MISSION
To inspire children to lead lives of purpose and compassion through scholarship and citizenship.

VISION
A dynamic and intellectually challenging educational experience rooted in Progressive education and reflective of evolving research.

GOAL
For students to discover their individual and collective potential to make positive change in the world.
Dear Gateway School Alumni, Families, Friends, and Community,

This report recognizes and celebrates those who have generously given to our community through philanthropy, volunteerism, and expertise in the past year. Your efforts are integral to our school’s success and embody our community’s passion. This Annual Report also provides a picture of the school’s finances and operations during the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Thanks to your support, we continue to embrace innovative teaching and joyful learning. This past year we launched an initiative to replace and update our classrooms; the new furniture is flexible, mobile and attractive, while supporting student choice, movement and health. We increased our investment in providing access to outstanding professional development for our faculty, from summer workshops at Yale University and Columbia University to local and on-site trainings. By aligning teaching practices, curriculum content, and classroom design, we are even better able to pursue our school mission and vision, and provide our students with the skills, courage and compassion they will need to make positive change in the world.

We are deeply grateful to our donors -- families and grandfriends, alumni and their families, Board members, employees, corporations, foundations and community members -- who help Gateway provide its unique program. Your generosity is deeply meaningful to us, and your investment in the school directly supports and enriches the experience of all of our students, from our youngest kindergarten learners to our eighth grade leaders.

Warmly,

Zachary Roberts, Ed.D.
Head of School
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT,
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On behalf of The Gateway School Board of Trustees, I am pleased to present to you our school’s 2016-2017 Annual Report. It reflects the current financial health and well being of our wonderful school. As a result of your continued support and commitment, along with the hard work of our dedicated faculty and administration, Gateway School has had another great year.

Some of our financial highlights from last year include:

- $408,941 total raised through fundraising efforts.
- $263,354 raised in Annual Fund with 89% parent participation.
- $40,211 raised for our Fund-a-Need supporting faculty professional development.
- $404,423 in financial aid given to 60 students (25% of families) in need.

Other highlights of the year include:

- Our seventh annual Speaker Series event featuring Mary Helen Immordino-Yang.
- Implementation of the New Furniture Initiative flexible classroom designs.

The Board of Trustees is honored to be part of such a wonderful community. We are proud of Gateway’s accomplishments, and appreciate our community’s enthusiastic support of our wonderful school. Your dedication, your commitment and your trust inspire us. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Paula Grainger
President, Gateway School Board of Trustees
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DISCOVERY
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Jonnie Cardinale, First Grade Teacher

“What I relish most about teaching is the way in which children take the time to explore their world and find happiness in the most mundane of places; in ladybugs’ spots or in a worm’s wiggle.”

Jonnie is well known to generations of Santa Cruz families from her 16 years of work as a preschool teacher and director at a variety of programs on the West Side, and we were thrilled to have her join the Gateway faculty in the fall of 2016.

Jonnie believes that children acquire knowledge through exploration, interaction, and experience. She finds that cultivating a growth mindset environment and watching children embrace their learning is one of the things that inspires her most about teaching first grade.

Jonnie attended the Learning & the Brain conference in San Francisco in January, where she participated in Eduardo Brecino’s workshop Learning vs. Performing for Learning Mindset Success, which highlighted the importance of neuroplasticity in the distinctions between learning and performing. The effects on mindsets in these two zones are crucial to how a child perceives risk taking and learning outcomes.

The Learning Zone is a place where improvement is the goal and mistakes are expected. Activities are deliberately designed to foster deepened understanding and the focus is on what we don’t know yet. It is a place where children reflect and practice.

The Performance Zone is the place where the goal is to do as best as we can and where mistakes are avoided. Activities are designed for the execution of acquired knowledge and the focus is on what we have mastered. It is a place where children apply their learning.

Jonnie noted, “as educators, we need to ensure that children are spending most of their time in the Learning Zone so that they can attain a confident growth mindset. Mindsets are about perceptions and on how we view failure. Fixed mindsets lead to helplessness and growth mindsets lead to agency. A growth mindset views efforts positively, and responds to setbacks with persistence and resilience.”

“While sitting in the audience, I felt my own synapses firing and neural pathways deepening. In this moment, I was my student, learning something new and feeling twangs of scary astonishment. How nice it was to be encouraged to take risks and to make mistakes! I left feeling even more inspired to be the best teacher I can be; and by best, I mean: modeling mistake making, being resilient when failing, and demonstrating lifelong learning for my students.”

Welcome to Gateway, Jonnie! We welcome your passion for lifelong learning!
The Barchas-Bevirt family’s relationship with Gateway began nearly 40 years ago when JoeBen enrolled as a preschooler. In 1976, Gateway didn’t have a middle school, but, instead, a preschool, and JoeBen was a part of the very first class of students to attend Gateway from preschool through 6th grade. JoeBen credits much of his direction in life with the whole child education he received at Gateway. He often reflects on his 2nd grade teacher and her generous spirit and unwaivering commitment to her students. JoeBen wasn’t reading at the beginning of 2nd grade, so his teacher stayed after school every day and worked with JoeBen until he finally cracked the code. Beyond the obvious extreme level of commitment from his teacher, he finds it remarkable that, at a time when he would have likely been labeled slow or made to feel less-than, Gateway always celebrated his strengths - in particular his natural propensity for innovation - and sparked his curiosity.

Gateway School was a big factor in why Jenny and JoeBen moved back to Santa Cruz after many years in the Bay Area. JoeBen felt passionately that Gateway was pivotal in his early development and he wanted his children to have access to the same unbounded, child centered education that he so benefited from. Gateway planted in him a seed that he could really impact the world for the better, and he has devoted his life to starting ambitious companies that strive to do just that - from building robots that aid in DNA sequencing, to developing a new way to harness clean wind energy, to disrupting the landscape of transportation with the introduction of electric air taxis.

Jenny and JoeBen’s daughter Brindley began her journey at Gateway six years ago, and this year her sister Vivien joined her as a kindergartener. In this time as parents at the school, Jenny and JoeBen have found Gateway to live up to its commitment to nurturing the whole child. In particular, the school’s focus on mindfulness and social and emotional learning, coupled together with its rich and varied curriculum developed with an eye toward innovation, has kept them happily and actively engaged in the community.
INNOVATIVE CLASSROOMS

New Furniture Initiative Brings Innovative and Flexible Classroom Spaces

Through the “Fund-a-Need” at our 2016 Auction, Gateway School raised $34,000 to pilot an initiative to bring flexible and innovative furniture into our classrooms. The idea was to create spaces that truly support our style of teaching and learning and to empower us to improve our practices and pedagogy even further. Having the right furniture allows us to blend our deep understanding of how students learn with the ever-increasing wealth of research-based information on child development, neuroscience and best teaching practices. Using furniture as tools to construct learning environments that are student driven, student centered and suited to the task at hand opens up a wide array of possibilities in our program.

In the summer of 2016, we remodeled three classrooms: two second grade classrooms and the middle school Spanish classroom, and launched a pilot program to study how innovative furniture design can influence what and how teachers teach, and what and how students learn. In the new classroom spaces, the room has no front and no back, and the teacher has no desk. Students can choose from a variety of seating options, including stools that activate their core muscles to help them focus, and chairs with cutaways on the back so that students can comfortably sit in chairs that are turned around. Some tables have whiteboard tops on which students can write, and then flip up to become display boards. And children are empowered to move the furniture as needed to create the best possible learning environment.

The goal of the initial pilot program was to assess how furniture can support six key goals for classroom design:

- **flexibility** (easily reset in many different configurations to support different types of teaching and learning),
- **mobility** (easy for students to move/configure themselves, to support students taking an active role in creating their learning space for the task at hand)
- **choice** (allow for students to have freedom of choice in where/how they work)
- **health** (seating options that support movement and a variety of ergonomically correct options)
- **movement** (incorporate natural body fidgeting and movement to allow students’ bodies to function naturally and thus better focus on tasks at hand)
- **aesthetics** (looks modern and attractive).

After conducting interviews with teachers and students and performing classroom observations during the 2016-17 school year, we are confident that our entire student body would benefit from this new innovative and flexible classroom furniture. We plan to outfit three classrooms in the summer of 2017, and the remaining classrooms in future years.

Thank you to all those who supported this new initiative!
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Loyal donors are the foundation of our school’s success. These donors provide resources that allow Gateway School to maintain a culture of continuous improvement. We are deeply grateful for the support of these current and alumni parents, grandparents and friends.

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Caryn and Jeremy Yee

*All of our family sponsors contributed to underwriting as well

FUND - A-NEED

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Apple Matching Gift Program
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Alexandra Woods and Charles Wilkins
Julie Gorshe and Steve Wolfman
Caryn and Jeremy Yee

RESTRICTED GIFTS

ENDOWMENT
Chelsea Terrell and Zachary Roberts

DISCOVERY CENTER
Laura and Jago Macleod
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
Kristin Fauske (‘08)

Kristin Fauske, Architecture Major, and her two team members from California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo, won first place in the Biomimicry Global Design Challenge, with their project CO2 extrACTION.

**CO2 extrACTION** is a multi-functional panel system that works to capture and isolate airborne carbon dioxide in dense urban areas.

Kristin and her team researched 40 biological examples capturing carbon dioxide and identified overarching patterns among the researched biological strategies which inspired them to design a panel system that can be applied on multiple scales to buildings and other existing infrastructure along freeways and main streets. Their design creates a way to facilitate the extraction of airborne carbon dioxide by drawing it through reed-like entrances and exits. Each inlet uses the venturi effect to increase air speed coming into the system. The air then passes through a carbon scrubber, which contains polymer strips coated with anionic exchange resin. The resin reacts with atmospheric carbon dioxide, converting it to bicarbonate. The carbon dioxide is stored on the strips until they are rinsed with water or moist air, which occurs naturally around dawn when atmospheric water condensation accumulates on multiple components of the structure. The carbon dioxide is then released and drawn into the chamber below, where it is stored and transported via a tube to another location for further use.

They have been invited to continue working on their project in the Biomimicry Institute’s Accelerator Program. Kristin also received a department award from California Polytechnic State University for this project.

Congratulations Kristin, on all of your accomplishments!

Watch the video of their project (scroll down to Student Category Winners, First Place: extrACTION)

https://biomimicry.org/solution-seekers

ALUMNI IN TOUCH

CLASS OF 2013 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PARTY
Gateway alumni parents Katharine Martin and David Laurits (Emma,’13 and Kit, ‘16) hosted a gathering in honor of the Gateway Class of 2013. Students had the opportunity to reconnect with former classmates and teachers. Congrats to our young alumni and we wish you the best of luck in your first year of college and/or work life!

SPRING ALUMNI EVENT
We welcomed young alumni back to campus at our Spring Alumni Gathering in May, and young alumni were able to add their hand prints to our “Alumni Tree”. Be sure to check it out when you are back on campus!

STAY IN TOUCH
We would love to keep in touch with all of our alumni. Please send your email address to Julie Wilson at julie.wilson@gatewaysc.org to get on our alumni list.
WAYS TO GIVE

ANNUAL FUND
Gifts to the Annual Fund go toward supporting school operations in the current fiscal year. Because tuition does not cover the entire cost of a Gateway education, we ask families and friends to support the school’s Annual Giving Campaign each year.

TARGETED GIVING OF RESTRICTED GIFTS
In making these special gifts, donors go beyond their annual gifts to make a substantial contribution to a specific program or purpose. Our student computer labs, our comprehensive Arts program and our multi-purpose room remodel are examples of how targeted gifts can transform the school.

ENDOWMENT
Gifts to endowment are a way to protect the future of Gateway. The principal of such gifts remains intact and, in fact, grows while some of the interest income, or earnings, supports school programs and needs. You may choose between the Hannelore Herbig general endowment fund, named after the school’s founder, and the Financial Aid endowment fund. You may also contact the Development Office if you have an interest in establishing a new endowment fund.

HOW TO GIVE CASH
The most straightforward gifts are tax-deductible gifts of cash to our Annual Fund. These gifts may be given all at one time or on a monthly or quarterly basis. We ask for annual fund gifts and pledges each fall and gifts and/or pledge payments are accepted at any time during our August 1 to July 31 fiscal year.

APPRECIATED ASSETS
Gifts of appreciated assets, such as stock, may, through their tax-advantaged status, allow a donor to make an even greater impact on school programs than would be possible by writing a check. Some of our larger gifts to the annual fund, as well as substantial targeted gifts, come in this form. Contact the Development Office if you wish to learn more.

GIFTS-IN-KIND
Items or professional services that are necessary to the operation and advancement of the school are considered gifts-in-kind. Past gifts include auction items, computer software, and services such as architectural planning. Gifts-in-kind are appreciated throughout the year.

PLANNED GIVING
Bequests are the simplest of planned gifts. By naming Gateway School in your will, you can make a gift which assures the future of independent school education. Bequests can be placed into endowment so that their impact is a legacy to the future. There are many planned giving vehicles by which a family can donate funds to Gateway. Please notify the Development Office at any time if you want to include Gateway in your will or discuss planned giving.

For More Information
Call the Development Office at (831) 423-0341, extension 332.