

*Manhattan Country School
Annual Report 2009–2010*



Educating leaders who change the world



Our Vision

Manhattan Country School envisions its students as future leaders whose shared experiences in learning and activism inspire them to champion excellence and justice, compassion and peace, and the rights of all people to racial, economic, gender, environmental, and educational equity.

Our Mission

Reflecting the vision of the Civil Rights Movement, Manhattan Country School teaches students in a community with no racial majority and broad economic diversity. Our goals for students are academic excellence, intellectual freedom, social awareness, self-confidence, and firsthand knowledge of the natural world. MCS is unique among NYC independent schools in having a 180-acre working farm integral to the curriculum and a sliding scale for tuition.

Educating leaders who change the world



Letter from the Director



Justice, sustainability, and peace have a chance when Manhattan Country School students put their diverse minds and hands to work. An MCS education has for generations inspired students to be active, hopeful, and committed.

We at MCS are indebted to those who keep this mission alive and thriving even in these difficult times. In this year's Annual Report we extend our deep gratitude to the many generous contributors to MCS. Donors, volunteers, and friends worked hard together to provide the support we need to sustain excellence and grow. At MCS that means the ability to provide our children with exceptional teaching and rich experiences in our classrooms, in our city, and at the MCS Farm.

Your support this year also supported strategic investments in the school's future.

The MCS Board of Trustees held a strategic planning retreat and organized working committees to analyze the impact of internal

and external education trends on our historic commitment to economic diversity. I am grateful to their continued devotion to MCS. This was truly a watershed year that will continue to guide the school for years to come.

As we all know economic diversity at MCS is more than just a shared belief. Seventy-eight percent of families pay tuition on a sliding scale while 100% benefit from learning amid that diversity. Only 65% of expenses are covered by tuition—your donations help us fill the gap between tuition revenue and the actual cost of education.

Fortunately our Annual Fund has been growing. MCS donors are loyal. Classes and volunteers organize events such as the Farm Festival and *Big Night Out*. Their creative ideas attract enthusiastic parents, staff, and alumni, and cultivate new friends. As the Board solidifies a plan for the future, we will need to identify new supporters, build our visibility, increase the Board's capacity to fundraise, and expand roles for the development office staff.

We are also energized by a new generation of Board leaders who are both steeped in school history and committed to seeing MCS thrive in new ways.

Thank you for making it possible to invest fully in children's most formative educational years.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michèle Solá". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michèle Solá



Farm Festival 2009

Farm Festival 2009

A strong nor' easter was expected to hit New York City, but that didn't dampen the spirits of the Manhattan Country School community at its annual Farm Festival on Saturday, October 19, 2009. The event raised \$42,644 to help support Manhattan Country School's general operating expenses, including salaries, staff benefits, educational supplies, and maintenance for our facilities on East 96th Street and at the MCS Farm in Roxbury, N.Y.

Farm Festival 2009 raised \$42,644 to help support Manhattan Country School's general operating expenses.

Cabaret with Sarah Leibowits

On a chilly February evening, parents, alumni, staff, and friends gathered inside Manhattan Country School's cozy Music Room to be warmed by the voice and talents of Sarah Leibowits, a 4-5s teacher and cabaret performer extraordinaire. The show included nine songs performed by Sarah and

special guests, including former teachers Junius Harris and David Lebson; and Joe Gately, caregiver for an MCS student and a friend to the school. Current parent Steve Tarshis played guitar and MCS friend Vlada Yaneva was on the piano. A dessert and wine reception in the Living Room awaited guests after the performance. The cabaret raised money for the 24,840-watt solar panel system, which generates 100% of the non-heat producing electricity at the MCS Farm in Roxbury, N.Y. The solar panels are part of MCS' commitment to reducing the school's carbon footprint, expanding curriculum around renewable energy at the Farm, and decreasing the school's energy costs.

Big Night Out!

On May 1, 2010, the Manhattan Country School community gathered at the Prince George Ballroom in New York City for *Big Night Out!*, an annual spring benefit in support of MCS' sliding-scale tuition program.

The evening began with a production by sixth graders who performed a theatrical adaptation from *The Children of Children Keep Coming: An Epic Griot Song* by Russell L. Goings. Their passionate performance

Community is our Cornerstone

The Farm Festival. *Big Night Out!* These are more than fundraising events in support of the Manhattan Country School mission. These community-oriented events are a showcase that bring students, parents, alumni and friends together to share in the warmth and spirit of the MCS experience.



Cabaret with Sarah Leibowitz



Big Night Out!

was followed by dinner in a grand art deco ballroom.

The 2010 "Living The Dream" Mentor Award alumni honorees were Michelle Gelernt '81 and Hellura Lyle '81. Upper School Chorus Director Clint Ingram was awarded the "Living the Dream" Mentor Award after 36 years as an MCS staff member.

As a Legal Aid attorney, Michelle has provided a decade of free legal advice and representation on behalf of immigrants, low-income families, children in foster care, the homeless, and people who are incarcerated.

Hellura used her creative talents as founder of Doc Watchers, a Harlem community-based and member-supported independent film program, to build community and inspire discussion and activism around important social and political issues.

Clint was honored for his lifelong commitment to the vision of MCS and for his outstanding service and dedication as a teacher, music director, and mentor to several generations of alumni.

After the awards ceremony, *Big Night Out!* supporters and honorees danced the night away to the live music of Folklore Urbano, an 11-piece Colombian folk band. It was a night to remember and one that made many excited to attend the next *Big Night Out!* We look forward to seeing you at the Prince George Ballroom on Saturday, April 30, 2011.

"MCS teaches the value of being part of a community and to work towards the betterment of that community."

– Michelle Gelernt '81
2010 "Living the Dream"
Mentor Award alumni honoree



'Appalachia Rising'

Serious Movement

MCS 7th and 8th graders launch 2010 Activism Project

Manhattan Country School students do more than just study issues of local and global importance. Each year, MCS 7th and 8th graders apply their knowledge and critical thinking skills to an activism project of their choosing. In 2009–2010, MCS scholar-activists chose mountaintop removal coal mining, a process employed in the Appalachian region that involves blasting off the tops of mountains in order to gain access to the coal that is buried inside of them.

"The Fifth Floor has decided that mountaintop removal is a civil rights issue that needs to be addressed."

— Janet Ortiz '10 and Vaughn Simmons '11

The two classes traveled to West Virginia to learn firsthand the environmental effects and economic challenges involved with mountaintop removal (MTR). The students also educated the MCS community about their findings. On February 10, 2010 the

classes organized and hosted a screening of the documentary "Coal Country" and a panel discussion at the Crosby Hotel in SoHo.

Janet Ortiz '10 and Vaughn Simmons '11 welcomed the audience of students, teachers, parents, grandparents, alumni, board members, and friends and explained why the 7th and 8th grade classes (The Fifth Floor) chose to focus their efforts on MTR. "When the top of a mountain is blasted off, the surrounding communities experience changed landscapes, polluted water, decreased property values, and increases in asthma and cancer rates," Janet and Vaughn noted. "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., believed in equal rights, not only for the African-American race, but for ALL people. The people of Appalachia are among the poorest in the United States of America, and are being taken advantage of by the coal companies. The Fifth Floor has decided that mountaintop removal is a civil rights issue that needs to be addressed."

MCS students Pablo Tamarin '10 and Emma Soriano '10 moderated the panel discussion. Speakers included Ted Glick, co-founder of the Climate Crisis Coalition and Policy Director for the Chesapeake Climate Action Network; Builder Levy, a photographer of the

How MCS Makes a Difference

The annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative March. “Appalachia Rising.” Social activism in our backyard. At Manhattan Country School, students are not only learning about important issues of our time, they are learning to become agents of the change they wish to see



Appalachian Mountain region for the last 40 years; and MCS students Djuna Schamus '10 and Kira Felsenfeld '11. Ted's words and Builder's photographs energized the diverse audience that included 8-year-olds and their grandparents. The 7th and 8th grade students noted that to learn to be activists within their own community, the guest speakers served as important role models. Said Kyle Bartos '11: "It made me feel like a part of a serious movement. It made me feel like those who participated in the civil rights movement."

Thanks to the support of MCS parents and friends, the panel discussion raised nearly one-third of the 7th and 8th grade students'

\$30,000 goal for the Activism Project. Moreover, they shared their passions with the MCS community, raised awareness about the crucial environmental issues in Appalachia, and even learned about plans for an experimental coal plant in Linden, N.J.

That night as students checked guests' coats, sold t-shirts, facilitated e-mails to elected officials and more, Eleanor McGrath '10 took note of "how many people had come out on the snowy evening." In retrospect, "seeing all the people crowding and filing into the screening was amazing," said Mayo Saji '11. "The issue felt a lot more real, and it is important to know how much our MCS community supports us."

Volunteerism and In-Kind Giving

Historically MCS has been the recipient of overwhelming generosity and support from parents, alumni, former parents, grandparents, and friends within the MCS community. 2009–10 was an outstanding year for volunteerism and in-kind giving with scores of individuals and families contributing an unprecedented level of passion, creativity, and community spirit to the school's fundraising efforts.

Although it would be impossible to quantify all of the time and in-kind gifts contributed to MCS

this past year, it is critical that we acknowledge your generosity here. To those of you who served on a committee or as an event volunteer or stuffed envelopes for a mailing, or prepared food for an event, or picked up/delivered supplies, or contributed an item or service, or supported the 7th and 8th graders' activism trip to West Virginia's Appalachian region, we humbly thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness. Your outstanding commitment to the school's mission and community is deeply appreciated and valued.

Contribution Income

Total Contribution Income (for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010)

Operating Unrestricted	\$256,250
<i>Annual Fund</i>	
Special Events	\$78,168
<i>Farm Festival, Big Night Out!, other</i>	
Special Projects, Operating	\$45,481
<i>Public School Outreach, Professional Development, other</i>	
Capital Projects.....	\$71,467
<i>Solar Panels, Farm Bus</i>	
Endowment	\$16,357
Total	\$467,723

Contributors

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 Shep and Kathryn Abell
 Davis H. and Sandra I. Abrams
 Abyssinian Baptist Church
 Peter Abuisi
 Stacey Ackerman
 William Adams
 R. David Addams and Zanetta Addams-
 Pilgrim
 Adedokun Oluwayemisi
 Debo Adegbile '80 and Susan Haskell
 Kareem Al-Amin '88 and Nahoko
 Satonaka
 Charlene Allen and Elizabeth Roberts
 Laura E. Allen
 Alan Altschuler and Donna Katzin
 Joan and Howard Amron
 Dr. Janet Anderson and John Glascock
 Julie Abruscato and Douglas Anderson
 Elena Anguita
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 Tomie Arai and Legan Wong
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Rodney and Rachel Jones
Sarah Taft Jones
The Joseph Gluck Foundation
KB Joseph
JP Morgan Chase Foundation
Maite Junco
Maceo Shackford June '96

What your contributions support

Manhattan Country School makes a difference in the lives of its students and the greater community. Below are annual facts and figures that demonstrate MCS' mission-driven commitment to social justice, environmental sustainability, innovative curriculum development, public/private school partnerships and racial, cultural and economic diversity and equality amongst its students, faculty and staff.

1,000



gallons of milk and **456 farm-to-table meals** were served at the MCS Farm.

1,080

Last year, **1,080** pounds of beef from the MCS Farm was served for lunch at the school on 96th Street, significantly reducing the food miles consumed by MCS students.



Each year nearly **500 students** learn how to live more sustainable lives at the MCS Farm. More than **350** of these students are from the public and private schools in New York City and the local Catskill area.



\$10,000

covers the cost of a one-week class trip to the MCS Farm.

The "Living the Dream" Book Award is a public school partnership that promotes literacy, language arts and intellectual exchange between students. Since its inception in 1991, **820** public school children and **350** MCS students have participated in this program.

\$2,500

allows MCS to sustain this worthwhile initiative.





Nationally, approximately 20% of independent school students receive financial aid. At MCS, 78% of students receive tuition support while 100% benefit from a learning community defined by its economic diversity and no racial majority.

\$30,000

underwrites the cost of one child's education at MCS for one year.

23.5 tons



of carbon emissions have been saved since the installation of solar panels at the MCS Farm in 2009. Aside from generating 100% of the Farm's non-heat producing electricity, the new solar panels have afforded MCS' teachers the opportunity to develop new rich curricula around alternative energy technologies.

\$500

on professional development for each teacher and staff member provides faculty and staff with professional and curriculum development opportunities that benefit students and serve to expand curriculum and program development at MCS.



\$1500

Underwrites the travel expenses of one 7th or 8th grade student to participate in an annual activism project. In 2009, MCS students traveled to West Virginia to explore the environmental effects and economic challenges of mountaintop removal.



MCS as a Model

In 2009–10, more than **100 educators**, administrators and students from public, charter and independent schools across the nation visited MCS to observe teaching practices and to learn more about social and environmental justice curriculum at MCS.

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 Bonnie Shimkin
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 Alisa Soriano '98
 Dolores Soriano
 Maria Soriano
 Hugh Southern and Kathy Dwyer Southern
 Jane Llewellyn Southern
 Lori Spector
 Kisha and Peter Spence
 Parke Spencer and Nina Habib Spencer
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 Alexandra Sklaroff Stanley '84
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 Kathryn Teirstein
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 Patricia Vaughan
 Reesa M. Vaughter
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 Linda Washburn
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 Faith M. Wiggins
 Zulu '82 and Masai Williams
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 Sharon Woodley-Cobb
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 Elaine Yaniv
 Perri Yaniv '96
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Anahid Avsharian and John Villinski
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Rechtman
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Alumni Giving by Class/Year

1971

Gabriel Miller

1972

Blair F. Fox
Nicholas and Amy Goldberg

1973

Suzanne Gilchrest and Winslow
Browning
Lynn Leibovitz and Ben Hecht
Debbie Levinson Weber and Charles
Weber

1974

Julie Gallanty
Peggy Koteen
Daniel A. Levinson
Dr. Jessica Roth and Francis C.
Donovan, Jr.
Stephen and Lisa Trowbridge
Dorian Yates and David Norton

1975

Erik and Lelia Bruun
Rufus Collins and Molly Magid
Hoagland
Lee Gelernt and Risa Meyer
Julie Gluck Laifer and Steven Laifer
Elisabeth Petterson and Alan Sanborn
Anick Plevan and Andrew Hoffman

1976

Julie Petterson McClain and Ric
McClain
Amanda Rotardier and Robert Mendez
Mary Trowbridge
William and Leigh Wolfsthal

1977

Jessica Meltsner and Brian Britt
Matthew Schwartz and Karen Levesque
Margaret F. Symington and Tanya Sharon

1978

Leslie Gartrell-Moffitt
Lisa Graham Schwalenberg and Tom
Schwalenberg

1979

Alicia M. Brown-Mortimer
Chauncy Lennon and Phoebe Roosevelt
Liam Plevan and Kristin Morse
John Burnham Schwartz and Aleksandra
Crapanzano

1980

Debo Adegbile and Susan Haskell
Carlos A. Garcia and Lucinda Eng-
Garcia

Daisy von Scherler Mayer and David
Carbonara
Christopher and Elza Purdy
Amelia Roosevelt and Peter Karl
Alicia Gelernt-Shimkin and Tony
Shimkin

1981

Patricia and Kyle Bartos
Katharine Garrison and Robert Guerra
Eloise D. Jones
Malikkah Rollins

1982

Katy Chevigny
Nicholas Colt
Jason Dubow and Karen Cuchel
Nicole Lamb Ives and Jeffrey Ives
Kim Grose and David Smathers Moore
Katherine Whitney Luers and William
Luers
Zulu and Masai Williams
Robert Wilson

1983

Julie Einziger Sternberg and David
Sternberg
Nataly Jones and John Dee
Jeremy T. Tejirian

1984

Jessica Gilmour
Cari Lewis-Osborne and Joseph R.
Osborne
Alexandra Sklaroff Stanley
Mara Washburn and Arturo Sosa
Sasha Wilson and Kendra Sibley

1985

Aviva Barraclough Watkins and Kelvin
Watkins
Sarah A. Coles McKeown
Ezra Gale
Bilal and Kim Hill
Marika Hughes
Akemi Kochiyama and Marc Sardinha
Julia Rowley
Meryl D. Sirmans Heyliger
Aiiisha Snipes-England and Carlton
England

1986

Jennifer Arons
Erika A. Gibson
Alice Grutchfield

1987

Jennifer Gondo Lombardo and Scott
Lombardo
Roland and Annie Pott

William Schaaf and Joy Chang
Elizabeth Wilson and Jo Hirschmann

1988

Kareem Al-Amin and Nahoko Satonaka
Kate Washburn and Jim Nichols

1989

Omar Kariuki
Sonya Posmentier and Jess Row

1990

Remy Chait
David Levinson Wilk
Samuel Pott

1991

Richard Sung

1992

Jose Ricky Castillo
Hannah Emmerich
Katya Fialkova
Adjawah K. Scott
Chloe Tribich
Isa Vasquez

1993

Troy Cummings
Lisa Koulish

1994

Jason Arroyo and Catarina Campbell
Viviana Benitez and Juan Ospina
Nicole Letelier
Sophia Morel
Jorge A. Najera-Ordóñez

1995

Kimberly Bowman
Noah Goldfarb
Amanda Johnson
Renée Reynolds
Aisa Yamaguchi

1996

Jennifer Byrd
Maceo Shackford June
Perri Yaniv

1998

David Kramer
Alisa Soriano

2000

Milla Lozanova

2006

Susannah Mathews

2009

Noah Mathews

Memorial Gifts

In memory of John H. Hewitt
 In memory of Lydia Romeu
 In memory of Mitchell Cohen
 In memory of Ruth Fifer
 In memory of Sarah Garrison
 In memory of Vicki Wimpfenheimer

In Honor Of

Lynn Abramson
 Ruth E. Cook
 The Gelernt Family
 Clint Ingram
 Philip Kunhardt
 Lydia Romeu
 Gus and Marty Trowbridge
 Philip Zabriskie

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 The Packer Foundation
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 Schoolbell Foundation
 The Sulzberger Foundation
 The Tianaderrah Foundation
 United Way of NYC

MCS Record of Independent Day, Boarding, and Parochial High School Acceptances for the Class of 2010

Birch Wathen	McClancey
Brooklyn Friends	Mary Louis Academy
Calhoun	Northfield Mt. Hermon
Columbia Prep	Packer Collegiate
Dalton	Putney
The Dwight School	Riverdale
Elisabeth Irwin	Rudolf Steiner
Fieldston	Sacred Heart
Friends Seminary	Trevor Day
The George School	Westtown
Notre Dame	York Prep
Loyola	

MCS Record of Public High School Acceptances for the Class of 2010

Bard	LaGuardia
Baruch	Millennium
Beacon	Edward R Murrow
Eleanor Roosevelt	Specialized High Schools
School of the Future	

MCS Class of 2010 High Schools

Kwame Allen Roberts Edward R. Murrow High School	Eleanor McGrath Rudolf Steiner
Kelsey Barbosa Beacon High School	Katherina Naham Westtown
Nico Buonasora School of the Future	Janet Ortiz Packer Collegiate
Maite Caballero Friends Seminary	James Richards York Prep
Karina Caban Packer Collegiate	Djuna Schamus Fieldston
Emmett Dienstag Elizabeth Irwin High School	Emma Soriano Mary Louis Academy
Thamyr Dupervil St. Timothy's School	Pablo Tamarin Fieldston
Brandon Johnson Fieldston	Itai Zarom Packer Collegiate

Overall Statistics for the Class of 2010

Type of School	Applied	Accepted	Enrolled
Public	15	7 (47%)	4
• Specialized HS	7		
• LaGuardia	4	1 (25%)	
Independent Day	16	11 (69%)	10
Parochial	7	7 (100%)	1
Boarding	6	6 (100%)	1

Total number of students: 16
 Accepted to first choice school: 10 (63%)
 Accepted to one of top three choices: 14 (88%)
 Enrolled in Public School: 4 (25%)
 Enrolled in Parochial School: 1
 Enrolled in Independent Day: 9 (56%)
 Enrolled in Boarding School: 1

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Michael Arons
Herman Bennett
Jose Ricky Castillo '92
Aiyong Choi
Nicholas Colt '82
Roxanne Elings
Jacqueline Farmer
Sophia Goring-Piard
Molly Hazen
G. Angela Henry
Marika Hughes '85
Maiya Jackson
Elizabeth Kitzinger
Chauncy Lennon
Michael Pope
Renée Reynolds '95
Frank Roosevelt
Stephanie So
Michèle Solá
Gus Trowbridge
Elin Waring
Debbie Weiss



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Leslie Gartrell-Mofitt '78
Zoe Jackson '96
Nicole Letelier '94
Sophia Morel '94
Ralph Vacca '95
Robert Wilson '82



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Save these Dates! You're Invited

January 17.....Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Commemorative Walk

April 30*Big Night Out!*

June 11.....Farm Outing Day

Educating leaders who change the world

