



**PROFESSIONAL
CHILDREN'S
SCHOOL**

**ANNUAL REPORT
ON GIVING 2024-2025**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2024-2025

HONORARY LIFETIME TRUSTEES

Charlotte M. Ford Denise Jackson Sutherland*

2024-2025 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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*DENOTES ALUMNI

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FROM THE OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT



The conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year marks the end of another milestone occasion. First, we celebrated 110 years of Professional Children’s School during the 2024-2025 school year, honoring the history, legacy, and story of our remarkable institution. The momentum from this achievement set us up for another milestone celebration, the 30th Anniversary of Dr. James Dawson’s appointment as Head of Professional Children’s School. The 2024-2025 school year paid tribute to Dr. Dawson’s decades-long tenure while also looking toward the next chapter for PCS. Dr. Dawson continues to steer us toward a bright future, and we are immensely proud to have such a committed, supportive leader driving us forward.

With deep gratitude, the Office of Institutional Advancement thanks the more than 285 supporters who made contributions to Professional Children’s School this year. We express our most profound thanks to PCS parents, faculty, staff, alumni, and our many

friends for their continued support and investment in our mission. We must also acknowledge our incredible Board of Trustees for their continued guidance, leadership, and generosity to PCS. This group of committed individuals, each with their own unique connection to PCS, shares their time, expertise, and resources with enthusiasm, and we extend our most heartfelt gratitude.

The 2024-2025 Annual Report on Giving honors the extraordinary generosity of our supporters. The individuals and organizations recognized in these pages are the foundation of our community—lifting us up so that our students can thrive and pursue their dreams with grit, determination, and an unwavering support system. The people listed herein are more than just donors or contributors, they are the makers of dreams. Together, our supporters, through the empowerment of our students, will create a lasting societal impact on the landscape of arts, culture, athletics, business, global affairs, and more.

This Annual Report will also highlight the most joyous moments from the school year, including our Annual Boat Cruise, the 30 Days of Giving, All School Night, the Spring Gala, and many more community gatherings and events. It is not lost on us that only a few years ago we were unable to gather with each other, share in our lives and support our students on stage. We do not take for granted the sense of pride a student feels when they walk across the stage at graduation, when they sit with their

friends laughing on the 6th floor commons, when they decide to perform in front of their peers for the first time, or even when they can engage in a lively classroom discussion. These moments, made possible by our supporters, have a lasting social emotional impact on our students as they navigate the ever-changing world around them.

As the 2024-2025 school year came to a close, we bid farewell to 29 graduating members of the Class of 2025. We are immensely proud of this class for their drive, passion, and readiness to leap into the unknown. We know they will represent PCS with pride as they take their next steps in the world. Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

The Class of 2025 will not be the only significant departure this year. Melanie Harris ’91, our committed Board Chair for the last six years, completed her term on June 30, 2025. Melanie’s leadership navigated PCS through some of the most difficult years in our history, and we will forever be thankful for her unshakeable drive and vision for our school. We look forward to her continuing on our Board as Chair Emeritus.

With this transition, we are pleased to welcome PCS Trustee and Parent, Melissa Vlak, as the newly elected Chair of the Board of Trustees. Melissa’s unique experience as a PCS parent, as well as her understanding of arts, culture, and philanthropy in New York City, will be an incredible asset to our Board as we head into this next chapter of PCS. Welcome, Melissa!

We hope you enjoy this year’s Annual Report on Giving.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meghan Blakeman'.

Meghan Blakeman
*Director of Institutional Advancement
& Community Engagement*

FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



The release of our 2025 annual report offers a meaningful opportunity to reflect on all that we accomplished over the past year—both financially and culturally. At the heart of Professional Children's School is a clear and enduring mission: to provide a rigorous, high-quality education while supporting our students in their professional pursuits. Our exceptional faculty and staff fully understand the unique challenges and exciting opportunities our students encounter as they follow their passions. They work tirelessly to ensure our students are well prepared for the future—educationally, professionally, and personally. It is this unwavering dedication, led by Head of School Dr. James Dawson, coupled with a culture of collaboration and inclusivity, that makes PCS such a truly special place.

This past year, we celebrated a remarkable milestone: Dr. Dawson's 30th anniversary as Head of School. His steadfast leadership is extraordinary within the independent school community, and it's something our entire PCS

family takes immense pride in. Dr. Dawson continues to lead with integrity, transparency, and deep compassion. His commitment to the well-being of every student sets the tone for the entire school community—faculty, administration, trustees, and families alike. Over the past three decades, James has shaped PCS in immeasurable ways. Perhaps his most transformative impact has been the elevation of our academic program. While PCS was once known primarily for supporting young professionals, it is now equally recognized for its academic rigor and the academic success of our students — a testament to his leadership. That growth was on full display this year, with the Class of 2025 receiving one of our most impressive college acceptance lists in the school's history.

On the financial front, our community came together in a truly meaningful and inspiring way, raising nearly \$1.5 million over the past year to support the mission and vision of Professional Children's School. This level of support reflects not only a shared belief in the importance of our work, but also a deep sense of commitment to our students, our faculty, and the future of PCS. One of the fundraising highlights was our annual gala, which celebrated Dr. Dawson's 30th anniversary. We raised over \$300,000. The energy, enthusiasm, and generosity on display that evening were extraordinary.

Our Board of Trustees led the charge as the most significant group of contributors, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to PCS through both leadership and philanthropy. Parents of

alumni made up the second-largest group of donors, a powerful reminder of the lasting impact PCS has on the lives of students and families well beyond graduation. Additional support came from current parents, alumni, foundations, and friends of the school, each playing a vital role in helping us sustain and grow our programs.

These funds directly support our academic offerings, financial aid, faculty development, and essential resources that ensure PCS remains a place where talented young people can thrive. We are deeply grateful for every gift and every gesture of support. As we look ahead, we are energized by the possibilities and remain committed to fostering a culture of generosity, inclusion, and shared purpose. Together, we are laying a strong foundation for the next chapter in PCS's story.

On a personal note, I've also been reflecting on the past six years in my role as Board Chair as my term concluded at the end of June. Serving PCS in this capacity has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Leading through the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic and working alongside a group of passionate, thoughtful, and generous trustees has changed me in profound ways. I am immensely thankful to each of my fellow trustees for their time, insights, and deep belief in our mission. While I will continue to serve on the Board, I am thrilled that my fellow trustee, Melissa Vlak, has stepped into the role of Board Chair. PCS' Board is in excellent hands, and I look forward to what lies ahead.

We look ahead with gratitude for all that has brought us to this moment and with great optimism for what's to come. Professional Children's School continues to thrive because of the strength of our community—our students, families, faculty, staff, alumni, and trustees—who believe deeply in our mission and work every day to uphold it. Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are ensuring that PCS remains a place where young people can pursue their dreams while receiving an exceptional education that prepares them for wherever life may lead.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected loops and strokes.

Melanie Harris '91
Outgoing Chair, Board of Trustees

FROM THE INCOMING CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Dear Friends,

As I begin my term as Chair of the Board of Trustees, I am both honored and excited to step into this role at a moment of growth and renewed opportunity for Professional Children's School. PCS has long stood as a place where talent, discipline, and academic rigor intersect, and I am deeply committed to working alongside my fellow trustees, Dr. James Dawson, our dedicated faculty and staff, and all of you to ensure that the school continues to thrive.

Looking back, PCS celebrated several important successes last year that reflect the school's impact and visibility. We are especially proud of our new partnership with Saint Thomas Church—an inspiring collaboration that enriches both communities and broadens the reach of a PCS education. In addition, PCS was honored to be featured on CBS Sunday Morning, shining a national spotlight on our unique mission and extraordinary students.

Looking forward, the beginning of a new school year marks an important moment to reflect on our goals and renew our commitment to the mission of Professional Children's School: to provide a rigorous, high-quality education while supporting our students in their professional pursuits. Guided by Head of School Dr. James Dawson, our dedicated faculty and staff understand both the challenges and the extraordinary opportunities our students encounter as they follow their passions. With tireless effort, they prepare our young people for success in higher education and beyond. It is this commitment—together with PCS's culture of collaboration, inclusivity, and respect—that makes our school such a distinctive and inspiring place.

PCS relies on generous gifts to provide vital resources that allow our students and faculty to flourish. Most of the funds raised at PCS go directly toward providing scholarship opportunities for deserving students and supporting mental health initiatives that are vital to our community. PCS's ability to raise resources from trustees, parents, alumni, and other members of the PCS community is critical to carrying out its mission.

The Board of Trustees is incredibly grateful to each of you for your support of PCS, and we hope you will continue to give generously. Your commitment and enthusiasm enable Professional Children's School to fulfill its unique educational mission—not only as we plan for this school year, but also for future generations of talented, eager, and bright PCS students.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Vlak'.

With gratitude,
Melissa Vlak
Incoming Chair, Board of Trustees

HONORING 30 YEARS WITH DR. JAMES DAWSON



THE **2024-2025** SCHOOL YEAR MARKED **THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY**
OF THE APPOINTMENT OF **DR. DAWSON AS HEAD**
OF **PROFESSIONAL CHILDREN'S SCHOOL.**

A LETTER FROM DR. JAMES DAWSON:

July 1, 1995 seems awfully far away at this point; thirty years ago, it was the day that I technically started my work as Head of School at Professional Children's School but, being a Saturday, I actually started two days later on July 3rd and had a holiday on July 4th, what would be my second day of work. The vagaries of time make that a bit hard to remember but the passage of time has only made it more significant as a moment of great consequence for me and, implicitly, for my beloved school. Of course, a lot has changed in 30 years: our curriculum is stronger and with greater breadth and depth; our financial aid has grown tremendously to accommodate both our higher tuition and the real needs of our families; our reputation as a school and a community has been elevated by the work that we do and the remarkable young people entrusted to us. During my time at PCS, we expanded and upgraded the building, adding 50% more space, including a new theater, a new gymnasium, new classrooms and special spaces; we've incorporated a far more sophisticated technology infrastructure, and we've lived with and managed the myriad changes of society ranging from something so ubiquitous as the arrival of the iPhone to the explosion that we saw in the use of the internet and the extraordinary power of computers, yielding both solutions and problems as an academic institution. We've made a stronger commitment to mental health and wellbeing; we've supported an extraordinary faculty and staff even in the midst of the crisis of COVID, of writers' and actors' strikes, and the frequent cycles of an uneven local and global economy. We've seen the school's reputation grow in stature and depth and we've been the beneficiary of extraordinary financial generosity over the past three decades, allowing us to make for a better school, a better program, a deeper commitment to young people and the individuals who serve them, and we've made a mark as a singularly remarkable institution that has stayed true to mission for 112 years in supporting the arts while celebrating the mind.

Of course, some things have never changed: our mission, our commitment, our flexibility, and our joy in affirming and celebrating the remarkable talents and passions of our students. We've continued to form life-long bonds with them and their families, and we are deeply aware of the privilege that comes in working with and supporting them in their journey both while at PCS and beyond. Our parents remain committed to supporting their children; our donors have been steadfast in their financial support of this gem of a place called PCS, the proof of which remains evident in this annual report and in the many that preceded it during my tenure. We've had an enviable college admissions record, testament to both our students and our program so brilliantly executed by our phenomenal faculty and staff. We've grown to care even more deeply about the whole child and learned to be supportive and resourceful as our students confront an even more challenging local and global environment.

We're still that PCS that started on a winter's day in January of 1914; we're still a place where dreams are made and realized; we're still a home to remarkable young people whose talents and passions elevate the world at large; and, above and beyond all of that, we are still a place that cares deeply, that strives to be our very best always, and that understands both our responsibility and our sacred pledge to educate, elevate, and affirm the individuals and cherished young people who fill our halls and our hearts.

I am deeply, deeply grateful for this remarkable experience and I look forward to our continued work together. The bottom line for me is true of each and every person who has ever walked through our doors: if you give to the world the best you have, the best will come back to you. Indeed, for me, it has!

Dr. James Dawson
Head of School

GIFTS IN HONOR OF DR. JAMES DAWSON'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

We extend our most heartfelt gratitude to the individuals listed below, who either made contributions in honor of Dr. Dawson's 30th Anniversary, or gave a gift directly to the Dr. James Dawson Fund for Financial Aid. These contributions are a testament to the leadership, commitment, and unwavering passion of Dr. Dawson, and we are proud to have a community that shares in our investment in Professional Children's School.

- Anonymous (8)

Nami Ahn

American Online Giving Foundation

Karen Wong and King Ang

Jesse and Anne Ausubel

Ita and Avi Barak

Mark and Cynthia Barber

Alyssa Grikscheit and Mauricio Barberi

Lori and Carswell Berlin

Amanda and Ritam Bhalla

Donald and Susan Brant

Martha Ree and John David Brookshire

Marian Brown and John Glassie

Dominika and Michael S. Budzinsky

Dr. Ernestine Byer-Tyre
- Krista and Brian Callaghan

Audrey Chaffee '22

Carolyn C. Clark

Christina Clark '16

Anthony Roth Costanzo '00

Pierce Cravens '04

Dr. Daniel Curry and Mrs. Rachel (Yanowitch) Curry '05

DAFgiving360

Michelle Dandeneau

Julia Dubno

Matthew Duepner '14

Tammy Ferris '96 and Peter Ferris

The Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund

Kimberley Fiterman-Duepner and Gregory Duepner

- Friends of Isaac Greaney

Aaron Lyle Gelbman '05

Brad and Dana Gemeinhardt

The Glickenhau Foundation

Julia Goodkin

Gregory Gropper '17

Robert Halmi

Marilou and Mark Hamill

Melanie Harris '91 and Rob Fraiman

Sylvia Kuhar '22

The J. P. Morgan Charitable Giving Fund

Marjorie and Jordan Hirsch

Brian and Jenny Hogan

Lawrence Holodak

Victoria Horrocks

The Iyer Family

Jewish Communal Fund



- Mya Jones

Mizuho Kameoka

David and Annie Kipke

Fred and Susan Kneip

Kelsey Fithian Lamond '02 and David Lamond

Robert Lauder

Dania Nauholnyk Lawro and Lubomyr Lawro

Pat and Ronnie '55 Lee

Roger and Florence Liddell

Leilei Liu

Dr. Jennifer London and Dr. Joshua Socolow

Mariam Dingilian '10

John and Victoria Mancuso

JoAnn Mariano

Eduardo Mestre

The Morakis Family

Morgan Stanley GIFT

Ashok Nayyar

Christian Nosal '17

Berenika D. Palys

Erica Marks Panush and David Panush

Tricia Lynch Patton '08 and Ryan Patton

Erika Petersen and Eric Rosenthal

Emily Pier '02
- Peter Pileski

Gene Raicovich

Jennifer Rao

Finbar Regan

Kevin and Jean Rodd

Howard Rogut

Christy Carlson Romano '02

The Rutledge Family

Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue

Bridget Scanlon

Erin and Brendan Scanlon

Sonya and Darren Schroeder

Shellie Sclan

Bruce Smith

Emily Soell

Katerina Soukhopalov

Kathrin Stengel

Denise Jackson Sutherland '69

Lillie Thom & Cliff and Sylvia Hartman

Salvatore and Vanessa Tollis

Abe Unger '85

Thomson Reuters

Vanguard Charitable

The Vlak Family

Heath and Katherine Watkin

Alan Winters

Michael Wolff and Polly Draper

Nathaniel Wolff '13

- Daniel and Barbara Wood

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Yanowitch

Mr. Bernard and Honorable Diane Yatauro

Mary Ellen Cravens Young and Chris Young





PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT 2024-2025

JULY 1, 2024—JUNE 30, 2025

GIVING TO PCS BY INITIATIVE

FUND FOR PROFESSIONAL CHILDREN'S SCHOOL <i>(Unrestricted)</i>	\$303,226
FINANCIAL AID FUNDS <small>Includes Gifts to: PCS Financial Aid Fund, Dr. James Dawson Fund for Financial Aid, Carol Kleban Financial Aid Fund, Virginia B. Toulmin Scholarship Fund</small>	\$184,730
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$210,510
OTHER RESTRICTED GIFTS	\$554,045

\$1,252,511

TOTAL GIVING
TO PCS

GIVING TO PCS BY CONSTITUENCIES

TRUSTEES	\$809,401
PARENTS	\$315,598
ALUMNI	\$204,688
PARENTS OF ALUMNI	\$468,235
FACULTY AND STAFF	\$24,829
FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS, AND GRANTS	\$474,535

Note: Some donors fall into more than one constituency.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

\$1,448,050

AWARDED
THROUGH ALL
FINANCIAL AID AND
SCHOLARSHIP
FUNDS

\$57,500

AWARDED THROUGH
THE VIRGINIA B. TOULMIN
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Virginia B. Toulmin
FOUNDATION

\$97,500

AWARDED THROUGH
The Carlos Kirjner
FINANCIAL AID FUND

40% OF PCS
STUDENTS RECEIVED FINANCIAL AID



PCS 30 DAYS OF GIVING

It is PCS tradition to host the annual Day of Giving during the fall semester. This is our first fundraising event of the year and invites families, Trustees, alumni, faculty, and supporters to participate in raising funds for the **Fund for Professional Children's School**.

This year marked a milestone anniversary, the 30th Anniversary of the appointment as Dr. James Dawson as the PCS Head of School. With this in mind, we thought that the Day of Giving was a perfect way to kick off a year-long celebration. In 2024, PCS hosted 30 Days of Giving in the month of November! The month of gratitude was a major celebration at PCS and resulted in our highest grossing Day of Giving campaign yet.

We are especially grateful to our generous **Board of Trustees** for collectively offering a **matching gift of \$75,000!**

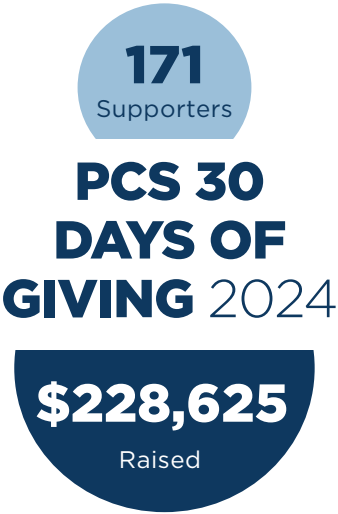
We are proud to report that for the 30 Days of Giving, we reached **100% participation from PCS faculty and staff!** It means the world when our community members give back to the school, and we are proud to have a team that is truly committed to our students and mission.



During the 30 Days of Giving, we also celebrated key community events:

PCS students collaborated with faculty to make and pack over 256 lunches to donate to Bowery Mission. The spirit of giving at PCS extends beyond just fundraising, but reaches toward our broader community to engage, support, and uplift those around us. We are especially grateful to our Student Association, filled with student members across all grade levels, for their leadership and drive in their commitment to the PCS community.

Additionally, PCS Trustee and Parent, Simone Zeko, sponsored an incredible dinner with Trustees and all members of the PCS professional community. Ms. Zeko invited all PCS faculty and staff to join Trustees in the Peter Glenville Theatre for a cocktail hour and seated dinner, expressing gratitude for the commitment and unwavering support our team provides to our students. This evening was a lovely celebration of our community, and allowed Trustees and faculty members to connect on a deeper level. We are profoundly grateful for Ms. Zeko's generosity in hosting this event.



- 28% are PCS Alumni
- 18% are Current PCS Parents and Families
- 15% are Alumni Families
- 18% are Current PCS Faculty, Staff, and Administrators

TO MAKE A DONATION ONLINE, PLEASE SCAN HERE

We also thank four student artists who provided custom artworks to donors. Special thanks to Audrey Ang '27, Tatiana Lorch '25, Charlotte Nebres '26, and Rhys Spano '25.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

In our goal to build stronger community connections during the 2024-2025 school year, we are proud to report that PCS invited parents to gather more frequently than in years past. Along with our annual traditions of All School Night and the Circle Line Boat Cruise, we hosted parent breakfasts and cocktail events that empowered the champions of our students to come together and share their experiences.



PARENT COCKTAIL RECEPTION

With the utmost gratitude, we thank our departing Board Chair, Melanie Harris '91, for underwriting a festive Parent Cocktail Reception in January, where over 60 parents had the opportunity to mingle, mix, and find connection with each other. Being a PCS parent is a unique experience, and we are truly grateful to offer opportunities for parents to find common ground and strengthen bonds within our community.



SENIOR PARENT COCKTAIL RECEPTION

We also hosted a Senior Parent Reception in May, honoring the commitment and dedication of the families with students who were crossing the finish line. This reception, hosted on the 3rd floor of PCS, showcased the stunning new Art Gallery with breathtaking pieces created by students and curated by our very own Anh Ta.



ALUMNI CORNER
DANIA NAUHOLNYK



What an exhilarating year it has been at Professional Children's School as we commemorated Dr. Dawson's 30 years as Head of School while continuing to celebrate the numerous accomplishments of our current students and Alumni Community. It was truly uplifting to have alumni return, share their experiences, attend our Spring Gala, and take the time to mentor our students. A heartfelt thank you to each of you for keeping this special place in your thoughts and for being outstanding ambassadors who spread the word about the impactful work we do here. I encourage you to keep recommending PCS to others. Our mission is vital as it nurtures the aspirations of the next generation of scholar-athletes, musicians, actors, entrepreneurs, visual artists, influencers, and anyone chasing their dreams. We are growing, and the decision to bring back our 4th and 5th grades has

opened up many opportunities, and your recommendations to other families matter. If you wish to learn more about our current college preparatory program for grades 4-12, please reach out to us. You too can become part of the success stories of so many.

A highlight for our Alumni community this year was the Reunion on June 20th, which welcomed over 100 alumni back to our School. This occasion was particularly special as we rekindled old friendships and forged new connections. The Reunion provided a unique chance for alumni to reflect on their shared experiences, celebrate their journeys since graduation, and network with one another. We honored your legacy at PCS, while also looking to the future with the welcoming of our new members, the class of 2025, who were well represented at this event. Thank you to all who joined us.

Recent years have taught us that time is our most valuable asset. Contributing one's time is just as crucial as financial support. We continue to find ways to create more opportunities for our seasoned alumni to share their wisdom, expertise, and insights with younger alumni and current students. What excites me most is the growing interest from our community in establishing ways to support our students by connecting with them, serving as mentors, and participating in alumni panels. In a tumultuous world, our students seek guidance and reassurance from our alumni that their chosen paths will be rewarding. As our alumni know, it is common to question decisions made as an actor, dancer, athlete, or musician. Role models help illuminate potential pathways and strategies to achieve one's goals. These relationships foster meaningful connections to the School. We look forward to building upon what we have started.

Most importantly, as we reflect on this last school year, it is important to show our appreciation to all who work at PCS. In my conversations with Alumni, it is clear that our teachers, students, and staff form the foundation of our Institution. A recurring message is that we played a crucial role in their formative years; without the flexibility and sense of community we offer, pursuing their passions and dreams would have been much more challenging. For many, Professional Children's School has been a launching pad for success, and I urge our alumni to cherish those experiences that tie them to this incredible place. I hope these memories will inspire our community to contribute financially in the coming months and years, especially as the landscape evolves and covering the costs of a private school education becomes increasingly difficult. Every dollar truly matters.

I want to express my gratitude to Dr. James Dawson and Meghan Blakeman for their support, collaboration, and patience. I eagerly anticipate what the next year will bring.

Respectfully,

Dania Nauholnyk

Dania Nauholnyk
Alumni Liaison



2025 SPRING GALA

PCS CELEBRATED ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SPRING GALA IN APRIL!

On April 23, 2025, Professional Children's School returned to Edison Ballroom for our annual Spring Gala celebration. We are profoundly grateful to our supporters for helping us make this year's event special and memorable.

Ticket sales and contributions from the Gala directly benefited the Financial Aid Fund. All gifts made to the Reverse Auction directly benefited the Dr. James Dawson Fund for Financial Aid, honoring Dr. Dawson's 30th Anniversary.

We were pleased to return to the beautiful Edison Ballroom, where the evening began with a cocktail reception and passed hors d'oeuvres. The reception was followed by a delicious dinner and stunning student performances, showcasing the raw talent and commitment of our student body. Student performers were also joined by PCS alumna Mary Stewart Sullivan '20.

Auctioneer Sophie Colgan facilitated an exciting paddle raise that resulted in \$119,213 raised for the Dr. James Dawson Fund for Financial Aid. PCS alumnus Nat Wolff '13 joined us to present Dr. Dawson with the esteemed Legacy Award, which also included a moving video presentation featuring remarks from alumni across Dr. Dawson's three decades of service.

For a list of those who contributed in honor of Dr. Dawson, please visit page 10.

146
Attendees

\$300,013

Total Raised for
Financial Aid
at PCS

including...

\$119,213

from the
Reverse Auction



We extend our thanks again to our generous Honorary Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Host Committees for their support.

HONORARY CHAIRS

Melanie Harris '91
and Rob Fraiman
Moses Singer
Sidley Austin LLP

HONORARY VICE CHAIRS

Alyssa Grikscheit
and Mauricio Barberi
Erin and Brendan Scanlon
Simone and Fehmi Zeko

EXECUTIVE HOST COMMITTEE

Donald and Susan Brant
Isaac and Kiran Greaney
Eleena Melamed '96
Melissa and Conrad Vlak
Jason Weinberg
and Merritt Johnson
Barbara and Daniel Wood

HOST COMMITTEE

Jesse and Anne Ausubel
Amanda and Ritam Bhalla
David R. Bixler '71
Lee and Bill Dieck
Dr. Jennifer London
and Dr. Joshua Socolow
Robert and Sharon Musiker
Peter Pileski
Sonya and Darren Schroeder
Melissa and Rob Teeter



LEGACY AWARD HONOREE

DR. JAMES DAWSON

In a very special moment, PCS alum Nat Wolff '13 joined us at the Spring Gala to present Dr. Dawson with the esteemed PCS Legacy Award. Dr. Dawson's PCS legacy is still being built, and after 30 years at the helm he continues to lead with compassion, openness, humor, and wisdom.



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Students at Professional Children’s School represent the drive, passion, and curiosity that is the foundation of our mission. PCS students are dreamers, innovators, and creative forces both inside and outside of the classroom. We are proud of the community of students and the incredible ways they have connected to each other. In the 2024-2025 school year, we were especially impressed by the number of events, community activities, and student engagement opportunities that took place.



BOAT CRUISE

On September 5, 2024, we welcomed all PCS families to the Annual Circle Line Boat Cruise to kick off the school year. This is one of our favorite traditions, and both new and returning students have the opportunity to gaze upon our city while enjoying dinner, dancing, and a DJ on the boat. We are especially thankful to the Richard Lounsbery Foundation for underwriting this event in celebration of Anne Ausubel’s 104th birthday. Anne has long been a cherished member of the PCS community, and this kind gift from the Richard Lounsbery Foundation ensured that all families were able to join the Boat Cruise at no cost.



FALL FESTIVAL

On September 27, 2024, PCS students took to the field at our annual Fall Festival. Through a series of team-based, friendly competitions at Riverside Park, our students, faculty, and staff enjoyed the outdoors and forged stronger bonds. Thanks to Mr. Kevin Rodd for organizing such a fun event this year, and congratulations to the Pink Team for taking home first place!



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

STUDENT CLUBS

The PCS student community often finds ways to celebrate their unique interests and experiences through inventive clubs, school spirit activities, and affinity groups. This year, the clubs at PCS were:

- American Sign Language Club
- Basketball Club
- Chinese Culture Club
- Creative Writing
- Debate Club
- Foreign Language Karaoke Club
- Finance/Investment Club
- Gender & Sexuality Alliance
- Library Club
- PCS Ambassadors
- Racial Affinity Group
- Student Association
- Tech Club
- Together We Rise
- Zumba
- Yearbook

ALL SCHOOL NIGHT

On March 7, 2025, we hosted one of our favorite annual events: All School Night. Volunteer parents worked with our incredible kitchen staff to put together the most luxurious potluck dinner before students and faculty donned the stage with a wide range of performances. We have so much talent in the PCS community, and All School Night celebrates the gifts of our students and staff members alike. This year was especially unique, as a crew from CBS Sunday Morning joined us and recorded the performances. The piece later aired on CBS Sunday Morning and is visible on the PCS website.

CONCERTS

It is no secret that PCS boasts an array of talented student musicians. Dr. Laura Inman directs incredible concerts throughout the year, showcasing a variety of classical, popular, and original music. Be it the Fall Concert, the Holiday Assembly, the Spring Concert, or another showcase, music fills the halls and hearts of PCS. Fun fact: Dr. Inman also directs the Student Performance at the Spring Gala!

THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

PCS students love the stage, and the drama classes share their talents each year with a Middle School Musical and an Advanced Drama play. This year, Ms. Sarah Grace directed some of the most memorable productions yet! The Middle School students performed in the dynamic production of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* in April, and four talented Upper School students masterfully captured the story of Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* in May.

FIELD TRIPS

PCS students experience learning beyond the classroom. PCS teachers maximize student learning through engaging field trips to many of our city's renowned institutions. Our students benefit from attending Broadway shows, arts and science museums and exhibits, bakeries and local businesses, parks, and more.





MIDDLE SCHOOL MOVING UP

Congratulations to the PCS Middle School students for their outstanding achievements this year. The Middle School students celebrated the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year with the traditional Moving Up Ceremony on Friday, June 6, 2025. It was a pleasure to invite families to join us in the Peter Glenville Theatre for the ceremony, with student speakers and performers, and meaningful words from PCS faculty and administrators. The ceremony was followed by a luncheon with families and a joyous farewell for the summer.



GRADE 6/7

Mia Johns
Yoojun Curtis Lee
Kai Lin
Honor Blue Savage
George Socolow
Willem Vlask
Amy Xu



GRADE 8

Reina Aoi
Donovan Bazemore
Havana Fredrickson
Soona Park
Polina Soukhopalova
William Teeter





GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025

Congratulations to the PCS Class of 2025! We are incredibly proud of this remarkable group of graduates. Throughout their time at PCS, the Class of 2025 has demonstrated exceptional leadership and a deep commitment to building a strong, inclusive community. Their drive, dedication, and passion for their chosen professions have been inspiring to witness, and we know their futures are full of possibility. On Thursday, June 12, the Class of 2025 marked their Commencement with a joyful celebration at Merkin Hall—featuring heartfelt speeches, standout performances, and a lively reception. We are thrilled to officially welcome these talented individuals into the PCS Alumni Community and can't wait to see all they accomplish in the years ahead.

CLASS OF 2025

Charlotte Anub
Cassandra Bacon
Daniel Barak
Xiaoneng 'Daisy' Bi
Jonah-Skai Boonswang
Tanrui Chen
Shannon Chiang
Claire Cho
Natalie Cohen
Christian Conner
Carly Connors

Sam Cousins
Sophia Kunxu Dou
Alex Gemeinhardt
Maggie Gorman
Tatiana Georgie Clark Lorch
Theodore Murphy
Sofia Elene Rodrigues
Natalie Schroeder
Dasha Shvets
Theo Silverman
Rhys Spano

Athan Sporek
Ayana Stampley
William McClure Stout
Keren Wang
Ella Watkin
Austin Webster-Perks
Quinn Zoldak

PROFESSIONAL CHILDREN'S SCHOOL



COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

**The graduates this year have enrolled in the colleges in bold.*

American University
Amherst College
Arizona State University
Bard College (2)
Barry University
Bennington College
Boston University (5)
Brown University
Bucknell University (3)
Caldwell University
California Institute of the Arts
University of California
- Berkeley
University of California
- Los Angeles

Carleton College
Chapman University (2)
College of Charleston (2)
CUNY - Hunter College (2)
CUNY - John Jay College
CUNY - Aaron Copeland
Conservatory
Cleveland Institute of Music
Colby College
Colgate University
University of Colorado
Columbia University (5)
University of Connecticut
Connecticut College
Coppin State University

University of Delaware (2)
Denison University
University of Denver
DePaul University (2)
Dickinson College
Drexel University (2)
Duke University
Elon University
Emerson College
Emory University
Eugene Lang College (2)
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Fordham University (5)
George Washington University
University of Georgia



Harvard University
Indiana University
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University
The Juilliard School (3)
Kean University
Loyola Marymount University
University of Lynchburg
Manhattan School of Music (2)
Manhattan University
University of Maryland (2)
Maryland Institute
College of Art
Marymount Manhattan
College (3)
Miami University of Ohio
University of Michigan
Misericordia University
Montclair State University
Moore College of Art & Design
New England Conservatory (4)
New York University (4)
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Oberlin College
Oberlin Conservatory
University of Oregon
Pace University (3)
Palm Beach Atlantic University
Peabody Institute of Music (2)

**Pennsylvania State
University** (5)
Pepperdine University
Princeton University
Ramapo College
of New Jersey
University of Rochester
Rosemount College
Rutgers University (3)
University of Saint Andrews
Saint John's University
San Francisco Conservatory
of Music
Sarah Lawrence College (4)
Savannah College of
Art & Design (2)
**School of the Art
Institute of Chicago**
Seton Hall University
Skidmore College
University of Southern
California
**Southern Methodist
University** (3)
Stanford University
SUNY - Binghamton
SUNY - Buffalo State
SUNY - New Paltz
SUNY - Purchase
SUNY - Stony Brook



Stetson University
Stevens Institute of Technology
Syracuse University (2)
Temple University (2)
University of Texas
Vassar College
University of Vermont (2)
Washington University
of Saint Louis
Wesleyan University
University of Wisconsin
Yale University



GIVING AT PROFESSIONAL CHILDREN’S SCHOOL

We are profoundly grateful for the culture of philanthropy at Professional Children’s School. We offer our deepest thanks to the many parents, grandparents, guardians, alumni, trustees, foundations, faculty, staff, and friends who contribute charitable gifts to PCS each year. PCS makes every effort to keep tuition affordable while providing an impactful and rigorous academic program to our students. The funds raised, both restricted and unrestricted, help to bridge the gap between tuition income and the cost of a PCS education. With these gifts, PCS can offer financial aid, invest in innovative technology, and support our professional community in meaningful ways. Thank you to everyone who gave in the 2024-2025 school year.

TOTAL GIVING TO PROFESSIONAL CHILDREN’S SCHOOL CONTRIBUTED
BETWEEN JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025.

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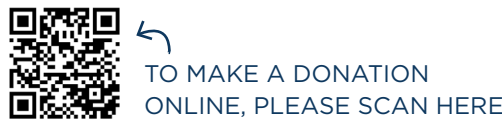
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IF YOUR NAME IS MISSING, PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT ADVANCEMENT@PCS-NYC.ORG.



GIFTS IN TRIBUTE

Many PCS supporters opt to give in honor or memory of someone special. The gifts listed below highlight the tributes of our donors. **Note, many gifts were made in honor of Dr. James Dawson's 30th Anniversary this year. To see these gifts, view page 10.**

In Honor of ANNE AUSUBEL
The Richard Lounsbery Foundation

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Anne and Terry Priebe
Denise Jackson Sutherland '69

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Anonymous

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Lyne and Steven Glaser

In Memory of THOMAS OREFICE
Elisabeth Fitzgerald

In Honor of MR. DAVID SCHONBORG
AND MRS. ELLEN CERESKO
The Pinkerton Foundation as requested
by Ms. Yvonne Schonborg

In Memory of STEPHANIE SHAFIR '12
Robert S. and Donna R. Shafir

ENCORE SOCIETY

For many alumni, families, and friends, PCS has played a significant role in their lives. If you would like to ensure that future students and families have the same opportunities, please consider investing in the future of PCS with a gift from your estate.

THE PCS ENCORE SOCIETY In 1994, Betty Ivey Martin inspired the creation of the Encore Society, an honorary group formed to recognize those who have included a provision for PCS in their estate plans. Bequest intentions qualify for membership in this esteemed society. If you would like to become a member of the Encore Society by making a gift to secure the future of PCS, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 212-582-3116 x.115



ENCORE SOCIETY MEMBERS

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Anonymous | Betty Ivey Martin* |
| Heidi Elizabeth Bishay '81 | Peter Nitze* |
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| Nancy Malone '54* | |

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TO MAKE A DONATION
ONLINE, PLEASE SCAN HERE

OVATION SOCIETY

To join the Ovation Society, simply make a gift of any amount for at least three consecutive fiscal years. Supporters who have given consecutively for a minimum of three years are automatically enrolled into the Ovation Society. To sustain your membership and reach new recognition milestones, make a gift every year. We are pleased to recognize this year's Ovation Society members, based on giving through the end of our most recently completed fiscal year, June 30, 2025.

15+ YEARS OF GIVING

- Anonymous

Jesse and Anne Ausubel

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Sena Kim Baron

Barbara Bemelmans '54

David R. Bixler '71

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Caswell Weinbren '05

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7-14 YEARS OF GIVING

- Anonymous (2)

Anabel Adams and Scott Craft

Michele and Tim Barakett

Amanda and Ritam Bhalla

Elizabeth Heidi Bishay '81

William Brant '06

Elizabeth Christenberry

Ivan Cury '55

and Barbara Harris

Andrew Daly '07

Mariam Dingilian '10

Lynne and Darryl Edelstein

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Nancy Foy '68

Edwin Gerard '02

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Melanie Harris '91

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Raquel Martinez

Emma and Ed McLoughlin
- Yaoyong Meng and Jinglin Jin

Joan Milkson '59

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Arlen Pyenson '94

Anastasia and Kevin Rotheroe

The Schwab Charitable Fund

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The Bommer Family

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Katerina Soukhopalova

Steele Family Foundation

Abe Unger '85

David and Susan Viniar



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NAMED AND RESTRICTED FUNDS

ANONYMOUS ENDOWED
FUND FOR FINANCIAL AID
(established in 2021)

This endowed financial aid fund was created to expand the possibility of a PCS education to a broader, more diverse population.

THE BOB AVIAN
SCHOLARSHIP
(established in 1997)

Sir Cameron Macintosh established this endowed scholarship fund to honor his friend and colleague, producer/choreographer Bob Avian. The scholarship is awarded to a PCS student with an interest in the field of dance and is based on academic and artistic merit.

THE DANI BRENNER '96
DARE TO DREAM FUND
(established in 2010)

The Dani Brenner Award, supported principally through the generosity of the Brenner family, is given annually in memory of PCS student Dani Brenner (1978-1995) to a member of the junior class for excellence in creative and expository writing.

THE GLADYS BROOKS
FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT
GRANT FOR THE LIBRARY
(established in 1997)

This endowed fund supports the technological components of the PCS Library, allowing students access to a wide range of modern research resources.

THE DR. JAMES DAWSON
FUND FOR FINANCIAL AID
(established in 2014)

The Dr. James Dawson Fund for Financial Aid was created in honor and recognition of Dr. Dawson's twentieth anniversary as Head of School. The Fund's original purpose was to provide financial aid to students from the Broadway community who, without additional support, would be unable to afford a PCS education. The Fund was later broadened to support any PCS student in need of financial assistance in order to attend PCS.

THE EDWARD E. FORD FOUNDATION
YOUNG DREAMERS FUND
(established in 2008)

These endowed funds provide tuition assistance for outstanding students in good standing with financial need.

THE EDWARD E. FORD FOUNDATION
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND
(established 1973, additional grant in 1990)

FACULTY SALARY
ENDOWMENT
(established with an Edward E. Ford
Foundation grant in 1981)

This endowed fund supplements faculty salaries, helping to keep them competitive with other independent schools. It allows the school to keep tuition at a reasonable rate while continuing to maintain an excellent professional staff.

FACULTY ENRICHMENT FUND
(established with an Edward E. Ford
Foundation grant in 1987)

This fund provides grants for faculty members to attend special workshops and seminars, and embark on special projects of their own design in order to further professional and personal growth.

PETER GLENVILLE
THEATRE FUND
(established in 2003)

Established by a generous grant from the Peter Glenville Foundation, this fund provides ongoing operating support for PCS's Peter Glenville Theatre.

THE JACKSON FAMILY FUND
FOR STUDENT SUPPORT
(established in 2006)

This fund was created by PCS alumna and past Chairman Denise Jackson Sutherland '69, in memory of her parents Audrey Keppel Jackson '39 and John Henry Jackson '35. The fund supports student needs not covered by tuition assistance. Income from the fund provides for the purchase of books, transportation to and from school, eyeglasses, class trips, and other expenses beyond the reach of students with financial need.

NAMED AND RESTRICTED FUNDS

THE CAROL KLEBAN FINANCIAL AID FUND (established in 2013)

This fund was initially created in 2013 in honor of Carol Kleban’s retirement from her position as Associate Head of School. Upon Ms. Kleban’s untimely passing in June 2015, the Fund was rededicated to commemorate her life and career in recognition of her more than three decades of service to the PCS community.

THE ROBERT J. MARIANO '61 MEMORIAL FUND (established in 2003)

Robert Mariano was the director of the first “All of Us” musical in 1960, with fellow students Marvin Hamlisch, Leslie Uggams, Christopher and Glen Walken and Lorin Hollander. The show evolved over the years into the annual Spring Benefit. In 2003, his many classmates and friends established this memorial fund to help support the building and operation of the Peter Glenville Theatre at PCS.

THE MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE (established in 2023)

In 2023, an anonymous grant launched the Mental Health Initiative, a new set of priorities for supporting the well-being and health of PCS students in a post-Covid world. This fund supports access to mental health care for students, engages parents and community members at events, provides training and professional development for faculty and staff, and brings in speakers and experts in the wellness field.

THE READER’S DIGEST-DEWITT WALLACE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS (established in 1992)

This fund provides tuition assistance for students with financial need.

THE LAVINIA REESE FUND (established in 2009)

An endowed fund providing need-based tuition assistance for PCS’s African-American students was established with a bequest in December 2009 from Lavinia Reese. Ms. Reese was an employee of the School for more than 34 years until her retirement as business manager in November 2005.

VIRGINIA B. TOULMIN SCHOLARSHIP FUND (established in 2016)

The Virginia B. Toulmin Scholarship Fund was established through the generosity of the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation to create the Toulmin Scholars Program, which provides annual financial aid awards to two female students in the performing arts, who otherwise would be unable to afford a PCS education.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE MANY ALUMNI, FRIENDS, PARENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF WHO HAVE MADE GIFTS TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY OVER THE YEARS. WE WELCOME ADDITIONAL GIFTS TO THESE FUNDS, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT SUPPORT THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PCS STUDENTS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE CREATION OF A NEW NAMED FUND, THE OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO WORK WITH YOU.

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