



SPRING GALA & Auction 2019

Dear Past and Present TMS Families,

We are thrilled to formally announce the details of the **2019 TMS Annual Spring Gala and Auction**. It will be held on **Saturday, March 16th** from 6:00PM – 10:00PM, once again at the stunning Manufacturers' Golf and Country Club in Fort Washington. This is our only parent-run fundraiser and we are hoping for a lot of support and a huge turnout. Here are a few facts about our Spring Gala and Auction:

- This enjoyable annual event is a community favorite! We hope you'll have a blast interacting with those who care most about our children and The Montessori School. This is our **only** offsite and semi-formal (cocktail attire) social event, so be sure to find a babysitter! Current parents, grandparents, friends of TMS families, alumni, guides, and administrators all join in the festivities.
- The event includes two complimentary cocktails, a sit-down dinner, valet parking, a silent auction, and a live auction featuring the ever-popular classroom art projects - you'll be amazed by our students' talent. We also present a slideshow of TMS throughout the years, and a video of current students in their classroom environments!

The most critical element in our event's success is community participation. We hope that every TMS family will consider contributing in whatever way(s) feel most comfortable to you. We had our highest percentage of parent engagement last year and hope to blow that record out of the water in 2019!

There are several ways your family can help:

- **Come to the Gala!** We are hoping to have more attendees than ever this year! Everyone who has attended in the past has had a great night out, and the sense of community is palpable during - and after - the event. Our goal is to get as many TMS families as possible together for a child-free evening of fun!
- **Contribute to support guide attendance.** Whether or not you are able to attend, consider supporting our goal to have all guides and staff attend the Gala at no cost to themselves. Getting to know the people who spend all day with our children on a more informal level is one of most enjoyable parts of the auction, and we'd like to thank them by having the community fund their attendance.
- **Donate an item to our auction.** You can drop off any item of your choosing to the school at any time. An item you have purchased or crafted yourself, a specialty homemade treat, or perhaps a service you yourself are uniquely able to provide! Many of our parents have talents that the community could benefit from. Please also consider donating if you have season tickets to a sport or theatre, or access to a timeshare. In addition, we are looking for donations of wine, specialty liquors, or specialty beers (recommended minimum of \$25 per bottle/pack). Or, if you prefer, we have also registered at Amazon.com so that our most needed items are easy to purchase and will be automatically delivered to the school. You can view our wish list here: <http://amzn.to/2D1t2Lo>
- **Ask a business to donate an item.** Consider a favorite restaurant, a nail salon, your landscaper - any and everything is welcome. Local-to-you, unique items, and music/cooking/art classes are also great ideas! Ask your employer if there is a service or item they could provide. A donation form is enclosed.
- **Become a sponsor.** Sponsors play a huge role in ensuring the expenses of the event are paid for so all proceeds from the auction can go straight to school programs! All sponsors will also receive advertising and/or tribute space in our program book at the Gala. *New this year:* corporate underwriting is now available! Ask Kim Coss if you'd like more info.

Please know that participation in this event, while crucial to its success, is voluntary. Furthermore, all donations and a percentage of your ticket purchases are tax deductible. We appreciate all that you do for our school and value the many contributions that you make to TMS each and every day. We hope to see you on March 16th. Until then, have a wonderful winter break, and Happy New Year!

Warmest regards,

The TMS Auction Committee

Kim Coss, Laura Anderson Zhu, Kim Adams, Nina Borzillo, Stephanie Pina, Emilie Stulb, & Aimee Turner