



Our Mission Is to promote excellence in early childhood inclusion education, and to provide a vehicle for long-term financial support for Coralwood School.

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2015

CORALWOOD SCHOOL

is the only public school in DeKalb County dedicated to serving preschool through kindergarten children in an

***In the inclusion education model, students with special needs spend most or all of their time with typically-developing students. The school is structured so that all students learn together and benefit from each other.* For more information on Coralwood's inclusion education model, see page 20.**

10th Anniversary



Coralwood School's research-based educational model includes 12 inclusion classrooms in which six to seven children with special needs and ten to fourteen typically developing children are educated together. Research shows that this model results in significant gains for special education students, including higher levels of social play, more appropriate social interactions and greater gains in language, cognitive and motor development.

Additionally, Coralwood has four self-contained classrooms that serve children with more severe disabilities or who are not quite ready for a full time inclusion classroom. Children in the self-contained classes engage in multiple learning experiences with typically-developing children throughout the school day.

The classrooms at Coralwood are led by highly specialized teachers and para-professionals who teach to a broad set of students with varied needs. The teachers work closely with the following therapists: speech/language, occupational, physical, vision and recreational. Primarily, these therapists provide services to children in the classroom and include both special needs and typical children in various therapies.

2014-2015 CORALWOOD SCHOOL YEAR

# of Students:	241
# of Home Schools Represented:	46
Percentage of students in the following categories:	
Disabilities	48%
Free and Reduced Lunch	10%
Minorities	32%

WHAT IS THE CORALWOOD FOUNDATION?

Coralwood Foundation, Inc. was incorporated in May 2005 to create a permanent endowment fund, the income of which is used to promote excellence in early childhood inclusion education at Coralwood School, and to provide a vehicle for long-term financial and volunteer support for Coralwood. The Foundation funds the educational innovations of teachers and other professionals at Coralwood, as well as a Director of Development who writes grants and raises funds for specific educational initiatives.

Currently, the efforts of the Foundation's Board of Directors are focused on the following initiatives:

- **Providing learning opportunities, grants for classroom initiatives and professional development for our school staff;**
- **Supporting the financial goals of the Foundation through fundraisers such as our Annual Auction and grant writing activities;**
- **Working with the DeKalb County School System (DCSS) and the Board of Education to fund the Master Plan for Coralwood's campus in order to provide enhanced educational opportunities for our children;**
- **Implementing a marketing and communications plan that will leverage Coralwood School's position as the premier inclusion school in Georgia to advance support of the school and of inclusion education practices;**
- **Maintaining an online presence via our website to serve as a central location for comprehensive information about Coralwood, the Foundation, the PTA, related events, and parent resources;**
- **Actively engaging Coralwood alumni, parents and friends in the continued work of the Foundation through community involvement and outreach as part of the "Coralwood Circle of Friends" group.**

The Foundation views these projects as fundamental elements to improve the education of our children now and in the future.

2005 TO 2015 10 YEARS & ONWARD!

The Coralwood Foundation is 10 years old this school year. And while we look toward the next 10 years of helping children in their most impactful learning years, we also want to celebrate this important milestone.

The Coralwood Foundation began with the first Coralwood Challenge. At the time, the school was being housed in trailers on the back parking lot during a renovation. Many things were in sad shape. One parent, who asked to stay anonymous, offered to donate \$2,000 to the school if the other parents would match the gift. The Coralwood community was challenged and gave in record numbers, exceeding the original goal by \$7000. The Foundation rose out of that effort as the brain child of four parents – Janet Haury, Alex Walters, Joanie Gross and the original anonymous parent.

This group had a vision for Coralwood as a school of excellence. And the parents have responded over the years with the generosity of their time, talents and money. They have funded professional learning for teachers, workshops, classroom smart boards, playground equipment and teacher bonuses. As a result, the Coralwood Foundation has served as an example for numerous other schools who now have their own foundations. Their passion and commitment has not only improved the situation for the students at Coralwood but other schools as well. And the parents and staff currently at Coralwood continue that good work. I'm so pleased to have been a part of this effort and to see it continue to thrive 10 years later.

Janet Haury
Coralwood Foundation Co-Founder and President 2007 - 2013

Rebecca Blanton
Coralwood Principal 1980 - 2013



Calling all
Coralwood Alumnae
and their parents, grandparents
and siblings! Homecoming at
Coralwood School is the place to
be on Friday, September 11th
from 4 - 7 PM. Come see your
former classmates, teachers, and
fellow parents.



2014 – 2015 CORALWOOD FOUNDATION

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Coralwood Homecoming Event** The Coralwood Foundation would like to thank all who attended and who helped make the 3rd Annual Homecoming Event on Friday, September 5th, a huge success. It was a terrific afternoon filled with music from Little Beat Music, aka DJ Willy Wow, pizza, lemonade, and Bruster's ice cream. It was great to see old friends back at the school and to meet those who are new to our community!
- **Excellence in Teaching Award** Gretchen Studdard received this year's Excellence in Teaching award. This Coralwood Foundation award recognizes teachers and paraprofessionals who do an outstanding job in instruction, professional learning, communication, supporting the school and leadership.
- **Coralwood Challenge** The Coralwood Foundation's annual fundraising campaign to support the school, its staff and the goals of inclusion education aimed high this year. By setting a goal of \$60,000, the campaign made possible this year's incentive initiative for maintaining our pre-K educators. The end result was more than \$55,000, close enough to make it happen!
- **Coralwood Foundation's 13th Annual Auction**, hosted by the Coralwood Foundation, netted (after expenses) more than \$41,000 this year, exceeding the planned goal of \$40,000, including more than \$6000 for this year's Fund-A-Project: Adaptive tricycles and a much-needed storage shed.
- **Summer STEM Camp and A Little Bit of STEM, TOO!** Two 2-week day camps fostering scientific inquiry in 78 of Coralwood's students from preschool through rising first graders.
- Inaugurated in 2008, **Higher Opportunities for Teachers (HOT)** is a Foundation committee funding academic and enrichment opportunities for teachers and staff that would otherwise not be supported in the school or PTA budgets. This year, 13 Coralwood staff members, including the principal, participated in a 30-hour Orton-Gillingham training. In addition, the HOT Committee enabled two teachers to attend workshops, including the annual conference of the National Arts Education Association (NAEA) and the National Conference on Science Education. The HOT committee also sent two Coralwood teachers to Lindamood Bell training.
- **Saturday Parent Academy (SPA)** This year's parents' educational event was open to parents of both Coralwood and non-Coralwood students and included multiple learning sessions with early education professionals. The session tracks were created so both parents could attend alternate sessions and learn more. More than 30 pre-registered and more signed up at the door.

GRANTS RECEIVED

- Rhame Family Foundation. Donation of \$1000 used for 2 much needed pulse oximeters for our clinic.
- Smart From the Start/National PTA. \$2000 to go Run, Walk and Roll pedometers and for adaptive trikes.
- Rhame Family Foundation. \$4000 to be used toward STEM supplies and other teacher requests.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CHAIRS OF THE CHALLENGE AND THE AUCTION!

Both agreed to higher, aggressive goals this year in order to help fund incentives to keep our pre-K teachers at Coralwood. It wasn't easy but **Jill Roark and Lila Cooperider** and their teams did what they always do - made it happen!

CORPORATE SPONSORS

- AGL Resources
- Children's Medical Group
- Mile Marker Group
- Publix
- Vantage Realty

FAMILY SPONSORS

- Lila & Todd Cooperider
- Laura & Jeff Mixson
- Jill & Jerrimia Roark
- Meg & James Scheid
- Linda Tillman

IN-KIND SPONSORS

- Bhojanic
- Cypress Street Pint & Plate
- Fifth Group Restaurants
- Highroad Craft
- La Tavola
- Makan
- No. 246
- Shorty's
- Smallcakes



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

CORALWOOD FOUNDATION ANNUAL AUCTION

Coralwood's 13th annual auction, hosted by the Coralwood Foundation, was held on Friday, February 27th at the Historic Decatur Courthouse. Last year's successful theme, "An Evening of the Arts", was a happy repeat and spotlighted the children's classroom artwork which was a big hit.

As in years past, more than 200 people, including parents, teachers, friends and community supporters, came to the new location and enjoyed restaurant tastings provided by local chefs. The addition of a step-and-repeat backdrop for the entrance added a note of fun and celebration. The year-long planning efforts of Coralwood Foundation members Jill Roark, Lane Taylor and Meg Sheid netted (after expenses) more than \$41,000, exceeding the planned goal of \$40,000. That total includes more than \$6000 for this year's Fund-A-Project: new adaptive tricycles for the playground and a much-needed storage shed for the school.

CORALWOOD CHALLENGE

The Coralwood Foundation's annual Challenge seeks financial commitment each year from parents and supporters in order to fund the long term goals of the school. One of the primary goals is to maintain a healthy endowment to ensure funding for future generations of Coralwood students and educators. Another goal is financing the additional specialized training our staff needs to create Coralwood's wonderful results. Each year, the board reviews needs from equipment to curriculum to skill sets and determines where the resources from each year's Challenge can make the biggest impact.



10th Anniversary



CORALWOOD
SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

VOLUNTEER!

volunteer@coralwoodschool.com

Whether you are a parent, a community member, a relative, or a friend, there are many opportunities to volunteer through Coralwood's Foundation and PTA organizations. Skill sets of all levels are valued as are interests of many kinds. Good with numbers? Communications? Like to manage projects or lead teams? Coralwood's committed volunteers have accomplished amazing things but there are always great ideas and initiatives that are still waiting to be fulfilled.

Got Yard Sign?

There is a movement underway to raise the awareness of Coralwood School and its approach to early childhood inclusion education. One of the ways you can support the effort is to display one of the new Shine On! Coralwood signs in your yard.



"The volunteers on the Coralwood Foundation Board accomplish amazing things. My time on the board has awarded me with new friends and great insights into the workings of early childhood education that I would never have had before. I've learned more from them than they ever gained from me. Thank you."

—Michael Martin, Board member 2009 - 2015



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- AUGUST 5
 - 8 - 11:30 am | Welcome Back Teacher Breakfast
 - 10 am - 4 pm | Open House
- AUGUST 10
 - First Day of School
- AUGUST 12 | 8:30 am
 - Foundation Executive Meeting
- AUGUST 20 | 6:00 pm
 - Foundation Full Board Meeting
- AUGUST 27
 - 5:30 pm | New Parent Reception
 - 6:00 pm | PTA Meeting and Curriculum Night



AUGUST 2015

"My years at Coralwood molded me, and I am forever indebted."
 —Peggy (Echt) Price
 Coralwood educator, 2007-2011

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23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29





NO LIMITS!



That is the vision of Coralwood School.

The staff and students will not be held back by grade level curriculum, predetermined goals, standards, or school system funding.

We are reaching for the sun and beyond. It is our goal to move each child from where they are to where others said was impossible. Here at the Coralwood School, we focus on the limitless potential of all of our students, no matter what their gifts or challenges.

The Coralwood Foundation's vision and financial support has had a direct impact on our success at Coralwood School. Each and

every child and staff member has experienced the benefits of the Coralwood Foundation's dedication and support in the areas of professional development, grants, classroom materials and supplies, campus improvements, volunteerism, and staff appreciation that have directly impacted instruction in the classrooms and the lives of our young students.

Embracing an educational philosophy of "No Limits" requires talented and dedicated staff at all levels to reach and teach our children. Keeping our staff on the cutting edge of instructional interventions, strategies, technologies, and student engagement activities will allow them limitless opportunities for success.

Your support of the Coralwood Foundation will directly impact the future of all our young children. Please join us in our vision by supporting the Coralwood Foundation's Classroom Challenge with your financial gift. We are forever grateful for any and every amount of support.

Wendi Berkman

Wendi Berkman
2013 - 2015 President of Coralwood Foundation

Melanie Castelle

Dr. Melanie Castelle
Coralwood Principal



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- SEPTEMBER 2 | 8:30 am
Foundation Executive Meeting
- SEPTEMBER 7
LABOR DAY School Closed
- SEPTEMBER 11 | 4 - 7:00 pm
Coralwood Foundation's Homecoming
- SEPTEMBER 14
PTA Full Board Meeting
- SEPTEMBER 18
 Parent Teacher Conferences
 Coralwood Challenge Begins
- SEPTEMBER 19 | 7:00 pm
Parent Social



SEPTEMBER 2015

"Now in 4th grade, our Coralwood graduate still says Coralwood was the best school."

—Jessica Bandy

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Please give generously to the Coralwood Challenge!



CORALWOOD CHALLENGE

The Coralwood Foundation's annual fundraising effort raised over \$55,000 in 2014, exceeding the goal by 10%. This renewal of financial support occurs each year through business, corporate and many, many individual contributions. Where does that money go?

In addition to funding the Director of Development and to further our endowment, monies raised in the 2014-2015 school year were applied to fund stipends for the teachers. Our dedicated educators have been there for Coralwood's children even while carrying the burden of severe budget cuts in their salaries. The time had come to show them how important they are to us.

Each year, the Foundation board and the school principal collaborate to determine where the monies raised in the annual Challenge will do the most good. In the first several years, much of it went to funding the endowment. Now that goal has been reached and the future somewhat more assured, more of the funds raised each year can applied to the issues at hand.

Super Heroes Day at Coralwood To celebrate reaching its goal in this year's Coralwood Challenge, the Coralwood Foundation treated the students to a special Super Heroes Day at Coralwood in November 2014! During the day, the students received a special classroom visit by several super heroes from Heroes Alliance - Georgia. The students were dressed as their favorite super hero for the day to welcome these exciting visitors to Coralwood.



Heroes Alliance - Georgia • Photo: Andrew Michael Phillips



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- OCTOBER 5 | 9:15 am
PTA Executive Board Meeting
- OCTOBER 6-8
School Pictures
- OCTOBER 7 | 8:30 am
Foundation Executive Meeting
- OCTOBER 12
COLUMBUS DAY School Closed
- OCTOBER 22
Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- OCTOBER 23
Book Character Parade
Coralwood Challenge Ends
- OCTOBER 23 - 30
Book Fair
- OCTOBER 30
Pumpkin Patch at Coralwood



OCTOBER 2015

"In my many years as a principal, I never saw anything have quite the impact on improving a school as Coralwood's Foundation has had."

—Rebecca Blanton
Coralwood Principal 1980 – 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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A new enthusiasm for learning. My daughter, Savannah, has had an incredible experience at Coralwood. At first, I wondered if I was crazy to even apply for the lottery to send my little, barely 3 year old girl to public school. I can now say it was one of the best decisions I have made for her.

Savannah has thrived at Coralwood. She has such enthusiasm for learning and I know it is because of being there at Coralwood. Every single one of her teachers has exceeded my expectations and I could not have asked for anyone better. Every person that we have interacted with at Coralwood will hold a special place in our hearts for giving her such an incredible start in her life. We are incredibly grateful that she was able to be at Coralwood for three years. Thank you.

—Jessica Colclough

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- NOVEMBER 2
 - 9:15 am | PTA Executive Board Meeting
 - Square 1 Art to go home
- NOVEMBER 4
 - 8:30 am | Foundation Executive Meeting
 - 8:30 am | Preschool Fall Performance
- NOVEMBER 6
 - Pumpkin Patch Rain Date
- NOVEMBER 7-8
 - Fall family photo sessions with Lee Patterson
- NOVEMBER 11
 - 10:00 am | Pre-K Fall Performance
 - PTA meeting
- NOVEMBER 12
 - 5:30 pm | Kindergarten Fall Performance
- NOVEMBER 19
 - Thanksgiving Lunch
 - 6:00 pm | Foundation Full Board Meeting
- November 23 - 27
 - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
 - School Closed



NOVEMBER 2015

"Savannah has thrived at Coralwood and has such enthusiasm for learning because of being there."
—Jessica Colclough

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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Our whole family has benefited. My two eldest boys spent all three years at Coralwood. One was regularly paired with special needs children in a mentoring relationship and from that he gained understanding and compassion for those different from him. When he was later diagnosed with ADHD, his ability to deal with this diagnosis, the treatments and learning to live with it were eased by his experience being around kids with all kinds of learning styles.

My other Coralwood graduate was reading chapter books in Pre-K, long before the other students. His teachers created curriculum to enhance learning at his level. They created a book club with students from other classes and grades so that he would be challenged. Now finishing 4th grade, he still says he feels Coralwood was the best school. I often hear him saying of schoolwork that he "learned this at Coralwood."

Our whole family has benefited from the resources shared by parents and the compassion for families with children who have special needs. We have long-lasting friendships on which we still base our social life that began at Coralwood. I still lean on the parents I met at Coralwood when something arises for us or someone I know. The community was - and is - simply wonderful.

I served on the board of the foundation for several years and that experience was one which changed the way I volunteer to this day. The organization and planning, every event well done. This organization shaped the formation of the foundation at my children's local elementary school. They often referenced Coralwood's Foundation as the gold standard in raising long-term funds for the school. I am grateful for those years as they taught me to truly step up to the plate as a donor and a volunteer.

—Jessica Bandy

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- DECEMBER 1 - 3
Holiday Shop
- DECEMBER 3 | 2:30 – 5:30 pm
Holiday Treats
- DECEMBER 7 | 9:15 am
PTA Executive Board Meeting
- DECEMBER 8 | 3:00 – 5:00 pm
Parent/Teacher Conferences
- DECEMBER 21 - JANUARY 1
WINTER BREAK School Closed



DECEMBER 2015

"The Coralwood Community was
- and is - simply wonderful."
—Jessica Bandy

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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27	28	29	30	31		



From a novice to an experienced teacher. I cannot imagine where I would be professionally without Coralwood School, and specifically the Coralwood Foundation.

I first worked at Coralwood as a student teacher in 2005 while working on my master's degree in Early Childhood Special Education at Georgia State University. Mary Kaye Moore, a master teacher in every sense of the word, took me under her wing. She showed me how to run a classroom with structure, routine, hands-on lessons, and above all, with patience and love. A general education teacher by training, Ms. Moore explained to me that all classrooms are really inclusion classrooms. Only at Coralwood, there is the staff support and specialists who can better meet the needs of all students. When I finished my master's degree, I was offered a full time teaching job at Coralwood as a kindergarten special education teacher.

During my years at Coralwood, I grew from a novice to an experienced teacher. I greatly benefited from working closely with occupational therapists, physical therapists, orientation and mobility specialists, an expert speech-language pathologist, and a highly trained staff unparalleled in the field of early childhood education. Our principal, Rebecca Blanton, encouraged me to write several small grants, some through the Coralwood Foundation, to encourage my creativity as a teacher. All three of my grants were funded.

But my true passion became literacy. Thanks to the Coralwood Foundation, I attended state literacy conferences, received Orton-Gillingham training, and pursued AOGPE's 100-hour Associate Level practicum (courses I now teach). I received funding through the Foundation's Higher Opportunities for Teachers (HOT) committee.

I currently work as a professional learning instructor in Vermont. I teach a year-long graduate course on Orton-Gillingham, along with other literacy workshops, and supervise teachers across New England toward Orton-Gillingham certification. I speak at national conferences and webinars, and serve as the secretary of Vermont's Division of Early Childhood Education.

Although I am currently out of the classroom, I spend most of my time in K-2 classrooms, mentoring teachers as they work with their young struggling readers. I speak about my years at Coralwood, sharing strategies to help other educators better meet all learners. And Ms. Moore was right: Regardless of the classroom I walk into, they are all inclusion classrooms.

I owe so much of my professional growth to my Coralwood students and their families. They are the ones who make Coralwood and the Coralwood Foundation feel like a community. I am still in touch with many of them; many who feel more like family than former students.

My years at Coralwood molded me, and I am forever indebted.

—Peggy (Echt) Price
2007 - 2012



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- DECEMBER 21 - JANUARY 1
WINTER BREAK - School Closed
- JANUARY 4
TEACHER WORK DAY – No School
- JANUARY 5
First day of second semester
- JANUARY 6 | 8:30 am
Foundation Executive meeting
- JANUARY 11 | 9:15 am
PTA Executive Board Meeting
- JANUARY 18
MLK, JR. DAY - School Closed
- JANUARY 21
□ 5:15 pm | PTA meeting
□ 5:30 - 7:00 pm | Summer
Camp Expo
- JANUARY 28
Parent/Teacher Conferences



JANUARY 2016

"I owe so much of my professional growth to my Coralwood students and their families."

—Peggy (Echt) Price
Coralwood educator, 2007-2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30



**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!**

CORALWOOD 14TH ANNUAL AUCTION

The annual auction is a primary fund-raiser for the Coralwood Foundation which exists to ensure the children of Coralwood have a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment to address all their special needs. Join us for a fun and important evening Saturday, February 27th.

Auction proceeds go to the Foundation's general fund which supports initiatives like teacher professional education, teacher awards and mini-grants, bus driver stipends, stem camp subsidies, curriculum development, and the pursuit of grants by financing the director of development position. The general fund also covers administrative expenses for the foundation such as insurance, marketing and website maintenance.

- Meet Coralwood's staff and parents
- Bid on everything from city venue tickets to vacation home rentals to a wide selection of services and items
- Enjoy tastings from some of Atlanta's favorite restaurants

www.coralwoodschool.com/auction



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- FEBRUARY 1 | 9:15 am
PTA Executive Board Meeting
- FEBRUARY 3 | 8:30 am
Foundation Executive Meeting
- FEBRUARY 11
Grandparents and Special Friends Day
- FEBRUARY 15
PRESIDENT'S DAY - School Closed
- FEBRUARY 18 | 6:00 pm
Foundation Full Board Meeting
- FEBRUARY 27
Coralwood 14th Annual Auction
Location: TBD



FEBRUARY 2016

Bonus question: What items did the Foundation help purchase with some of the funds from last year's auction?

Answer below

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29			A: The Foundation purchased pedometers for all students, two adaptive tricycles, new picnic tables and benches for the playground and the outdoor classroom among other things.		

Inclusive practices are an integral characteristic of schools that achieve strong measures of academic success. Why? Because:

- Students are educated whenever appropriate in general education classrooms with teachers skilled in the content taught.
- Opportunities to progress in the general education curriculum are greatly facilitated through inclusive practices.
- High expectations for all students are the norm.
- Instruction is differentiated to engage students on the basis of the skill sets, interests, and learning styles.
- Collaboration between general and special education staff results in flexible grouping that includes varied small group instruction, large group, and paired instruction.
- Students are actively engaged in instruction and in their own learning.
- Instructional accommodations and “scaffolding” are used to increase access to learning and academic success.
- Individual education plans identify specific accommodations, modifications and goals for each student.
- Strong parent-school partnerships are the norm.
- Ongoing training and staff development is encouraged and supported.

Sources: partially based on a Wikipedia description provided under “Inclusion (education).” Accessed 27 August 2013.

“I think Coralwood has always been a leader in the field of education for very young children. The inclusion model is an example. Coralwood has been initiating progressive programs since as early as 1982.”

—Sally Pate & Meghan Pate
Coralwood Educators



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- March 2 | 8:30 am
Foundation Executive meeting
- MARCH 3 - 4
Spring Book Fair
- MARCH 4 | 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Family Reading Night
- MARCH 7 | 9:15 am
PTA Executive Board Meeting
- MARCH 11
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
DAY - School Closed
- MARCH 22 | 3:00 - 5:00 pm
Parent/Teacher Conferences



MARCH 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



2015 – 2016 CORALWOOD FOUNDATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lila Cooperider

President

Jean Drezek

Secretary

John Graham

Treasurer

Dr. Melanie Castelle

Principal

Cathy Ethridge

Teacher Liaison/HOT Committee

Julie Dascher

Director of Development

Rebecca Blanton

Past-Principal

TBD

Communications, Marketing/PR

Jill Roark,

Alumni

Janet Haury

Master Plan

Ida Pond

Auction Chair

Jill Vaysman

Challenge Chair

BOARD MEMBERS

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Lane Carter

Valerie Daniel

Allison Delano

Chad Dillard

Amy Heldman

Nick Johnson

Lauren McDow

Jenny Cruse Sanders

Meg Scheid

Katie Widener

PTA LIAISONS

PTA PRESIDENTS

Laura Mixon and Brittany Mackey

PTA PRESIDENTS ELECT

Tricia Washington and TBD

2014 – 2015 CORALWOOD FOUNDATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wendi Berkman

President

Lila Cooperider

Vice President

Jean Drezek

Secretary

John Graham

Treasurer

Dr. Melanie Castelle

Principal

Cathy Ethridge

Teacher Liaison/HOT Committee

Julie Dascher

Director of Development

Rebecca Blanton

Past-Principal

Michael Martin

Marketing/PR

Janet Haury

Master Plan

Jill Roark

Auction Chair

BOARD MEMBERS

Terri Burns

Lane Carter

Allison Delano

Nick Johnson

Pam King

Jenny Cruse Sanders

Meg Scheid

COMMITTEES & CHAIRS

ALUMNI - Not filled

CORALWOOD AUCTION - Jill Roark, Lane Carter,
Meg Scheid

CORALWOOD CHALLENGE - Lila Cooperider

FINANCE - John Graham

HOT (Higher Opportunities for Teachers) - Cathy Ethridge

MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS - Michael W. Martin

MASTER PLAN - Janet Haury & Rebecca Blanton

CORALWOOD FOUNDATION 2015-2016 CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 11, 2015: Coralwood School Homecoming

SEPTEMBER 18 - OCTOBER 23, 2015: Coralwood Challenge

FEBRUARY 27, 2016: Coralwood Foundation Auction

10th Anniversary



CORALWOOD
SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

VOLUNTEER!

volunteer@coralwoodschool.com

Coralwood's committed volunteers have accomplished amazing things but there are always great ideas and initiatives that are still waiting to be fulfilled.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- April 1
INCLEMENT WEATHER DAY IF NEEDED - School Closed
- APRIL 4 - 8
SPRING BREAK - School Closed
- APRIL 11 | 9:15 am
PTA Executive Board Meeting
- April 13 | 8:30 am
Foundation Executive meeting
- APRIL 16 - 17
Spring family photo sessions with Lee Patterson
- APRIL 20
Administrative Assistant Appreciation Day
- APRIL 21
□ 10:00 am | PreK Spring Performance
□ PTA Meeting
- APRIL 25 - 29
Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week



APRIL 2016

"Our son is now 7 years removed from his time at Coralwood, but it still sets the standard of what we hope for - and expect - in his education."

—Mike and Joanie Gross

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Ten Years Ago. When my daughter started in the three-year old program at Coralwood in 2003, the school was short on funding, volunteers and optimism.

- The principal received only \$4000 annually to meet ALL financial needs of the school beyond building costs and salaries.
- The building had broken light fixtures, peeling paint and a dingy, uninviting cafeteria.
- Classrooms were cramped, shabby and poorly equipped.
- Teachers paid for most of their classroom needs out of their own pockets. They did not receive funding for professional development or continuing education.
- The school stage was divided into cubicles as office space for staff.
- The playground was a mud hole with tree stumps, a rusty wheelchair swing and non-handicap accessible playground equipment.
- The front was a gravel parking lot (really non-handicap accessible) with no landscaping or signage.

Other parents and I were heartsick. Was this the best educational experience we could offer our special needs children?

In the 10 years since its formation in 2005, the Foundation has done much to improve the situation for Coralwood and its students. Its formation also helped build a committed and dedicated community of parents, staff and well-wishers. In these ten short years, the Foundation has...

- Fully funded the endowment through the annual Challenge campaign.
- Funds annually the salary of a Director of Development who helps determine teachers needs, writes grants to receive funding, helps carry out the funded programs and serves as the Foundation's daily presence at the school.
- Purchased some of the first Promethean interactive boards and educational iPads in DeKalb County which are now in every classroom and the media center.
- Created a nature trail and educational tree house for the students.
- Funded educational opportunities for students and staff.
- Coordinated thousands of service hours by our directors, staff, parents and volunteers.

I can't wait to see what the Foundation will accomplish in the next 10 years.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- MAY 2 | 9:15 am
PTA Executive Board Meeting
- MAY 5
Teacher of the Year Reception
- MAY 6
Spring Fling/Run, Walk and Roll
- MAY 13
Spring Fling/Run, Walk and Roll
(Rain Date)
- MAY 15
PTA Executive Board End of
Year Party
- MAY 19
 - 10:00 am | Kindergarten
Performance
 - 6:00 pm | Foundation Full Board
Meeting
- MAY 26
Last Day of School



MAY 2016

"Finding Coralwood was truly a blessing.
Thank you for everything you have done for us."
—Mo and Rochelle Yasine

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



INCOME STATEMENT

CORALWOOD FOUNDATION, INC.
Statement of Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2015

Income	Amount
Contributions	55,037
Grants	2,000
Special Events Income	
Auction Income, Net of Expenses of \$10,212	39,825
Miscellaneous Income	455
Investment Income	
Dividends and Interest	17,081
Total Income	114,398
Expenses	
Development Fees and Expenses	22,361
Teacher Continuing Education	2,911
Awards and Grants	53,500
Equipment, Landscaping, School Program Support	2,976
Camp Program Expenses, Net of Revenue of \$16,955	1,789
Administrative Expenses	2,262
Depreciation Expense	11,193
Total Expenses	105,466
NET INCOME	8,932*

*The difference in overall net income year-to-year reflects (a) a significantly lower increase in market value of the investments (\$40k last year; virtually \$0 this year), (b) the paying out of educator awards (\$54k) not incurred last year, (c) higher depreciation as a result of more equipment purchased on behalf of the school.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- JUNE 30
End of Coralwood
Foundation Financial Year



JUNE 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

BALANCE SHEET

CORALWOOD FOUNDATION, INC.
Statement of Financial Position as of June 30, 2015

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	37,995
Accounts Receivable	1,794
Prepaid Expenses	2,108
Investments	
Capital Improvements Fund	6,325
Endowment Fund	<u>507,172</u>
Total Investment Assets	513,497
Fixed Assets	
Furniture, Equipment and Other Fixed Assets	89,072
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(44,960)</u>
Net Fixed Assets	44,112

TOTAL ASSETS **599,506**

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	<u>9,006</u>
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TOTAL LIABILITIES **9,006**

NET ASSETS **590,500**



He's Fine. I was a scared mom as I dropped John off at the stairs to the trailer village that January morning. It was a week after he turned three. Just as I started to hop out to get him out of his seat, a teacher scooped him up and set him at the bottom of the steps. I watched him walk up those steps and into his future. My protests of "Wait, he needs help" were met with "He's fine, mom. We'll take good care of him." And they did.

From day one, Coralwood taught me how capable John was and how capable he would continue to be. It taught me that he could and would learn - lots. It taught me to expect no less of John than his "typical" brother and sister because Coralwood teachers certainly didn't.

We were so fortunate to be in the right county at the right time to have been part of this amazing school. It changed our lives in the best way possible.
—Mike and Joanie Gross

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR HELP WITH THIS YEAR'S CALENDAR:

- graphic design/production Tracy Fernandez
Fernandez Design
- **Randy McDow** special photography
- printing Candy Beam
Gwinnett Graphics



JULY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

2014-2015 CORALWOOD CHALLENGE DONORS

The Coralwood Foundation's Coralwood Challenge is vital to our school. It supports teachers and staff by providing opportunities for continuing education programs. The Coralwood Challenge also funds the Coralwood Foundation endowment so children who attend Coralwood in the future will benefit from the same exceptional education our students receive today.

\$1,000+

Jeff & Wendi Berkman
Chris & Lane Carter
Robyn Chapman
Bill Crane
Todd & Lila Cooperider
Bryan & Allison Delano
Lester & Jean Drezek
Chris & Brittany Fayard
Spencer & Katrina Johnson
Bruce & Hydi Kalmin
Douglas & Sheri Lake
Michael & Ida Pond
Jerrimia & Jill Roark
Fannie Taylor
Jerry & Karen Thomas
Lev & Jill Vaysman
Jason & Katie Widener

\$500 - \$999

Lanson & Robin Broeker
Michael & Melanie Castelle
Lauren Coggins
Mark & Jill Blackley Cohn
Alexander & Dawn Durham
Vrinda Fernandes & Adithya Rao
Matt & Lauren Kehrli
Roberta Murray
Steve Paek & Doolie Kim
Chris & Briana Peikert
Mary Anne Rasmussen
Col. C. Frank & Judy Riggle, III
James & Meg Scheid
Jason & Keli Weiden
Helen Williams

\$300 - \$499

Joe & Nancy Akers
David & Valerie Alden
Addis Alemayehu & Sara Abate
Rick & Karen Alteri
Jonathan & Lara Baldwin
Lain & Melinda Bluett

John & Caterina Cappellari
Jonathan & Pam Cohen
Patrick & Adrienne Duncan
Thomas & Meredith Dunn
Robert Garth & Wendy Carpenter
John & Jennifer Graham
Michael & Joan Hagan
Kevin Hollingsworth & Shuli Green
Lajan & Vicki Howard
Jason & Erin Jarrells
Carl & Wanda Johnson
Nick & Liz Johnson
Tracy Kanaczet
Chrisann Marc
Michael Martin & Dan Cameron
Catherine Gibson McCauley
Ross & Polly Nicholas
Wally & Courtney Richardson
Kenneth & Courtney Smith
Ryan & Katherine Wiegand
John & Ruth Williams

\$100 - \$299

Ryan & Kara Adams
Noah Aronson & Amy Sue Mann
Jeff & Caitlin Barton
Jesse & Mary Lynn Bates
Mary Bates
Michael Bezabih & Saba Mengistu
Anne Biesel
Frank & Rebecca Blanton
Doug & Anu Bourgeois
David & Stephanie Braatz
Paul & Rhona Breure
Grant & Laura Britton
Joann Margaret Burke
Ryan & Amy Burke
Richard Calupca
Michael & Wendy Carr
Ann Chahroudi
Anthony Chan & Wing Yu Chong
Tye & Jessica Colclough
Jason & Stephanie Collins

Ryan & Nicoline Collins
Kevin & Melissa Cooney
Ian & Jennifer Copland
Vincent Corica
Robert & Jennifer Cowhig
Wade & Kelli Davis
Ajeet & Shruti Dhingra
Chad & Karen Dillard
Dana & JoAnn Dow
Arthur & Teresa Ebbs
Glenn & Cathy Ethridge
Edward Flowers
Warren & Mami Fondu
Steven & Jennifer Freeman
Mark & Karharina Garofalo
Benjamin & Kellie Garrett
Randy & Meredyth Glazer
Robin & Jennifer Green
Randy & Caroline Gold
Nicholas Hagelin
Bersi Benyam Hailemaria & Elizabeth Gebremariam
Melody & Shannon Hall
Jay & Amy Hanson
Stephen & Valerie Harrison
Janet Haury
Bill & Kristine Hayes
Steven & Sara Henderson
Tommy & Holly Hidell
Brent & Tanya Holland
Thomas & Amanda Holt
Matthew & Joy Hurd
Mukund Jain
Netsanet Kebede
Tiffany Krista
Adius Lherisson
Jim & Jacque Lynch
Jo Denise Malone
Stephen & Danita Mank
Stuart & Stephanie Marsden
Chris & Tricia Martin
Mike & Elizabeth Martin

Florence Mathis
Barbara McClurg
Randy & Lauren McDow
Donna McGee
Chris & Martha McGourk
Brooks & Maya Meeks
Molly Millians
Joyce & Laura Mixson
Craig & Alicia Moore
Anupam Narula & Neha Shah
Katy Pan
Shawn & Alison Peppers
Paul & Marnie Plaia
Paul & Jean Rasmussen
Mark Reitz
Mary Rising
Catherine & Kimberly Roberts
Gregory Royster
Darby & Jennifer Sanders
Hasan Sayilir
David & Dawn Schakett
Derek & Hisako Schroeder
Chris & Julia Scott
Garima Sethi
Jyotsnaden & Dineshchandra Shah
Lucy Shallenberger



Murray & Michelle Shevlin
Jack & Aimee Small
Clovis & Camille Smith
Michael & Candace Stearns
John & Susan Stembel
Robert Swain & Leslyn McNabb
Jonathan & Jodi Toppen
John & Melanie Uetsuki
Robert & Angelika Wieczynski
Damon Wiener & Kim Handleman
Garr Williams
Patrick & Angel Williams
Susan Witucki
Hever Perez Yacque

Up to \$99

Melanie Ackerman
Angela Amann
Amitkumar & Sayroz Babvani
Holly Bartlett
Nicholas & Patricia Berry
John & Leta Bogle
James & Shelly Bratton
Elaine Brewer
James Brown & Lisa Newbern
Katie Burkhardt
Sarah Cenker
Victoria Cherne
Jonathan & Kelly Clay
Heather Nicole Craven
Dustin & Melody Dunn
Adrian Finch & Mandy DeMott
Richard Fret
Nick & Lauren Frutiger
Eric & Rebecca Grijalva
Jeff & Robin Hackney
Brian King
Carolyn Krutoy
Philip Lefkoff & Elena Malakhova
Justin & Adriane Lilly
Bruce & Qiang Ling
Trevor Lim & Trang Nguyen
Michael & Christine Lo
Sean & Lauren Lynch
Joe & Brittany Mackey
Joe & Sabrina Manns
Angelo & Marie Mante
Peter & Angelique Manzi
Shaun & April McCarthy
Rob & Jody McHoul

“We were so fortunate to be in the right county at the right time to have been part of this amazing school. It changed our lives in the best way possible.”

—Mike and Joanie Gross

Richard & Beverly Mielke
Mike & Jennifer Morris
Youtake Oh
Danny & Natalie O’Shea
Beth Ann Praed
Barbara Ann Rowley
Lori Shifflin
Vina Simpson
Carol Skala
James & Mary Helen Stringer
Geetha & Satish Vankineni
John & Stacey Vigil
Patricia Ward
Wes & Patricia Washington

Matching Gifts

Bank of America
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Berkshire Civic Club
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Hewlett-Packard
Howard School
Kimberly-Clark
Little School House
Mortons Lawn Service
Network For Good
Outdoor Advertising Association
Time Warner
The Coca-Cola Foundation



The Little School That Could. Our daughters Sarah and Lauren both attended Coralwood from the 3 year-old program through kindergarten. From the moment we arrived, we knew that we were somewhere special. There were three wonderful, caring and professional teachers per class room. The equipment and facility was state of the art, using the latest technology before most other schools in the area.

The Coralwood Foundation worked tirelessly to ensure we gave our kids the very best. I always referred to Coralwood as the “little school that could”.

The integration of special needs kids not only showcases the diversity that is essential for growing up in our ever-changing world, but shows that, given the right tools, no child need be excluded. For my children, it instilled a caring and appreciation for the world that they could not have learned at an “ordinary” school. Having three able and qualified teachers per classroom allowed for seamless inclusion. In my opinion, the only way to shed stigmatizing and stereotyping is to see different situations on the same playing field.

I could go on and on about Coralwood, the teachers the art workshops and the nature programs. The performances. The INCREDIBLE parent involvement. The close knit feeling between parents and faculty. All of these wonderful experiences and learning would not have happened if not for the Coralwood Foundation. Finding Coralwood was truly a blessing for my family.

Thank you for everything you have done for us.

—Mo and Rochelle Yasine



Coralwood Foundation
c/o Coralwood School
2477 Coralwood Drive
Decatur, GA 30033
678.874.6002
www.coralwoodschool.com
Like us on Facebook!

