

### **Our Mission Statement**

Park Century School **empowers** bright children with learning differences to reach their academic and personal potential. Students **flourish** within our individualized, evidence-based curriculum and supportive environment. In collaboration with their families, the school **inspires** students to develop into resilient self-advocates and **builds** a foundation for lifelong achievement.



The leaves featured on the cover are part of our 50 Year Anniversary Commemorative Treea community art project that took place over the course of our school year. Read on for more information about our Tree and other ways we celebrated 50 Uncommonly Bright years!

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### Dear Park Century Community,

During our 2018-2019 school year, Park Century's 50th year, community members from past, present, and future assembled to honor our unique history, enhance our current program, and invest in our legacy. From alumni who visited with our current students, relaying inspiring stories of overcoming their learning differences, to the 50th Anniversary Tribute Film produced by one of our families, this school year saw staff, parents, trustees, alumni, alumni parents, and friends joining forces to commemorate our achievements and cultivate new beginnings.

We would like to offer a special thank you to Hilary Garland, our Board President, who led our devoted Board of Trustees while they maintained their commitment to the delivery of our mission through assessment of our program model, continued work with city planners to further progress on our playground expansion, and created a new vision for involvement that focuses on engaging Culver City residents and building stronger partnerships within our community. We would also like to thank every member of our community who donated so generously towards our Annual Fund, which provides necessary capital towards making PCS the exceptional place it is. With 100% participation from our Faculty & Staff and Board of Trustees, and an incredible 92% participation from our parent body, we are proud to lead a community that so strongly shows an unwavering support for our school and our mission.

Our Parents Association flourished under the leadership of President Dan Bucatinsky and Vice President Heather Primus, whose unceasing enthusiasm created an electric atmosphere of involvement. This year's PA partnered with our Student Council to host a Holiday Bake Sale, raising funds for the California Fire Foundation, helped enact an Earth Day initiative to eradicate the school's use of plastic bottles, and created two new parent committees - a Diversity Committee, which hosted our school's first celebration of Dia de los Muertos and introduced a school-wide project commemorating Black History Month, and a Parent Wellness Committee aimed to further awareness about how nutrition, sleep, and media affect our students.

During our Golden Anniversary Gala, we saw an unparalleled demonstration of support when a paddle raise for our Panther

Play Campaign received over \$472,000 of gifts from current parents, former parents, new parents, trustees, and staff.

Additionally, our community's generous contributions to our Annual Fund surpassed this year's goal, reinforcing their belief in our mission. Because of this support, we can continue to provide premium educational programming and innovative new assistive technology to our students, and our educators received professional development training in the Circle Ways Council social emotional program, which fosters productive relationships by creating trust amongst student groups and providing a forum for students to express themselves, voice concerns, and listen to each other.

In June, we said goodbye to an exceptional class of 8th graders, who exhibited admirable academic and personal growth over the school year. During their graduation farewell speeches, they emanated remarkable poise, leadership, and self-confidence. We wish them the best as they go on to attend a diverse list of high schools, where we know they will flourish, armed with the skills and grit to tackle any future endeavors.

Please enjoy the latest edition of our annual report, which celebrates a landmark year of parents, students, staff, trustees, alumni, alumni parents, and friends aligning their goals toward a singular vision of progress. The collaboration of efforts from every member of our PCS family serves as a striking illustration of how much we can accomplish when we work together, each bringing our individual talents to offer under the common bond that unites us - the impact and legacy of Park Century School.

Warmly.

Judith Fuller Head of School

Jennifer Palmer Chief Operating Officer



### Dear Park Century Community,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we'd like to thank all of our new and returning families for the energy, warmth, and support you've shown throughout the 2018-2019 school year - Park Century's 50th year! Since opening its doors, Park Century has nurtured, educated and advocated passionately for its students. We have grown in size, in number and in knowledge. After 50 years, we are a recognized leader in the holistic education of students with learning differences.

We are so proud of all Park Century has accomplished in recent years and of the committed educators and administrators who put the magic into our model. We appreciate the flexibility of our faculty, who continue to deliver the latest evidence-based programs to our curious and engaged learners. This year's introduction of The Circle Way Program boosted the social and emotional needs of our students by offering moderated, interpersonal experiences guided by our trained educators.

As part of our deep commitment to campus security and the safety of our students, the Board of Trustees hired Joffe Emergency Services to conduct a comprehensive audit of our safety protocols. Under their guidance, the school rolled out enhanced safety procedures, including a digital sign-in system for all visitors, additional on-campus cameras, and the strengthening of

our emergency preparedness procedures with the introduction of Titan HST, a state-of-the-art school-wide emergency notification system, and in-depth emergency training for staff and parents.

The Board is thrilled to announce that the Panthers Play Campaign has reached the first fundraising goal of \$5 million! By reaching this milestone, we aspire to break ground for the new field during the summer of 2020. To go along with the creation of our much-needed outdoor recreation space, Park Century will continue the Campaign to expand our campus by adding new classrooms as well, ultimately allowing us to extend our unmatched educational program to more members of the community.

We had such a wonderful time celebrating our past, present, and future with all of you at Park Century's 50th Gala in May. The event reflected the love and hope that PCS imparts to its uncommonly bright students, the broad educational landscape, and the community that it serves. Thank you for all for your unconditional support. Happy 50th Anniversary Park Century School!

Warmly,

Hilary Garland Board President

Isla Garraway
Board Vice President

### PANTHERS PLAY: The Campaign To put the PARK in Park Century!

In 2015, Park Century School announced the second largest fundraising effort in the School's history. Our Campaign to *Put the Park in Park Century* aims to do just that- we want to be able to provide our students with an exceptional outdoor environment that will educate the whole child by developing their mind, body, and spirit through outdoor play. Having reached the \$5 million fundraising mark, we intend to break ground and begin creating not just the recreational space, but also additional classrooms and increased parking facilities for future expansion of our school and our Panther community.

We provide with extraordinary gratitude a running list of gifts and pledges dedicated to our ambitious Campaign since its launch in 2015. We thank these donors for their vision, their generosity, and their dedication to the students of Park Century both now and in the future.

#### Visionary - \$1,000,000 and above

Cornerstone - \$500,000 to \$999,999 Anonymous

### Pacesetter- \$250,000 - \$499,999

Anonymous (2)
Paul Jennings and Adrienne Grant
Lauren Sanchez and Patrick Whitesell

### Champion - \$100,000 to \$249,999

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Ed Victor

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### **Annual Fund 2018/19**

Our Annual Fund provides the support needed to uphold the innovative and dynamic educational environment for which Park Century is renowned. Each donation contributes to new curriculum initiatives that keep us on the edge of scientific findings, updated classroom and assistive learning technology, the ability to retain and attract the best faculty and staff, and further expansion of our financial aid program. We're proud to say that we've received 100% participation from our faculty and staff, as well as 100% support from our Board of Trustees. In the fall, we launched an ambitious "50 Day Campaign" in honor of our 50thAnniversary, and we ended the year proudly with a remarkable 92% participation from our current parent body. We are so grateful for the support of so many- **Thank you!** 

### **Visionary** (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

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Tiffany Lovett
Benjamin and Barbara Madley
Steve and Jodi Schwartz
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We would also like to thank the following donors for their

contributions, designated towards supporting our Financial Aid program at Park Century. These gifts help to provide more Uncommonly Bright minds with the opportunity to access

the life-changing educational environment of our school.

Anonymous (2) Jason Asch

The Joseph Drown Foundation Dr. Evelyn Troup Memorial

Scholarship Fund

# A Golden Anniversary Celebration

On Saturday, May 11th, our community celebrated Park
Century's 50th Anniversary with our Spring Gala in honor of our
Golden Anniversary. The evening, emceed by PCS parents Dan
Bucatinsky and Don Roos, began with cocktail hour and a silent auction on
the rooftop at The London Hotel, followed by dinner in the ballroom featuring
performances from PCS parent Katey Sagal as well as The PCS Mamas and
Papas, a band made up of some of our parents and faculty! Current and alumni
parents, faculty members, cherished alumni, trustees, and long-time friends of Park
Century enjoyed the premiere of our 50th Anniversary Tribute film created by PCS
parents CJ and Mike Bigelow, a rousing Live Auction, and a remarkable and
unprecedented Paddle Raise towards the Panther's Play Campaign to "Put the
Park in Park Century," raising more than \$472,000 and getting us that much
closer to building our outdoor play space. Thank you so much to those who
donated so generously, many thanks to Gala Chair Carrie Crossman, and
the biggest thank you to ALL who celebrated our 50th year!

























### 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration at PCS

In December, Park Century celebrated its 50th

staff, alumni, alumni parents, former employees, trustees, and friends of the school all gathered in our gym for a birthday celebration, which included a presentation

honoring our history, a community "Happy Birthday" sing-a-long (complete with blowing out candles on a PCS-themed birthday cake!), and other activities that commemorated half a

century of Park
Century. We then
gathered in our foyer to
bury a time capsule

Park Century School Time Capsule Commemorating 50 Uncommonly Bright Years Buried on December 19, 2018 To Be Opened in December 2068

containing letters, art works, drawings, and popular trinkets to be opened in 50 years when Park Century celebrates its centennial.

### The PCS Commemorative Tree Community Art Project

As part of our 50 year anniversary, we asked members of our Park

Century family to add a

"leaf" to our community
art project - a tree
commemorating 50
years of PCS
memories. Park
Century students,
staff, parents, alumni,
and friends wrote their
favorite Park Century

memories and inspirational

moments on paper leaves that we attached to the tree throughout the school year. As the year progressed, we watched our tree grow fuller, each leaf representing a beautiful tribute to our past and present or a vision for our future.

### Class of 2019 Graduates

In June, we said congratulations and wished a fond farewell to our graduating class of 2019. We are so proud of our 16 graduates and know that they will go on to make the world a more uncommonly bright place. Take a look at where our talented and promising alumni are continuing their journeys:

Roland Asch - Santa Monica High School Luca Beccaria - Pacifica Christian High School Eli Bigelow - Proctor Academy Kaiya Rae Brown - University High School Eliza Bucatinsky - Tree Academy Ivy Bucksbaum - de Toledo High School Marius Chiang-Popa - Idyllwild Arts Sean Crummy - Westmark School Jude Ellender - Fusion Academy Jude Grammer - Salisbury School (CT) Sonya Haber-Levin - LACHSA Avery Honablue - Crespi Carmelite Roxie Katz - Mary McDowell Friends School (NY) Sadie Kemmerer - Pacifica Christian High School Jude Kouyate - Pacifica Christian High School Graham Wolff - de Toledo High School







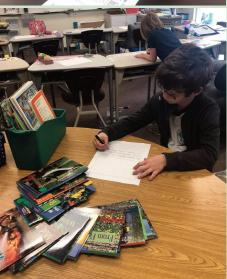














### **Academics at PCS**

Our program of instruction is primarily built around each student's intellectual, physical, psychological, social, and moral development in order to create a supportive and enriching curriculum to help students learn necessary skills and strategies.

We focus on a child-centered curriculum in which children attending Park Century School have access to three types of instruction for optimal learning: one-to-one instruction, individualized instruction, and small group lessons.

First, one-to-one reading or mathematics instruction is provided when needed. In such a setting, a teacher can work most effectively with the unpredictable variations in a child's attention span, memory, processing speed, motivation, and psychological state. Perceptual disorders and language-based learning disabilities are addressed by using specialized and individualized techniques. Speech and language therapy is also an essential component of the program of instruction for many of our students.

Next, individualized instruction serves as a bridge between 1:1 and group instruction. Subject areas such as written language, grammar, spelling, organization and handwriting are particularly responsive to this mode of instruction. Through individualized instruction, the teacher strengthens a child's basic skills, promotes self-esteem, builds independence, while still addressing each child's unique learning profile.

Thirdly, social studies, science, and study skills are taught in the small classroom group. The curriculum is presented on the students' grade level and interest level, while the materials are adapted to the students' reading level. Assistive technology instruction is incorporated into the program of students who need this accommodation.

Additionally, a program of instruction for the child with learning differences must also emphasize the building of character and social skills. This type of curriculum allows students to develop a positive self-image, discover meaningful avenues of expression, and socialize with their peers.

From a student's admission to Park Century, continuing through to graduation, it is the School's goal to prepare the student for success in a traditional educational setting whenever possible.

## 8th Grade Media Class, Art, Photography, and Documentaries

In 8th grade library media classes, students first learn documentary history and film terminology while viewing several different short documentaries. They then outline ideas for their own documentary films and research story structure using storyboards and filming plans to flesh out their stories. They learn a variety of visual techniques including stop motion with object and body manipulation, interviews with straight filming, and using green screens, comic animation, and more. Using available art and photography tools, they explore different artistic possibilities using still photo and filming techniques. They write out interview questions and short reenactment scripts, gather film or photos and footage of their hobbies and lives both here at PCS and at home, and discover ways to apply all of this to their films. Learning to film using camcorders and tripods, and then transferring files and learning to use iMovie for significant editing--adding voice overs, music, titles, color, sounds or other effects-- contributes significantly to their overall projects. Finally at the end of the year, our 8th graders share their individual documentaries, telling the story of each student's educational and personal journey with the PCS community.















### **Science**

Park Century students come back to the science lab each year with a stronger foundation for STEM learning. The goals of the program are to encourage a curiosity about the natural world and to develop the skills to answer questions in a methodical way through scientific inquiry.

Here are some highlights from the year. Lower school dissected owl pellets, and made skeletons with see through organs. They made robotic fingers, grew seeds in test tubes, and studied sound waves. Middle school studied the future of Mars exploration, and developed a sense of where Earth sits in the universe. They participated in a global learning class with our partners in Zimbabwe and designed a video game that helped increase awareness of renewable energy sources. In addition to

learning from their textbook and writing lab reports, Upper School students also made molecules out of balloons and created a robotic petting zoo. Some students even designed projects using Virtual Reality to demonstrate their understanding of a topic in marine biology.

Science is fun and exciting, especially when you put in the work to learn more. The science program creates a variety of opportunities for all students to connect with current events in science, regardless of age or grade level and helps students make sense of the natural world around them. If you stop by the science lab, you are bound to see science in action: there are chicks hatching, rock tumblers turning, bugs crawling, LEDs flashing, and pendulums swinging. Welcome to science!













### **Super Shop**

Super Shop is known as the coolest room on campus! Projects are based on coinciding Social Studies units. This year students worked on:
Jacob's ladders, drums, architectural sculptures, yo-yos, Japanese kumiko panels, hacked RC cars, hanging succulent gardens and custom built Ukuleles. Super Shop engages students with tactile, curriculum based projects that reinforce group collaboration, individual fine motor skills as well as executive functioning and processing.





### **Visual Arts**

At the core of the Park Century School Art Program is the idea that every child is an artist. Lower School students come to embrace their artistic selves via an art program that includes play and experimentation, values process over product, and allows students to choose what they want to make art about. The Lower School Art Program is heavily influenced by the Teaching for Artistic Behavior (TAB) model, a choice-based approach to art education that enables students to develop artistic habits through authentic learning experiences and responsive teaching. Choice-based art education offers students real choices for responding to their own ideas and interests through the making of art. The results are inspiring and lead to the creation of artworks that are truly unique to the spirit of each child! When Lower School students walk into the PCS art studio, they can pick from a number of different art centers to bring their ideas to life. The foundational art centers available year-round include Drawing, Painting, Collage, and Sculpture.





As the school year unfolds and students become more independent, more centers are made available to them such as Fiber Arts, Printmaking, Stop Motion Animation, and Jewelry Making. Students organize their work and track their progress by keeping a portfolio of their artwork. Student art portfolios are filled with experimental works, practice drawings, sculpture maquettes, and finished works of art destined for display in our school-wide art shows. Students write artist statements to accompany their artwork and they practice speaking about their artworks during our "art openings" which feature celebratory snacks and sparkling apple cider! Some popular themes and trends that appeared in this year's exhibitions included: optical illusions, mermaids, unicorns, sports cars, and superheroes.

The Capshaw-Spielberg Upper School Art Program continues to develop artistic behaviors in students through a focus on the Studio Habits of Artist, which include Develop Craft, Engage & Persist, Envision, Express, Observe, Reflect, Stretch & Explore, and Understanding Art Worlds. The Studio Habits of Artists are the dispositions that students must practice in order to develop their artistic minds. Upper School students practice the Studio Habits of Artists via a series of artistic "boot camps" (both 2D and 3D) throughout the school year. These boot camps provide foundational skill sets that prepare students for working on independent projects in the latter part of the school year. Boot camps are also highly collaborative and incorporate students working in teams to complete a variety of creative exercises. In the fall we kicked off the school year with an intensive drawing boot camp that covered observational drawing skills including still-life drawing and urban sketching. In the spring, students engaged in sculpture boot camp focused on making replicas of everyday objects. After completing the sculpture boot camp, students created large paper mache piñata like forms. In the Upper School, all projects incorporate a reflection component. Students engage in critiques, write artists statements, and proudly display their work for the school community.









### **Music**

This year, there was a big change in the music program. We decided to drop our holiday concert and focus on a spring culmination concert instead. This allowed music classes to truly explore different genres and artists. One highlight included tracing the music of Africa as it was transported to different countries and how it influenced and changed over the globe. Another class took an in-depth look at the history and roots of the guitar as it traveled from the Middle East to Spain. Having more time to listen and absorb music from around the world allowed our students to put on one of the best ever Spring Concerts. Students were more comfortable with music as a subject and had time to practice and apply their skills to more contemporary music that touched them rather than the usual holiday program.



### **Student Council**







8th Grade Washington, D.C.







Astrocamp







### **Athletics**

The athletics program at Park Century kicked off in the fall this year with 5th/6th grade flag football, and 6th-8th

grade girls volleyball. Both teams represented a solid percentage of student participation; so many of our students enjoy being a part of our team sports.



The 5th/6th grade flag football team wrapped up the season with 7 games completed, while the 6th-8th grade girls volleyball team has a solid season and finished the year with a 5-4 record.





The winter athletic season saw an

enormous amount of interest in basketball- so many students wanted to play that we had 3 different teams! We had a 5th/6th grade boys team, a 7th/8th grade girls team and a 7th/8th grade boys team. The 5th/6th grade team finished with an impressive winning record, having triumphed over

many competitive teams from much larger schools. Both the boys and girls 7th/8th grade teams participated in the Foundation for Interscholastic Youth Athletics (FIYA) League and had successful and enjoyable seasons.





In the spring, our 5th/6th grade co-ed soccer team competed valiantly! They

had an impressive turn out with 11 boys and girls participating, developing a love of the sport as well as embracing the importance of hard work and playing as a team.

We continue to expand our Panther athletics program every year by adding additional sports teams to meet increased participation and strengthening the collaboration with other schools in our network to build an athletic environment that supports our diverse community.

















In library classes, we share fun, informative, engaging books that help students enjoy literature, encouraging them to become enthusiastic lifelong readers. We want to ensure that students are effective users and creators of ideas and information, and are empowered to be critical thinkers, skillful researchers, and ethical users of information.

We start out in the fall with a review of general library skills for all, reading books that lead to discussions about how to find appropriate books and take care of them, and library rules, and we

### Library

also cover the different genres of children's literature. The library supports classroom curriculum throughout the year by collaborating with teachers for country projects, research on various historical times, biographical information, and more.

The library is often filled with students reading on their own or together during recess, listening to various new books read to them during library classes, developing poems with magnetic words, and exploring media--with websites such as Kahoots, Epic, ParaPara, MakeBeliefComics, and StorytimefromSpace to help reinforce information or ideas through projects we do together.

We continue to develop a collection that is representative of the community, with books covering multiple subject areas and plenty of fun free reading choices. Throughout the year, we read literature that looks at diverse people and cultures. We read books together that cover artists, writers and poets, scientists and what they study, innovators, space travel and other fantastical voyages throughout the world of our imaginations.



### **Advisory**

Our Advisory groups serve as a community within a community for our 7th and 8th grade students. Advisory seeks to promote growth in ways that transcend the classroom and foster personal and social responsibility, good decision making, resilience, strong understanding of our core values, and personal success. Students are assigned a Faculty Advisor and assemble in small groups once a week. The Faculty Advisor provides a warm, supportive, and comfortable environment and serves as a mentor throughout the school year.

An important component of Advisory is the service-learning partnership. Our 7th grade students partner with Heal the Bay, and our 8th grade students partner with the Westside Children's Center. During the 2018-2019 school year, our 7th grade students adopted "Dockweiler State Beach" in Playa Del Rey, which included three visits to clean the beach during the school year. Our 8th grade students made four visits to the preschool at the Westside Children's Center to work with students from underserved communities.











students to understand that they share a responsibility with the world around them, and that by building awareness and working together, they can achieve larger common goals. Through active community service, students participate in a variety of service-learning endeavors throughout the year.

During the 2018-2019 school year, Park Century students partnered with Westside Food Bank, Operation Gratitude, Westside Children's Center, and Heal the Bay, and discussed these organizations and opportunities during Panther Packs.















### **Panther Packs**

This year, we revamped "Panther Packs". The students voted to rename them "Panther Parties", and each party randomly chose a color to represent them throughout the year. In an early activity on Cooperation, students tiedyed shirts to match their party colors. The "Panther Way" remained at the core of Panther Parties - each month, Panther Parties explored a different Panther Way character trait -Kindness, Respect, Responsibility, Cooperation, Honesty, and Resilience - through council and activities. For example, on Earth Day, students focused on Responsibility by planting pallets with succulents, creating artwork out of recycled materials, and painting a mural with their handprints. During their Panther Party on the theme of **Respect**, students spoke about the history of their names in a council and then decorated pendants representing their names and their unique identities. Panther Parties have nurtured a sense of community, supported students' social-emotional learning (SEL), and created a bond between various grade levels.

















































# **Grandparents and Special Friends Day**

In March, Park Century celebrated our annual tradition of Grandparents and Special Friends Day. After breakfast for our special guests, our students performed an impressive showcase, highlighting not only their choral skills, but also their instrumental and educational achievements as well. Students performed classic songs such as "Stand By Me" and "Three Little Birds", selections from the Broadway musical "Hamilton," showed off their traditional African drumming technique, and even recited the Gettysburg Address for our guests. After their performance, our students had the opportunity to guide their visitors through a school-wide art show, then to their classrooms to share all of their hard work from the year! One of our most beloved days at Park Century, Grandparents and Special Friends Day is a chance for our students to celebrate the spring culmination of all of their creative and educational efforts.





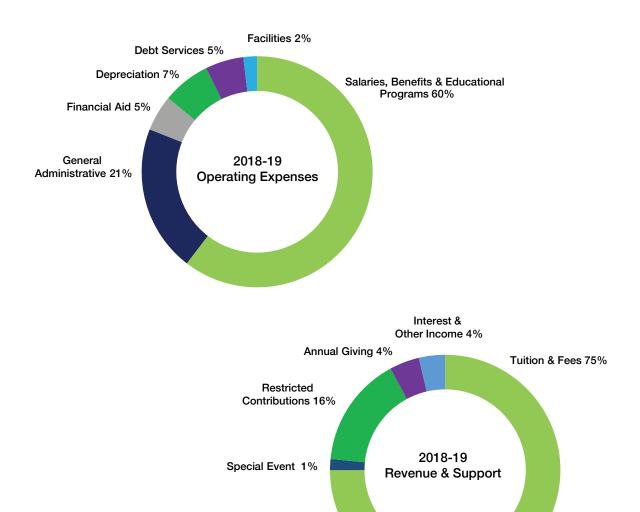






### **Financial Summary**

Every year, the wonderful contributions from our community help provide important funds to support educational excellence at Park Century School. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Faculty and Staff, **thank** you for your loyal and generous support.



### **Ways to Give**

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An outright cash donation is a fully tax deductible gift in the tax year it was given, within the guidelines established by the IRS. Cash gifts can be made by check or can be charged to your Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Credit card gifts can be made over the phone at 310-840-0500 ext. 239, or securely online at www.parkcenturyschool.org. *Please make checks payable to Park Century School, Attn: Development and send to 3939 Landmark Street, Culver City, CA 90232.* 

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**Our Thanks** The Development Office gratefully acknowledges the many parents, alumni, alumni families, grandparents, friends, faculty, and staff who so generously contributed their money, time, and effort to Park Century School during the 2018-2019 school year. Every possible effort has been made to list all contributions accurately. However, despite our sincere desire to avoid errors, they do occasionally occur, and for this we apologize in advance. Should an error or omission occur, please notify us directly to the attention of the Development Office so that we may correct our records. We are truly proud of our numbers and of your names, and we sincerely thank you for your continuing generous support.

For more information on any of the above ways to give, please contact the Development Office at 310-840-0500 ext 239.



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