



annual report  
07/08



we have two gifts to give our children...  
one is roots, the other, wings.



## diversity and inclusion at echo horizon school

The concept of diversity encompasses acceptance and respect. It means understanding that each individual is unique, and recognizing and honoring our individual differences. These can be along the dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, marital status or other ideologies. It is the exploration of these differences in a safe, positive, and nurturing environment. It is about understanding each other and moving beyond simple tolerance to embracing and celebrating the rich dimensions of diversity contained within each individual.





## mission statement

The mission of Echo Horizon School is to educate hearing and deaf and hard of hearing children in an inclusive environment in which self-reliance and mutual respect are valued and encouraged. The curriculum is designed to be challenging and developmentally appropriate for each learner.

## goals

Students will develop the academic tools, social skills and moral integrity needed to be successful in their next phase of education.

Students will integrate themselves successfully, making contributions to a diverse society, while maintaining individuality and respect for others.

Students will generate a variety of solutions and approaches to situations requiring thoughtful and creative problem solving.

Students will develop the skills and positive attitude for engaging in learning as a life-long process.



CAROL AND KENT H. LANDSBERG  
FOUNDERS

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Vicki C. Ishida, Director, Echo Center  
John Crabtree-Ireland, Director of Operations

## from the head of school



Each year, since I joined the school in 1986, I have been proud of our evolution. This year, on the occasion of our 25th anniversary, I took a few steps back and looked at the whole journey. I was truly amazed.

Carol Proctor Landsberg charged us all with a strong vision for the school. As an educator of the deaf, she knew that all children need to be challenged in

order to achieve their potential. She had taught young deaf and hard of hearing children, prepared them for academic success, only to watch as they entered mainstream school settings that left them behind, both academically and socially. She founded Echo Horizon School on the principle that all students would benefit if deaf and hard of hearing children were truly integrated into a “normal” learning environment with hearing peers.

Our program achieved early success, quickly surpassing the “normal” standard for the learning experience. The single most important element in our formula has been our extremely proficient faculty. Their individual expertise, grounded by our educational philosophy that encourages and celebrates difference, is at the root of each of our successes.

Throughout our history, we have been committed to the integration of technology within our program. In the 1980s, our students used Apple IIe computers before computers were a staple in schools across the nation. Those gave way, not only to newer technology, but technology that provided teachers and students new functionality. Today, we are adding electronic whiteboards that allow teachers to integrate audiovisual elements into their lessons. Students interact with these boards and save their work, allowing them to extend the lesson far beyond the classroom.

This past year, we were designated a SMART Showcase School by SMART Technologies. As a demonstration school, we use prototype technology on our classrooms and welcome fellow educators from across our region to see how it works in daily use.

Our students have been recognized consistently for their use of technology in the classroom. Once again, a number of our students were recognized for exemplary work by the Computer Users in Education (CUE) Student Media Awards in the Spring. Our students are creating blogs, podcasts and multimedia presentations with a facility that boggles their parents.

In the spring, we hosted a delegation of the Singapore Ministry of Education as they prepared to write their national Master Plan for technology use in their country's schools. I watched our confident students respond to our visitors' questions, teaching them about something they knew well. It was again clear to me it's not the technology that matters--it's what we do with it. Our students go out into the world knowing how to relate to technological innovation, not just technology.

I could not be more proud of our students, our faculty and staff and our families. Because we are used to the high level of accomplishment and success of our graduates, it's important to take stock of what we have become. Thank you to all of you who hold Echo Horizon School's mission and programs close to your hearts. Your investment in our success is paying dividends—and we could not do it without you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula R. Dashiell".

**Paula R. Dashiell**  
Head of School



## from the board of trustees



The past year has been one of successful transition for both our community and Board. As we celebrated our 25th anniversary, it was striking how much our school community has grown through the years. Under the steady leadership of our Head of School, Paula Dashiell and the Director of our Echo Center, Vicki Ishida, our continued commitment to best educational practices has allowed the school to consistently provide a wonderfully rich environment in which our students grow and develop.



Over the past five or so years, we have successfully implemented the initiatives that flowed from our last Strategic Planning process—including the significant re-envisioning and renovation of our facility and a greater focus on diversity and inclusivity. At the end

of 2007, the Board of Trustees initiated a new process to develop a long-range plan for the next five years. The Strategic Planning Committee, ably co-chaired by Trustees Richard Hull and Nora Wendel, has been hard at work taking a fresh look at Echo Horizon School and the Echo Center. It has been thrilling to see our community come together to share ideas, thoughts, desires and dreams for our continued success. In the coming months, our new Strategic Plan will be unveiled. Thank you to all of you who supported this process with your time, talent and responsiveness.

Our AIM study in 2006-2007 resulted in a report that is guiding our diversity initiatives. This past year, we worked in depth with an educational consultant who, following these recommendations, helped us to enrich our curriculum and to design a new element of our applicant outreach, focused on increasing geographic and socio-economic diversity. We implemented a series of neighborhood coffees that have brought school administrators and current EHS families together with prospective families who want to learn more about us.

In Fund Development, we saw a significant increase in support of Annual Giving. We concentrated the campaign into the month of October. John Crabtree-Ireland, our Director of Operations, helped to guide our community and focus our efforts to help us

create an enriched giving environment without noticeable change to the culture of our community.

Once our renovation concluded, the Capital Campaign morphed into the Building Fund. Families new to the school continue to pledge significant gifts toward our goal of \$3.2 million, matching the commitment of those families who gave before them, knowing that future classes would reap the direct benefits.

This year's Spring Auction broke all previous income records and proved to be an apt setting to celebrate our quarter century. Our parent volunteers are the reason why this event has grown to such a superlative extent.

Over the years, our school has been recognized for being on the forefront of elementary education. We have attracted a lot of attention and visitors from all across the world. Whether traveling from afar to visit or just walking your children onto campus for class, it takes only a few moments to see something extraordinary—innovative teaching styles, interaction between students rooted in our Points of Pride, exceptional integration of technology and the arts throughout the curriculum, and a life-changing program for our deaf and hard of hearing students—the magic of this place is made everyday by our superb faculty and staff.

**Dave Rosenblum**

*Chair, Board of Trustees, Board of Trustees  
Parent of Eric (Class of 1999) and Lauren (Class of 2001)*

**Tom Collier**

*President, Board of Trustees  
Parent of Rachel (Class of 2005) and John (Class of 2008)*

## from the echo center director



The 2007-2008 school year marked the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Echo Center. We've come a long way in these 25 years and we continue to realize the vision of Carol Proctor Landsberg. Since our founding in 1983, Echo Center has stood out in the field of deaf education in the United States. We continue to provide one of the finest auditory oral options for deaf and hard of hearing children in a

mainstream setting. Our unique collaboration with Echo Horizon School enables us to fully integrate our students in a unique way compared to other oral education programs

We continue to be recognized as one of the finest mainstream deaf and hard of hearing education programs in the nation. In 2008, Echo Center/Echo Horizon School was given the *Continuing Excellence* award at the 48th Biennial Convention of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This award recognizes programs that continue to demonstrate on-going commitment to best practices in technology, teaching and auditory oral/verbal intervention. Echo Center received special recognition in 1991 and this award celebrates our continued achievement.

Our program garners worldwide recognition, as well. We continue to attract visitors from other auditory/oral teaching programs throughout the world. We host visiting professionals in many fields and we receive many visitation requests throughout the year. Another way of communicating within the field is through our Echo Center teachers presenting auditory/oral techniques and ideas to their peers. We are fortunate to work together with Elaine Wrenn and the Technology Center to apply current technology to language and auditory skills.

For the past eleven years, we have provided additional speech and language services to our students beyond the school day to further support and improve their skills. Our staff is highly motivated, as well. This past academic year, two Echo Center teachers sat for the AG Bell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language Academy certification exam. We are proud that Shea Denham and Carly Alsbach are now certified as LSLS Certified AVEs. This certification recognizes their skills to provide a high level of service to families wishing to utilize listening and spoken language for their children.

In the year of our Silver Anniversary, Echo Center is proud to build upon its high standards and expectations. The collaboration and hard work of our teachers, staff, students, parents and supporters allows us to achieve our founder's vision, one student at a time.

Sincerely,

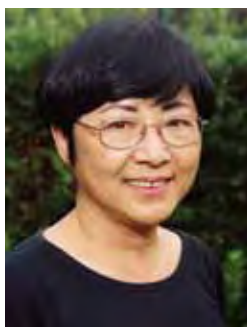
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vicki C. Ishida'.

**Vicki C. Ishida**

*Director, Echo Center*



## financial report 2007-2008



Fundraising success and prudent control of expenses resulted in another financially healthy year for Echo Horizon School in 2007-2008.

Through parent efforts and the Annual Giving campaign, the school raised over \$630,000 this year. We are fortunate to have such a committed family of parents and friends.

Enrollment was close to full capacity, financial aid was increased and our employee compensation continued to grow, helping us to recruit and retain excellent faculty and staff. We were able to closely monitor expenses and keep our overhead low.

As of June 30, 2008, the Building Fund/Capital Campaign had raised approximately \$1,960,000 toward our \$3.2 million goal. We will be raising the difference to retire this internal debt over the next several years.

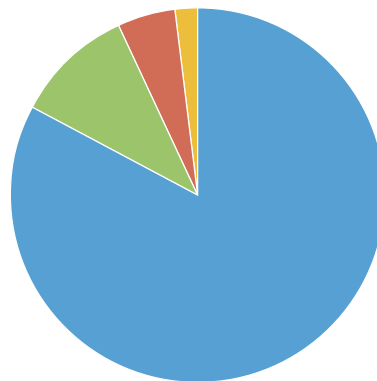
Your ongoing support will help us maintain the school's fiscal well-being. For your past and future support, we are very grateful.

*Masako Carpenter*

**Masako Carpenter**

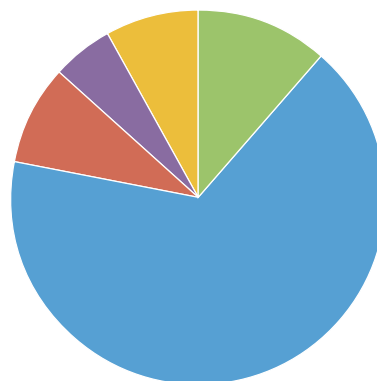
Board Treasurer

Parent of Elina (Class of 2001)



### income

Tuition	82.89%
Fundraising	10.3%
Fees & Programs	4.96%
Investment	1.85%



### expense

Salary & Benefits	66.85%
Financial Aid	11.53%
Plant Operation	8.73%
Instructional Materials	5.26%
Administration	7.64%

## summary of fund development

Annual Giving.....	\$ 440,613
Parent Association Activities .....	\$ 170,503
Special Funds .....	\$ 20,210

## from the parent association



As I sign off as president of the Parent Association, I must say thank you to this remarkable community. It was a privilege to work alongside the creative and dynamic parents who volunteer at Echo Horizon School and the extraordinary administration, teachers and staff. Their joyful

contribution to the environment of the school made it a pleasure to serve.

Through the hard work and collective dedication of our volunteers, we broke all records raising over \$170,000 from tee shirt sales, Book Fair, Readathon, Scrip and the magnificent Spring Event, *Celebrate Silver*. In addition, we marked the school's 25th anniversary with a family cookbook. We welcomed visiting families, new families and returning alumni, hosted countless coffees, embraced our grandparents and special friends, served

up a hearty Back to School Night dinner and feted our phenomenal teachers and staff with an unforgettable luncheon. We also helped to photograph our beautiful children, retooled the hot lunch program, hosted a ghoulish Halloween Carnival, kept working parents in touch and reached out to families in good times and bad. Always thinking about the broader community, the Association spent time this year rethinking our Community Service efforts, improving some events and adding others.

Rose Kennedy said, "Life isn't a matter of milestones, but of moments." When I look back over the year, it is the shared moments of laughter and affection that remain as a testament of this gracious and generous parent community. Thank you for making Echo Horizon School the wonderful place that it is.

*Karen*

**Karen Haas**

*Parent of Kyle (Class of 2007) and Lydia (Class of 2012)*



## integrated technology

"Technology is integrated across the curriculum at Echo Horizon School. Students, classroom teachers and specialists have access to a wide range of hardware and software solutions. They use them to facilitate learning and communication in powerful ways."

*- Elaine Wrenn, Technology Coordinator*

On any given day, students are choosing from a variety of technology tools to learn and communicate their ideas. They are presenting and discussing their findings through interactive slide presentations on electronic whiteboards in the classroom. They are taking scientific measurements with digital probes that easily interface with their computers and then sharing their results with students and professionals around the world via blogs and videoconferencing. Many record audio and video, digitally editing and sharing their learning in podcasts and videos. EHS students use technology in ways that prepare them for success in the 21st Century.

## annual giving report



We decided to co-chair this year's Annual Giving campaign because we feel that Echo Horizon School reinforces the values that we try to practice in our home with our son Matthew and daughter Caroline. We have seen through their growth that, in

addition to providing excellent academic preparation, this school teaches our children to be caring and considerate citizens.

Our goal was to raise \$350,000 in one month. Some schools conduct Annual Giving year-round, but we concentrated ours into the month of October. We had astounding success. Despite the writers' strike and a depressed local economy, we were able to raise nearly \$450,000! These gifts came from enrolled families, grandparents, alumni students and families, faculty and staff, Board members and other members of our extended community. Your "stretch" gifts allowed the school to build its ability to recruit

and maintain an excellent faculty and staff with competitive salaries and attractive benefits packages. We helped the Board to deliver on its commitment to maintain a strong financial aid program. These two principles alone have a tremendous effect on the unique mix that makes our school community so supportive and engaging. The funds also directly enhanced our arts and technology programs.

For the 25th year in a row, the school has provided an excellent education to hearing, deaf and hard of hearing children in an inclusive environment in which self-reliance and mutual respect are valued and encouraged. Thank you for the role you played in the Annual Giving campaign's success and for all that you do throughout the year to nurture our programs and our children.

*Nancy J. Lurie*

**Nancy and Jonathan Lurie**

*Parents of Matthew (Class of 2001) and Caroline (Class of 2006)*



## physical education

"Our students cheer each other on in a way that is unique for this age group. It's actually remarkable. As a result, each student can confidently develop his or her individual competence. Our goal is to send our students out into the world knowing what they **can** do, not what they **cannot** do."

*- Kelly Killian, Physical Education Teacher*

Teamwork and sportsmanship are key skills in elementary school. We present incremental challenges and opportunities to participate, teaching to the individual child while building a cohesive group. Competitiveness can inhibit participation, so we emphasize self-improvement, cooperation and participation instead of "winning." We reinforce our Points of Pride within group activities and it has immediate results. Students can participate in a series of intramurals—a mix of competitive and non-competitive activities during noon recess, including Mileage Club, basketball, soccer and flag football.

# echo horizon

## annual giving

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*Gifts of \$7,500 or more*

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Dean Parisot & Sally Menke



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# annual giving

## FRIENDS

*Gifts of \$1,000 to \$1,999*

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Wendy & Jeff Turk



## arts

“Our arts program recognizes the intrinsic value of the artistic process. First, inspire children by having them observe and reflect upon the arts. Next, support them as they build skills by imitating what they have seen or heard. Once this foundation has been established, children are ready to express themselves by creating original works of art.”

*-Cathleen Wolff, Arts Education Coordinator*

For the study on perspective, students use a mirror to study their faces, down to the meticulous detail. They plot their eyes on the paper first, working outward from there. “Are my lips thin?” “Is my nose big?” “How does my hair fall across my face?” The fundamentals they learn in these exercises give their later work form and direction.

# echo horizon

## annual giving

Shari & Bruce Weiller  
Victoria & Patrick Whelan  
James Winkler  
Orna & Keenan Wolens  
Mimi & Werner Wolfen  
Michael Yakura & Vicki Ishida

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Suzanne Dohan Aspaturian  
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#### *Gifts up to \$499*

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# echo horizon

## annual giving

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Dennis Russ  
Jack Sargrad  
Ed & Sandi Satlin  
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Seiff  
Joan Blum Shayne  
Edith Steelman  
Kenneth Stein  
Laura Struhl & Marlene Mahen  
Patricia Teele  
Bette & John van Es  
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Weber  
Dr. Leslie & Judith Weiner  
Sheila & Wally Weisman  
Mimi & Werner Wolfen  
Alice & David Yakura

### CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

AOL Time Warner Co.  
Capital Group Companies  
Carol & Barry Forman Family Fund  
Chevron Texaco  
Deutsche Bank  
Frederick W. Cook & Co  
Goldie Anna Charitable Trust  
J. Paul Getty Trust  
KPMG Community Giving Campaign  
Los Angeles Water & Power  
Mattel  
Merrill Lynch  
Roll Giving  
Sony Pictures Entertainment  
The Jewish Community Foundation  
Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc  
Wells Fargo  
Yahoo! Inc.

### FACULTY & STAFF

Carly Alsbach  
Anonymous  
Betsy Berenson  
Kristen Berg  
Jenny Boone  
Debbie Briggs  
Claudette Harvey Brown  
Melanie Contreras  
John Crabtree-Ireland  
Paula Dashiell  
Shea Denham  
Ellis Enlow  
Jose Figueroa  
Cori Gafni  
Regina Gusman  
Roz Henderson  
Earl Hunter II  
Vicki Ishida  
Kelly Killian  
Michele Learner

Avon Leekley  
Amy Levine  
Mark Mascolo  
Linda Mazzanti  
Anita Melnick  
Laurie Nye  
Julie Parrino  
Audrey Ridsen  
Norma Roberts  
Scott & Cari Rosen  
Tami Rubin  
Jennifer Russell  
Angelina Sanchez  
Susie & Jim Sayer  
Tracey Tremblay  
Sheryl Udell  
Maria Vargas  
Peter Vogel  
Elaine Wrenn  
Kim & Bill Wynn  
Marissa K. Young



## special funds

These gifts memorialize, honor or thank cherished members of our Echo Horizon Community.

### THE ENID WIZIG SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Established by Enid and Bernard Wizig to provide financial assistance to our deaf and hard of hearing students and their families.

Anonymous  
Tami Rubin  
Enid & Bernard Wizig

### THE DORENE TAWA MEMORIAL FUND

Established by the Board of Trustees in memory of Mrs. Tawa. Donations made to this fund were used to create a memorial tribute garden at the school.

Anonymous  
Tami Rubin

### THE SAMANTHA NICOLE SACKS OUTDOOR EDUCATION FUND

Established by the Board of Trustees in memory of Samantha. The earnings from this fund provide opportunities for students to participate in the school's outdoor programs.

Tami Rubin  
Karen & Robert Sacks

### THE JUDITH KATES MEMORIAL FUND

Established by her family and the Board of Trustees in memory of Mrs. Kates. The earnings from this fund provide financial assistance to the children of Echo Center.

Anonymous  
Tami Rubin  
Enid Wizig



## library

"I read to each of the classes every week—from Pre-Kindergarten through Sixth Grade. Reading is really about listening... to be successful, we must cultivate our imagination. Although the words are on the page, the story is in their heads. This time together allows the children to organize their thoughts and fill in the rich detail between the lines."

- Claudette Brown, Librarian

Our library has over 15,000 fiction and non-fiction books, as well as periodicals. Unlike many school libraries, ours is not a "quiet zone." Our students use the space as a resource, finding texts for research projects and leisure reading. Interacting with staff and their peers, students discover characters and storylines that will draw them in and feed their individual tastes in literature. We also use primary texts and online resources to explore topics such as textual authority and plagiarism. Distinguishing good from bad is essential at every grade level.

## library fund

Gifts add new books to our library in honor of a friend, relative, teacher or other special person.



Debbie Briggs  
EHS Caring Community  
Anne Factor  
Mei Mei Freedman  
Jonathan Friedman  
Courtney Goodkin & Family  
Samantha Hardy

Kelly Killian  
Avon Leekley  
The Leichenger Family  
Nicole Lipman  
Anita Melnick  
Julie Parrino  
The Resnick Family

Tami Rubin  
Thalia Sallas-Brookwell  
The Seidel Family  
Evan Shamlian & Family  
Tracey Tremblay  
Sophie Ulin  
Kristen & Kaylie Yakura

# Echo Horizon School

3430



It is a tradition at Echo Horizon School for each graduating class to present the school with a gift. The Class of 2008 funded a beautiful and functional upgrade to our kitchen.



In closing, we would like to thank our Board of Trustees and our Parent Association for a job well-done in 2007-2008 and to introduce our Board of Trustees and Parent Association Officers for 2008-2009.

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2008-2009**

David Rosenblum, Chairman  
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Richard Hull, Vice President  
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Patti Rowey, Parent Association President  
Fred Fern, Emeritus  
Kent H. Landsberg, Founder (deceased)

#### **PARENT ASSOCIATION 2008-2009**

Patti Rowey, President  
Darcy Simon, Vice President  
Joan Williamson, Secretary  
Christopher Combs, Treasurer

#### **STAFF**

Paula R. Dashiell, Head of School  
Vicki C. Ishida, Director, Echo Center  
John Crabtree-Ireland, Director of Operations

All listings in this report reflect contributions received as of June 30, 2008. Thank you to the parents, alumni, grandparents, faculty and staff and friends who contributed money, time and effort to Echo Horizon School during the 2007-2008 school year. We have made every effort to list all contributions accurately. If we have made an error, please accept our apologies and notify us of the mistake.



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