

# WILLOWWIND

S C H O O L

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*Igniting a passion for learning while building 21st century skills.*

## Annual Report

2018-2019

# 351

## Acts of Kindness

This year our kindergarteners initiated a kindness project which inspired our entire community. The result was a colorful chain describing the 351 acts of kindness performed by students and staff alike. This project exemplified Willowwind's commitment to empowering students to take a leadership role in their educational experiences. While the kindergarteners may be some of our youngest students, their voices were heard and made a difference in our community.



# 103

 Students in PreK-6th grade

Building community has always been a crucial component of Willowwind's curriculum. Through purposeful interactions we help students understand the value of not only teamwork but of individual voice.

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W: [willowwind.org](http://willowwind.org)

FB: WillowwindSchool

# 9

 Snow days

## It was a very long winter.

With frigid temps, back to back snow storms, and wind chills hitting the -50s, we had a whopping 9 snow days between December and April. Luckily, with pre-planned snow days figured into the calendar and some creative rescheduling in the spring, we managed to make up most of that time without extending the school year.





# Michelle Beninga

## Head of School

Dear Friends,

This past year, with your help, we celebrated Willowwind School's largest 6th grade graduating class in memory, challenged students to take risks, encouraged loud and proud student voices, and sought to show compassion through acts of kindness - all in honor of the "Willowwind Way." The Willowwind Way is unique, customizable, and different for every student and every family. It might be the combination of a strong academic program, a culture of collaboration, and educating students to be self-aware and reflective. It could be Willowwind's celebration of the individual, empowering students to dive deep into learning, discover true passions, and grow to be exceptional people eager to make a difference. The Willowwind Way is the combination of all these things and more.



Willowwind's 2018-2019 Annual Report showcases the Willowwind Way - preparing students to be critical thinkers who proudly take ownership of their educational experiences. The pages ahead feature Willowwind's exceptional students and the talented and dedicated individuals who make up Willowwind's faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees.

It is important to note that the common thread throughout the Willowwind Way is you. Together, we form a partnership. Together we will build, strengthen, and grow Willowwind School, so our mission remains strong preparing our students for their world ahead. Without this partnership, we would not be able to fulfill our desire to ignite a passion for learning. Every gift, every volunteer hour, every event attended, and every moment spent encouraging your child's development enhances their Willowwind Way. Thank you for being a vital part of this partnership.

I hope you will celebrate with pride all we've accomplished together and reaffirm in your mind and heart the importance of our partnership built on shared values and ideals. This year's annual report illustrates how the support of our community can leave a positive impact on the people and programs at Willowwind School.

On behalf of everyone at Willowwind, thank you for your support and encouragement. We look forward to your continued partnership in the years ahead.

With gratitude,

*Michelle Beninga*

Michelle Beninga  
Head of School

## Willowwind Mission

Our mission at Willowwind School is to develop in our students:

- curiosity and a love for learning
- self-esteem and self-discipline
- combined with social consciousness
- emotional sensitivity and respect for others
- the ability to think flexibly and critically to problem solve, and to express themselves clearly and constructively
- the acquisition of academic skills and creative pursuits, and
- an appreciation and respect for other cultures, religious and ethnic backgrounds, and for the natural world



## Dawn Harbor

*President, Board of Trustees*

Dear Willowwind community,

I've been wondering what needs saying, as I sit in a woodland clearing, birds singing over head, a soft mid-summer breeze moves through the trees, like my mind through joyful moments with Willowwind. I see the kids' faces so happy in their being, so comfortable expressing themselves, such command of their stories and knowledge, so like their teachers and parents, so easy to connect with, so engaged in their community, and so ready to be part of something greater, something bigger than themselves, something like community.

This leads me to ask, "why does one serve?" Because one is asked, they seek to help, they see something worth supporting, they feel connected, they have community pride, these and many more reasons bring us, the Willowwind Board of Trustees, to serve this community in this moment. We are here to grow and learn in this community with all of you. In service we will strive to be good stewards, to observe, to listen well, to hear our community, and to bring our talents to bear in support of strengthening Willowwind's future.

In celebration of our first season together, and the excitement of the coming school year, I wish you all the very best.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Harbor".

Dawn T. Harbor

President, Willowwind Board of Trustees





# Student Learning Events

## One Book Two Book

Each year Iowa City celebrates its literacy-rich community during the annual UNESCO City of Literature One Book Two Book event. The event celebrates the young authors among us. Its goal is to "champion writing by children."

This past year, Willowwind once again beamed with pride as our students were recognized for their outstanding literary works. Cordelia Z. (4th) served as Willowwind's representative at the kick-off dinner, reading her original work, *Sparkling Sunrise*. Congratulations to Luis S. (6th), recipient of the "From the Heart" award and Charlotte D. (6th) who received Honorable Mention.



### *Sparkling Sunrise*

*As the Sparkling sun rises  
In the plum purple sky,  
A lavender ladybug licks a leaf  
And the lily lark sings a solemn song.  
A dazzling day begins.*

*-Cordelia Z. (4th)*

### *How the World Goes*

*Move around! Look alive! Listen to the world's beautiful sound!  
Well, that'd be true if the earth's health wasn't already looking down.  
California is on fire, Florida's hurricane city, Nevada's drying.  
Can someone please see that our planet is dying?*

*-Luis S. (6th)*



## Invention Convention

Congratulations to four of our students who were selected to participate in the Invent Iowa State Invention Convention! The convention was held at the University of Iowa Memorial Union on Monday, April 15, 2019.

**Eero F. (3rd), *S.S.P.D. 2000*:** a creative solution for drying snow pants.

**Ishan A-B. (4th), *Trash Security Force*:** an innovative new tip and spill-proof design for civic trash bins.

**Charlie H. (4th), *Glove-Coat*:** never lose your gloves or mittens again with this clever two in one solution.

**Cordelia Z. (4th), *Roll'n Go*:** a useful roll up storage and carrying solution for dance shoes and gear.

## Science Fair

In addition to our own judged Science Fair at Willowwind, sixth grade students participated in the regional Eastern Iowa Science and Engineering Fair in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Their mission is to inspire eastern Iowa's students to pursue careers in science, engineering, and math. We are so proud of all our participating students and are pleased to share the achievements of the following individuals.

**Ishan H. & Jack Van Scoyoc (6th) - *Mind Blowing Marbles*,** Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club & Collins Amateur Radio Club Award of Excellence

**Tai C. (6th) - *How Hibernating Ants are Affected by Temperature*,** Alam B. Adams Special Merit Award

**Charlotte D. & Tia R. (6th) - *The Power of Suggestion*,** Honorable Mention, Biological Sciences Junior Team



# Student Learning Events Continued

## Poetry in Public

The 16th annual Poetry in Public Program, sponsored by the Iowa City Public Art Program, invited writers of all ages, ability levels, and experience to submit entries to the contest.

A panel of local judges reviewed entries and selected poems to be displayed throughout the community and on local and literary websites. The winning poems are on display on Iowa City buses, at the Iowa City Public Library, and at the Robert A. Lee Recreation Center through the fall.

We are thrilled to announce that several Willowwind students had their work selected this year; for some this was their second or third time being selected. Congratulations to 3rd graders Ben S., Eero F., Elizabeth P., and Jord G., 4th graders Avi J., Isaak M., and Rial S., and kindergartener Lake S.

### Turtle Bob

*Turtle Bob is 999 trillion 999 billion 999 million  
999 thousand and 999 years old  
Turtle Bob is a quadrillion years old  
Turtle Bob toots too toxic turds  
Run for your lives!  
Oops! Too late! You're dead!  
BYE BYE!!!*

-Isaak M. (4th)

### Sunrise

*Each day I wake in a slow sleepy daze  
As the sunny sun rises in the pretty purple sky  
A loot lark sings a silky song  
As a giggling grasshopper bounces through the meadow  
I head down the slippery stairs  
To begin the big beautiful day*

-Elizabeth P. (3rd)

### The Big Biting Bog

*The dog bit the frog,  
And the frog bit the hog,  
And the hog bit the log,  
And the log snapped his fingers,  
And a bog swallowed them all.*

-Avi J. (4th)

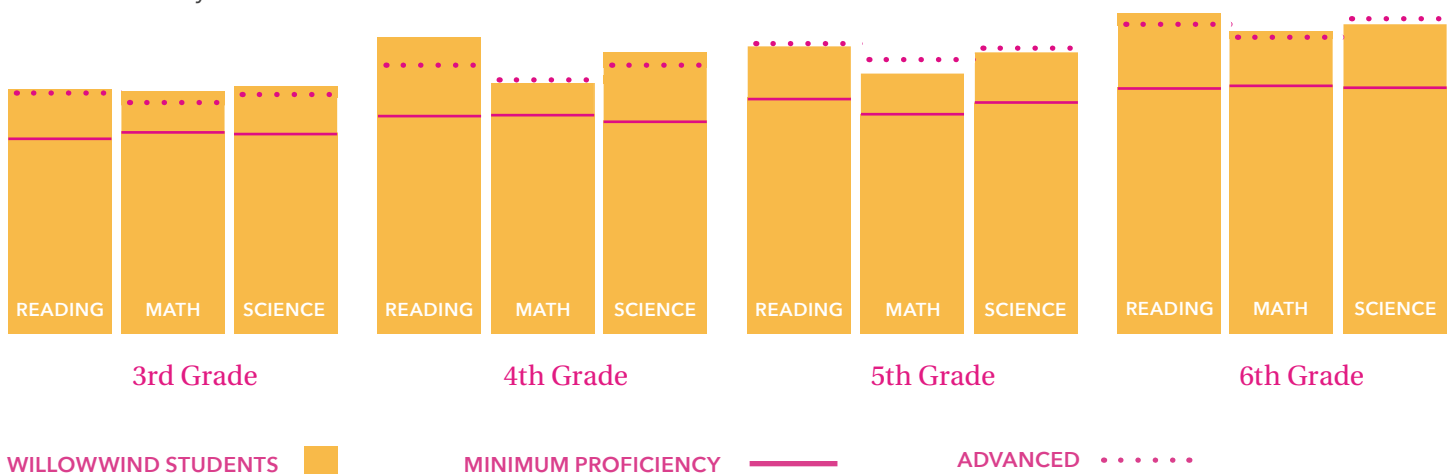
### Farty Flabby Flamingos

*The farty flabby flamingos  
Smell like a super stinky sewer  
That just ate plum pickled pig  
And a silly sally salamander.*

-Eero F. (3rd)

## Iowa Assessments

Completed annually by our 3rd-6th grade students, the Iowa Assessments serve as one indicator of student progress for Willowwind educators and parents. The results of the Iowa Assessments helps teachers understand how students perform in key academic areas. The assessment also helps identify students' strengths and areas of potential growth, and monitors student performance over time. Willowwind students continually meet and often exceed proficiency standards set by the state.





## Authors' Cocoa

This long standing tradition is a celebration of our students as writers. Parents, family, friends, and passers by gathered at T.Spoons café in the Old Capitol Town Center and enjoyed a variety of poetry, stories, and songs. Kindergarten through 6th grade students shared the stage with their Partner Family where each student read an original piece of writing.

Montessori Preschool students worked with their student mentors to write their own works of poetry. Our youngest learners had the opportunity to share their work with friends, family members, and caregivers during their own version of Authors' Cocoa at Willowwind.



## Spring Learning Showcase

During this event students of all ages were offered opportunities to work on their public speaking and presentation skills. Preschool students practiced beginning presentation skills as they shared and explained, in their words, important aspects of the Montessori classroom to families and caregivers. K-6th grade students presented in the Belin-Blank Honors Center on the University of Iowa campus.

The venue was packed with Invention Convention and Science Fair projects by our 3rd/4th and 5th/6th classes, Kindergarteners shared their Kindness Chain project, and our 1st/2nd students presented their group projects on world cultures.

## 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Plays

Every other year our 3rd through 6th grade students collaborate on class plays depicting historical events or topics relating to their social studies curriculum. This project-based experience requires students to think about their topics fully and from many perspectives. Students choose their topics and are responsible for doing research and writing a relevant and informative script.

This year the 3rd/4th grade class play focused on women inventors throughout history. Students researched and performed skits about Hedy Lamarr, Marie Curie, Josephine Cochrane, and others. Our 5th/6th graders focused on the fascinating evolution of some very common aspects of everyday life, like games, transportation, piracy, and more.



## Coe Elementary Honor Band

Flora L. (5th), Clarinet

Ishan H. (6th), Alto Saxophone

## Coe Junior Honor Band

Marko P. (6th), Alto Saxophone

Kaden H. (6th), Trombone

Tia R. (6th), Euphonium

## Coe College Honor Bands

The Coe College Honor Band program is open to 4th-12th grade students nominated by their school's Band Director. Participating students have the opportunity to work closely with professional musicians in both large and small group settings, collaborating and growing as musicians. For many students, this is their first opportunity to practice and perform with a large band. This year five Willowwind students participated in the Elementary and Junior Honor Bands. We are so proud of our students' hard work and dedication to the musical arts, and grateful to our Music Teacher, Jessica Palmer, for sharing her experience and passion for music with our students.

# Adventures in Learning

*Education that goes beyond the classroom.*

## YMCA Camp Edwards, Wisconsin (5th-6th grade)

Once again our 5th and 6th grade students embarked on a week long trip to YMCA Camp Edwards in East Troy, Wisconsin. Each year this trip offers students the opportunity to grow closer through team building, gain new skills and new experiences, face down fears, connect with nature, and learn just how much strength they each have within.

This trip was funded entirely by student-led fundraising efforts like Prairie Café, our annual four month-long hot lunch café, and Popcorn Friday sales. A big thank you to the families and staff who enjoyed these many meals and supported an important learning experience!



## U of I School of the Wild (3rd-4th grade)

Willowwind's 3rd and 4th grade class attended School of the Wild last spring for four days of character building, outdoor adventure, and curricular extension. Willowwind teachers partnered with staff from the University of Iowa to design and implement activities to meet the specific curricular needs, inquiries, and interests of the class.

Funds for this learning adventure were raised through the annual Owl Café, a student led breakfast fundraiser.



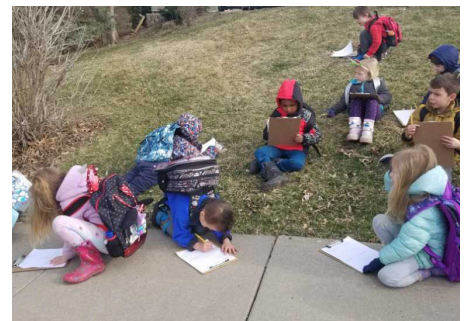
## Indian Creek Nature Center (1st-2nd grade)

Students discovered diverse plant and animal life as they walked along the trails and amongst the many prairie plants. The class then used what they learned at the Indian Creek Nature Center to think about how they could design a nature center of their own to protect an endangered plant or animal species in Iowa. This project got students thinking deeply about the interdependence between people, wild plants, animals and the earth, and what community members can do to positively impact our natural world.



## Seasons and Senses (kindergarten)

Kindergarteners spend time throughout the year engaged in hands-on activities aimed at expanding their knowledge of nature in general, but more specifically, plant and life cycles. From trips to Wilson's Orchard and Colony Pumpkin Patch, to five senses walks each season, this group of eager learners had many opportunities to explore, question, discover, and predict. These hands on experiences enable students to become fully immersed in their learning and also to understand their connection with the natural world around them.



## Scattergood Farm (preschool)

Each year our preschool students explore Scattergood Farm, a working organic farm near West Branch. These trips serve as an extension of the students' classroom learning. Our youngest learners become familiar with a variety of farm animals, help harvest vegetables from the expansive gardens, and even get to dig into the flourishing ecosystem of the compost pile. Through these experiences students come to better understand and appreciate the connection between farm and table, themselves and the earth. We are so grateful for our partnership with Scattergood Farm.





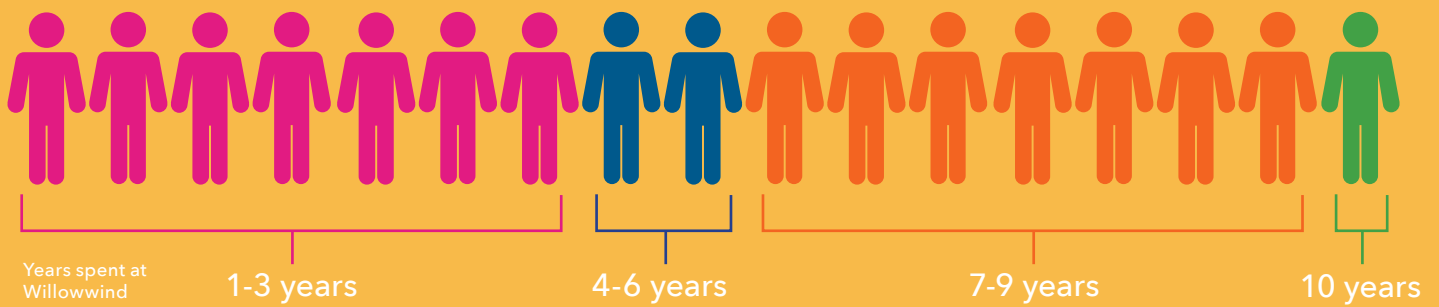


This year's graduating class included students who had been at Willowwind since preschool, some who started as 5th or 6th graders, and even one or two who came, went, and came back again.



# 17 STRONG!

Congratulations to our largest graduating class!



Students' learning took them on adventures near and far; challenging them academically, socially, and emotionally.



Students debated passionately yet civilly on a wide variety of topics, learning to voice their opinions thoughtfully and clearly.



# Bridging the Annual Fund Gap

*Join the effort to foster greatness in every student.*

Donations are imperative to maintain and enhance the excellent education and experience at Willowwind. Similar to other independent schools, Willowwind's tuition covers about 77% of our financial needs, leaving fundraising as one of the most important sources of non-tuition income. The Willowwind Annual Fund gives the school the flexibility to make positive changes that benefit its students throughout the year, providing for planned expenditures as well as unexpected costs. These funds allow Willowwind to accomplish its daily work and longer term goals to establish greater financial solvency and further the mission going forward.

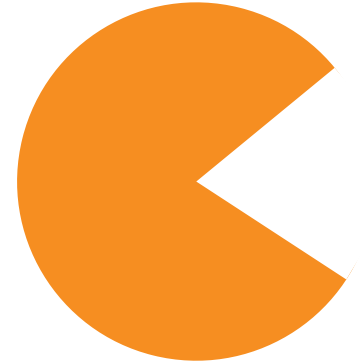
In addition to being able to respond to our greatest needs, Willowwind's Annual Fund helps to provide support to the following:

**Professional Development**, providing operational support for salary and benefits for faculty and staff as well as opportunities for growth, lifelong learning, and continuing education. Allowing flexibility and resources for teachers is imperative to maintain Willowwind's level of classroom excellence.

**Excellence in Learning**, offering opportunities in experiential learning within the community, from area professionals and immersive field trips. Donations advance academic and special programs through diverse and hands-on experiences, and provide for advances in technology and curriculum development.

**Community Outreach**, sharing the school with others by getting out into the community and participating in local festivals and events. In addition, outreach through marketing and communication efforts increases awareness of the school and enrollment.

**Facilities Improvements**, covering operational expenses to maintain and enhance our incredible facility. Donations help offset the ongoing need to pay for unforeseen repairs as well as making our inspiring space work best for students and teachers each year.



Tuition only covers about 77% of Willowwind's basic financial needs.

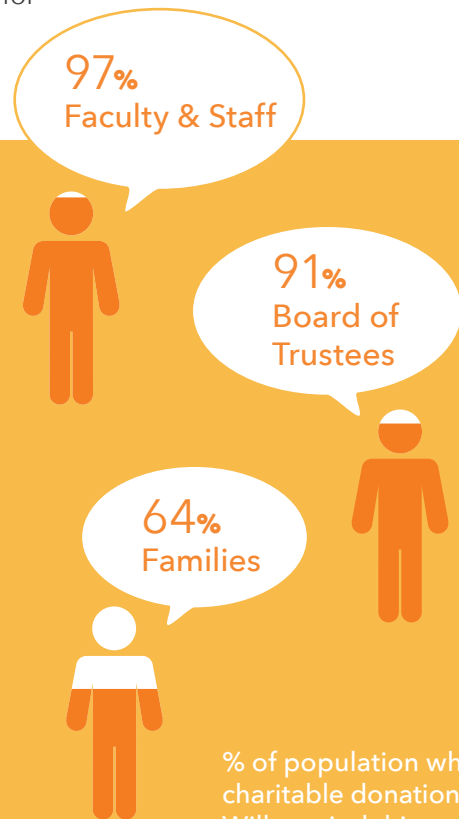
\*ISACS school average percentage covered by tuition is 78.1%

## Financials:

### Operating Income

K-6 Tuition .....	\$672,281
Preschool Tuition.....	\$330,781
Summer Program.....	\$187,632
Programs & Enrichment.....	\$166,210
Donations.....	\$50,927
Scholarships.....	\$48,932
Other operating income.....	\$20,040

**Total Operating Income**    \$1,476,803



% of population who made charitable donations to Willowwind this year



# Build. Strengthen. Grow.

Many ways to fund endless possibilities.

## Unrestricted Contributions

Making a gift to the Willowwind Annual Fund is the best way to provide for the school's needs. An unrestricted gift is a reflection that you entrust the school to use your donation in the most needed ways.

## Designated Giving Campaigns

Periodically, Willowwind has campaigns to raise funds for specific projects or programs. In contrast to an annual fund, a designated campaign might seek support for an identified need outside the scope of the planned budget.

## Gifts in Kind

In-kind donations are a type of charitable giving in which goods and services are given instead of monetary donations. Throughout the year there are organized opportunities to give items to classrooms, silent auctions, and food for events. We also welcome the creative items our families and friends have gifted, such as microscopes, laptops, and iPads. If you have interest in supporting Willowwind with a gift in kind, please reach out to us to discuss how your gift can best help our school.

Learn more at [willowwind.org/giving](http://willowwind.org/giving)

## Box Tops

You collect and we cash in!

## AmazonSmile

You shop and Amazon donates.

## UICCU

## Give & Grow Campaign

Your donation is matched!

## Hills Bank Classroom Cash

Your everyday spending gives back.

## Community Partnerships

Your partnership extends classroom learning.

## Volunteer

Your time means the world to us!

*“As Mira’s grandparents, we have enthusiastically supported Willowwind because we appreciate the school’s vibrant learning community, its culture and the friendships and relationships with both children and adults that have helped our granddaughter grow and thrive. We have loved being involved in Mira’s life in this way and, as lifelong educators ourselves, understand the importance of supporting a high-quality education for the next generation...our future and theirs depend on it.”*

*-Linda and Stephen Greyser*

## Operating Expense

Salaries, PR Taxes, Benefits .....	\$706,374
Summer Program.....	\$88,895
Programs & Enrichment .....	\$61,229
Scholarships .....	\$48,932
Discounts .....	\$42,384
<small>(staff tuition, sibling, full pay, referral)</small>	
Technology .....	\$25,055
Building & Utilities .....	\$86,294
Supplies .....	\$22,080
Long-term Debt / Liabilities .....	\$340,341
Other operating expense .....	\$70,667
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>\$1,492,251</b>

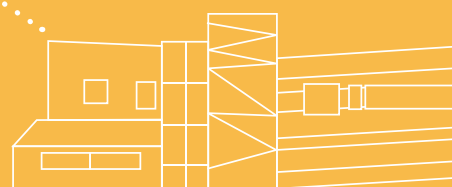


**51%**

of families benefit from our sliding scale tuition model.

**22%**

of families receive additional scholarship funds



**\$3,300**

exterior paint on building

# 2018-2019 Grant Awards

## Tennis Grants for P.E.

Ms. Susan was the recent recipient of three USTA grants providing funds and equipment to implement a tennis unit in P.E. at Willowwind. The USTA Missouri Valley "Serving Up Tennis" grant provided \$1,000 in racquets, balls, and a storage bag. USTA's "Net Generation" youth tennis program granted Susan \$600 to purchase nets, and the Iowa District Tennis Association granted \$1,000 to purchase additional tennis and other P.E. equipment.

We are grateful for the time Ms. Susan spent searching for and writing grants, and the many hours of training she has completed to benefit her students. Thank you, also, to our local representative who went above and beyond to help provide generous support.



10



## Garden to ECE Grant

Ms. Kaye was the recipient of Farm to Early Childhood Education Mini Grant for a second year. The grant awarded \$700 to be used for materials to create and maintain preschool garden beds at Willowwind. Planting, tending, and even taste-testing will all be part of the process of learning about growing and caring for garden-fresh vegetables and herbs. This will be complemented by other environmental education funding as we continue to grow these spaces. We have recently added raised garden beds to our outdoor classroom near the front of the school and will continue to develop this space in order to extend our students' learning throughout the growing season!

We look forward to watching our gardens, and our students grow through this work.





# Give and Grow

*Matched donations plant the seeds for future growth.*

Each April, University of Iowa Community Credit Union (UICCU, now GreenState Community Credit Union) offers the Give & Grow for Education initiative to support local schools. Willowwind is able to receive up to \$5,000 in matching gifts from UICCU for their member donations directed to our school. Additional contributions from non-UICCU members and other community partners increase our ability to extend projects. During the last three spring campaigns, Willowwind has focused on outdoor and environmental enhancements.

Thank you to UICCU and to all who contributed to these special initiatives! Your gifts will continue to grow!



## 2019 GREEN

This spring the UICCU match helped us to reach a total of \$8,546 to focus on environmental education and enhancement of the natural spaces at Willowwind. Over the next year we will start the process of revitalizing our prairie as well as other projects such as the bioswale and the addition of edible gardens in the outdoor classroom.



## 2018 PLAY

A successful effort raising \$10,792 was directed to outdoor play enhancements; most significantly with the installation of a new K-6 swingset and new preschool climbing structure. We are continuing to make additions to our outdoor play spaces to encourage togetherness, play-based learning, and fun!



## 2017 SOLAR

Our campaign raising \$8,400 for the purchase and installation of ten, 290-watt solar panels on campus. Students are able to observe firsthand the impact of solar energy through data collection from our real-time portal. To date, these panels have offset 3.3 megawatts—the equivalent of planting 55 trees!



# Staff Accomplishments

## Continuing Education

At Willowwind, we strive to instill a lifelong love of learning in our students and it goes to follow that we support it in our staff as well. Continuing education is crucial for our growth as individuals, particularly as educators. This past year our faculty and staff attended the following conferences: **White Privilege Conference**, attended by Ms. Rachel (Office Manager) & Ms. Rachel (5th/6th); **The Power of Social Emotional Learning**, attended by Ms. Christine (3rd/4th) and Ms. Ann (5th/6th); **Physical Education: New Ideas, New Approaches**; attended by Ms. Susan (P.E.); **Iowa Bandmaster Association Conference**, attended by Ms. Jessica (Music). We are inspired by the energy and ideas these individuals have brought back to the community and look forward to seeing those ideas continue to evolve.

## Kaye Lindsley

Monarch Room Lead Teacher, Ms. Kaye, recently received her Montessori Certification from the North American Montessori Center. The Montessori method of education strives to provide unique opportunities to learn more thoroughly, quickly, and efficiently through experience, guidance, and practice. The Montessori educator is the dynamic link to the environment, providing a peaceful, ordered, caring context to support learning.



## Erin Traicoff

Kindergarten teacher, Ms. Erin recently completed her Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction, with an emphasis in Literacy, from Western Illinois University. This coursework covered topics like instructional theory, learning assessment, and special considerations for multicultural student groups. Erin also holds an BA in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Reading, from the University of Iowa.



## Papa Craig

Papa Craig was selected for an Excellence in Education Award through Iowa City Chamber of Commerce. Craig Kessler, fondly referred to as "Papa Craig" by Willowwind students and staff, is the epitome of school volunteer. When Papa Craig's grandsons enrolled in Willowwind's preschool program Papa Craig began his Willowwind volunteer career with the occasional story time.

Since then, Papa Craig's weekly story times have become well-loved events where Papa Craig spends time visiting and reading to each and every class at Willowwind School.

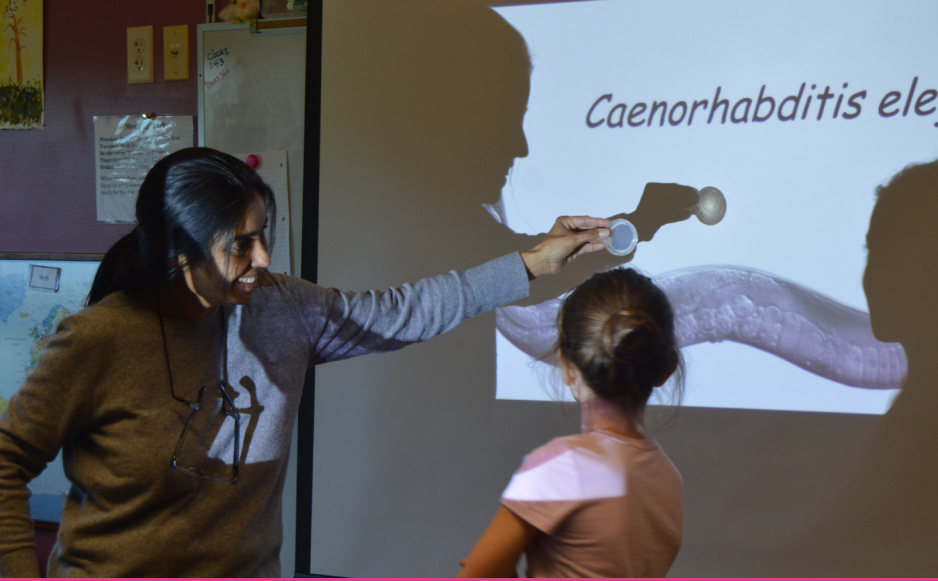


## Bethany Huyck

Ms. Bethany first joined us during the fall of the 2018-19 school year as a student teacher in our 5th/6th grade classrooms. Bethany embraced and exemplified the dynamic teaching style here at Willowwind and became our part-time Academic Support Specialist during the Spring of the 2018-19 school year.

We are so proud of Bethany's completion of a BS in Elementary Education with an endorsement in Special Education Strategies I, from Mount Mercy College in Cedar Rapids. Bethany has accepted a Special Education position where she will support Kindergarten through 4th grade students within the College Community School District.





# 600

cans and bottles collected for the Music Can Drive

This year your redeemables raised \$30 for our Music Program. These funds went towards the purchase of new material to benefit our PreK-6th students.

# 869

 Volunteer hours logged by families

Parent and Biologist, Veena Prahlad volunteered to share her expertise with our 3rd/4th grade class as an extension of their science curriculum.



71% of families logged volunteer hours



# 880

Feet climbed

5th/6th students rose to the challenge and tackled the climbing wall at YMCA Camp Edwards in Troy, Wisconsin.

# 3.3

Megawatts of energy

Since its installation Willowwind's interactive solar array has produced 3.3 megawatts of power, the equivalent of planting 55 trees.





# Art in Our Community

Willowwind School is a proud supporter of the Arts, and enthusiastically continues to connect and collaborate with local artists in the community. We believe exposing students to a wide variety of art forms and learning about the creative process of artists helps them to better appreciate, embrace, and utilize their own creative minds. From our Visiting Artist program to student art projects, we are always looking for ways to enhance learning spaces and experiences for our students.

## Winter Art Market

This winter we invited local artists to set up shop in the Gathering Space for our first ever Winter Art Market. Artists had a variety of work for sale during this pre-holiday event including paintings, jewelry, and ceramics. Students in our After School Program also made and sold small works of art. Thank you, Jon Sims, Dawn Harbor, Heidi Casto, Bao Pham, Andrea McCartney, Julie Staub, Jan Duschen, Megan Bishop, Nate Wilson, Ryan Bentzinger, and Ekaterina Golova for sharing your art with us! This event raised \$558 for Willowwind's art program.



## Visiting Artist Program

During the 2017-18 school year Willowwind established the Visiting Artist Program. Willowwind school features a new local artist every few weeks; their work is displayed in the lobby gallery and the artist leads a Group Discussion with our K-6 students. This gives children the opportunity to hear about the artist's medium, content choice, and creative process.

Through this program, students gain exposure to many art forms, artists gain community exposure, and 20% of the artist's proceeds are donated back to the school to support the advancement of Willowwind's Fine Arts program. Thank you to Suke Cody, Dawn Harbor, Bao Pham, Julie Staub, Ryan Bentzinger, and Ekaterina Golova for sharing your art with us!

## Legacy Project

Each year graduating students are encouraged to come up with a Legacy Project, something they can leave behind that has a positive and lasting impact on the school. In recent years those projects have been public works of art. This year Luis S. worked with Teaching Artist, Mr. Ryan to complete a mural outside near the parking lot. This quirky piece of art abutts a tree mural by 2018 graduate, Miranda R. We are so thankful for these student contributions.

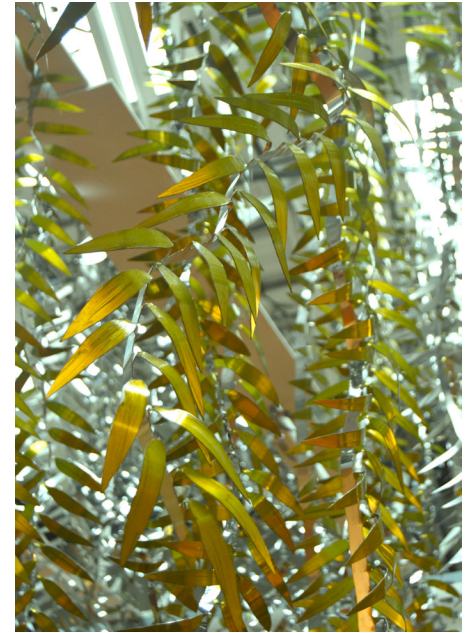




# Willow

The willow tree is known for its strength and flexibility, branches swaying effortlessly in the breeze. Similarly, *Willow* serves as a beautiful symbol to Willowwind's belief in student-led learning where learning opportunities are frequently adjusted to best meet students' needs. The flexible branches also serve as a powerful reminder that the best learning comes when students are guided to bend and sway their thinking and potential beyond what they believe they are capable of.

The 2018 installation of *Willow*, by Dawn Harbor, reminds our students, and community, that the greatest joys and biggest challenges in learning can shape our minds and hearts just as the wind shapes the branches of the willow tree. Students, faculty, and families are encouraged to stop on the stairs' landing to look up among *Willow*'s green and silver branches to appreciate the beauty of the art and the beauty that lies within the Willowwind community.



Above left: *The Willow as seen from the upper level corridor.* Above right: *Detail of a willow bough.* Below: *Initial concept sketch.*

## Artist's Statement:

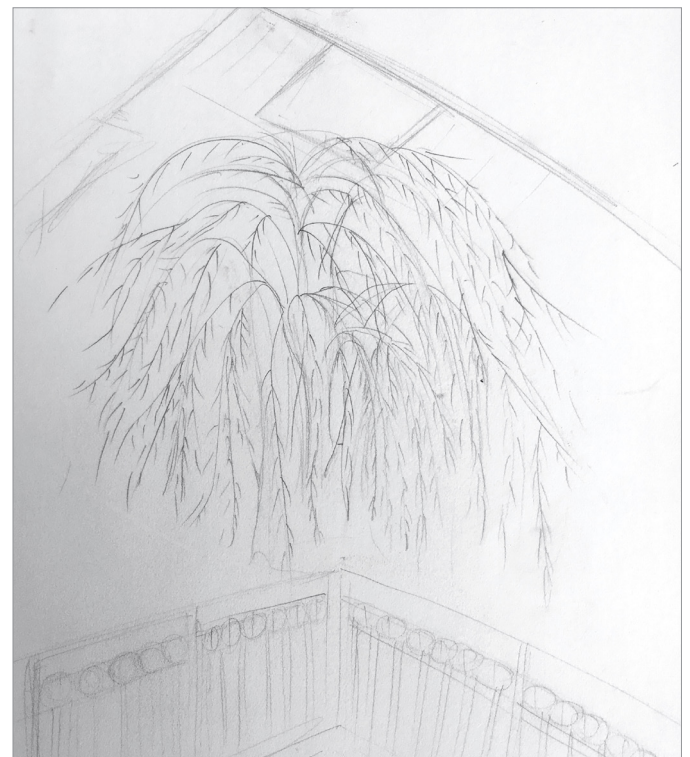
It all began with a statement, and a question. Our school needs a sculpture! What do you see and where do you see it? A school tour, and a quick sketch later, and we were on our way. We fell hard for the idea of a willow in the stairwell.

It wasn't long before more than 1,000 running feet of my design was cut in 24 gauge stainless steel.

In refining my design I see the light filtering through a canopy, the essence of what I was after. I proceeded to hand paint and shape the laser cut willow boughs. Leaving them shiny on one side to reflect the light into the school, hand painted a warm spring green on the other side, to pick up the afternoon and evening light.

On a long weekend in October 2018, my team and I set out weaving my willow boughs into the ceiling of Willowwind School. I'm grateful for the opportunity to have my work where community grows and young children daydream. I thank you for this opportunity.

-Dawn



# 2018-19 Board of Trustees

## Dawn Harbor, **President**

Dawn has over thirty years' experience in business development, both owning and operating three different successful local businesses. She has an extensive history of serving on art and education boards such as the Horace Mann BASP parent board, University of Iowa Museum of Art Member Council, and AIC Arts Iowa City. Dawn is eager to share her nimble perspective, strong troubleshooting and problem-solving skills, training, teaching, planning, and implementing experience in support of Willowwind.

## Mike Watson, MS, **Vice President**

Mike has a unique connection with the school being a former Willowwind student and is now the parent of two current Willowwind students. Mike has experience as both a teacher and administrator in a small private school and is currently a Statistical Analyst at Pearson. He demonstrates experience in information technology, leadership, communication, and strategic planning skills that the Willowwind Board of Trustees needs.

## Jonah Parker, CFA, **Treasurer**

As a father of two young boys who's beginning to think about their future schooling needs, Jonah finds himself a strong believer in the type of learning environment Willowwind strives to provide. Furthermore, as a resident of Iowa City, he feels the need to give back to his community and believes his skillset is of particular use to the Willowwind Board at this time.

## Jake Beal, PhD, **Member**

Jake's goal is to cultivate a sustainable culture of open governance, improve communication, and help build consensus among parents, staff, and the Board, while creatively solving the financial and management challenges of the school.

## Jesse Bulman, BArch, **Member**

Jesse wants to give back to the educational community because a great education not only secures one's future, but the successful outcome of future generations. If we want to live in a vibrant, connected, and diverse society it should be noted that a great education is one important key to ensure such a culture.

## Kim Foster, MS, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, **Member**

Kim believes her knowledge, skills, and abilities in mediation, negotiation, human resources, and risk management allow her to view Willowwind's current challenges as an opportunity for exciting change.

## Lucie Laurian, PhD, **Member**

Lucie intends to address the school's budget concerns, faculty/administrative pay, and long-term debt with transparency and in an open, receptive, and fair fashion. She also recognizes the importance of collaborating with the faculty as the Board navigates these issues.

## Jennie Schmidt, PhD, **Member**

Based on her first-hand experience as a parent, and more recently as a University Supervisor to two student teachers placed at Willowwind, Jennie believes Willowwind does not just offer children a safe and caring environment but one where best practice in education is front and center. She was compelled to offer her experience and service to a school that needs to exist.

## Caroline Sheerin, JD, **Member**

Caroline joined the Board of Trustees to give back to the Willowwind school and community. She is passionate about education and is a strong believer in the value of private education. Caroline believes that our democracy depends on an educated population, and feels that private schools can serve as innovators in ways that public schools don't always have the ability to.

## Pope Yamada, JD, **Member**

Pope's goal in serving on the Willowwind School Board of Trustees is to protect the school's academic mission, ensure the school's financial stability, and foster the school's ability to provide the best educational experience and opportunities for its students. With his community background, experience in the fields of technology and law, and dedication to local institutions like Willowwind, Pope hopes to further these goals.

## Contact us!

If you would like to contact the Willowwind Board of Trustees, we encourage you to do so by emailing [boardoftrustees@willowwind.org](mailto:boardoftrustees@willowwind.org).

*"At Willowwind, the emphasis is on moving the child forward from whatever position they are in at that time and trying to meet those needs, specifically, for each child."*

**-Michael Watson**

*Current Board VP, parent, and alumnus*



# Donor List

Willowwind is honored to have parents, staff, community partners, and friends who give generously to the school through their time and resources. Financial donations are essential to maintain and enrich the outstanding curriculum, opportunities, and facilities at Willowwind School.

In the listing below, we gratefully recognize those individuals and organizations who donated to Willowwind School between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019.

## **\$10,000+**

Anonymous Donor

## **\$1,000-\$5,000**

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**P:** 319.338.6061 **W:** willowwind.org

**E:** info@willowwind.org

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## Once a Willowwinder, always a Willowwinder!

Keep in touch and let us know what you've been up to lately. Would you like to attend Willowwind community events, come do volunteer work, or do a presentation on something you're passionate about? We would love to have you! Contact us and we'll help you find a way to stay connected to your Willowwind community.

**W:** willowwind.org/alumni

**FB:** @WillowwindSchoolAlumni

**EM:** laurelh@willowwind.org

## Everyone has a gift. How will you share yours?

We are grateful to have so many givers in our community--including givers of time, services, and monetary donations. Because we rely on donations year round, every gift makes an immediate impact on our school. Curious about how you can be a part of Willowwind's growth? Let's connect about how your gift can enhance the Willowwind experience for current and future students.

**W:** willowwind.org/giving

**FB:** @WillowwindSchool

**EM:** laurelh@willowwind.org

## We look forward to connecting with you!

Find us at [willowwind.org](http://willowwind.org) or follow us on Facebook [@WillowwindSchool](https://www.facebook.com/WillowwindSchool) to see what we're up to.