

The Icebox

The Monthly Newsletter of Montessori in Redlands

Issue Highlights

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- New parenting class to start in Jan. pg. 4
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'Tis the Season to Celebrate

by SARA GARCIA, PRIMARY TEACHER



This past Thanksgiving, many of the classrooms held feasts, a much anticipated annual ritual. Children proudly brought in ingredients to contribute to the feast and immersed themselves in peeling and chopping vegetables, rolling lunch meats, cutting cheese, stirring soup, and making party hats. The children were thrilled when asked to rearrange the classroom, moving tables to create one very, very long table so that everyone could sit together. Every child moved a chair, carried a table, or laid the table cloths. It all happened within minutes and was done quietly.

The children had been excited about this event for a week and were so delighted at the opportunity to celebrate Thanksgiving together, and to have ownership in the celebration process. It was gratifying to observe the children so concentrated on the activity. It was not a feast or party simply given to them by adults but something they had created—a celebration of life and sharing of thanks.

Before the meal was eaten, each child stood before their prepared place and spoke of the things that they were thankful for. Some spoke of earthworms and trees while others thought of their families, friends, and even teachers! One could not help but feel thankful and privileged to be a witness to this sharing of profound feelings and thoughts.

The children were infinitely pleased with the event as it answered their need for purposeful, meaningful activity. One child remarked, "I remember when we did this before!" The child was pleased and comforted by this repeated ritual just as they are when we sing the "good morning" song each day and when they are kissed goodnight at bedtime each night.

Children simply want to take part in our rituals and celebrations and to contribute in real ways. MIR's next celebration will be the Holiday Sing, held December 19 at University of Redlands Memorial Chapel. Our theme this year is, appropriately, "Celebration!". This is our chance as a school community to come together to honor the many holidays at this time of year. The children are hard at work preparing to sing, dance, and act in this wonderful yearly ritual. We look forward to seeing you there!

Wishing you a joyful and meaningful holiday experience.—Sara Garcia



December Birthdays

Children

Jacob Paugh	12/5
Nathaniel Ralston	12/7
Keerthana Toure	12/7
Trinity Villa	12/10
Lillian Norton-Brainerd	12/11
Maggie McGunigle	12/15
Dutch Rumary	12/16
Ella Eaton	12/17
Anthony Hage	12/17
Caroline Wagner	12/18
Daniel Dela Cruz	12/20
Hannah Brenchley	12/22
Emily Graves-DesLauriers	12/23
Shreshta Aiyar	12/24
Clair Breshears	12/27
Sahiba Khera	12/28
Kalu Obasi	12/28
Rachel Porter	12/28
Benjamin Walton	12/28
Reid Norton-Brainerd	12/29
Maia Richards-Dinger	12/31
Jonathan Montemaro	12/31

Staff

Lisa Oliver	12/5
Jill McDermott	12/10
Nikki Farooq	12/17
Kelly Read	12/20
Rosemarie Casale	12/21

Looking for Educational Gifts this Season?

The Scholastic Book Fair is a great place to shop and benefit your child's class at the same time. Browse and buy books and other educational items in the foyer of Jean and Maryhelen's class until Dec. 15. All classes receive free books from Scholastic as their part of the profit from the sales.



There's nothing like winter in California...

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND— PARENTING WORKSHOP

January 16, 2007–February 27, 2007

With the enthusiastic response to our Parent Education Night in November, PTM elected to sponsor a Positive Discipline parenting course to be taught by Penny Davis. The course consists of seven class meetings. The class begins on Tuesday, January 16, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM and will be held in the Yoga Room on the main campus. The cost for the 7-week course is \$80 per person or \$150 per couple. Sign-ups are in the office. Space is limited to 30 people.

To learn more about our speaker, visit www.posdis.org/speakers/PennyDavis.html. Any questions regarding the course should be directed to PTM Vice President Rena Rice at 909-798-1530.

PTM DONATES FOR PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

PTM has donated \$2,000 to MIR to be used for playground improvements such as updating old equipment and re-grading grassy areas. The teachers will decide collectively how best to spend the money. We (and the kids) look forward to the updates!

TEACHER LIAISON GETS VOTING POWER

In the November *Icebox*, we mentioned that the PTM Executive Committee had proposed a change to the PTM bylaws to allow the staff liaison (currently Jean Bonner-Drinkwine) a vote in PTM Executive Committee decisions. At the PTM meeting held on November 15, the PTM unanimously voted for this change. Specifically, we voted for the staff liaison to be designated as Faculty Representative with voting rights on the PTM. The matter must now go before the Board of Trustees for approval.

JOIN US FOR THE 17TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY CLASSIC!

The Bluebird Running Club will compete in the 5K/15K Run or Walk & Elves Trot for Children on Sunday, December 10, 2006. Join us for the largest holiday racing event in the Inland Empire. For more information, go to www.lopersclub.org. Don't forget to wear your Bluebird shirts!

SHOW YOUR BLUEBIRD PRIDE IN WINTER

The cold weather is here and we have just the Bluebird shirts for you. We have long sleeve shirts and sweatshirts for both kids and adults as well as zip-up hooded sweatshirts for women. Purchase your Bluebird shirts in the office. Orders will be filled by the next day.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

- Holiday Sing Program, December 19, 2006 at 7 PM

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Bluebirds Compete in the Mission Inn Run 2006

Congratulations to Toby and Josef Emge (Nikki's class) and Mitchell Walters (Sara's class) and his family for participating in the 29th Annual Mission Inn Run held November 12, 2006. All three students are members of the Bluebird Running Club.

The next big race is the 17th Annual Holiday Classic run in Loma Linda. Races include a 5K run/walk, 15K run/walk, and an Elves Trot for children. Learn more at www.lopersclub.org.

JOIN THE RUNNING CLUB

The running club meets every Friday morning outside the office at 7:30 AM and runs until 8:30 AM. Children ages 6 and up are welcome to join. See the office for more information.



(PTM Corner, continued from page 2)

- PTM Meeting, January 18, 2007 at 6 PM in the Yoga Room (*Parent Ed Night follows*)
- Parent Education Night, January 18, 2007 at 7 PM

Due to the holidays, there is no PTM meeting in December.

Get New Answers to Your Parenting Questions

POSITIVE DISCIPLINE PARENTING CLASS TO START IN JANUARY

We are very pleased to announce that Penny Davis will once again graciously facilitate a Positive Discipline parenting class at Montessori in Redlands. The class will be held Tuesday nights, January 16, 2007 through February 27, 2007 at 6:30 PM–8:30 PM in the Yoga Room.

Positive Discipline is a childrearing method that focuses on raising children to be responsible, respectful, and resourceful members of their community in a manner that is respectful of them as well as the adults raising them.

The class offers a supportive atmosphere for getting answers to your tough parenting questions. The class features case studies, role play, and group discussion. The cost is \$80 per person or \$150 per couple. Sign up in the office. Space is limited to 30 people.

Corrections to November Icebox

In our acknowledgements for the Parent Work Day, the family "Mitchell" was incorrectly named. They should have been noted as Walters—Mitchell Walters is a student in Sara's class.s

BOARD CORNER

by LEELA MADHAVARAU, PRESIDENT, MIR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

During November, the MIR Board of Trustees continued to focus almost exclusively on refining governance components in support of the bond issuance effort. The Board met on Monday, November 13 and Monday, November 27 to continue that work. We currently expect that the bond process will be completed by February 2007.

Given the detailed discussion necessary for all Board members to become conversant with the bond process, the Board will hold one additional meeting in December, as well as a special meeting at the beginning of January. The Board anticipates resuming its regular schedule of meetings, normally held on the fourth Monday of every month, on Monday, January 22, 2007.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or comments for the Board of Trustees:

Telephone: (909) 792-2406

E-mail: leela_madhavarau@redlands.edu

2006–2007 MIR Annual Fund: Looking Bead-iful!

MIR is almost half of the way toward the goal of 100% participation for the 2006-2007 Annual Fund! We sincerely appreciate and thank those parents, staff, and board members who have already turned in their pledges or donations.

As always, our goals are to increase the monies raised and, more importantly, achieve 100% participation by the MIR community. Your participation is so important that each year we offer the classroom participation program, giving \$200 for class materials to each class that achieves 100% parent participation.

Why is 100% participation so important? Is my single donation worth that much?

Yes! Community participation in the MIR Annual Fund is crucial to our efforts to seek outside funding sources through grantors. A high participation rate demonstrates confidence in the MIR mission and provides important leverage with foundations and lenders as they consider making their significant contributions.

Do I have to give in the amounts listed on the pledge card?

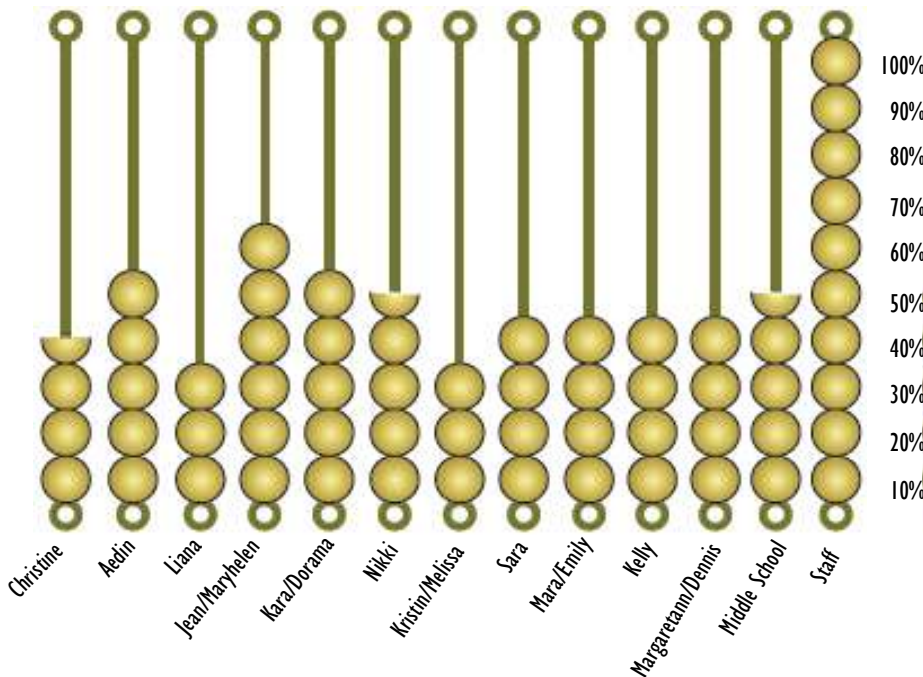
No—the amounts listed are only suggestions and reflect the most common amounts donated each year. **Any amount counts, even \$5 a month!**

What will my donation be used for?

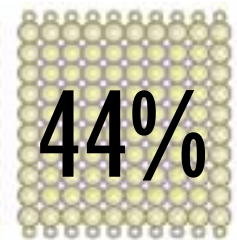
Annual Fund monies are immediately put to use for program enhancements, facility improvements, and staff professional development. As a non-profit institution, our budget is public information and is available to our community. Contact the MIR office to learn more.

Each class that achieves 100% family participation by December 31, 2006 will receive an additional \$200 for new class materials.

How do we stack up?



Total MIR community participation as of 11/29/06.



Congratulations to Jean and Maryhelen's class, whose participation jumped from 9% to 63% since our initial report!

Haven't had a chance to donate yet? You may offer your pledge or donation in the office, or ask your child's teacher to drop it off for you. Donations can be made in monthly installments—please mark "bill me" on your pledge card.

The Story of the Golden Beads

Imagine that you are a small child who has mastered the numbers 1-10, understanding that the symbols “1” “2” “3” etc., correspond with the quantity of one, two, three, and so on. You are now ready to move on to more complex mathematical work.

Finally, this is your opportunity to use the golden beads. They are so attractive, and you’ve asked your teacher if you could work with them, but you haven’t been ready yet. Now you are.

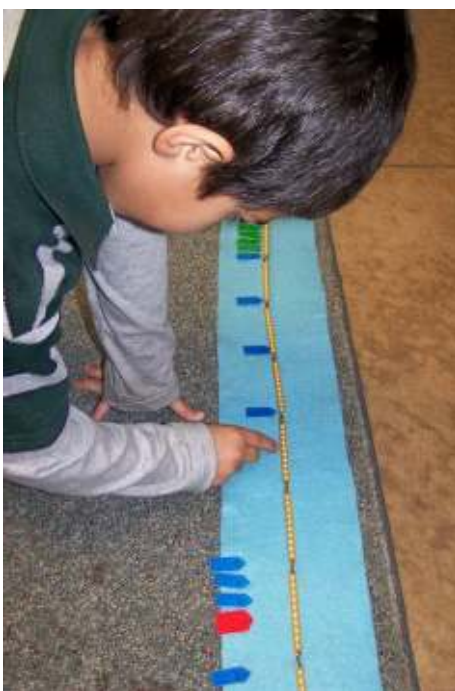
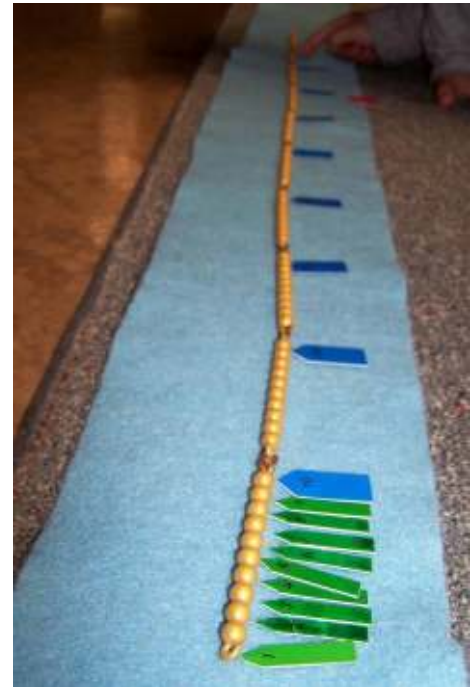
Maria Montessori developed materials that would turn abstract concepts into concrete forms that could be seen and felt, not just read about. In this case, the quantities of 10s and 100s are represented using Golden Beads and a chain of 100 beads. Children use these materials to learn the concept of skip counting (counting by 10), and they are introduced to the concept of multiplication. By arranging the chain into a square, they are also introduced to the notion that multiplying a number by itself will produce a square. In other words, 10×10 (or 10^2) = 100.

You take out the bead chain and carefully arrange it in its full length on your mat. The chain is made up of 100 gold-colored beads. The beads are soft and you finger each one, getting to know how the material feels and how it makes you feel, before you are ready to start your work.

What a wonderful introduction to the decimal system!

The 100 bead chain is one of the most fundamental Montessori mathematical materials because of its place in helping children master the decimal system. This importance is why we chose it as the symbol for this year’s Annual Fund, with our goal of 100% participation and celebration of 100 years of Montessori education.

To learn more about Montessori philosophy, materials, and methods of teaching, be sure to attend the Parent Education Nights offered during the year. The next one is scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2007.



Students in Jean and Maryhelen’s Primary class explore the 100 Chain and Golden Beads mathematical material. The materials introduce children to the decimal system and the concepts of skip counting (counting by 10) and of 10s, 100s, 1000s, etc.

Celebrating A Century of Success: MIR Alumni Tell Their Stories

As part of our celebration of a century of Montessori education, we are publishing the stories of MIR alumni who have generously shared their memories of their years at the school and their thoughts on the value of a Montessori education.

CAITLYN YATES

“Thinking back on my many years at Montessori in Redlands brings only fond memories. I knew no other school until I entered a class of 700 at the age of 14 when leaving for high school. Montessori in Redlands had been so nurturing and kind, yet it still pushed me and gave me strength and pride.

“Not only did Montessori in Redlands enrich my mind, it enriched my spirit and soul. It molded my personhood. When leaving a class of 35 and entering one of 700, instead of cowering in a corner, I stood tall and made my way through, pleased with the person I had become because of the support of the Montessori school I had grown up in. In the grapefruit grove, I was taught to think for myself, speak for myself, and have faith in myself, and I have continued to do so ever since the day I left.

“Not only did Montessori in Redlands enrich my mind, it enriched my spirit and soul.”

“Today, I am in my last year of college at the University of San Diego. I am an English major with an art history minor. I am involved in many campus organizations and have held many leadership positions. I am involved in the community of San Diego through philanthropy and am interning with a company that previews independent films. I’m doing okay but want to do more, want to do better. Montessori is in my core and always will be. I am so pleased to be one of the many celebrating 100 years of Montessori education and hope that each one of you feel that Montessori in Redlands has given you as much as it has given me.”

—Caitlin Yates



DR. KELLY KILLEEN

Dr. Kelly Killeen is a chief surgical resident at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. She attended Montessori in Redlands from grades one through six. After junior high and high school at Loma Linda Academy, she went on to receive her Bachelor’s degree in biopsychology from University of California, San Diego. She completed medical school at Loma Linda University School of Medicine.

“I think the most important lesson that kids learn at Montessori in Redlands is the love of learning itself. Instead of external rewards like grades, we get the pleasure of filling our cup with fascinating things and experiences. We are allowed to search in any direction our minds take us and encouraged to grasp things outside traditional lessons. Children from MIR

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“In a field like medicine, your ability to be a great physician requires that you continue to learn for your entire career. Also, the future of my specialty relies on constant innovation and searching outside traditional ideas to save lives. That is the great gift I received from my education at Montessori in Redlands.

“Who could forget cutting carrots, my first report on tigers, or the crazy science experiment involving

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Holiday Opportunities for You Sponsors Travel for 5th Graders

Mara's 5th grade students are diligently trying to raise money for their 6th grade trip to Washington D.C. and are offering these holiday opportunities:

Buy our opportunity tickets and you could win a lovely gingerbread house created by D'Anne Breshers. Tickets cost \$1 or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be held **this Friday**, December 1.

The students have also teamed up with Barnes & Noble for a book fair on December 1. A portion of the sales of books you purchase **this Friday** from 4 PM to 11 PM will benefit the trip. Please use the vouchers left in your folder and bring your friends!

MIR Student Musicians Perform at Hospital

Student musicians performed for patients at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital on Monday, November 13.

Eight violinists played, accompanied by piano. There were also snare drum, violin, piano, and guitar solos. Students played an Allegro as well as Jingle Bells and Silent Night.

Concerts like these give patients a chance to focus on an enjoyable experience and provide a distraction from their illnesses. The MIR students enjoyed the chance to show off their talents while providing community service.

"We did well," said student Anastasia Ibrahim, quoted in the *Redlands Daily Facts*. "In our practices, we can be out of tune, but we all did really well today," she said.

(continued from page 6)

mice and colored cotton balls. I still can't believe how fast they multiply. In fact, I think my mom still finds them running around the house!

"Thank you for building the foundation of who I am today. I constantly recommend to my colleagues and patients the Montessori way of life for their young ones."

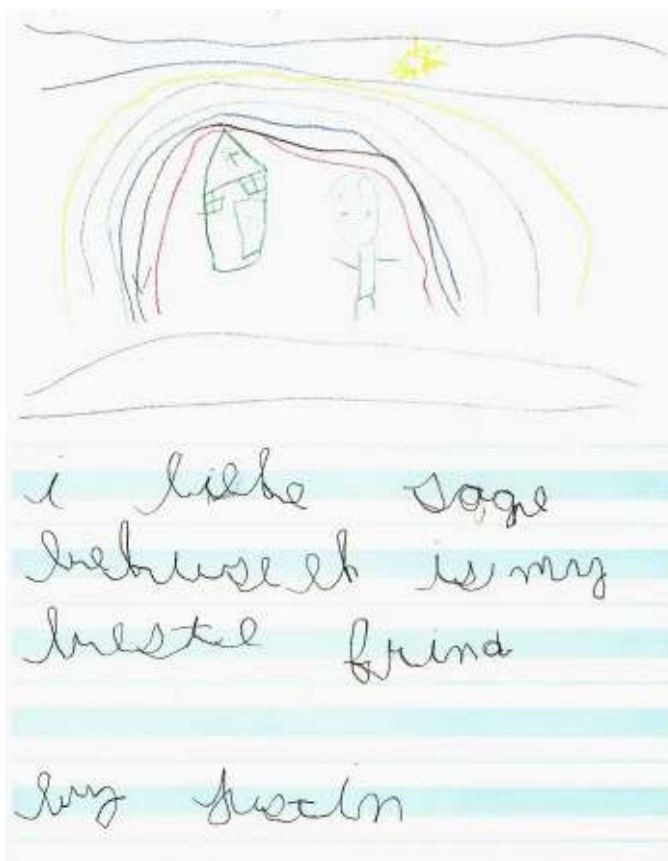
—Dr. Kelly Killeen

Elementary Class Raises Money for UNICEF on Halloween

Carrying on a famous Halloween tradition, students from Emily and Mara's Elementary class trick or treated for UNICEF this year and raised \$814.77. Here's just some of the ways those funds can be used:

- \$1 can immunize a child against polio or measles for life.
- \$17 can immunize one child for life against the six leading child-killing diseases: measles, polio, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, and tuberculosis.
- \$35 can provide pencils and books for 50 children so they can participate in school.
- \$150 can provide a hand-pump for a village well to provide safe, clean water.

If you donated—thank you! You have made a difference in the lives of children!



I like Sage because he is my best friend.

By Justin

Art and story by Justin Kim, Melissa and Kristin's class.



Holiday Sing Program—A Time for the Children to Shine

Each year all the students in the school—even toddlers—celebrate the holiday season with this special program, held at University of Redlands Memorial Chapel. The children sing, dance, and put on plays to a capacity crowd.

Holiday Sing will be held Tuesday, December 19. School will close at 3:30 PM to give students a chance to rest and prepare. Please drop off your children at University Hall at 6:30 PM. The program begins at 7 PM.



Please note that we will hold a dress rehearsal at the University on the day of the program. Students will be transported by school bus to the rehearsal.

Please check your parent folders for more information as we get closer to the event.



Key Dates to Remember in December and January

Key Dates in December

Thursday, Dec. 7.....	Kara and Dorama’s class field trip.
Friday, Dec. 8.....	Nikki’s class project.
Monday, Dec. 11.....	Jean and Maryhelen’s class field trip.
Friday, Dec. 15.....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child care form due for holiday break. • Margaretann and Dennis’ class luncheon.
Monday, Dec. 18.....	Sara’s class luncheon.
Tuesday, Dec. 19.....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School closes at 3:30 PM. • Holiday Sing program, 7 PM.
Wednesday, Dec. 20.....	Middle school class luncheon.
Thursday, Dec. 21.....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mara and Emily’s class sleepover. • Kelly’s class luncheon. • Kara and Dorama’s class luncheon.
Friday, Dec. 22.....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School closes at 12 PM. • Jean and Maryhelen’s class brunch. • Mara and Emily’s class brunch.
Monday, Dec. 25–Friday, Dec. 29.....	Winter Holiday break. No school, no childcare.
Sunday, Dec. 31.....	Deadline for Annual Fund classroom participation incentive.

Key Dates in January

Monday, Jan. 1.....	Happy New Year! No school, no childcare.
Tuesday, Jan. 2–Friday, Jan. 5.....	Childcare by reservation.
Monday, Jan. 8.....	School resumes.
Monday, Jan. 15.....	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. No school, no childcare.
Thursday, Jan. 18.....	PTM Meeting, 6 PM. Parent Education Night, 7 PM.
Monday, Jan. 22.....	Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 PM.
Friday, Jan. 26.....	Afternoon staff in-service—school closes at 12 PM. No childcare available.