



**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



December 2019

Dear Fernwood Families,

Welcome back to what is shaping up to be another great year at Fernwood Montessori! We ended the school year on an absolute high with the Fernwood Fund's biggest Beers and Cheers ever and that was only possible because of the awe inspiring support from our families.

Now that the West Playground construction phase is wrapped up and the kids are enjoying the new space, the Fund is looking towards the next project phase!

Above the costs for the West Playground last year, due to the generosity of you, the Fund kicked in \$7,000 towards the Urban Ecology Center and Schlitz Audubon Center field trips. It also purchased \$3,750 worth of supplies and part fabrication for the Living Sculpture that Mr. Matt Ray and every child he can wrangle is varnishing ahead of the anticipated assembly later this year.

The Fund loves doing the big projects like the playground just as much as the smaller projects like Mr. Ray's construction endeavor. If it benefits the school and the kids, the Fund is all for it. However, the fund can't do it without everyone's support.

Now is the time to raise funds and build off the recent successes. Giving is easy, simply point a browser at <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E252729&id=1> and decide how much you want to give. Please be sure to indicate that your gift is for Fernwood on the donation page. The Fund puts every dollar right back into the school.

Thank you for your continued support. We invite you all to pop into a board meeting so we can thank you in person!

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 online by going to the following link: <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E252729&id=1>

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.