

# 2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT

# **KEEN MINDS**





# **MISSION:**

The mission of Mackintosh Academy is to provide a stimulating and enjoyable environment for the gifted child that promotes academic excellence and scholarship.

Our goal is to maximize learning potential and promote development of the whole child. We aspire to help our students mature into whole, healthy human beings who are confident about their unique gifts and their place in the world as worthwhile contributors, who have keen minds and compassionate hearts and who contribute their special gifts to a world that needs them.

We are committed to an academic program that emphasizes a passion for life-long learning. In pursuing this goal, we strive to ensure that each child develops socially, emotionally, creatively, physically and cognitively in a nurturing and supportive environment.

Both campuses utilize the International Baccalaureate Curriculum: a program that provides students with discipline, creativity, flexibility, skills and a personal value system by which they can guide their own lives and become thoughtful and involved members of local communities and our global world.

Mackintosh Academy is honored to have been accredited as an IB World School and a prestigious part of this organization.

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

- Dr. Rexford Brown Chairman of the Board
  - John Cobb
  - Steve Dodd
  - Sandy Furth
  - Dr. Nancy Gary
  - Andy Hancock
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# A Message from the Chairman of the Board

The primary responsibilities of Mackintosh Trustees are to insure the fiduciary health and integrity of the school, to establish guiding policies and goals, to insure the school's compliance with all appropriate laws and regulations, and to hire outstanding administrative leaders who will, in turn, hire great teachers and curriculum coordinators dedicated to continuous improvement. Trustees seldom get directly involved in curriculum and instruction decisions better handled by the staff. Nevertheless, they do feel responsibility about the overall excellence of the program and whether it enables the school to live up to its mission of developing "keen minds, compassionate hearts, and global awareness."

A number of us on the board have spent much of our lives teaching and administering in private and public schools in the US and abroad. We are "keenly" aware of the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and understandings necessary for our students to excel at Mackintosh, in high school, in college, and later on in any job or career worth pursuing. "Basic" skills are insufficient; they set the bar way too low for all children, let alone gifted and creative students like ours. In such a rapidly changing world of interdependent cultures and economies, with so many challenges already before us and more yet to come that we cannot predict, they need minds that are "keen" in all of the ways my tattered Thesaurus defines the word: forceful, sharp, sensible, discriminating, sagacious, good, eager, penetrating, and witty. They need to *think*—critically and creatively; they need to know how to approach and deal with complex problems; they need extraordinary writing and mathematical skills; and they need to know, in Matthew Arnold's famous words, "the best that has been thought and said." They need to understand systems and technologies and interdependencies and the contributions of multiple cultures to human knowledge.

This is why so many of us on the board appreciate the International Baccalaureate curriculum and the kinds of inquiry-based instruction that it requires. We have studied it, we have seen it work for our own children and grandchildren, we believe that its links to children all over the world are vital, and we love the fact that it allows generous latitude for individualized, original, and collaborative work. "Keen minds" is what Mackintosh is aiming for and we expect our teachers and your children to elaborate on the concept year after year.

#### Rex Brown Chairman of the Board of Trustees

"Having a keen mind means to be a focused and thoughtful person."  $\sim A$  3<sup>rd</sup> grade student

"To me, keen minds are ones that question arbitrary rules and when others ask 'why?' they reply 'why not?'"  $\sim A 7^{th}$  grade student

# Mackintosh Highlights 2011-2012

- On June 7, 2011, the *Boulder Campus opened its doors to 69 students* for its inaugural year in educating gifted and talented children in Boulder and the surrounding areas. That same day, the Littleton Campus began its 34<sup>th</sup> year as a pioneer in education with 107 students.
- On September 21, students at both campuses celebrated *Peace Day* by dedicating Peace Poles at their respective campuses. The poles provide a daily reminder of the oneness of humanity and our common wish for peace which can only be achieved through speaking, acting and thinking in an attitude of reconciliation and accord.
- October 20<sup>th</sup> witnessed the converging of the 3<sup>rd</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, teachers and parents at the Littleton Campus for a *"Heroes' Lunch"* to honor the heroes in their individual lives and presentation by *author T. A. Barron.*
- The first Boulder Campus based *Lego League Team* received First Place in the 2011 Thompson Expo Research Project in a competition with seventy-seven other teams on October 29<sup>th</sup>!
- *Ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the Boulder Campus* were held on November 10<sup>th</sup> with parents, friends, staff, Board of Trustee members and dignitaries from the City and County of Boulder in attendance. The event signaled a new era for Mackintosh Academy!
- November 17<sup>th</sup> welcomed almost **200** Grandparents and Special Friends to both campuses with tours of the school, sharing of classroom Units of Inquiry, new insights and friendships.
- Parent Council representatives worked long and hard to create wonderful *Book Fairs* at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore in Boulder on December 5<sup>th</sup> and at the Lone Tree store on December 8<sup>th</sup>.
- From December through February, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8th Grade Student Basketball Teams for both campuses played against local school teams. The students learned skills and teamwork, the parents cheered until they were hoarse, younger students served as cheerleaders and everyone had a wonderful time. In March, the first Littleton Staff vs. Student Basketball Game was held complete with opening ceremonies, student and staff cheerleaders, interesting hoop shots and a great deal of laughter.
- Seventh and eighth grade students from both campuses spent a week together experiencing learning through an outdoor educational environment at *Calwood*.
- In the spring, the *Littleton Mackintosh Mountain Lion Sprinters* gathered after school each Friday to stretch and jog for one mile as part of the *Kids Running America* program. The students finalized their 26.2 mile accumulated run by joining with children across Colorado for a Final Mile Marathon on April 28<sup>th</sup> at City Park in Denver.
- Families were proud to share cups of hot chocolate and coffee at the Starbucks at the Aspen Grove Shopping Center as they viewed *Littleton Student Artwork on display*. First and Second Grade students learned about centuries of Chinese landscape watercolor painting, practiced various techniques (i.e., wet-to-wet, strokes made with the brush handle, salt into wet paint, etc.) and then created an original landscape depicting typical Chinese nature subjects.



















Spring found 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at *International Towne, a one-of- a-kind program offered by the Young Americans Center for Financial Education in Denver* to help teach students about global economics. The curriculum culminates in a day-long educational experience where students spend the day role-playing as consumers and producers in a global marketplace of 16 countries.

Mackintosh Highlights

2011-2012

- On April 26<sup>th</sup>, Littleton 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade students traveled to the Boulder campus to collaborate on an invertebrate *Bioblitz Survey* in the recently tilled space for the pollinator garden. During the event, students worked together to identify and tally each invertebrate in a square meter of habitat. Total Animals: 346!
- In May, fifteen Littleton sixth grade students presented their Exhibition Projects to their fellow students, families and the community. *The 2011-2012 Exhibition* (a final thesis of the PYP years prior to moving on to Middle School) focused upon the central idea that "equal opportunities and responsibilities of the sharing of water helps create peaceful relationships." The Exhibition Project is a year-long process where students, with guidance from teachers and an individual mentor complete in-depth research, journal, develop outlines, complete a thesis and make a final presentation to the general community.
- Service to the Community:
  - In the fall, students held a *Thanksgiving Food Drive* to benefit the Food Bank of the Rockies which provides food supplies to more than 1,100 hunger relief programs.
  - The October Student Service Council organized a "Change Challenge for Romeo" to adopt our Mackintosh Academy mascot, Romeo, for a second year in a row through the *Wild Animal Sanctuary*. The students raised \$682.00 in one month, far exceeding their \$500.00 goal! The additional funds allowed the students to adopt Olivia, a Timber Wolf and Diva, an African Servile. Student Council representatives met Romeo, Olivia and Diva face-to-face through a visit to the Sanctuary in mid-November.
  - Boulder Campus students and families held a *Book Drive* to collect books to be distributed to children in India through Project Drishya.
  - The Littleton Student Service Council organized a *Valentine Card* making event for the students at the school. When the cards were finished, the students visited residents at the *Libby Bortz Assisted Living Center* to distribute the cards and make new friends!
  - The Boulder Student Service Council solicited over \$400.00 for *HawkQuest*, an organization which brings injured and/or un-releasable raptors into schools for educational outreach programs.
  - Eighth Grade students from both campuses traveled to the San Francisco area for the 2011-2012 Student Service Trip from April 20<sup>th</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>. The trip dates were chosen to coincide with Earth Day with the trip theme of *Resource Availability* and goals to include a focus on biodiversity, available watershed and habitat restoration. Students, teachers and parent chaperones worked at Muir Beach planting native species and conducting invasive weed removal; assisted at a San Francisco Food Bank; participated in a private whale watching tour that focused on aquatic ecology; and, completed a clean-up project with *Save Our Shores*.

# A Message from the Interim Executive Director

In this, the "2011-12 Annual Report to the Stakeholders of Mackintosh Academy," you will find the results of a clean audit done by the firm of Kish Leake and Associates with a representation of the school's financial picture in all segments of the operation. That representation is the cornerstone of an annual report.

An Annual Report of a school must also signify much more than mere financials to its stakeholders, the parents, who choose to send their children, their treasure to this school. You will discover in this report a focus on a key aspect of the school's mission – the development and unfolding of KEEN MINDS. Each member of the leadership team engages in a key part of your child's education. Understanding their role in the development of your student's keen mind is the lens through which you gain insight into the many threads contributing to the optimum growth and well-being of your child and all the children of Mackintosh Academy.

My job as the Interim Executive Director has been to construct a Leadership Team, review all documents and policies, review all financial information, work with all constituents of the school to create and follow through with trusted, responsive, and effective communication. I see this job as a bridge linking both campuses, so that the focus of smart, seasoned and responsive educators can be on the unfolding of each child's strengths and potential, their keen minds. As you will see in this report, Mackintosh Academy's strength lies in the excellence of the professional educators charged with this task.

We are thrilled to bring you this annual report showcasing a multifaceted lens for you to gain a more complete picture of the strength and well-being of this, your school community.

> Mary Lou Faddick Interim Executive Director



2011-2012 Eighth Grade Service Trip Highlights









YOU ARE WHAT YOU DO, NOT WHAT YOU SAY YOU WILL DO. ~ CARL JUNG



### **ASSETS**

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,787,853.
<i>Tuition Receivable</i> (Net of \$21,002. Allowance for Doubtful Accounts)	\$ 107,011.
Prepaid Expenses and Other Current Assets	\$ 114,424.
Investments	<u>\$ 347,241.</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$2,356,529.
Property, Plant and Equipment, Boulder	\$3,893,781.
Property, Plant and Equipment, Littleton	\$1,429,201.
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(\$941,513.)</u>
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	\$4,381,469.
Loan Origination Fees, Boulder	\$ 24,150.
Loan Origination Fees, Littleton	\$ 955.
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$6,763,103.</u>

"A 'Keen Mind' is one that is acutely perceptive and adept at reasoning, judgment and memory. Developing a keen mind gives you the ability to think on higher levels, processing more information more skillfully to gain meaning and knowledge from experience and information."

~ Sue Fagan Parent Council Chair, Boulder Campus "I think having a keen mind means having your mind as sharp as a falcon's eyesight." ~ A 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student

"Keen minds' means thinking in common."  $\sim A 4^{th}$  grade student

## Liabilities

Current Portion, Notes Payable	\$ 81,553.
Current Portion, Leases	<u>\$ 5,045.</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$1,752,104.
Long-Term Notes Payable and Leases	\$2,999,062.
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$4,751,166
Net Assets	
	\$1,299,701.
Unrestricted Net Assets	φ1,299,701.
Unrestricted Net Assets Temporarily Restricted Assets	\$ 377,852.
Temporarily Restricted Assets	\$ 377,852.

"'Keen Minds' means to be open-minded - let other people join your game." ~ A 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student

> "'Keen Minds' means that we face problems in positive, smart, responsible, creative ways. We use skills we already know to solve problems." ~ A 7<sup>th</sup> grade student

"A keen mind can not only write facts, it can find answers it does not already know." ~ An 8th grade student

> "When you have an idea, you raise your hand and say it out loud." ~ A Kindergarten student



2011-2012 Operating Income	\$	% of Total
Tuition	\$2,527,513.	68.7
Annual Fund, Littleton Only	\$11,842.	0.3
Capital Gifts, Boulder Only	\$1,069,390.	29.1
Auction Income, Littleton and Boulder	\$22,155.	0.6
Other Income	\$48,240.	1.3
Total Operating Income	\$3,679,140.	100.0



2011-2012 Operating Expenses	\$	% of Total
Salaries, Benefits, Payroll Expenses and		
Professional Education	\$2,052,399.	69.0
Classroom Expenses	\$198,889.	6.7
Building and Facilities Expenses	\$327,968.	11.0
Administrative Expenses	\$397,069.	13.3
Total Operating Expenses	\$2,976,325.	100.0



### **Contributions to Mackintosh Academy**

CASH AND STOCK ONLY	JULY 1, 2011 –	JUNE 30, 2012
ANNUAL GIVING - Littleton		
Annual Fund Contributions:		
Allocated for Professional Development,		
Scholarships and Campus Improvements	ф <b>Т</b> (0,00	
1. Trustees and Staff	\$ 760.00	
2. Current Families	\$ 8,382.00	
3. Other Individuals	\$ 500.00	
4. Organizations/Foundations	\$ 2,200.00	
ANNUAL GIVING SUB-TOTAL		\$ 11,482.
CAPITAL GIFTS - Boulder		
1. Building and Property	\$1,040,750.	
2. Unrestricted for Operating		
Expenses	\$ 26,000.	
CAPITAL GIFTS SUB-TOTAL		\$1,066,750.
<b>GRANTS – Boulder and Littleton</b>		
Whole Kids Foundation, Littleton	\$ 2,000.	
School Habitat Grant, Boulder	\$ 1,000.	
GRANTS SUB-TOTAL	\$ 3,000.	\$ 3,000.
TOTAL GIFTS		\$1,081,232.
TOTAL GIF 15		\$ <b>1,001,232</b> .

Note: We comply with the NAIS Annual Giving Cash and Stock for Constituents in one category. If you are in multiple categories, the priority rank is as follows: Current Families, Trustees/Staff, Other Individuals and Organizations/Foundations.

"Mackintosh Academy's intentional embrace of 'keen minds' is critical to the success of its students. This focus allows for a rich and rigorous curriculum that engages gifted learners' intensity, acuity, and enthusiasm."

Terese Rainwater ~ Parent Council Chair, Littleton Campus

"Keen minds are minds that are searching for a life of great foundation and knowledge."  $\sim$  An 8<sup>th</sup> grade student

"'Keen minds' are minds that are interested in learning."  $\sim A$ 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student



### **BOULDER** School Habitat Grant – Colorado Division of Wildlife

Mackintosh Academy Boulder sits on 22 acres of land which provides extensive opportunities for on-site education. However, years of neglect by previous owners left most of the campus covered with invasive insects and weeds. The issue has left the school without a thriving natural environment to study native ecosystems and species. To connect the students with native plants and ecosystems, the school is teaming with a Wildlife Biologist and Wildlife Firefighter from the United States Forest Service to create a pollinator garden. Students will start the garden on-campus so that they may be involved in every aspect of the project. During the fall of 2012, students extended their learning by participating in improving a pollinator habitat in an area of forest impacted by the 2010 Four Mile Wildfire in Boulder County.

Students met with representatives from the Forest Service and have been introduced to native plants, ecosystems and the importance of pollinators. Two hundred and twenty-five square meters of the Boulder campus have been set aside as a garden for native plants that will provide a habitat for native pollinators.

### LITTLETON Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grant

The Littleton community is deeply grateful to Mrs. Patty Walters who secured \$2,000 to build a science lab/greenhouse at the Littleton Campus through a Whole Kids Foundation and FoodCorps grant. This funding has served as a foundation to purchase the greenhouse structure; interior benches and tables; lighting; an irrigation system; a humidity and temperature control system; solar panels to provide electricity; and, a direct water supply system. The greenhouse will provide: participation by students in all aspects of planting, growth and harvesting; scientific investigation into germination, growth and the maturation of plants; measurement of greenhouse variables (i.e., temperature, PH levels, humidity); the advantage of organic gardening vs. the use of inorganic matter; water management investigation; and, research into how climate impacts plants. Students will use the current compost system on campus to fertilize and enrich the soil. Visual Arts classes will create natural dyes for projects from the plants in the greenhouse. The possibilities for study are truly endless!

We are very grateful for the parent and community support of this program and look forward to installation of the greenhouse and equipment in the spring of 2013!

### Thoughts From The Administrative Staff

Stacey Anderson – Littleton Head of School

The Mackintosh tag line, *Keen Minds*, *Compassionate* Hearts and Global Action, solidifies our purpose as a learning community. This line drives my vision for the instruction of our students as the Head of School in Littleton. Our educational goals center on students' growth in each area with Keen Minds being at the forefront. Synonymous with keen are the following words: acute, discriminating, incisive, sharp and perceptive. The need for our students to be able to think deeply and critically stands as our top priority. Inquiry is the key to developing Keen Minds, asking the thought provoking questions and in turn, being asked the complex questions allows students to delve in and stretch their minds. To be able to connect new information and knowledge with previous understandings is the definition of learning. Constructivist thinking is the basis of our curriculum: teachers offering opportunities for Socratic Seminars, students researching and investigating big picture ideas and giving students the freedom to share their learning in creative, multifaceted assessments describes our commitment to developing Keen Minds. My yearning is to inspire our teachers and students to engage fully in the profound process of creating Keen Minds for all on our Littleton campus. The vision of Mackintosh promotes the growth of the whole child; we are invested deeply in the development of our students' acute, discriminating, incisive, sharp and perceptive minds as we partner with our families on this fascinating journey.

#### Eric Robertson – Boulder Head of School

As the Head of School for our Boulder campus, I am honored to develop and steward a culture/practice in our classrooms and throughout our beautiful wilderness campus that challenges students to sharpen and deepen their intellect. This means approaching learning not only as the acquisition of skills and knowledge, but also as the act of embracing the world and finding meaning and passion in every interaction with people, places, and ideas. Whether students are learning about their own leadership ability as stewards of the earth and their communities, practicing open-minded conversation with others that contrast and merge diverse perspectives, or experimenting with increasingly nuanced forms of self-expression as they grow into themselves as writers, artists, innovators, and scientists, they are developing approaches to thought and action that they will no doubt one day use to live satisfying lives and create a brighter future. My favorite part of my position is crafting this culture among our faculty, modeling for them the ways in which learning is brought to a state of thriving abundance in the life of students in a classroom community. It is my greatest pleasure to then see students take their keen minds and unique spark out of the classroom and into the world, where knowledge and creativity are transformed into discovery and action.

#### Sharon Muench – Curriculum Coordinator:

The development of keen minds centers my professional practice. Every action directly correlates to how it will affect student academic development. My day starts with students who love math and use mathematical language and tools to find the beauty and intrigue of math in their worlds. I provide the kindling to ignite the fire, which dances as students guide the course of their chariots. As my day progresses, I ensure that the fire illuminates every classroom through observation and evaluation. I meet with each teacher to develop lessons steeped in our Mackintosh curriculum standards and objectives closely aligned with National Common Core, Colorado State and the International Baccalaureate standards, yet tailored to meet the need of our gifted population. I know those needs for I have directly worked with our students for 19 years and tracked the continued development of those keen minds. The citizens of tomorrow's world need global acumen, technological literacy, and the self-confidence and ability to manage complex organizations, innovate, communicate well, work in teams, and adapt to ever changing situations. It is not solely a list of standards which drive our development of keen minds, but skills which will propel their place in the world and ability to share their keen minds with others.

#### Arleen Brogan Smith – Business Office Manager

Unseen yet essential to the health and success of the organization, the financial foundation of Mackintosh Academy, like the roots of a tree, supports the development of keen minds at the Academy. In the business office, educational resources are budgeted, paychecks are generated, and fundraising activities are tracked, as well as a host of additional tasks that ensure a nurturing and supportive environment for the Academy's community. The financial management establishes financial stability and sustainability, resulting in wise, prudent, effective decisions for current and future commitments, while assuring the security of the Academy's assets.



### Thoughts From The Administrative Staff

#### Beth Steklac – Curriculum Coordinator

As an administrator, educator, parent, and citizen of the world, I am privileged to play a role in the development of the keen minds of our Mackintosh students. What originally drew me to Mackintosh ten years ago, and continues to inspire our community, is a rich curricular framework that is founded in research and best practices in global and gifted education. The curriculum is built on standards drawn from Common Core, national, gifted and IB standards. Using the IB framework, these standards are then given context through the six trans-disciplinary themes: Who we are; Where we are in time and place; How we express ourselves; How the world works; How we organize ourselves; and, How we share the planet. With guided inquiry, students bring their keen minds to the forefront as they construct their learning. The IB student moves from "What is it?" to "Why is it important?" to "What should I do with this knowledge?" as they explore the Action Cycle in their daily learning. Watching these students progress through high school and college truly is a testimony to the foundation of knowledge, creativity and critical thinking skills fostered in these important early years of development as lifelong learners. Through a rigorous program of self-reflection and continuous improvement, the curriculum continues to evolve as we prepare our students to share their unique gifts with the world. Working closely with students and teachers and collaborating with the IB community as we work in developing "keen minds" is a truly rewarding experience.

#### Kate Bachtel – Admissions and Outreach Director, Boulder

Mackintosh outreach and admissions work is focused on growing our school family. I am relentless in the pursuit of new gifted education resources to ensure optimal development of each student. Sharing and living Mackintosh's mission fuels me. While the gifted population is diverse by nature, Mackintosh students have common threads weaving them into the tapestry of our community. Our students enjoy complex reasoning, the process of figuring things out and new ideas; they have curious minds that ask, "Why?" We also have dreamers and poets, strong visual thinkers skilled in metaphor. Mackintosh learners are intuitive and may experience a broad range of emotions more intensely and for longer durations. Empathy is a powerful indicator of giftedness. Our children search for meaning, their place in the world, each possessing a special *spark* illuminating a unique life path. Finally, Mackintosh learners are self-directed; they self-analyze in quest of their best self. The International Baccaulaureate program provides the depth, pace and complexity that our students crave while also affording the flexibility to differentiate for individual student strengths and interests. It is with keen minds that we consider a body of evidence, including cognitive evaluations, when determining whether a Mackintosh placement would be ideal for each student applying for admission. Thank you for your ambassadorship in helping students on similar journeys find their way to our Mackintosh home.

#### Linda Downey Turner – Assistant Head of School, Littleton Campus

As I reflect on the term "Keen Minds" and my position as Assistant Head of School for the Littleton Campus, I am reminded that nothing that we do occurs in a vacuum. The ways that we interact, the attitudes we assume as we face the world around us and the ways that we use our intellect to build up or tear down affect not only our own "personal bubble" but send ripple effects through our community and the world around us. My interaction with keen minds at Mackintosh Academy involves the development and growth of, not only the students that attend our campus, but their parents and teachers as well. Parents investigate our campus hoping to find "the educational environment" that not only provides intellectual challenge but also fosters the strengths and understands the needs particular to their own child. Our parents' own keen minds have led them through life experiences that have supported and tested their sense of self. They are intelligent individuals who deeply understand the environment that will sustain and nourish their child. Our staff, not unlike our parents, consists of highly intelligent individuals whose commitment to creating a positive place of growth stems from their own backgrounds as learners. They come to the campus each day, excited about opening a child's eyes to new insights and intent on nurturing character and the child's spirit. Into this milieu, our children enter with hopes and dreams, challenges and needs, high intellect and a desire to make a difference. Being able to bring these keen minds together so that they feel listened to, supported and respected while preserving the school's integrity, fiduciary responsibility, educational standards and growth, is my adventure and gift each day.

#### Boulder Campus Capital Campaign Donors:

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#### **Individual Donors:**

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