

Dear friends,

Do you know Marisela? For 17 years she's shared her heart, soul and contagious energy with Monteverde Friends School. Her laughter rings through the halls, staff meetings and parent gatherings. Her story is one that you should know.



Marisela joined MFS as a mother 17 years ago. **"When I saw the vision, I started spending more time at school than at home,"** she says, starting as a volunteer, assistant, and now Primary Spanish teacher. **"When you're here, there's an energy, a liberation."**



"What keeps me here is Equality, the lack of hierarchy. I love that big and small children play together. We use first names, not "teacher" or "Boss". It's very human; it's beautiful, this part."

As a teacher, Marisela shares, **"It's what makes me happy. I leave my problems behind and feel 'realizado' (fulfilled). We help a few, and they make a big difference in the world. They carry this seed of peace, harmony and equality."**

Like over half our local families, Marisela deeply appreciates the financial aid that allowed her daughter to graduate from MFS in 2015, while her two younger children continue in 6th and 8th grades. **"MFS helped Annalisse to be human, to be in silence, and to resolve problems with more clarity. With peace in their hearts, they can learn to listen."**

Would you please consider donating (mfschool.org/donate) to allow teachers like Marisela to continue blessing students with their passion and creativity, and to allow parents like Marisela to be able to access this education for their children?

Gracias!

Ran Smith
(Clerk)

Sue Gabrielson
(Head)

Rick Juliusson
(Co-Director)

*PS - Would you consider joining the 25 donors who have made **5-year pledges**, adding to our stability and sustainability? Please check the "Pledge" box on the donation form, or make easy monthly payments online: mfschool.org/donate*



2016/17 REPORT CARD

Name: Monteverde Friends School

Age: 65 Years

Grade: "Pre-Kinder" to Grade 12

Address: Nestled in the clouds

Website: www.mfschool.org



Subject	Grade	Teacher's Comments
Grade 12 National Exam pass rate	100%	Once again, our students soared.
Environmental Science Advanced Placement	4.5/5	Every student in this new course scored at the top of North American standards.
Donor Retention	67%	Two out of every three donors from 2015/16 gave again in 2016/17 (compared to a US average of 41%)
Enrollment	100%	Full classes, healthy interaction & participation, and friends!
Teaching Experience	317 years	23 staff average 13 years of experience (& speak 14 languages!)
Financial Aid	A+	Over 50% of local students receive assistance, and new fund launched for teachers' families.
65 th Reunion	B+	Friends came from far and near to celebrate this milestone. It would have earned an A+ if every friend could travel this far to attend.



COMMENTS:

MFS once again comes in at top of the class. In addition to top academics, the school was very involved in clubs and extra-curricular activities (including tree climbing!), built a new teacher house, balanced the budget, & worked hard at deepening the culture of listening and mutual respect.

In the coming school year, MFS can advance even further through a new Integrated Arts Curriculum; ongoing involvement of parents, community and supporters; and a capital campaign to build a new Arts building, primary classrooms and bathrooms, and new space for English and Special Education work.