



# ANNUAL FUND REPORT

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

JOYFUL LEARNING Initiative 2015-2016

Our unique approach to academic excellence gives each of our students the opportunity to develop into joyful, confident learners who are prepared to excel both in school and in life. Antilles' mission is focused on the development of the whole child, which includes meeting their social and emotional needs while also challenging them inside the classroom. Our rigorous curriculum, led by our professional and supportive faculty, stimulates creative and critical thinking skills and fosters a deep love of learning.

ON THE COVER and BELOW: Science Teacher Adam Quandt leads a class of joyful explorers during a hands-on learning experience under the sea to study local marine life.









### **OUR MISSION**

Inspired by learning
and empowered by our diversity,
outreach, and distinct place in
Caribbean culture,
Antilles School is a college
preparatory school committed
to educational excellence.

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# MESSAGE from the Head of School, LIZ MORRISON

"For so
many of us,
Antilles is
something
special."

~ Elizabeth "Liz" Morrison Head of School

Dancing Classrooms is an enhancement program that Antilles can offer because of the Annual Fund.

Dear Antilles Community, Alumni, and Friends of Antilles School,

It is truly a pleasure for me to address you as Antilles' new Head of School. Thank you for your support as we work this year on an ambitious fundraising campaign, supported by several new initiatives and powered by a thoughtful but strong force of volunteers who believe in our mission and the amazing experiences that we are able to bring to our students every day.

For so many of us, Antilles is something special. I've heard stories of families who have moved to the island -- who have taken that job, or felt comfortable opening that business -- because Antilles was available as an educational resource for their child/ren. I've met with alumni who have described their experiences here, and the relationships they have cultivated, as nothing short of "transformative." And, as I have continued to meet our current students around campus these past few months, I've heard expressed the great love for our faculty and staff and the dreams they are helping to nurture.

The Annual Fund actually supports all that, putting funds toward the immediate general needs of the school and allowing us to have the caliber of faculty, programs and facilities that we have. Contributions raisedduring the 2015-2016 school year, for example, supported: the implementation of new math and science curricula in the Lower School; the installation of three new water fountains; and a long-awaited renovation of the

Middle School bathrooms. These funds also covered a mandatory electrical upgrade that has inspired us to look more at how to move the needle on environmental initiatives that would truly put us on the path of being a fully green facility.

I believe in Antilles and the powerful difference this experience makes and from your generosity, it is clear that you do, too. There is nothing that we cannot achieve together! Thank you for your support.

With warm regards

Diz Mon

Elizabeth "Liz" Morrison

Head of School

MESSAGE from President of the Board of Trustees, ANGELINA DASWANI

Dear Members of the Antilles School Family,

Thank you, thank you for another incredible year of philanthropic support for Antilles School! Your contributions to the Annual Fund each year show exactly how much our program and students mean to you – and we cannot be more grateful for your continued commitment.

Here at Antilles, our goal is to provide the best quality education for each child, in the best possible environment and by giving to the Annual Fund, you have contributed to the realization of this vision. Annual funds for 2015-2016 have covered field trips for several of our classes, extra-curricular sports travel, Middle School bathroom renovations, professional development opportunities for faculty and staff, and have helped to boost the financial aid program that is so critical to our school.

There's no disputing that your contributions have helped make a difference in the lives of all of our students and have allowed us to give them life-changing experiences on what we believe to be an incredible independent school campus.

And, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to each and every donor that has demonstrated such a great showing of generosity to our school. Your help and commitment has helped us accomplish our goals and ensures that Antilles delivers everyday on its mission of being a college preparatory school committed to educational excellence, diversity and community.

Here's to you!

Sincerely

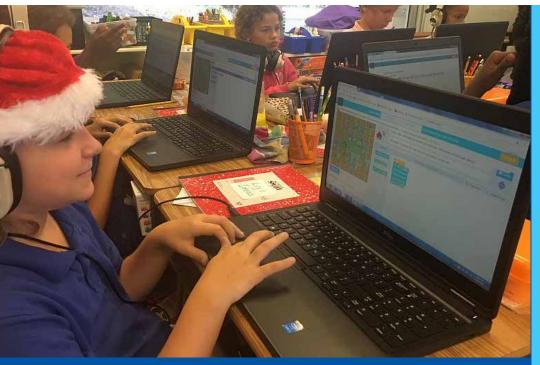
Angelina Daswani

President, Antilles School Board of Trustees



Trumpeter Dion Parson ('28) is performing with a guest artist during the Antilles Annual Arts Festival

### **FULL STEAM AHEAD!**



At Antilles, the name of the game is innovation, and thanks to Annual Fund contributions made during the 2015-2016 school year, the school was able to put substantial funds toward the continued development of its Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) efforts, including related teacher development, classroom equipment and field trips.

Through initiatives such the annual 6th Grade water rocket challenge, Lower and Upper School Hour of Code sessions, and a Middle School Makerspace program headed by teacher Kim Murtha, the world of STEAM has long been a part of Antilles' curriculum. And, with funds raised from the 2014-2015 Stand Up for Kids effort, faculty and staff also got the chance to travel stateside for a professional development opportunity that truly gave them a chance to expand these efforts in the classroom.

In the new school year, we have pushed for additional expansion of the program and have actively sent students out into the community to further collaborate with other schools and take advantage of exciting experiences being offered on island.

Last May, a group of 10 sixth graders, along with teachers Jeannine Wilson and Rebecca Ferek, took part in the elementary level of the Department of Education's 2016 STEAM Fair, held at the University of the Virgin Islands. Those students – Jada Joseph, Aishwarya Nagpal, JazzMin Gardner, Caroline Sibilly, Aliya Danet, Brad Robinson, Lucas Rodriguez, Dylan Bryan, Lorenz Smith and Arman Israni – participated in several activities that had them exploring everything from hydroponics to ocean ecosystems, and everything in between.

Meanwhile, sophomore Sergio Joseph was busy impressing the judges with his own STEAM creation: an 8x8 cube made up of more than 500 LED lights - using materials provided by Upper School art teacher Karen Bertrand - whose commands were completely coded by Joseph himself.

"I'm very passionate about engineering, and this project allowed me to do a lot of different things," said Joseph, who said the entire set up (500 LED's, 24 connector pins and a grid of lights and wires that were hooked up to flash in a variety of shapes and patterns) only took him about two



Throughout the curriculum, students engage in many hands-on projects that connect science, math and technology while challenging students' creativity and intellect.

months, including time spent coding the commands to control how the lights moved.

"Every opportunity for students to apply acquired knowledge and skills in practical ways prepares them for the future workforce – where the only constant we can predict is change. STEAM teaches students to think both critically and creatively while providing hands-on solutions to real-world problems. Being able to give our students the resources to ignite their passions and succeed is invaluable," Antilles' Chief Academic Officer Shannon Harris said recently.

Antilles truly thanks its stakeholders for generous efforts in helping to sustain the school's unique academic programming, much needed teacher resources and, of course, the operational expenses that come with making our campus and curriculum the best in the territory!



## ANTILLES MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

CHELSEA HIGHOLT'95



Alumna Chelsea Higholt ('95) with partner Ronald Henry ('03) and sons Xander and Xavier.

Chelsea Higholt ('95) recently returned to Antilles with her family to spread the ashes of her mother, Eleanor Weber-Backlund, on the grounds around the Marion ReHill Weber Meditation garden.

When you're born and raised on an island, most mainlanders think your life is always paradise: that all islanders do is relax at the beach, snorkel in the warm blue-green waters, and enjoy the cool tropical breeze and beautiful sunsets from lush green mountain tops. Well, of course we do, silly! But, we also come from an island with a culture like no other I have ever witnessed and a community that I have still yet to find here in California. The togetherness and love we share didn't just come from our families, at least for me, it came from "my" school, Antilles.

I like to say "my" school because so much of my being was founded and cultivated during the lovely years of middle school and the even better moments of high school (hopefully you can sense my sarcasm!) Everyone knows that no matter where you go to school, you face the inevitable issues of growing pains -- awkwardness, hormones, puberty, depression, anxiety, bullying and the list goes on -- but during these years, I also had very hard times at home. Instead of going down a dark road, I decided to be a part of after school activities that kept me busy and safe in a healthy environment. Antilles became my shelter from the storm – the one place that I went to keep me sane, to keep me alive and to help me find my purpose in life.

I've become the person I am today because during those painful years of my life, many friends, teachers, and faculty, took the time to reach out to me. Antilles saved my life. When home life started becoming unbearable, Antilles, as a community, reached out and provided me with counseling. Not a college counselor, but an actual therapist that Antilles brought in for students who were going through tough situations. The teachers and faculty saw me struggling and because of their love for me, they provided an outlet that was necessary, life changing, and sacred.

I wanted to share some of the real life experiences, those close to my heart, in order to explain why I continue to donate and give back to "my" school. In my case, Antilles was there for me and because of the love that I had experienced, I made the decision to donate thousands of dollars to Antilles right after I graduated from college, in large part because it was also important for me to also be a part of helping others survive.

I dedicated a Meditation garden, a place for peace, in memory of my grandmother, Marion ReHill Weber. And, just this summer, I went home and planted a few plants from Amy Gurlea's garden in the meditation garden in memory of my mother, Eleanor Weber-Backlund.

My heart is overjoyed just talking about "my" school and I hope I can continue to inspire other alumni to look back, remember their special moments, and to honor those memories by giving back. There's really no price you can put on an Antilles School education, because what you get here is so much more.

# It's love. It's family. It's "our" home.

With gratitude, Chelsea Higholt ('95)

~ CHELSEA HIGHOLT ('95)

### **ANNUAL FUND GIVING 2015-2016**



It is the students and their future that motivates us all to do our very best to ensure the highest quality education and daily experiences at school. Their future most certainly lies in our hands, and we thank each and every donor for making our students' dream attainable.

Supporting Antilles School through the ANNUAL FUND makes an immediate impact on the daily lives of Antilles students and faculty. The talented teachers, small class sizes, and exceptional offerings in every disclipline and area from the arts to athletics, are just some of the benefits of the Annual Fund. Tuition only covers about 85% of the costs of an Antilles education, and the Annual Fund helps to bridge that gap.

#### **ANNUAL FUND DONATIONS**

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ALUMNI

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**BY CONSTITUENTS** 

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#### **IN-KIND GIFTS**

An indispensable part of fundraising campaigns and special events, Antilles School recognizes the importance of in-kind gifts. Thank you to all the generous gifts of personal time, skills and services our collective stakeholders generously contribute to the school. Because of you generosity, our school is able to reallocate funds from our operating budget. No goods or services are received in return for in-kind gifts.

### **MKC SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Started by Antilles alumna Ann-Marie "Punky" Sharp ('67), the MKC Scholarship is named after 40 year Antilles veteran Martha Kenney Christensen. "When I went to Antilles, Martha was my teacher, and once I started to work here, she became my colleague and friend," Sharp said. "When she died, I knew I wanted to do this for her. She did so much for me, and so much for our school." The scholarship is awarded annually to two students from each division – Lower, Middle and Upper School. Qualifying students demonstrate strong leadership qualities, exemplary behavior and the personal and intellectual promise necessary to be successful at Antilles School. The MKC awards are funded through a dedicated MKC endowment, as well as through faculty sponsored activities such as the annual Holiday Bazaar.

Verna Araujo Shawn and Jamie Aubain Morgan and Margaret Avery Shep and Jean Barrows

Arnold and Helen Oliver John and Kathy Joseph Diane Holmberg Kelly and Ava Kendall William and Mary The Malo Family Patricia O'Friel Fred and Sharon Udo and Leslie Hupprich Kevin and Eleanor Oualls David Tyler

**Nicole Rounds** David and Ann-Marie Sharp Randy and Thames Sonva Swan **Christopher Teare** 

Richard and Carol Wax Mélanie Weyland Mike Williams and Victoria Jones Willie Wilson and Karen Bertrand

#### **DEREK CHERIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The Cherian scholarship award is given to a Middle School applicant from the V.I. public school system. An exceptional talent for writing is what distinguishes recipients of the scholarship, which was created by the family of Derek Cherian, a former Antilles student with a gift for writing, after his passing.

Lisa Cherian

#### LIN PLANK SCHOLARSHIP FUND

One award each year is given to a child of an Antilles School faculty or staff member who exemplifies the qualities of a good member of the Antilles School community. The award was established in honor of Lower School teacher Lin Plank, who passed away in 2004.

"Lin Plank dedicated herself to her children and her classroom," Jean Barrows, Antilles' Lower School Division Head said. "She was just really very sweet, loving with the children, very well respected and in her classroom, the children knew they were loved."

Before she died, Plank herself set up the scholarship. "She said that she knew how hard it was to live on the island on a teacher's salary," Barrows said. "This scholarship was specifically made for a faculty or staff child that is in the Early Learning Center or the Lower School. It was her paying tribute to the teachers and how hard they worked. And it is definitely part of the legacy she left at the school."

Shawn and Jamie Aubain Morgan and Margaret Avery

Shep and Jean **Barrows** Diane Holmberg

William and Mary Howe Fred and Sharon Hupprich

Kelly and Ava Kendall Randy and Thames Shaw **Christopher Teare** 

Mike Williams and Victoria Jones

### ANNUAL SPRING GALA



The 2016 "Building Dreams" Gala & Auction was an amazing success thanks to various donors, parents, stakeholders and friends of our school. We are grateful for your support of Antilles throughout the years in so many ways. The proceeds from our event will directly benefit Antilles School in several ways and will provide support for the school's superb educational program.

Because of the generosity from our stakeholders, Antilles was able to significantly enhance its unique academic programming - particularly in the area of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) – provide additional resources for our teachers and, of course, sustain our operations.

We are thrilled to see how much support and care comes from our Antilles family. We look forward to seeing new faces at the 2017 Gala & Auction!

~ PAM ENGLE, Director of Development

#### **GALA SPONSORS**

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maintain accurate and up-to-date records; however, if you notice an accidental omission or error,

Thank you for your support of Antilles School. The Development Office makes every effort to

we ask that you please contact development@antilles.vi . We want to say THANK YOU!

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Student volunteers at the 2015-2016 Annual Spring Gala carry through the "Building Dreams" theme of the evening.

#### **STAND UP DONORS**

Thank you to our 2015-2016 Annual Spring Gala and **Auction STAND UP** contributors! Because of your generosity, Antilles was able to significantly enhance its unique academic programming – particularly in the area of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math), provide additional resources for our teachers and, of course, help sustain our operations.



- ~ STEAM Challenge Kits and Science Activity Kits were purchased.
- ~The Lower School Library added books on Maker Space to the professional collection.
- ~The Lower School teachers are implementing the new math program, Math in Focus. It is the American version of Singapore Math with a strong emphasis on problem solving and model drawing. Recently, teachers attended their third Math in Focus Professional Workshop, which was tailored to each specific grade level. The presenter, Kelly Snyder, also had a parent information evening that was very well attended. She put the parents to work solving math problems and everyone left with a better understanding of their children's math program, and many commented on how impressed they were with the depth of learning the children will be experiencing this
- ~Science Fusion is being implemented in the Lower School. The program is designed for building inquiry and STEM skills, along with important critical thinking skills. The combination of hands-on materials for experiments, and digital components, along with visually appealing and up to date textbooks, makes the learning come alive for the students.
- ~ The Upper School and Middle School bathrooms were renovated.
- ~ Our school was able to conduct a mandatory electrical upgrade.
- Wireless upgrades were done throughout the campus.

.... and SO much more!

