

Children's School of Science, Inc. Annual Report 2014



Photographs courtesy of Beth Armstrong

Board of Directors

2014

**Sue Giordano
Charlotte Emans Moore
Roger Sloboda
Denis Toner**

2015

**Kitty Brown
Amy Gladfelter
Debra Laster
John Cummings
Rachel Pearson**

2016

**Ronnie Cooperstein
Chris Kinkade
Jennifer Sheetz
Diane Smith**

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

This is my fifteenth summer in Woods Hole and my 9th summer at Science School. I am new here. As a newcomer, I am particularly honored to serve as the current board president. Accepting this responsibility was possible due largely to the fabulous support of my fellow board members, a group with abundant talents, and my family.

The stewards of this wonderful organization, Doug Jones and Aaron Sloboda, along with the board of directors and many dedicated volunteers, share a deep commitment to maintaining the quality of Science School. Our teachers, both new and returning, enter their classrooms each day with enthusiasm. Their energy is infectious and it is no wonder children sprint into the building at the toll of the bell as if propelled by unseen motors. The collegiality shared among teachers, assistants and the administrators is truly heart warming to see. It is a privilege to work with these dedicated individuals.

As we begin our second century, it has been a year of quiet progress toward less paper and more electronic communication. All are invited to help Science School continue with this important mission by providing email contact information on our website. Also this year, we took great advantage of the water with more boat outings than ever before. In addition to our regular classes where students participated in a myriad of experiments, observations and collections from the boat, our unofficial sixth classroom, filled to capacity Extension Class fishing trips were also weekly occurrences. Others were able to join the Nautical Science class on a sail aboard the 76' schooner Liberte.

There are so many people and organizations to thank for another wonderful session. It takes a village and what a village we have! It is through this collaborative effort that so many children can again experience the joy of Science School for another magical summer.

With deep appreciation to all in the CSS family.

Diane Smith

REPORT OF THE CO-VICE PRESIDENTS

Since about 1995, the Children's School of Science has awarded Lifer Certificates at the Annual Meeting to those students who are fourteen years old or older, and have attended the school this year for their seventh or more year. The following is a list of this year's recipients: Gregory Bales, Emily Conners, Bryan Cummings, Alec Cummings, Cecile Denton, Henry Giordano, William Goodman, Danny Little, Ian Proctor, Liam Silver and Greta Smith. Congratulations!

Ronnie Cooperstein and Rachel Pearson

REPORT OF THE CURRICULUM CO-CHAIRS

The responsibilities of the Science School Curriculum Committee include determining the class offerings and schedule each summer and selecting and supporting the faculty. This is done with input from the teachers and in close collaboration with the Administrative Director.

Seventeen wonderful individuals have been teaching at Science School this summer. We welcomed eleven returning teachers: Becky Lash (Entomology and Ethology), Jenny Junker (Animal Behavior), Simon Miner (Embryology, Seashore Life and Robotics), Tara Bennett (Microbial Life), Kate McCluskey (Comparative Habitats and Marine Biology), Anna Stevens (Marine Biology and Advanced Marine Biology), Daniel Cojanu (Black & White Film Photography), Ben Jaffe (Herpetology), Catherine Bumpus (Nautical Science), Tim Culbertson (Coastal Botany, Ecology of the Bike Path, Advanced Ecology of the Bike Path, and Experiments in Woods Hole) and David Bailey (Ichthyology). Three teachers returned after summers away from CSS: Shona Vitelli (Oceanography, Terrestrial Ecology), Alicia Roth (Geology and Woods, Ponds and Fields), and Kate Schafer (Seashore Life). We

were delighted to add three new teachers to the school: Grace Foster (Seashore Life), Athena Aicher (Invertebrates and Marine Biology), and Betty Lentell (Marine Mammals and Seashore Life). Many, many thanks to all of our amazing teachers. They make CSS the place that our children want to return to year after year.

Enrollment at Children's School of Science remains strong and feedback, from both students and parents, continues to be positive and thoughtful. Summer 2014 saw the addition of two new courses: Advanced Ecology of the Bike Path and Ethology. The Committee is already planning next year's course offerings and, as always, we welcome suggestions from the CSS community. The Committee reviews course and teacher evaluations with the goal of improving the already stellar academic program offered at CSS.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the invaluable help of Teresa Jones in managing the paperwork involved in hiring all of the teachers, and we thank Doug Jones and Aaron Sloboda for the great direction they give to the School and for being a real pleasure to work with.

Christine Field and Karen Dell

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

What a wonderful summer to begin our second century of science exploration and enthusiasm for learning! A fantastic cadre of experienced teachers, exciting courses, and dedicated assistants combined to make this summer highly successful and rewarding for everyone involved. Our parent volunteers remain committed to making this cooperative school function smoothly and easily. Every year I am impressed by the high level of intellectual endeavors accomplished in a short period of time. The CSS teachers, assistants and students are to be commended for their seriousness of purpose combined with their pure pleasure in learning, exploring, and demonstrating. While many of my colleagues find the summer reinvigorating because they take time off from educational pursuits, I am re-energized by the enthusiasm and passion for learning I witness on a daily basis at CSS. Thank you to all volunteers and particularly the standing committee chairs for their efforts and the Board of Directors for their support of this spectacular school.

Douglas Jones

REPORT OF THE TRIP SITES CHAIR

The job of the Field Trip Site coordinator is to confirm that the field trip sites are prepared to have CSS students conduct field trips. The 30 sites range from private properties in the Woods Hole and Falmouth areas to marine biology institutions in Woods Hole.

In mid-May the coordinator sends a snail mail "packet" to each property owner. The packet consists of a cover letter and a SASE confirming permission to have field trips. The confirmations are returned to Doug so he is able to know which sites are available.

This year there were 2 problems in executing this task: 1) updating the contact information for the MBL, WHOI, and the Fisheries. 2) There were 2 properties sold due to passing away of the owner and these sites did not have further contact information so those trip sites were removed from the list.

The only potential problem in the future is ensuring that CSS is notified when private property owners have changed. In addition, it might be necessary to reach out to additional owners of properties for possible trip sites in the future.

Susan Laster

REPORT OF THE TRANSPORTATION CHAIR

The Transportation Chair has the responsibility of assigning parents to drive students on research trips. This is primarily a task done just before the first day of each session of Science School to allow for the most up-to-date registration information. Also, specific research trip dates for each course are not scheduled until the opening orientation weekend. Volunteers enrolled in a 6-week course drive a minimum of two trips and those enrolled in a 3-week course drive a minimum of one trip.

All research trip assignments for the 6-week courses and the first 3-week courses were made and parents were notified of their responsibilities on the first day of classes, June 30th. Driving research trip assignments for the 2nd session of 3-week classes were distributed July 21st, the first day of Session B. In addition to driving field trips, there were several boat trips taken by classes on the RV Patriot which CSS contracted one day per week during the six week school session. The following classes utilized the RV Patriot at least once this summer: Advanced Marine Biology, Comparative Habitats, Embryology, Experiments in Woods Hole, Ichthyology, Marine Biology, Marine Mammals, Microbial Life, Nautical Science, Oceanography, and ROV as well as two extension classes. The Advanced Marine Biology class went on a whale watch out of Barnstable Harbor in Hyannis. Nautical Science combined with an extension class sailed on the schooner Liberte.

Overall this system works quite well: parents arrange their own substitutes if necessary and desk volunteers call to remind parents of their field trip commitments. We consolidated the desk and driving assignments by publishing one “volunteer” list per class to ensure all parents are adequately notified. Research trips are a fun educational experience for all participating and an important part of the School’s guiding philosophy of direct observation and understanding of nature. Fortunately, in support of this, parents have been happy to provide transportation for and participate in these research trips.

Debi Laster

REPORT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR

The CSS Scholarship Committee offers both scholarships and financial aid.

For the past eight years, CSS has offered 18 full scholarships for one three-week or one six-week course to local children as selected by their Falmouth public school teachers. The scholarship chairperson contacts the Falmouth public school principals each spring with a letter summarized below:

Dear (Principal),

The Woods Hole Children's School of Science is once again pleased to offer full scholarships for our summer program to public school students in Falmouth.

Working with your science coordinator, would you please present (2 or 4, depending on the age) deserving students at your school with these registration forms and scholarships?

Thank you for helping us reach deserving students in our town.

This year 13 students took advantage of the scholarships for a total of \$4160. In addition to these public school scholarships, need-based scholarships are offered when requested. Typically the aid is a 50% reduction in tuition. This year there were 5 awards for a total of \$1590 in financial aid.

Deb Coulombe

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANTS SCIENCE CHAIR

The second year assistants were James Little, Sophie Vale, Henry Jones, Aaron Zimmerberg, Dylan Johnson, Sarah Conners, and Jack Cummings. The first year assistants were Rebeckah Aujaghian, Michael Brunelli, Miranda Evarts, Bea Giordano, Melanie McKenzie, Lorna Mitchison-Field, Jasmine Olins, Annie Oliver, Zoe Smith, and Gideon Moore. The supply runner was Yacob Olins.

Jane Kulesza

REPORT OF THE WAYS AND MEANS CHAIR

We saw brisk sales so far this year and are looking forward to the final sale on Wednesday August 6. The Ways and Means committee updated our inventory to include some new colors this year, and added some woman's cut logo tee shirts in bright colors to the inventory, as well as traditional crew cut sweatshirts. We made the decision to move out some of the old inventory by doing a bargain bin and items moved well in that category. We also began to reorganize the way we manage our inventory – to make it easier to bring the shirts out in an organized way. We'd like to thank all of the volunteers and assistants that have helped this summer, and also would be interested hear suggestions on other inventory items people would like for the next season! If you have ideas please email beckyconners@comcast.net.

Becky Conners

REPORT OF THE ENTRANCE DESK CHAIR

All the volunteer jobs at CSS are important to the smooth running of the school but sitting at the desk is crucial. You must answer the phone, call the next school day's desk person and fieldtrip drivers, and the parents/ caretakers of that days missing children. In fact, it is such an important job that a better substitute list is needed. Next year people should have the opportunity to volunteer to be listed for a certain time slot when they could be called to pinch hit at the desk. The best part about sitting at the desk is that you get to ring the bell twice!!

Ellie Prosser Armstrong

REPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINING COMMITTEE

The Sustaining Fund functions as the critical fundraiser for Science School to bridge the gap between tuition income and the School's operating costs. The 2013 Sustaining Fund appeal continued to work with volunteer co-chairs to reach out to CSS's different community segments: enrolled families, former volunteers, past and present CSS teachers, former assistants and other supporters. Participation continues to increase and this committee is grateful for all donations of monetary gifts and for the time and talents of the volunteer committee members. This year the sustaining fund mailing was sent under a non-profit postal permit reducing expenses. The 2013 campaign yielded \$31,731.

For the 5th consecutive year, CSS is participating in the *Falmouth Road Race Numbers for Non-Profits* program. CSS teacher Tara Bennett continues to manage this program and has secured runners for four of the five CSS race bibs. Fundraising through this vehicle typically relies on connecting with people within and out of our community who seek an official road race number. In exchange for the number, the runner agrees to raise money for Science School.

The Development Committee continues to seek foundation support and particularly recognizes The Friendship Fund for its grant award in September 2013 to fund a classroom 'observational tool kit' which included a remote camera, a digital microscope video camera, finer mesh aquatic nets and new seines.

Debi Laster

REPORT OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Health and Safety Committee is to assess the effectiveness of the Children's School of Science's health and safety practices, and to advise the Program Director and Board on matters pertaining to health and safety. This year, with the joint efforts of the teachers and teaching assistants, the CSS students had another exciting and safe summer science experience. We are glad to report that the current procedures for health and safety at CSS are working well.

Kristina Micheva and Karen Humphreys

REPORT OF THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The role of the Hospitality Committee is to provide light refreshment for three events during the school year. The first and second events are the Back To School nights held at the beginning of each session. The committee provides light hors d'oeuvres to be served during the main focal point of the evening which is visiting the classrooms and meeting the staff. The last event the committee arranges for is the Annual Meeting which is held during the final week of school.

This year the Back to School night for session A and session A/B was held on Tuesday, July 1st and was very well attended. Due to the position of the USA team in the World Soccer competition and to accommodate our families who are soccer fans, the starting time for Back to School Night was moved to 6pm instead of our usual 5pm. Parents who indicated on their child's registration form that they were willing to "do extra" were phoned by the committee and several donated goodies for the table. Other items were filled in by the committee. The second Back to School Night, for session B, was held on Tuesday, July 22nd. Due to the favorable response to the time switch on the July 1st gathering, the start time for this event was also moved to 6pm. Since the night is for the session B classes only, the crowd was smaller in numbers but still well attended. On both nights, the lemonade was provided by Doug and Aaron. The teacher assistants were a great help with the set up and the clean up. This year's Annual Meeting is on Monday, August 4th at Fisher Hall. Again, the committee has reached out to parents for donations of finger desserts, and will provide any "fill ins" and lemonade for a "mini social" at the conclusion of the meeting: a time to say au revoir till next summer.

This year, contact to the parents was again accomplished via phone. While it was nice to have the verbal exchange with the parents, in the future, with the school aiming to "go green", email addresses would be helpful for an alternative means of contact. The committee also wonders if the "willing to do extra" choice on the registration form could be further defined to include a choice of donating food to the various CSS events. These measures could serve to facilitate the committee's contact with families willing to donate food to events. It may be interesting to continue next year with a 6pm start time for the Back to School nights.

With Mrs. Elichalt moving on from CSS, we wish to extend our thanks for all of the gracious hospitality and organization she has provided to CSS over her years of service.

Tricia Fuller Elichalt and Susan Burke

REPORT OF THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

During 2014, Archives has worked to collect and preserve the School's records as they pertain to its existence in the twenty-first century so that future generations will be able to understand and appreciate this institution's legacy. Traditionally, the class pictures that the School's photographers have produced, including those created by members of the Montroll family, Beth Armstrong, and most recently Daniel Cojanu, have been treasured records documenting our children's course selections, the years they attended, and their appearance as students. In preparation for the Centennial celebration in 2013, several volunteers spent many hours gathering together these archival photographs from throughout our community so that visitors could study and appreciate them collectively at this event. Based upon this effort's success, this

past year Archives has worked with the Board to formally secure a copy of each class picture produced this summer, and subsequently, so that in years to come this record already will exist without the need to generate it.

Archives also has been working to create a pictorial legend documenting the identity of those members of CSS's community who participated in the community-wide, 100-years photograph that was taken last summer at the Woods Hole Ballpark. By working now to identify those who attended in 2013, Archives hopes to provide future generations with an accurate visual record of Centennial participants. And lastly, the Children's School of Science exhibit, displayed last summer at the Woods Hole Historical Museum, has been preserved in its entirety in several portfolios and remains in that location as part of CSS archives.

Dorothea Mautner and Charlotte Emans Moore

The Children's School of Science is made possible by the extraordinary efforts of its parent volunteers and the generous contributions of the members of the Corporation along with the support of the following organizations: MBL, WHOI, NOAA National Marine Fisheries, The Woods Hole Community Association, The Woods Hole Public Library, The Woods Hole Historic Museum, The Woods Hole Women's Club, The Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, The Esther Simon Charitable Trust, The Friendship Fund, The Clowes Fund, The Church of Messiah, The Town of Falmouth, The Bristol-Meyers Squibb Matching Gifts Program, The New Balance Falmouth Road Race, and The Nehemias Gorin Foundation.

**Children's School of Science
2015 Budget Plan**

| INCOME | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Actual | Proposed | Proposed |
| Tuition/Fees | \$154,345 | \$145,000 | \$145,900 |
| Scholarship Gift | \$2,000 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Fundraising: | | | |
| Fal. Road Race | \$4,339 | \$4,000 | \$4,000 |
| Ways & Means | \$5,669 | \$5,000 | \$5,000 |
| In Memory/Honor | \$300 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Interest Inc: | | | |
| Storage: Clowes Fund (Restricted) | \$1,108 | \$1,108 | \$1,100 |
| Scholarship: Anon. Donor (Restricted) | \$795 | \$784 | \$800 |
| Science Extension | \$1,997 | \$1,500 | \$1,500 |
| TOTALS | \$170,553 | \$157,392 | \$158,300 |

| DISBURSEMENTS | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Payroll | \$100,716 | \$103,700 | \$106,800 |
| Payroll Tax | \$8,451 | \$8,300 | \$8,600 |
| Payroll: Website | \$850 | \$850 | \$850 |
| Payroll: Science Ext. | \$1,083 | \$1,200 | \$1,200 |
| Non-Payroll: Science Ext. | \$500 | \$500 | \$500 |
| Class Expenses: Science Ext. | \$49 | \$100 | \$100 |
| Slideshow | \$500 | \$500 | \$500 |
| Class Photos, Printing, and Distribution | | | \$1,300 |
| Tuition Refund | \$310 | \$1,000 | \$750 |

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Fundraising: | | | |
| Falmouth Road Race | \$934 | \$750 | \$750 |
| Ways & Means | \$2,248 | \$4,000 | \$4,500 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Lease w/ WHCA: | | | |
| Build./Cap. Improv. | \$4,000 | \$4,000 | \$4,000 |
| Rent | \$9,400 | \$9,600 | \$9,800 |
| WHCA: obligation | \$2,000 | \$2,000 | \$2,000 |
| Janitor | \$1,500 | \$1,500 | \$1,800 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Accounting | \$7,275 | \$8,500 | \$7,500 |
| Bank/Credit charges | \$400 | \$500 | \$400 |
| Contributions: Falmouth Academy | \$50 | \$50 | \$50 |
| Copy Machine | \$798 | \$800 | \$800 |
| CORI Expense | \$625 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Discretionary Fund: Guest Speaker | \$190 | \$500 | \$500 |
| Discretionary Fund: President | | \$300 | \$300 |
| Field Trips | \$3,675 | \$4,800 | \$2,500 |
| Field Trips: Boat | | \$4,000 | \$5,000 |
| Health/CPR/Lifesaving | \$2,352 | \$2,500 | \$2,000 |
| Honoraria (bells) | \$216 | \$375 | \$375 |
| Hospitality | \$2,873 | \$1,500 | \$1,500 |
| Insurance | \$15,553 | \$16,500 | \$15,600 |
| Legal Fees | \$0 | \$250 | \$500 |
| Maint./Repair | \$629 | \$100 | \$200 |
| Non-Profit Tax/Other | \$70 | \$125 | \$125 |
| PayPal Fees | \$44 | \$200 | \$500 |
| Postage | \$4,292 | \$5,500 | \$2,000 |
| Printing Expenses | \$11,037 | \$6,000 | \$6,000 |
| Rent: Church of the Messiah | \$50 | \$25 | \$50 |
| Storage Units | \$2,603 | \$2,070 | \$2,700 |
| Storage Units: Truck Rental | \$157 | \$150 | \$200 |
| Supplies: Course | \$6,526 | \$5,000 | \$5,000 |
| Supplies: General | \$1,961 | \$5,000 | \$3,000 |
| Technology | \$4,585 | \$500 | \$2,500 |
| Telephone: Cell Phones & Internet | \$1,333 | \$2,100 | \$1,000 |
| Telephone: Conference Calls | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Website: Data Base | \$943 | \$840 | \$1,000 |

TOTAL CASH EXPENSES \$200,778 \$206,185 \$204,750

Income/Shortfall (before adjustments) -\$30,225 -\$48,793 -\$46,450

| | | | |
|--|----------|----------|----------|
| Current Use Investment Inc/Gain | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| 1.) Required Fundraising - Sustaining Fund | \$30,225 | \$48,793 | \$46,450 |
| 2.) Surplus Capital (Reserves/Liquidity) | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| 3.) Annual Payout (Reserve Assets/LT) | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Net Income | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

| Annual Scholarship and Tuition Assistance | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| Scholarships - Budget | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | \$5,000 |
| Scholarships - Granted | \$4,230 | | |
| Tuition Assistance - Budget | \$3,500 | \$3,500 | \$3,500 |
| Tuition Assistance - Granted | \$1,980 | | |
| # of Scholarships Grants | 14 | | |
| # Tuition Assistance Grants | 8 | | |

Finance Committee: Toner, Brown, Emans Moore, Sloboda, Smith

* - preliminary figures pending new lease agreement with WHCA

7/29/2014