel and Dana Finn AP RC

Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Suzanne Fisher RC

Melissa and Colin Fletcher RC

Daniel and Lauren Foley RC

Theresa and Francis Foster G

Audra Friend

Mrs. Janey Fryer FS RC

Mr. and Mrs. Ricardo and Lindsey Galvao RC

Mr. Ahmed Gayed and Mrs. Dina Sorour RC

Mrs. Janet Gelcich and Mr. John Peter Gelcich III FS RC

Cheryl Goebel G

Adrian and Amy Gottschalk

Hao Zhu and Siyi Gu

Mrs. Dawn Gunn-Brown FS RC

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel and Sarah Hahn RC

Mr. and Mrs. Jordan and Deborah Hall FS AP RC

Ms. Sophie Hall A

Mr. James Hartman and Mrs. Karen Flathers AP RC

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick and Katherine Hartman FS RC

Mrs. Amy Hille FS RC

William Holt and Melissa Rowcotsky

Mrs. Michele Howell FS RC

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick and Susan Hurley RC

David Hutchins and Natalie Logan

Mr. and Mrs. Emeka and Allian Ifih AP RC

Mr. Evan S. Jacob FS RC

Peter Botelho and Jennifer Johnson

Kunal Kadakia and Darshini Dalal

Mrs. Sarah Kasper and Mr. David Hoffman

Allison and Brad Kates

Julie and Patrick Keating

Karen Kim and Phillip Song

Dr. Woosung Kim and Mrs. Soomyung Kim Cho FS RC

Charles King

Mr. Robert Kirsch G

Mr. Alexander A. Klinoff FS RC

Suman Kohli G

Christine and David Konys G

Mr. Charles Kreiman and Mrs. Heather Vinci FS RC

Dr. and Mrs. Michael Kris RC

Mrs. Suruchi Lal FS RC

Mr. and Ms. Phillip and Sarah Larson RC



# Gifts to Riverbend (cont.)

FS Faculty/staff

A Alumni

AP Alumni Parent

G Grandparent

AG Alumni Grandparent

RC Raven's Circle  
(3+ consecutive years of Annual Fund giving)

Sarah and Peter Laybourn

Ms. Danielle Leary-Jakes FS RC

Mr. Vincent Lee and Mrs. Lily Liang

Mr. and Mrs. Guillermo and Kimberly Leiva RC

Scott and Sarah Lemke RC

Mrs. Nancy Levy G

Mr. and Mrs. Aaron and Elisabet Levy RC

Riyao Lin and Jing Deng

Katelyn Lincoln FS

Hattie and Jose Llavina

Mrs. and Mr. Catherine and Pedro Lopez-Baldrich RC

Rafe and Priscilla Lowell G

Emily and Brady Lowell Beaubien

Anthony and Christine Lucas

Matthew and Patricia Lurvey RC

Mr. CM Macgowan III and Mrs. Erin Macgowan

Charlee Manigat FS

Mr. and Mrs. Paul and Oclolo Mason AP RC

Suzanna Mccann FS

Tina McCarthy FS

Anna McCormick FS

Christopher McKenzie and Danae Goldberg McKenzie

Mrs. and Mr. Adriana and Tom McLaughlin FS RC

Mr. and Mrs. Shamit and Neeti Mehta RC

Mr. Seth Meicht and Ms. Cameron Anderson FS RC

Shana and Brie Mendoza

Mr. and Mrs. Greg and Tanya Milette RC

Mrs. and Mr. Evelyn and Ronald Milette G

Dr. and Mrs. Matthew and Elizabeth Milewski RC

Lauren and Eddie Miretsky

Geoff Moorhead and Cristina Almansa RC

Neal Muni and Teena Kohli

Indu and Gita Muni G

Mr. Robert Murray and Mrs. Holly Malin-Murray RC

Stuart Paap and Griselle Rodriguez Ramos

Mrs. Herica Paixao FS RC

Dr. and Dr. Demetrios and Christina Papageorgiou AP RC

Stefanos and Frances Parpos

Ms. Dena Marie Patterson

Jay Pauley and Linda Lu Pauley RC

Thomas Peacock and Erika Ross

Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Elizabeth Perrott RC

Madison and Daniel Powers

Mr. and Mrs. Pasquale and Consiglia Puleo AG RC

Brendan Quinn and Aileen Axtmayer

Mrs. Sara Reagan FS RC

Miss Dianne Reid FS RC

Sharon Rieck G

Miss Jami Riley FS RC

Ms. Kirsten Renee Root FS RC

Saghi and Ashkan Saadi

# Gifts to Riverbend (cont.)

FS Faculty/staff

A Alumni

AP Alumni Parent

G Grandparent

AG Alumni Grandparent

RC Raven's Circle  
(3+ consecutive years of Annual Fund giving)

Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Shana Salzano AP RC  
Mr. and Mrs. John and Jennifer Schaeffer RC  
Dr. and Mrs. Julian and Vivan Scherer RC  
Daniel and Leah Schwartz  
Emmanuelle Schwarz FS  
Mr. Tahsin Shamma and Mrs. Maram Abdel-Azim RC  
Mrs. and Mr. Lynn and Robert Shevory FS RC  
Anne-Marie and Sherri Sklarwitz  
Whitney and Ellen Slade FS RC  
Lisa Slotnick FS RC  
Abdel Soufiane and Anica Zaoui  
Amrit and Larry Stephen  
Alexander and Razeyah Stephen G  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Claudina Stevenson RC  
Jaret Stickney and Anoeska Riley  
Mrs. Lois Strause AG  
Mr. and Mrs. James and Donna Strouse FS AP RC  
Brynne Suliman  
Mr. and Mrs. Chris and Laura Suraci AP RC  
Mr. Rui Tang and Mrs. Liyun (Catherine) Zhang RC  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Sarah Tauer AP RC  
Ms. Lelia Tenreyro-Viana  
Laura Torredelot Codina FS RC  
Alexandra Troli FS  
Deanna Tubbs G  
Kerry Tubbs and Bindy Fleischman RC

Smith Utubor  
Fer Vazquez and Maggie Fang RC  
Jane Ventrone RC  
Mr. and Mrs. Chandresh and Mausami Vora  
Mrs. and Mr. Miriam and Evan Waldheter RC  
Stephanie and Richard Walsh  
Zhen Wang and Yili Pan RC  
KJ Warren and Adam Chrissis  
Ms. Olivia Whitman FS RC  
Mr. Dave Wilkins FS RC  
Stephen and Eugenia Wilkinson  
Christian and Michelle Wilson  
Michael and Kendra Winters  
Jonas Wood A  
Ashley Woods  
Dr. Wen Xue and Dr. Xingyue He RC  
Mr. David Young and Mrs. Michelle Mayer AP RC  
Donald Zhang and Soo Jeong Youn  
Huijun Zhao and Chao Luo  
Jiang Zhu and Lei Zhao  
Wei Zhou FS  
Mrs. Shawnee Lane Zimmerman FS RC

## Corporate Gifts and Matching Gift Companies

AbbVie	Fidelity Foundation
Advent International	Henry Luce Foundation
AmazonSmile	LPL Financial
C.E. Floyd Company, Inc.	Plymouth Rock Assurance

# Gifts to Riverbend (cont.)

FS Faculty/staff      A Alumni      AP Alumni Parent      G Grandparent      AG Alumni Grandparent      RC Raven's Circle  
(3+ consecutive years of Annual Fund giving)

## Tribute Gifts

Adrian and Amy Gottschalk.....	<i>given in tribute to Jacob, Marin, &amp; Analise</i>
Echo Chen and Shaohua Cheng .....	<i>given in tribute to Dianne and Melissa</i>
Beatrice Bezmalinovic.....	<i>given in tribute to Beatrice Dhebar</i>
Daniel and Lauren Foley.....	<i>given in tribute to the wonderful teachers and faculty at Riverbend</i>
Cheryl Goebel.....	<i>given in tribute to Siobhan Parks</i>
Vincent Lee and Lily Liang.....	<i>given in tribute to Riverbend School</i>
Riyao Lin and Jing Deng.....	<i>given in tribute to Rachel Lin</i>
Christopher McKenzie and Danae Goldberg McKenzie.....	<i>given in tribute to Beckett McKenzie</i>
Shamit and Neeti Mehta.....	<i>given in tribute to Janet Gelcich</i>
Neal Muni and Teena Kohli.....	<i>given in tribute to Rohan Muni</i>
Thomas Peacock and Erika Ross.....	<i>given in tribute to Lilah &amp; Maddie</i>
Madison Powers.....	<i>given in tribute to Birch Room Teachers</i>
Pasquale and Consiglia Puleo.....	<i>given in tribute to Grazia Puleo</i>
Kirsten Root.....	<i>given in tribute to Sarah Bourque's Monarch Program</i>
Saghi and Ashkan Saadi.....	<i>given in tribute to Juneteenth</i>
Alexander and Razeyah Stephen.....	<i>given in tribute to Raveena Stephen</i>
Jaret Stickney and Anoeska Riley.....	<i>given in tribute to Opa and Grandfather</i>
Deanna Tubbs.....	<i>given in tribute to Ian Tubbs</i>
KJ Warren and Adam Chrissis.....	<i>given in tribute to Riley Chrissis</i>
Wen Xue and Xingyue He.....	<i>given in tribute to Alyssa Xue</i>

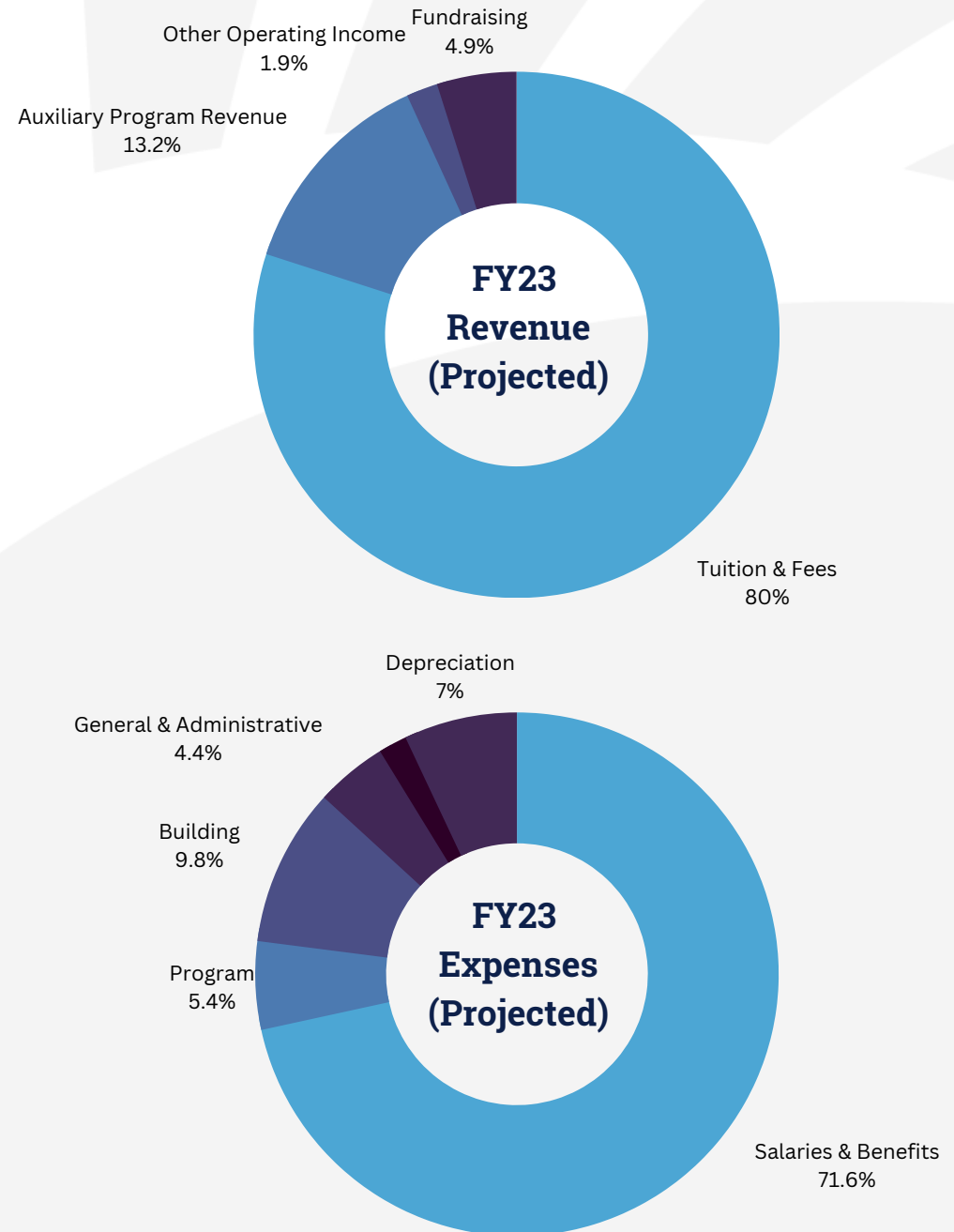


# Financial Highlights

## Operating Budget Cash Basis (audited results)

	Actual		Projected
	FY2021 (audited)	FY2022 (audited)	FY2023
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Gross Tuition	\$4,974,633	\$5,672,536	\$4,969,122
Less Assistance	\$689,156	\$719,980	\$584,742
Net Tuition	<b>\$4,285,477</b>	<b>\$4,952,556</b>	<b>\$4,384,380</b>
Auxiliary Program Revenue	\$164,796	\$673,734	\$724,150
Other Income	\$665,384	\$618,501	\$105,910
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$5,115,657</b>	<b>\$6,244,791</b>	<b>\$5,214,440</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries & Benefits	\$3,088,547	\$3,817,489	\$4,070,296
Program	\$272,355	\$446,660	\$309,632
Building	\$638,755	\$618,929	\$555,682
General & Administrative	\$211,537	\$240,238	\$252,202
Institutional Advancement	\$70,052	\$84,960	\$100,000
Depreciation	\$352,127	\$398,557	\$398,557
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,633,373</b>	<b>\$5,606,833</b>	<b>\$5,686,369</b>
<b>NET REVENUE/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$482,284</b>	<b>\$637,958</b>	<b>-\$471,929</b>
<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>DONATION INCOME</b>			
Annual Fund	\$144,039	\$164,549	\$160,000
Gala	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
Misc. Fundraising	\$5,558	\$0	\$500
Capital pledge payments (unrestricted)	\$3,616	\$3,582	\$7,949
Restricted Donations*	\$244,619	\$52,495	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$397,832</b>	<b>\$220,626</b>	<b>\$268,449</b>
<b>Total change in net assets</b>	<b>\$880,116</b>	<b>\$858,584</b>	<b>-\$203,480</b>

\*Restricted donations include past capital campaign funds raised for our building project



# Riverbend Alumni

Once a raven, always a raven.

This year marked the inauguration of the the Riverbend Alumni Council, a group of alumni leaders who oversee alumni events and programming. At Riverbend, alumni are valued members of our community and active participants in Riverbend's present and future.

## Alumni Council 2021-2022

Sophia Sardegna '10, Chair

Nathan Carmichael '14

Preethi Ganesh '19

Daniel Hartman '16

Daniella Iffih '19

Julianne Kelleher '09

Sam Radin '11

Nathanial Salzano '21

Nate Suraci '17

Samuel Tauer '21

Eliot Woessner '17



Check out this year's  
alumni profiles featured  
in *The Raven's Nest*:  
Riverbend's Alumni  
Newsletter!



Class of 2021 alumni came back to campus to reconnect and try out their Class Gift, a climbing wall in the gymnasium.

Class of 2019 alum, Preethi Ganesh, served as the alumni speaker at the Class of 2022 commencement.



Alumni returned to campus for the Alumni Student Lounge at Riverbend's Fall Fest in October.



# Traditions and Special Events



## ✿ Donor Appreciation Party | September 20, 2021

In recognition of the completion of *The Campaign for Riverbend*, donors and volunteers gathered to celebrate the expansion and unification of campus. A significant amount of the project was funded by our generous donors, contributing over \$865,000 towards the cost of a schoolhouse for Lower Elementary, Art and Design Lab classrooms, and a gymnasium. Now, for the first time in Riverbend history, all students and staff are located together on the same side of Route 16—all thanks to our generous community.





# Traditions and Special Events



## ✿ Fall Festival | October 16, 2021

This all-school event is run in partnership with our teachers, the Riverbend Power of Community (RPC), and our Middle School and Elementary students. Community-building events include student-run booths, a bake sale, an alumni student lounge, fun crafts, activities, and entertainment, and more. In addition, families can support the Upper Elementary spring overnight trip to Sargent Center in NH by getting their car washed.





# Traditions and Special Events



## ✿ Rivertopia | April 13, 2022

Lower Elementary students presented Rivertopia: an academic STEAM festival combining geography, botany, math, art, and more. Students connected their lessons to important topics like climate change, their responsibilities as citizens of Earth, and their ability to influence positive change both individually and collectively.

Families were invited to campus to view and participate in student presentations.





# Traditions and Special Events



## 🌸 Field Day | May 27, 2022

Field Day is a favorite for students and staff alike! Our Physical Education teacher organizes an afternoon full of team events and games. Each team is made up of students from Kindergarten – 8th grade, with Middle School students serving as captains. Students are welcome to show their school spirit by dressing from head-to-toe in their team color.

This year's Field Day featured a special guest performer to announce the start of the games!





# Traditions and Special Events



## ✿ International Festival | May 6, 2022

Toddler through Lower Elementary children study countries from around the world over the course of a month, then celebrate what they've learned with their families at our International Festival.

Families are invited to campus to see student's work and learn about the various ways they approached their international studies.





# Traditions and Special Events



## ✿ Kindergarten Tea | May 18, 2022

Each spring, kindergarten students host a formal tea party for parents and families. This Riverbend tradition marks students' transition from Children's House to Lower Elementary, and is a wonderful opportunity for students to practice their grace and courtesy skills as they host visitors in their school environment.





# Traditions and Special Events




## ✿ 8th Grade Graduation | June 9, 2022

Eighth Grade Graduation is one of the most important events at Riverbend. The community has watched our students grow into thoughtful, responsible young adults, making this a culminating event not-to-be-missed! Each student takes a turn to speak about their educational, artistic, and athletic experiences and accomplishments, and is encouraged to share their thoughts on their upcoming transition to one of the area's top high schools.




# Resources and Links


 [Mission and Strategic Plan](#)

 [Faculty and Staff](#)

 [Our Campus](#)

 [Giving Opportunities](#)

 [Riverbend Power of Community](#)

 [Riverbend Traditions](#)


 [About Montessori](#)

 [Riverbend Board of Directors](#)

 [Raven's Review](#)

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 [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)

## Affiliations





RIVERBEND  
SCHOOL

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Natick, MA 01760

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508-655-7333

[www.riverbendschool.org](http://www.riverbendschool.org)