This edition of Highlights reviews not only 2016–2017, Principal Kate Turley’s final year at C&C, but also touches on the history of sustained growth at C&C under Kate’s leadership.

In the 18 years Kate was principal, more than 1,300 students and 408 faculty and staff passed through C&C’s halls. Over $25,000,00 was raised, and our facilities were secured and expanded to seven brownstones and a multi-purpose space at 201, our lease for which was successfully extended to 2026.

Amongst the many celebrations for Kate—capped off by a fantastic party at the Altman Building complete with special guests, a secret video, and a Proclamation that June 8, 2017, would be Kate Turley Appreciation Day in New York State’s 27th Senate District—we honored Kate’s legacy by creating the Principals’ Fund for Professional Development.

Kate was also made an honorary alumna at this year’s Alumni Reunion—a first!—and was awarded the renowned Palmes Académiques by the French government for her contributions to French education and culture.

There were plentiful professional development activities that the Principals’ Fund will continue to support.

The summer of 2017 marked the 18th year that Summer Grants were offered to teachers, with a grand total of 158 summer grants awarded to 150 teachers over that time.

Faculty and staff attended a multitude of workshops throughout the year, and gave workshops on topics ranging from Block Building to Teaching with Technology.

Trips continue to be an important part of the C&C program, as children make sense of the world around them. This year’s edition of Currents, “Trips at C&C: Journeys in Search of Firsthand Knowledge,” clearly outlines the role Trips play at C&C.

As described in our Spring Newsletter, C&C’s program has influenced educators around the globe.

Director of Lower School Jane Clarke traveled to Moscow, Russia, along with C&C parent and educator Anna Kegeles, at the request of a new progressive school. Over several days at Horoshkola School, Jane shared elements of our program, helping the school to understand the power of C&C’s basic materials and approach to children’s learning.

Visitors from a wide range of institutions, and from as far away as the Philippines, were welcomed to C&C.

14 student teachers—the majority from The Bank Street College of Education—spent extended periods of time at C&C throughout the year.

The power of our program was also evident in a wealth of visually-rich media.

The story of our historic Outdoor Blocks came to life in the first in a series of 5-minute program videos featuring faculty and staff—and our students at work. Our beautiful Annual Fund mailer also used the Outdoor Blocks as its theme.

In honor of Kate’s retirement, three videos featuring student interviews were produced.

City and Country Portfolio #1—Rising Up Together: The Social And Singular Voice at Six Years Old won a Silver Award as part of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District II Accolades!

Our graduates continue to flourish after leaving C&C. For both high school and college, our C&C graduates are always accepted to, and ultimately choose, a broad array of highly-regarded institutions. Our Class of 2013 will be attending the
following colleges: Amherst College, Bard, Colorado College, Dartmouth, Easton University, Lehigh, Maryland Institute College of Art, New York University, Occidental College, Pitzer College, Purdue, University of Southern California, and Wesleyan.

Our After-school program of Add-Ins and Sports extended the C&C experience through the day.

Of the 22 Fall, 18 Winter, and 27 Spring Add-Ins offered, some of the most popular included Spanish Reading Club, Capoeira, cooking courses, and student-run clubs. While Debate has been a staple at C&C since 2013, this year we joined the New York Debate League. A group of our most seasoned debaters successfully competed in five tournaments!

Our Sports teams continue to perform well within their division, with a notable amount of participation. 83% of Xs–XIIIs played on one team/club, and 26% played a sport every season. Ultimate Club (frisbee) was offered for the first time, and the 3rd Annual C&C Fun Run drew a large crowd.

C&C’s Social Justice integration work—made even more salient because of the divisive 2016 Presidential Election—continued for a third year; a framework was created to sustain the work going forward. Director of Student Services and Diversity Coordinator Millie Cartagena, Middle and Upper School Social Studies Consultant Joan Brodsky Schur, and Associate Director of Middle and Upper School Gee Roldan lead two presentations at conferences (and presentations for the Board and PA) that describe C&C’s collaborative process and approach when identifying and developing age-appropriate approaches to social justice, in addition to six staff workshops that centered around this important work throughout the school year.

Our community came together in a number of other notable ways this year

A new block display was created that covers the entire front desk. Last spring, small groups of XIIIs created individual mosaics. Our school architects and former parents Jennifer Sage (also an alum and Trustee!) and Peter Coombe suggested creating a background for the mosaics that matched the structure seen in our VIIIs’ Brooklyn Bridge towers. Steve Antonakos, our C&C regular carpenter, executed the designs, incorporating them into a beautiful frieze.

We enjoyed C&C’s third annual Spanish Reading Marathon, Leeme un Cuento, organized by Spanish Teacher and C&C Parent Marianela Fernandez. 28 volunteers, including XIIIs, IXs, maintenance crew members, administrators, teachers, parents, and family members read to IVs through VIIIs!

A Special Friends Visiting Morning was held in November. Vs, VIIs, and VIIIs could each invite one adult relative or special friend to visit C&C and their Classroom.

The School is greener thanks to the work of our Sustainability Committee and student volunteers. XIs planted tulips, forget-me-nots, lavender, mint, and strawberries after studying C&C’s greenspaces in Science. IVs-VIIIs in Extended also pitched in to plant basil, parsley, broccoli, and tomatoes in Block Yard and on the Roof. VIIIs distributed compost bins—and compost bin bags—to as many spaces around the school as possible. And faculty and staff were provided with reusable plates and containers for lunch thanks to the Parents Association!

Community Outreach had a successful year as well. $1,024 was raised as part of “Truck-or-Treat” for City Harvest, a non-profit that helps our local neighbors in need at Daisy’s Food Pantry. Thanks to donations from the entire community, XIIIs prepped and delivered more that 200 Thanksgivings-in-a-Bag to Daisy’s. And, as just one part of a very busy Family Service Day, Upper School families filled all of the volunteer slots at the Church of the Village’s Community Meal—the first time our community assisted directly at the meal!

Our Community also came together for an historic task: the search for the next Principal of C&C. After an exhaustive process that involved students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni, and the Board, Scott Moran was chosen to be our next Principal.

As we, and Scott, head into the 2017–2018 school year, we do so with strength and stability—financially secure, with the proper facilities in place, and with a sense of excitement for the future ahead!