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.
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 raised during 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,

Elizabeth "Liz" Morrison
Head of School

MESSAGE from the Head of School, LIZ MORRISON

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

~ 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, 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

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

Trumpeter Dion Parson ('28) is performing with a guest artist during the Antilles Annual Arts Festival.
Through initiatives such as 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, Ashwarya Nagpal, Jazzmin Gardner, Caroline Sibilly, Aliya Danet, Brad Robinson, Lucas Rodriguez, Dylan Bryan, Lorenzo 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 months, including time spent coding the commands to control how the lights moved."
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 those 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 others to look back, remember their special moments, and to honor these 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)
For the 2015-16 fiscal year, Antilles’ Annual Fund donors contributed $1,166,000. The funds received included $2,499 from the Richard and Lynne Bery Family Fund, $29,999 from the Angel and Olga Rosado Fund, $34,135 from the Southern Trust, $27,598 from the Gottlieb’s Quick Way Service Center, and $27,598 from the Michael Hughes and Donna Davis Fund. This year’s donors included 321 families and professionals, representing 65% of Antilles students and alumni. The Annual Fund helps Antilles meet its mission, and your generosity is integral to the school’s success.

The Annual Fund provides support for Antilles students and faculty in a number of ways. Contributions from the Annual Fund can be used for Tuition Assistance and Scholarships, Capital Improvements, Program Development, and Staff Development. In 2015-16, the Annual Fund provided $91,995 for Tuition Assistance and Scholarships, $23,495 for Capital Improvements, $28,495 for Program Development, and $24,000 for Staff Development.

Supporting Antilles School through the ANNUAL FUND makes an immediate impact on the daily lives of Antilles students and faculty, and the daily experiences at school. Their future most certainly lies in our hands, and we thank each and every donor who contributed to the Annual Fund.

A special thank you goes out to the students and their families who make a difference through philanthropy.

In-kind Gifts

An indispensable part of Antilles’ fundraising campaigns and special events, Antilles School recognizes the importance of our volunteer community. With your support, we can realize our collective stakeholders’ generosity in the wish list of resources necessary for our school to realize our mission. In-kind gifts support the school in a number of ways: operating budget, facility improvements, and recruitment.

Lin Plank Scholarship Fund

In 2015, Antilles School was given the opportunity to create a scholarship fund through the generosity of Miss Lin Plank. Miss Plank was a much loved faculty member of Antilles School. The scholarship was established in honor of Lower School teacher Lin Plank, who passed away in 2004. Miss Plank dedicated herself to her children and her classroom, “Lin Plank devoted 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 put herself up on the scholarship. “She said that she knew how hard it was to be on this island on a teacher’s salary,” Barrows said. “This scholarship was specifically made for a faculty or staff child that is in Early Learning Center or the Lower School. It was her paying tribute to the teachers and how hard they worked. And it is definitely a part of the legacy that she left at the school.”

Richard and Carol Wax
Luisa Barros
Mike Williams and Jordan Avery
Steve and Joann Lynch
Don and Sarah Hancock
Mike Williams and Victoria Jones
Kelly and Ava Kendall
Randy and Thames Shaw
Richard and Katarina Doumeng
John and Marie Riggle
Verna Araujo
Bill and Mary Hires
Kathleen Wilbar
Shawn and Jamie Aubain
Michele Fracasso
Derek Cherian Scholarship Fund

The Derek Cherian scholarship award is given to a Middle School applicant from the V.I. public school system. An exceptional applicant who is an excellent student and who demonstrates the importance of quality education and who recognizes the importance of the right to education. The scholarship is funded through the Derek Cherian Scholarship Fund.

MKC Scholarship Fund

The MKC Scholarship Fund was established by Antilles alumna Ann-Marie “Punky” Sharp ’67. The MKC Scholarship provides need-based financial assistance to Antilles students. The MKC Scholarship is awarded through a dedicated MKC endowment, as well as through faculty sponsored activities such as the annual Holiday Bazaar.

MKC’s First Scholarship Award

In honor of their friend’s passing, the family of Lin Plank established the Lin Plank Scholarship Fund. The scholarship was established in honor of Lower School teacher Lin Plank, who passed away in 2004. Miss Plank dedicated herself to her children and her classroom, “Lin Plank devoted 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 put herself up on the scholarship. “She said that she knew how hard it was to be on this island on a teacher’s salary,” Barrows said. “This scholarship was specifically made for a faculty or staff child that is in Early Learning Center or the Lower School. It was her paying tribute to the teachers and how hard they worked. And it is definitely a part of the legacy that she left at the school.”

Shawn and Jamie Aubain
Morgan and Margaret Avery
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Avery
Mike Williams and Victoria Jones
William and Mary Hires
Karen Bertrand
Heidi Guth
Lisa Cherian
Avery
Morgan and Margaret
Aubain
Mike Williams and Jordan Avery
Steve and Joann Lynch
Don and Sarah Hancock
Mike Williams and Victoria Jones
Kelly and Ava Kendall
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Because of the generosity of our stakeholders, Antilles was able to make a significant impact on our academic program — 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! We want to say THANK YOU!

Thank you for your support of Antilles School. The Development Office makes every effort to recognize contributors properly and in a timely fashion. However, if you consider your contribution outside the normal 30-day deadline, or if we ask that you please contact development@antilles.vi.