



COBB SCHOOL MONTESSORI

50 YEARS

of Montessori Excellence





Reflecting on 50 Years of Excellence

BY **SUBHA SANKARAN**, HEAD OF SCHOOL

I have come to love Cobb School, both as a parent and as a staff member. It is here that my children and I have found inspiration, acceptance, friendship and ultimately, our best selves. This is an institution I am proud to serve and I am honored to continue its legacy. Starting in my new role in this milestone 50th year, has been a perfect opportunity to reflect on the strength and resilience of our school during its history. Cobb's story is much like the stories we tell Elementary children, about life forms in the timeline of life, adapting and thriving in ever-shifting landscapes.

Consider the story of the oak tree. Over the past 56 million years, oaks have spread across five continents in the northern hemisphere. Pushed south by the last Ice Age, they adapted to climate changes and now stand as a keystone species in temperate forests, supporting countless other life forms. Oaks purify the air, support diverse life, and enrich the soil with the leaves they shed. They have given humans the gift of their acorns to nourish and wood to build.

Quite aptly, this mighty tree, its acorn and its leaves, are the symbol of Cobb School. A resolute vision sprouted the one-classroom school, which has since grown branches and deep roots in the forest of education in the Farmington Valley. Through the backdrop of wars, changing presidencies, 9/11, economic crises, technological evolution and a global pandemic, Cobb School has stood tall. It has nurtured a thriving ecosystem of students, educators, and families, casting seeds by educating hundreds of children, providing opportunities for teachers to develop, and enriching both the local and broader Montessori communities.



Cobb's story is much like the stories we tell our Elementary children, about life forms on the timeline of life, adapting and thriving through ever-shifting landscapes.

At the core of Cobb is a steadfast commitment to the Montessori philosophy—one that reveres the human spirit and tendencies, and aspires to foster a new era of peace. Our curriculum unfolds a world that spans time and geography, while our method cultivates timeless virtues: patience, compassion, collaboration, curiosity, respect, and diligence. We are called not only to nurture each individual's best self but also to guide them toward serving the common good.

Cobb's ecosystem was built by strong leaders, dedicated staff, and a supportive parent community. Our founder and Head of School for 45 years, Mary Lou Cobb, was a true visionary, leading and inspiring others to join in her mission. Her life's work was to build the school of her dreams against all odds and cultivate the culture we now call the Cobb Way. My predecessor, Sue Angelides, skillfully guided Cobb through the challenges of the pandemic, and ushered us into our 50th year in strong health.

The dedicated teachers and staff, many of whom have been with us for decades, are the heart of our Montessori program. They have tirelessly and gracefully guided hundreds of children toward their highest potential. Cobb has also nurtured our staff to find their own highest potential as they have honed their practice or gone on to become trainers and leaders in education and in the Montessori world, spreading the essence of Cobb culture wherever they go.

Parents and families have been our unwavering partners throughout our history. From volunteering in the classroom to serving on the Board of Trustees, they have given generously of their time and resources, and been constant champions for our school. This service and belief in our mission has been crucial to making Cobb what it is today.

Cobb's legacy lives on in the wide network of alumni who have gone into the world with self-knowledge, integrity, and compassion, to pursue their unique paths.

As we look ahead to the next 50 years, it is this community that propels us forward—adaptable, growing, and thriving. We are driven by our mission to educate the whole child, remaining rooted in the timeless philosophy and culture on which we were built, adapting and preparing children for the times in which they live. Like the oak, we serve and rely on our greater forest—our community—to nurture new acorns year after year.

Within our walls, our little acorns find their strength and resilience to adapt and flourish in a fast-changing world. Here they absorb, experiment, and find a safe place to fail and grow. They will have the freedom to make responsible choices, explore their interests and reach new heights. They have time to construct themselves and learn to care for their environment. Above all, they have the gift of a childhood—learning, working and playing joyfully together.

From little acorns, more mighty oaks will grow.

Contents

Reflecting on 50 Years	02
25 Years of Circus Magic	06
Art in Montessori	08
Montessori & the Creative Spark	16
From Montessori to Mastery	22
Primary: A Solid Foundation	24
A Lifetime of Firsts	32
2023-24 Annual Report	35
50th Celebration & Auction	41
Year in Review	44

2023-24 COBB SCHOOL TEAM

ADMINISTRATION

Subha Sankaran, Head of School
Andrea Boden, Director of Communications
Marcie Braden, Director of Engagement and Development
Cara Johnson, Asst. Head of School, Director of Experiential Learning
Joseph Lardner, Business Manager
Melissa Shaw, Director of Admissions

TEACHING TEAM

Lia Angelides, Primary Assistant
Julia Beach, LE Assistant
Gabrielle Bugden, YCC Assistant
Noel Conklin, LE Guide
Cat Coco, YCC Assistant
Mia Colopy, Primary Assistant
Carol Ebersol, Primary Guide
Jill Evans, UE Guide
Adriana Farrell, UE Assistant
Marisa Gallagher, Primary Guide
Karen Gavell, Primary Guide
Jamie Gilbert, YCC Guide
Elise Grady, YCC Assistant
Maureen Hilsdon, LE Guide
Sasha Johnson, LE Assistant
Dana Kelly, UE Assistant
Judy Maloney, YCC Guide
Sheryl McInnis, YCC Assistant
Darshani Olano, Primary Assistant
Sara Schultz, YCC Assistant

SPECIALISTS & STAFF

Robert Banta, Facilities Coordinator
Sarah DeRosa, Nest Assistant
Suzanne DeRosa, Front Desk Coordinator
Linsday Gallo, Spanish
Mike Grappone, Facilities Manager
Mark Hilsdon, Student Services
Anne Lee, Piano
Christopher Lyles, Art and PE
Heather Merriman, Support
Allison Millett, Nest Assistant
Jacki Romano, Student Services
Maddie Ross, Support
Kathy Schiller, Nest Director
Suzanne Sinacori, Nurse
Betsy van Gemenen, Photography

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Mike Lawler
Amanda Malkowski
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Lucia Rome
Linda Rowland
Samantha Savran
Kelly Seagraves
Blake Seers
Marisa Sullivan
Malissa Tibbling
Joy Vacca
Louisa Walsh



HONORING **50 AMAZING YEARS**

50th Anniversary Flag Raising Ceremony

On Sept 21, 2023, we gathered as a community to raise a flag in honor of our 50th year. Current students and staff were joined by our Board of Trustees, founding members of the school, esteemed Montessorians, and local officials to honor this milestone.

Founder Mary Lou Cobb addressed the students, the children sang the school's Tree Song, and the 6th years took turns raising the flag up the pole.

Subha was honored to accept a certificate from the Connecticut General Assembly awarded by Simsbury Representative Melissa Osborne in recognition of the anniversary.

The unity and sense of purpose were palpable as we celebrated our Board of Trutees's vision for 50 more years, **"Cobb Montessori 50 Years Forward — a legacy renewed, a journey continued, and excellence reimaged."**





“Circus week is one of my favorite weeks in the school year because we get to learn all sorts of Circus skills. My favorite is walking on top of the giant green ball. We get to learn stilt walking and juggling too!”

- ELLIANA ZATYRKA, 5TH YEAR



25 Years of Circus Magic

TROY WUNDERLEE'S CIRCUS RESIDENCY



For a quarter of a century, Troy Wunderlee has been bringing the magic of the circus to Cobb School Montessori, turning our campus into a vibrant hub of creativity, laughter, and learning. Each spring, Troy returns to Cobb, bringing with him an array of circus activities that captivate and inspire both students and teachers alike. “Cobb feels like coming home each spring,” Troy reflects. “Here, the entire community comes together for a beautiful experience.”

Troy’s residency at Cobb is the longest-running circus program he has led, and it continues to enrich the lives of our students year after year. Through the art of circus, Troy helps to “spread joy, create memories, and inspire dreams.” His engaging approach not only entertains but also teaches valuable life skills that align seamlessly with the Montessori philosophy.

The circus at Cobb is about much more than clowning around. It is a celebration of resilience, creativity, and community. “Circus brings skills that align with Montessori,” Troy explains, “like accepting failure, pushing past challenges, being proud of your accomplishments, supporting one another, and pursuing your curiosity to learn new skills.”

These lessons are woven into every circus activity, encouraging students to embrace challenges and approach them with enthusiasm and confidence.

Students learn to embrace failure as a stepping stone to success, understanding that perseverance is key

to mastering new skills. They push past their limits, discovering a sense of pride in their accomplishments. The sense of community that the circus fosters is palpable, with students cheering each other on and working together to achieve their goals. This spirit of support and collaboration is at the heart of both the circus and the Montessori method.

Over the years, the circus residency has become a hallmark of Cobb School Montessori, leaving a lasting impact on students and teachers alike. It has inspired countless dreams, sparked curiosity, and created memories that will be cherished for a lifetime. Troy Wunderlee’s dedication to bringing joy and learning to our school is a testament to the power of the circus to transform lives.

As we celebrate 25 years of Circus at Cobb, we look forward to many more springs filled with laughter, wonder, and the joy of learning. Here’s to the magic of the circus and the memories yet to be made.



Art in Montessori

THE IMPORTANCE OF **ART IN MONTESSORI**

Nurturing Creativity & Expression

essori

Art holds immense value in human societies, capturing the beauty of the world and enhancing our lives by fulfilling our aesthetic needs. It serves as a powerful means of expressing thoughts, perceptions, and stories, acting as a reservoir of collective human experience. Art refines the senses, sharpens observation and thoughtful perception, and embraces a sense of wonder.

At the heart of the Montessori approach is a profound appreciation for the arts, which plays a crucial role in the holistic development of young minds. The Montessori method uniquely shares the beauty of art with children, nurturing the artist within each child. It provides them with opportunities to fulfill a fundamental need to connect with nature and the world around them, allowing for deep and meaningful self-expression. In a Montessori classroom, art is not its own subject, but is integrated throughout the materials and lessons. It enables the freedom to express oneself creatively, coupled with skills honed through dedicated practice.

The Montessori Environment

From the moment a child sets foot in our school, their attention is drawn to the order, beauty, and detail in the environment. Montessori guides take great effort in preparing an aesthetically pleasing and curated environment with intentionally placed art, plants, flowers, and objects of cultural interest that draw a child's attention. This environment balances homelike comfort with the reverence one might feel in a museum, inspiring children to take pride in their surroundings and their artistic endeavors. Art materials are thoughtfully arranged and easily accessible, inviting children to engage with them spontaneously.

Observing and an Eye for Detail

From a very young age, children are guided to observe closely. Every lesson draws a child's attention to careful movements, parts of a material, or even the tiniest spill. This aids concentration and creates an eye for detail. Ample opportunities to observe nature or even each other give children time to absorb their environment and formulate their thoughts.

Refining the Senses

Specific exercises for young children are designed to isolate and refine particular qualities perceived by the senses, such as size, shape, composition, texture, loudness, softness, matching, weight, and temperature. The iconic pink tower, color tablets, and bells are beautiful materials that refine the senses while allowing the child artistic expression as they manipulate them. Work in geometry continues to provide opportunities for manipulation and careful distinction between shapes. Children are guided to listen to bird calls, identify shapes of leaves, and look closely at the adaptations of flowers or types of mountains, leading them to notice or listen with their senses and create a deep sense of wonder about the natural world.

Appreciating Global Cultures

Art in Montessori education serves as a window into diverse cultures and the various ways artistic expression can take form. Children explore works of art from





Art in the Montessori classroom can be found integrated throughout the curriculum - from mathematics and botany to spelling and science - there are artistic elements in everything children do.



different time periods, ranging from the earliest cave paintings to contemporary artists. They listen to music or folk tales and enjoy dances and movements from around the world. Exposure to a variety of literature opens windows into different worlds, sharing perspectives and provoking thought. Elementary children learn that art is a fundamental human need that has been fulfilled in various ways across space and time. This cultural appreciation broadens their horizons, finding commonalities and instilling a sense of respect for different perspectives.

Art in the Young Children's Community BY JAMIE GILBERT, YCC GUIDE

In the Montessori Young Children's Community, we provide open-ended art activities that help children explore their inner creativity while also working on fine motor skills. Art is integrated into daily activities, allowing toddlers to explore their creativity through hands-on experiences. Children

engage in painting, drawing, and simple crafts that help develop fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. The use of natural materials like clay and leaves introduces them to the textures and forms found in nature. Music and movement are also vital components of our daily classroom, with rhythm and dance fostering self-expression and joy.

Adults tend to focus on the finished product of their work or efforts. Young children interact with the world differently, deriving joy from the process. Thus, we focus on process over product. Like all work in Montessori, art has a deeper purpose for future skill sets. For example, drawing on the chalkboard helps prepare the child for writing.

The child's art journey in YCC helps develop their appreciation of intrinsic beauty, from which we can all benefit.

Art in the Primary Classroom

BY CAROL EBERSOL, PRIMARY GUIDE

Adults tend to have vague ideas about creativity and art in a Montessori Primary environment. They think of self-expression in an art form, for example: paint to paper. But in reality, for a young child the product may or may not have any great meaning to the child. As a culture we are always focused on the product of our efforts. We must realize and remember that the children are interested only in the process.

In the Primary classroom, art becomes a tool for self-expression and communication. Children are introduced to various art techniques, including drawing, painting, and sculpting. Metal Insets and cursive handwriting exercises develop fine motor skills, while storytelling and dramatic play encourage imaginative expression. The integration of music and movement helps children understand rhythm, melody, and harmony.

Every day I witness so many unique expressions of art. The artful way one child chooses to arrange language cards, the colors chosen to do a sewing card or embroidery, the flowers gathered for an arrangement or the color choices for a painting. All expressions are unique and equally valued. Depending upon the lens you employ, art and creativity are part and parcel throughout the Montessori classroom.

Art in the Elementary Environment

BY JILL EVANS, ELEMENTARY GUIDE

In the Montessori Elementary classroom, art is a universal language. While it stands as its own subject, it is beautifully integrated across the curriculum connecting math, language, geometry, biology, and history.

To the highly imaginative mind of the Elementary child, stories from history are told to showcase the role of art in human society as a language, a form of expression and a fundamental spiritual need from the beginning of our time.



When learning complex concepts like color theory, gradation, shading, proportion and perspective, children often use real-life observations from nature to inform their work. They apply mathematical principles to create beautiful, precise drawings that reflect both artistic and intellectual growth. This connection between art, language, nature, math, and history are profound, as they reveal the child's emerging understanding of the interconnectedness of all things.

Children may apply these skills by illustrating their academic work. Whether they paint a whale for a research project, connect Mondrian's art to squaring in math, or understand the refraction of light as a rainbow through color theory, art enables them to visualize their learning in new ways.

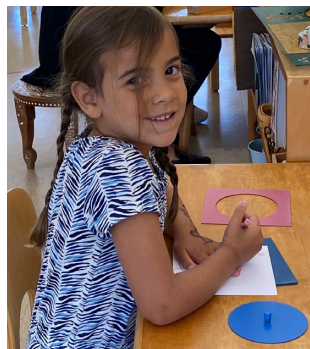
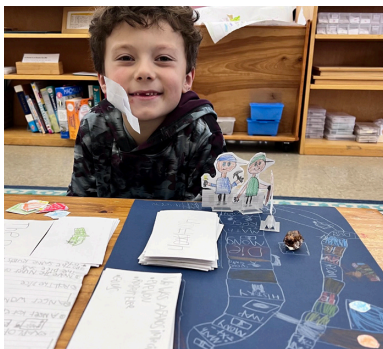
Dr. Montessori believed that art is essential for the child's development—spiritually, intellectually, and

psychologically as it connects the hand, heart and the mind. Art helps the child develop concentration, self-expression, and creativity, offering a pathway to deep focus which then can then apply to many aspects of their learning.

Montessori Art is
about *process* over the
finished product.

The Montessori Artistic Journey

Art in the Montessori classroom is a journey that begins with the pure joy of exploration in the Young Children's Community, deepens into purposeful expression in the Primary years, and blossoms into a tool for understanding and communicating complex ideas in the Elementary classroom. Across all levels, art is more than just an activity; it's a vital part of the child's development, fostering creativity, self-expression, and a deeper connection to the world around them. By nurturing these artistic impulses, Montessori education helps children grow into thoughtful, imaginative individuals who appreciate the beauty and diversity of human expression.



In the Cobb Art Studio

BY CHRIS LYLES, ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

In addition to the beautiful art program integrated throughout our Montessori curriculum and in the classrooms, Cobb Elementary students are fortunate to work with Chris Lyles, professional children's illustrator and our Artist-in-Residence for the last twenty years.

In his own words, "During my time here I have learned far more from the children than they have learned from me. Being a working illustrator allows me to demonstrate my process from initial sketch to realized vision with the students, and stress the importance of conceptual thinking and visual problem-solving. We explore a variety of mediums on any given project, while allowing happy accidents along the way. Students create openly and freely without the fear of rejection or making mistakes—as our focus is always on the process, not the finished product. Critiques are provided along the way to help guide them, but never interfering with their own personal vision and creativity. Personal expression is of the utmost importance and by the end of the sixth-year cycle, students have created a well developed portfolio of work showcasing their artistic voice and spirit. Many of our students will exhibit their artwork locally, giving them real life experience and exposure, providing greater opportunities and introspective of their work. Each day in the art studio is a new adventure and opportunity to forget about time and get lost in imagination and creativity. As Picasso once said, "Every child is an artist, the problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up." I suppose I feel I've never really grown up so I will keep creating right alongside these wonderful little artists!"



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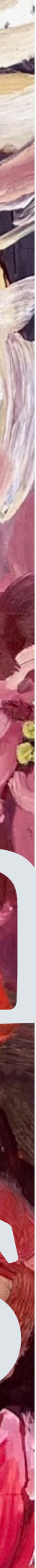
Cobb Arts Festival

Three years ago, we revitalized our Cobb Arts Festival as a celebration of the art children create in the art studio, and in the classroom. Visitors tour art walls in the Great Hall, participate in a community art project, and enjoy art-related activities and demonstrations. This is a beautiful coming together of the community for the children to share their portfolios and the things they've learned along the way. We invite current and past families to join us at this celebration of the Montessori artistic journey.





Alumni Artists



Montessori & the Creative Spark

COBB SCHOOL **ALUMNI ARTISTS**

At Cobb School Montessori, we celebrate the diverse paths our alumni have chosen, and one of the most vibrant and expressive journeys is that of the artist. We are proud to feature some of our talented alumni who have pursued their passion for art, each contributing uniquely to the world through their creativity and vision.

The Montessori approach emphasizes freedom and independence, allowing students to explore their interests and cultivate their innate creativity. This nurturing environment encourages children to express themselves through various artistic mediums, helping them develop a strong sense of individuality and a deep appreciation for the beauty in the world around them.

Many of our alumni artists credit their Montessori education with providing the foundation for their artistic endeavors. The freedom to explore, experiment, and express ideas without judgment sparked a lifelong passion for creativity. The emphasis on hands-on learning and sensory experiences helped them develop keen observation skills and an ability to see the world through a unique lens.

Throughout their time at Cobb, these students were encouraged to pursue their interests and given the tools to explore their creative potential. The skills they honed and the confidence they gained have propelled them into various artistic fields, where they continue to innovate and inspire.

We invite you to explore the works of our alumni artists and learn more about their creative journeys. Each story is a testament to the power of Montessori education in nurturing the creative spirit and fostering a lifelong love for the arts.



Caroline
Strapp

Caroline, Cobb 2012, is an artist, graphic designer, and writer recently graduated from UCONN.

“My Montessori education encouraged my natural instinct for curiosity. At Cobb, asking questions was met with patience and kindness. Curiosity has remained a central motivation in my education and personality because it was nurtured at Cobb School.”



Avery
Bramhall

Avery is a painter, splitting her time between her studio in Brooklyn and Martha's Vineyard.

“I loved my Montessori education. My teachers in particular were wonderful! I still stay in touch. They gave me freedom to explore my interests and taught with such patience and encouragement that helped me to develop a sense of self and confidence at a young age.”



Helen
Nelson

Heather, Cobb 1984, studied Art Education at the University of Vermont and now as an artist near Boston.

“I have fond memories of the original classroom on the Ethel Walker campus. My mom, Ruth Josephson, would come in to do art activities with our class. She was always so involved with the school (even before she was a teacher) and this is just one of many special memories.”





Antony
Zito

Antony is a portrait painter, muralist, sculptor, musician, and filmmaker whose art is on display throughout Europe, the US, and Asia.

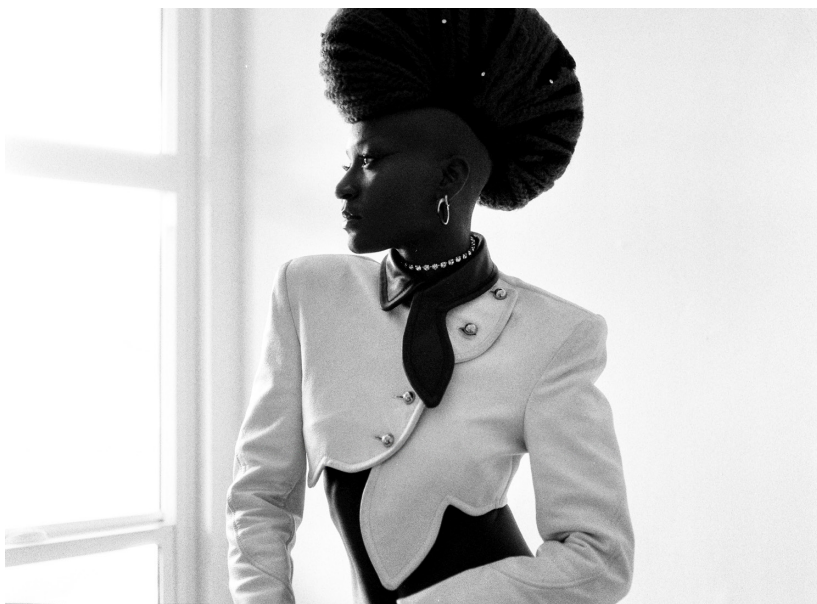
“I have always felt that my time as a Montessori child has impacted my life in a very significant way. I firmly believe in the Montessori philosophy regarding “the formative years,” which created within me the psychological and emotional armature upon which I was able to construct and refine a functional creative life. I am forever grateful to Maria Montessori and those who faithfully carry out her perspective, for helping me develop the sense of direction I have always felt — and the gumption to stick through the difficult years.”



Isa
Krocheski

Isa studied illustration and sequential art at SCAD. She is focused on publication but has graphic design experience as well.

She loves working with and exploring a variety of art media and creates illustrations that allow readers to soar through fantastical adventures. Speaking about her artistry, Isa said, “I really admire artists who use color instead of black or gray for shadows and I finally had the chance to try that out for this piece.”



Grace
Sims

Grace is a photographer and filmmaker based in Los Angeles.

“Cobb gave me the freedom for my creativity to develop. Diagnosed at an early age with rolandic epilepsy, art was how I could express myself when connecting seemed difficult. My teachers encouraged my curiosity, and I met some amazing peers who have stayed in my life since.”



Brennan
Maine

Brennan, Cobb 2003, is a multi-media artist and designer focused on expressing the natural world through digital design.

“I am grateful for my time at Cobb. It taught me essential skills for thinking outside of the box and that has aided me as an artist and entrepreneur. One of my many treasured memories was designing and building an outdoor cage for our precious class dove, we saw a need for the dove to have more space and be outdoors and we built it. Having our dreams and visions supported by adults so early on in our development has really ensured that we have choice and purpose in how we want our world to be.”

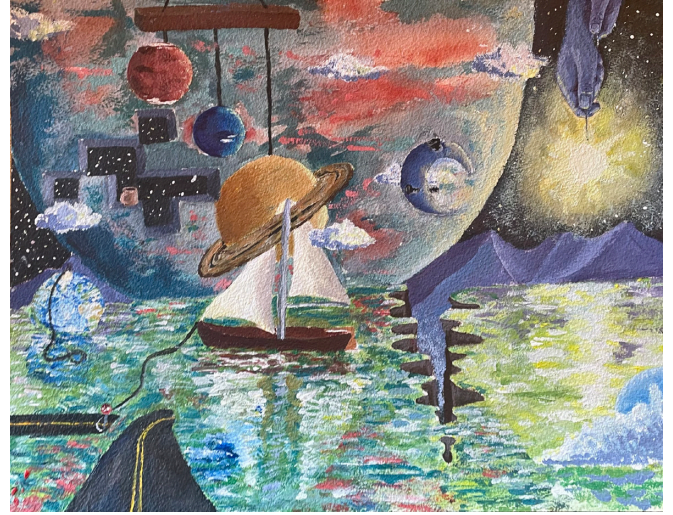




Chase
Harris

Chase, Cobb 2016, is currently pursuing a BFA in photography with minors in entertainment business and philosophy at New York University.

He is passionate about both fashion and fine art photography and their artistic combination. Chase's aim as an artist is to cultivate a sense of serenity and tranquility in his work, offering viewers a "place to breathe" through his art.



Owen
Reed

Owen, Cobb 2019, is currently a high school student at Watkinson, where he continues to develop his artistic skills.

"Cobb was where my love for art began, especially in Mr. Lyles's class, as he helped me develop and find my style during my seven years there. Cobb helped me to be independent, and taught me to seek out learning opportunities instead of waiting for them."

Wilson Potter

Wilson, Cobb 2012, is a recent graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Fine Arts with a degree in Industrial Design.

With an emphasis on using software and machines as extensions of the creative spirit, he transitioned from college to a job at Baron Technologies. His nights are when the real work gets done, as his paintings are a growing catalog of creative and artistic development.



From Cobb Montessori to Mastery

HOW COBB SCHOOL SHAPED MY SUCCESS IN GOLF & BEYOND

BY MAISE FILLER '13

My years at Cobb School Montessori have played a pivotal role in shaping me into the person I am today. From fostering my love of learning to nurturing my problem-solving abilities, independence, and creativity, the principles instilled in me during my formative years at Cobb School continue to guide me as I navigate through life. At the University of Florida I majored in political science and played on the women's golf team. I owe a significant portion of my skills and successes to my Montessori education.

Montessori has helped me foster interpersonal skills that I use every day. In a Montessori classroom, collaboration and communication is always encouraged and integral to the learning process. Through the group environment activity, I learned the importance of effective communication, and working with and understanding others. These skills have proven invaluable, not only in my academics but also in my sport of golf and life.

In my nine years at Cobb, I developed a strong set of problem-solving skills. Rather than simply memorizing, I was encouraged to think critically and develop creative solutions. Whether it was through hands-on learning activities or open-ended projects, I learned to approach challenges with confidence and perseverance. This problem-solving mindset has been instrumental in overcoming obstacles and challenges in life.



From an early age, I was given the freedom to explore my interests and pursue my passions at my own pace during my years at Cobb. This autonomy instilled in me a sense of self-reliance and confidence in my abilities. My Cobb teachers instilled a sense of independence in me through the learning process. As I transitioned to later schooling and university life, I found myself better equipped to manage my time, set goals, and take initiative in pursuing my passions. I am able to balance being a full-time student while playing Division I golf which requires a similar full-time commitment.

My two older sisters and I had the privilege of having Mrs. Gallagher as Primary teacher. We all still talk about our time with her and in the Cobb School Primary class. My favorite memories are the calm of the morning circle, our lunchtime conversations, the birthday celebrations and putting my hand on her shoulder to patiently wait my turn for her assistance. She was always there to guide us but pushed us to try to figure things out on our own.

From an early age, I was given the freedom to explore my interests and pursue my passions

at my own pace during my years at Cobb School. This autonomy instilled in me a sense of self-reliance and confidence in my abilities.



Creativity and imagination were celebrated and nurtured at Cobb School, something that I greatly appreciate when looking back. Whether it was through artistic expression, learning new class materials, or exploring new class projects, I was encouraged to think outside the box and explore my imagination. If something was of great interest, I was encouraged to explore it further, without the limitations of a rigid curriculum. This spirit of creativity has continued to inspire me in my life, allowing me to approach challenges with excitement.

One of my most significant accomplishments thus far has been my involvement in golf at the University of Florida. Competing on some of the biggest stages in golf has been a testament to the belief instilled in me by my Montessori education that I can accomplish anything to which I set my mind. The discipline, perseverance, and focus required in golf mirror the values instilled in me through my Cobb School upbringing.

I was honored to play in the Augusta National Women's Amateur which includes the 72 best female amateur golfers in the world. My Montessori background gave me the confidence to focus on the process and to appreciate my experience. I was able to play well and did several interviews with the press over the week. The communication skills I learned at Cobb School allowed me to present myself in a mature, yet friendly, manner with multiple questions asked of me on camera.

From developing strong interpersonal skills to fostering independence, problem-solving abilities, and creativity, the foundation laid in my Montessori upbringing continues to influence every aspect of my life. As I start the next chapter of my journey, I carry with me the lessons and skills I learned at Cobb School, giving me confidence in my ability to tackle whatever challenges come my way.



A solid
foundation

COBB SCHOOL **PRIMARY PROGRAM**

A Cornerstone of a Montessori Education

The Primary Program at Cobb School Montessori stands as the cornerstone of our educational approach, laying a strong foundation for lifelong learning and development. With a curriculum designed to nurture curiosity, independence, and a love of learning, our program is expertly guided by a team of extraordinary teachers whose combined experience totals nearly 100 years. These devoted guides are not only educators but also mentors who shape the minds and hearts of young learners.

At Cobb, we understand the critical role that early childhood education plays in a child's development. Our Primary Program is meticulously crafted to cater to the unique needs of each child, fostering a safe and nurturing environment where exploration and discovery are encouraged. The Montessori philosophy emphasizes hands-on learning, self-directed activity, and collaborative play, allowing children to develop critical thinking skills and a deep understanding of the world around them.

The true strength of our Primary Program lies in the exceptional quality of our teachers. Our three remarkable primary educators bring a wealth of experience, compassion, and dedication to their classrooms. They are more than teachers; they are passionate guides who understand the importance of creating a supportive and stimulating environment for each child. Their commitment to the Montessori principles ensures that every student receives the individualized attention and guidance they need to thrive.

Each of our Primary guides brings a unique perspective and a profound dedication to nurturing the potential within every child. Through their stories and insights, you will see how their expertise and devotion make our Primary Program an unparalleled educational experience.

Join us as we dive into the world of our Primary Program and discover how Cobb School Montessori provides an enriching, supportive, and inspiring start to your child's educational journey. Let us show you why our teachers are the heart and soul of this transformative program.

Our Primary classrooms are vibrant, nurturing communities filled with engaged children, exploring the world around them and building skills and confidence.







Carol Ebersol

Carol Ebersol's Montessori journey was inspired by a simple observation of a grammar lesson in a Montessori classroom in the late 1970s. She has since dedicated her life to sharing her love for language, nature, and the work of the hand with children. After twenty eight years in well known Montessori schools, she has made her home at Cobb for the last 16 years.

Q. What drew you to the Primary classroom specifically?

I love young children so it seemed a natural place for me. When I started most Montessori programs only offered Primary classrooms. I was drawn to the mixed age group learning. I love being 100% present with them, hearing their stories, and I adore the process of reading.

Q. Have children changed over the course of your teaching career?

Yes, I have noticed changes. In the early days, children were more inclined to practice lessons they received without being encouraged to do so. I've also noticed a decline in hand strength among children. "Never give more to the eyes than you give to the hands," is my motto. It encourages children to interact with the world around them, rather than being a passive observer.

Q. What advice do you have for parents of Primary-aged children?

This age isn't about results, it's about the process. Giving children the opportunity and space to focus and become fully absorbed in what they're doing fosters a great ability to focus on things later. When you transition a child to a new task, like cleaning up for dinner, give them the respect

and the opportunity to finish their work. A gentle "I see that you're busy, could you please finish up and clean up for dinner," lets them know that their work is important too.

"Ms Carol is everything we look for in a teacher for our children. She supports not only the children but the families as they discover the incredible benefits of Montessori. We have been lucky enough to have her as a guide for three of our children and I often feel like she's been with me through my growth as a parent."

- JENNIFER LABINSKI, PARENT

Q. What lessons from Montessori remain the most valuable in today's changing world?

Respect, kindness, and treating others the way you want to be treated are all great lessons. But above all the need to practice is more important than it ever has been. Our world and culture have shifted to emphasize novelty. Both children and adults need to practice and to develop perseverance, sticking with something even when it's challenging.



Marisa Gallagher

Marisa Gallagher began her journey at Cobb over 30 years ago as Mary Lou Cobb's assistant and Spanish program director, followed by Montessori training. Since then, she has been an inspiring lead guide in our Primary classroom, touching the lives of hundreds of children with her unwavering love and deep belief in each child.

Q. What drew you to Montessori?

This pedagogy is unique in its holistic view of the child. It is centered around the belief in the potential that all children have. Every aspect of the pedagogy is brilliantly designed based on scientific observations of children while nurturing the needs of the human spirit. We empower them with independence and guide them to be community members. Montessori principles are a gift to the child and give us hope for the world.

Q. What is your role as guide?

The role of a guide is beautifully captured in our mission statement — Believe, Guide, Step Aside and Let Fly. First and foremost, my role is to believe in every child: to see them and honor them for everything that they are. I guide them by drawing their interest and showing them how to be and how to work in our environment. When they are connected with their work, I step aside and observe closely until they are ready to fly! An important part of my role also includes closely partnering with the parents who are key to the child's development and guiding them through understanding the child's journey.

"Mrs Gallagher brings genuine joy and warmth to the classroom. Her enthusiasm, dedication, and passion for guiding the children is felt every day by both students and parents. She instills confidence, fosters leadership, and inspires a true love of learning. Our daughter grew immensely in her three years with Mrs Gallagher."

- DEB MURRAY, PARENT

Q. Why is the 3-year cycle important?

The design of the 3-year cycle serves many purposes. Firstly, our environments are designed and prepared for the development stage of the child which spans over roughly 3-4 years. We have an extensive curriculum in the environment and children will develop interest and readiness over different time periods. So this allows for individualization and lets the child work at their pace. The experience of growing from a new child to the elder in the same community, gives a child a great sense of confidence, responsibility, leadership and mastery of skills. It is also a tremendous opportunity to form deeper connections both with their peers and with me. These connections carry them throughout their life.

Karen Gavell

After a varied career including her work as a designer for a children's clothing company, Karen discovered Montessori first as a parent. The pedagogy called to her and since 2000 she has been steadfast in her mission to guide children toward their independence. She came to Cobb eight years ago and finds joy in her work every day.



Q. What drew you to Montessori?

Discovering Montessori happened quite organically for me; it was a journey guided by my own young children. As we began to consider their educational path, I wanted an environment that supported their natural curiosity and their developmental needs. The Montessori philosophy resonated deeply with my beliefs about education and child development.

Q. What is your favorite thing about working with Primary-aged children?

I love everything about working with the children! It's the little moments we observe sometimes that I love the most. A child recognizing they can read, a little one helping another little one with their socks or zipper, the cry of budding independence with the words "I did it!" It's those little moments when a child makes a discovery and their entire being lights up and they continue to repeat the same work over and over again for the sheer joy!

Q. What lessons from Montessori remain the most valuable in today's world?

In today's changing world, Montessori principles endure as timeless and holistic guides. They emphasize the significance of a child's sense of belonging and connection, fostering their development into essential, contributing members of

"Ms Karen's endless patience, genuine care, and unwavering belief in each child's potential create a world where learning feels like love, and every heart she touches is forever changed."

- ANNALICE CLARK, PARENT

their community. What life lesson is better than that! Within Montessori, we nurture this growth through cultivating independence, self-regulation, responsibility, mutual respect, and self-awareness, the outcome is the same as it was when Maria Montessori first began, children who are independent and capable, having a great sense of empathy for each other and all living things in the world around them, and a life-long love of learning.

Q. What advice would you offer to a child moving on from Primary?

I would say, embrace the transition with an open heart and mind. Remember the valuable lessons learned and carry the spirit of curiosity and self-discovery into the next chapter of your educational journey. Embrace new challenges with confidence, knowing that the foundation laid in Montessori has equipped you with the skills and resilience to succeed in any environment. Trust in yourself and the abilities you've cultivated, and always remember the joy of learning that Montessori has instilled within you.



JOIN THE **COBB ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

As we reach the 50th year of Cobb School, we are pleased to help launch the Alumni Association. Our vision is to grow this organization to include as many members as possible, host regular events, and help alumni connect and support one another in their lives after Cobb. We encourage you to join us by attending an Alumni Association meeting or a school event!

For more information or to get involved, email alumni@cobbschool.com.

Sincerely,

Alex Kulicki, '13 and Annabelle Jacobs, '17



OUR CULTURE OF GIVING

YOUR ROLE IN NURTURING LEARNING, **ONE BEAD AT A TIME**

The Montessori mathematics beads are quintessential materials in our classrooms, giving children a concrete foundation to math concepts through tactile learning.

Due to regular use from small hands, these materials must be replaced frequently from an approved Montessori supplier. Our classrooms are filled with specialized Montessori materials like the bead chains that engage and inspire children daily.



Maintaining our classrooms and ensuring that these essential learning tools are available to every child is made possible because of Cobb's Culture of Giving and the generous support of our Cobb Annual Fund.



A lifetime of Cobblestones

A Legacy of Firsts at Cobb School Montessori

HONORING **HELEN THOMAS**

As Helen Thomas retires from the Board of Trustees this year, we take a moment to reflect on her incredible legacy and countless contributions to Cobb School Montessori over the past 30 years. Helen's journey with Cobb is a story of dedication, innovation, and a deep love for a community that has flourished under her guidance and support. Her impact on the school is immeasurable, leaving behind a legacy of firsts that have shaped the school into what it is today.

Helen's involvement with Cobb began as an engaged parent, where she immediately embraced the school's philosophy of fostering curiosity without judgment. She recognized Cobb as the perfect place for her children to grow, and her enthusiasm for the school quickly led her to become an active volunteer. Her energy and commitment were evident in every project she undertook, from organizing events to enhancing the school's facilities.

One of Helen's most cherished contributions is the co-founding of the beloved Country Fair, now celebrating its 25th year. This event has become a cornerstone of the Cobb community, bringing families together in a spirit of joy and camaraderie. Helen's vision for the Fair was to create a space where families could connect, celebrate, and experience the joy of community, while embracing the importance of nature in a Montessori curriculum.

A passion for the arts also played a significant role in Helen's contributions to Cobb. She was instrumental in bringing the Opera to the school, providing students with the opportunity to experience the magic of live performance. Her involvement went beyond organizing, as she even took to the stage to perform, sharing her talents, and enthusiasm with the entire school community – students and parents alike.

This generosity and hands-on approach have left a lasting mark on Cobb's physical environment. Helen donated the first playground train from her own backyard, a symbol of her commitment to creating a vibrant and enriching space for students. Her willingness to learn new skills, such as using power tools, enabled her to physically help build the playground, including the still-beloved Beaver Lodge, a testament to her dedication and resourcefulness.

Throughout her time at Cobb, Helen spearheaded numerous initiatives that have enriched the school's offerings and facilities. She played a key role in forming the first auction, a vital fundraising event that has supported countless programs and projects. Helen's collaborative spirit shone through as she worked alongside parents on weekends to build the baseball field, transforming an idea into a reality with hard work and determination.

Helen's forward-thinking approach was evident in her efforts to bring technology to Cobb. She was instrumental in wiring the building for the Internet, even crawling through ceilings to ensure the school was equipped for the digital age. Current Board Member and Alumni parent, Iain Sorrell remembers it fondly, "in the early 2000's we found ourselves 'rolling down our sleeves' (instead of up to avoid the dastardly insulation material) as we negotiated the attic & crawl spaces to thread cable to connect the new Cobb School computer network."

Her involvement in overseeing the creation of the first school website and purchasing the domain highlights her commitment to innovation and her vision for the future.

As a member of the Board of Trustees and one-time Chair, Helen provided invaluable leadership and guidance during pivotal moments in Cobb's history. During her time with the school, Helen was a champion of growth and development, including the construction of classrooms, the Great Hall, and the expansion of the school. Her strategic vision and dedication to Cobb's mission have ensured that the school remains a nurturing and inspiring place for future generations.

"Helen has been a wonderful friend and outstanding member of the Cobb community."

- IAIN SORRELL, ALUMNI PARENT, TRUSTEE

Helen fell in love with Cobb's approach to education because of its emphasis on curiosity, creativity, and respect for each child's individuality. Her dedication to the school's mission has been unwavering, and her legacy will continue to inspire and guide the Cobb community for years to come.

As Helen retires this year from her current Board of Trustees tenure, we extend our deepest gratitude for her lifetime of firsts at Cobb. Her remarkable contributions have left an indelible mark on our school, and her spirit of innovation and community will continue to thrive in the hearts of all who have had the privilege of working alongside her. Helen's legacy is a testament to what can be achieved through passion, dedication, and a commitment to creating a brighter future for our children.

HONOR HELEN BY JOINING HER IN THE COMMITMENT SHE'S MADE TO COBB'S LONG-TERM FINANCIAL STABILITY

In 2009, Helen established the Castellani/Thomas Endowment, in support of the Cobb's long-term financial stability in its pursuit of being a Montessori model of excellence, providing children with an authentic Montessori education.



To contribute to this endowment in Helen's honor, please visit cobbschool.com/giving/fund-giving/



2023-24 Annual Report

The Cobb Annual Fund is a vital source of revenue for school operations. Like most independent schools, Cobb relies on tax-deductible gifts to cover the gap between tuition and the cost of educating each child. We are grateful for the incredible support shown to this year's Cobb Annual Fund. Your generosity and dedication to the school are truly inspiring and demonstrated an incredible level of commitment to our mission.

Why not raise the cost of tuition?

Our goal is to make tuition as accessible as possible to encourage a greater diversity of thought, culture, and experience for our student body. The Cobb Annual Fund allows us to keep tuition rates lower for all families while obtaining support from those who are in a position to do more. These annual contributions have a direct impact on every element of the student experience while also providing important resources for operating the school.



A LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear Cobb School Community,

As we reflect on the first 50 years of Cobb, I want to extend my deepest thanks for your continued support and commitment to this wonderful community. Your participation in the full slate of anniversary events last year ensured that 2024 was more than just a celebration of our past; it was a pivotal moment in the history of this great institution and provided a springboard for the future of Cobb School Montessori!

We set a historically ambitious fundraising goal for the 2024-2025 school year and thanks to the generosity of current and former Cobb parents, staff, alumni, Board members, friends, and others, we raised 132% of our Annual Fund target! Your contributions also added meaningfully to our endowments, which support Cobb's long-term financial stability, professional development for our staff, and our financial aid programs.

Your overwhelming support for Ms. Subha Sankaran during her first year as Head of School was also deeply felt and appreciated. We are so pleased to have Subha in this role at this important time in Cobb's history, and thrilled that she has signed on to remain as the leader of Cobb for (as least!) the next 3 years.

Throughout the years, the guiding Montessori vision has remained at the heart of everything we do at Cobb. As the Board of Trustees, we are tasked with the stewardship of the school's vision, its adherence to the core values and principles of Montessori education, and the promise of Cobb's continued growth and success.

Our responsibility is to honor and revere the school's incredible past

In these turbulent times, the world needs more Montessori kids—children who can navigate difficult issues with confidence, critical thinking, and respect for themselves, others, and the environment.

while ensuring that all our students are empowered to become Montessori champions when they leave us. This fall, the Board of Trustees – in collaboration with faculty, staff, current and former parents, and expert Montessorians – will embark on a formal strategic planning process to determine what that continued success and growth means to this community. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on what the future of Cobb means to you.

The Montessori approach to education is not just a passing trend; it is a philosophy that has stood the test of time since Dr. Montessori opened Casa dei Bambini in 1907. The Montessori Method celebrates the uniqueness of each child, fosters a love of learning, and cultivates a sense of curiosity and wonder. It empowers children to become confident, independent thinkers, equipped to navigate the complexities of the world. For five decades, the Cobb School has been a shining beacon of Montessori excellence, thanks to the outstanding efforts of this extraordinary community.

In these turbulent times, the world needs more Montessori kids—children who can navigate difficult issues with confidence, critical thinking, and respect for themselves, others, and the environment. Because of the wonderful human beings who graduate from Cobb, the wider community wants more Montessori kids. Cobb students are accepted into excellent institutions of

higher education, secure great jobs, and are often chosen first for teams because people know they can count on Cobb kids. Our students and graduates are leaders who make everyone around them better, self-directed learners ready to help their peers, and individuals who maintain a productive attitude, nurtured from an early age.

For 50 years, countless lives have been touched and transformed by the Cobb School experience. We are deeply grateful for the dedicated teachers who have poured their hearts and souls into nurturing young minds. We are humbled by the commitment of the parents who have entrusted Cobb with the education of their most precious gifts—their children. And we are inspired by the accomplishments of our alumni, who have gone on to make their mark on the world, carrying with them the lessons they learned here at Cobb School Montessori.

As we look ahead, let us come together with a shared commitment to ensuring that the next 50 years are even more extraordinary. Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey and I hope to see you around campus this year.

Regards,

Brian Sullivan
Chair of the Board

2023-24 GIFTS TO COBB ANNUAL FUND

As we reflect on this year's Annual Report, we are deeply grateful for every donor who chose to make a contribution that was meaningful to their family. Your generosity plays a vital role in sustaining the excellence of our school. We extend a special thanks to our current parents, grandparents, alumni, and Trustees, as well as former parents, grandparents, and friends who returned to support us in our 50th year. Your collective commitment not only honors our past but ensures a strong foundation for our future. Thank you for giving in ways that were meaningful to your family in this milestone year.

\$25,000+

HERITAGE GUILD

Andrew and Michelle Creed ♦
Brian and Marisa Sullivan ♦

\$5,000-\$9,999

ACORN GUILD

Leonard and Jennifer Kulicki ★
Thomas Sr. and Donna Miller ▣
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and Ravi Ramanathan ▣*
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Helen Thomas ♥
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\$2,500-\$4,999

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\$1,974-\$2,499

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Emiliy van Gemeren '01 ▣

\$1,000-\$1,973

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\$500-\$999

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UP TO \$499

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 and Family Safiya Nieves
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and Manuel Maldonado
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Kailani Maldonado
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 Patrick and Judy Maloney ■*
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and Pavithra Muralidharan
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 Peggy Mannion

UNDERSTANDING YOUR IMPACT

Each year, 7-12% of our annual income is derived from generous gifts from current parents and grandparents, staff, Trustees, alumni, and former parents and grandparents. Your donations help us to close the gap between the cost to educate a child and the price of our tuition. Donations help us to:

- Provide high quality Montessori programming
- Hire and retain amazing staff
- Maintain and expand our beautiful campus
- Offer enrichment like art, spanish, music, and field trips
- Purchase Montessori materials

**Thank you to our consistent
Cobb Annual Fund donors!**

- ♥ = 25+ years
- ★ = 20-24 years
- ◆ = 10-19 years
- ▣ = 5-9 years
- * = current staff

Pleschette Markel
William and Barbara Maron
Brian and Dana Mascolo
Andrew and Marley Matlack
Glenn McDowell
Amanda McKeon
Thomas McKeon
Heather and Shanon Merriman*
Seth and Amanda Michalek
Allison Millett*
Emmanuel Montanez
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Marisa Montinieri
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Carla Morales
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Jacob Studenroth
and Allison Frey Studenroth ▣



The 2024-25 Cobb Annual Fund is Open

Giving is underway for our 2024-25 school year. We invite you to participate early to help us plan for an amazing school year for our children.

Brian and Linda Sullivan
Patricia Sullivan
Lorie Tancario
Betty Tegel and Rosanne Liptak
Geoff Tegel
Malissa and Ryan Tibbling
Robert and Joan Uhrlass
Vanessa Varela
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Suzanne Weragoda
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Marilyn Wizhroski
Brandon and Cara Woods ▣
Bo Xie and Jia Kang
Di and Steve Zatyarka
Elliana Zatyarka '25
Mark and Sasha Zatyarka ▣
Sammie Zatyarka
Anonymous, 9 Donors

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Giving Foundation
Brown Brothers Harriman & Co
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Collins Aerospace
J. McLaughlin
The Ensign Bickford
Foundation, Inc.
Fidelity Charitable
Radiance Medspa
Raytheon Technologies
The Walt Disney Company
Wells Fargo Matching Program

Memorial Gifts

Brian and Marisa Sullivan
Gene and Peggy Sullivan
Elenor van Gemeren
Willem van Gemeren

A Note on Accuracy

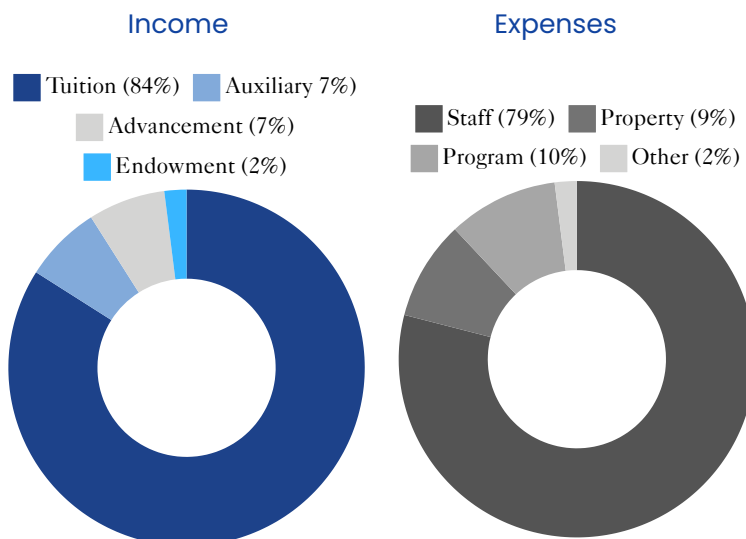
We have made every effort to ensure that this Annual Report is accurate and complete. If you believe your donation or information has been unintentionally overlooked, please let us know. We deeply appreciate your support and would be grateful for the opportunity to correct any errors.

Giving Day Gifts were made in Honor of Staff, Past and Present

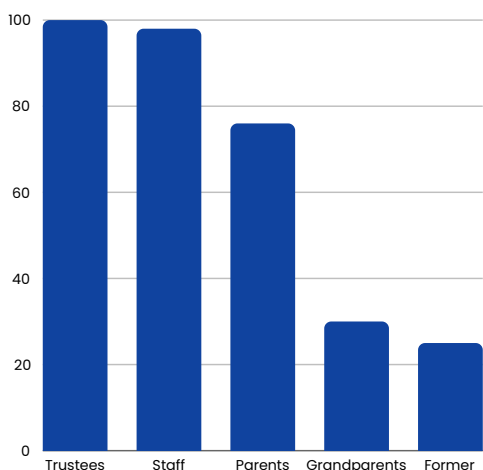
Lia Angelides
Bob Banta
Julia Beach
Andrea Boden
Gabby Bugden
Mary Lou Cobb
Mia Colopy
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Beth Crocker
Joy Delaney
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Sara Shultz
Rosemary Zito

Financial Statement

This snapshot of our expenses and income offers a transparent look at how we operate and allocate resources, aligning with financial practices of other schools our size. We remain committed to ensuring that our financial model continues to support the mission and growth of our school.



Annual Fund % Participation by Group



\$146,664

310

Total Donors

49%

First Time Donors

\$288

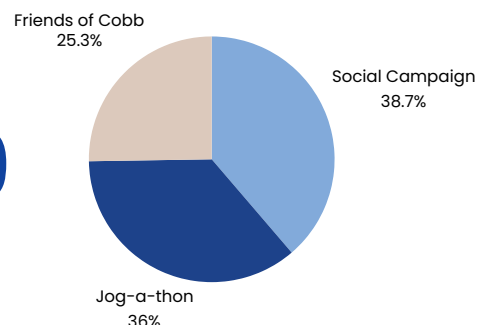
Avg. Donation*

*Minus Board of Trustee donations

Giving Day Challenge Success!

\$63,259

126% Of Goal



The Impact of Your Donation

This is a glimpse at some of the things your donations helped provide for Cobb School last year. By helping us close the gap between tuition and operating costs, we are able to provide a high-quality Montessori program.

\$31k

Lead Elementary Guide Training AMI Certification

\$19k

Going's Out and Coming's In for Elementary & Primary

\$14k

Annual playground upkeep - mulch, sand, etc.

ANNUAL AUCTION & 50TH CELEBRATION



Our 50th Anniversary Auction and Celebration in May 2024 at Holcomb Farm in Granby brought together nearly 125 guests for an evening filled with memories, gratitude, and support for our school. Founder Mary Lou Cobb and current Head of School Subha Sankaran spoke movingly about Cobb's journey, and we were honored to hear from past parent Tracy Labonte and current parent James Rollins. The event featured an exciting live auction hosted by current Board Chair Brian Sullivan and Artist-in-Residence Chris Lyles, a dynamic silent auction, and a successful paddle raise, with all proceeds supporting the school's continued excellence. It was truly a beautiful evening, celebrating our history and looking toward a bright future. Thank you to all our donors!

Item Donors

Adrianna Farrell
Amanda Malkowski
Andrea Boden
Anja Hesse
Anna Lockshier
Cara and Daniel Johnson
Carol Ebersol
Carrie Firestone
Cat Coco
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Mark Hilsdon
Mary Lou Cobb
Matthew DeTroy
Maureen Hildson
Melissa Shaw
Mia Colopy
Michelle Maldonado
Marisa Gallagher
Noel Conklin

Pop Over Eatery
Sallie Ann Jacobs
Sasha Johnson
Subha Sankaran
Sam Savran
Suzanne Derosa
Torch Tales LLC
Trevor Gaudette
TrinityPoint Wealth
Troy Wunderle
Two Roads Brewery
Tyler Anderson
Valley Kids Co.
Victoria Sar
Violet Rose Flowers

Paddle Raise Donors

Joselyn and Erick
Canchanya Berrios
Mary Lou and Michael Cobb
Miles and Sonia Ericson
Jill and Justin Evans

Marisa and Tracy Gallagher
Alejandro Gonzalez
and Laura Posada
Newell and Helena Grant
Brian and Dana Mascalo
Daniel McArdle
and Marcie Braden
Tom Miller, Jr.
and Michaelynn Ware
Thomas Sr. and Donna Miller
Aneez Hasan
and Mehak Mithani
Bryan and Jillian Orticelli
Ravi Ramanathan
and Subha Sankaran
Scot Riley and Tracy Labonte
Sam and Brian Savran
Jared and Melissa Shaw
Brian and Marisa Sullivan

ENDOWMENTS

We understand the importance of long-term financial stability in supporting our mission for future generations. To achieve this, we take a conservative approach to drawing from our endowments each year, allowing steady growth. Over the past decade, our endowment has increased by more than 130%, reflecting our commitment to careful financial stewardship. We are grateful for those with the foresight to establish these funds, and the donors who help to grow them each year.

MARY LOU COBB ENDOWMENT

Established in 2019 to honor founder Mary Lou Cobb's unwavering commitment to Cobb, this fund supports faculty and staff salaries and benefits, professional development opportunities, and Montessori training.

COBB FUND

The Cobb Fund is as an unrestricted endowment to help cover operating costs each year.

NIELS AND WILLEM VAN GEMEREN MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT

Established to honor and celebrate the lives of Niels van Gemenen, former trustee, and Willem van Gemenen, former student, and the positive, lasting impact they had on our community, to support cultural and enrichment activities at Cobb.

COBB SCHOOL FINANCIAL AID

Established in 1997, with a generous donation from former Director of Admissions Denise Alfeld, her husband Chad, and the Board of Trustees.

CASTELLANI/THOMAS ENDOWMENT

Established in 2009 by David Castellani and Helen Thomas because they believe that Cobb is a model of excellence, providing children with an authentic Montessori education.

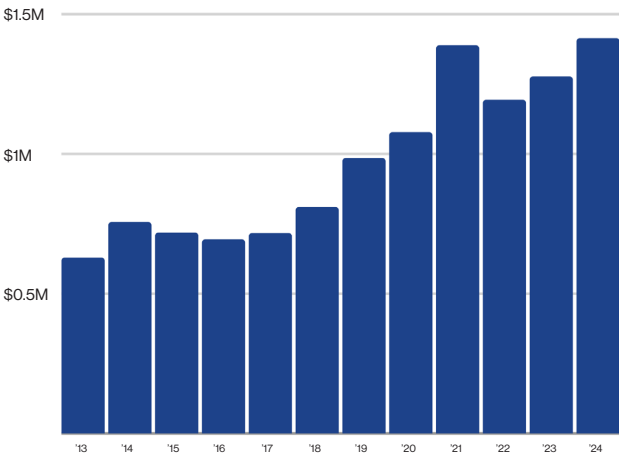
RAINERIO O. REYES ENDOWMENT

Established in 2002 by Rainerio J. and Barbara Padilla Reyes in honor of Rai's father, to enhance the long-term savings of the school.

RUTH JOSEPHSON ANIMAL FUND

Established in honor of Ruth Josephson, who worked at Cobb for over 30 years nurturing wildlife within and beyond our school grounds to support animal care and education.

12yr Endowment Growth



WILLEM VAN GEMEREN FRIENDS FOREVER SCHOLARSHIP

Established in 2010 by Betsy van Gemenen, this is a endowed financial aid fund to honor the memory of her son Willem, his caring nature, and his love for the Cobb School. It is Betsy's wish that other children benefit from the same educational experience that she and her late husband, Niels, provided for their children.

REBECCA CROCKER SCHOLARSHIP

Founded in memory and celebration of Rebecca Crocker; daughter of Co Crocker and the late Nancy Crocker, a Cobb alumni from 1982 until 1986. Becca passed away after a courageous battle with leukemia in 1997. This fund awards a financial aid scholarship each year.

WINTON-BLACK ENDOWMENT

Established in 1999 with a generous gift from the former chair of the Board of Trustees and alumni parent, Anne Winton Black, her husband Rodman Black, Jr. and Anne's father, David Winton to ensure the long-term financial stability of the school.

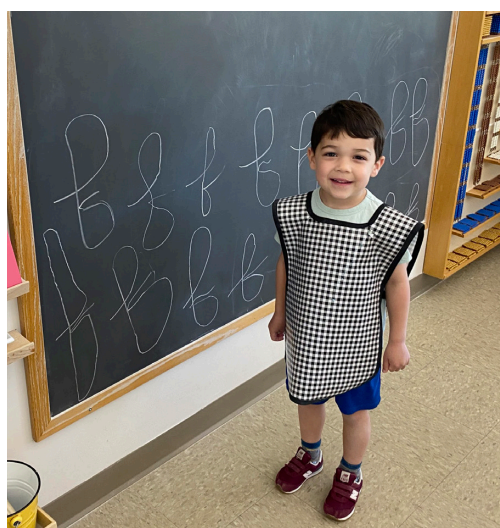
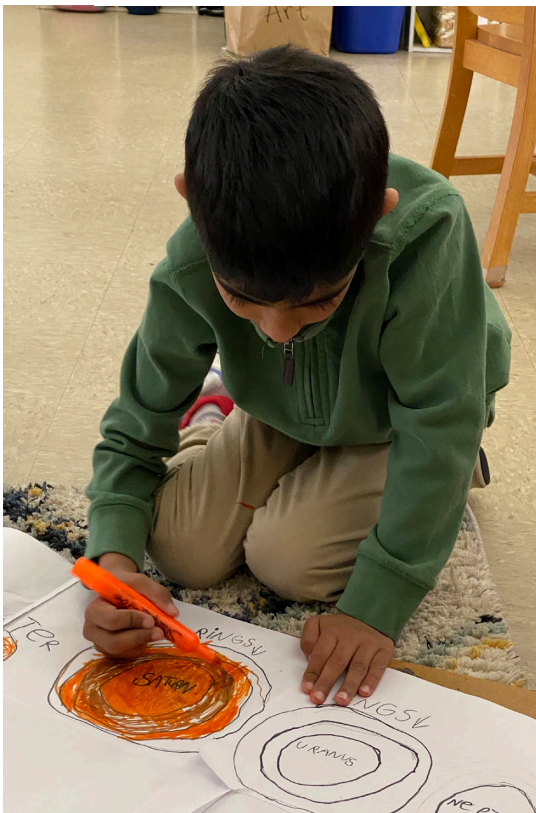
2023-24 Endowment Donors

Denise and Chad Alfeld
Marcie Braden and Daniel McArdle
Clarence B. & Joan F. Coleman Charitable Foundation and
Sylvan C. Coleman Charitable Trust
Mary Lou and Michael Cobb
Tracy and Marisa Gallagher
Joseph and Jennifer Lardner
Rodney and Maureen Scudder
The Paneloc Corporation
Betsy van Gemenen

IN THE CLASSROOM

Students from YCC to Upper Elementary had a busy year.

From practical life skills to math, language, research, and even raising ducks! Parents were invited in for Elementary Expo and Open Doors to see their children in action.



Year in Review

The 2023-24 school year marked Cobb's 50th anniversary. In celebration of this milestone we held a special Flag Raising Ceremony in September with honored guest, Founder Mary Lou Cobb, as well as local leaders, other Montessorians, and former Trustees. Children collaborated on a 50th year mural, and assembled a time capsule which was buried in May and commemorated with a plaque.

The sense of community was stronger than ever this year with events like the Country Fair, Trunk or Treat and our spring Arts Festival bringing families together. In the classroom, we welcomed visitors for Grandparents and Special Friends Day, Open Doors, the Elementary Expo, and the powerful Silent Journey experience. Our fundraising efforts were met with incredible support, from the Auction to the Giving Day Challenge, which included the wildly successful Elementary Jog-a-Thon.

We were excited to launch our Alumni Association and Friends of Cobb Association, engaging alumni parents, grandparents, and friends in new ways to stay connected with the school. We were happy to celebrate our 50th year with so many current and former families coming together in support of the school we all hold so dear.





Winter Concert



Field Day



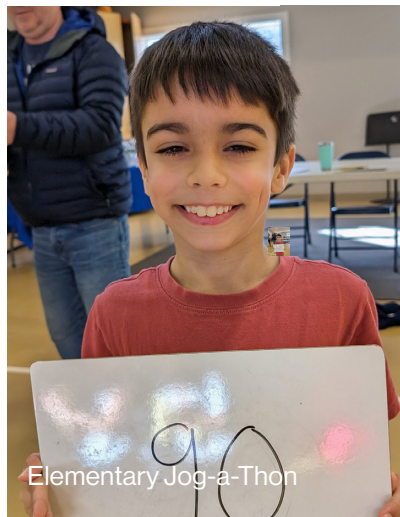
Storytime w/ Ms Subha



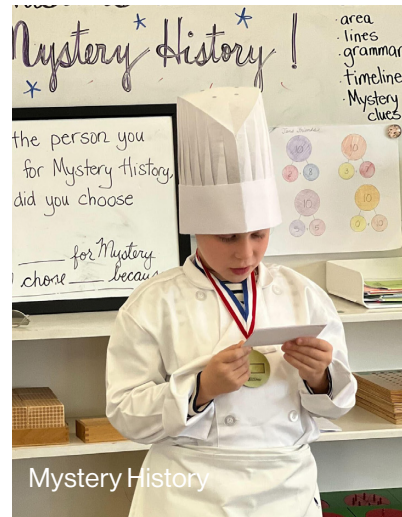
Country Fair



Country Fair



Elementary Jog-a-Thon



Mystery History



Auction Experience: ESPN shoot w/ Kay Murray



PA Sandwich Making w/ Police

“Now that my time at Cobb has come to an end, I look back at all the memories I have made and the experiences I have had. I am just so very thankful that I had the opportunity to go to this extraordinary school. I have grown more confident in myself and what I can do.”

- AVALON KENDALL, 6TH YEAR



Young Alumni & 6th Year Breakfast



6th Year NYC Trip



Montessori Model United Nations



6th Year Tea with Mrs. Cobb



RECOGNITION 2024 CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

Our Recognition Ceremony marks the culmination of a Cobb education for our 6th-year graduates and celebrates the progression of students completing the three-year cycles in Primary and Lower Elementary.

Ned Friedman, Cobb 2013, delivered the alumni speech, reflecting on his winding path. He attributed his confidence and navigational skills to the foundation he built at Cobb. He emphasized the importance of individual journeys, saying, "Cobb gave me the knowledge that each person's path is their own, and each person excels at different things." His words resonated deeply, reminding us all of the valuable lessons learned at Cobb.

We also recognized the dedication of our community members. We honored Helen Thomas as she concluded her current term on the Board of Trustees. In her honor, we have planted a white oak tree, symbolizing her lasting impact on our school.

We also acknowledged Judy Maloney and Maddie Ross for their outstanding contributions over 10 and 5 years, respectively, and celebrated Bob Banta, who has been part of our community for three decades, tirelessly working to maintain a beautiful environment for all of us. Thank you to all for your invaluable service and commitment to Cobb!

Left: Alumni speaker Ned Friedman, Cobb 2013



6th Year Graduates (L-R): Olive McArdle, Aiden Henderson, Mayah Greenberg, Adit Reddy, Eden Malkowski, Avalon Kendall, Madeleine Creed, Neil Sullivan, Ellory Maynard-Byron

HERE'S TO 50 YEARS FORWARD

a legacy renewed, a journey continued, and excellence reimagined.



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