# PARK DAY SHOOL 2019 Annual Report

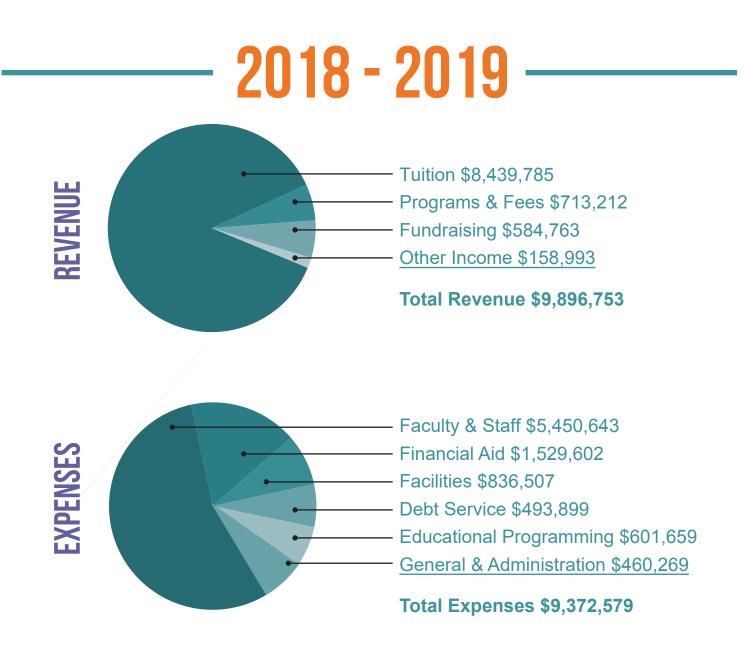
There is so much that goes into a Park Day School education. To educate the 305 students in our care as they develop a strong academic foundation alongside compassion and a sense of fairness, we carefully balance the fiscal and programmatic needs of the school. We are committed to helping each student understand their own power to make positive change in the world around them.

Critical to this endeavor is maintaining our outstanding faculty, the cornerstone of our program. To attract and sustain exceptional teachers, we provide competitive salaries, benefits and resources for our faculty. In addition, our commitment to accessibility and a diverse community of learners drives a significant investment in financial assistance. Demonstrating this commitment to economic diversity, Park Day allocates 19.5% of tuition revenue to our financial assistance program. In addition, stewarding our 4-acre campus and historic buildings, while investing in technology and materials for our rich academic and enrichment programs, help create an exceptional learning environment for students.



### **Operating Statement**

We are a school rooted in progressive education that has grown in many ways since our grass roots, community-based founding in 1976. In the coming years, we expect to leverage the power of our young alumni base, and begin work to develop a general operating endowment. Until then, we depend on the annual philanthropic support of our community. Careful stewardship of the school's operating budget and assets has placed us in a solid financial position, even as the campus has nearly doubled in size, enabling us to serve more students right here at **360 42**nd Street, in the heart of Oakland's Temescal district.



## COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE: A CLOSER LOOK AT PARK DAY VALUES IN ACTION

Our graduates are community members who approach challenges from multiple perspectives and have the confidence to question, create and contribute when they venture into the world. While at school, students thrive both in and out of the classroom, approaching a variety of academic challenges as designers, makers and analytic thinkers.

One of the central through-lines of Park Day's progressive approach to education is to prepare students for active participation in a democratic society. In the classroom, we emphasize critical and moral reasoning, the ability to adapt to new situations, all alongside group collaboration, and harnessing personal creativity. To be truly prepared, we believe that students need to be equipped with empathy, compassion and agency to make the best decisions for themselves and our world.

Throughout the grades, our teachers develop lessons for students to develop these and other skills. In kindergarten and first grade, children learn early in the year the difference between needs and wants, and begin to discuss inequity in developmentally appropriate ways. They learn that if you see something wrong, you do something about it. Students take this concept seriously, and one can hear and see the youngest of our students working to right the wrongs they see in the classroom and on the playground.

In second and third grade, students investigate their own family histories, alongside those of their peers. This includes age-appropriate investigations of immigration, environmental justice and the civil rights movement among other areas. In addition to learning about their classmates' families' heritage, customs, favorite foods and activities, each child learns something about when, why and how each family ended up living here—a discussion which often dovetails into current events and what is happening in the world today.

In the fourth and fifth grades, media awareness, stereotypes and the importance of seeing issues from multiple perspectives are central themes, especially as students study key moments in local history. This is a part of our work to increase awareness of personal and group perspectives, and how both history and events happening in the world today can be shaped by power, and predominant voices. This is an important lens as students begin to understand their own roles as changemakers in their community.

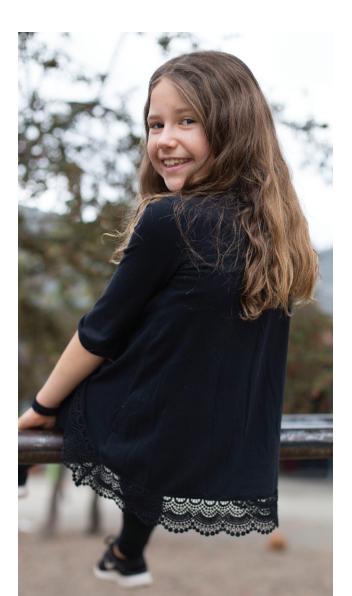
We often hear from high school teachers that all their freshman students come to class with the skills to write an essay, but that Park Day students know their minds, and have something to say. One example of our social justice curriculum in the middle school involves work on understanding the struggles of oppressed individuals who have succeeded in the face of prejudice. Students are challenged to come up with solutions to systemic problems, large and small, and think about how to work within the system to make change.

Park Day students graduate equipped to thrive in a diverse society and to honor the ways in which they are alike and different from others. They are able to recognize the biases that exist in society and to develop and articulate their own values, all while learning key academic skills in mathematics, science, language arts, social studies, engineering, the arts, and more.



## **FUNDRAISING AT PARK DAY SCHOOL**

Park Day fundraising efforts allow us to support our teachers and students and to steward the financial health of our school. This philanthropic investment is critical, impacting our academic programs, diverse community, and commitment to building a strong academic foundation within a child-centered environment, and with an enduring commitment to social justice. We are grateful for each and every gift.



#### **ANNUAL FUND**

The Annual Fund is the foundation of our fundraising program. As the school's largest source of non-tuition income, the Annual Fund ensures that Park Day provides a breadth of programs that we cannot fund through tuition alone.

#### TOM LITTLE TUITION FUND

The Tom Little Fund was established upon the passing of founding teacher, and longtime head of school, Tom Little, in 2014. Funds are invested and released annually to support our generous financial aid program.

#### **COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS**

Each year, the Park Day parent community comes together to support our financial aid program, literacy programs, and other programs by raising funds through the October East Bay Mini Maker Faire, the March Read-A-Thon, and the Spring Auction.



## **VOLUNTEER EFFORTS AT PARK DAY SCHOOL**

In addition to philanthropic support, we are grateful for the time and energy our parent and community volunteers direct to support the school.

Volunteers contribute their time and energy in countless ways throughout the school year, supporting our teachers and building community each step of the way. The Parent Stewardship Organization and Board of Trustees are comprised of a variety of committees, each with its own unique impact on the fabric of school life. We are immensely fortunate to be a part of a community in which parents, faculty and staff, trustees, grandparents, alumni, and friends give gifts of time, creativity, and financial resources each year.

Our shared commitment to the stewardship of Park Day School is critical to the success of our programs, and the impact of this investment on our students and teachers can be seen every day. We are extraordinarily grateful for the generosity of the Park Day community. **To learn more about supporting Park Day, please visit our website or contact the Development Office at 510-653-0317.** 

#### **BOARD COMMITTEES**

Audit and Risk Committee Budget and Finance Committee Buildings and Grounds Committee Committee Chairs Committee Development Committee Governance and Committee on Trustees Social Justice Initiative Steering Committee Strategic Planning Committee

#### STEWARDSHIP & AFFINITY GROUPS

Diversity and Justice Alliance Families with Children of Color Gender Justice Alliance Green School Alliance Learning Support Alliance Parent Stewardship Group



A place where students  $\Psi = \Psi$   $\Psi$  think creatively, learn deeply, act compassionately and live fully

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