

**The Wilson School**  
**2017-2018**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**



# 2017-2018 LEADERSHIP

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# Reflections From the Head Of School and Board President

What a year! The 2017/18 school year saw some outstanding accomplishments from our students, faculty, leadership, and parent community.

Setting the bar high in achievement, the class of 2018 won a St. Louis area Excellence in Mathematics Competition and scored in the top five percent of independent schools on their ERB essay writing assessment.

Beyond the classroom, our students were instrumental in some exciting initiatives in the greater St. Louis community. The class of 2018 participated in the inaugural Saint Louis Art Fair Art Aficionado program, from which six art pieces were chosen for inclusion in the traveling Public Art Collection. Due to our highly regarded technology program, Wilson was chosen again to conduct beta testing of a product for Bloxels. And, our music program beta tested the new MusiQuest app.

Our educators officially launched an innovative teaching approach they have been working toward for over a decade. "Integrated Learning" includes more than 30 new, dynamic teacher-created units. And, we were thrilled to announce that Michael Taylor, sixth grade and science teacher, earned the 2018 Wilson School Excellence Award for his leadership in the Wilson Family Night.

Over the school year, our Board of Trustees and newly formed Endowment Campaign Cabinet, led by Heather Flabiano, Jessica Liss, and Leon Waxer, laid the ground work for the initial phase of a development activity that will be transformational for our school, the **Foundation for the Future Endowment Campaign**. This extraordinary effort will ensure solid financial footing for Wilson today and for generations of Wilson students to come. We also were delighted by the support of our parent community. They came together with 89% participation in the Annual Giving Campaign, a marker which secured an additional \$30,000 for the school from a challenge gift.

At the end of this extraordinary year, we had to say goodbye to Wilson Legend, Lisa Leuther. Lisa retired from Wilson after 33 years, during which she inspired many with her dedication and spirit. We were also sad to say goodbye for now to our wonderful librarian, Melissa Smith, who brought a unique flair of creativity and expertise to our library and resource center. We will surely miss them!

When the two of us sat down to recap the highlights of 2017-18, one thing became clear - the Wilson community truly embodied our motto to **Make Your Mark a Good One (MYMAGO)**, and we are thrilled with the direction our school is headed.

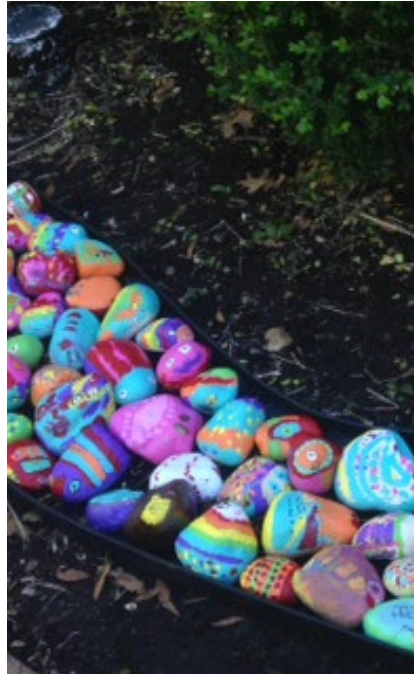
Thad Falkner  
Head of School

Alex Berger III  
Board President





## MYMAGO 2017-18: Wilson Students Made Their Mark a Good One by Being Responsible



Our motto, **Make Your Mark A Good One (MYMAGO)**, is a hallmark of Wilson, permeating every aspect of school life, from class meetings and assemblies to art projects and readings.

This year, Wilson faculty drew from the book, “Only One You” by Linda Kranz, to create a meaningful connection for students.

In the story, a mother and father fish pull their child aside to impart their wisdom, including:

- always be on the lookout for a new friend;
- look for beauty wherever you are;
- find your own way;
- appreciate art; and
- make wishes on the stars in the nighttime sky.

The story ends with the phrase, “There’s only one you in this great big world. Make it a better place.”

Wilson students adapted the phrase to MYMAGO, stating:

**“THERE IS ONLY ONE YOU,  
make your mark a good one  
by being responsible!”**



### ART INSTALLATION:

Students created a semi-permanent outdoor art piece to recognize the 2017-18 theme.

Every student in the school painted their own unique rock that became part of a ‘river’ placed next to our outdoor classroom.

The outcome is a stunning and creative artistic reminder of the strong emphasis Wilson places on character education.

## FACULTY

### Pre-Kindergarten

Linda Noel  
Debbie Wilhelms

### Junior Kindergarten

Fritz Fahrenkamp  
Amy Wilson

### Senior Kindergarten

Michael Hinkebein  
Mary Jaeger

### First Grade

Penny Lyles  
Stephanie Wiegert

### Second Grade

Miguel Figueras  
Katie Weiss

### Third Grade

Mara Goldschmidt  
Anne Mayes

### Fourth Grade

Darla Hart  
Lisa Leuther

### Fifth Grade

Laurie Finkenkiller  
Kevin McGinnis

### Sixth Grade

Michael Taylor  
Angie Zinkl

### Art

Diane Signor

### French

Stephanie Lombard

### Latin

Anne Sappington

### Library

Melissa Smith

### Music

Rebecca Donaldson

### Physical Education

Rachel Simpson

### Science— Grades 4, 5 and 6

Michael Taylor

### Social Studies— Grades 4, 5 and 6

Kevin McGinnis

### Technology

Melika Panneri

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### Assistant Head of School

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### Director of Finance

Ann King

### Bookkeeper

Kate Pickett

### School Secretary

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### Student Services Coordinator

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### Summer Camp Coordinator

Michael Hinkebein

# Highlights and Achievements

## Class of 2018 School Placement:

Chaminade College Prep  
Crossroads College Prep  
John Burroughs School  
MICDS  
Pilgrim School

Thomas Jefferson  
Visitation Academy  
Whitfield School  
Wydown Middle School



The Wilson Wolves  
Robotics Team won  
1st Place for the  
Robot Game in a  
Local Qualifying Event

3 Blue Ribbons  
awarded to  
Wilson students  
in the Greater  
St. Louis  
Science Fair

10 Wilson students were  
published this year in  
"The Anthology of Poetry  
by Young Americans"



class of 2018 1<sup>st</sup>

St. Louis area  
EXCELLENCE IN  
MATH COMPETITION



1/3  
students scored  
100%  
on the national  
mythology exam



# Living Our Mission



To prepare students for success in an ever-changing world, our exceptional educators combine classic and innovative methods within a warm, nurturing environment.

## Special Goodbyes

### Lisa Leuther, Fourth Grade

Lisa Leuther is retiring after 35 years in education, 33 of which she spent at Wilson teaching in the early childhood, primary, and the upper grades. As well as colleagues adoring Lisa, her work touched many areas of our program.

A person who never sought individual recognition for ideas or special efforts, Lisa instead gave accolades to others. She made a lasting impression on Wilson School and will always be a beloved member of our community.



### Melissa Smith, Library

After two years of running Wilson's library and resource program, Melissa Smith decided to explore opportunities with more flexible schedules. Melissa and her husband, who has recently retired, look forward to having more time for travel and other activities.

While at Wilson, Melissa took an already excellent school library to the next level. She intimately knew the collective and individual reading interests of our students – Melissa truly contributed positively to a community of readers.

# The Excellence Program Highlights 2017-18

## Educator Excellence

Wilson faculty attended seven regional/national conferences including, NCTE (Language Arts), People of Color Conference, Lucy Calkins (Reading & Writing), and Future of Educational Technology.

Continuing in the school's efforts to provide the best learning experience for students, many members of the faculty engaged in the Wilson Teacher Institute, where teachers spent two days collaborating and planning integrated learning units for the year.

Required reading and discussion groups, also funded by the program, was an annual highlight.



## Curriculum Excellence



Visiting artist, Carla Tuetken, taught the children new techniques for painting on silk. They explored nature-related themes and the experience culminated with an exhibit of their silk paintings stretched on metal frames.

### The Excellence Program also funded:

- Washington University Writing Program (JK-Grade 6)
- Zoo Outreach (PK & JK)
- Mindfulness Program (PK-Grade 6)
- Strong Students, Strong World Program (Grades 3-6)
- Rain Barrel for Lower Playground (PK-Grade 6)
- Global Scientists with Level Up Village (Grade 3)
- MusiQuest composing program (Grades 1-6)
- Heart Zones System (Grades 1-6)
- St. Louis Symphony: Link-Up Program (Grade 4)
- Photography Unit- 3 additional cameras (Grade 6)
- Center for American Archeology: Kampsville (Grade 5)
- Camp Manitowa (Grade 6)
- Civil Rights Trip to Memphis & Little Rock (Grade 6)

## Library Excellence

In addition to building Wilson's library collection, the program funded activities such as, World Read Aloud Day, Fireside Stories, Author Visit, Contests and Prizes during National School Library Month, and Reading Challenges.

## What are they reading?

**Teaching Kids to Thrive: Essential Skills for Success**  
Debbie Thompson

**The Road to Character**  
David Brooks

**Invent to Learn: Making, Tinkering, and Engineering in the Classroom**  
Sylvia Martinez

**Growing up Global: Raising Children to Be at Home in the World**  
Homa S. Tavangar

**Why Gender Matters: What Parents and Teachers Need to Know about the Emerging Science of Sex Differences**  
Leonard Sax

**Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys**  
Dan Kindlon

**Best Friends, Worst Enemies: Understanding the Social Lives of Children**  
Michael Thompson

**The Marshall Memo**  
(An Educational Newsletter)

## Community Excellence



This year's Family Night at the Zoo included a new evening hike route, time at Discovery Corner, live animal presentations, new arts and crafts and biofacts, and feeding the sting rays.

Current and prospective parents experienced Wilson Family Night with 24 unique activity stations.





# 2017-18 Annual Giving Campaign Donors

## ANNUAL FUND DONORS

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## Special Thanks to our 2017-18 Annual Giving Chairs and Class Captains

### Co-Chairs

Seema & Michael Dahlheimer

### Class Captains

Zak Baisch  
Melanie McKean  
Kristin Scully  
Shaista Siddiqui  
Leon Waxer



## Honoring The Mabel Wilson Society

Members of our Mabel Wilson Society have designated The Wilson School in their estate plans. These gifts are directed toward our endowment, which in turn provides the school with a reliable source of income in perpetuity. These funds support Wilson's ability to provide tuition assistance, professional development and curriculum enhancement.

### FOUNDER'S CIRCLE MEMBERS

Herbert Atherton\*  
Catherine and Hal\* Faught  
Ashley George Gill and Scott Gill  
Heather Flabiano & Ross Murfin  
Steven C. Shepley  
Thomas Hill Ward\*

\* deceased



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# 34th Annual Thistle Auction Supporters

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Philllice Gregory

## PROCUREMENT

Megan Cleary  
Shelley Porter-Connon

## SIGN-UP PARTIES

Connie Anderson  
Beth Fisher  
Elise Frisella  
Kelvin Woods

## MADE BY WILSON

Hélène Urvoaz Farrell

## CLASS PROJECTS

Lisa Christenson

## DECORATIONS

Ashley Cook  
Lara Thiel

## ATTENDANCE

Melanie McKean

## CLASS CAPTAINS

Zak Baisch  
Chris Feldmeir  
Leila Sadat  
Kristin Scully  
Leon Waxer

## 6TH GRADE DANCE

Caroline Korybut  
Monica Witherspoon

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Mary Tricamo Park  
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Diane Signor

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Melissa Woods

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Jennifer and Jason Woods

**A Big Thank You To Our  
Generous Auction Organizers  
And Supporters!**

**TICKETS+ITEMS: \$58,155  
PADDLE RAISE: \$13,050  
TOTAL NET: \$71,205**

## 2017-18 Alumni Achievement Awards

### Rodney Fierce, Wilson Class of 1997

Rodney DeaVault Fierce was taught early in life to never stop learning new things. After leaving Wilson to attend St. Louis Priory School, Rodney went on to Princeton University where he discovered a love of children's literature.

Following his passion, Rodney left New York City's world of corporate law to devote his life to bringing the joy of literature to others. As an english professor, he earned a Master's in Children's Literature from Simmons College and PhD in English from University of Southern Mississippi. A frequent guest speaker and lecturer, Rodney's work has been presented at WonderCon, The Pop Culture Association and Children's Literature Association Conference.



### Turner Holthaus, Wilson Class of 2001

When Turner Holthaus was six years old, he knew that he wanted to be "an Army man." Turner never lost sight of this vision. After graduating Wilson, he went on to attend MICDS and West Point, where he graduated in the top 15% of his class.

Through his two tours of duty in Afghanistan and assignments in Africa and Cuba, Turner rose to the rank of Captain, earning the Bronze Star for battlefield initiatives in the process. During his active duty, Turner studied at the University of Lille in Lille, France, finishing his studies at the MIT Sloan School of Business in spring 2018. Turner continues the Wilson tradition of Making Your Mark A Good One, as a mentor to a young boy through Big Brothers Big Sisters.

## 9th Annual Trivia Night

THANK YOU TO OUR RESIDENT TRIVIA EXPERT,  
LINDA NOEL, AND ALL OF OUR  
VOLUNTEERS AND PARTICIPANTS

We raised \$5,000+ for the 2017/18 Annual Fund.



# Wilson Outreach Workshop (WOW) 2017-18

Each year our Parents' Association's WOW (Wilson Outreach Workshop) committee puts our **MYMAGO** theme into action with school-wide service projects.

**“WOW is a wonderful way for the Wilson community to come together and demonstrate how even small acts of kindness can have a tremendous impact on our community.”**

**--Kristin Scully, 2017-18 WOW Co-Chair**



## 2017-18 Service Projects:

Fall Shoe Drive  
Winter Coat Drive  
Spring Food Drive

“Birthday in a Box” Drive  
Halloween Candy Collection



# Parents' Association (PA)

## OFFICERS

Kelly Eidson, President  
Martha Phillips, Vice President  
Melissa Woods, Secretary  
Lori Roth, Treasurer

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Artsonia:

Mary Politi, Shelley Porter-Connon

### Birthday Bulletin Board:

Anne Mayes

### Barnes & Noble Book Fair:

Hélène Urvoaz Farrell, Cole McBride

### Cosmic Bowl:

Diarra Cross-Davis, Kieran McGuane

### Family Sports Nights:

Phillice Gregory

### Holiday Greenery Sale:

Kelly Eidson

### Purposeful Parenting:

Kristin Scully, Molly Gray

### Scholastic Book Fair:

Canan Bayazit, Elise Frisella

### School Picnic:

Ruben Rosario, Chris McKean

### School Supplies:

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## Staff Appreciation:

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Molly Gray

## Used Book Sale:

Crickette Sanz, Marina Schmidt

## Wilson Outreach Workshop:

Ashley Cook, Kristin Scully

## Wilson Wear:

Molly Gray, Ashley Cook

## PARENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

PK – Anne Miller  
JK – April Schnuck  
SK – Connie Anderson  
1st – Phillice Gregory  
2nd – Kelvin Woods  
3rd – Miechele Catt  
4th – Hélène Urvoaz Farrell  
5th – Shelly Edwards  
6th – Melanie McKean

## PARENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE ~ ALTERNATES

PK – Ellie Braun  
JK – Esther Gabel  
SK - Rachel Swiston  
1st – April Schnuck  
2nd – Melanie McKean  
3rd – Shelley Porter-Connon  
4th – Jennifer Lin  
5th – Megan Cleary  
6th – Cole McBride

A WORLD OF GRATITUDE  
TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS



Kelly Eidson, 2017-18 PA President

## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### Book Fairs:

- Barnes & Noble Book Fair
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Used Book Sale

### Class Trips for 5th & 6th Grades

### Cosmic Bowl

### Parent Coffees

### Purposeful Parenting

### School Picnic

### Staff Appreciation:

- Birthday Gifts
- Conference Day Luncheons
- Teacher Appreciation Week

### Wilson Family Sports Nights:

- Blues
- Cardinals
- St. Louis Football Club

### Wilson Outreach Workshop

### Wilson Wear:

- Fall and Spring Collections
- Lands' End
- Team Uniforms





# Hallmark Wilson Experiences...On the Road! 2017-18

## Kampsville



Fifth grade's trip to the Center for American Archeology in Kampsville was filled with opportunities to compare life today with those who first settled in Calhoun County. The class participated in activities such as digging clay from the side of a creek, making a coil pot, going on an eco-hike, flint knapping and throwing an atlatl.

## Camp Manitowa



In the fall, sixth graders traveled to Camp Manitowa in Southern Illinois. During their time together, students experienced new challenges, developed skills, grew in confidence and independence, and bonded with classmates. Activities included a 50-foot high ropes challenge course and climbing tower, 400 foot zipline, swimming and kayaking in Lake Hamilton, a scavenger hunt, and s'mores around the campfire.

## Civil Rights Trip



Students, teachers, and parents traveled to Little Rock, Arkansas to tour Little Rock Central High School and the corresponding museum. They also traveled to Memphis, Tennessee to see the National Civil Rights Museum. Students were constantly learning, at the museums and on the bus, reading articles and watching movies related to the movement. It was a truly a life-changing experience for all who attended.





# Financial Summary

The financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, and were compiled by an independent accounting firm. The following is a summary of that information and is not intended to be a full set of financials. The compiled financial statements, in their entirety, are available upon request.

## Summary Statement of Activities For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

### Revenues & Support

Tuition and Fees	\$ 2,963,125	
Tuition Assistance	(499,027)	
Tuition, Net	<u>2,464,098</u>	79%
Extracurricular Activities	295,040	9%
Annual Giving	290,256	9%
Special Events, Net	80,379	3%
Other	<u>12,776</u>	0%
Total Revenues and Support	<u>3,142,549</u>	

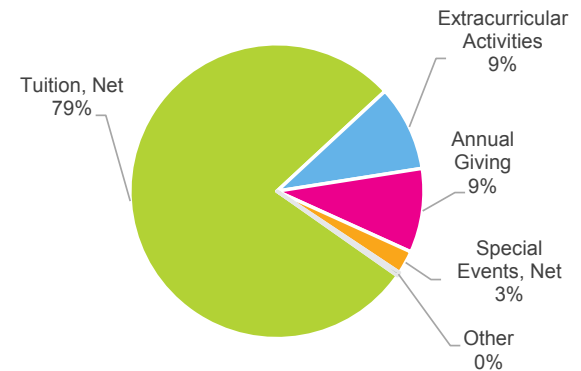
### Expenses

Educational Programs	2,948,656	78%
General and Administrative	701,025	18%
Fundraising	<u>146,460</u>	4%
Total Expenses	<u>3,796,141</u>	

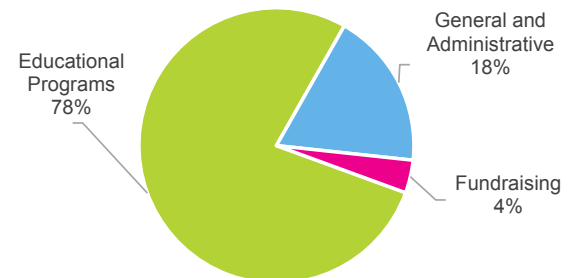
### Other Revenues (Expenses)\*

Endowment/Capital Campaign Contributions	478,575
In kind Donations	<u>47,000</u>
Total Other Revenues (Expenses)	<u>525,575</u>
Change in Net Assets	<u>\$ (128,017)</u>

### Revenues & Support Summary



### Expenses Summary



\* Other Revenues (Expenses) are not included in the summary pie charts.

## Summary Statement of Financial Position As of June 30, 2018

### Assets

Current Assets	\$ 682,160
Promises to Give, Net Current Portion	330,288
Investments	107,065
Property and Equipment, Net	6,985,491
Investments, Donor Restricted	<u>518,306</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 8,623,310</u>

### Liabilities

Current Liabilities	\$ 1,390,641
Long Term Liabilities	<u>3,045,429</u>
Total Liabilities	4,436,070

### Net Assets

Net Assets	<u>4,187,240</u>
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	<u>\$ 8,623,310</u>



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