



The Antioch School



Dear Antioch School Families, Friends, and Supporters -

Writing today to send a mid-Fall greeting and give thanks for your care of the Antioch School. November is here, the leaves have turned, gracing our walks and grounds. Sweatshirts and hats are once again in high demand, and spirits are good. Last week we enjoyed two wonderful Antioch School traditions - the YG Halloween Play (pictured above) and a magical journey through the Enchanted Forest - alive and well in no small part to the generous donations that secured our property last year! We hope all is well for you and yours.

As many of you know, uncertainty during the early years of the pandemic resulted in a 40% reduction in our enrollment. Since then, we've been working hard to re-grow our student population, and to rebuild our community. Toward that ongoing effort, our staff and Board have invested in strategic marketing efforts so more people know who we are and why we're such a great educational option for their children. We hired school parent and marketing specialist Audra King, whose company focuses on helping small businesses reach their desired audience, to redesign our website and expand our social media presence (among other initiatives). [If you haven't had a chance to look at the new website please do so here!](#) We've also re-worked our admissions calendar to better meet the needs of prospective families, and we're trying a new approach to draw in more of those families to visit our campus next week during our [first ever Admissions Week](#). If you know anyone interested in what the Antioch School offers now would be a perfect time to send them our way.

In addition to this marketing and recruitment work, we also recognize the importance of preserving and improving our exceptional and historic facility. The Antioch School was originally located in a one room schoolhouse on the current Mills Lawn campus before spending some time sharing space at Bryan High School. When we outgrew those locations, Antioch College (our parent organization at the time) hired architect Max Mercer to design a new building tailored especially for us and our unique approach to education. Max Mercer worked with and studied under Eero Saarinen, one of the biggest names in mid-century modern architecture, and it's believed Mr. Saarinen contributed to the design of our building as well (he also designed Birch Hall on Antioch College's campus). As you'll see from this Dayton Daily News article dated November 19, 1950, [we moved into this building almost exactly 75 years ago](#). We are so lucky to have such an intentionally designed facility - the teachers and the children take daily advantage of its natural light and direct access to the outdoors from each room. While the building is in remarkable shape for its age, we are currently addressing some facility issues, including fixing the chimney and repainting a few areas on the exterior of the building.



A very generous, anonymous donor has stepped forward to support much of this ongoing work. Simultaneously, they see the need to invest in the schools financial future and chose to increase their gift to include a significant contribution to the still budding [Antioch School Endowment Fund held at the Yellow Springs Community Foundation](#). We feel that the work we are doing to help children be their best selves is not only important, but essential, and we are so grateful to have partners who feel the same way.

Chris Westhoff

Development Coordinator