



In the

Spirit of COURAGEOUS WOMEN



FIGHT FOR
CHILDREN

The Washington Middle School for Girls
2009 Champion of Quality



GREATER WASHINGTON

THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE SUPPORTED OUR 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR.

A Message from Paul Warren and Sister Mary Bourdon, RJM

Dear Friends of WMSG:

As we celebrated our 10th Anniversary a few months ago, we were both aware of the reassuring thought that we have indeed made a difference in our students' and their families' lives.

At this time, 98% of our graduates are either in high school or have graduated and moved on to higher education and/or meaningful employment — an achievement that is spectacular in a neighborhood that still is challenged with gang violence, substance abuse, adolescent pregnancy, and low expectations. In addition, WMSG's average monthly attendance rate is 95%, and our Math and Science homework completion rate is 94%.

We are grateful for the support that so many have given along the way and ask for your support as we continue to make a difference in the lives of our girls.

In order to do this, in addition to our core academic program, WMSG students take advantage of a six week summer enrichment program, a counseling program, our Graduate Support Program, which prepares them for the transition into high school, and then supports them in high school and beyond, and an Extended Day Program, where each girl in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades participates in over 80 hours per year in the arts and other activities that enrich and expand their lives.



Board Chair Paul Warren and Sister Mary Bourdon, RJM, Director

Going the extra mile is how we change expectations. We have continued to accomplish this even during one of the most challenging economic times in our history.

In the following pages we are happy to share WMSG's good news for 2008-2009, as well as celebrate those individuals and groups who have been so generous in supporting our mission.

Please help keep the promise alive for our students, and for those who work tirelessly to change the statistics. As always, on behalf of all of us here at The Washington Middle School for Girls, please know how grateful we are for your support.

Sincerely,

Sister Mary Bourdon, RJM
Director

Paul Warren
Board Chair

OUR MISSION

Is rooted in the heritage of three courageous women and educators: Mary McLeod Bethune, Cornelia Connelly and Claudine Thevenet. In their spirit, WMSG provides a caring and safe environment for young girls who are living in underserved areas and are at risk of leaving school prematurely. WMSG offers a solid and holistic program in the Catholic educational tradition, featuring intellectual challenge, respect for diversity, and support for the spiritual, social, and emotional growth of each student. "In the Spirit of Courageous Women", WMSG continues to build collaborative relationships with families and the community in every aspect of the educational process.

OUR STRENGTH...

Is our commitment to each student, and our belief in her gifts, her talents, and her potential.

OUR PROMISE...

Is that from such an experience will emerge young women of competence, compassion, and dedication to leadership in their families and communities.

WMSG is grateful to Bank of Georgetown for helping to underwrite the cost of this Annual Report.

A YEAR OF *Celebrations*

WMSG Presented with Fight For Children's 2009 Quality Schools Initiative Award

The Quality Schools Initiative Award is sponsored by Fight For Children, and encourages replication of high quality programs that improve student achievement in public, charter, and private schools in Washington, DC. WMSG won the award in the private schools category, and was also awarded a \$100,000 grant from Fight For Children. The winners of this coveted award "exemplify the best local education has to offer", said Michaela English, President and CEO of Fight For Children.



DC's First Lady Michelle Cross Fenty and FFC's Michaela English present Sr. Mary Bourdon, RJM, Director, staff members Kimberly Hopwood and Kathleen Shorter, and WMSG Board Chair Paul Warren, with the award.

WMSG Receives 2009 Leadership Award

WMSG's Extended Day Program was selected to receive the Washington Area Women's Foundation's 2009 Leadership Award "because of its work to change the lives of women and girls". WMSG is proud to be associated on many levels with WAWF, whose supporters work tirelessly on behalf of the DC region's women and girls.

Sister Mary Bourdon, RJM, Director, along with staff members Angela Stepanic and Gina Robinson, are joined by WAWF's Barbara Thompson.



WMSG Celebrates its Tenth Anniversary and Honors Sister Mary Bourdon, RJM

On May 13, 2009, WMSG celebrated its Tenth Anniversary at Washington DC's Sewall-Belmont House and Museum, and Sister Mary Bourdon, RJM, Director and Co-Founder, was honored by family, friends, colleagues, students, and supporters of WMSG, along with special guest, DC's First Lady, Michelle Fenty.



Sr. Mary Bourdon, RJM, joins Michelle Cross Fenty in thanking students who served as ushers at the event.

The WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL for GIRLS



TOP ROW, FROM LEFT: WMSG friend and supporter, Elizabeth Conahan, helps students prepare healthy smoothies; 8th grader, Latea and Share Our Strength's Chef Monica Lee Thomas prepare a healthy meal during Extended Day Program activities; 7th graders decorate a bulletin board in honor of a courageous woman, Michelle Obama; WMSG's Yoga Club shows its moves.

SECOND ROW, FROM LEFT: 5th Graders enjoy dressing up for a special tea party; Katie Thornton, Director of Learning Resources, helps students unload new library acquisitions sent by our good friend Elsa Gibson; TheVIEW Campus Administrator, Charlene Hursey, visits new 6th graders at THEARC Campus; Students decorate a table for the Thanksgiving prayer service.



We Change Expectations



FAR LEFT: Members of the Christ Child Society and Sr. Mary Bourdon celebrate a hard day's work of painting and renovation at TheVIEW campus.

LEFT: Math Instructor and Response-Ability teacher/volunteer, Hagan Trees and students participate in "Pi Day".

WMSG Greet's the World

*WMSG Thanks Those Who
Brought a Part of Their World to Us*



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT:

Author Meg Medina visits WMSG's library for a book signing and discussion of her most recent book; WMSG student welcomes NASA astronaut Leland Melvin to THEARC; DC attorney Sandy Chamblee joined students for lunch after speaking to them about her law career and experiences along the way; Members of The National Council of Negro Women visit WMSG, which boasts the only student chapter within that organization; Members of the Christ Child Society accept WMSG's annual Best Friend Award for its outstanding service to the school; Judy Zielinski and Maura Fitz-Patrick assisted in math and language arts programs at TheVIEW Campus.





Looking to the FUTURE

98% of WMSG's Graduates are either in high school or have graduated and moved on to higher education and/or meaningful employment...



CLOCKWISE, TOP LEFT:

WMSG 2005 graduate, Tania, is congratulated by First Lady Michelle Obama at Washington Math, Science and Technology Public Charter High School's graduation. Tania is currently a Freshman at the University of Pittsburgh; WMSG 2009 Graduates along with Angela Stepanic, THEARC's Campus Administrator, and Kimberly Hopwood, Director of Graduate Support; WMSG 2009 graduates are now Freshmen at Connelly School of the Holy Child (seen here with Maureen Appel, Connelly's Headmistress).

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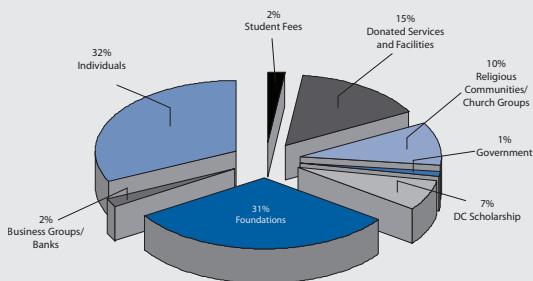
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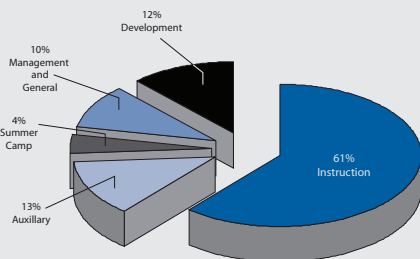
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Income



Expenses



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FY 2008-2009

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