



Susan  
Odell  
Taylor  
School

A Joyful Education!  
a story of nurturing young learners.

2010-2011 Annual Report



# Growth!

## Accreditation: A Testimony to our Excellence

This past year has been all about becoming an accredited school. Accreditation is not only a distinguished seal of approval from the New York State Association of Independent Schools, but a testimony of our asset to the community.

As we prepared for this achievement some big changes came to our school. Our leader and visionary for the past ten years, Wendy Pattison, stepped down as Head of School. We restructured our administrative team and completed a year long self-study.

This process gave us the opportunity to dig deep within ourselves and ask questions like, who are we, what are our strengths and future challenges that will frame our work over the next five years.

Our mission; **nurturing joyful learners** captures clearly and concisely what we do here at the Taylor School every day. It is the driving mantra as we educate our students to become independent thinkers and engaged lifelong learners. In pursuit of academic excellence and individual achievement, our students learn to respect others and serve the community.

Caring, challenging, creative, welcoming, diverse, joyful. These words were used by parents of Taylor School students when asked to describe the school during a focus group.

These attributes and the underlying values that support them are demonstrated and experienced in the life of the school in so many ways each day. With the goal of enriching the lives of children and instilling in them a lifelong love of learning, teachers and administrators strive to understand each child individually. We provide the challenge and support each needs to socially, emotionally and academically achieve their highest potential.

*Kelly Magoolaghan*

**Kelly Magoolaghan**  
Acting Head of School

# Income & Expenses

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2011

## Income

Tuition & Fees	\$ 799,414
Fundraising	86,346
Investment Income	9,356
Miscellaneous Income	42,936

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**Total Income** **\$938,052**

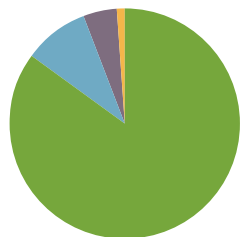
## Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	\$ 526,239
Programs & Operating Expenses	243,885
Financial Aid	92,914
Plant & Reserves	73,062

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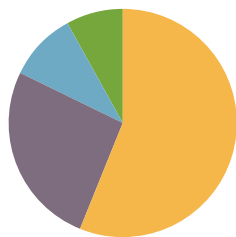
**Total Expenses** **\$936,106**

## Income



■ Tuition & Fees
 ■ Investment Income
 ■ Fundraising
 ■ Misc. Income

## Expenses



■ Salaries & Benefits
 ■ Programs & Operating Expenses
 ■ Financial Aid
 ■ Plant & Reserves

## Taylor Alumni

My parents discovered the (Taylor) School when they were driving by. They decided to go to an open house and fell in love with the school at first sight.

I don't remember much of my first year at Taylor School. It seems so long ago. Although, I do remember being welcomed with hugs and smiles by the staff and students. I would always look forward to going to school and I never wanted to leave.

Jillian Ridler, Class of 2015

My Taylor School experience (kindergarten through sixth grade) used hands-on learning and helped me to gain confidence in my abilities and push myself to the highest limits. The Taylor School has given me a solid base of knowledge and support enabling me to reach my fullest potential. Without my Taylor School education, I would not be as motivated to learn and would not have made so many great friends.

Anna Schroeder, Class of 2014



## Why Give?

Support from the community is integral to the Taylor philosophy. Support comes in many forms: from parents supporting their child's learning, from teachers supporting their students' growth, from an audience supporting the cast of the class play. Another very important source of support is the Annual Fund. The Annual Fund bridges the gap between tuition and the true cost of a Taylor School education.

Taylor relies on Annual Fund gifts from our parents, past parents, alumni, and friends. Every Annual Fund dollar is used to support faculty salaries, student financial aid, and the upkeep of our school facilities. Because they are unrestricted, Annual Fund contributions also have the flexibility to address the school's most pressing needs.

Thank you for making a gift—and a difference—to the school, its faculty and our students. The joyful Taylor School experience exists because of your support.

# Thank You!

The following organizations and individuals generously supported the Susan Odell Taylor School Annual Fund in the 2010-2011 year.

## Leaders \$5,000+

Emma Willard School  
Howard & Bush Foundation  
Mrs. Elizabeth Odell

## Innovators \$1,000+

Anonymous  
Mr. and Mrs. John Faragon  
Mr. and Mrs. Seth Mankin

## Sustainers \$500+

Association Development Group, Inc.  
Mr. Michael Cullen  
Dr. and Mrs. Carlos de Noronha  
Mr. Allan Chlastawa & Ms. Valerie Gill  
Mr. Michael Fanning & Ms. Priscilla Richards  
Mr. William Faragon  
Mr. James Ferris & Ms. Susan Shipherd  
Google\*  
Mr. and Mrs. Erik Hage  
Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Jamison  
Mr. and Mrs. John Koleszar  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Larcade  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Maynard  
Mr. and Mrs. Lane McCarthy  
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Ridler  
Mr. Bill Schroeder & Ms. Wendy Pattison

## Creators \$250+

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Apgar  
Ms. Heather Briccetti  
Ms. Joan Couch  
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Maier  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Magoolaghan  
Mr. and Mrs. John Peterson  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Phelan  
Ms. Rachel Riemann & Mr. Atsushi Akera  
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## Thinkers \$100+

Austin & Co.  
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Antolick  
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Mr. and Mrs. Ian Smith  
Ms. Toni Smith  
Ms. Barbara McNamee  
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Page-McCaw  
Ms. Yeon Park  
Asher and Ileana Paules-Bronet  
Mr. and Mrs. William Picotte  
Pioneer Bank  
Mr. and Mrs. Eliot Putnam  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Reiman  
Ms. Mary Schroeder  
Mr. and Mrs. Patt Taylor  
Hon. Paul Tonko  
Mr. Luke Walker & Ms. Alisha Clark  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Whiteman

## \*Matching Gifts

Many employers will match your charitable gift to the Taylor School. Please visit your Human Resources department to obtain a matching gift form.



# Taylor School: By the Numbers

Our student population represents

**16** cities and  
**11** different school districts.

**50 pounds**

of mashed potatoes were prepared and served by the 5th and 6th grade class at the Harvest Feast.

We are members of the greater community: Students assembled

**100 Goody Bags**

and donated them to children at St. Joseph's shelter.

**\$11,000 gift**

from Odell Family Foundation enabled the addition of a Science, Math, Art, and Technology room, featuring our first SMART board.



The number of Annual Fund donors increased by a remarkable **13%** in 2010-11.

**12.5**  
**students**

is the average class size at the Taylor School.



**6,760** cartons of milk are consumed in a school year.

Our teachers love it here:

**100%**

of the Taylor School staff returned for the 2010 school year.

Learning through caring, for creatures big and small:

**200 catnip toys**

made by students and donated to animals at the Hudson Mohawk Humane Society.



**85%**

more press coverage than previous years.



# Pride! Achieving Our Highest Potential

**The 1-2 class engaged in a cooperative learning experience** about their local community. Students gathered information about the homes on Pinewoods Avenue and repurposed cereal boxes to build their favorite home. In class, they wrote descriptive pieces about the representation. The learning continued by discussing various roles people play in the community. It culminated with a class play "Who are the people in your neighborhood".

**Literary Pumpkins** are a fall tradition at the Taylor School. Through multi-age partnerships, students figure out how to make ordinary pumpkins look like characters from picture books. Planning, discussion, cooperative decision-making and shared artistic talents enable the children to design and create amazing literary pumpkins!

As a culmination to **the 3-4 class's Medieval Times unit**, they celebrated with an authentic style feast. All families were invited to come and join in the festivities. Guests were greeted by chivalrous knights as they entered the great hall of the "castle." The king, queen, prince and princess then greeted guests with a royal formal speech before a three-course feast. Minstrels, troupers and strolling players entertained with ballad, story, and songs of great deeds that doth bewitched thine ears with joy. Pretty damsels and handsome knaves brought tales and tunes of yore that beguiled and delighted. Amidst these revels of fun and dance, there were portentous feats that astounded and astonished. There was much ado at the court of the King!

The Taylor School **Odyssey of the Mind** team had an amazing experience this year! Based on the work of Reuben Lucius Goldberg, the problem was to create and present an original performance that includes an existing item that is used in a simple way to complete a real-life task. The team also had to create a device or contraption that was designed to complete the same task, only our device used a series of components to get the job done in a more complex way. The group had a great time working together and were very proud of their accomplishment!

We had **our first Science Expo** in March. Students in kindergarten through sixth grade formed teams of 2 or 3. The teams participate in three non-competitive scientific events! The events were designed by Science Olympiad, a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of K-12 science education.

As a way to encapsulate a learning experience, each class performed a play, open to the public, in the theatre at the Arts Center of the Capital Region.

**After studying what a neighborhood is, students in kindergarten, and the 1-2 class performed the musical, "Friendly Neighborhood Helpers"**. The students in the 1-2 class created a model neighborhood with families, homes and businesses and then solved problems and learned about civic participation.

**The 3-4 class read, dissected, and discussed American Tall Tales. Then each student created their very own Tall Tale.** The stories were published by making books filled with imaginative illustrations. As a finale, they performed "America's Tallest Tales" in the Black Box Theatre.

**The 5-6 class performed, "U.S. Constitution: Revivor: Philadelphia"**. The students or contestants, if you will, played the actual writers and framers of the Constitution. The play followed these Revivors as they explained, justified, and argued how they contributed to the making of the Constitution. At the end, they all voted. The one judged to have been the least important was sent back into the bleak, pathless oblivion of the past. This play solidified much of the learning that took place during the 5/6's theme study of Civics and the US Government.





# Compassion! Service Learning

**The Prekindergarten class held its annual fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, Daffodil Day in March,** raising over \$1000 for a very worthy cause!

**The 1-2 class did a service learning project for the Mohawk-Hudson River Humane Society.** The class collected and stuffed 200 socks with catnip and cotton to create "Happy Cat Socks," which were used as toys and comfort items for cats at the Humane Society.

**They also made holiday greeting cards for seniors living at a local home.** The seniors and the 1-2 students have become pen pals and are corresponding on a regular basis. The cards and letters certainly put smiles on the faces of our new friends!

**Our 4th annual St. Jude MATH-A-THON fundraiser was a huge success!** The students had tons of fun participating in a variety of math activities throughout the day. We raised \$1557.00, which is the best year we have had yet! Thank you for your support and participation!

**The 5/6 class decided they wanted to help the animals at the Mohawk-Hudson River Humane Society.** They wrote a letter to the community asking for donations, and received an overwhelming response! The front hall was overflowing with items. The children also made braided fleece toys for the cats. To help the animals get adopted, the students in the 5/6 class wrote narratives from the animals' perspectives to place on their cages. In December, the 5/6 class went to the Humane Society to deliver everything. As a result of the students' efforts and the media coverage of this event, several animals were adopted.

In May, Emma Willard School held a Community Carnival to raise money for the Japanese Red Cross. **The students at the Taylor School made origami, paper fans, edible sushi, ceramic lucky carp, and wishing stones to sell at the carnival.** The carnival raised \$498 to send to the Japanese Red Cross. The students at the Taylor School were very happy to help out such a worthy cause as part of our service learning commitment.



## Event Sponsors

The following corporate sponsors provided a special level of support for the Taylor School, and we would like to recognize them for their dedication to our school:

### Connoisseur \$1,000+

Association Development Group, Inc.

### Sustainer \$500+

Austin & Co.

Clark & Walker Photography

Intuition, Event Coordination and Design

Kaleel Jamison Consulting Group, Inc.

Turner Construction Company

### Creator \$150+

Abacus Information Systems, Inc.

Callanan Industries, Inc.

Emma Willard School

### Alumni Gifts:

Jordan Schroeder

Anna Schroeder

Grace McCarthy

Nathan McCarthy

Cassie Moss

Asher Paules-Bronet

Ileana Paules-Bronet

Sierra Carlen

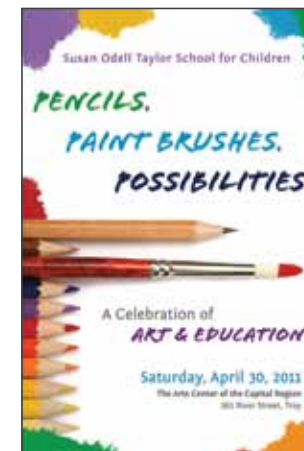
# Honor!

## Pencils. Paintbrushes. Possibilities!

The children of the Susan Odell Taylor School are inquisitive and curious students. Constantly seeking new opportunities for growth and development, our children are anything but timid in the face of innovation. We firmly believe this courageous sense of self is a product of our strong and stable learning community. The involvement and support of our universities, businesses and community organizations, extend the reach of the classroom and in to the hearts and minds of our students'.

In that respect, each year we select an entity of the community to honor at our dinner celebration. This year we honored The Arts Center of the Capital Region and their President, Amy Williams, as well as our wonderful art teacher, Ellen Crane.

Almost \$30,000 was raised and will directly benefit the Susan Odell Taylor School, supporting the financial aid fund, curriculum development, and many of our day-to-day operational needs. Many thanks to the Event Committee for their time and efforts and to the students who worked so hard to create make many of the items up for bid in the auction. The whole school working together made the evening a success!



# Honorary Committee

## Connoisseurs

Ms. Heather Briccetti  
Mr. Michael Fanning &  
    Ms. Priscilla Richards  
Mr. William Faragon  
Mr. and Mrs. Karl Mabeus  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Magoolaghan  
Mr. and Mrs. Seth Mankin  
Mrs. Elizabeth Odell  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Ridler  
Mr. Bill Schroeder &  
    Ms. Wendy Pattison  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Van De Loo

## Visionaries

Ms. Rachel Riemann Akera  
Mr. and Mrs. Wally Altes  
Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Apgar  
Ms. Paula Buchanan CCC-SLP  
Assemblyman Ron Canestrari  
Mr. Allan Chlastawa & Ms. Valerie Gill  
Ms. Gloria Copland, Esq.  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Couch  
Mr. Michael Cullen & Ms. Jessica Harrigan  
Mr. and Mrs. John Farragon  
Mr. James Ferris & Ms. Susan Shipherd  
Mr. and Mrs. Erik Hage  
Mr. and Mrs. David Haviland  
Hon. Kathleen Jimino  
Mr. and Mrs. John Koleszar  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Maynard  
Mr. and Mrs. Lane McCarthy  
Senator Roy McDonald  
Ms. Barbara McNamee  
Ms. Mary Pat Meaney  
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Moss  
Mr. and Mrs. John Peterson  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Root  
Congressman Paul D. Tonko





# Summer!

At Taylor, learning doesn't stop in June! Every summer the Susan Odell Taylor School for Children offers one of the area's most unique enrichment programs. Open to Taylor School students and the greater community, this weekly theme-based summer program is for children entering Pre-K through 4th grade. We celebrate summer through creative and exciting activities that encourage campers to discover the joy of learning.

The exceptional program is designed and run by our teachers and includes science, art, history, math, literature and just plain fun!

**"enthusiasm  
finds the opportunities and  
energy makes the most of them."**

-Henry S. Haskins

# Board of Directors

Steve Ridler, President  
William Faragon, Treasurer  
Alizabeh Aramowicz Smith, Vice President  
Anne deNoronha, Secretary

Gregory Scott Hunter  
Mary Jane Bendon Couch  
DeGuerre Blackburn  
Valerie Gill  
Heather Briccetti  
Nancy Jo Phelan  
Michael Fanning  
Martha Mabeus  
Sandra McCarthy  
Doreen DeFelice  
Todd Matthew

# Faculty & Staff

Kelly Magoolaghan, Acting Head of School  
Mariann Haggerty, Office Manager  
Barbara Hall, Business Manager  
Elizabeth Coleman, Community Relations Manager

Karen Peterson, Preschool Teacher  
Lisa Bromm, Preschool Assistant  
Annie Cosgrove, Pre Kindergarten Teacher  
Kate Gregg, Pre Kindergarten Assistant  
Kourtney Abbruzze, Kindergarten Teacher  
Jennifer Philbin, 1/2 Teacher  
Lara Hotaling, 3/4 Teacher  
Lianne Adams, 5/6 Teacher  
Ellen Crane, Art Teacher  
Sue Loiacono, Music Teacher  
Toni Smith, Yoga  
Heather Koleszar, Math Teacher  
Barbara McNamee, Math & Literacy Teacher  
Adam Vooris, Physical Education Teacher  
Lynn Beliveau, Assistant  
Judi Reeve, Assistant





The Susan Odell Taylor  
School for Children

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