

PARENTS'
ASSOCIATION

University of Chicago Parents' Association



Annual Report 2016-2017

**University of Chicago Laboratory Schools
Parents' Association (PA) plays a vital role in
creating a sense of community and supporting
the mission of the school.**

**This past year, PA Board members and volunteers
greatly contributed to building an engaged school
environment and promoting academic success.
This Annual Report highlights our achievements in 2016-2017.**

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The Year in Review



This year Lab underwent remarkable change and growth—record class sizes along with new spaces, communication tools, security procedures, and members of the administration. As the Parents’ Association, our goal was to assist families not only in navigating change but also feeling more connected and empowered throughout the year.

Toward those ends, we focused on improving our parent orientations, fostering connections across divisions to build a sense of community, promoting curriculum innovation, and serving as a vital bridge to Administration in the face of change and growth.

We began our year by welcoming a record number of new families to Lab via summer neighborhood parties, and end by collaborating with Administration to launch an improved communication cascade to new admits. In addition to developing

Schoology primers and FAQs, our Councils revamped parent orientations and launched ongoing support through monthly Parent-to-Parent meetings, Restaurant Week outings, Mix & Mingles, Lower School tours, and Parent Nights. The Diversity Committee also undertook a number of initiatives to advance parents’ desires for a community and curriculum that leads in the important work of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Recognizing Lab is a dynamic environment, we introduced a number of new events. The inaugural Volunteer Fair encouraged parents in the first week of school to explore a variety of opportunities to get involved, such as Bookswap, Picture Day, Health Fair, and LabArts. All told, volunteerism increased 20% across the school from last year. The Holiday Book Fair and Bazaar gave the whole community a chance to greet the holidays together and support student groups, which in turn supported their own causes such as clean water.

The PA bookended the year by providing support to the All School’s Fall Festival as well as planning the end-of-year All-Schools’ celebration, Rites of May, which just completed its 48th year!

We also launched four Community Service Grants to Lower School and Earl Shapiro Hall (ESH) faculty to enhance their students’ awareness and participation in the world outside of Lab. These grants were funded through BoxTops donations, so every student could contribute to Lab’s commitment to community service. One of these grants provided seed money to raise funds for the Syrian Refugee Fund, and through the combined efforts of Lower School homerooms, a High School club, and an afterschool program, the grant recipients raised over \$1800!

Our Councils also devoted considerable time and energy in selecting grant proposals to advance curriculum innovation, awarding over \$15,000 in faculty and student grants across multiple disciplines, impacting virtually every grade. In addition, our Speaker Series continues to provide parents and faculty a communal experience and vocabulary to discuss growing up, inclusiveness, and major life decisions.

As the year ends, we would like to thank our many volunteers who gave their time and energy to create a community that recognizes and celebrates the diversity of Lab families. We are also deeply grateful to Administration for their willingness to engage parents in shaping our community.

Throughout the year, we have worked behind the scenes advocating for all parents' voices to be heard as they wrestle with the challenges and opportunities facing our children. Our collective involvement makes our community truly unique. We are excited to see what next year's PA leadership under co-Presidents Amanda Norton and Kim Stolze will bring. We wish them and next year's Board and officers the best of luck and the tremendous support that was given to us all year.

It has been our privilege to be your parent representatives,

Tina Louie and Audris Wong

PA Co-Presidents 2016-17



Looking Ahead to 2017-2018



One of the exciting things about Lab is its commitment to tradition, and its willingness to embrace change. For both of us, this is something about the Lab experience for which we are deeply thankful.

As we write this, we are celebrating the success of the recent Rites of May, a Lab tradition that began in 1969 and continued on May 20, 2017, drawing over 1300 attendees from across the Schools, as well as guests from the University of Chicago Charter School system and High Jump students and their families.

Looking toward 2017-2018, we aim as Co-Presidents of the PA to help the Councils and other parent volunteers focus on five

key areas that we believe will allow us to continue to build on the incredible work Tina Louie and Audris Wong have done during their time leading the PA over the past year. These areas are:

- Continuing to improve new parent introduction/onboarding process
- Maintaining momentum on community building
- Empowering Councils and volunteers
- Advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Strengthening communication among the administration and parents, and among Councils and volunteers

We look forward to working with all of the parents who have been elected to serve on the PA Board in the coming year, as well as with the hundreds of other parents who volunteer in varied roles to enrich our school community every day.

Amanda Norton and Kim Stolze

PA Co-Presidents 2017-18

Speaker Series



The University of Chicago Laboratory Schools Speaker series has had wonderful momentum and support these last few years, for which we are grateful to the entirety of the community and the support of Lab’s administration as well. After several years of programming focused on the challenges of parenting, in response to parental recommendations, we launched the series this year with a celebration of what we can learn from our children.

Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, MacArthur Fellow and Emily Hargroves Fisher Professor of Education at Harvard, shared passages and stories from her new work, *Growing Each Other Up*, which was published by the University Press in the fall. Professor Lawrence-Lightfoot started the day with an early breakfast with faculty and counselors, and then spoke to an engaged audience from Lab, the University, and the Hyde Park community.

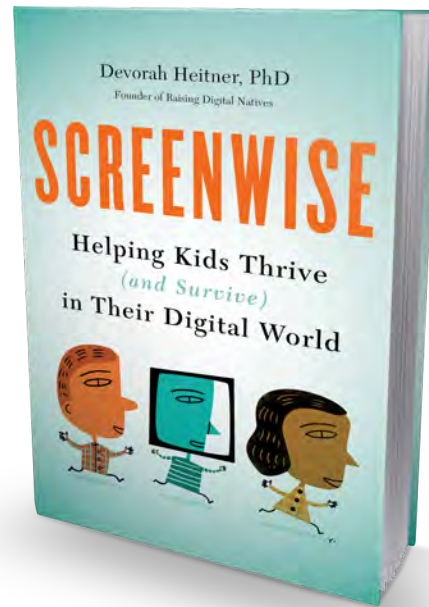
With parents and teachers inspired to learn from children, in the winter we welcomed Robert T. Michael, former proud member of the Lab community and Board, and the Eliakim Hastings Moore Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy. Professor Michael is working to provide

young adults with the data needed to make the right decisions as early adults, decisions that shape life experience and wellbeing. Drawing upon extensive research and interviews with millennials, and deploying an economic framework, Professor Michael offered guidance to an evening audience of parents, teachers, administrators, and a few U-High students on the five most meaningful life decisions, which are also discussed in the pages of his *Five Life Decisions*, published by the University Press.

From learning from our children, to providing them with data and evidence to support the decisions they will make, we then turned to a topic of critical importance and warm embrace for our spring speaker. Eboo Patel, head of the Interfaith Youth Core, spent a day at Lab, a visit that was co-sponsored by the School. Dr. Patel’s messages of the need to raise religious diversity to the level of pedagogical and community conversation that is held by other forms of diversity—gender, racial, ethnic, socioeconomic—and his emphasis on the importance of religious pluralism, were poignantly timed to the current political climate. His day began with talk for affiliated parents and members of the Hyde Park community, and he then spent time in U-

High classes (Cindy Jurisson, Sunny Neater-Dubow), shared cookies with the Muslim Students Association, and had a lively lunch with an engaged and erudite group of more than 50 U-High students all clearly invested in building communities. The visit ended with an inspired discussion with faculty, counselors, and administrators, and a hopeful message about ensuring that religious identity and inclusion are pillars of the community we are creating.

We have already begun to firm up plans for the 2017-2018 school year, and our fall speaker, Devorah Heitner, will be helping us all understand what it means to raise and educate digital natives.



Videos of each speaker are available on the labparents.org website, so that parents, faculty, administrators and students can continue to learn from the knowledge our Speaker Series aspires to infuse into the community and our collective experiences.

Christie Henry

Speaker Series Chair

To recommend future speakers or share feedback, please email parents@ucls.uchicago.edu

Earl Shapiro Hall Council



This year, the ESH Council worked to provide a safe, enjoyable, and accessible school experience for Lab's youngest students and their families, and to work collaboratively with Principals Carla Young and Susan Devetski to support equity and respect for all families and staff. As we come to the end of our fourth year in the beautiful Earl Shapiro Hall, we have supported new initiatives and celebrated time-honored traditions.

We began the year with a Parent Orientation and three Parent Nights. In October, we introduced the first of three Mix & Mingle events. These events brought together parents, staff, and administrators, giving parents an opportunity to learn more about life at Lab, ask questions, and meet each other.

October also saw parent-teacher conferences, our first ever Costume Swap at ESH, and a celebration of National Walk to School Day. The ESH Walk to School Day was also a first-ever event, bringing together the gym teachers, the school nurses, students, and parents, encouraging them all to come to school on foot, bike, or scooter, and then to enjoy healthy snacks (and more running around!) as a community on the roof.

Throughout the year, we worked with teachers to award curriculum grants to support them in their efforts to create new ways to engage our children. Highlights of our grants this year include a chime wall installation for Kindergarten, an early robotics project that teaches preschoolers how to code using blocks, a "maker" magician who both entertains and educates students on the potential of the makerspace, as well as visiting poet and musician lectures.

In November, we introduced ESH to Fan Day, coordinating with the Lower School Council and the Middle School Council to generate student spirit, support our teams, and sport our spiritwear.

We held our final Mix & Mingle in April, drawing the largest turnout of the year. To celebrate Earth Day, with the support of the Extended Day Program, we held a wonderful afternoon event that included planting flowers around the building, crafting with re-usables, making water conservation collages, and a rooftop dance party.



In May, we gave our thanks to all ESH teachers and staff with boxed lunches for all.

Each year at ESH, we learn more about what our families need, who they are, and how to engage them. Our Council continues to evolve with each new group of families, and each new class of the youngest members of the Lab community. We look forward to continued communication and growth over the next year.

Manali Barua
Tiffany Flowers
Leny Leung
Sieglinde Lim-Seiwert
Amy Liszt
Shipra Parikh

Earl Shapiro Council

Lower School Council

This year, with construction and student body growth complete, the Lower School Council was able to focus on community building between families, faculty and staff.

The year began with welcoming new Lower School families with a mentor match, summer brunch, orientation, scavenger hunt and back-to-school picnic—all before the start of school.

In an effort to establish a Lower School presence and boost school pride, the Council continuously decorated Blaine Lobby with seasonal adornments and created an interactive visual board asking students to post positive messages about each other, their families and faculty. These lobby themes included Back-to-School, Fan Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Winter Wonderland, MLK Day, Valentine's Day, Teacher Appreciation, and Rites of May. The overwhelmingly positive feedback from students and faculty has encouraged us to continue this new tradition next year and into the future.



We worked closely with Principal Sylvie Anglin to enhance services to the parent community. This included providing coffee and bagels for the first day of school, catering food for Parent Night, creating a "photo booth" for Halloween pictures, promoting Math Information Night, organizing the Lost and Found, amassing volunteers for the Family Flu Clinic, and brainstorming topics for the Lower School quarterly Principal Chats, which included introducing the Coordinator for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Computer Science faculty; Learning and Counseling faculty; and the Director of Information Technology who discussed online safety. We also offered very well-attended tours for rising 3rd grade families, who will be relocating to the Historic Campus in the fall!

The PA supports a teacher grant program across the grades, funded with parents' PA dues (all grants listed in the Grants section of this report below). We asked teachers to focus on innovation, experience, and community building across grades and/or divisions. This year, we funded eight grants, including:

- Dash and Dot robots for 3rd & 4th graders (Wales)
- Learning and Counseling parent library (Zwaska)
- Supplies for Lower School Makerspace (Beaulieu and Sanders)

- Composting supplies and subscription for 3rd, 4th & 5th graders (Phillips)
- Poet visit for Sukenic and Mitzenmacher's classes
- Kente cloth and candles for Lower School choir (St. Clair)
- Falconer visit for 5th graders (Bloom)

This year, two community service grants funded via Boxtops were also awarded to teachers Ms. Mitzenmacher and Ms. Weide, who used the funds to support Syrian refugee families and raise awareness of that crisis.



The Council organized numerous events to bolster community within the student body as well:

- National Walk/Bike to School Day
- Fan Day
- Teacher appreciation luncheon
- 5th grade gym social
- 4th grade pool and pizza party
- 3rd grade art party
- Quarterly Box Tops contests
- 5th grade yearbook
- Last day of school popsicle and picnic party

Next year, we look forward to continuing our old traditions, and building on the new ones. It has been our privilege to serve the Lower School community this year.

Vanessa Copans
Cathy Lee
Sara Skelly
Andee Stacy

Lower School Council

Middle School Council

This year was a year of growth and change in the Middle School, and the Middle School Council worked closely with Principal Sandy Bixby, Assistant Principal Allison Jones and new Dean of Students Ryan Allen to help families navigate all the exciting changes and transitions in the Middle School. From quarterly Fan Days to lunches during Restaurant Week to grade-level events, the Council worked to provide opportunities for the community to get together. Giant Gym Nights in the fall and in the spring, the 7th Grade Roller Skating Party, and the 6th grade Lab Arts Reception also provided great opportunities for the community to come together.



The Middle School welcomed 49 new students and their families to Lab and the Middle School Council introduced two programs to encourage communication between parents: MS Parent-to-Parent sessions and the Advisory Parents program. With so many new families, communication is of utmost importance to building a strong parent community.

- Parent-to-Parent sessions, which offer an opportunity for parents to come together to talk about all things Middle School, began in the fall of this year. We look forward to continuing this program in the next school year, and we thank counselor Sylvia Aschliman for supporting our parent community by joining us for this year's.
- The Advisory Parents program began this past fall as a way to encourage communication between parents and help raise awareness of events. Many thanks to all of you who served as Middle School Advisory Parents. We hope you will consider taking on this role again next school year.

The Middle School would be nothing without its community of teachers. To continue to support our teachers, Council was happy to award PA Grants for the following projects:



- A paper arts makerspace in the Middle School Library
- Brass instrument cleaning instruction (pictured above)
- Expanding the Diplomacy Club's game choices
- "Stress Less Fest": a series of sessions aimed at helping students recognize, identify, and manage stress
- Connecting the dramatic arts to the visual arts using puppetry

We thank the teachers who submitted the proposals for these initiatives, which have all made a difference in the lives of our kids.

Next school year holds more growth for the Middle School as the 8th grade grows and we welcome new students in the 6th and 7th grades. We look forward to serving our parent community again in the coming school year.

Lena Jessen
Claudia Roeder
Colleen Sheehan
Karen Slimmon

Middle School Council

High School Council

This year, the High School Council worked with the administration to foster community and support it on three fronts: parents, students, and faculty.

For parents, we ran a Q&A panel for parents of incoming freshmen during orientation. We continued monthly Parent-to-Parent sessions with a High School counselor (Ron Tunis); this year we also added themes to organize our discussions. Topics included:

- Advice from parents on the college search process
- Student opportunities during break
- Schoology
- Teen addictions including vaping
- May project
- Book buyback, etc.

The Principal also distributed before big dances the facts sheet on “Curbing Drug and Alcohol Use” that we created two years ago.

In efforts to create more opportunities to foster community, parents were invited to meet socially at the Promontory while their students were at the Homecoming Dance. We also spearheaded again this the successful Restaurant Week outings.

In February, we arranged for a visiting production of “The MLK Project” to be held at Gordon Parks Arts Hall for all students and their families 5th grade and up, as well as charter school guests.

For students, we distributed welcome “Class of 2020” scarves for all freshmen on the first

day of school. We sponsored a hot cocoa, doughnuts, and cookies break for students before winter vacation as well as the traditional pizza lunch for seniors. With the student council, we decorated the U-High lobby before winter break with paper chains and snowflakes.



We worked with the Athletic Director to support multiple Fan Days. Our Prom Grant program offered financial assistance to seniors to attend prom. Currently, we are continuing to work hard on our largest project—planning and executing the graduation reception for Lab’s senior class of 2017 (costs split with the administration).

All graduating seniors received a gift—a stadium blanket embroidered with the U-High crest and graduation year. On the faculty front, we co-sponsored a teacher appreciation lunch in the fall and a breakfast for faculty and staff in the spring.

For Fall 2017, over 60 new U-High students were matched with mentor families. We have also arranged for summer parties in Hyde Park, South Loop, Lincoln Park and Naperville, following on last summer’s successful summer parties for new families.

We awarded teacher grants for projects such as hardware for computer science students to create pacer buttons for use by the PE department, updated LED lighting for the biology cold water tank, travel bags for the music department's equipment, and partial funding for a vinyl listening corner (shown to the right).



We continue to support ArtsFest through grants, bringing to campus the choreographer of *Hamilton* as well as the Future Kings dance troupe.

We also supported the May Project reception with parent volunteers and supplemental refreshments.



It has been a privilege to serve on the PA High School Council this year. Next year, we look forward to welcoming a record number of new families to U-High. We will continue to find ways to support our students and provide forums to bring the U-High parent community closer together.

Anu Asthana
Nicole Brookens
Ann Grissom
Mariana Ingersoll

High School Council

Diversity Committee



In the past two years, we reconfigured and relaunched the PA Diversity Committee with a focus on providing information about diversity, equity and inclusion to Lab families and supporting Lab's efforts toward greater transparency and more fully realizing the goals in the school's diversity mission statement. Participation in committee meetings and events has been and remains open to all members of the Lab community.

To recap: during the 2015-16 academic year, we led discussions with parents and conducted a year-long strategic planning process that culminated with a document outlining recommendations in nine priority areas. ["Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Recommendations"](#) was shared with parents and Lab administrative leadership. We ended the year with a June 2016 meeting that featured reports from Lab Coordinator for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Ken Garcia-Gonzales and registrar Brent LaRowe sharing detailed diversity data on enrollment and faculty hiring for the 2016-17 school year.

For the 2016-17 school year, the PA Diversity Committee held regular monthly meetings, three in the fall and two in the winter/spring, setting an annual schedule for our work.

We kicked off the year with an October meeting featuring a presentation from University of Chicago Executive Vice President David Fithian, who shared an update on the search for a new director of Lab. In November, we held a planning meeting to set priorities and organize our annual winter and spring programming. For the holidays, co-chair Beth Richie hosted a social gathering in her home.

We held two winter programs:

"Living Our Values: Helping Our Children Respond in Troubling Times," was initially planned for February 13, 2017, but was then rescheduled to April 4. Panel presenters included Kiran Younus, a Lab teacher and parent and the director of the River Garden Program; Thomas Ivey, child therapist and culture and climate specialist at the Chicago Public Schools; and Ken Garcia-Gonzales, who is also a Lab parent as well as the Coordinator for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Goals for the meeting included (1) identifying barriers to having meaningful discussions with kids in age appropriate ways; (2) developing strategies for more open and honest conversations with interventions that make sure that kids are safe and feel reassured; and (3) getting children involved in community-building and social justice activism so that they feel

powerful and in control of making the world a better place.

“Diversity Snapshots from the Classroom” was held on March 13, 2017, with presentations from principals Sandy Bixby (Middle School) and Stephanie Weber (High School); teacher Joseph Kerney (Lower School); and librarian Lee McLain (Earl Shapiro Hall). The purpose of the program was to showcase what diversity looks like in the academic context at Lab. Principals shared examples of diversity, equity, and inclusion content in classrooms and academic programs, and they discussed approaches for engaging students, opportunities for parent input and areas for improvement. Joseph Kerney talked about strategies and approaches he uses to introduce these concepts to his 4th grade students. Lee McLain gave the librarian’s perspective on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and demonstrated how to locate diverse content by using readings lists on Earl Shapiro Hall’s library website.

A third program schedule for the spring was postponed. “Diversity Data Update” was scheduled as a May 2017 update on Ken Garcia-Gonzales and Brent LaRowe’s 2016

presentations on diversity enrollment and faculty hiring with new data for the 2017-18 school year. We are continuing our dialogue with school leadership about improving issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion at Lab.

We also facilitated the formation of a new Lab parent affinity group. The Black Family Forum (BFF), co-chaired by PA Diversity Committee members Brandi Kenner-Bell and Iona Calhoun Battiste, started in April. In only five weeks, the BFF has launched a Facebook group that so far has 86 members and hosted a booth to celebrate Families of the African Diaspora at Lab’s Rites of May event in May 2017. BFF is now planning a back-to-school picnic to be held in August to welcome new families.

Veronica Anderson

Amanda Lewis

Beth Richie

Diversity Committee Chairs

To become more engaged with the Diversity Committee, please visit labparents.org.

Teacher Grants

Parents' Association teacher grants are intended to promote educational excellence at all levels by assisting teachers in pursuing novel and exciting initiatives. Through a competitive grant process, the PA awarded over \$15,000 toward grants that funded or partially subsidized a variety of projects designed to advance and showcase students' learning and enrich the Lab community during 2016-2017.

For the 2016-17 Academic Year the PA introduced a Community Service Grant for Lower School and Earl Shapiro Hall. These grants were wholly funded from BoxTops Collection, so that even classrooms who may not be involved with the grant can contribute to its goal of encouraging curiosity and empathy in the community beyond school walls. We hope these grants excite and encourage our youngest students, who will become more deeply involved in community service in existing Middle School and High School programs.

Earl Shapiro Hall Grants

Meredith Dodd: Awarded \$250 to support a parent workshop titled: "Learning about Individual and Group Identity." The workshop was intended to create a dialogue among teachers, parents, and students around the topic of identity construction in early childhood through adulthood.

Lisa Harrison: Awarded \$1275 to integrate computational thinking and technology into the Nursery/Kindergarten curriculum via KIBO robots. Children programmed the robots to follow simple commands in sequence using wooden blocks, not iPad or computer screens. The tools encouraged open-ended play while developing vocabulary and process skills in younger students. (Pictured)

Erica Lee: Awarded \$1500 to bring a visiting, acclaimed magician and educator ("Mario the Magician") that specific uses "maker" techniques to inspire all Primary School (1st & 2nd grade) students and faculty. The performance exposed students to additional methods and the wide range of possibilities enabled by the makerspace.

Lauryn Marinho: Received a Community Service to buy supplies so that her students could knit winter scarves for the homeless community.

Ana Romero: Awarded \$500 to fund a teaching artist (musician Carlos Cornier) visit so that all Primary School students may explore the art of drumming, as part of an overall project for 2nd graders to design and construct of their own drums and musical instruments.



Marie Randazzo: Awarded \$900 to fund a “music-scape” – a chime wall installation for preschool children to be able to express themselves musically, while also exercising their large muscles.

“The chime wall will enhance the outdoor experience for all of the children who play on the West Playground!”

— Marie Randazzo

Spike Wilson: Awarded \$250 to sponsor a poetry workshop for Primary School classrooms to expand students’ knowledge about civil rights. Quraysh Ali Lansana is a local poet whose work combines history and race. Lansana introduced ideas and vocabulary to begin a developmentally appropriate dialogue about civil rights in the United States.

Elsbeth Stowe-Grant: Received an inaugural Community Service Grant to take two classrooms to the Cradles to Crayons fulfillment center, providing students an opportunity to venture off campus and interact with a larger community.

Lower School Grants

Allison Beaulieu: Awarded \$482 to include circuits and LEDs and thereby expand the foundational materials for the Lower School Maker Space, a collaboration between the arts and science programs for 3rd and 4th grade students. These materials are intended to spark greater creativity both in and outside the classroom.

Diane Bloom: Awarded \$475 to bring The Medieval Falconer and four of his live birds to provide educational programming in support of the 5th grade curriculum, and to share with little buddies from an ESH classroom.

This support is especially meaningful to teachers who want to serve the whole child, and teach in a cross-curricular manner, across age groups.

— Diane Bloom

Ginger Philips: Awarded \$500 to develop hands-on activities in eco-literacy, using composting as an entry point. Lower School (3rd grade) homerooms will partner with Middle School to further explore how students can engage and model sustainable practices.

Mikki Sanders: Awarded \$250 to add a Cri-cut paper cutting machine to the Lower School STEAM workshop build-out. The Workshop will be a place where all Lower School students,

teachers, and families can create together using hand tools and power tools, electronics, technology, sewing, crafts, Legos, and more.

Jamelle St. Clair: Awarded \$550 for kente stoles to costume the Lower School MLK Day Choir for their candlelight procession and performance. These stoles will create continuity and belonging year after year for students in the choir, which has become an integral part of the celebration to honor Martin Luther King.



Lisa Sukenic: Awarded \$500 to provide students in select 4th and 5th grade homerooms with ongoing access to Poet-in-Residence, John Rybicki. Through multiple one-day workshops, this approach will assist students in developing a long-term relationship that will result in deeper revisions, publication submissions, and public performances.

Brandy Wales: Awarded \$280 to provide 280 3rd and 4th grade computer science students with additional learning tools (“Dash & Dot” robots) to further develop computational thinking and problem solving. This hands-on learning tool will connect robotics to computer science and spur developmentally appropriate programming skills.

Linda Weide and Stephanie Mitzenmacher: Received an inaugural Community Service grant to collaborate on two projects to broaden awareness and provide support to Syrian refugees families relocating to Hyde Park through a public art installation and selling handmade goods at the Holiday Bazaar.

Jessica Zwaska: Awarded \$200 to jumpstart a parent-focused library for the Lower School Learning and Counseling Department. This resource library would be available to all Lower School parents who may be in need of additional support or education on a variety of topics.

Middle School Grants



Gina Alicea: Awarded \$890 to bring the Von Orthal puppetry artists to school to develop a robust puppetry program that will span both art and drama rotations in 6th grade. As they rotate, all 6th grade students will have access to these artists as they develop their skills in creating unique, animated characters.

Tad Andracki: Awarded \$538 to provide seed money for a Paper Arts Makerspace as part of Middle School Library Programming. All Middle School students will benefit from this infusion of scientific elements with traditional literacy arts.

Ryan Hudec: Awarded \$200 to provide equipment to promote maintenance and upkeep of brass instruments. All Band students, from 5th grade through High School, will be taught how to become autonomous in the upkeep of their instruments.

Matt Landa: Awarded \$800 to develop a multi-day, multi-phase project to support stress management skills for all Middle School students. This interactive installation is intended to increase awareness of the impact of stress, to normalize the challenges of dealing with stress, and to provide concrete ideas for limiting its negative impact.

Thomas Luthy: Awarded \$160 to provide tools in strategic thinking and negotiation to support the Middle School Diplomacy Club. (Pictured)

High School Grants

ArtsFest: This student-led festival has received a PA grant for several years. This year, the grant went towards securing the Future Kings dance troupe and Hamilton choreographer, Michael Balderrama, for the opening and closing ceremonies, respectively.

Michelle Morales Miles: Awarded \$100 to purchase vinyl musical records for the Vinyl Listening Center. This purchase will enable all UHigh students to study additional forms of auditory media.

Daniel Jones: Awarded \$480 to upgrade and enhance the High School Biology aquarium by purchasing LED lighting technology and expanding potential environmental studies.

Francisco Dean: Awarded \$400 to provide gear to support the Traveling Technology project. This grant will broaden the capabilities of U-High Digital Orchestra students to share their work outside the classroom.

“Before the travel bags... ..and after the travel bags.”

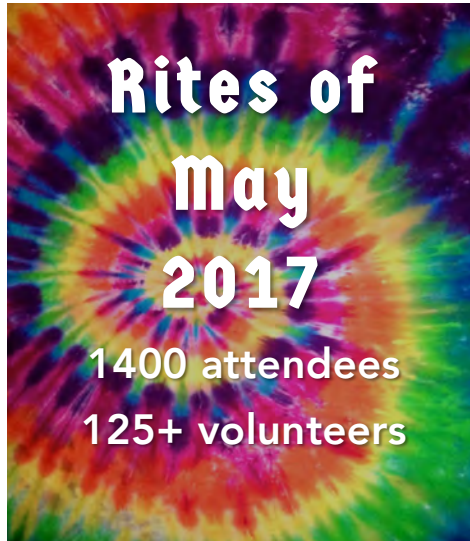
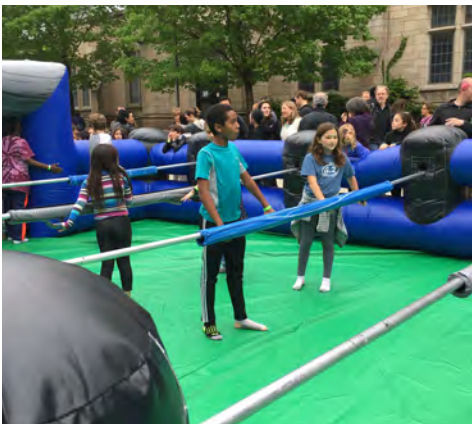
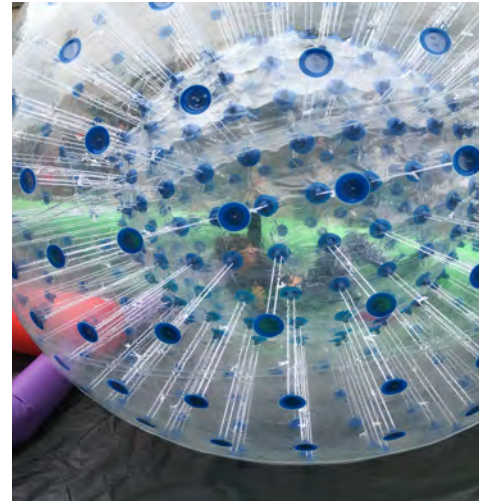


—Francisco Dean

Dan Wheadon: Awarded \$720 to fund Computer Science students to build monitoring devices for the PACER test, to be used by all UHigh students during fitness testing.



For more information about the 2016-2017 initiatives and impact of the PA, and additional photos, please visit labparents.org



Parents' Association Board 2017-2018

Co- Presidents	Amanda Norton & Kim Stolze
Treasurer	Liz Anderson
Treasurer Elect	Saima Sufi
Secretary	Nancy Stern
Secretary Elect	Archana Dharanipragada
Communications Coordinator	Patty Jones
Communications Coordinator Elect	Ann Grissom

High School Council
Anu Asthana
Zainab Baig
Amy Han
Mariana Ingersoll

Middle School Council
Angela Cobb
Lena Jessen
Heather Tamburo
Colleen Sheehan

Lower School Council
Vanessa Copans
Melissa McMahill
Abundio Rodriguez
Andee Stacy

Earl Shapiro Hall
Manali Barua
Tiffany Flowers
Jelani Frazier
Amelia Klein
Christie Tate

We are deeply grateful to our outgoing Board members for their service: Nicole Brookens, Karen Slimmon, Claudia Roeder-Leuz, Cathy Lee, Sara Skelly, Leny Leung, Amy Liszt, Sieglinde Lim-Seiwert, Shipra Parikh, Frank Baldassare, and Krista Hogarth. We are also grateful for the engagement of the event chairs who will be stepping down this year: Brittany Chang, Tracy Coe, Christie Henry, Cindy Marchessault, Tracey Quinn, Lynn Sasamoto, and Marina White.

We give our heartfelt thanks as well to the countless staff, faculty, and administrators at Lab who partner with us every day.

And to our many fellow parents, and student volunteers, we couldn't do this without you!

THANK YOU!