

The Icebox

The Monthly Newsletter of Montessori in Redlands



Class of 2008

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.” —Ralph Waldo Emerson

You are cordially invited to join us in celebrating the moving on and moving up of our 2008 graduates.

This year is especially bittersweet as we say farewell to our Middle School students for the final time. We hope you will join us in honoring their accomplishments at the Middle School Honoring Ceremony on Friday, June 13 at 2 PM.

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What's Inside

- Vote Now for PTM Officers (PTM Corner)
- Board Encourages Families to Apply for Financial Aid (Board Corner)
- **MIR Says Farewell to Middle School**
- Empower Your Child: Summer Camp with a Montessori Twist
- Special Parent Education Night to be Held June 18

Summer Approaches and Students Blossom

by MAURA JOYCE, HEAD OF SCHOOL

Everywhere I look in Redlands I see flowers blooming. It is that time of year when gardens and yards seem to be shouting, “Look at me!”

On campus the blooming of the flowers parallels the blossoming of our students, who are also capturing our attention. Their growth since the beginning of the school year is very visible as they shed their warmer clothing. Longer legs stretch out of their shorts as they move with increased energy. Physical growth has been accompanied by their increased confidence and stronger skills. Just this week several students shared with me “I can read now!” “Did you know that a whole angle has 360 degrees?!” and “I have a lot of lines in our play!” Like the flowers, the children are bursting with energy and color.

I would like to take a moment to honor a group of blossoming students who are drawing special attention this spring. Our young adults in the Middle School will all be moving onwards and upwards this fall. Fourteen years and 126 students later, MIR says goodbye to its Middle School this June.

I visited them this week as they were frantically working on their capstone projects—a final presentation focused on one subject that incorporates all of the subject areas they study. While putting the finishing touches on these projects, they took a few minutes to share with me the best and hardest things about Montessori Middle School.

“Montessori’s Middle School is very fun, free, and I don’t feel chained to a desk. Best: Very laid back. Hardest: Capstones!”—Justin Little

“Montessori’s Middle School is right in front of me. Best: Not having to sit in one spot. Hardest: Schoolwork.”—James Porep

“Montessori’s Middle School is better than public school! Best: We get to light stuff on fire in science (safely!). Hardest: Capstones.”—Trey O’Brien

“Montessori’s Middle School is all in all a very good establishment—one of the best! Best: Having the freedom to do stuff on your own time rather than

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Student Birthdays

Veritus Miller	6/1
Sonia Agarwal	6/3
Emmet Asker	6/3
Parmise Fay	6/3
Gabrielle Razzouk	6/5
Nicholas Ormsby	6/6
Ryan Miller	6/7
Taylor Perea	6/8
Jennifer Williams	6/8
Korben Wroolie	6/8
Anagha Satish	6/9
Ricky Webb	6/9
Keoni Pang	6/10
Paul Zakarian	6/11
Travis Zook	6/13
Cody Hanson	6/18
Nicole (Mai-Li) Putrasahan	6/19
Diti Shah	6/21
MeiEn Shiomi	6/21
Shreya Aiyar	6/23
Strawberry Wroolie	6/25
Ansh Pahuja	6/28
Garen Zakarian	6/29
Aidan Spangrud	6/30

Staff Birthdays

Danielle Lamprecht	6/7
Kim Montague	6/11

Icebox editor Lisa Kensok

Managing editor Maura Joyce

PTM Corner PTM Board

Board Corner MIR Board of Trustees

Submit your article or picture to
icebox@montessoriiinredlands.org.

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PTM Corner



From your PTM President, Shawnda Zook

As this school year comes to an end I would like to say Thank You! Thank you to all the parents who helped in classrooms, on campus, and with PTM events throughout the year. Your help is crucial to the success of our MIR community.

Thank you to the PTM Room Representatives that helped all year in and outside the classrooms: Karen Derris, Anu Diekmann, Heather Florida, Brandi Jennings, Angela Keller, Nina Kulkarni, Jo Lynn Lambert, Mary Lamoureux, Shelly McCarthy, Jennifer Paugh, Deborah Ralston, Rena Rice, Donna Savacool-Barkley, Carol Sonntag, and Lindsey Wiefels.

Thank you to our continuing and exiting PTM Board officers:

- ♦ Trevor Norton for acting as PTM Treasurer for the past two years. Thanks for keeping us on the right financial track; your presence will be missed.
- ♦ Rena Rice for her three years' service as PTM Vice President. Your organizational skills and creativity will be missed.

Bluebird Roosts in Costa Rica



Bluebird Delanie Walker poses with her dad, Troy, in Costa Rica. “The reason for the visit was to attend a friend’s wedding in November and to celebrate our anniversary,” says mom Melissa. “Troy and I were married in Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica, seven years ago. It is such a beautiful place, and we had such a wonderful time the first time, that we really wanted to share it with Delanie. She loved it.” The family spent two weeks in Costa Rica, taking a little time out to show their Bluebird pride. The picture was taken in Dominical, located about 28 miles south of Manuel Antonio on the Pacific coast.

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- ◆ Madhu, our board Secretary, for all your help each month with the PTM Corner, minutes, and staff birthdays.

Finally, thank you to all the MIR staff for making 2007-2008 a great time. I look forward to serving as your PTM President for another year and working together on a successful 2008-2009 school year.

I hope everyone has a great summer!

PTM Elections

PTM is looking for a new Vice President and Treasurer. The following parents have been nominated and kindly agreed to commit two years to the board. Voting is open through June 10. Ballot boxes and election forms are located in the MIR office and on the North Campus next to the message board. Election results will be posted on message boards.

Nominees for Vice President

Brandi Jennings and her husband, Ed, have one child attending MIR. Nine year old Wyatt is in Margaretann and Nicole's Elementary class. Over the last four years Brandi has been very involved in Wyatt's class assisting where needed, going on field trips, volunteering as a Room Representative and helping PTM with carnivals and shirt sales. Brandi is a partner in her father's art framing business. She enjoys spending time with her family and cycling.

Meena Spangrud and her husband, Damian, have two children attending MIR. Seven year old Natasha is in Margaretann and Nicole's Elementary class. Two year old Aidan is in Aedin's Toddler class. Over the last six years Meena has volunteered in the classrooms wherever she was needed and has always been eager to help at PTM events. Meena has worked at ESRI since 1993 as a Product Business Manager. She enjoys reading, photography, and gardening.

Nominees for Treasurer

Donna Savacool-Barkley and her husband, Steve, have one child attending MIR. Three year old Jackson is in Kristin's Primary class. Over the past two years Donna has been very involved in Jackson's class, assisting the teachers wherever she was needed and volunteering as a Room Representative. Donna has been a tremendous help with the Spring Gala. For the past two years Donna and her mother, Anita, have assembled and gift-wrapped 50-plus baskets for the silent auction. This is a time-consuming task that makes a huge impact at the Auction. Donna is a full time Independent Sales Director with Mary Kay Cosmetics. She loves spending time with her family.

Evan Brinton and his wife, Rachel, have one child attending MIR. Two year old Xochitl is in Aedin's Toddler class. Evan is a Product Manager at ESRI. He is a 2nd degree Black Belt and enjoys playing in a local Blues Band.

Jennifer Paugh and her husband, Bill, have one child attending MIR. Six year old Jacob is in Sara's Primary class. Over the last three years Jennifer has been very involved in Jacob's class, assisting the teacher wherever she was needed. This year Jennifer volunteered as a Room Representative. Jennifer and her husband operate their own Landscaping and Pool Construction Business. She enjoys boating and fishing at their home in Lake Havasu.

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BOARD CORNER

by LEELA MADHAVARAU, PRESIDENT,
MIR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

It is unbelievable that another school year is nearly finished. It has been a busy year and the Board would like to take this chance to thank everyone for their participation in the Montessori in Redlands community—the children with their passion for learning, the staff and faculty for their dedication and devotion to teaching, the administration for holding everything together, and the parents for all that you do for the school and your children. Together we maintain the perfect learning environment for our children.

Board Seeks New Members

As you have read over the past several months, the Board continues to seek members from the local Inland Empire community. If you know someone who would like to volunteer some time to serve on our Board, please let us know.

Financial Aid Available

We also want to remind you about the financial aid packages available through the school. The Board of Trustees recognizes that the current economic situation is not only having an impact nationwide but has the potential to impact our community as well. In recognition of this, the Board's Finance Committee, with Board approval, has revamped the Financial Aid program offered by the school, moving from a program of bridge financing to providing financial aid packages. If you would

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MIR Scenes: Middle School

“Free the child's potential, and you will transform him into the world.”—Maria Montessori

being told “do this now.” Hardest: Capstones—there is so much time devoted to them!”—Duncan Smith

“Montessori’s Middle School is a wild experience! Best: The field trips, especially the overnight ones. Hardest: Capstones take so much work and concentration you can’t worry about other stuff when you are doing them.”—Kimo Adrian

“Montessori’s Middle School is good. Best: Trips we get to go on. Hardest: Learning new stuff.”—Ricky Webb

“Montessori’s Middle School is a good learning environment. Best: This is hard because there are so many things to choose from. I have to say the

educational experiences I’ve obtained. Hardest: Capstones.”—Tyler Little

“Montessori’s Middle School is fun and exciting. Best: It’s hard to find the best part. We get to go places—there are cool out-of-class activities. Hardest: The work!”—Brandon Oliver

We will be honoring all of our Middle School students in a ceremony June 13th at 2 PM in the Middle School classroom. Members of the MIR community are welcome to attend.

“Montessori’s Middle School is an enjoyable experience. Best: Our trip to Washington, DC. Hardest: Capstones.”—Grant Gatpandan

“Montessori Middle School is hard working people! Best: The teaching! Hardest: Cleaning up.”—Steven Wilson

Douglas Phillips



“Montessori’s Middle School is the best experience I have ever had. Best: The students and the teachers have made it the best. Hardest: Being stuck in the same room together all day long!”—Douglas Phillips



Douglas Phillips, Steven Wilson, Grant Gatpandan

Cassie Nabor, Amelia Sequeira



“Montessori Middle School is different. It is exciting and was a good place to spend my 3 years in Middle School. It’s a fun environment and I am going to miss it. Best: Coming here everyday and seeing your friends, getting to talk and hang out at recess. Hardest: The drama of dealing with only 15 people every day. Spanish!”—Cassie Nabor

“Montessori’s Middle School is a very creative community. We are all so different in many ways we have to be creative. Best: All of us are really close, we know each other well and we are friends. Hardest: Getting assignments in on time and capstones!”—Amelia Sequeira

*“Montessori’s Middle School is fantastic! It is the best year I have ever had! Best: Having friends. Hardest: Learning that it had to close.”
—Max Machler*

Max Machler



Shreya Aiyar



*“Montessori’s Middle School is probably one of the most enjoyable experiences I’ve had in my school career. I’m going to miss it a lot. Best: getting to interact with everyone. We are all friends – everyone is like my very extended family. It will be hard to leave them. Hardest: Well, since we know each other so well, we can sometimes be judgmental. Also, things have to work for everyone in the group and that can be hard.”—
Shreya Aiyar*

Board Corner (cont.)

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like an application for financial aid, please contact Lisa Oliver in the front office.

As always, please feel free to contact me over the summer if you have any questions for the Board. I may be reached via e-mail at leela_madhavarau@redlands.edu.

Leela MadhavaRau
President, Board of Trustees



MIR Annual Fund Reminder: Pledged Donations Due June 30

If you have pledged to the MIR Annual Fund, please stop by the office to turn in your donation. All contributions must be received by June 30, 2008.

You can still help us reach our goals. Turning in your pledge helps us reach our goals of 100% community participation and \$50,000 in monies raised. Our current totals are 90% participation and \$44,892s raised.

You are also welcome to make a new or additional donation of any amount to help us reach our goals.

Rewards of Giving

Here's how your support adds up for your child:

1. **Your donation directly benefits your child and his or her classmates** by giving MIR the resources to provide the classroom materials your teacher needs.
2. **Your donation helps build**

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PTM: A great way to be more involved with your child's class

Serving on the PTM Board is not the only way to be involved. **PTM needs room representatives for next year.** Room reps are liaisons between PTM and the parents in their class. They are required to attend a meeting once a month to keep informed of upcoming school events and are responsible for communicating information back to their class parents. Room reps are encouraged to volunteer to help at school events. If you are interested please let your teacher know as soon as possible.

Spring Carnival

Many, many thanks to the amazing volunteers who made the Spring Carnival possible! The whole community appreciated the great rides and games which entertained the young and not-as-young. Each event and booth took an extraordinary amount of planning and effort, and we all are very grateful! Congratulations to the classrooms that placed in the booth contest and won new books for their class:

1. 1st Place – Mara and Emilys Class (Football Toss)
2. 2nd Place – Sara's Class (Tattoo Booth)
3. 3rd place – Kara and Dorama (Face Painting)



Bluebird Aidan Spangrud enjoys a pony ride at the MIR Spring Carnival.

Food Drive Results

Thank you to all the families that donated! We delivered 378 lbs of food to Redlands Family Service.

Camp Montessori to be Held June 13

Join teachers, students, and parents on the last day of school for camping under the trees of MIR. There will be no shortage of hotdogs, marshmallows, and camp songs. Bring the family and have a ball or enjoy a night out while we take care of your children!

Thank You for Sharing Your Photos

Thank you to the families who shared their photos of their children sporting their Bluebird t-shirts around town and around the world. We love to see so much Bluebird pride! Be sure to take more photos this summer—the t-shirt feature will continue when *Icebox* resumes publication in September 2008.

Empower Your Child this Summer

Summer Camp with a Montessori Twist

Children experience learning with fun at MIR summer camp while continuing their journey to becoming self-sufficient, creative individuals.

Primary and Toddler programs provide continuity in school-year programs while incorporating special projects and summer activities. The Elementary program allows students to pursue personal areas of interest.

Swimming lessons are included in the camp fees for Primary and Elementary students. From basic swimmers to the well-advanced, students will practice their skills in freestyle, backstroke, butterfly, breaststroke, water polo, and junior lifeguard training. You get the convenience of having swimming lessons provided with no additional transportation or work on your part.

Toddler Summer Program

Toddlers will supplement their Montessori environment with special summer activities such as gardening, crafts, and water play. One outing per session will enhance their summer fun.

Primary Summer Program

Primary students will incorporate the Montessori philosophy and materials with special projects such as

cooking, gardening, sporting activities, and swimming. They will have at least one field trip each session.

Elementary Summer Program

Design your own program from a selection of classes. Students select one morning and one afternoon activity. The Elementary program is open to students ages 6-12

years (students must have completed first grade). Selections include the following.

Session 1: Scrapbooking and Homemade Gifts, Outdoor Sports, and Swimming.

Session 2: Puppet Making and Reader's Theater, Printmaking and Calligraphy, and Swimming.

Session 3: Greek Mythology Theater

Workshop, Cooking from the Garden, and Swimming.

Session 4: Acrobatic Skills.

Sessions last two weeks and are taught by Montessori teachers and assistants. Swimming is taught by the Redlands Swim Team at Redlands High School.

Give your child a summer of experiences and skill-building that will last a lifetime! Stop by the office or visit www.montessoriinredlands.org/summer to learn more and fill out a registration form.



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school programs by supporting new construction and facilities improvements required to provide those programs.

- Your donation keeps tuition costs down.** By raising a portion of its funding through this

means, MIR is able to keep monthly costs down for *all* families.

We sincerely thank you for all of the support you have given to your child's classroom and to MIR this year through your volunteer efforts, your donations of school supplies, your

support of programs and events, and financial donations. We know that your time and money is precious, and we appreciate your generosity more than we can say.

Class of 2008 (cont.)

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Elementary classroom graduation ceremonies include

- ♦ Margaretann's 6th years, Friday, June 13, 1 PM
- ♦ Mara's 6th years, Thursday, June 12, 1 PM

Our Primary classes also hold special ceremonies to celebrate the moving up of their oldest students to Elementary. Some classes hold the ceremonies during end-of-year celebrations and some hold them separately. Parents are encouraged to check with their child's teacher for dates and times.

We thank you for allowing us to share in your child's growth all these years!

Camp Montessori: Kids Camp Out and Parents Get a Night Off

Enjoy a night out while we take care of your children (ages 5-12) at Camp Montessori on Friday, June 13 at 6:30 PM. Children younger than 5 must be accompanied by an adult.

Teachers, students, and parent volunteers will pitch tents under the trees of MIR, cook hotdogs and hamburgers, sing songs, and tell stories. In the morning everyone will enjoy a pancake breakfast.

Parents who wish to join their children may volunteer as chaperones. Duties include helping with cooking, clean-up, and activities. Only a few spaces are available for chaperones.

Fees for Camp Montessori are \$25 per child, or \$10 for children accompanied by a parent chaperone. Payment is due at sign-up. Sign up in the MIR office.

June 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
02 Redlands Ceramics visits Sara's class	03 Nikki's class field trip Redlands Ceramics visits all Toddler classes	04 Kristin's class field trip Middle School beach trip Yoga class, 6:30 PM	05 MIR End-of-Year Bluebird Skate Party at CalSkate, 5:30-8:30 PM	06 Sara's class Father's Day breakfast
Margaretann's 5th and 6th years Sacramento trip				
09 Mara's students' performance Middle School beach trip	10 Jean/MH's class field trip End-of-year celebration: Liana Middle School beach trip	11 Emily/Mara's class field trip End-of-year celebrations: Aedin, Sara Nicole/Margaretann's class event	12 End-of-year celebrations: Kara and Dorama, Nikki, Nicole and Margaretann	13 School closes at NOON for Primary and Toddlers Summer School forms due Celebrations: Emily/Mara, Christine, Kristin, Jean/MH, MS Honoring Ceremony, 2 PM Camp Montessori, 6:30 PM
16	17	18 Parent Education: <i>The Special Child</i> , 7 PM	19	20
Staff in-service week. No school, no child care.				
23 Summer Camp Session I	24	25	26	27
 Summer Session I: Week one				
Annual Fund pledge payments due 30	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4 Camp closed for Independence Day 
Summer Session I: Week two				

I WILL THRIVE Parent Education Night

Educators, child care providers, and parents are invited to **hear a new perspective** on children with special needs and **learn new ways** to work with them.

Dr. Silvia C. Dubovoy, Montessori Institute of San Diego (AMI), will present her observations and advice in *The Special Child: Nature Makes Differences. Society Makes Handicaps*.



JOIN US FOR THIS ENLIGHTENING EVENING

Where Montessori in Redlands
When Wednesday, June 18, 7 PM
RSVP 909-793-6989

Child care Available to MIR students (ages 3 and older). Sign up in the office.

Dr. Dubovoy is a trainer, lecturer, consultant, and examiner for the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) worldwide as well as a Board member. She is one of the AMI representatives to the United Nations. She holds a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Barcelona. As a psychologist she studied and worked with Dr. Carl R. Rogers, a humanistic psychologist. She also has the AMI Primary, AMI Special Education, and AMI Assistants to Infancy diplomas.