



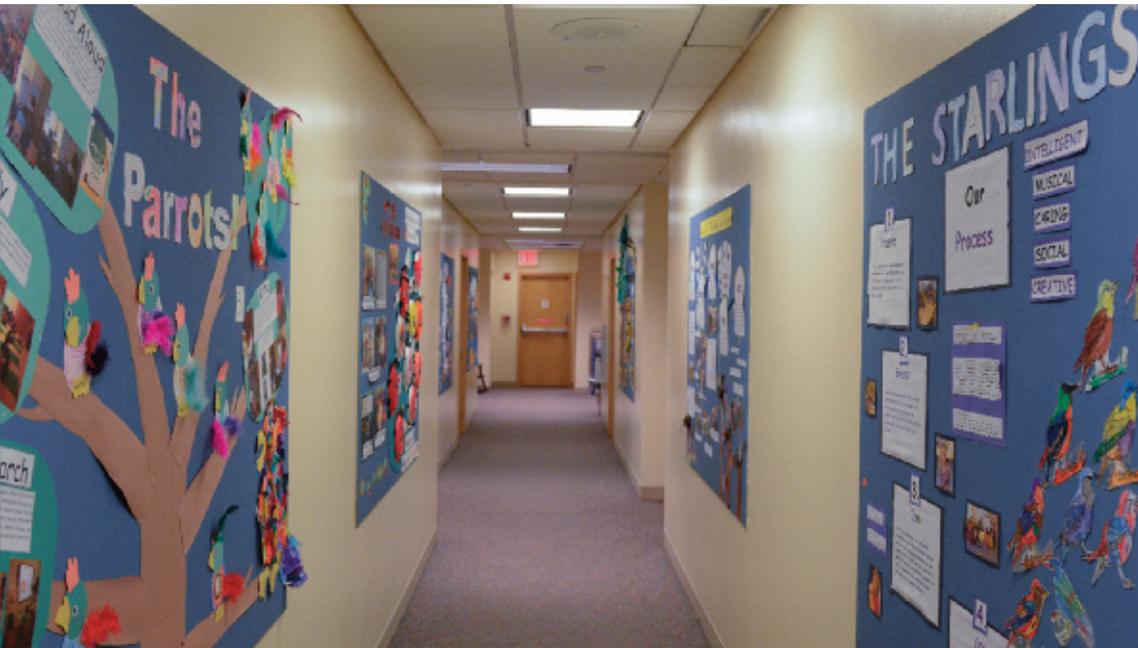
THE
GILLEN BREWER
SCHOOL

2015 - 2016
ANNUAL REPORT



THE GILLEN BREWER SCHOOL

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www.gillenbrewer.com



THE GILLEN BREWER SCHOOL

We are defined by a commitment to our students,
and inspired by their determination.

Each of them is remarkable.

Learning and growing in a secure and nurturing environment,
they develop the skills necessary to overcome challenges.
They learn from us, but we also learn from them.

Listening and observing, encouraging and teaching,
we work closely with their families to instill self-confidence
and build a strong foundation for lifelong independence.
We view their future with unwavering optimism.

**WE ARE THE GILLEN BREWER SCHOOL.
UNCOVERING THE SPECIALNESS IN EVERY CHILD™**

Dear Gillen Brewer Community,

Nearly 25 years ago, the Gillen Brewer School started with only one student and an overwhelming desire to make a difference for children with language-based and non-verbal learning disabilities. Today, our school has 90 students, 60 highly qualified and dedicated staff, and the same powerful desire to make a difference.

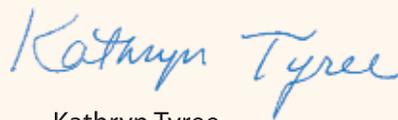
Today, our optimism is unwavering, yet we continue to be challenged with the ever-increasing difference between the cost of a Gillen Brewer education and the funding we receive from New York State. As a result, we are dependent on the generous gifts of the Gillen Brewer community, and are fortunate to receive support from current parents, alumni parents, grandparents, trustees, friends, and organizations.

In the 2015-2016 year, we raised \$1.87M to support our program. Every gift counts, and every donor matters. Your steadfast support allows us to sustain our year-round program for our wonderful students, and we couldn't do it without you. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Donna Kennedy
Head of School



Kathryn Tyree
Board Chair and Alumni Parent



“From the beginning, the mission of The Gillen Brewer School was simple—to make a difference in the lives of children. Our dream was to build a school that would be an educational haven for parents and families. Our success in fulfilling this dream has surpassed all expectations. Twenty-five years later, our thriving community continues to embody the founding mission, while uncovering the specialness in every child.”



LAURA BILICIC
Co-Founder, The Gillen Brewer School

OUR HISTORY



The Gillen Brewer School was founded in 1992 by Laura Bilicic and Laurie Dubos as a school for children with significant learning challenges.

As special education teachers, they saw the overwhelming need for a school in New York City where families with children who have significant special needs would be welcomed, educated and supported. The founders believed that a knowledgeable and informed family was invaluable to each child's overall education. To underscore the importance of family, the school was named after the founders' grandmothers, Mattie Gillen and Virginia Brewer.

The school opened in 1992 with one student and added classes until it reached 48 students from Pre-K through second grade. Forty-eight students were housed in what had once been the servants' quarters of a stately mansion on Park Avenue. It soon became apparent that more room was needed, not only to accommodate more students, but also to house the ever expanding academic and therapeutic programs. In 2003, under the leadership of Board Chairman Henry B. Schacht and newly appointed Head of School, Donna Kennedy, the school began a search for a new location. In August 2005, the school moved to its current location at 410 East 92nd Street. The school currently has 90 students and 60 staff.



“We are ever so grateful for the support and tools that were provided... It is evident that your school’s mission has been achieved and continues to impact the lives of students well after they have left the school.”



An Alumni Parent



BOARD OF TRUSTEES, BOARD OF ADVISORS, ADMINISTRATION 2015-2016

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Kara Marks, *Early Childhood Program Director*
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Stacey Marye, *School Nurse*
Krista Jacobsen, *Development Associate*
Joline Robles, *Administrative Assistant and
Assistant to Head of School*
Ida Sacconi, *Receptionist and Administrative Assistant*

“I am amazed by
the work all of you do
and have such a heart
spilling with gratitude
right now. We look
forward to keeping
in touch.”

An Alumni Parent

STAFF 2015-2016

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

Kara Marks, *Director*
Amanda Siegman, *Head Teacher*
Abigail Burch, *Head Teacher*
Carly Furino, *Head Teacher*
Melissa Smith, *Head Teacher*
Lauren Kowalski, *Co-Head Teacher*
Melanie Matos, *Co-Head Teacher*
Hilary Colon, *Assistant Teacher*
Samuel Circh, *Assistant Teacher*
Kathleen Doyle, *Assistant Teacher*
Margo Lash, *Assistant Teacher*
Jennifer Lee, *Assistant Teacher*
Sabrina Samaroo, *Assistant Teacher*
Cheri Taylor, *Assistant Teacher*

ELEMENTARY PROGRAM

Monica Fishman, *Director*
Sarah Cox, *Head Teacher*
Linda Delaney, *Head Teacher*
Emmy Mlawer, *Head Teacher*
Sarah Rosati, *Head Teacher*
Michelle Snyder, *Head Teacher*
Samantha Antonacchio, *Assistant Teacher*
Courtney Benson, *Assistant Teacher*
Aimee Buszka, *Assistant Teacher*
Sammy Cotumaccio, *Assistant Teacher*
Ashley Dallas, *Assistant Teacher*
Mary Flieger, *Assistant Teacher*
Kristin Paresi, *Assistant Teacher*
Rebecca Skolnick, *Assistant Teacher*
Hannah Sorgi, *Assistant Teacher*
Doriana Stern, *Assistant Teacher*
Claire Swinney, *Assistant Teacher*
Danielle Wolkowicz, *Assistant Teacher*

ART, MUSIC AND SCIENCE

Kate Gugliotta, *Art Teacher*
Braque Hershberger, *Science Teacher*
Robert Kennedy, *Music Teacher*

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Holly Thomas, *Head of Department*
Jane Enright, *Pathologist*
Jennifer Hogan, *Pathologist*
Nicole Klein, *Pathologist*
Daria Morganstern, *Pathologist*

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT

Shannie Easterby, *Head of Department*
Kelly Borbely, *Therapist*
Brittany Blacker, *Therapist*
Sarah Leventhal, *Therapist*
Katie Plunkett, *Therapist*
Erica Yauri Quizhpi, *Therapist*

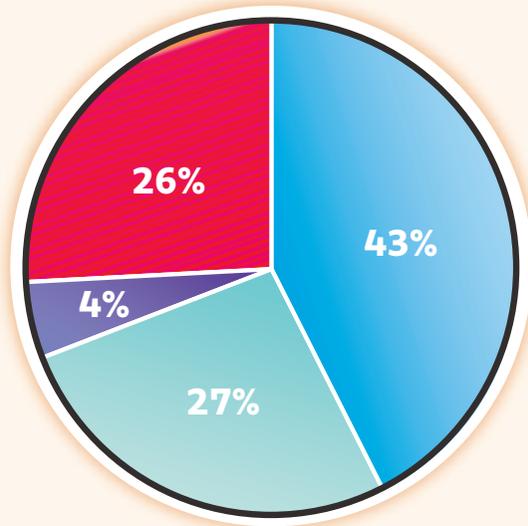
PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Dr. Cathy Kaufman Iger, *Head of Department*
Dr. Audrey Halpern, *Psychologist*
Dr. Benjamin Klein, *Psychologist*
Dr. Carli Koch, *Psychologist*
Dr. Middy Whelley, *Psychologist*

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2015 - 2016

Thanks to the partnership with our generous donors, the Gillen Brewer School is a leader in special education, providing students with learning experiences that transform each and every one of their lives.

FUNDRAISING REVENUE



■ Annual Appeal	\$805,322.40	43%
■ Annual Benefit	\$500,960.50	27%
■ Special Funds & Grants	\$89,025.00	4%
■ Annual Gala with Autism Speaks	\$479,000.00	26%
Total	\$1,874,307.90	

\$1.87M RAISED

SUPPORTING GILLEN BREWER: A CRITICAL NEED

We depend on charitable contributions to fund the essential and exceptional programs that make Gillen Brewer such a unique place for children living with special needs.

While we are funded by the New York City Department of Education, their funding does not cover the full cost of the enhanced, comprehensive program that is so essential for our students and makes Gillen Brewer so different from other schools. The average annual shortfall is \$25,000 per student and we rely on the support of friends like you to make up this gap.

Your gift to Gillen Brewer allows us to continue to provide initiatives, including:

- Student and Family Therapy
- Art, Science and Music Classes
- Health and Fitness Programs at Asphalt Green
- State-of-the-Art Facilities and Technology
- Chess Classes
- Pet Partnerships and Art Farm
- Unique Integrated Therapeutic and Academic Program
- Competitive Salaries for Our Talented Faculty and Staff



The Average Annual Shortfall is \$25,000 per Student



2015-2016 PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

OUR 4:1:2 CLASS

In July 2015, we successfully launched our first 4:1:2 class in order to serve more students who can benefit from Gillen Brewer's approach but for whom a smaller class size is beneficial. This private class serves four students and is taught by Gillen Brewer's highly trained and talented staff and a highly trained LPN nurse who also serves as an assistant teacher. As thought leaders in the world of educating children who learn differently, we developed this unique model in order to serve this "small but mighty" group of learners.

SCIENCE IN THE ARTS

Teacher's College at Columbia University supported the Art Department with a grant called Resources for Classroom Programs, which Kate, our art teacher, used for a photography project with the *Dragons* and *Dimorphodons*. Not only did the students learn all types of photographic techniques and practice them on a walk through the neighborhood, they were able to wear their photos! Using a solar-printing technique called Lumi Ink-O-Dye, they added a light-sensitive liquid to their t-shirts and then layered on an inverted image of their selected photograph.



Dragons and Dimorphodons t-shirt printing project

Microsoft's Innovative Educator Program provided a grant to encourage innovative and engaging classroom instruction. This gift was in response to GBS' application and lesson plan, which were evaluated based on criteria including dynamic use of materials, differentiated instruction, and fostering a sense of creative energy among students. This grant was used for a hair sculpture project with the *Ladybugs* and *Puffins*. After reflecting on their cultural identity, students created wearable hair sculptures and modeled them in a fashion show.

One of the Puffins models his hair sculpture



Things that fly by their own natural power was the theme for the 2015-2016 school year

IN SCIENCE

During the 2015-16 year, we expanded our egg-to-chick project in the *Ladybugs'* and *Puffins'* classrooms to include duck hatching. We hatched three beautiful ducklings in addition to our 24 chickens. These hatching projects are examples of project-based learning, where students investigate a topic across subjects and activities, tying in literacy, math, science, social studies and the arts to make learning meaningful. These projects offer students with a variety of strengths and learning challenges the opportunity to access the curriculum.



Duckling hatching

The robotics project appealed to our students' interest in technology while requiring them to learn and practice 21st-century electronics skills such as laptop usage, USB connections, using a file system, and elementary visual programming.

Students also built terrarium projects in recycled plastic bottles. These self-sustaining habitats exhibited many features of nature, including the life cycles of plants, animals and fungi, the water cycle, and even pollution. Students then headed to Carl Schurz Park to collect some living samples from our local habitat to add to their projects. As the small habitats inside these bottles changed and grew in the classroom, students experienced natural processes in a concrete and focused way that appealed to all of our learners.



Making Robots



Sea Hawks cultural gala

SNAPSHOTS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

To end a social studies unit on culture, the *Sea Hawks* hosted a Cultural Gala. After learning about the different cultural practices and the cultural demonstrations of their countries, including holidays, language, sports, foods, and clothing, and also researching different artifacts that each family sent in, each student had a table set up with his or her research, cultural artifacts, flag, and pictures. Many parents sent in wonderful treats and visitors enjoyed asking the *Sea Hawks* about their cultures.

2015-2016 PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS



Dimorphodons visit CNN

Thanks to a generous donation from the Fallis family, who won this exciting opportunity at the 2016 GBS Benefit, the *Dimorphodons* were able to take a once in a lifetime trip to tour the CNN studios in Columbus Circle. They went on set of the news show "At This Hour," and got to meet John Berman, one of the hosts. They walked through the news and control rooms and got insight on all of the different jobs, including the editors, journalists, and cameramen. During lunch overlooking

Central Park, students were able to ask their own questions to Andrew Morse (CNN Executive Vice President) and Jim Sciutto (Chief National Security Correspondent).

At the end of a unit on the Gingerbread Man, the *Ducklings* showcased their acting skills and performed their play, the Gingerbread Man, for an audience of parents and friends.



Ducklings performing the "Gingerbread Man"

“This school...teaches you how to love and be a family.
They always have your back.”

An Alum

“I have great memories of The Gillen Brewer School...
I love and will always remember the great times I had
here with the best people in the world.”

An Alum



2015-2016 EVENTS



“I always look forward to visiting Gillen Brewer and seeing my old friends at the Family Fun Day events.”

An Alum

GRANDPARENTS' DAY

This was a great day in which students paid tribute to their grandparents and their grandparents learned about our special community. Students invited grandparents to join them in their classrooms for a fun-filled day of collaborative activities and treats. The visit also included a synopsis of the school with Donna Kennedy, Head of School, and the Heads of the Therapy Departments.

FALL FAMILY FUN DAY

This community event for Gillen Brewer families, friends and alumni was held in the Catbird Playground at Carl Schurz Park. Students and families enjoyed fall crafts, games, prizes and a potluck breakfast.

THANKSGIVING FEAST

Parents joined the students in the classrooms for a potluck meal provided by the families and enjoyed the opportunity to share in traditions while gathering as a community and pausing for a moment of thanks.

VIP DAY

On VIP Day, each student invited a special guest to visit their classroom. Each classroom welcomed their VIPs in a different way, from designing and illustrating books about their countries of cultural origin, to making a rainbow fruit salad to celebrate the end of color weeks, to going on a scavenger hunt. We were happy to welcome over 50 VIPs to GBS!

WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY, SCREEN FREE WEEK & BOOK FAIR

Winter Family Fun Day gave us a great way to beat the winter doldrums with fun activities for children of all ages at the school. Students enjoyed magic shows, festive crafts, games, a potluck brunch and a special chess simul conducted by former Gillen Brewer School parent Yigal Nochomovitz, Ph.D.

Winter Family Fun Day and the Scholastic Book Fair kicked off Screen Free Week, a week of non-electronic activities. Families were encouraged to put away the electronics and spend time together reading, playing games and using their creative minds.

ALUMNI PANEL & UPPER SCHOOL DANCE

Moving-on and aging out students and all Gillen Brewer parents were invited to come listen and talk to a panel of alumni students about “Life After Gillen Brewer.” Questions about friends, homework, and adjusting to a new school were all addressed. After the panel, the alumni joined the 3 oldest classes at GBS for a parent-free dance upstairs while parents enjoyed a cocktail party downstairs with Donna Kennedy and Cathy Kaufman Iger.

ACHIEVEMENT CEREMONY

The 2016 Achievement Ceremony was conducted in a new format that fostered a more intimate experience for the parents and students. Students were divided into three separate groups according to age, with three separate performances. This allowed for a more individualized, age-appropriate set of songs that the students could share with their parents, caregivers, and friends. Learning and practicing these songs was a highlight of the music program this year.

SUMMER ART & SCIENCE EXHIBIT

The Gillen Brewer School families were invited to view artwork and science projects created by the students in July and August. The robotics unit is a summer tradition at Gillen Brewer and is coordinated by science teacher, Braque Hershberger. Braque worked with Gillen Brewer's oldest students building robots using LEGOS NXT kits and programmed them using a visual interface on a laptop. These projects help students to combine math, science and creative skills to solve problems and have fun. Art Teacher Kate Gugliotta's summer theme was the fusion of art and technology. By combining traditional art materials with new technology tools, such as Squishy Circuits, LED Lights and littleBits Circuits, students learned to explore and express their ideas in a new and exciting way.

FIELD DAY

Rain didn't put a damper on our Field Day! After lunch, students enjoyed an indoor field day with different school-wide activities ranging from watching movies and sand art to a dance party in the music room. We ended the day with popsicles in each classroom. What a great way to end our summer session!



UNCOVERING SPECIALNESS™

ONE EVENT AT A TIME

THE 2016 GILLEN BREWER ANNUAL BENEFIT: “SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS”

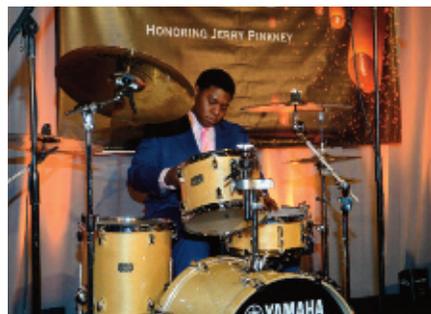
Thank you to everyone who joined us for the GBS Benefit, Soar to New Heights, held April 18th at the Lighthouse at Chelsea Piers.

The Benefit honored Jerry Pinkney, Gillen Brewer great-grandparent and Caldecott Medal-winning children’s book illustrator. The event also featured a musical performance by GBS alumnus Dom Gervais, who is currently studying music at Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA. Parents, staff, friends, alumni parents, and trustees all gathered to celebrate our school, and the event raised over \$500,000 to support GBS!

These funds raised are critical to our mission, allowing us to continue helping our students overcome challenges and build foundations for productive and independent lives.



Honoree Jerry Pinkney



Alumni performer Dom Gervais



The GBS Board of Trustees with Donna Kennedy

OVER
\$500,000
RAISED
to strengthen
our program

THE AUTISM SPEAKS BENEFIT: “LEAD OFF FOR A CURE”

On May 9, GBS participated in Lead Off for a Cure, an evening benefiting Autism Speaks and GBS in partnership with Major League Baseball. The event raised \$479,000 for GBS. Lead Off for a Cure took place at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and it was an honor for GBS alumnus Michael Rock to take the stage. Displaying his ease with public speaking, Michael confidently spoke about his life experiences and the foundation he built during preschool at Gillen Brewer. Michael received a standing ovation after his moving remarks.



Alumnus Michael Rock sharing his story at the Autism Speaks Benefit



Suzanne Wright Co-founder of Autism Speaks

Suzanne Wright, co-founder of Autism Speaks, passed away in July after a 9 month battle with pancreatic cancer. As you know, Autism Speaks is the most prominent leading national organization whose mission is to change the future for all who struggle with autism spectrum disorder. Suzanne Wright, and her husband, Bob, founded Autism Speaks in 2005, following their grandson’s diagnosis. Suzanne has described how she and her husband founded the charity to help families that don’t have resources to best approach an autism diagnosis, saying,

“It was unconscionable that millions of families across the country were not being accepted into the community that needed help. They were just ignored, and that’s why we fought so hard.”

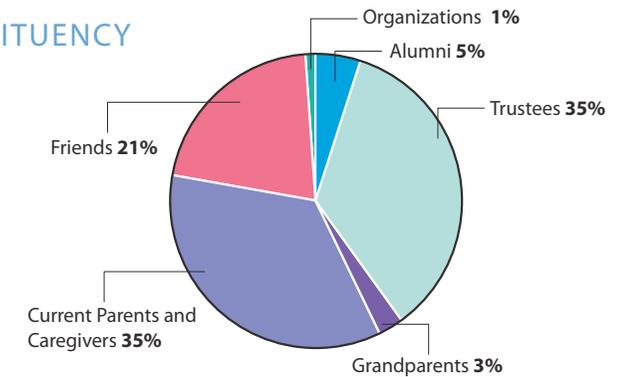
Gillen Brewer has partnered with Autism Speaks since its inception. Our partnership revolves around the annual Autism Speaks benefit, in partnership with major sports affiliations. This benefit raises awareness for autism and funding for autism research, and raises significant funds and recognition for Gillen Brewer.

Our mission statement includes providing a nurturing and supportive environment where children feel accepted, partnering with our families, and encouraging our students to advocate for themselves. Suzanne Wright has been a global advocate for our students and families. Under her leadership, Autism Speaks has educated the world about autism, lobbied for laws that help families caring for children with autism, worked with the United Nations to establish World Autism Awareness Day, and raised millions of dollars for autism research. The world has truly lost one of the greatest advocates of our time. We will celebrate Suzanne’s life by carrying on in our advocacy for all children with special needs and recognizing that one person can indeed make a world of difference.

GENEROUS DONATIONS TO THE GILLEN BREWER SCHOOL 2015-2016

Thanks to your generosity, The Gillen Brewer School raised \$1.87M in the 2015-2016 year. Gillen Brewer is a highly-recognized thought leader in special education, providing students with learning experiences that transform their lives while uncovering the specialness in every child. None of this would be possible without your support.

GIVING BY CONSTITUENCY



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Cheryl and Jeff Abegglen
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Ellen and Mark Levy
Dawn Kellman and David Lock
Rita Lock
Marisa Cotrina and Juan Lopez

GENEROUS DONATIONS TO THE GILLEN BREWER SCHOOL 2015-2016

“I met some of my best friends at Gillen Brewer.”

An Alum

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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DONORS TO SPECIAL FUNDS

The Danny Fiddle Arts Enrichment Fund

This fund was established to create community-based opportunities for Gillen Brewer students to participate in arts-related programs and curriculum that will enhance their studies and participation in community life.

The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation
Lisa Edwards-Nazario
Stephanie Mortimore
Troy Pinkney-Ragsdale

Mariana S. Leighton Fund

This fund supporting the library was established in memory of our beloved Board member, colleague, and mentor.

Suzanne Knaster
Karen Chase and Lawrence Leighton

Smiling Bauti Fund

This fund was established in memory of our beloved student Bauti Uro to help the school continue to provide a well-rounded education to a diverse community of learners from all socioeconomic backgrounds.

Lisa Edwards-Nazario
Dawn Kellman and David Lock
Troy Pinkney-Ragsdale
Mariela Lazaro de Uro and Juan Uro
Julia Weidinger

The Gillen Brewer School 2015-2016 Annual Report acknowledges all gifts received between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy.

GENEROUS DONATIONS TO THE GILLEN BREWER SCHOOL 2015-2016

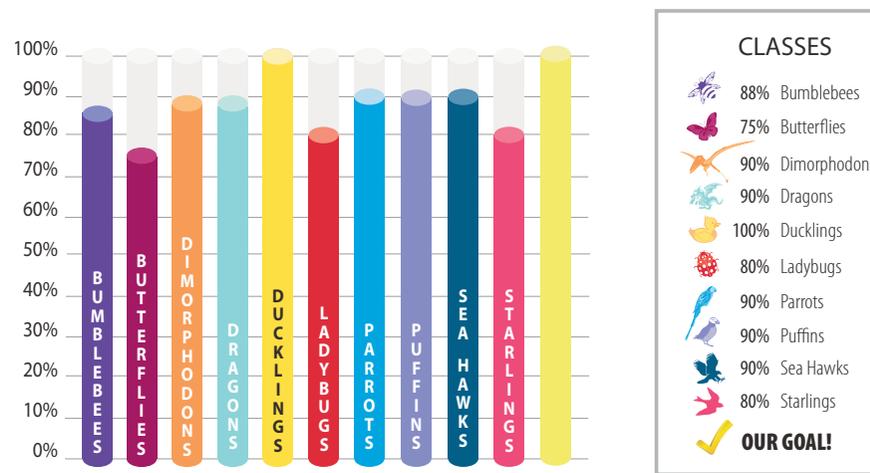
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2015-2016
 ANNUAL FUND PARTICIPATION BY CLASS



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The Gillen Brewer School is fortunate to have a strong relationship with our neighboring community. GBS benefits from the support of organizations, individuals, and businesses for developing successful community partnerships.

STANLEY ISAACS

Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center is a non-profit, multi-service organization located across the street from GBS. The center offers a variety of community services including programs for senior citizens. The collaboration between Stanley Isaacs and our Art and Science departments was the brainchild of a Gillen Brewer parent. The *Parrots* and the *Sea Hawks* participated in conjunction with their ongoing life cycle projects. The life cycles project entailed both classes planting basil seeds and observing and documenting their growth. In preparation for their visit, each of the students decorated large containers for their plants during art class. Then the students hand delivered the plants to the seniors and shared a presentation of photos of their hard work.



Students visit the Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center

P.S. 527

This year the Gillen Brewer School piloted a new program with our neighboring school, P.S. 527. Five students from the *Sea Hawks* class integrated with two classes from P.S. 527 as a part of their Social Action Club. The club focused its efforts on reducing, reusing, and recycling materials to cut down on waste that ends up in landfills and eventually in our oceans. The students collected plastic bottles to show that even though recycling is crucial we should opt for environmentally-friendly, reusable bottles. Finally, at P.S. 527 the students attended the recycling assembly where they revealed over 2,000 collected plastic bottles.

ART FARM

The Art Farm in the city is an eco-friendly and organic facility that teaches GBS students about nature, animals, and how to better care for the planet. Once a month, the Art Farm visits the students of Gillen Brewer, bringing along with them animals of all shapes and sizes. They taught the students how to hold, pet, and apply appropriate social skills when dealing with each animal. The students met, touched, and learned about bunnies, chinchillas, frogs, lizards, gerbils, and much more.

Nina Mortellito and her dog, Lily have been coming to the Gillen Brewer School for over 9 years. Our Pet Partnership with Nina and Lily is a program for our preschool classes that teaches them how to be comfortable around animals. The students learn the basics of animal care while enjoying the company of Lily and her owner, Nina.



The Bumblebees giving Lily a bath

ACHIEVEMENTS

NAIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

In February, Head of School Donna Kennedy attended the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) Conference in San Francisco. She and Brett Shevack from Brand Initiatives Group presented *Now, More Than Ever, Schools Need to THINK and ACT Like a Brand*. The presentation got such positive reception, they were asked to present in a webinar for members all across the country.

MATH IN FOCUS

In July, Susan Resnick, a specialist for Singapore Math (Math in Focus), trained 20 GBS staff members in Math in Focus, our new mathematics curriculum. The full-day workshop provided teachers with an overview and conceptual understanding of the program. Each lesson included direct instruction, guided practice, hands-on activities, and independent practice, while also including opportunities for re-teaching and enrichment activities to meet our students' various learning needs. The in-service highlighted how mathematical concepts are taught with a concrete, pictorial, and abstract learning progression through hands-on experiences. The workshop provided the GBS teachers training from the ground up — from creating lesson plans to implementing them in the classroom.

THEORY OF MIND

In July, six GBS staff members went to the Doubletree Metropolitan Hotel to attend *Theory of Mind: Strategies to Develop Social Emotional Skills for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Social Communication*. The course taught staff to identify patterns of *Theory of Mind* and to engage students in emotional sharing and joint attention.

HIGHSCOPE

Early Childhood Program Director, Kara Marks, and Assistant Head of School and Head of the Psychology Department, Dr. Cathy Kaufman Iger, held a HighScope workshop for GBS staff. This afternoon workshop focused on problem solving and strategies for acknowledging feelings. Participants watched several videos highlighting the problem solving process where students' feelings are acknowledged and validated. Children are encouraged to work together to come to a mutually agreed upon solution.

NYS AIS SPECIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Head of School Donna Kennedy was a member of the founding planning committee for the first-ever NYS AIS special education conference in New York City. It has become an annual event. In November, GBS was invited to attend the NYS AIS Special Education Conference, a full day event filled with different workshops. The keynote speaker was Andrew Solomon, who spoke about his experiences and how diversity unites us all. Following Solomon's engaging presentation, staff attended a myriad of workshops pertaining to their own professional interests, ranging from integrating technology to interdisciplinary teaching. Several Gillen Brewer staff members presented on topics of classroom management, supervision, literacy development, and project based learning experiences.

THE GILLEN BREWER COMMUNITY

A hallmark of the Gillen Brewer School is the breadth and depth of the school's Family Program, which includes parents as partners, resources and advocates. Our Family Program provides opportunities to work side-by-side with staff — individually and in groups — around issues relevant to each family's needs. During various events throughout the year, families are given opportunities to become a part of our community of learners.

The Parents' Association is a cornerstone of the Gillen Brewer School community. The Parents' Association is comprised of all Gillen Brewer parents and caregivers, and its role is two-fold: to foster a sense of community among Gillen Brewer families and to raise money for the school. Throughout the year, parent volunteers help to run friend-raising and fundraising events that bring people together.

We rely on parent volunteers in order to provide beloved community-building events such as Winter Family Fun Day, and we ask that every parent give as much as time as they are able. Volunteer opportunities abound for those with as little as one hour per month and as much as every day available to contribute.

Parent volunteers are also actively involved in the critical fundraising efforts that take place at the school. The Parents' Association Fundraising Committee is dedicated towards assisting the school in broadening and deepening its sources of support.

Gillen Brewer is lucky to have a hardworking, engaged group of parent volunteers helping to make the school the best place it can be possibly be. We gratefully thank our Parents' Association for their dedication and talent, this year and every year.



THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION IS A CORNERSTONE OF THE GILLEN BREWER SCHOOL COMMUNITY.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON VOLUNTEERING, PLEASE CONTACT THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.

WAYS TO MAKE A GIFT

GIFTS OF CASH

Personal checks and credit card payments are two of the most popular ways to make a gift to Gillen Brewer. Checks should be made payable to Gillen Brewer School and mailed to:

Gillen Brewer School
410 East 92nd Street
New York, New York 10128

To pay by credit card, please visit:

www.gillenbrewer.com or
contact development@gillenbrewer.com

MATCHING GIFTS

Many companies match their employees' charitable contributions. For example, if you donate \$5,000 to Gillen Brewer School, your employer may be willing to match your generosity — and you'll be credited with a \$10,000 gift. Some companies will double and even triple contributions made by employees and their spouses to nonprofit organizations. You can obtain information and the necessary forms from your employer and forward these to Gillen Brewer with your gift.

GIFTS OF SECURITIES

Gifts of appreciated stock provide an opportunity to benefit the school with significant tax advantages for you. Since the cost of the stock is lower than the actual gift amount, you can avoid paying a capital gains tax on the stock's increase in value. You can also claim an income tax deduction for the full market value of the stock at the time of contribution. For instructions on transferring securities, contact the development office.

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MEET THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

You are welcome to contact the development team at any time to ask questions or discuss your giving. We can be reached at **development@gillenbrewer.com**.

Caitlin Terry, Director of Development and Advancement
Krista Jacobsen, Development Associate
Joline Robles, Administrative Assistant



THE GILLEN BREWER SCHOOL

OUR MISSION

The Gillen Brewer School's mission is to educate and support our students to become confident, independent and engaged learners.

We do this by...

Partnering with our families

Providing a nurturing and supportive environment where children feel accepted and where learning is fun

Encouraging our students to advocate for themselves while being respectful and responsible members of the community

Engaging our students in a comprehensive 12-month academic curriculum which incorporates the Common Core New York State Standards, while addressing the individual learning needs of each child

Providing developmentally appropriate educational opportunities and challenges for our students

Integrating speech and language, occupational therapy and counseling services into our educational program

Cultivating educators who value a team approach and an ongoing commitment to learning

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE,
ONE CHILD AND FAMILY AT A TIME.**