

C O L U M B I A GREENHOUSE NURSERY SCHOOL

THE ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." -- Coretta Scott King

Community. It is one of those words that gets used frequently but holds many different meanings. Charles Vogl, author of *The Art of Community*, defines community as a group of people that mutually care about each other. This definition rings very true for me, as it centers people and their relationships, not just shared values, goals or ideas. This idea of community being about people caring for each other feels right. Coretta Scott King adds that the "compassionate actions" of the people in the community demonstrate its greatness. She reminds us that the true power of community is found where there is both empathy AND action, together.

This year at Greenhouse, I have been consistently awed by the power of our community – specifically the care we have for one another and the action that we take in that care. Indeed, I see our community's empathy and care in our adherence to our (at times, very logistically difficult!) health policies and quarantine guidelines. I see it in the hugely successful inaugural efforts of our Community Service Committee. Our care is what motivates the parents in one class to rally support for one of their own who was about to give birth to twins -- as they were also dealing with a positive Covid result! Our care for one another is present in the WhatsApp message asking a fellow Greenhouse parent to pick up your child because you're running late. It's inside the story of the two Greenhouse dads that quarantined together in a hotel, away from their separate families. (If you must quarantine away from your family, at least do it with a Greenhouse friend!) It lives inside one parent's comment during a parent group meeting, "Just being with you all brings me comfort." Personally, I felt this community's care in every message and gesture of sympathy shared after the passing of my mother. But the brightest example from this past year that vividly demonstrates the power of the Greenhouse community remains the Spring Fair. I will forever be humbled, overwhelmed and moved by the outpouring (yes, I said *pouring*!) of care and support the entire Greenhouse community showed at the Spring Fair this year. Torrential, cold, driving-down rain couldn't stop us! The community came out in unbelievable numbers, in full support of the school. Because we care about each other. And we act on that care. The relationships inside the Greenhouse community are at its core. And the actions we take to care for one another remain key to what makes Greenhouse! I deeply value the strength of this community. It – our relationships with and care for one another -- is what sustains me when things get hard. It is with deep gratitude that I look back at this year we've had together; it is with optimism and pride that I look forward to the future.



With love,

Renee

Dear Greenhouse Community,

As I reflect on the 2021/2022 school year the thing that stands out to me is the resilience of our community. As a school, we spent the previous year scrambling to maintain our community at a distance. We understood as perhaps we had not before how vital our school is to the intellectual, social and emotional health of everyone in our community.

This year we were overjoyed to be able to come back together. We had to navigate thoughtfully with a watchful eye on the unpredictable course of the pandemic. We've been fortunate. We've been able to be together. I hope the pandemic recedes and becomes a story our children tell their children. But I also hope that we remember that during the worst of it, we became our best selves. That is the gift of hard times.

It's been a source of joy, strength and community for me to be part of the Greenhouse community since 2003 when my son began in the afternoon twos. He moved on but I never left: I've been on the Board of Trustees for the last 19 years. It's brought my life so much meaning, friendship, personal direction and most of all sense of community. So, it is sad for me to say that I am stepping down.

I leave Greenhouse in the best possible hands, the best Director I know and a board that is truly committed to the mission of the school. I am thrilled to introduce you to Greenhouse's new Board Chair, Mignon Moore. Mignon has been an active member of the Board of Trustees for many years and holds our vision and mission of the school close to heart. I have no doubts that Greenhouse will continue to thrive well into its second 100 years. And that I will find new ways to be a part of the community.

Warmly,

Sara McLanahan Edlin



Community





CREATING CLASSROOM COMMUNITY

For many children, school is their first step outside of the nest and into the broader world. School is the place where they go – without their most loved grownups – to learn, explore and experience new things. Moreso, school becomes the place where they go to learn about and with other people. Children are more motivated to learn when they feel connected to the other people around them. Being inside a strong classroom community allows children to learn and practice the social skills they will need to have successful relationships with others outside their immediate family. In their classroom community, children practice expressing their needs and listening to the needs of others. Indeed, the classroom community becomes the beginning of one's active membership in the world at large; it is practice for future relationships and active citizenship. Teachers help build a safe, warm community of learners with their intentional planning and responsive stance. Every decision teachers make – from how they build curriculum or what books they choose to read to their respectful tone of voice or how they approach problem solving – supports the overall community building in the class. Below are some examples of the intentional community building our teachers did this year:

One voice: Every day in every class the children and teachers sit together for a meeting. At Greenhouse, meeting is one of the rare times that everyone in the class is focused on the same thing, at the same time. It is here where one sees the whole class community. While meetings can take many different shapes, most meetings include elements of song, stories and conversation. Music builds connection in the social space between us. When we make music together, we bring our voices, souls and joy together in a concrete way; we become one voice and one group. For our youngest children, singing simple songs that use the children's names help to not only bring us together in the act of singing but they also provide a concrete way to learn each other's names! Our older children take on more complex songs. In the Researchers, the children learned American folk songs including "This Land is Your Land", "Abiyoyo" and "If I had a hammer." Learning these songs sparked conversation about how music can be used in social movements to shine a light on a societal issue. In the Investigators class, they used their daily morning song to help create a sense of community by singing their "hello" song in the eight different home languages of the children in the class: Greek, Spanish, German, Italian, French, Tagalog, Hindi and English. Sharing your home language – in song –



GOOD MORNING – ENGLISH
BONJOUR – FRENCH
GUTEN MORGEN - GERMAN
KALIMERA - GREEK
NAMASTE - HINDI
BONGIORNO - ITALIAN
BUENOS DIAS - SPANISH
MAGANDANG UMAGA - TAGALOG



with your school friends is a powerful bridge between you and your classmates. Singing at meeting is a simple but powerful way to build a unified class community.

Discussions: In addition to song, there is an element of discussion or conversation in every meeting. As one teacher noted, meetings are for “expressing ideas, listening to others, and sharing experiences.” In many classes, we use a technique called visual inquiry to look closely at and describe works of art that are related to our inquiries. Having this shared experience of looking deeply and using words to share what you see is a simple technique to foster discussion and an awareness of the thoughts and ideas of those around you. As children grow and their ability to use language to express their ideas, thoughts and feelings increases, the discussions at a meeting become more deep and rich. Very often, the conversations center on social issues that are occurring in the class. Whether we are talking about a specific type of play in the play yard that is not universally enjoyed or we are talking about the traits of a friend, these conversations are centered on the lived experience of the children in the group. We encourage the children to share their experience and their feelings. We model and foster active listening techniques. Then, we work together to find a solution that helps to bring our community together in solidarity and fairness.

In one meeting discussion, the group worked to solve an issue that consistently popped up in the class – saving your spot in the line or meeting. There were conflicts in the class when someone got out of line to get something or left their spot on the rug. The issue was brought up in a meeting, “Should you be able to return to the same spot (in line or on the rug) if you leave to do something?” The debate was hot! Many kids thought, “no, when you leave your spot, someone else can take it.” Others thought, “it’s ok to save a spot.” After a group discussion, the children decided together to make the rule that a spot could **not** be saved. If someone moved out of line or away from their spot on the rug, someone else could move into that spot. For a few weeks the group lived with their new rule. There were lots of disappointments and even tears when they returned to their spot to see someone else was now there. It became clear that the ramifications of this rule were felt deeply by many. It was decided that the class would revisit the rule; so they had another group discussion. This time, the group decided to reverse their original rule, deciding that **yes**, a spot could be saved – but they added a very important caveat – **in order to save your spot, you needed to tell those around you that you were coming back!** (Turns out communicating your plan with those around you is an important part of fairness and community living!).



This is just one example of how our teachers use their meeting discussions to help children think about and solve real social problems in their world. Could a teacher have simply made the class rule? Could they have said, "Tell your friend you are putting your book away and that you will be right back." Sure, of course. But having the collective experience of identifying the problem, coming up with solutions, trying things out, revisiting the problem – that allows the children to be active participants of the community and active agents of social change in their lives. Teachers intentionally provide children the experience to feel the power of their individual role and voice to effect change in their immediate world and community.

A shared goal: A fundamental piece of Greenhouse's curriculum development hinges on collaboration. Whether we are building a boat together, building a bear's den or making a stain glass window, ultimately, we are sharing a goal and a plan with one another. In the work, we are coming up against another's mind, another's point of view and we are learning the greatest skill of all – how to get along with others. Our project approach requires children to work alongside each other and to see their collective efforts as the process unfolds. When we share a goal with another person and work together to see it through, we are practicing community in action! While the outside world is becoming more divided and separate every day, our kids are practicing how to come together, how to listen, how to express themselves, how to balance their own ideas and wants with the ideas and wants of other and the larger group. These are the skills our world will need as we move into the future; these are the skills of community building.

Individuals, as part of the whole: While there are many opportunities throughout the day for our kids to come together, our teachers also intentionally spend time seeing and recognizing the individual traits, strengths and stance of each child. In order to care about and for one another, we need to be seen and also we need to see others. Whether we are doing self-portrait work, mixing skin tones or sharing family photos, the teachers are providing children an opportunity to share pieces of their identity with their classmates, as well as learn about the identity of their classmates. Every day, our teachers work to ensure that all children and families can bring their full selves into Greenhouse.

Teachers make intentional decisions every day that help to foster a sense of community in their classrooms. At Greenhouse, our children benefit every day from being inside a classroom that encourages them to be an active, vocal member of a group. They learn the skills, dispositions and behaviors that they will need to be successful contributing members of society now and in the future, in school and beyond.



Greenhoused

By Neela Vaswani (Parent of Kavita, Adventurers)

My father is from an old-world part of South Asia. If you ask him how he is, he answers in the “we”: “We are having dinner;” “We are sick this week.” He may not be the one eating dinner or the one sick but he answers with the collective in mind. I’ve always loved this way of being but believed it was not sustainable outside of the home. And certainly not at school. Then our daughter started at Greenhouse.

In truth, I’ve been confused and sometimes grumpy about which class is which (Researcher? Navigator?). It took me till the end of this year at Greenhouse to really appreciate that the children have a collective identity that they co-create and grow into, together. An Explorer, an Adventurer, an Investigator is a community they belong to and embody— along with their teachers—in tenderness and solidarity. It touches me to hear our daughter’s classmates pronouncing her name the way I taught her to say it. And once when I mistakenly referred to one of her friend’s dad’s as “his daddy,” our daughter howled, indignant and protective —“That’s not Daddy, that’s Tata!” During a play date, I almost cried when my daughter’s friend handed her a stuffie and said, “Here, you like soft things.” For birthdays, our daughter will tell me her friends’ favorite color so we can get the card just right. At Greenhouse our daughter sees and is seen. She already knows that what matters in life is that everyone matters. Including the stick bugs.

During one ten-day quarantine when I could tell our daughter was missing her Adventurer community, I saw her recreate Morning Meeting with her stuffies. She played the part of a beloved Greenhouse teacher, Erica. Her voice was kind, her touch gentle, she was even-keeled and comforting even as some of her stuffies cried or kicked or ran away or refused to move or got the giggles. She handled all the drama with grace, humor, love, and perspective. I felt like I had been given a window into the inner life of the Greenhouse classroom—and it was beautiful. The way I wish the world could be for everyone.

We get other little glimpses of Greenhouse. I think of them the way I think of Kate McKinnon’s SNL Ruth Bader Ginsburg character. Instead of getting “Ginsburned” we get “Greenhoused:” “Mommy, you should take a breath;” “Daddy, put your listening ears on.” The other day, I said something to our daughter about teamwork. She said, “Teamwork makes the dream work!” I was delighted, “Wow! Did your teachers tell you that?” The answer was yes. “I love that,” I said and repeated it a few times. Our daughter suddenly looked at me with concern and said, “Mommy, didn’t your teachers tell you that?” I felt a bit sorry for myself as I shook my head no. She gave me a hug. Greenhoused again.

The support the children receive from each other, from their teachers, from staff, mirrors the support we parents get. No one parents alone at Greenhouse. The Thursday night Parent Group with Renee at the helm normalizes doubts, fears, flops, triumphs, hilarious and harrowing trials. My husband and I shift work and obligations and halt binge-watching to be there. The teachers see us with as much depth and sensitivity as they see our daughter. The day always starts out better when we get to chat with Kalemah in the morning or have a lively email exchange with Mei. And I can’t count the number of times Renee has helped our family with clear, compassionate, life-altering wisdom. Our class WhatsApp group is our other go-to place for parenting advice and practicalities— are sneakers or boots better for a muddy after-school game; dentist recommendations; who will be at what playground when and has anyone found a red glove? To say nothing of supporting each other through Covid swabs and fevers and the planning of joyful parties. Everything is infinitely lighter when carried together.

It feels like belonging. A belonging that shines most deeply for me at school-wide events like Spring Fair or the end-of-year picnic, or everyone coming together for the inaugural year of the Community Service events: the diaper drive, the food pantry collection, the Morningside Park clean-up. It was easy to talk to our daughter about these events because she was already steeped in the Greenhousian ways of fairness and kindness—and Renee had given us the perfect language. The Morningside Park clean-up reminded us of our mutual belonging to the earth. There we all were, in the rain, picking up trash, planting seeds, pulling weeds, relocating earthworms, trimming ivy. Giving back to the park that gives so much to us. What I remember most vividly is the laughter and connection across the classes. I spent most of the morning talking with whoever was raking or weeding next to me, usually someone I hadn’t met before but fell into comfortable conversation with or companionable working silence. I could hear language all around me that was familiar and loving, the ease and fluency of Greenhouse talk. My husband and I were lucky enough to be on the Community Service committee and when we were planning the Morningside Park clean-up, the director of the park’s conservancy mentioned that his son had gone to Greenhouse thirty years ago and might join us at the event. And he did. The son showed up in the rain with a big smile and a garbage bag. And when he and our daughter met and shook hands, it seemed like they both experienced a bit of a sci-fi time collapse, a meeting of past self and future self.

There’s a spirit in Greenhouse that transcends time. A way of seeing, a commitment to moving through the world with awareness and care. I feel that our daughter’s most important educational and social experience is happening right now. She will forever know that it is possible to be this way in the world (kind, curious, connected) as a community and as a human being because she has experienced it and been a part of creating it from ages two to five. The power of this—for her, for us, for the world—is a gift, and our gratitude for Greenhouse is lifelong.

THE COMMUNITY OUTSIDE OUR DOOR

The full force of the Greenhouse community was clearly displayed by the overwhelming generosity and fruitful efforts of our inaugural year of the Community Service Committee. Initially, the newly formed parent committee was inspired by Katie Baker's, one of our PA Co-Chairs, efforts last year to organize a food drive with her son's class. It was such a success, we decided to take the efforts school wide! The members of the committee met to brainstorm and within minutes we had a full menu of options and service projects in which children and families could participate. We identified projects that would have direct impact on the wider community and also would provide opportunity for the direct, active and meaningful involvement of our children. In addition to providing needed help and support to the greater community, our service activities helped our kids expand their perspective, inspired empathy and hopefully, became the seeds of their life-long commitment to service.

Diaper and Wipes Drive: What a natural connection we made here! Young children spend a lot of time thinking about toileting topics; diapers are an essential part of young children's healthy development. While some families in our city struggle with a lack of diaper supplies, we could help! We collected 100s of packs of diapers, wipes and supplies and donated them to The Food Bank of America. As the pile of diapers grew and grew, we'd hear the children comment as they walked by, "That's a lot of diapers!" or "Those are for babies that don't have enough diapers." It was clear our efforts made an impact on our kids. And we helped countless families that needed it. Win-win!



Food Drive: Food insecurity remains a crisis for many in our city. As a community, we collected canned and boxed goods to donate to the food bank at Broadway Presbyterian Church. After school, children and their grown-ups were invited to help transport the goods to the food bank. Again, the Greenhouse community's generosity overflowed! Bags and bags of items were donated to families struggling to consistently afford food.

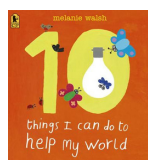


Some suggested books to keep the service learning going:

Thank You, Omu by Oge Mora: A heartwarming story of sharing and community

Saturday at the Food Pantry by Diane O'Neill: A story about one family's visit to a food pantry and realization that everyone needs help sometimes.

10 Things I Can Do to Help My World by Melanie Walsh: Easy, every day reminders of how even our youngest kids can help the Earth.





Morningside Park Clean-Up: Morningside Park is an essential and much-loved part of our community. It only made sense that one of our service projects happened inside the park. On a Saturday morning in April, with some unpredictable weather (yes, there was hail) over 100 children, families and staff from Greenhouse converged on the park. As one young boy told his mother that morning, “Let’s go clean the park so the squirrels don’t eat the trash!” We raked and shoveled. We pruned and pulled. We used garbage grabbers and garden gloves. We filled bags and bags and bags. We even got to plant a butterfly garden! Ultimately, we worked together to help make our community clean, safe and healthy.

The Community Service Committee has become a new tradition at Greenhouse.



What a Wonderful World!

By Rachel Roth

We read the book of the same title during story
on the rug,
the lyrics painting pictures so real we can
almost touch them
Sometimes the children use their hands to sign
I Love You when Louie sings those words
But mostly we just close our eyes and feel the
love.

That's how it is when I think of Greenhouse
The wonder, the joy, the curiosity, the
laughter, the big voices, the love
The conversations between children, teachers,
parents, staff.
Good morning, how are you, it's so good to see
you!
We're going for a walk to Morningside Park
today!
It's so hard to say goodbye sometimes. Would
you like a hug?

Greenhouse is all of the real feelings, the warm
hugs, the home away from home, the love, the
smiles.

Greenhouse is the squishing play dough
between your hands, building towers with
wooden blocks, finding Fall leaves on campus.
What a wonderful world Greenhouse is.



Faculty List 2021-2022

2day
3day
Explorers

Rachel Roth, Head Teacher
Stephanie Condori, Assistant Teacher
Ohanys Rodriguez, Assistant Teacher

Navigators

Angela Coulibaly, Head Teacher
Nexhi Avoricani, Assistant Teacher

Adventurers

Pam Butler, Head Teacher
Erica Cintron, Assistant Teacher
Jenna Devany Waters, Assistant Teacher

Researchers

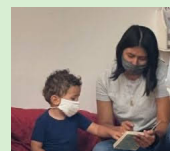
Paula Doerfel, Head Teacher
Tolisa Orr- Chambliss, Assist. Teacher

Investigators

David Vining, Head Teacher
Heather Guerrier, Assistant Teacher
Karen Chisolm-Wint, Assistant Teacher

Administrative
Staff

Renee Mease, Director
Kalemah Henderson, Administrator
Mei Au Yeong, Admin Assistant



Parent Association

Dear Greenhouse Parents,

As we look back on our second COVID school year, it's clear to see the strength of the Greenhouse community was unwavering. While some restrictions and regulations remained, others were lightened or lifted. We took advantage of the positive progress to bring back a number of Greenhouse traditions that were paused at the start of the COVID pandemic.

Fall was filled with opportunities to gather. It was with great joy that we brought back the Welcome Picnic in Morningside Park. We embraced the chance to be together in a way that hadn't been possible just a few months prior. We also held morning coffee hours for parents and caregivers on the landing of the 116th Street stairs. Parents and caregivers enjoyed each other's company after drop-off, eager to get to know one another and be in community together. Later in the fall, parents gathered on a crisp fall evening for drinks in the big yard. It was a beautiful night, and we had a great turn out. The importance of our parent community was highlighted time and again this year as we built beautiful memories together.

The newly formed Community Service Committee offered meaningful opportunities for us to collectively give back to our community. We ran a diaper drive (and, wow, we collected a lot of them); two separate food drives in partnership with Broadway Presbyterian Food Bank; and partnered with Friends of Morningside Park to organize a park clean-up day. Park volunteers worked with us to plant our very own Greenhouse Butterfly Garden. Almost a hundred people turned out on a Saturday morning in April. Strangely it hailed, but we were not deterred.

On the topic of extreme weather, we think it is safe to say that none of us will ever forget the return of the Spring Fair. No matter how much it rained, nothing could dampen our spirits! Tents and scaffolding allowed us to play games, sell rummage, host a magician show and drumming circle, and enjoy ourselves, even while completely soaked. Greenhouse 2020 graduates, who weren't able to finish their final year at Greenhouse in-person due to COVID, were invited to return for classroom reunions. Almost everyone made it back! It was wonderful for those families to return and reconnect with their Greenhouse roots two years later.

In the end, we managed to have perfect weather for the Farewell Picnic in June. Michelle played her music, children danced and frolicked, and that evening, all was right. Thinking back on it all, the magic of Greenhouse was ever-present this year – even through the rain, the hail and the quarantines. None of it would have been possible without Renee's tireless leadership in caring for our children and families. We are equally grateful to the incredible faculty, whose warmth and wisdom made this year so transformative and special. To Mei and Kalemah, thank you for greeting us with smiles daily, and always being willing to lend a helping hand. And a special thank you to all the Class Reps and parent volunteers, who devoted their time and efforts to building our amazing community.

Whether you will be returning next year or moving on to new school experiences, remember you are always part of the Greenhouse community. Please join us in wishing all Greenhouse families a healthy and joyful summer filled with fun, laughter and adventures!

Warmly,
Katie Baker and Marissa Zalk PA Co-Chairs

OUR DEEPEST APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE TO ALL OF THE PARENT ASSOCIATIONS AND ALL THOSE THAT VOLUNTEERED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE REFLECTS THE GENEROSITY, SPIRIT AND COMMITMENT OF THE GREENHOUSE COMMUNITY.

PA LEADERSHIP

Katie Baker, PA Co-Chair

Marissa Zalk, PA Co-Chair

Jamie Holland, Class Rep

Annie Brstry, Class Rep

Flori Pressman, Class Rep

Noelle Kenel-Pierre, Class Rep

Lauren Salzinger, Class Rep

Lauren Vien, Class Rep

Community Service Committee

Neela Vaswani and Holter Graham

Noah and Maeve Glass

Michael and Kaitlin Obernauer

Fall Cocktail Party

Susanna Brock Deringer and William Deringer

James and Danielle Genus

Amanda & Naved Amed

Brian Davidson and Emily Blumenthal

Spring Fair Co-Chairs

Katelyn and Michael Cooper

Lindsay and Mike Pitzer

Food Committee

Christina Weyl & Richard Lichtenstein (Chair)

Katherine & John Cooper

Mike & Alice Burke

Nelly Galindo-Pita

Chiao-Wei Liu & Rafale Chang



Rummage Committee

Jessica Grant and John Healy (Chair)

Heather and Darren Seid

Amy Turitz and Milan Ranka

Chris and Lauren Arettines

Games Committee

Charles & Andrea Moore (Chair)

Sade Lythcott, Thomas Wirthensohn

Sam Dolgin-Gardner

Jeannie Chung and Lisa Rothman

Sherman Lau & Tracy Alpert

Rachel and Peter Reardon-Anderson

Central Booth Committee

Alyssa and Evan Picchini Schaffer (Chair)

Tfeila Abass and Giulio Bertozzi

Mignon and Tim Edwards



FOREVER FRIENDS: A Class Rep's Perspective

By Lauren Salzinger (Parent of Riley, Researchers and Jacob, 2day Explorers)

In the fall of 2019, our oldest son walked through the doors of Greenhouse for the first time! He entered his classroom full of awe and wonder as we imagined what lay ahead. What a year it turned out to be -- filled with new songs, new skills and most importantly, new friends -- for our son and for us. We felt the spark of friendships forming with other Greenhouse grownups through conversation at drop-off or the infamous WhatsApp chain, school events and curriculum nights. Little did we know that many of these activities, which had come to be a regular part of life, would come to an abrupt halt. In March of 2020, I picked up my son from school, with no clue that we would not return from spring break and that this would be our final visit that school year to the place we had come to think of as a second home.

Those first few months of the pandemic were mentally and physically draining, heartbreaking and perhaps worst of all, frightening. There were very few things that helped: FaceTime with friends, family dinners every night, and something I would not have expected -- my community at Greenhouse. Those tentative seeds of friendship took on a new meaning and importance. The Zoom calls with our classmates and teachers became my most important meetings of the week. It was a time to take a break from the monotony of work video calls and the four walls of our NYC apartment, to sing, hear the read-alouds and see the faces of those you know were experiencing the exact same ups and downs. Then there were the weekly evening parent group meetings -- medicine for my soul, an opportunity to find release for the fear and pain that had been building in this uncertain time. As Greenhouse parents we were going through a shared experience none of us expected or asked for but out of these desperate times, a community came together to support, learn from and lean on one another.

And when we returned to in-person school in the Fall of 2020, we were nervous but we knew that being at school was the best thing for our kids. Our relationships with the other parents just continued to grow. We placed our trust, hope and faith in one another and boy did it pay off. That entire school year was spent with our new friends, laughing and finding joy. Outside of school time, our kids spent hours upon hours at the playground, sledding in Central Park, scooting around campus, connecting with each other. The grownups also connected -- these friendships were born out of a common need to connect.

And while our story is unique because of the time in which it happened, it is not unique to the history of Columbia Greenhouse. The feeling of community is woven into the fabric of the school. Ultimately, being a Columbia Greenhouse family and parent for the last three years has taught me what it means to have a community you can count on: people that will laugh with you at whatever silly thing your kid did that day or cry with you when that same kid gets his first stitches; people that will send you cookies and toys when your family is under quarantine just to help bring a smile; people that will stay with your kids at pickup if you are running a few minutes late; people that will grab a coffee with you once a week (and sometimes more!), always finding new things to talk about; people who greet you with a smile every single morning, and when you're not there will call to check in and make sure everything is okay. Greenhouse is more than just an extraordinary nursery school for our children. It's an extended family when yours may be out of reach.

My family's time at CGH is sadly coming to an end, and while the emotions are running high with the close of this chapter, I am beyond grateful for everything it has given me and my family. What we hoped would be a wonderful experience for our children has turned into so much more -- a deeply meaningful time in our own lives, giving us something that can't be measured -- forever friendships that we will take with us no matter how far we go.



SPRING FAIR RETURNS



It was definitely a day to remember! After a two year hiatus, the Spring Fair was back. While the plan was to make it bigger and better than ever, we ended up with a fair that was wetter than ever! The rain didn't stop the joy though. The Greenhouse community came out in their rain boots and coats, armed with umbrellas, to enjoy a fantastic magic show, some delicious food, and fun carnival games. While the scaffolding was definitely an important feature of the fair this year – the winning feature was the cheerful greetings, the joyful laughter and the Greenhouse spirit that filled the air.

We were beyond thrilled to invite our 2020 graduates back to the walls and halls of Greenhouse for a pre-fair reunion. Much has changed since March of 2020 when these children were last inside their Greenhouse class, but there was a lot that stayed the same. The block corner was still a favorite! The tarantula was still in the Researchers. And most of all, the connections and relationships between children, between teachers and between families remained steadfast. The day was filled with nostalgia and memories of a time gone by. We are so deeply grateful that we were able to host the reunion and appreciative that so many of the 2020 alums and their parents who were able to attend.

2021-2022 Annual Fund Contributors

The generosity of Greenhouse parents, alumni families and friends allows us to continue to provide exceptional programs and quality experiences for our children. Their contributions to Greenhouse serve as the catalyst for change and growth. Contributions to our Annual Fund are a vital cornerstone of giving at Greenhouse; the Fund supports important operational expenses of the school including professional development and financial aid. Columbia Greenhouse Nursery School thanks and acknowledges the generous contributions of the following individuals and companies:

Orren Alperstein
Amanda & Naved Amed
Anonymous
Chris & Lauren Arettines
Jesse H. Ausubel
Anne Ausubel
Jennie Sparandara & Rob Bauer
The Benivegna Gerlich Family
Ariana Cooper Berry & Eric Berry
Nancy Ramsey-Brand
Alice & Mike Burke
Caren & Jeremy Caplan
Lisa & Jeannie Chung-Rothman
Monica, Jeff, Danielle & Frances Cohen
John & Katie Cooper
Katelyn & Michael Cooper
Elizabeth & Jay Cooper
Brian Davidson & Emily Blumenthal
Susanna & William Deringer
The Lieberman Dolgin Family
Ellie Grossman & Ray Fisman
The Fox Family
Joanna Geneve & David Third
Jem & Raina Genus
Leslie Goldstein
Toby Golick
Lydia Barker & Christopher Gruszczynski

Meredith Gamer & Justin Gundlach
The Hadjigeorgis Family
Jill Harkavy & Howard Friedman
Ola Oyinsan Hixon
Jonathan & Jamie Holland
Wanda M. Holland Greene
Hannah H. Johnston
Kimberly Kahn & Satadru Pramanik
William & Eleanor Kearney
Shikha & Amit Khandelwal
Kim Family
The Moghe Koch Family
Sherman Lau
Christina Weyl & Richard Lichtenstein
Lily Shohat & Lloyd Mackay
Kyra's Favorite School
Renee Mease & Jennifer Pease
The Merrill Family
Charles & Andrea Moore
Paul & Sarah Muscat
Misako Rothery and Doug Neye
Catherine Salisbury & George Nunn
S. Aoife West
Lindsay & Mike Pitzer
Katherine Randall & Steve Pred

The Pressman Family
Kara & Robert
Milan Ranka & Amy Turitz
Rachel Roth
Dan & Christina Richman
Barbara Robey
Julia & John Rudolph
The Chiong-Salopek Family
Stephen Saxl & Alice Naude
Jane Spinak & Warren Scharf
Zeynep & Tom Schoenwaelder
The Seids
Sabrena Silver & Abe Stein
Hannah Bayer & Stuart Slanvin
Lauren Kogod & David Smiley
Theresa Swink
Graham Vaswani Family
Ryan & Bianca Vaz
Baxter & Lauren Wasson
Jane White
Donna Woehrle, in memory
Marissa & Cody Zalk
Jindra Zitek & Ben Schott

