

Inspiring a Healthy Spirit, a Strong Character, and a Clear Intellect



BLUEBIRD BULLETIN

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This is not a Montessori class.



This is.

Join Maura Joyce and Peter Davidson on February 10 at 6:30 PM for a special meeting to learn the value of continuing your child's education at MIR.

Hear from traditional school teachers whose children are enrolled in the MIR Elementary program as well as other parents of Elementary students.

Contact the office to RSVP or for more information.



By Maura Joyce, Head of School *"The teacher's task is no small or easy one! He has to prepare a huge amount of knowledge to satisfy the child's mental hunger, and he is not, like the ordinary teacher, limited by a syllabus."*

—Maria Montessori

A Sound Investment: Our Children's Education

I continue to read the paper obsessively and listen to the news about the economy. It certainly is not reassuring and some stories are downright depressing. The outlook continues to be bleak and they say we have more hard times ahead.

No one is immune to the effects of the financial crisis, including MIR. We have heard from families who have taken pay cuts, lost hours, or may not have a job a few months down the road. Everyone feels it, and I know that it can trickle down to our children, who are very intuitive about our worries.

The month of February is a time where we prepare and plan for the upcoming school year. It is the time of year when our MIR families begin to think about that re-enrollment decision. We know it is a time

when you consider the investment that you are making in your child's future. We know you have made a choice and a financial commitment to be here and to pay for a Montessori education in the belief that investing in the belief that investing in the future is always a sound investment.

"We know you have made a choice and a financial commitment to be here and to pay for a Montessori education in the belief that investing in your children's future is always a sound investment."

Still, I imagine signing on the dotted line will be harder this year as we all feel the pinch.

This month we have two opportunities for you to look at our MIR programs so that you

can make that decision with confidence. Our first is on Tuesday, February 10 at 6:30 pm, when Peter Davidson and I will answer questions about our Elementary programs (see sidebar). The second opportunity is Saturday, February 21 from 8

(Continued on page 3)

PARENT-TO-PARENT

Thank You for Your Time, Dedication, and Support of the MIR Annual Fund

The PTM board would like to thank all the Room Reps for their dedication to the MIR Annual Fund. With their help MIR reached its highest participation numbers ever! Thank you to Christina Bennett-Stewart, Kim Coles, Caroline Davari-Lalezarzhadeh, Anne Desmarais, Jami Grames, Malinda Greene, Kate Harris, Angela Keller, Nina Kulkarni, Shelley McCarthy, Erin Pagel-Mohr, Joanne Parkinson, Donna Savacool-Barkley, Lindsey Wiefels, and Steve Wuhs. Without your help the Annual Fund would not have achieved such a great participation rate.

PTM also thanks each and every family that donated or pledged to the MIR Annual Fund in support of the classroom participation program. We and the teachers are grateful to your efforts to help each class reach its goals—thanks to you, the program was an unprecedented success for many classes.

Even though the class incentive deadline has ended, it's not too late to donate and support MIR. If just 20 more families donate, the school will reach 100% participation!

PTM NEWS AND NOTES

Dinner is On Us

PTM will support the Spring Gala with two live auction items: Dinner- and Dessert-a-Month.

We will donate a Dinner-a-Month for the third year. The winner of this item gets dinner prepared once a month, which typically includes a main course, salad or vegetable, bread or dessert, and sometimes wine. The Dessert-a-Month is new this year. The winner of this item gets a yummy cake, pie, cookies, or cobbler once a month.

Care for Your Laptop Lunchbox

The carrying case is machine washable on occasion when it gets beyond spot cleaning. Wash on delicate with other items. Many parents have done this with no problem but one did have it get caught and rip. Other parents have successfully put the lunch box in the dishwasher with the heat cycle turned off (let it air dry). The bento box and small containers are dishwasher safe.

Coffee Curbside

On Thursday, February 26, join us at curb for coffee, juice, and breakfast treats. PTM will also be selling shirts, tote bags, and Laptop Lunchbox accessories. Bring your travel mug and come fill-her-up!

Bluebird Day is Friday, February 27

Has your child grown out of their Bluebird shirt? Come to Coffee Curbside to get a new shirt for Bluebird day, or place an order in the office. All office

orders are delivered to your parent folder in class.

Chocolates from Innisbrook

Thank you to the families who ordered items online from Innisbrook—the PTM received \$481.56 this month! If you need Valentine's chocolates, consider ordering from Innisbrook. Thank you for your support!

Next PTM Meeting

The next meeting will be held Thursday, February 19 at 6 PM in the Yoga Room.



Dutch Rumary and Teo Wuhs felt their snowman was not complete until appropriately attired in his Bluebird t-shirt.



Dagny and Sidarth Kulkarni show their Bluebird pride in front of the Space Needle in Seattle, Washington.

Report from the Board...

Board Keeps Economy in Mind as it Plans Budget for 2009-2010

By Leela MadhavaRau,
President Board of Trustees

February is budget planning month for the MIR Board. Given that ensuring financial stability is the first priority of any Board, this is a task that is always undertaken with great deliberation. This year this responsibility will be undertaken with even greater consideration and increased attention to every detail. The Board's Finance Committee will be examining multiple scenarios, crunching the numbers with different options. We recognize the fiscal difficulties faced by all of you, and we want to ensure the continued success of the school with as little unexpected economic impact as is possible under the circumstances.

In addition to financial considerations, the Board also wants to ensure you have the understanding of the fundamentals of a Montessori education you need to make an informed decision about your children's educational future. We urge you to take advantage of both Parent Education opportunities this month (see pages 1 and 5), which will give you a solid grounding in the value of your child's Montessori education.

Towards the end of February, we will be sending you an e-mail link to our annual satisfaction survey. We thank the many families who helped to complete our demographic survey last month and hope that you will assist us with the completion of this questionnaire. We know that you lead busy lives but hope that you will take a few minutes to give us feedback on how we have been doing over the past year. We appreciate all forms of constructive criticism and do our best to be responsive to parental concerns.

As always, I welcome your questions or comments. I am best reached at leela_madhavarau@redlands.edu.

Leela MadhavaRau
President, Board of Trustees
leela_madhavarau@redlands.edu
Phone: (909) 528-2813

MIR 'GO GREEN' CORNER

PAPERLESS OPTIONS AT MIR

As part of our environmental stewardship initiative, we are offering new options for the *Bluebird Bulletin* and other school communications.

Paperless Option

You can be notified by e-mail when new issues of *Bluebird Bulletin* are available online and to receive school notices by e-mail as well.

Paper Option

You can opt to continue to receive printed versions of the *Bluebird Bulletin* and all school notices.

Paper and Paperless Option

You can receive both print and e-mail versions of the *Bulletin* and school notices.

Let us know your preference—stop by the office or e-mail us at info@montessoriinredlands.org. If you do not send us a selection, we will continue to provide you with paper copies of all materials.

(Continued from page 1)

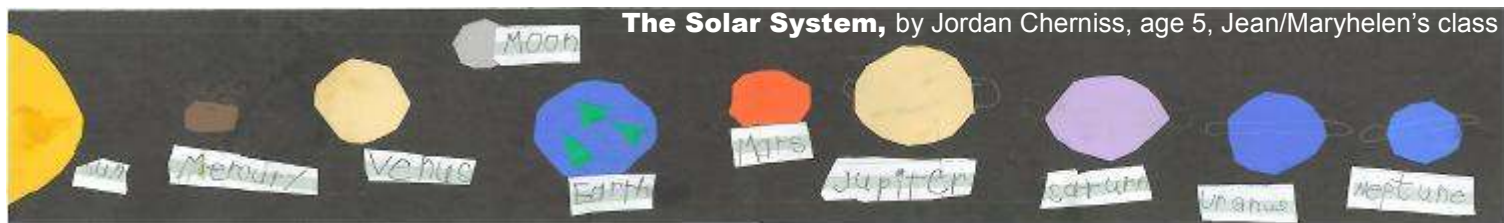
am to 3 pm, MIR's Journey & Discovery, the all-day parent event when you get to really experience the Montessori classrooms and the work your child does all day (see page 5). If you haven't been to Journey & Discovery, it is not to be missed!

Safe in Our Hands, Safe in Yours

Just a reminder: MIR serves a multitude of ages on campus. Teachers and assistants in all programs supervise children in all areas of campus. Once children have been signed out, we no longer have them on our "radar" as ones to watch. However, MIR is still liable for you and your child if you are on campus.

When you sign your child out, our expectation is that you are leaving campus at that time. If you choose to spend time talking with other parents outside, please make sure that that you are watching your child and that he or she is not playing in an area that is not safe for them. Some areas of campus are reserved for older students' play, because the equipment may not be appropriate for younger children. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter!

The Art of Education



Practicing

by Mara Wuhs, age 27 months (Liana's class)



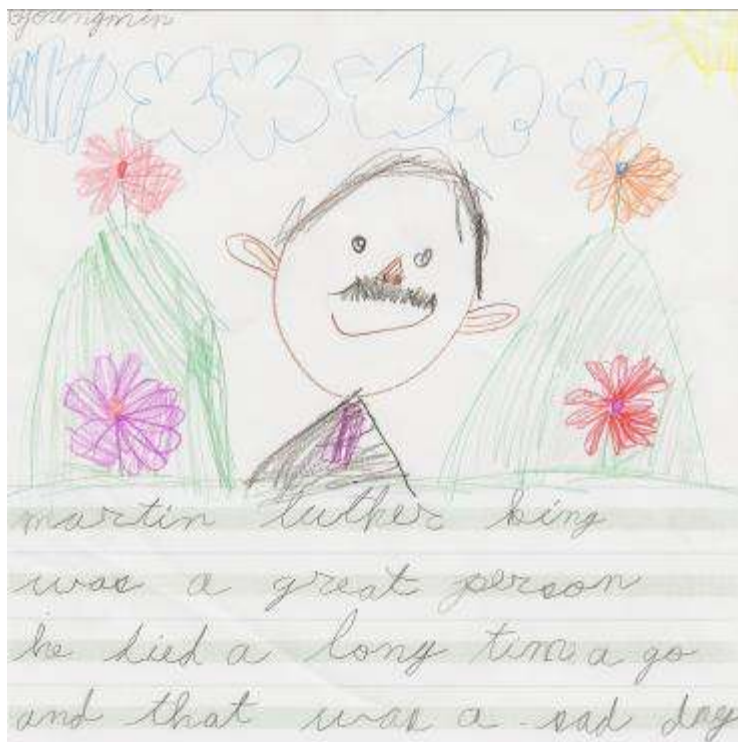
Equivalency (Geometry)

by Sarah Kensok, age 6 (Emily's class)



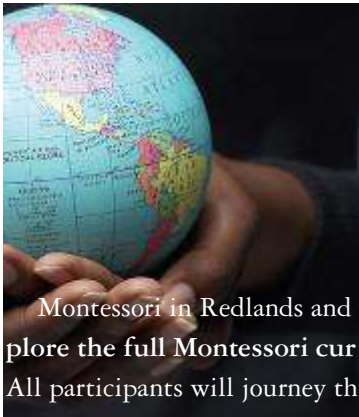
Disco Shark

by Arya Lalezarzadeh, age 5 (Nikki's class)



Martin Luther King, Jr.

by Youngmin Kim, age 5 (Nikki's class)



JOURNEY & DISCOVERY: A USER'S GUIDE TO MONTESSORI

Saturday, February 21, 8 AM to 3 PM

Lunch will be served. **Childcare is available for \$25 for the day for ages 3-12.** Space is limited to 12 children.

Register in the office or call 793-6989 for more information.

Montessori in Redlands and Grove Farm and High School will host *Journey & Discovery*, a hands-on seminar that lets you explore the full Montessori curriculum from 18 months to 18 years. *Journey & Discovery* has been expanded to include two tracks. All participants will journey through the entire Montessori curriculum from Toddlers to high school. One group will then do hands-on learning in the Toddler–Elementary programs while another will do so in the Elementary–high school programs. This is the discovery portion of the day. You are free to select the track that best fits your child's age.

Journey & Discovery is one of the most important parent events offered each year. By experiencing what your children does each day, and what work he or she will do at the next level, you'll get a full understanding of the value of a Montessori education and whether this is the right educational choice for your child. "The day, for me, revealed an enlightened approach to learning that is both developmentally appropriate and challenging for a toddler on up to a young adult," stated public school teacher Kylene Silliman, who attended the December event.

Register in the office to attend *Journey & Discovery*. Childcare for ages 3-12 is available for \$25 for the day to allow parents with baby-sitting needs to attend. Space is limited to 12 children.

Shop Albertson's and Donate to MIR for Free

Did you know that as an Albertson's Community Partner, MIR gets 1% of your grocery receipts when you visit the store using your Preferred Savings Card? If you have a card, sign up to link it to Montessori and support the school with no additional financial impact to you. **Here's what to do:**

1. Visit www.albertsonscp.com
2. Enter your Preferred Card number. There's a number on the screen to call if you need to find your number, or you can look at the top of your grocery receipt.
3. Link to Montessori using the number 49000112890.

If you are currently enrolled in this program, please note that Albertson's requires you to re-link by March 1.

To sign up for an Albertson's Preferred Card and link it:

1. Visit www.albertsons.com
2. Enter your zip code.
3. Press the Preferred Card logo.
4. Designate Montessori with the number 49000112890.

You can also accomplish this process by visiting Albertson's. If you have any questions, all the customer service line at 800-696-6419. Thanks for your support of MIR when you shop for groceries at Albertson's!

MIR Fruit Recruit

Do you have orange, apple, or lemon trees? Our hot lunch coordinator seeks donations of home-grown fruits and vegetables to incorporate into her menus. Bring your produce to the front office or to Rosemarie in her kitchen.



Take the Time to Save a Dime

Have you seen this little pink coupon on some of grocery items?



MIR collects these coupons, which are called Box Tops for Education, each worth 10¢ to the school. You can find these Box Tops on General Mills cereals, Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, and lots of other products. They are even on Kleenex, Cottonelle, Ziploc, Saran Wrap, and Viva. You probably have some in your house right now! Every time you recycle one of these products you could be throwing away a perfectly good dime. A dime Montessori in Redlands could use for student enrichment.

During the 2008-09 year our school has set a goal of collecting enough Box Tops to earn \$1000. Please help our school reach this goal by saving these coupons for us. This money is completely free and only requires the time it takes to save and collect. The coordinators donate their time to submit the coupons twice yearly.

We have placed colorful Box Top collection boxes in each class and in the office to make it easier to deposit your coupons. With each box is a wanted poster and a list of products that bear the Box Top coupon. If you have any questions regarding the Box Top program please feel free to contact coordinators Malinda Greene (craigandmalinda@hotmail.com) or Anne Desmarais (anne_desmarais@hotmail.com) and we will be happy to talk about this wonderful fund raising opportunity.



Support the party of the year!

Sponsor and Advertisement Opportunities

Montessori in Redlands offers several opportunities to support the party of the year—the 12th Annual Spring Gala & Auction. Your sponsorship helps MIR defray event costs and apply more of the auction proceeds to school programs.

Sponsor Opportunities

Contribute all or part toward one or more of the following:

 (7) centerpieces at \$25 ea


 (1) DJ at \$395


Silver Medallion Sponsorship

Silver Medallion sponsorships are available for businesses or individuals for \$1,000 and offer certain special benefits including two tickets to the Gala. Additional sponsorship levels are available. Please stop by the office for more information.

Advertising Opportunities

Advertise in the program book at the following rates.

 1/4 page (business card): \$125

 1/2 page: \$250

 Full page: \$500

The final submission deadline is February 20.

Contact Jill McDermott in the office to sponsor any of the items noted or list your business in the MIR Business Directory. Sponsors will be acknowledged publically unless requested otherwise. Thank you for your support!

Opportunities include sponsoring individual items for the party, advertising in the program book, or—new this year—listing your business in the new MIR Business Directory included in the program book.

MIR Business Directory—new this year!

The MIR Business Directory is a new opportunity for families who own their own business to list that business in a new directory to be included in the program book. The idea was suggested by families looking for a way to support the MIR community by looking to them first for goods and services.

The directory offers an affordable way to let the MIR community know about your business. We'll list your company name, contact information, and a brief description of what you offer in the program book. This information will also be made available after the Gala at no additional cost to you.

The cost to list your information is \$25. The final submission deadline is February 20.

Students Organize Bluebird Bike-A-Thon to Raise Funds for Bike Racks

As part of the school effort to “go green” and promote healthy lifestyles, a group of students in Margaretann and Nicole's class are planning a bike-a-thon to raise funds to purchase and install bicycle racks at the school to promote bicycle riding.



The Bluebird Bike-A-Thon will be held Friday, February 20 and is open to Elementary students interested in participating in the event. The

event will take place on the Santa Ana River Trail starting at

Waterman Avenue and will feature two distances. The 10 mile event will end at Fairmont Park in Riverside and the 20 mile event will feature a round trip with lunch at Fairmont Park.

We are seeking parents interested in riding with the students and providing transportation for students and bicycles. If you are interested, please contact Ellen Camarillo at the school office at 909-793-6989.

Your Bluebird Bikers

Student riders include Katya Baty, Karoline Balstroem, Kira Clutter, Vladimir Ivanenko, Wyatt Jennings, Katelyn O'Brien, and Thomas Webb.

2008-2009 MIR ANNUAL FUND

“EDUCATION IS NOT FILLING A BUCKET BUT LIGHTING A FIRE”

—WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

YOU DID IT!

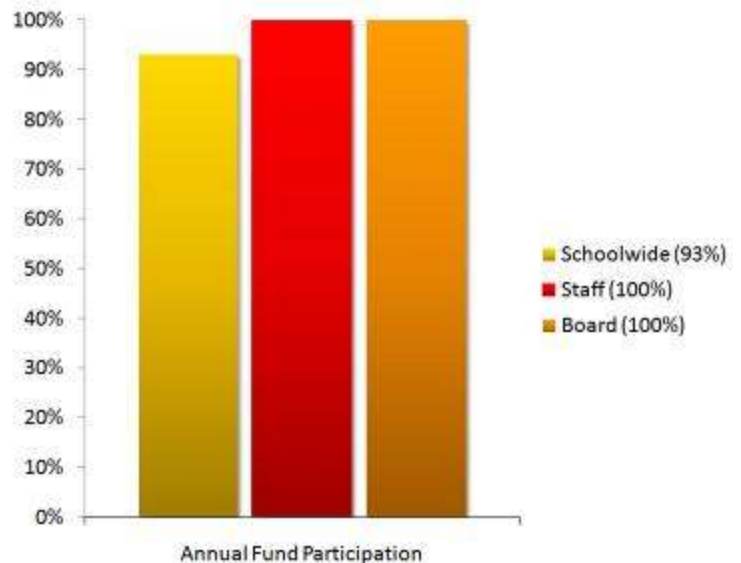
Thank you to the generous donations of so many families, the **2008-09 MIR Annual Fund has achieved its highest participation rate ever—93%**. We are grateful to all of you for helping us make this year be the year we reached that goal.

Classroom Totals

In addition, your participation helped six classes reach 100% participation, and ALL classes reached the 75%

milestone. Some classes saw their highest participation rate ever! Final results as of January 31, the close of our classroom participation program, are as follows:

- Aedín—86%
- Christine—86%
- Emily—100%
- Jean/Maryhelen—84%
- Kara/Dorama—100%
- Kelly—100%
- Kristin—100%
- Liana—86%
- Margaretann/Nicole—84%
- Nikki—100%
- Sara—100%



Total Pledges: \$33,643

Parent-Infant Class to Start in March



MIR, with funding from First 5 San Bernardino, will host a four-week Parent-Infant Class for children from birth to 17 months and their parents.

The goal of the class is to assist the child's development through small group interaction. Parents will learn how to observe, support, and encourage the child's natural development.

Special materials and furniture provided for the class will aid the infant with movement, hand/eye coordination, and the development of the senses. The

teacher acts as the link between the prepared environment and the children, helping to provide experiences within the environment. These experiences are designed to require enough effort from the child to be interesting and to allow the child to feel successful.

An integral part of the class is the "parent only" discussion group, which will deepen parents' appreciation and understanding of their child's stages of development. The discussion also covers nutrition, the child's

environment, and discipline.

The class will be taught by MIR infant and toddler trained teacher Liana McCall. Liana has taught at MIR in the Toddler Program for 12 years.

Where: MIR

When: Tuesdays, March 3–24, 4 PM–5:30 PM. The discussion group will meet on Wednesday, March 25, 5 PM–6 PM.

RSVP: In the office or call 909-793-6989. *Space is limited to 12 children.*



BIRTHDAYS



students

Evan Hill	2/2
Lauren Reiter	2/2
Demiana Ibrahim	2/4
Blake Loibl	2/5
Rishabh Bajaj	2/6
Caden Minami	2/7
Sebastien Genet-Egry	2/13
Abhinav Pidaparathi	2/14
Nathaniel Ortega	2/15
Elena Forristall	2/20
Griffith Gatpandan	2/20
Sydney Agrawal	2/21
Rylie Grames	2/22
Aurora Simon	2/22
Francesco Argentina	2/24
Jonathan Gervais	2/25
Jared Porter	2/25
Brooke Bodnar	2/27
Ryan Mickelson	2/27
Thu Dang	2/28

staff

Maria Hernandez	2/13
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“There are three hundred and sixty-four days when you might get un-birthday presents...and only one for birthday presents, you know.”
—Lewis Carroll

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RSVP Today!

MIR will host its 12th Annual Spring Gala & Auction on Saturday, March 21, from 6 PM to midnight at the Redlands Country Club.

Celebrate good times with an evening of disco fun, free drinks, all-you-can-eat buffet, and silent auction.

The highlight of the night will be a live auction, hosted by the incomparable Sam Neely and featuring beautifully hand-crafted art and customized furniture items created or decorated by the students at MIR. For



MIR 12TH ANNUAL SPRING GALA AND AUCTION

more information, contact the MIR office or call 909-793-6989. **Invitations have been sent to you—RSVP today. Space is limited!**

Sponsor Opportunities

Opportunities range from full sponsorships to advertisements in the gala program. **See page 6 for more details.**

February 2009

2	3	4	5	6
9	10 Special Meeting: Join Maura and Peter to learn the value of continuing your child's Montessori education, 6:30 PM	11 Kristin's class field trip	12 Nikki's class Valentine's Tea	13 Staff in-service day. School closes at 12 PM. Please pick up your children by 12 PM. Childcare is not available.
16 School closed to observe President's Day. No childcare.	17	18	19 PTM Meeting, 6 PM, Yoga Room	20 Coffee, Tea, & M.E., 9 AM Journey & Discovery, 8 AM-3 PM Feb. 21
23	24	25	26 PTM "Coffee Curbside," 9 AM	27 Bluebird Day and assembly, 9:15 AM Nikki's class field trip

“The secret of good teaching is to regard the child's intelligence as a fertile field in which seeds may be sown, to grow under the heat of flaming imagination. Our aim therefore is not merely to make the child understand, and still less to force him to memorize, but so to touch his imagination as to enthuse him to his inmost core.”

—Maria Montessori