



Pine Forest Charter School
2013 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends of
Pine Forest School,

You are reading the first ever Pine Forest School (PFS) Annual Report! In this report you will find highlights of some of last year's accomplishments, a financial overview and an introduction to our theme for next year: The 100% Parent Participation Initiative. We look forward to an energized and improved level of parent participation within our school community. This energy will support classroom well-being, teachers, faculty, administration, strengthen our beautiful school community and ultimately bring the greatest possible benefit to our **students** who are of course the heart of our school and mission.

Note From The Director:

We are beginning our 19th year offering tuition-free, public PreK-8 Waldorf education to the children and families of Northern Arizona. Established in 1995 as a 501c3 not-for-profit corporation, PFS became one of the Arizona Department of Education's first charter schools. Our audited financials have always been available to the public. However, on behalf of the Pine Forest Education Association Governing Board and newly formed Pine Forest Foundation (PFF), it gives us great satisfaction to disseminate our 2012-13 fiscal year information in a more traditional annual report format. We hope it provides a clear picture of where PFS is today.

This report is directed towards the parents of current students, however, it is also meant to serve as a connection and an update to our entire PFS community. This community includes: current and former PFS students (alumni) and families, staff members, tax-credit contributors, donors, sponsors and business associates. It can also serve as an introduction to our school and anyone who has an interest in PFS. More than anything, this Annual Report is an acknowledgment of what is possible when the gifts of many are brought together in service of our children and their future. Whatever role you have played in supporting PFS, we thank you!



ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2012-2013

As we look back at the school year, we have much to celebrate as a community. Here are just a few highlights from our year, but there are many more!



Please join us for our 2nd annual PFS Memorial Hike Friday, August 30, 2013



Pine Forest Foundation

- The year began with our first annual PFS Memorial Hike approximately 100 students, staff and parents hiked towards the summit of the San Francisco Peaks to honor those loved ones that they have lost to cancer. It was a beautiful gathering and expression of love for our PFS community. Additionally, we raised \$100 in donations. A generous volunteer donated his time and talent and created a video of the hike capturing that day and many sentiments from our students and staff (pineforestfoundation.org).
- Our 15th year of the movement art, Eurythmy, culminated in a lovely performance at the Flagstaff High School Community auditorium. Thanks to the PFS families who generously donated housing for our visiting teachers October-December.
- The preschool program (three and four year olds) finished its 7th year, and was at full capacity with a waiting list for the coming year.
- The Kindergarten care program was also full this year with over 20 students.
- Our music program expanded to include the 5th grade band.
- World music drumming students performed at several Flagstaff community events including the Coconino Center for the Arts Youth Art Exhibit opening, PFF roll out, and monthly performances at the Peaks Senior Living Center.
- Our middle school choir collaborated with Flagstaff High School to put on a Christmas Choral Concert.

- The 5th-8th grade band and choral students earned superior ratings at regional and state competitions.
- Students and families participated in the Heifer International Read to Feed program which raised \$2,363.
- PFS community raised \$900 to benefit leukemia and lymphoma patients.
- Archery has been integrated into our games curriculum. The newly formed Archery Club participated in statewide competitions.
- For the 7th year running PFS hosted the Greek Pentathlon games including more than 100 5th grade students from Arizona Waldorf Schools. Pentathlon competitions include javelin throwing, wrestling, discus, sprint and long jump.
- The 2nd grade class and volunteer parents revitalized and improved the school garden by updating water catchment and rainwater harvesting. Many thanks to the classroom parents who largely covered the cost and labor.
- Thanks to dedicated teachers, students, parents and PTA, each upper grade was able to take a fantastic field trip including San Juan River (6th), Catalina Island (7th) and Hawaii (8th).
- Many teachers traveled out of state for continued education in Waldorf philosophy and methodology.
- We are thrilled to announce that we made our last mortgage payment for our school campus on Kaibab Street in June. We now completely own our school campus! There aren't many charter schools that can say that.

Another exciting accomplishment for PFS has been the formation of the Pine Forest Foundation (PFF). The foundation was primarily formed to ensure the financial success and security of PFS; to safeguard the school's assets and bridge the gap between our school's financial needs and inadequate (and at times uncertain) state and federal funding. The PFF is dedicated to the short and long-term well-being of our school. The PFF is continuing the work of the Capital Campaign while also raising funds for maintenance and operations of the school as well as specific projects, improvements and initiatives. The Foundation's main areas of focus are:

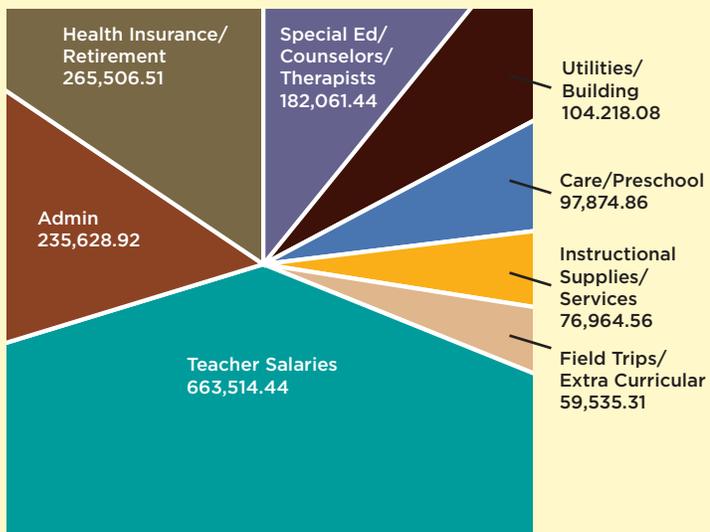
- Generating community connection and support within our PFS and beyond in the greater Flagstaff community.
- Raising funds and resources for our school through: donor cultivation, annual giving, targeted asks, grant writing and stewardship of the 100% Parent Participation Initiative.
- Continuing Capital Campaign's ongoing search for a new campus location and managing donations that have been collected to date.
- Using a mini-grant model, the PFF along with help from the PTA, parents and faculty are raising funds for several pressing school needs including new sewing machines, year-round turf and new school signs (check out grants at: pineforestfoundation.org).



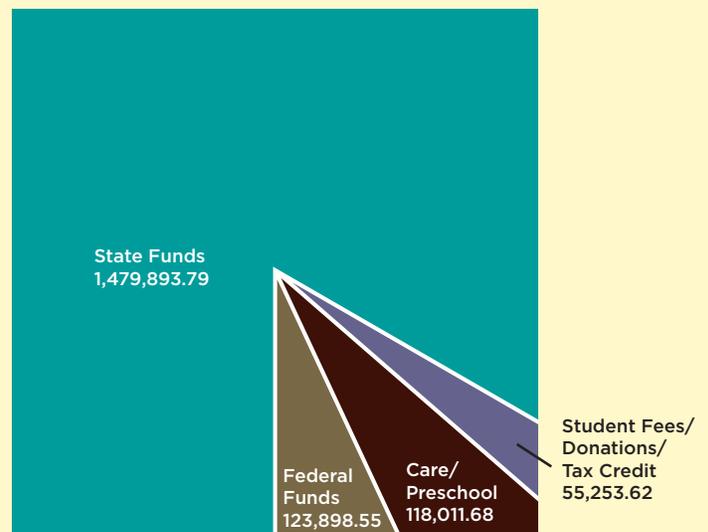
"Education is not a question of what knowledge children need to acquire to enter society, but what capacities in human beings can be developed to bring new forces into society." - Rudolf Steiner

FINANCIAL REVIEW We had a total income of \$1,777,115.12 and expenses of \$1,685,304.12 for a slight positive income for the year. We had a slight loss the previous two years. This year's increase in income was due to lower expenses in healthcare and higher income from federal funds than budgeted. The Board and Finance Committee are trying to rebuild our cash cushion to accommodate the uneven nature of our cash needs. Changes in payment methods by the state negatively affected our cash reserves, which is why this rebuilding is necessary.

EXPENSES: 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR



INCOME: 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR



BEYOND THE BOTTOM LINE As you know, finances are only one aspect of the well being of PFS. Our curriculum and culture also depend on the contribution of hundreds of volunteer hours, donations of professional services and in-kind contributions. Thank you to all who have committed and contributed your time, talent and treasure to our school! We couldn't do it without you.

New School Building Project/Capital Campaign

The mission of the Capital Campaign Committee is to relocate our school to a location in which we can more fully express the richness of our Waldorf curriculum. This past year we have worked primarily with the Diocese of Phoenix on possibly acquiring and renovating the St. Pius Church Property on Cedar Avenue. We have been negotiating in earnest for several months, but still remain without a deal that we feel that we can afford.

The main moving parts of the project are: the cost of the new property, the cost to build/renovate the new site and the timing/price of the sale of the current Kaibab campus.

We are still evaluating new possibilities as they come up, both for new construction as well as renovation. The Capital Campaign has about \$200k in cash and pledges held by the PFF in a restricted account.

"Our highest endeavor must be to develop free human beings who are able of themselves to impart purpose and direction to their lives." - Rudolf Steiner



100% Participation

Within our PFS community many have identified the need for increased levels of parent participation. Of course there are some parents who contribute so much already and for that we are so immensely grateful! However, a higher level of parent participation is necessary. Previously we addressed the gap between the funding we receive from the state and what it costs to deliver PFS's rich and robust Waldorf curriculum. By choosing PFS, parents agree to participate in bridging this gap.

This year we are putting forth a call for 100% Parent Participation. For parents of students this means participating in the Annual Giving Fund (replacing the student activity fee). Additionally, we need parents to volunteer their time and talent. We know time is a precious resource for

all of you, but our success does depend on your engagement and participation. There is a need for parent representatives for each class. PTA needs participation, membership, officers and leadership! There are positions open on both the PFF and PFS governing boards. Perhaps your talents could be used to help raise funds for mini-grants or the Capital Campaign. A variety of volunteer opportunities are available; please feel free to contact us with questions or ideas (mac.England@pineforestfoundation.org).

Contribution may look different for each of us. A thriving school requires both healthy finances and an energized, active community of parents, teachers and students. Ask yourself what can you do to contribute your time, talent and treasure to the success of our school and our legacy.

Looking Forward To Next Year

PFS is preparing for its 19th year with a strong and dedicated faculty and staff and nearly 250 children on our roster. Among our top goals is a strong desire to continue improving our current program and incorporate the new Arizona Department of Education's Common Core Standards. In addition, we look forward to ongoing outreach to the greater Flagstaff community through sharing our students' music, art, athletic abilities and community service. Please join us in the upcoming school year to help reach our goals!

Acknowledgments

We thank and acknowledge each and every one of you for choosing to bring your children to our Waldorf inspired Pine Forest School. We know you have many choices in the education of your children. We strongly believe in and are fully committed to providing this whole child approach to education for the ultimate benefit of your child, family, community and the world.

With sincere gratitude,

The Pine Forest Charter School Governing Board, Administration, Faculty and The Pine Forest Foundation

