



KENNETH GORDON MAPLEWOOD SCHOOL

Best of Me Gala

Kenneth Gordon Maplewood School
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To Whom It May Concern:

Kenneth Gordon Maplewood School is a non-profit organization located in North Vancouver that supports K-12 students with complex learning disabilities. Our specialized program offers students small academic classes with personalized instruction, one-on-one Orton-Gillingham tutoring, a focus on hands-on learning, and social-emotional support. During these uncertain times, our community of students and their families are in need of support now more than ever.

On **May 1st, 2021**, KGMS will host our bi-annual gala. This school year's event takes on an even greater importance than ever before as we raise money that will go towards our Bursary Fund, which supports kids who are struggling with their education, and our families who have been impacted financially by the COVID-19 crisis. Statistics show that students with learning challenges, who do not receive the support that they need, have a higher risk of dropping out of school, adult suicide, and homelessness. We are determined to ensure that children with these challenges continue to have access to our program, so we can continue to unlock and remove obstacles to their learning, and help them grow personally and experience greater academic success.

This year's gala format will be a hybrid in person/virtual event with the opportunity for three levels of engagement. There is an intimate in-person dinner program, that is then live streamed to satellite, "Pod Parties", and also on a completely virtual level for anyone who wishes to participate from the comfort of their own home. Although this has been a very challenging year, we are excited to be able to bring together our community and partners together to celebrate our students' dynamic and unique characters, and remarkable achievements. This fundraising event helps to open the doors to learning for many deserving children.

The cost of operating a unique program like ours is high. We have the lowest student to teacher ratio in BC, and the tuition is a financial stretch for many of our families, but their children are no less deserving of a supportive, engaging learning environment that celebrates who they are, and how they best learn. Our goal is to raise \$200,000, to support bursaries and scholarships for students in need of financial support. Any contribution to our goal goes a long way in helping us support our community.

As a valued community and business leader, we would like to ask you to become an auction item donor. We invite you to donate in-kind items to our silent auction, which will go live online for the week before the event and electronically during the gala. The top 3 donations will be reserved for the live auction on the night of the event. Your company will be recognized on social media, at the gala and on the auction website. Your valued contribution will help ensure the KGMS experience is shared with the children whose families could not otherwise afford to provide them with such a specialized learning environment. **All auction donations must be received at KGMS by March 31, 2021.** For additional information please contact Kirsten Ueland at **604-805-7688** or email us at gala@kgms.ca.

For more information about the gala and KGMS, visit our website at www.kgms.ca/gala-2021, and be sure to follow us on social media:

Twitter & Instagram: @KGM_School

Facebook: Kenneth Gordon Maplewood School and KGMS Best of Me Gala 2021

On behalf of our Board, Staff, Students and Volunteer Gala Committee, we invite you to join us and help our students. They are bright. Their potential is extraordinary. They simply learn differently.

Sincerely,

William Schonbrun
Chair - Board of Directors

Jim Christopher
Head of School

Kirsten Ueland
2021 Gala Chair

