



CAMPAIGN CURRENTS

Fall 2017

Volume 2, Issue 1

What's Happening RIGHT NOW

Update from the RIGHT NOW Campaign Committee

It has been a little more than two years ago since we kicked off the Right Now Capital Campaign with the goal to raise 2.5 million. Since the kickoff, we have raised \$1,111,787.30, designed and renovated the South Campus Building, and (as of last October 31st) moved our students into the state-of-the-art facility. We could not be more proud of how much we have accomplished in two short years!

Throughout this two year process, we have balanced the urgency of space with the availability of funding. We "recycled" an existing building (the Gladstone Office Building), we offset operating costs of the building with existing and growing tenant leases, we sought out visionaries who would be lead gift givers during the project, we leveraged our relationships with Bank Liberty and First Bank of Missouri – now Security Bank, and with their belief in us and support of who we are, we got the job done! The dust has settled, both figuratively and literally, and we look to the future of the campaign.

As we kick off this second half of our campaign, we are looking forward to the future with "Vision 20/20". By the year 2020, we hope to have raised the funds to break ground on renovations to our Main Campus building. As excited as we are to make our dreams become a reality, we must also be practical and fiscally responsible. Our renovations will not be projects that we simply want to see happen but truly needs to meet the demands of a growing population and program. We need to raise 1.3 million dollars, and when the money is raised, we will make this happen!

Where do we go from here?

First, we must realign our capital campaign committee. We have been so fortunate to have Phil and Jennifer Latier chairing this committee from the get-go. Their hard work and dedication have helped us achieve our south building dreams, and we could not have done it without them. We are excited to announce that Michael and Karen Morris have agreed to be our next chairs as we embark on the second half of the campaign and project, and we look forward to all the great things we'll do together. We would like to thank the following committee members who have moved on from the committee, but were vital to getting the first phase of the campaign off the ground: Melanie Carter, Kelley Catterson, Haley Haar, Diane Marty, and Jolene Shaw.

Second, we are looking for a donor to cover the upfront cost of the architectural designs and plans. By asking our community for help in paying this unbudgeted cost, we will be able to spend the full \$1.3 million on the building itself.

Third, we must get to work to raise the \$1.3 million remaining in our Right Now Campaign. With our shown commitment to the south building, I look forward to sharing our plans and

RIGHT NOW CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Committee Chairs
Michael and Karen Morris

Trustee Liaison
Ron Gregg

Members At-large
Clarice Miller
Michelle Shekleton
Bill Spooner
Dina Hamilton

School Representatives
Dorothy Beckham
Rebecca DiGerlamo
Marcy Driskill
Suzanne McCanles
Michelle McDaniel

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ideas for the main building. We know we can reach this goal and complete the campaign. Preliminary plans and discussions with the architect include: bathrooms off of the gymnasium, an age-appropriate music room for Toddler thru 3rd grade, an ADA ramp in the main hallway, a new front lobby and entrance, office space to eliminate the need for the outdoor modular, renovated spaces for engineering and technology, and the hope for additional multi-purpose space for PE classes, programs, and more.

We will soon begin contacting all current and past families, friends of Oakhill, grandparents, and community partners to share our dreams in hopes of making these dreams a reality by 2020.

Can't wait to make it happen,
Suzanne McCanles and Rebecca DiGerlamo

Improvements on the Horizon...



When the South Campus Building was renovated to fit our school, we included areas for each of our specialists. One of these rooms is specified for music, which includes proper acoustics for its classes, permanent risers, and a soundproof practice room. Our current Main Campus music room is simply a normal classroom with equipment such as pianos and speakers, but lacks the acoustic quality of a newer space. During this renovation, we hope to create a new space optimized for music and for our youngest students.

Another part of the renovation we hope to see come to fruition is the creation of new office spaces. Not only would this project create a number of new offices that are needed, but would also allow us to rejuvenate and fully utilize the spaces that are currently being used as offices. We plan to turn these old spaces into new STEM

(science, technology, engineering, and math) classrooms.

The family restroom by the gym was added nine years ago. Before its installation, visitors at events in the gym had to go to the Nurse's Office, the Train Hallway, or a classroom to use the restroom. Although the family restroom is used, and is convenient to have a large space for family use, it is not fully accommodating for the events we have in the gym. With the remaining half of the Capital Campaign funds, we hope to create restrooms by the gym that are both easily accessible and accommodating for the large crowds we host.

When I describe Oakhill Day School to others, I explain that if I had you close your eyes and envision the best possible school environment, classrooms, teachers, families, and education, you would see ODS. It is what I dream education will one day be for all children.

- Anonymous, GreatSchools.com

Construction Update

- Beautified the South Campus Building with our ACORN day celebration plantings
- Prepared remaining tenant spaces in south building for lease
- Working with Melissa Brown from GastingerWalker to revitalize our main building plans to include a new music room, lobby space, offices, restrooms near gymnasium, ADA ramp near large stairs in main hallway, and the creation of STEAM closet for robotics, 3D printer, and more
- Completed final walk through of the South Campus Building on October 18
- Preparing for installation of our wall wrap in the south building

(as of 04/27/17)

Donor Profiles

Stories from those who support the campaign RIGHT NOW



Bill and Robin Spooner are the parents of Taylor (alumna), Jack (alumnus) and Avery (Class of 2017). Bill is a former Board of Trustee President and served on the RIGHT NOW Capital Campaign Committee.

The Spooner Story

Bill and I both worked full time and we wanted more than a day-care for Taylor. Bill knew Mrs. Wills and her husband from when he was a young man so we had heard lots of great things about Oakhill Day School, the classroom size and the loving teachers. As first time parents, we loved that she was part of such a nurturing environment. It was during those first few years that we realized that we were not just going to a school 5 days a week - we had a real partnership with teachers and other families who would help us celebrate great times, give us advice when we had questions and also encourage us when there were struggles. We all joined together to do life together and build a strong community for our kids. Taylor started Oakhill in Early Learners in 1994. Our son Jack started Early Learners 4 years later and Avery, our youngest, started Prekindergarten in 2007.

Oakhill is about being part of a community, feeling like you are in a huge family and truly influencing the “whole child.” Oakhill teaches the topics of math, social studies, science and literature like other schools but it is how our kids are taught. They are immersed in the topic by projects, trips, labs, special speakers, computers and, of course, amazing teachers.

Our teachers are the best. They strive for excellence in all that they do and they invest endless hours preparing for class. They adapt their teaching styles to meet the needs of the classroom and they are always looking for ways to find the “spark” in each student. They do not have a “one plan fits all” and they are always looking for new, fresh, innovative ideas. They truly know what makes each student tick, their strengths and their weaknesses. The strengths are built upon to give each child confidence and a sense of accomplishment. If a child needs more challenging work, our teachers are the first to see how they can add an element of challenge to engage the student. If a student is struggling, our teachers find ways to provide additional assistance. Earlier this year, we learned

of a teacher who voluntarily gave up his planning period twice a week to work with a student from another math class who was struggling. Our teachers are lifetime learners and many continue to build on their own personal education. They also believe that parents and teachers form partnerships to develop and influence each child to be his/her best. Each of our own children have long term and likely life time friendships with families they met while at Oakhill Day School.

For 20 years Bill has had such a huge vision for the school and its place in the Northland. He saw the potential of Oakhill from the first year we were there and it is so exciting to see some of that vision plus more actually coming to fruition. As we expand our middle school and strengthen all of our programs, more people will want to be involved. If kids can start out their education in a place where they are loved, nurtured, and challenged in a supportive atmosphere, they will become lifetime learners, leaders in our communities and leaders in their own families.

If you're thinking about volunteering at Oakhill – Just do it! Now that my kids have moved on from Oakhill, I hope to continue to be involved. When you give a little bit of time or resources, you get back so much more. It is such a great feeling to have kids run up to you in the hallway or to send you a note and tell you how much you are appreciated. Helen Wills is a perfect example. She has surrounded herself with young people all of her life and she has stayed young right along with them.

As far as donating, we have been donating our time and money to Oakhill since 1994. We wouldn't change a thing. We know so many people who attribute their confidence, work ethic or success to something they learned at Oakhill. To be part of something like Oakhill that has such a lasting and positive impact on a life is truly amazing. I love this quote: “You ARE part of a puzzle in someone's life and you may never know where you fit. But, someone's life may NEVER be complete without you in it.” That's how we see this. We have personally experienced how the curriculum, the community of teachers, the leadership and staff, and the love of other families have blessed our 3 kids. Our hope is that we can provide other families with the same experience. I'm sure that you will see us at Grandparents' Day someday.

The RIGHT NOW Campaign @ Oakhill Current Financial Statistics (as of 04/27/17)

\$1,111,797.30 given/pledged

146 face to face meetings

134 donors

20% Parent Participation in RIGHT NOW Campaign

100% Faculty/Staff and Board of Trustee Participation

44% of our fundraising goal raised - Thank you!

The RIGHT NOW Campaign Fundraising Goal is \$2.5 million



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Want to find out more about the RIGHT NOW Campaign @ Oakhill Day School?

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Or visit us online at oakhilldayschool.org/rightnow for up-to-date campaign news!

The mission of Oakhill Day School is to provide excellence in education through child-centered learning in a supportive, challenging, and rewarding environment that provides students with self-confidence, values, knowledge, and the foundation for leadership through emotional, physical, and social development.