

LA RIVISTA

2025-2026



Retrospective and Annual Report

LA SCUOLA
International School • Preschool - 8th Grade

Inspiring brave learners
to shape the future





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LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Cari Amici,

At the beginning of this school year, we started talking about ourselves in a new way: La Scuola is the place where boundless learning leads. More than just messaging, this is a call to action for us to be a place where growth is possible, where dreams are realized, where the pursuit of knowledge and a passion for inquiry can be nurtured without limitation. Over the course of the 2025-2026 school year, we have certainly proved ourselves up to the task.

This has been a year of doing things we have never done before—and, in fact, in some cases of doing things that **no one** has ever done before. It was my deepest honor to cut the ribbon that officially opened our new Mission Campus building, the first Kindergarten-Grade 8, Reggio-inspired building in the country. I will never get tired of seeing students and teachers filling its classrooms or administrators coming together to collaborate in new meeting spaces or friends sharing a delicious meal together in the dining hall. These are visions that for so long existed only in the minds of a few, and it is a great joy to now be able to share this with so many.

Sharing the joy of a La Scuola education is also the motivation behind our move to open La Scuola International School, Milano. This

September, less than a year after the announcement was made, we opened the doors of this campus for the first time. More than just an opportunity for families in Milano, this campus also expands what we can offer to our Bay Area families and teachers, as we look forward to student exchanges, professional development, and more.

Pushing boundaries and reaching new heights is at the core of who we are as a school, and while our strategic decisions reflect that, our faculty, staff, and students truly embody it. From Preschool through Grade 8, there is always one more question to ask, one more thread to pull on, one more experiment to run, one more possibility to explore. Curiosity is met with encouragement and big ideas are given space to turn into meaningful action. Our community has met the changes and challenges of this year with flexibility and resilience, seeking out ways to be supportive and optimistic. Those efforts do not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

As we look back on last school year, with many of the years-long projects we've been working on finally completed, I'm filled with different emotions. There is some relief, certainly. A sense of pride, of course. Gratitude, humility, awe. Mostly, though, I feel determined to keep going. To continue pushing forward. To see what's next. I'm so glad to have you with me for the journey.

Con stima e affetto,

Valentina Imbeni, Ph.D.
Head of School



LETTER FROM THE BOARD CO-CHAIRS



Dear La Scuola Community,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we extend our heartfelt thanks for an extraordinary school year. Our gratitude begins, as always, with our intrepid Head of School, Valentina Imbeni, and the committed faculty and staff who bring this school to life every day. It extends to the parents, grandparents, alumni, and friends whose generosity and countless volunteer hours made this year's milestones possible, and to our curious, kind students, who remind us why we do this work.

We are excited to share what this year brought.

A new home in the Mission

In February, after years of fundraising, design, and construction, we opened the doors of our new Mission Campus building, solidifying our vision and expanding our reach. Watching students walk into their new learning spaces for the first time was a moment more than two decades in the making.

What we love most is how the campus works as a whole. With renovations at San Carlos and St. Charles alongside the new building,

old and new are now in dialogue, and the entire campus feels like one continuous place for learning. At its center is the kitchen, already the heart of the building. It nourishes our students each day, and it has quickly become where we gather as a community, from family dinners to all-school celebrations.

To everyone who gave, advocated, and believed over the many years of this project: this building is yours. Grazie mille.

Buongiorno, Milano!

On September 8, La Scuola International School opened its doors in Milan, our first campus outside the Bay Area and the culmination of five years of exploration and planning. Our Founding Families have enrolled 37 students from preschool through the elementary grades, led by Founding Principal Mauro Spicci and supported by a talented team of educators on the ground. Their newly renovated home on Via Giovanni Ambrogio de Predis is designed by architect Michele Zini of ZPZ Partners, whose work has shaped Reggio-inspired spaces around the world. The blend of the Reggio Emilia Approach, the International Baccalaureate, and language immersion that defines La Scuola is now taking root in the country that inspired it. Niente senza gioia!

Across our campuses

Closer to home, there is much to celebrate. Enrollment in San Francisco is nearly at goal, and our Dogpatch preschool is full. In Silicon Valley, we now share our campus with Silicon Valley International School, a partnership that has brought new energy and new families to the site and put that campus in its strongest position since it opened.

The California International Reggio Center (CIRC) continues to carry La Scuola's approach of professional development, documentation and research beyond our walls, and this year began expanding its work into Sonoma County.

A plan for the next five years

Last fall we shared our Strategic Plan 2025-2030, *Where Boundless Learning Leads*, shaped by the voices of families, students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Its four pillars (Learn in Relationship, Nurture & Grow, Deepen Roots, and Celebrate Community) are guiding our work, and this year we delivered on two of its most ambitious goals: completing the Mission campus and opening Milan. We look forward to reporting our progress to you each year through 2030.

Governance

This year we say thank you to Susan Lyon, who concluded her term as Board Co-Chair. Susan's steady leadership guided the school through the strategic planning process and the completion of the Mission campus, and we are fortunate that she remains on the Board and continues to serve on committees and the advisor to CIRC. We are thrilled to welcome Cristina Cordova as our new Co-Chair.

We are also delighted to welcome back Eric Tokstad, returning to the Board after a year in Italy with his family. True to his word, he never stopped working, serving on the Facilities Committee throughout the new building's completion.

Looking ahead

This year could be read as a finish line. We think of it as a foundation. After years of construction fences and capital campaigns, the year ahead is about living fully in what we've built: filling these spaces in San Francisco, Silicon Valley, and Milan with the inquiry, joy, and community that have always defined La Scuola.

Thank you for being part of it.

With gratitude,

Jeffrey Krause

Susan Lyon

Board Co-Chairs

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

THE PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAM EXHIBITION (PYPX)

GRADE 5
THE PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAM EXHIBITION (PYPx) is the culminating project of the elementary years. Grade 5 students are challenged to explore real-world issues that are meaningful to them, and to collaborate on plans of action that can make an impact in their chosen area.

- THIS YEAR**
- ▶ Six groups researched, presented, and took action in critical areas: Endangered Species, Gender Stereotypes, Peace & Justice (immigration and ICE), Protection of Bodies of Water, Equity and Internet Access, and Clean Water.
 - ▶ Students presented to their younger peers during the day and then to families and guests in the evening, showcasing their research, organization, collaboration, and presentation skills
 - ▶ Each group also took action to make the community better. Two examples include a beach cleanup organized by students, and a fair to showcase gender equity issues.



MYP COMMUNITY PROJECT

GRADE 8
THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE COMMUNITY PROJECT serves as a powerful capstone experience for our Grade 8 students, giving them the opportunity to explore issues they care deeply about while developing the skills, confidence, and compassion needed to create meaningful change. Through a yearlong process of inquiry, planning, action, and reflection, students engaged with real-world challenges connected to sustainability, mental health awareness, education, animal welfare, community wellness, and social justice.

The Community Project encourages students to move beyond the classroom and see themselves as active participants in their communities. Throughout the process, students strengthened important skills in research, communication, collaboration, self-management, and critical thinking while also growing as reflective and principled learners.

Community support helped create the conditions for these projects to thrive. Flexible learning spaces, exhibition materials, presentation resources, and opportunities for mentorship allowed students to bring their ideas to life in meaningful and authentic ways. Faculty members collaborated to guide students through the project process, while parents, caregivers, and local organizations served as mentors, interviewees, collaborators, and supporters. Through these partnerships, students see the real-world relevance of their work.

The year culminated in the **Grade 8 Community Project Exhibition**, a celebration of student voice, agency, and growth. Families, faculty, peers, and community members gathered to engage with student displays and hear firsthand about the learning journeys behind each project. The exhibition highlighted both the quality of student work and the joy students experienced as they recognized their ability to make a positive impact on the world around them.



OUR ATELIERS

ART ATELIER

KINDERGARTEN
THROUGH 8th GRADE



THIS YEAR VISUAL ART STUDENTS had the incredible opportunity to move into the new building and work in spaces fully dedicated to the art program. The new art atelier and maker space have opened exciting possibilities for new projects thanks to the thoughtfully designed environments and the tools installed within them.

Students were able to explore ceramics through the use of a pottery wheel, experiment with printmaking using an etching press, and benefit from organized studio systems such as drying racks to carefully store and manage their artwork.

The new spaces have greatly enriched the creative process and encouraged deeper experimentation, exploration, and artistic independence. Students are also looking forward to continuing their exploration with the new laser cutter, ceramic kiln, and additional tools now available in the building.



OUR ATELIERS

ART ATELIER

PRESCHOOL

The Preschool Atelier is a place of research where children encounter materials, environments, and one another through sustained processes of inquiry, relationship, and meaning-making. Across age groups, long-term investigations invite children to construct knowledge through observation, dialogue, experimentation, and poetic interpretation.

PICCOLI AZZURRI

Bodies, Objects and Spaces in Relation

Through neighborhood walks and close observation of the environment, children developed relationships with the local urban landscape, discovering architecture as a living language connected to everyday experience.

PICCOLI VERDI

Encountering Matter

Research unfolded through micro episodes of inquiry in the school environment. Encounters with stone, surface, and magnified detail nurtured attentiveness toward material languages and encouraged children to follow questions emerging from their direct experience.

GRANDI VERDI &
GRANDI AZZURRI

The Body as Threshold

Research explored corporeal transformation, inviting children to investigate metaphor, identity, and the expressive possibilities of the body.

Digital languages and technologies supported experimentation, observation, and interpretation while loose parts and open-ended materials encouraged symbolic thinking, collaboration, and the construction of multiple meanings.

GRANDISSIMI VERDI,
ARANCIONI & AZZURRI

Small Alchemies

Children worked with ochre pigments originating from Italy and France, encountering color as both material and cultural language while exploring transformation and narrative.

Digital tools, including microscopes, extended encounters with pigments and natural materials, revealing otherwise invisible details and supporting scientific and poetic inquiry.



“

Atelier spaces serve as hands-on creativity labs that provide students with different tools for learning. Focused on art, music, coding, garden, and more, ateliers enliven our campuses and foster learning through form, function, and beauty.

DOCUMENTATION
AS VISIBLE TRACE

Each research project was documented in a working notebook where research questions, observations, hypotheses, and provocations were gathered. Documentation makes learning processes visible and supports ongoing encounters among children, educators, and families.





OUR ATELIERS

MUSIC ATELIER & CONCERTS

The support of the La Scuola community continues to contribute to the growth of the music program, with our students feeling the impact most directly.

Through the La Dolce Vita Giving Tree, we were able to obtain several high quality instruments for our students, including mandolins, mandolas, guitars and acoustic basses.

We purchased several microphones and related equipment, which allows us to record and stream high quality audio for projects such as our Zoom Exchange with a school in Murano, Venice.

Even our music stands got an upgrade! When the essential equipment is taken care of, students can truly focus on their own learning.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT

Our Ambassador Ensemble kicked off the year performing in Golden Gate Park as part of the festival EU in the Park.

“

We inquire into music as science, as culture, as history, as math, connecting through all disciplines. Our graduates speak the language of music—it is one more tool they have to express themselves.

OUR ATELIERS

GARDENING & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES ATELIER

KINDERGARTEN

Thanks to new microscopes from LDV donors, students got up close with plant parts to discover how plants grow and function.

GRADE 1

Students got their hands dirty, literally! They explored soil science, earthworm anatomy, sustainable ecosystems, and even built their own worm bin to watch composting happen in real time.

GRADE 2

Students experimented with hydroponic farming, growing and harvesting their own herbs under timed lights. The unit ended with a farm-to-table harvest party where they made fresh pesto from scratch using a mortar and pestle.

GRADE 3

Students designed their own plants built to survive in specific biomes, from arctic tundra to rainforest, and explored Indigenous Three Sisters planting practices. They also put their knowledge to work through multiple planting and harvesting cycles in the rectory garden.

GRADE 4

Students dissected flowers, observed them under microscopes, and explored how plants reproduce, from seed production to growing roots from cuttings. They even learned how plants heal themselves by forming calluses over cut stems.

GRADE 5

Students dove into salmon life cycles and migration, then channeled their learning into designing and building original board games that brought the whole journey to life.



OUR ATELIERS

THIS YEAR IN THE DOGPATCH GARDEN

Children benefited from having a new greenhouse as a learning environment ([thank you Giving Tree LDV 2025](#)) on rainy days and for cozy morning inquiries; effectively added additional 15% usable square footage to garden environment.

Our year-long curriculum—inspired by research of indigenous ethnobotanist scholar Robin Wall Kimmerer (author of *Braiding Sweetgrass* and *The Serviceberry*)—explored the idea of “reciprocity” in the natural world through the IB unit Who We Are. How can we understand our own identities in the context of a world that gives and gives? How do we give back? What does this awareness teach us?

In the first half of the year students studied what happens under our feet that we are not otherwise aware of but has a huge impact (worms, microorganisms); children cared for the worms in the worm bin by feeding them food scraps from our school kitchen, the worms then made compost to feed the plants, that then feed us (tangible cycle of reciprocity and connection).

In the second half of the year students studied pollinators (bees, butterflies, ladybugs) and their life cycles, to gain understanding that we could not live without the work of these often ignored insects! We also began work on creating a new native plant pollinator garden with the help of the children and generosity from Giving Tree 2026.

This year we grew: tomatoes, corn, strawberries, blueberries, bok choy, napa cabbage, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, artichokes, kale, lettuce, chard, and tons of herbs.





OUR ATELIERS

DESIGN ATELIER

GRADE 6

Propagating Sustainable Communities

Grade 6 students explored how living things grow by learning to care for and propagate a spider plant. Through hands-on practice, they observed plant needs, recorded changes, and created clear, step-by-step instructions someone else could follow. This highlighted their ability to communicate a process, use evidence from research, and apply early design-thinking skills.

GRADES 7 AND 8

Grade 7 and 8 students explored how designers use materials, scale, color, and composition to communicate mood and story by building a miniature reproduction of a film or TV set of their choice. They learned how filmmakers use miniatures in real productions to plan shots and create believable worlds, then applied these ideas to their own project. Working through the MYP Design cycle, students researched references, sketched ideas, tested materials, and built a final 3D model. They practiced collaboration, problem solving, and technical skills while reflecting on how their design choices shape an audience's understanding of space.



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Design is where students learn and apply the concept of design thinking. Every project asks students to inquire and analyze, to evaluate, to develop ideas, and to create their own solution.

NEW BUILDING

Highlight

For years, we have imagined a permanent home for La Scuola. A place designed from the ground up to reflect who we are as a school and how our students learn. This year, that vision became a reality.



With the opening of our new Mission Campus building, La Scuola reached one of the most significant milestones in our history. What began as an ambitious idea became possible through years of planning, collaboration, perseverance, and, above all, the extraordinary generosity of our community.

The Embrace Campaign was the first comprehensive capital campaign in La Scuola's history, created to transform our Mission Campus and build a permanent, Reggio Emilia-inspired home for our K-8 program. The result is far more than a new building;

the new space reflects the environment as the third teacher, a place intentionally created to inspire inquiry, collaboration, creativity, connection, and joy. After years of drawings, plans, construction updates, fundraising conversations, and imagining what might someday be, watching our students finally inhabit these spaces has been nothing short of amazing.

The new building, conceptualized and designed by architect Michele Zini and ZPZ Partners, also represents something larger: permanence. La Scuola has grown from a small preschool founded by a group of visionary parents and educators into an international school spanning campuses, cities, and now countries. Our Mission Campus gives generations of future students a place to call home while preserving the values

and educational vision that have guided La Scuola from the beginning.

None of this would have been possible without our community.

To every family, grandparent, alumni family, Board member, faculty and staff member, friend, and supporter who contributed to the Embrace Campaign: grazie di cuore.

You created a place where generations of brave learners will continue to shape the future. We built this, together.







MILANO *Campus*



IN NOVEMBER, WE SHARED an extraordinary piece of news: La Scuola was opening our first international campus—**La Scuola International School, Milano**. This long-held vision would finally become a reality and a new community would take shape; one built with the same spirit, values, and sense of possibility that have defined La Scuola from the very beginning.

Throughout the past year, that vision came to life in remarkable ways:

- Renovations began on our new school home in partnership with architect Michele Zini and ZPZ Partners
- At admissions events in Milano throughout the year,

trustees, alumni, and current families generously shared their La Scuola experiences with prospective families, helping welcome more than 30 Founding Families for the 2026–27 school year

- A talented, passionate, and deeply committed group of faculty and staff joined us, ready to guide our first Milano students and families on the journey ahead

And now, as we look back on the year that made all of this possible, the doors to La Scuola Milano are officially open.

A school is never built by one person, or even by one team. It takes a community willing to believe in what is possible and

to offer its time, trust, talent, and generosity to bring that possibility to life. To everyone who helped carry La Scuola from the Bay Area to Milano: grazie di cuore. Your hard work, immense dedication, and devotion to inspiring brave learners to shape the future have truly opened us to the world.



INSIEME *Exhibit*

THIS YEAR **INSIEME**, our long-standing PreK–8 school exhibition tradition established in 2012, was hosted for the first time in the new **Mission Campus** building. The event served as an opportunity to celebrate the ribbon-cutting, with a ceremony for our entire school community.

Students, families, friends, faculty, staff, and members of the wider neighborhood were able to experience and admire student work in a new setting designed to bring everyone together. From the large first-floor cafeteria space to the fourth floor, the exhibition extended throughout the building — including the art atelier, maker space, hallways, and learning environments.

The colors, design, and architecture of the new building created a beautiful backdrop for showcasing students' projects, honoring their creativity and the many languages of expression.



GRANDPARENTS AND SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY

GRANDPARENTS AND SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY REMAINS

one of La Scuola's most joyful traditions; a day when we open our doors to some of the most important people in our students' lives and invite them to experience the magic of La Scuola alongside them.

This year, grandparents and special friends joined students across our campuses for a glimpse into daily life at La Scuola. Rather than simply observing, our guests became part of the learning experience by exploring classrooms and ateliers, participating in activities, meeting teachers and classmates, and seeing firsthand the curiosity, creativity, and collaboration that fill our campuses each day.

The day is also a beautiful celebration of relationships across generations. In the Reggio Emilia Approach, relationships are fundamental to learning, and Grandparents and Special Friends Day gives us an opportunity to recognize the extended circle of adults who encourage our students, share their experiences and traditions, and help shape them.

We are so grateful to all of the grandparents and special friends who joined us, both from near and far, and for the many ways they continue to enrich the lives of our students and the La Scuola community.



DEIB & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



DURING THE 2025-26 SCHOOL

year, La Scuola deepened its commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging through community experiences and intentional investment in the systems that sustain this work.

A significant focus continued to be embedding cultural literacy more intentionally into our curriculum, from Preschool through Middle School. Faculty identified meaningful connections within Units of Inquiry and participated in professional learning on facilitating thoughtful, age-appropriate conversations about identity, culture, difference, and complex topics within today's evolving social landscape. This included developing skills in neutral, inclusive facilitation - guiding conversations with

curiosity, presenting multiple perspectives, and creating classroom spaces where all students feel safe and supported to ask questions, share their thinking, and hear viewpoints different from their own.

Our community has done exceptional work to create intentional pathways to belonging, and that commitment continues to grow. From our inaugural La Scuola Day of Service and expanding partnerships with local organizations to our deepening relationships with Academic Access Organizations in San Francisco, we are creating more ways for students and families to connect, contribute, and feel a meaningful sense of belonging- both within La Scuola and the wider community.



Together, this work reflects belonging as something we celebrate, intentionally teach, practice, and build into everyday life at La Scuola.

La Dolce Vita



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At La Scuola,
we believe in the
power of community.

THIS YEAR 's La Dolce Vita brought the La Scuola community together for an unforgettable evening celebrating our students, our mission, and the generosity that makes a La Scuola education possible.

Inspired by this year's theme, *Coloriamo il Futuro*, parents, alumni families, faculty, staff, and friends gathered to celebrate our shared

commitment to an extraordinary education and the many ways we come together to help our brave learners shape the future.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, La Dolce Vita raised **more than \$900,000**, including **more than half a million dollars for Sliding Scale Tuition**. This support helps make La Scuola accessible to families who



otherwise could not afford full tuition, enriching our school with a diversity of backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences.

Funds raised also support the programs and experiences that distinguish a La Scuola education—from our ateliers in visual arts, music, design, and environmental science to opportunities for students to explore, create, question, and learn beyond the classroom.

We are deeply grateful to our **LDV Committee**, especially chairs **Kelsey McNellis** and **Hannah Tate Collins**, parent volunteers, donors, sponsors, and everyone who contributed their time, creativity, and enthusiasm to make the evening a success.

Grazie di cuore to our entire La Scuola community. Together, we are helping our students color a future where boundless learning leads.

SAVE THE DATE!

LA DOLCE VITA
MARCH 13, 2027
Pier 27



COMMUNITY & EVENTS

THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION
OF LA SCUOLA (PALS)

PALS Chairs

Sierra Scarlatta
**SAN FRANCISCO
PRESCHOOL
CHAIR**

Sophie Scharf
**SAN FRANCISCO
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CHAIR**

Bonnie Ainsworth
**SILICON VALLEY
CHAIR**

Dogpatch Preschool

Room Parents
PICCOLI

Ashley Rad
Sophie Smith
Harlan Crystal
Vera Watt

GRANDI

Allison Ford
Esther Pun
Carolina Zuri
Tura Sugden

GRANDISSIMI

Crystal Goldman
Jo Gazzaley
Grace Reller
Kristina Scarpulla
Dasha Maggio
Leslie Elwell



Thank you to every parent who supported La Scuola by volunteering time, energy, and effort both in and outside of the classrooms. Through PALS, we become closer as a school community, and enrich the daily lives of each student, family, and faculty and staff member.

Silicon Valley Elementary
Room Parents

PICCOLI

Elizabeth Cherson

GRANDI/GRANDISSIMI

Maria Palma

KINDERGARTEN - GRADE 2

Jennifer Ramirez

Mission K–8

Room Parents
KINDERGARTEN

Mandy Shimshock
Anya Rabinov

GRADE 1

Molly Spector
Sarah Senk

GRADE 2

Elizabeth dei Rossi
Sarah Vankova

GRADE 3

Andreea Stuparu
Allison Pozzi

GRADE 4

Magdalena Kleuser Heinrich
Margaux Axelrod

GRADE 5

Haruna Kamei

GRADE 6

Sarah Kang Lee

GRADE 7

Taura Null

GRADE 8

Michelle Hammar

**GRADE 8
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
PROGRAM: ITALY**
(Bologna, Rome &
Reggio Emilia)

For the fourth year in a row, our Grade 8 students immersed themselves in Italian language and culture through a two-week experiential learning journey in Italy:

- Developed global citizenship and intercultural understanding through daily interactions with Italian students, educators, community organizations, and local residents, building lasting relationships across cultures.
- Examined how architecture, public spaces, and urban design reflect the values and identities of communities across generations.
- Participated in meaningful service learning at Refettorio Antoniano, supporting a community dining program that promotes dignity, inclusion, and social responsibility while addressing food insecurity.
- Examined how governments use education, media, public spaces, and cultural narratives to shape collective thinking and social values.
- Participated in a hands-on cooking workshop with local artisans, learning traditional methods of pasta-making while exploring the connections between food, culture, identity, and regional heritage.
- Visited the Centro Internazionale Loris Malaguzzi, an internationally recognized center for educational research and innovation, and explored how creativity, inquiry, and collaboration can transform learning.
- Investigated the concept of the "hundred languages" of learning, recognizing that creativity, design, storytelling, and artistic expression are powerful forms of communication and agency.
- Connected historical examples of resistance and social change to their interdisciplinary study of voice, power, and individual agency.
- Demonstrated resilience, curiosity, and openness by embracing new experiences, perspectives, and challenges throughout the journey.
- Returned with a deeper understanding of how education, culture, history, and civic engagement can empower individuals to contribute meaningfully to their communities and the wider world.

ITALY Trip



TRIPS & ATHLETICS

GRADES 3-7
FIELD TRIPS IN NATURE
& ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION OVERNIGHTS
IN UPPER ELEMENTARY

Students in Grades 3-7 explored environment as an extension of campus, seeing firsthand how some powerful lessons are taught outside of the classroom:

- Thanks to a Giving Tree donation, Grade 3 students were able to participate in an incredible Environmental Education experience at Coyote Hills in Fremont. They participated in a Naturalist- led tour, exploring the salt marsh and wetlands of the Bay Area and learning about native species. They also made connections to their Indigenous Peoples by understanding the environment that is the native land of the Ohlone people.
- Grade 4 students spend two nights at NatureBridge in Marin Headlands. They went on a night hike, rolled down an ice plant hill, bonded as a class, and learned about the ecology of the beach and surrounding area.
- Grade 5 students spent a week at Caritas Creek, experiencing an incredible social emotional learning curriculum along with environmental education.
- Grade 6 students spent a week in Yosemite in the fall, while Grade 7 students participated in a week-long camping trip in the spring. These are moments to bond together as a class, while experiencing the connection between the world around them and their classroom learning.



TRIPS & ATHLETICS

ATHLETICS PROGRAM

THIS YEAR

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2025-2026 ATHLETICS PROGRAM:

- Continued growth of our Preschool–Grade 8 athletics program created more opportunities for students to participate in sports and physical movement. During the 2025–26 school year, La Scuola expanded lower school basketball, volleyball, and soccer opportunities while also growing middle school participation in volleyball, basketball, futsal, performance training, and track & field programs.
- Expansion of partnerships with local organizations and universities helped connect our student-athletes to higher levels of sport through experiences with the University of San Francisco. These opportunities helped students see athletics as a pathway for leadership, teamwork, and long-term personal growth.
- Creating a Lower School Athletic Liaison structure strengthened communication, organization, and family involvement across grade levels. This structure also helped create stronger continuity between lower school developmental athletics and middle school competitive athletics.
- Successfully hosted multiple SFIAL league events, playoff games, and athletic competitions on campus, strengthening La Scuola's presence within the San Francisco independent school athletic community while creating exciting home-game environments for students and families.
- More inclusive athletic opportunities allowed students of varying experience levels to participate and build confidence through La Scuola's no-cut middle school athletics model. Students were encouraged to explore new sports regardless of prior experience, helping many participate in organized athletics for the first time.
- Athletic programming continued to align with La Scuola's mission by prioritizing joy, movement, collaboration, and personal growth through mixed-skill participation, developmentally appropriate coaching, and opportunities for students to challenge themselves in new environments.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



ONGOING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IS ESSENTIAL

for teachers in an IB, Reggio Emilia, and Italian-language context, as it allows us to continuously deepen our pedagogical understanding, stay aligned as a team, and refine our practice in response to children's learning. As a research-driven school with a strong culture of inquiry and documentation, professional development is not separate from our work—it is part of how we think, reflect, and evolve together.



The California International Reggio Center, led by Director Federica Lentini and Co-founder and Advisor Susan Lyon, offered professional development to over 500 educators beyond La Scuola, grounded in the Reggio Emilia approach and its integration with the IB framework. This reflects our commitment to education as research, dialogue, and shared inquiry. It allows us to explore how Reggio principles—such as the image of the child, the environment as the third teacher, and documentation—can meaningfully inform IB practice, creating deeper coherence, richer pedagogy, and a strong culture of reflective teaching across schools.

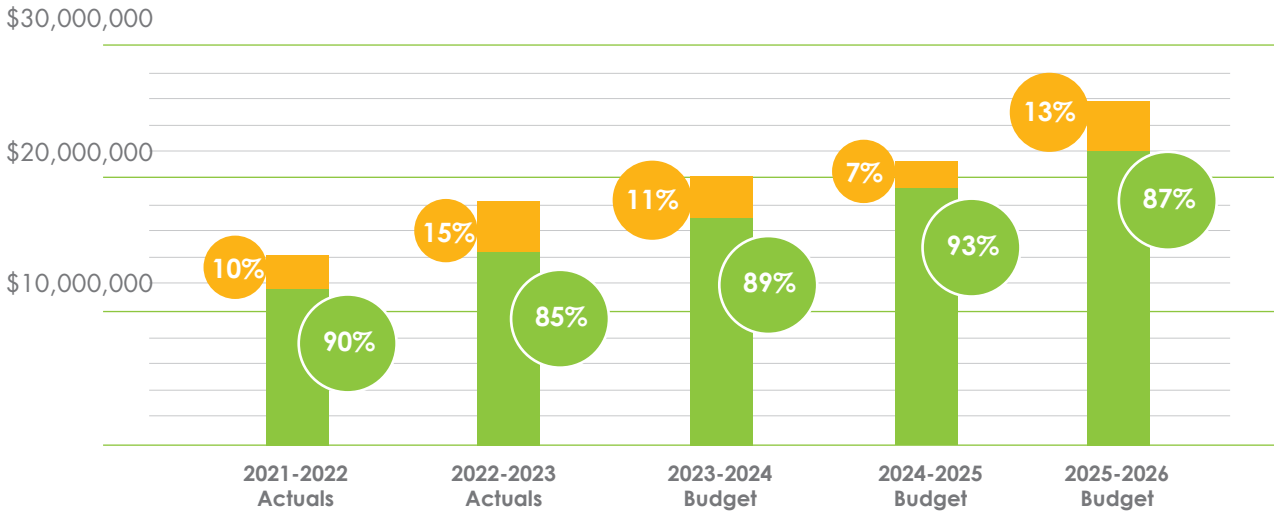


FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

GROSS REVENUES

La Scuola's revenues have grown steadily alongside the growth of the school. Tuition and fees remain our primary source of revenue, representing 87% of the 2025–26 budget, while fundraising provides important additional support for our programs and strategic priorities.

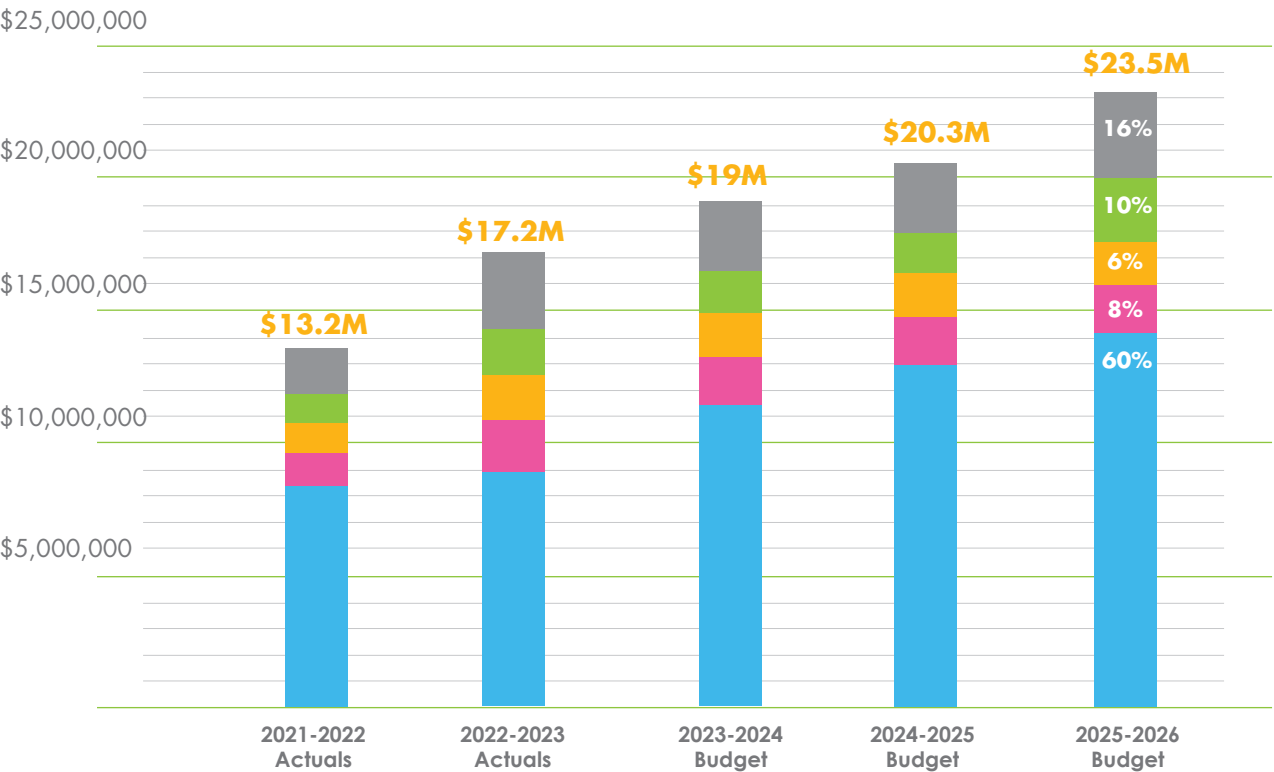
- Fundraising
- Tuition & Fees



EXPENSES

Our largest investment continues to be in our people, with salaries and benefits representing 60% of the 2025–26 budget. We also dedicate significant resources to tuition assistance, instruction, facilities, and the operations needed to support our students and school community.

- Sliding Scale Tuition
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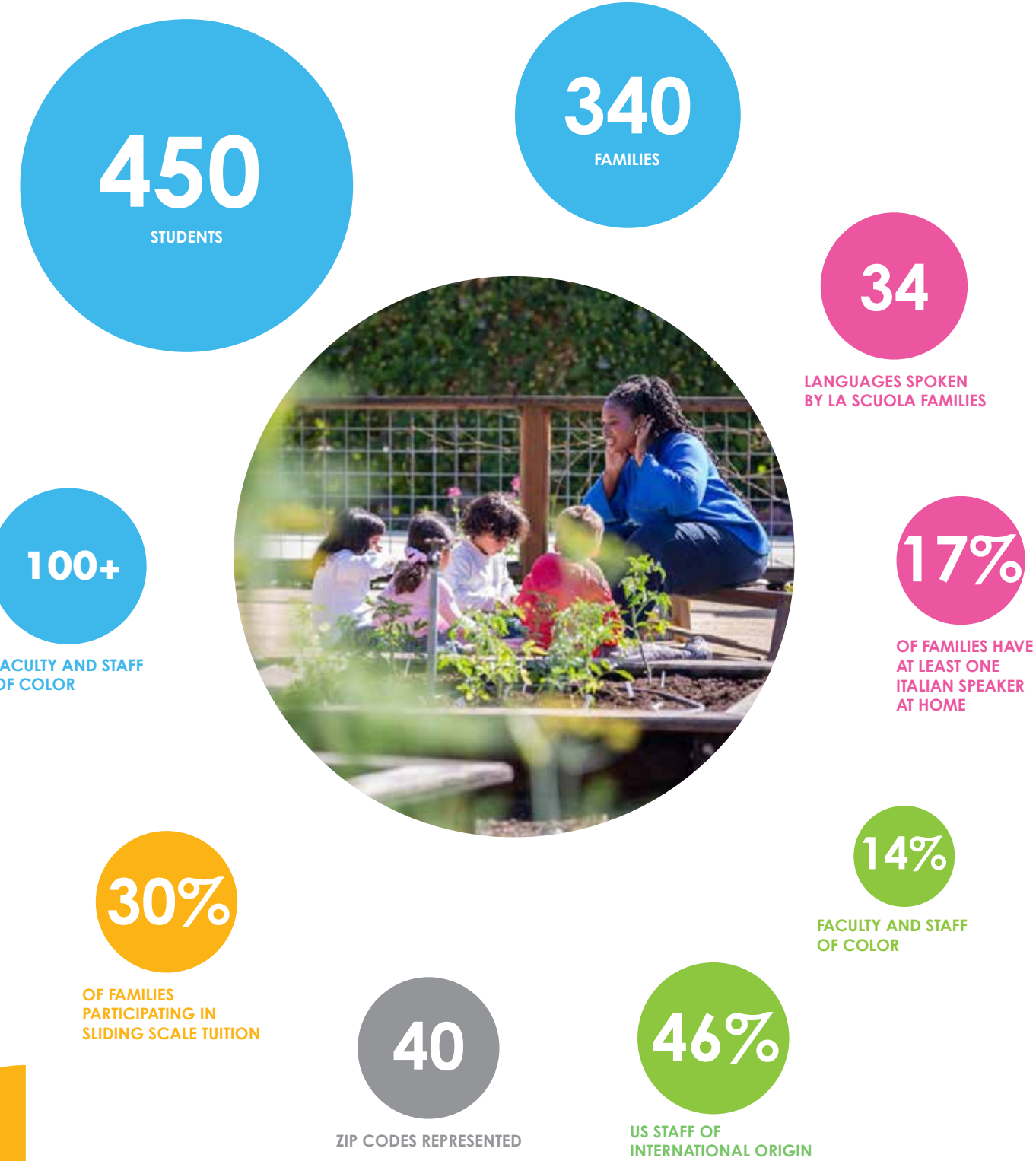
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Dino Dina & Cornelia L. Dekker
Enrica D'Ettorre & Pierluigi Zappacosta
Nathalie Domp   & Chamath Palihapitiya
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Cori Duncan & Marco Marinucci
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Andrea Palomera & Manuele Fabbiane
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Brumbaugh & Linsley Family
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Zoe, Leo, Dunja & Jeff Solari
Balen, Audrey, Dani & Simon Sollberger
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LA SCUOLA *by the Numbers*



**Niente
Senza
Gioia!**

**Nothing
Without
Joy!**

**Nada Sin
Alegría!**



LA SCUOLA
International School • Preschool - 8th Grade



LA SCUOLA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL LOCATIONS

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415-558-9006

**Mission Campus
Grades K - 8**

3250 18th Street
San Francisco, CA 94110
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415-551-0000

**Silicon Valley Campus
Preschool - Elementary**

2086 Clarke Avenue
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
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**Milano Campus
Preschool - Grade 8**

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