



MIANDO.



INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF
CRESON

2024-2025
Impact Report

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ABOUT THE COVER ART

The cover features Somos, a stunning mural created by artist-in-residence Armando Silva and housed in the Dragon's Den Café at the International School of Creson. More than a work of art, Somos is a visual anthem of our community, celebrating inclusivity, creativity, and the deep connections we forge across cultures.

Completed during a week-long residency in spring 2025, the mural was shaped by storytelling, student workshops, and design conversations that invited every voice into the process. At its heart is the word Somos, Spanish for "We are." As a palindrome, Somos reads the same forward and backward, symbolizing reciprocity and the idea that we see ourselves more clearly through others.

This year's Impact Report is themed around gratitude. Gratitude for the journeys that brought us here, the spaces we've created together, and the impact we continue to build. With Somos on the cover, we honor the legacy of Armando Silva's work embodying the vibrant spirit of our ISCreson community. Read more on pages 3-4.

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The Art of Being Us

Our community is a canvas of connection. And last spring, the vibrant spirit of our connection was brought to life through the creation and storytelling of Somos.

Tucked in the heart of campus, our community café, the Dragon's Den, transformed into a dynamic art studio where creation spilled beyond canvases and onto the very walls that hold our stories. Born from the generosity of our community, the Dragon's Den has become an important destination on campus. It's a space that brings people together, sparks conversation, and nourishes more than just the body. And it was the perfect place for Somos to come to life.

At the center of this creative revolution was our Artist-in-Residence, **Armando Silva**, affectionately known as ARTmando. Armando doesn't just paint murals. He paints meaning. He listens deeply, invites collaboration, and turns collective identity into visual poetry. Inspired by the Spanish word "Somos," meaning "We are,"



Armando embarked on a mural project that became a living, breathing reflection of our school's spirit, culture, and gratitude.

But this wasn't a solo endeavor. Armando invited students and staff into the creative process from day one. He shared three bold mural concepts, each bursting with color, symbolism, and echoes of ISCreson's heart. In a moment of communal creativity, our entire community, from our youngest learners to seasoned faculty, cast votes, offered feedback, and sparked ideas that shaped the final design.

The mural's creation was a journey of shared expression. Students visited the Dragon's Den not just to observe, but to engage. They sketched alongside

Somos, is like a palindrome, reading the same forward and backward. It's a reminder that we exist through one another, in a constant rhythm of giving and receiving.

—Armando

Armando, asked questions, and even added their own creative touches. With every brushstroke, the mural came to life, layer by layer, story by story.

One day during his residency, students noticed a curious phrase written across the mural's grid: "Once upon a time, a long long long long... time ago." When they asked Armando about it, he turned the question back to them, inviting their interpretations. The mural features two children, twins, holding a globe. Armando encouraged students to "let the universal stem from the specific," sparking conversations about identity, belonging, and the shared stories that connect us.

"Somos," Armando explained, is like a palindrome, reading the same forward and backward. It's a

THE ART OF BEING US

reminder that we exist through one another, in a constant rhythm of giving and receiving. He likened it to a swing: back and forth, reciprocity in motion. Through this metaphor, students grasped the deeper meaning of gratitude—not just as a feeling, but as a practice of mutual recognition and care.

As both poet and painter, Armando also wrote a “Somos” poem to accompany the mural. Ingeniously designed, the poem offers two reading experiences: one through the full text, and another through words highlighted in red, revealing a second layer of meaning. It’s a literary mirror to the mural’s visual depth.

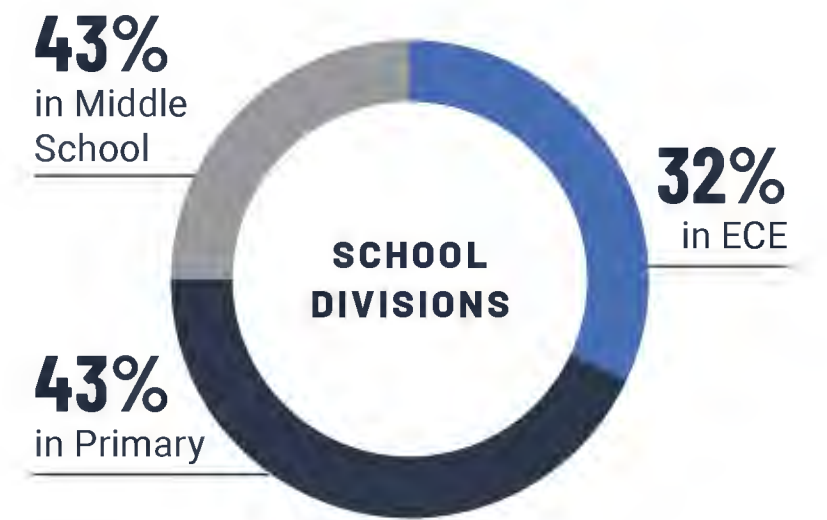
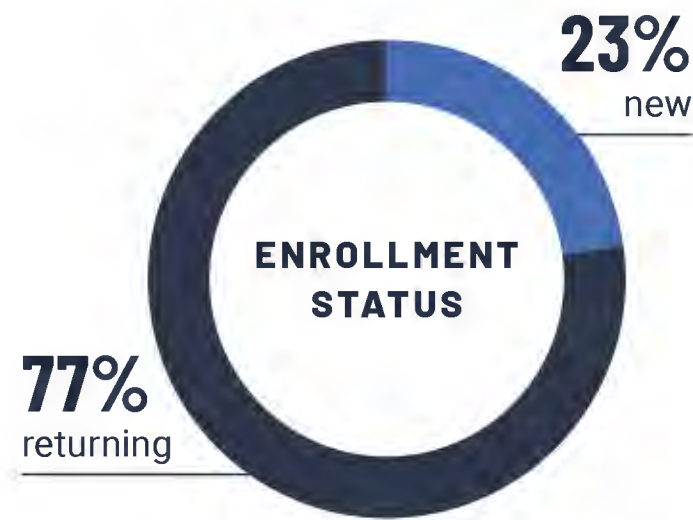
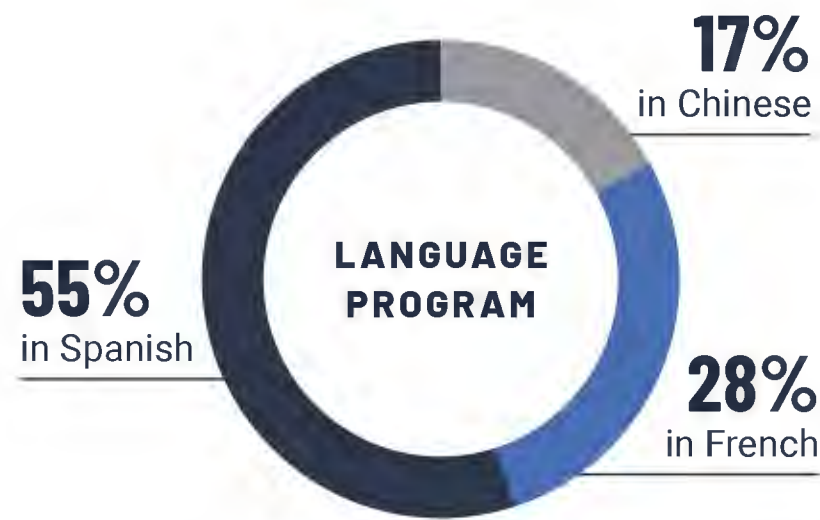
On April 25, the mural was unveiled in a joyful celebration of Armando’s residency. Today, when our students visit the Dragon’s Den, they don’t just see art—they see themselves. They see their stories, their cultures, their voices reflected back at them. “Somos” is more than a mural. It’s a monument to gratitude for the journeys that brought us here, the spaces we’re creating, and the impact we continue to build together.

See Somos come to life!



Admissions by the Numbers

665 Total Students



48%

of students are exposed to another language at home

31%

of students identify with a race other than Caucasian

99

students that have at least one citizenship beyond the US

33

countries with citizenship represented among students

SOMOS AGRADECIDOS

A Year of Growth, Gratitude, and Collective Impact

In every corner of our community, the spirit of Somos “we are” echoes with purpose and pride. This year’s Impact Report brings that spirit to life, capturing the essence of who we are and what we’ve accomplished together. At the heart of it all is a simple but powerful truth: Somos agradecidos. We are grateful.

Gratitude is more than a feeling. It’s a force that moves us. It’s the foundation of our collective identity and the thread that weaves through every story in this report. From transformative programs to bold new beginnings, our community has shown what’s possible when we lead with appreciation, generosity, and shared purpose.

Within these pages, we highlight some of the year’s most transformative milestones at the International School of Creson, moments we are deeply grateful for, including the launch of the **Shari K. Most Institute for Student Success**. The Most Institute stands as a bold affirmation of our dedication to every learner. This groundbreaking initiative will offer targeted **support in executive functioning, English literacy, EBLI (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction), and gifted & talented programming**. It’s a powerful step forward in ensuring that all students have the tools, resources, and guidance they need to thrive.

You’ll also find the story of **Elevate ISCreson, the movement and capital campaign behind our PreK-12 expansion**, an achievement that marks a new era for ISCreson. With Elevate comes a promise. A promise to raise the bar for academic excellence, social-emotional development, and global citizenship. With this expansion into High School, we are creating a space where students can continue to grow into confident, compassionate leaders prepared to make a meaningful impact in the world.

As we look ahead, we carry with us the lessons of this year: that gratitude is not passive. It’s active. It’s the spark that ignites change, the glue that binds us, and the compass that keeps us grounded in our mission.

Somos agradecidos. For the journeys that brought us here. For the spaces we are creating. And for the impact we continue to build. Together.

*None of this would be possible without the leadership, generosity, and dedication of our community. **Every achievement in this report is rooted in the belief that we are stronger together.***

A COMMUNITY ON THE MOVE

*We are leaders.
We are volunteers.
We are organizers.*

A tribute to Bob Carig and Kurt Pletcher

Somos means “We are.” We are leaders. We are volunteers. We are organizers. We are a community that shows up with intention, with heart, and with a shared commitment to shaping a better future.

As we reflect on the mural that now lives in the Dragon’s Den, we are also inspired by the people who bring our mission to life. Leadership is not just a role at ISCreson; it’s a practice of gratitude, a culture of service, and a legacy of impact.

This year, we honor two extraordinary leaders whose service has shaped our school in profound ways: Kurt Pletcher, Board Chair, and Bob Carig, Head of School. Both conclude their terms this year, leaving behind a legacy of vision, integrity, and unwavering dedication to our students.



Kurt’s steady leadership on the Board of Directors helped guide ISCreson through strategic growth, governance excellence, and bold transitions. His commitment to our mission and his belief in the power of community have helped position ISCreson for a vibrant future.



Bob’s tenure as Head of School has been defined by student-centered leadership. From navigating the COVID-19 pandemic with compassion and clarity, to launching the RISE capital campaign and opening the Mary Louise Evans building, Bob has led with purpose and humility. His signature sign-off, Sit close to your kids, became a beloved mantra and philosophy that has shaped our culture and reminded us what matters most.

In his final year, he also encouraged the launch of our inaugural ISCreson Giving Day, bringing our community together to celebrate the collective power of giving and to further grow and cultivate our culture of philanthropy. This new tradition brings essential annual funds earlier in the year and continues to highlight the impact of our annual Community Giving funds, strengthening the programs, teachers, and experiences that make ISCreson extraordinary.

Thank You to Our Community Volunteers

We also extend heartfelt thanks to our **Board of Directors**, our **Dragon Parent Association (DPA)**, and the many **donors and volunteers** who make our work possible. Your leadership, whether through event planning, fundraising, or simply showing up, fuels our mission and strengthens our community.

In the spirit of Somos, we celebrate the collective impact of every person who contributes to ISCreson. Together, we are building something extraordinary. Together, we are Somos.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kurt Pletcher
Ari Blum
Misty Meade
Carrie Wernecke
Aaron Dalnoot
Belissa Alvarez
Beth Capra
Dave Goldstein
Hirshini von Kalm
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Kimberly Wyatt
Belissa Alvarez
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Erica Garcia
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Swenson (co-chairs)
Kim & Whitt Wyatt (co-chairs)
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Chelsey Bova
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Anu Chaturvedi

Tania Cohen
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Jessica Diaz
Josh Dudenhoefer
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Anastasia Fett
Emily Freeman
Lauren Gates
Lindsay Goldstein
Mercè Guixà-Casellas
Ana Jabonero Diaz
Kourtney Lagunes
Christine Lu
Whitney McClendon
Amanda Miller
Jonathan Nemes
Natalie Noon
Anna Prisse
Stephanie Reddy
Andrea Rettig
Edie Saccomandi
Cristina Santillan
Joe Simonetti
W. Celeste Stragand
Jacqui Tate
Devin Tomiak
Amanda Traylor
Melissa Wagasky

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Jessica Zhou

Misty Meade
John Miquel
Durban Ripley
Andrew Rodgers
Charlotte Serveille
Scott Sterling
Theresa Vogel
Melissa Wagasky
Claire Warnes
Jim Wooll

Michelle St Martin
Michele Verrier
Luz Estella
(Grandparent)
Luciana Fee
Rachel Reem
Niah Hyatt
Betsy Duffy
Isabel Lansberry
Christine Lu

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Fatima Assougdam
Kelly Atkins
Mike Baum
Mindy Boone
Rob Bova
Kate Brenton
Lauren Deaton
Cynthia Diaz
Iana Dontcheva
Sarah Duffus
Trisha Espinoza
Anu Feters
Erica Garcia
Lindsay Goldstein
Josh & Lisa Higgins
Joanna Hootnick
Marta Hurtado
Karolina Kozinski
Rose Cruz
Sarah and Todd Leopold

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Lizz Carlson
Anu Chatuverdi
Gil Harrison
Sherri Miller
Bridget Mitchell
Ellen Sarcone

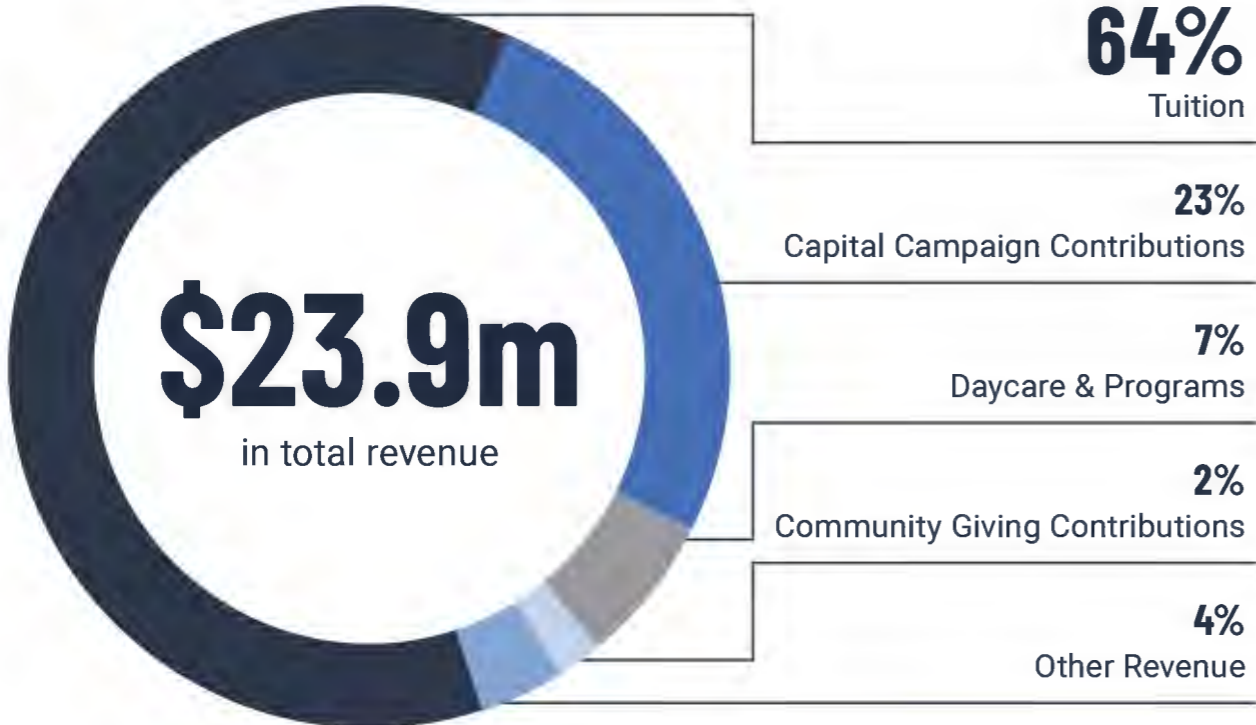
LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

Rachelle Bodnar
Amanda Chai



Our Financial Health

REVENUE



Revenue Category	Amount (\$)
Tuition, net of Discounts and Financial Assistance	15,387,257
Capital Campaign Contributions	5,404,057
Daycare, After School Programs, and Summer Programs	1,559,312
Community Giving Contributions	561,006
Other Revenue	1,023,772
Total Revenue	23,935,404

EXPENSES



Expense Category	Amount (\$)
Educational	15,502,343
General & Administrative	4,456,694
Fundraising	350,769
Total Expenses*	20,309,806

*Total expenses include \$1.5M of non-cash depreciation expense.

A LEGACY OF SUPPORT

The Heart Behind the Shari K. Most Institute for Student Success

Like many families, **Shelby and Brock Berry** faced uncertainty as they navigated their child's learning differences. But they weren't alone. They found a guiding light in **Shari Most**, a dedicated student support specialist whose compassion, expertise, and tireless advocacy transformed their experience. Shari didn't just help their child succeed, she empowered the entire family with tools, hope, and a renewed sense of possibility.

Inspired by this life-changing support, the Berrys envisioned a future where every ISCreson family could access the same resources and care. A generous seed gift laid the foundation for the Most Institute for Student Success, ensuring that Shari's legacy would live on.

Launching in January 2025, the Most Institute for Student Success has expanded our Student Support services in three vital areas:

- 01 Executive Functioning** Equipping students with essential skills like organization, time management, and self-regulation to unlock academic success.
- 02 Gifted & Talented Support** Providing advanced learners with the challenges and enrichment they need to flourish.
- 03 English Literacy** Implementing EBLI (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) to support all learners, especially those with dyslexia, in building strong reading foundations.

With visionary seed funding and leadership, ISCreson parents Misty and Chad Meade and Kaelyn Abrell also stepped forward to make sure this program succeeds for years to come by offering a generous match, doubling the impact in building a sustainable future for student success.

Combined with the generosity of our community and a shared belief that every student should thrive, the Most Institute continues to reflect our collective commitment to empowering every ISCreson student to reach their full potential. Together, we are building a future where every learner has the tools, guidance, and confidence to succeed.

ISCRESON HIGH SCHOOL

A Dream Realized, A Future Unfolding

We saw a unique opportunity to offer the IB Diploma in multiple languages, something few schools can provide. Our vision is to build a collaborative, student-centered community where every learner is empowered to thrive and become the best version of themselves.

KATIE WILLIAMS

High School Director

In December 2024, a dream nearly 50 years in the making came to life. With the announcement that ISCreson was under contract to purchase the nearby Bishop Machebeuf High School property, the vision of a complete PreK–Grade 12 experience took an exciting step forward.

As Head of School **Bob Carig** shared, “While we considered several properties, the Bishop Machebeuf High School property is a perfect fit for us. We are already neighbors in Lowry, located just one-half mile from one another. The property is a great academic space, truly plug and play for us, from the safety-equipped science labs to the outstanding athletic facilities. We are grateful to step in as the next stewards of the Bishop Machebeuf property.”

Thanks to the generosity of **Elevate ISCreson** supporters, those generous donors to the philanthropy behind our school’s expansion, ISCreson High School is no longer just a dream. It’s a reality.

Beginning in Fall 2025, we will welcome our founding class of Grade 9 students, marking the start of a new chapter in our journey as an International Baccalaureate World School.

ISCreson will expand one grade level at a time, continuing the Middle Years Programme (MYP) through Grade 10 and, upon authorization, introducing the prestigious IB Diploma Programme and the Bilingual Diploma option in Grades 11 and 12. True to our mission, ISCreson High School will be inclusive of all language abilities, offering a rigorous, globally minded education that prepares students to lead with purpose.

Your support makes this possible. As we welcome our founding ninth graders and build toward a full PreK to Grade 12 experience, we invite you to continue investing in the leaders of tomorrow. Together, we are shaping a future where every student is empowered to thrive, contribute, and make a lasting impact.

“I’m excited to help design classroom spaces and plan school activities and to make the school of my dreams.”

LYLA

Founding Class Member

“It feels special to be part of something new from the very beginning. We’ll get to start clubs and traditions that could last for years.”

EMMA

Founding Class Member

“The IB allows for so much student agency. I get to invest in the education that will set me up for success.”

TYLER

Founding Class Member



GOOD VIBES & GREAT GIVING

The Global Gala Recap

Our Passport to Paradise: Global Gala Getaway was more than just a party—it was a powerful reminder of what makes ISCreson so special. With record participation from new families, a full house of dedicated supporters, and an all-star volunteer committee behind the scenes, the night was bursting with connection, joy, and generosity.

Together, we raised an incredible \$210,000 to support our students and benefit our whole community—funds that will expand our financial assistance program and complete necessary gym renovations. And thanks to our generous sponsors, nearly every dollar raised will go straight to impact.

Only at ISCreson can you find auction experiences like these: speedboats and lake days, private chef dinners, experience-filled getaways, wine tastings, croquet, cocktails, and more! Lots more—all dreamed up and delivered by our incredible community.

From paddle raises to packed dance floors, you brought the energy, the heart, and the heat, turning a spring snowstorm into a true tropical escape. Thank you to every volunteer, donor, and guest who made the night unforgettable.



\$210k
raised



SPOTLIGHT

Our Outstanding **Faculty Philanthropist**

Meet Lizbeth Lucero, *2025 Outstanding Faculty Philanthropist award winner*

Presented at Global Gala 2025, we honored a colleague who is not only beloved throughout the entire school community, but also a loyal donor and a true embodiment of ISCreson's mission-driven spirit.

Lizbeth Lucero's journey at ISCreson began as a teaching assistant in Early Childhood Education. But Lizbeth's bilingual brilliance is more than linguistic, it is a mindset. Lizbeth has embraced a growth mindset that allows her to step confidently into diverse roles across our community and throughout her career. Her ability to adapt, lead, and elevate every space she enters makes her so incredibly deserving of this year's recognition.

Lizbeth coaches the volleyball team, lends her creative prowess to After School Programs, like Book and Cook, and was the driving force behind the Dragon Swag Store, taking it from a concept to a thriving retail space that advances our brand awareness and drives school spirit. Today, Lizbeth also lends her talents to our Finance team as the Associate Director of Accounting, ensuring the school's mission is supported in every way possible.

She is the embodiment of ISCreson school spirit and community giving. If you don't know her already, Lizbeth is someone you should get to know.



UNIFYING OUR STORIES

The ISCreson Identity Puzzle Project

“Somos” is a declaration of unity, a celebration of identity, and a reminder that our strength lies in connection. This year, that spirit came to life in a powerful and deeply personal way through the ISCreson Identity Puzzle Project.

Inspired by the work of artist Tim Kelly, Spanish Faculty member Ingrid Alvarez and Director of Community Engagement Janet Yenter launched the Identity Puzzle Project as a Belonging Committee initiative during our January Professional Learning Community (PLC) gathering. Each faculty and staff member received a blank puzzle piece and a simple but profound prompt: “What makes you, YOU?”

There were no rules, only an invitation to reflect and create. Participants used color, texture, symbols, and words to express their culture, passions, talents, and life experiences. In February, the pieces came together in a joyful unveiling and completed jigsaw puzzle, where colleagues shared their stories, laughed, listened, and deepened their connections.

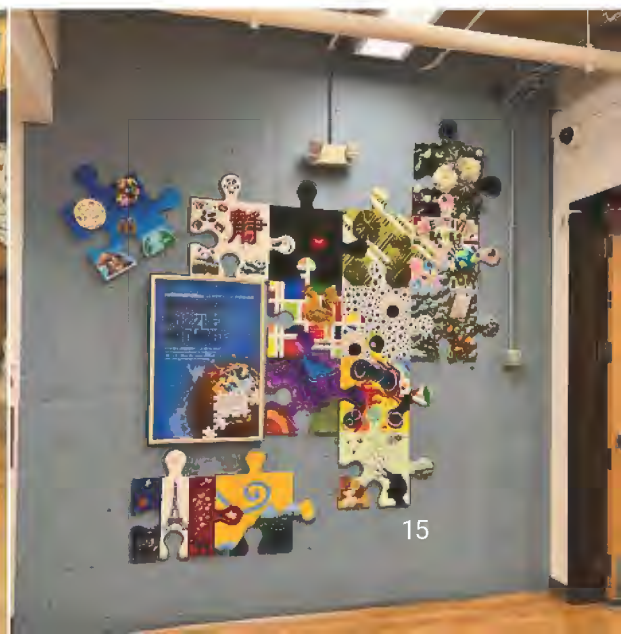
The result? A stunning, collaborative art installation

now displayed in the Dragon’s Den, a vibrant mosaic of identity that captures the essence of our international community. Each piece is unique. Each story matters. And together, they form a powerful visual reminder of who we are.

The ISCreson Identity Puzzle Project reminds us that our community is not just a collection of individuals, It is a living, breathing puzzle brought together from the pieces of our shared humanity.

“There are no extra pieces in the universe. Everyone is here because he/she/they has a place to fill.”

—Deepak Chopra



Empowering Educators, Elevating Learning

At the International School of Creson, we believe that when educators feel supported, inspired, and empowered, the entire school community thrives.

Rooted in the research of Harvard Business School Professor Amy C. Edmondson, our approach to psychological safety fosters an environment where teachers can collaborate, innovate, and grow together.

Under the leadership of Director of Faculty Support, Jenny Nealon, initiatives like Teachers Teaching Teachers Workshops and Learning Walks strengthen professional trust, spark inspiration, and create meaningful opportunities for educators to learn from one another. By leveraging the immense talent within our own faculty, we're building a dynamic and inclusive learning community that benefits every student—from Early Childhood to High School.

Your support makes this possible. Thank you for championing an educational culture where teachers and students alike can reach their full potential.



FROM GALA DREAM TO PLAYGROUND

A Community-Built Space For Our Youngest Learners

Every voice was heard, and all ideas were valued—they were fantastic!

MARIA RODRIGUEZ

ECE Principal and Director of the Spanish Program and Accreditation

Watch and learn about the new playground!

The playground is a living example of the International Baccalaureate (IB) in action. Every ECE student had the opportunity to exercise their agency (voice and choice) throughout the design process, making the project a true reflection of our values and our community.

The journey began when generous donations at the 2023 Global Gala provided the funding to bring this dream to life. With resources in hand, we turned to the experts, our students and teachers. Ideas flowed freely, filling walls with sketches, stories, and even clay models crafted by our K3 students to represent the wishes of their younger peers.

Guided by our IB and Reggio Emilia-inspired learning philosophies, the final design embraced the concept of a natural playground. Unlike traditional plastic structures, natural playgrounds

promote accessibility, imaginative play, social connection, and motor skill development all while blending beautifully into the environment.

To bring this vision to life, we partnered with John Urbana, a longtime creative collaborator, who helped transform our collective dream into reality. The materials and equipment used in our new space are sourced from the same provider as the Creson Museum of Nature & Science's Outdoor Nature Play Experience in City Park so if you've visited DMNS recently, you'll recognize the shared spirit of exploration and wonder.

This playground is a symbol of what happens when a community comes together to listen, dream, and build. Thank you for making it possible. We can't wait to see our youngest learners continue to grow, imagine, and thrive in this beautiful space for years to come.



Thank You to Our Donors

The following list of individuals and organizations represents the donors who have made gifts from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

* Signifies Elevate/Most Donor

PARENTS

Kaelyn Abrell*

Bahareh Dehdashtian and
Shahab Akhavan

Brian Albert

Polina and Andre Albright

Allyson and Michael Alexander

Marisa and Jordan Alger

Nichole and Andrew Altorfer

Belissa Alvarez and Javier Soto*

Saray and Erik Amundson

Dulce and Giovanny Anayasaenz*

Nicole and Eli Anderson*

Jacqueline Beltran and
Benjamin Atchie

Kelly and Eric Atkins

Katrina and Demetrius Austin

Karen McInnes and
Andrew Avalos

Aaron Bachik

Nora and Kevin Baldwin

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Andrea and Daniel Barocas

Callyn and Mike Baum

Kali Bechtold and

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Heather and John Beckett

Lindsey and Doug Begland

Alison Quinn-Beitscher
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Jill and Nathan Bergmann

Shelby and Brock Berry*

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Kathryn and David Birnbaum*

Natasha and Keith Blanco

Melanie and Ari Blum*

Rachelle and Chris Bodnar

Mindy and Shane Boone

Amanda and Joseph Bouche

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Ous Badwan*

Jessica and Manuel Diaz

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Martha Hurtado and John Dodds

Erin and Christopher Dougher

Brenda and Chad Dougherty

Angela Downes and Samy Youssef

Sarah Duffus and Luke De Hoyos

Betsy and Kyle Duffy

Steffani and Eric Edwards

Irena Radovanovic and
Mehdi El Ouali

Ashley Mains Espinosa
and Adam Espinosa

Deanna Seitz and Ian Farrell

Rachel Plachko and Jon Febrey

Luciana and Matthew Fee

Kelty and Patrick Fehling*

Sarah McCarthy and
Andrew Feinstein

Anastasia and Christopher Fett

Anuradha Chaturvedi and
Brandon Fetters

Sadaf and Jason File*

Katherine and Jason Fletchall



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Jarine and William Jenkins
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A Message from Community Giving

*Somos agradecidos.
We are so grateful.*

Gratitude ignites inspiration. And inspiration drives change. Moved by gratitude for their child's tutor, for example, parents then transformed the lives of every student at the International School of Creson with a visionary gift that founded the Most Institute. What began with one family became two, then three, as others joined in to invest in our teachers and students.

I reflect on the lists of leaders and volunteers on pages 8-9, and the quiet power of our community and the many ways each person contributes their time, energy, and resources. It was that collective spirit that brought our inaugural ISCreson Giving Day to life, celebrating

our teachers, programs, and the culture of philanthropy that sustains ISCreson. Together, we showcased how every gift to our annual Community Giving funds fuels learning, strengthens our school, and bridges the gap between tuition and the full cost of an ISCreson education.

For me, throughout my career, it has always been gratitude. A deep reverence for what stirs us to act. For what compels us to give for the benefit of all.

It's your stories that move me. Each one unique. Each one inspired.

Our advancement team is committed to listening, learning, and capturing those stories and experiences at ISCreson. We're here to inform and inspire our

community to engage more deeply in advancing our mission. Let's connect. Let's talk about what matters most to you and your family at ISCreson and why.

You matter. Your participation matters. Your support of Community Giving matters.

When you give to ISCreson, you inspire others to do the same. And if you haven't yet, please join us. Your impact can be extraordinary.

With gratitude,

NATAGHA TIFF

Assistant Director, Community Giving



**INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF
CRESON**

*It's always the right time to invest
in our learners and community.*

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