

WONDERLAND

AVENUE SCHOOL



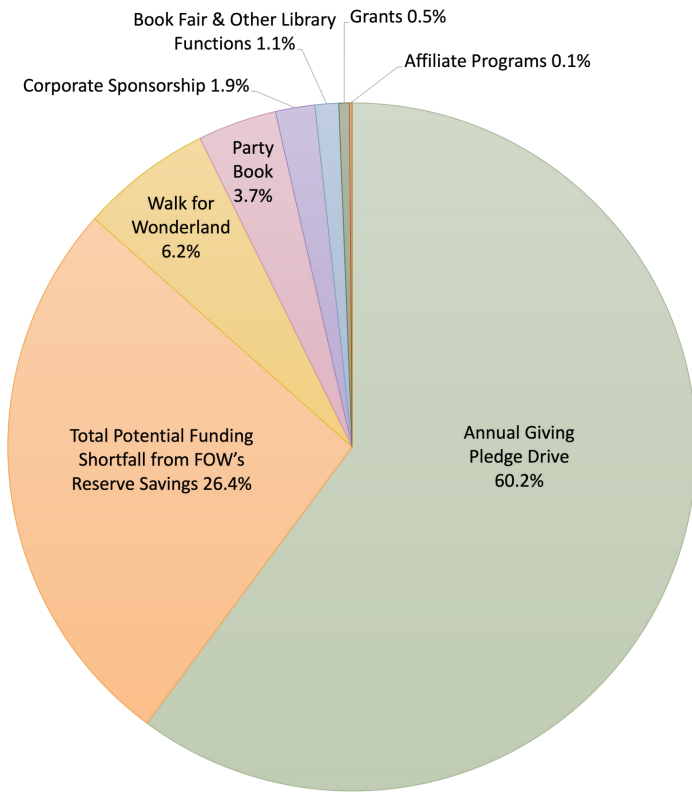
FRIENDS OF WONDERLAND

2023/2024 ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL



REPORT



FOW REVENUE 2023/2024

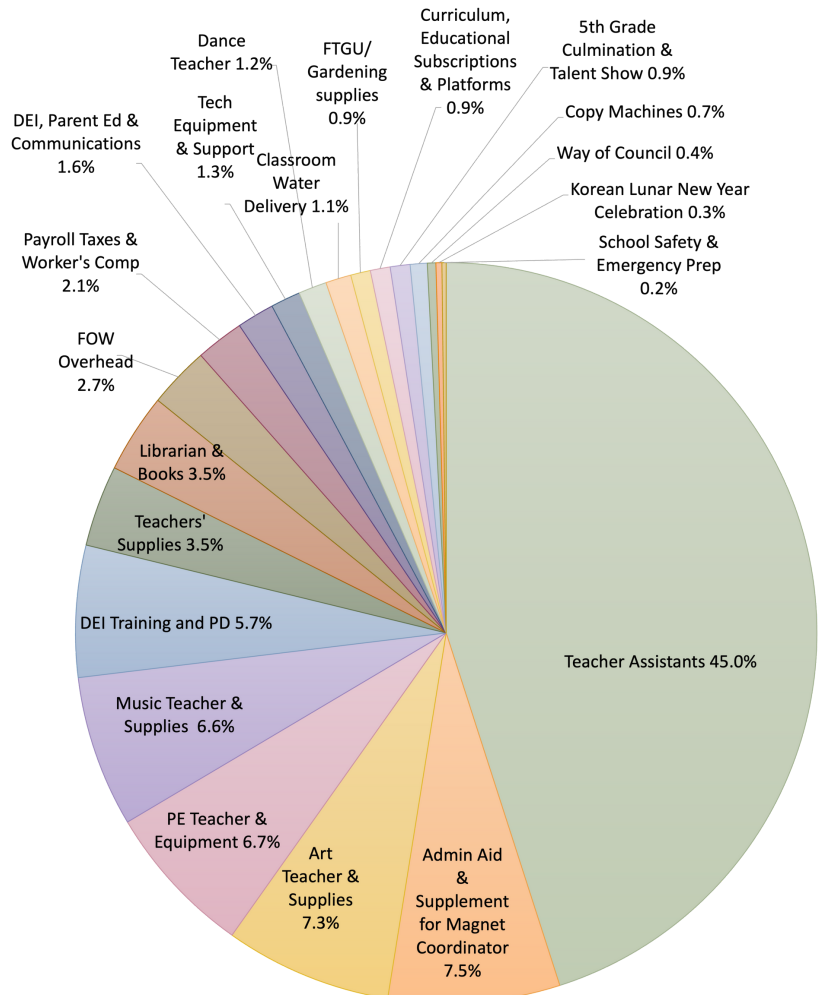
Annual Giving Pledge Drive	\$487,500
Walk for Wonderland	\$50,000
Party Book	\$30,000
Corporate Sponsorship	\$15,000
Book Fair & Other Library Functions	\$9,000
Grants	\$4,000
Affiliate Programs	\$1,000

Total Anticipated Income \$596,500

Total Potential Funding Shortfall from FOW's Reserve Savings \$213,854

FOW EXPENSES 2023/2024

Teacher Assistants	\$365,000
Administrative Aid & Supplement for Magnet Coordinator	\$60,634
Art Teacher & Supplies	\$59,000
PE Teacher & Equipment	\$54,000
Music Teacher & Supplies	\$53,500
Professional Development for Teachers and DEI Training	\$46,550
Teacher Allowance for Classroom Books & Supplies	\$28,700
Full-Time Librarian & Books for the Library	\$28,000
FOW Overhead (Insurance, Accountancy, etc.)	\$21,670
Payroll Taxes & Worker's Compensation	\$17,000
DEI, Parent Ed & Communications	\$13,200
Technology Equipment, Maintenance & Support	\$10,500
Dance Teacher & Program	\$10,000
Classroom Water Coolers & Delivery	\$9,000
FTGU/Gardening supplies	\$7,000
Curriculum, Educational Subscriptions & Platforms	\$7,000
5th Grade Culmination & Tent for Talent Show	\$7,000
Copy Machines' Usage & Supplies	\$6,000
Way of Council SEL Program	\$3,000
Korean Lunar New Year Celebration	\$2,100
School Safety & Emergency Preparedness	\$1,500
Total	\$810,354



WELCOME

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF FRIENDS OF WONDERLAND

Welcome to the 2023-2024 School Year at Wonderland Avenue Elementary! With the pandemic and campus construction far behind us, it is time to renew our commitment to our kids and our school, and answer the call to be "Friends of Wonderland."

It is no secret that Wonderland's renowned success and reputation for excellence are directly related to the support of our active and generous parent body. While our kids continue to lead the way in academic and civic excellence, Wonderland parents are similarly unrivaled in their commitment to volunteering and fundraising for our school.

For 6 years now, we have achieved the unthinkable – 100% participation in our fall Annual Giving campaign! This means that every single Wonderland family made a contribution during the annual drive. We also set a new record during our annual Walk for Wonderland fundraiser this past March, raising over \$72K!

Thanks to these efforts, as well as the success of our Party Book fundraisers, FOW was able to fully fund Wonderland's award-winning programs–Music, Art, PE, Library, DEI and Way of Council–as well as provide teacher's aides for every classroom, new books for each class and the library, innovative classroom technology, and ongoing professional development for our amazing teachers and staff.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of our whole community. While LAUSD provides for our physical space and basic survival, it is all of you who make our school the "Wonderland" that it is!

For the 2023-2024 school year, we must raise \$1,250 per student during our Annual Giving campaign to continue funding all the programs, people and technology that make Wonderland such a special place. We know the past few months have been trying financial times for many, which is why FOW has not increased the \$1,250 per student ask amount despite major increases in our budget. We appreciate donations of any size, and encourage you to participate at the level that is comfortable for your family.

Your tax-deductible donation, combined with the active participation of our entire community, makes all the difference to your children's futures. With your help, each child at Wonderland will continue to receive an educational and social/emotional experience that is far superior than those of other schools, public or private, at a fraction of the cost. Please be as generous as you can, and thank you for being a "Friend!"

Make your tax-deductible donation today by visiting:

<http://www.wonderlandschool.org/donation>

Every child matters, every dollar helps.

Peace, Love and Public School,
Bahar Chakmakis
President, Friends of Wonderland



MUSIC

By using the Orff-Schulwerk approach and encouraging individual self-expression, music teacher Erin Barnes helps students develop fundamental musical skills with an emphasis on music theory, history, singing, playing instruments, listening, and movement. All students are taught to identify elements of music such as mood, timbre, and style through music appreciation units and the study of traditional Western and American repertoire. In addition to the Winter Wonderland annual holiday show, and the musical elements of the 5th Grade Culmination, Ms. Barnes organizes and conducts collaborations with other artistic disciplines throughout the year.



2022-2023 Accomplishments

- Combined music, movement, and speech into lessons structured to resemble a child's world of play
- Incorporated ear-training and understanding basic harmonic structure and theory into vocal and instrumental music
- Introduced the Solfege and Kodaly method for voice and the fundamental music theory concepts of rhythm and note reading
- All grade levels studied the function and characteristics of Western orchestral instruments as well as diverse genres of music including classical, film scores, jazz
- Explored the music of different cultures from around the world
- 3rd-5th grades learned to read standard musical notation and play the recorder
- 1st-5th grades practiced rhythmic dictation
- All students learned to memorize and perform songs
- 1st-5th grades were introduced to music composition and the expression of original ideas through sound, musical instruments and movement
- All students created and played their own percussion instruments
- Introduced the concept of body percussion to lower grades and advanced body percussion to upper grade students

2023-2024 Planned Program Additions

- Deeper exploration of Orff instruments, improvisation, and composition
- Continue instruction and demonstration for grades 3-5 on the ukulele
- Explore more opportunities for live performance and concert with parent volunteers and visiting guest artists
- Reintroduce the annual Spring Showcase in collaboration with Visual Arts
- Encourage and develop recitals, instrument demonstrations, and performances by students

ART

Wonderland's commitment to the creative process is realized daily in our dedicated art studio. Art teacher Judah Milner engages students with lessons grounded in the elements and principles of art in accordance with national and state standards. In this supportive, purposeful, and stimulating environment, students take on creative challenges that allow for reaction and self-assessment while learning the building blocks to visual arts.



2022-2023 Accomplishments

- Projects and lessons accomplished California State Standards providing cross-curricular alignment to students' academic subjects
- Provided introductory exercises through visual thinking strategies to bolster curiosity, cognition, aesthetic development, and public speaking
- Implemented new projects based on recent changes to California State Standards with more focus on experiential learning and creative experimentation



2023-2024 Planned Program Additions

- Deeper development of projects that will provide further cross-curricular alignment, creating more connections between students' academic subjects and their creativity
- Creative ways to reimplement and improve the Spring Showcase in collaboration with the Music Department, featuring performance art, and the art installation in the MPR

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Coach Evan Olster, who just celebrated his 30th year of teaching at Wonderland, provides students with a bi-weekly, rigorous and engaging Physical Education program in a safe, personalized and nurturing environment. As coach, referee, teammate and motivator, Evan's goal is for all students to demonstrate physical, intellectual and emotional skills that promote success.

Using the California Content Standards as a guide, Wonderland's PE program develops competencies through movement skills and knowledge, positive self-image, and personal and social development. In addition to coordinating and preparing students for FOW's annual Walk for Wonderland fundraiser, Coach Evan leads our beloved school Sports Day in the spring. He helps students select events, then train and practice to ensure they each have a shot at doing their very best for themselves, their class, and their school.

2022-2023 Accomplishments

- This year's Walk for Wonderland (first one since 2020) was the most successful to date, raising over \$72,000 for the school.
- Held first Sports Day since 2019 on June 1st!
- 5th grade performed well on the annual Physical Fitness test including a new mile run record for the school (6:06)

2023-2024 Planned Additions

- Resume half-mile and mile running program now that construction has been completed.
- Units on both Ultimate Frisbee and Frisbee Golf.
- Lunchtime sports tournaments.



LIBRARY

Wonderland's Literacy and Media Specialist, Myrtle Keefe, provides instruction and assistance to students and teachers in our library media center. Ms. Myrtle partners with teachers to support the curriculum and promote reading as a foundational skill. Most importantly, she strives to inspire a love of reading in her students.

Every class at Wonderland comes to the library for 30 minutes at least once per week with a read-aloud or reader's theater session before checking out books. Many classes have a second visit for research, reading buddies, and additional library time. The library is available before and after school, as well as during school lunches for all students.

Wonderland's library includes over 11,000 books.

Ms. Myrtle also plans and manages annual events such as the Holiday Book Fair, the end-of-year used book sale, numerous author visits and other special events, as well as coordinating an active group of parent volunteers.

2022-2023 Accomplishments

- Scheduled, promoted, and coordinated author visits on campus and virtually with Children's Book World: Julie Buxbaum – *Area 51 Files*, Alan Gratz – *Two Degrees*, Andrea J. Loney – *Curve and Flow*, Nic Stone – *Fast Pitch*, Sarah Mlynowski & Debbie Rigaud – *Best Wishes*, Lauren Kate – *One True Wish*, Stephen Frank & Jason Lust – *Class Action*, Helena Ku Rhee – *Sora's Seashells*, Benson Shum – *Cindy and Panda*
- Processed 15,220 check-outs for students and teachers
- Reviewed and added books to the library which included new and in-demand titles, as well as diverse books covering Black History, AAPI Heritage, Hispanic Heritage and LGBTQ+ titles.
- With the assistance of volunteers, began to get the one-on-one reading program with students started again.
- Worked with students in the COOLL group (Collection of Our Little Librarians). This group of approximately 30 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students performs duties such as filing books, cleaning shelf markers, and assisting students in book selections. Students who work a certain number of hours in the library are rewarded with a luncheon in their honor.

2023-2024 Planned Program Additions

- Increase volunteer involvement in the library, specifically with the one-on-one reading program to meet student needs.





INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

To help prepare our kids for the future, FOW has made it a priority to provide Wonderland's teachers and students with the best and most up-to-date instructional technologies in education — modern teaching aides such as MacBook laptops, iPads, LED panels, document cameras and more. With access to these tools, teachers and students are able to research assignments, design projects and present ideas while utilizing critical problem-solving skills.

As the state continues to conduct annual, digital SBAC testing for students in grades three and above, it has become increasingly important to provide technological practice and understanding that will allow our students to perform at the highest levels.

Beginning this fall, with the tech FOW has purchased for Wonderland, and LAUSD's recent contributions, we will have an iPad for every student in grades 2-5 to use in his/her/their classroom! Our youngest students also have access to iPads, but not as many, as teachers use them only in center/group activities, not as a whole class.

2022 - 2023 Accomplishments

- Replaced the 6 remaining outdated SmartBoards with 75" TVs
- Added 75" TVs on mobile stands to Room 19 and the MPR
- Provided an iPad and Apple Pencil for 6 teachers
- Added 4 more iPad carts for storage and charging of classroom iPads
- Maintained and serviced all existing equipment
- Worked with LAUSD to create a current and complete inventory of all devices

2023 - 2024 Planned Program Additions

- Replace 3 teacher laptops
- Update and refresh the school website
- Work with LAUSD to provide devices for every student
- Continue to work with Apple for better technology professional development
- Maintain tech inventory and service all equipment



TEACHER ASSISTANTS

Teacher Assistants are essential to the quality of our instructional programs, as well as to the safety and supervision of our students. Many of our TAs have already earned, or are in the process of acquiring teaching credentials. They provide small group and individual instruction, building on lessons provided by classroom teachers. They also assist in monitoring students as they learn, work and play together throughout each day. Our TAs provide much needed support in the preparation and implementation of all learning activities at Wonderland!

2022 - 2023 Accomplishments

- Maintained TA presence and assistance in every class
- Added more TA supervision on the yard during lunch

2023 - 2024 Planned Program Additions

- Provide focused training and professional development in de-escalation protocol and strategies, Council, Reader's & Writer's Workshop, Eureka, and Reading and Math Assessments
- Provide professional development for playground norms and school yard structures to promote positive play and safety, while emphasizing conflict resolution and de-escalation practices consistent with Wonderlands Schoolwide Positive Behavior Plan.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For the 2022-2023 school year, FOW funded professional development opportunities that included Reader's & Writer's Workshop, support and modification of the Way of Council, and continued work with Anti-Bias/anti-Racist training with the procurement and implementation of grade level libraries reflective of our multicultural society. As we continued this work of ABAR we also looked to implement various aspects of SEL and incorporate that learning into schoolwide programs and systems.

2022 - 2023 Accomplishments

- Began the process of restructuring Way of Council to address continued development of cultural awareness
- Engaged Deidra Fogarty and Rakim Jenkins of Black Girls Teach to lead faculty and staff in ongoing Anti-Bias/Anti-Racist training
- Initiated instruction in the new math program Eureka
- One teacher attended the Reader's & Writer's Teachers College at Columbia University for Level 2 Certification



2023 - 2024 Planned Program Additions

- Continue Anti-Bias/Anti-Racist Training with Deidra Fogarty and Rakim Jenkins, including 3 virtual staff developments and support developing a scope and sequence for continued ABAR work
- Focus on SEL and integration of Growth Mindset training
- Gender Identity and DEI Training including new curriculum



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ENTIRE WONDERLAND COMMUNITY FOR REACHING 100% PARTICIPATION!

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The Connell Family
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The Dubash Family
The Endlich Family
The Faktorovich/Speare Family
The Farzad Family
The Katz Family
The Libman Family
The Magouirk Family
The Mar-Montgomery Family
The Morphew Family
The Newstat Family
The Nosrati Family
The Olsen Family
The Proti Family
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WALK FOR WONDERLAND • MARCH 2024

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Friends of Wonderland is a parent-led, volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit educational foundation that raises money to supplement and enrich the learning environment at **Wonderland Avenue Elementary**, and ensure that every child will receive an outstanding educational and social-emotional experience.

Friends of Wonderland

Wonderland Avenue Elementary, 8510 Wonderland Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90046

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