



**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



November 2018

Dear Fernwood Families,

This is an exciting time at Fernwood Montessori School. The school continues the journey to meet the needs of our children today and future generations. Thank you so much to our volunteers, donors as well as Beers and Cheers attendees for your contribution to Fernwood Fund!

In the past year, collectively, we have realized many wonderful opportunities for our children at Fernwood Montessori School:

- Paid for the Urban Ecology Center trips for entire school last year at a \$7,000 value.
- Provided supplemental funding for the 2018 Model United Nations Conference in Chicago.
- Funded the replacement sound system in the auditorium at a cost of over \$17,000.
- Sponsored a planting day on the east playground bringing more green space to the grounds.
- Invested almost \$19,000 in the creation of an outdoor amphitheater space providing the opportunity for teachers and students to take learning from the classroom to the outdoors.

In the coming year, the Fund is excited to be starting the landscaping and site structures for the west playground, expanding our partnerships beyond the Urban Ecology Center to include the Schlitz Audubon Center and other exciting programs.

Now it is time to continue this momentum and raise funds for our part to build off our recent successes. Giving is easy. Simply, complete the attached MPS Foundation donation form and send to the Foundation with your check made out to “Milwaukee Public Schools Foundation, Inc.” The MPS Foundation also has an online giving option at www.mpsfoundation.net/Donate.htm. **Please be sure to indicate that your gift is for Fernwood on the MPS Foundation form or the online donation page.** Tax-deductible gifts in any amount help make a lasting positive impact on the school. Please consider providing support with a donation amount that is meaningful to you.

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE: Building on our continued success from the 2017/18 school year, individuals, families or businesses contributing \$500 or more this school year will **be a part of our expanding Leadership Circle**. Leadership Circle names from this year will be added to our growing list of donors on a commemorative plaque to symbolize your lasting support. The plaque is available for viewing next to the new Falling Heath entryway to Fernwood. For those of you who renew your previous Leadership Circle gift, we will indicate your continued support in 2018/19.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Melissa Limas
Fernwood Parent
Fernwood Fund Board Chair

John A. Sanchez
Fernwood Principal
Fernwood Fund Board Member



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Fernwood Fund FAQ

What are the Fernwood Fund's goals?

The Fernwood Montessori School Fund is dedicated to enriching the education of children attending Fernwood Montessori School by supporting projects and programs that enhance the educational community and support the mission of Fernwood Montessori School. The Fernwood Fund will raise support for "large-scale" programs, Montessori-based classroom materials – and potentially for capital improvements for the school. This does not replace or diminish the great work by our PTO; rather it adds another dimension to our ability to ask for large gifts and pursue grants.

How is the fund structured?

The Fernwood Montessori School Fund has been established as a dedicated fund within the MPS Foundation, a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code for educational and charitable purposes. The Fund was established under the MPS Foundation to utilize its tax-exempt status, organizational efficiencies and liability insurance. A board has been established to lead this effort.

What are some examples of how money will be raised?

The Fernwood Fund has focused on three primary vehicles for raising contributions to support the school – funding appeals to parents & friends of Fernwood, and our annual Beers and Cheers fundraiser.

How will funds be allocated and who is responsible for making decisions about funding?

Input for school funding needs will come from Fernwood administration, staff and parents. A board of parents and school administration has been put in place to oversee the funding allocation. This year we are continuing our focus on landscaping and site structures that support Montessori curriculum. The Fund also reviews grant applications to support specific Fernwood projects.

Will meeting minutes be made available?

Yes, meeting minutes will be made available following meetings at www.fernwoodfund.org as well as our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FernwoodFund/> (be sure to “like” us!). Meetings are open to parents or other interested parties.

How can I get involved?

If you are interested in helping with Fund efforts, please contact Melissa Limas at melissalimas@yahoo.com. Meetings are open and future dates available at: <http://www.fernwoodfund.org/board-meetings.html>

How do I donate to the Fernwood Fund?

Donations to the Fund are made through the MPS Foundation. Donations may be made by check (made out to “Milwaukee Public Schools Foundation, Inc.”) with “Fernwood Fund” in the memo line and send to the MPS Foundation. If giving by check, please also print and complete the MPS Foundation’s paper donation form attached (also available at the link below) but be sure to indicate on the form that you wish to donate to Fernwood. The MPS Foundation also has an online giving option with the ability to select Fernwood as the recipient.

MPS Foundation Donation Form:

<http://www.mpsfoundation.net/MPS-Foundation/Resources/MPS-Foundation-Gift-Form.pdf>

Send Form & Check to: Milwaukee Public Schools Foundation, Inc., PO Box 2181, Milwaukee, WI 53201-2181

Online Donations: <http://www.mpsfoundation.net/Donate.htm>

Can I give through my employer's United Way/Combined Giving Campaign?

You can provide a donation to the MPS Foundation but giving specifically for the Fernwood Fund through the United Way giving is challenging, please contact Melissa Limas at melissalimas@yahoo.com for assistance.