



## A Trip Down Memory Lane

September, 2017



**Twenty years ago**, in the fall of 1997, our High School opened in the Genesis Building on Packard Road, completing the vision of the founding teachers and parents to have a full PreK–12 program. These 22 pioneering freshman and sophomores, along with high school teachers Mary Emery, Geoff Robb and Agaf Dancy, set out on a journey to establish a high school community that

met the needs of adolescent development. This year we are celebrating the **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of our High School and we find ourselves at a significant milestone as we break ground on our Athletic & Performance Center and classroom additions on the HS Campus.

Here is a glimpse of the milestones we achieved to get here:

### A Pioneering Spirit

**Thirty-Seven years ago**, the Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor (RSSAA) opened its doors to grades one through four. It was **September 4, 1980** and the doors belonged to a small three-room building near Cobblestone Farm. Behind the school's opening were decades of work in the community by many people, including Dr. Ernst Katz (Prof. Emeritus of Physics, University of Michigan) and Mrs. Ruth Nilsson, pictured on the left. Current Grade 7 Class Teacher, Cynthia Wilson, is pictured on the right.





Continued growth and a new Kindergarten program required a move to York Township. A new first grade was added each succeeding year, with the **1984-85 school year** marking the first time that the Lower School had a full K-8 program. Since most students commuted from Ann Arbor and the building could not accommodate our expansion, we looked to move back to Ann Arbor. It was extremely fortunate that we were able to purchase our current **Newport Road campus in 1986**.



### **The Newport Years...A Place to Call Home**

After three moves in six years, we finally had a **place to call home** and room to grow. Steady and rapid growth in enrollment, as well as consistent improvements to the campus and building, continued to reflect the community's response to the value of our educational program. The growth of the school has been supported by an active parent body that has worked closely with the faculty on tasks such as publicity, fundraising, and recruitment.



## Onward and Upward

In **October 2001**, a six-acre property located on Pontiac Trail was purchased to be the permanent home for our growing High School. After extensive renovations to the building and site, the new High School campus opened for classes in the **fall of 2002**. The steady growth of our programs led to the need for expanded space on our Lower School campus. In the **fall of 2016** we were proud to open our new Middle School

building, an airy, light-filled space dedicated to our growing adolescents.

## We Won't Stop There...The Future is Here

We find our school continuing to evolve in order to meet the needs of the next generations. Offering a home for our whole community to gather, a space for our sports teams and supporting our amazing academic programs is a priority that we've committed to. Breaking ground for our Athletic & Performance center and classroom expansion in the **summer of 2017** solidifies that commitment.



We **continue to raise funds** to ensure construction can proceed uninterrupted and look forward to the moment when our whole community can gather as one. Look for opportunities throughout the year that will allow you to be a part of this expansion and help us continue to grow our remarkable 37-year tradition of Waldorf education in Ann Arbor.



**Ensure construction can proceed uninterrupted!**

Consider how you can play a role in leading the way for new generations of RSSAA students by contributing to this important campaign today.

Contact Katrina Klaphake, Development Director at [kklahake@steinerschool.org](mailto:kklahake@steinerschool.org) or 734-669-9394.

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