



# The Icebox

The Monthly Newsletter of Montessori in Redlands

## Join Us for Back to School Night

**B**ack to School Night will be held Thursday, September 13, starting at 5:00 PM. This is an important evening to help new and returning Primary, Elementary, and Middle School families get oriented. The schedule is as follows:

**5:00 PM:** Check in at office and join us for an informal gathering on the back lawn behind Jean and Maryhelen's class. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Bring lawn chairs and/or a blanket.

**5:30 PM:** PTM Back to School Program—Meet the MIR and PTM boards, learn about PTM events for 2007/2008, and meet the MIR staff.

**5:45 PM:** Primary and Middle School teachers, parents and students meet in their classrooms while Elementary students and parents participate in a group activity.

**6:30 PM:** Elementary teachers, parents and students meet in their classrooms.

*Toddler Parent Orientation will be held Thursday, September 27.*

## Things Look Great for 07-08!

by MAURA JOYCE, HEAD OF SCHOOL

**W**elcome to the 2007-2008 school year at Montessori in Redlands! We are very happy to have your children here as they begin or continue their Montessori journey.

The past few days I have walked around the campus and watched the children buzz with the energy of a new school year. Everyone is enjoying something new—a new school, a new teacher, a new friend, a new classroom, a new piece of material, or a new playground. The excitement of it all translates into a real enthusiasm for learning and discovery.

This fall we wind down our celebration of a Century of Montessori Education. We are one of thousands of thriving Montessori schools that were born out of Dr. Montessori's first classroom in 1907. Many of you joined in our big celebration last May, when we combined the Centenary festivities with the grand re-opening of our school, to mark our new ownership of the facilities. For those of you who were not able to attend or did not have enough time to peruse our Montessori gallery, we will be displaying the work the children did for the 100 Steps for Montessori time-line at Back to School Night.

On September 21 we will join children and governments around the world in observing the United Nations International Day of Peace. Students will gather to raise the UN flag, share their speeches about peace and join hands for a moment of silence. Parents are welcome to meet us out on Calvert Court, our ball court on North campus, for the festivities beginning at 11:45 AM.

We hope that you will join in on the energy of the new school year and attend Back to School night, Thursday, September 13 beginning at 5 PM. The evening gives you the opportunity to meet the staff, Board of Trustees, Parents and Teachers of Montessori (PTM) Board and other parents. Primary, Elementary, and Middle School classroom orientations will also be held that evening. Bring a blanket or a chair and join the fun!

### What's Inside

- Parents and Teachers of Montessori Opportunities (PTM Corner)
- International Day of Peace
- MIR Crisis and Disaster Plan
- Board of Trustees Open Forums (Board Corner)
- Parent Work Day
- New Parent Class to Start

## September Birthdays

### Students

Michael Cherry	9/3
Katherine Fonseca	9/3
Aidan McNaughton	9/3
Henry Yu	9/3
Lauriana McCreary-Houston	9/4
Alexi Whyte	9/5
Benjamin Murphy	9/8
Emmerson Wright	9/9
Yoshiki Inoue	9/10
Josef Emge	9/12
Derick Hugo	9/12
Katya Baty	9/13
Tobias Emge	9/15
Alden Wiefels	9/15
Nelan-Ay Miller	9/16
Harrison Abt	9/19
Lainey Bogh	9/19
Nicole Kim	9/20
Gabriel Ortega	9/22
Maxwell Pereyra	9/22
Mackenzie Noon	9/23
Trey O'Brien	9/24
Ryan Cocchia	9/26
Penelope Dow	9/26
Colin Garcia	9/27
Chalize Fay	9/28
Brandon Oliver	9/28
Sadie Brown	9/30
Omar Najjar	9/30

### Staff

Maria Medeiros	9/9
Justin Caldwell	11-Sep
Jean Bonner-Drinkwine	9/13
Jenny Ewalt	9/17
Kristina Houston	9/20

## Basketball Tryouts To be Held This Month

Tryouts and sign-ups for Redlands National Junior Basketball will be held on September 16 and 23 at Redlands High School from noon to 6 PM. Kindergarten through second grade children may sign up for basketball. Tryouts are required for grades 3 through 8. Visit [www.redlandsnjb.com](http://www.redlandsnjb.com) for more information.

## PTM Corner



Welcome, parents, to the 2007-2008 school year!! We are excited about the new school year and especially look forward to working with all the PTM Room Reps and volunteers.

Shawnda Zook, President  
 Rena Rice, Vice President  
 Madhu Agarwal, Secretary  
 Trevor Norton, Treasurer  
 Jean Bonner-Drinkwine, Teacher Liaison

### What is PTM?

The Parents and Teachers of Montessori (PTM) is dedicated to building community, fostering communication, and promoting parental involvement in the school. We hold several events each year, such as the Halloween and Spring Carnivals and Camp Montessori, which are designed to be fun social events to bring the MIR community together. We hold monthly meetings to organize our activities, plan events, and create a network of parent support. PTM also sponsors parent education events to promote awareness of Montessori practice and philosophy, parenting, and other topics. Mainly we work to create ways for students, parents and teachers to socialize and get to know each other.

Our first big event will be **Back to School Night on Thursday, September 13**. Parents will learn about ways in which they can help make our school events a success by volunteering.

### Be a PTM Room Rep

If you are eager to meet other parents and would like to be more involved with your child's class, consider being a room representative. We would like to have two representatives for each class, so there is plenty of opportunity. If you are interested, please let your child's teacher know as soon as you can.

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 important information back to their class parents. Room reps are encouraged to volunteer to help at school events.

We will hold a Room Rep Orientation on Thursday, September 20 at 6:30 PM. Room Reps will receive an invitation in their parent folders with all the details. You may contact Rena Rice if you have any questions at 909-798-1530.

### Kids Camp Out at Camp Montessori

Enjoy a night out while we take care of your children (ages 5-15) at Camp Montessori on Friday, September 28 at 6:30 PM. 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.

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Fees for Camp Montessori are \$25 per child, or \$10 for children accompanied by a parent volunteer. Please sign up in the office. Payment is due at sign-up. Parents may volunteer as chaperones and will be asked to help with cooking, clean-up, and activities. Camp Montessori will be followed immediately by Parent Work Day.

## Innisbrook Gift Wrap Fundraiser

We will again be offering our MIR families the opportunity to participate in our Innisbrook gift wrap fundraiser. The fundraiser begins September 17 and runs through October 1. Funds support PTM sponsored events such as Carnivals, Camp Montessori, guest speakers and PTM donations to MIR such as new tricycles and playground improvements.

You are not required to participate, but we hope you will consider doing so. Look for order forms in your parent folder. Items purchased will be delivered to your child's classroom. Out-of-town friends and family may order online at [www.innisbrook.com](http://www.innisbrook.com). Our school code is 102074. Orders placed online will be shipped directly to your home.

## Upcoming PTM Events

- ◆ Back to School Night—September 13 @ 5:00 PM
- ◆ Room Rep Orientation—September 20 @ 6:30 PM
- ◆ Camp Montessori—September 28 @ 6:30 PM
- ◆ Bluebird Day—September 28 (wear your T-shirt)
- ◆ Parent Work Day—September 29 @ 8:30 AM

## Bluebird Running Club takes on Disney Family Fun Run

The MIR Bluebird Running Club ran in the Disney Family Fun Run, held on Sunday, September 2. The race wound through Disneyland and Disney's California Adventure. MIR participants included student Laurel Booth and family; student Chloe DeBanff and her father; and teachers Jean Bonner-Drinkwine and Emily Fitzgerald.

## Join the Club

The Running Club meets Friday mornings outside the MIR office at 7:30 AM (for 5K runners) and 8 AM (for 2K runners) and runs until 8:30 AM. Children ages 6 and up and their parents may join. Runners should wear running shoes and bring a water bottle. Write "RC" next to your child's name on the sign-in sheets to avoid being charged for childcare. Running club does not meet on rainy days.

# BOARD CORNER

by LEELA MADHAVARAU, PRESIDENT,  
MIR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Welcome to the start of a new school year! Last year, the Board spent much of the year working on the bond proposal that resulted in the purchase of the school property. This year, the focus of the Board will be moving to a committee-based model. There will be plenty of opportunity for parent involvement in these committees, particularly as we move forward with the strategic planning process.

We encourage parents to attend the Open Forum sessions held by the Board prior to four meetings throughout the year. Come to ask questions or just to find out more about the Board. All Open Forum sessions take place from 6:30 PM to 7:00 PM. The dates are Monday, October 22; Monday, January 28; Monday, March 24; and Monday, May 19.

If you have any questions or comments for the Board, please feel free to contact me directly.

Leela MadhavaRau  
President, Board of Trustees  
E-mail: [leela\\_madhavarau@redlands.edu](mailto:leela_madhavarau@redlands.edu)  
Phone: (909) 792-2406

## Parent Work Day: Put MIR on Your 'Honey-Do' List

Twice a year MIR holds Parent Work Days, during which parents volunteer to complete a number of tasks around the campus to make sure our facilities are in top shape. Tasks range from painting classrooms to clearing overgrowth to making much needed repairs. Our fall Parent Work Day will be held Saturday, September 29, 8:30 AM-11:30 AM.

Your help is very valuable and appreciated. This is a great way to fulfill your volunteer hours, and it's a lot of fun, too!

# Get the Tools to Be a Better Parent at a New Support Group

- ◆ Do you feel frustrated, angry, hurt, or hopeless about your child's behavior, and don't know why?
- ◆ Are your efforts at providing limits and discipline not working?
- ◆ Would you like to learn new tools to avoid power struggles and reduce conflict?
- ◆ Would you like to brainstorm solutions with other parents at MIR?

If this sounds like you, I invite you to join a parenting support group in formation. The group will meet at MIR

Parenting is the hardest, most rewarding, and the most transformative experience I have had. I consider myself to be a kind, loving, patient person, who values self-discipline, mutual respect, and cooperation. Yet, in parenting I act frustrated, impatient, unkind, and disrespectful to the people I love most—myself, my spouse, and my children. Like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, I make sudden switches from infinite patience to coming down like a ton of bricks. I often wonder, if loving is so natural, why is parenting so hard? And why do I feel so unprepared?

Last winter I joined a group of 30 other parents seeking help at the *Positive Discipline* class offered by MIR. What a relief to discover that our struggles are

common, and to learn some effective tools for winning cooperation and defusing conflict! And what a challenge to realize that if I want to help my children to do better, I must first control my own behavior.

We learned that just like grown-ups, children are seeking significance and belonging; that their misbehavior often is a mistaken attempt to achieve

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“I often wonder, if loving is so natural, why is parenting so hard? And why do I feel so unprepared?”

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this goal; that we as parents need to manage our responses and learn to identify our children's underlying beliefs; and that our job is not to “make” children behave but to help them learn self-control and problem-solving skills.

The *Positive Discipline* approach has revolutionized my thinking about parenting. Putting it into practices is more challenging. Fortunately, I now have some tools to recover from my parenting blow-outs. Author Jane Nelson describes this experience well:

“...Even when I know better, I don't always do what I know...One of the things I love about the *Positive Discipline* principles is that no matter how many mistakes I make, and no matter how many messes I create with my mistakes, I can always go back to the principles, learn from my mistakes, clean up the mess I made—and make things better than they had been before the mistakes.”

If this sounds like good news to you, or if you attended a *Positive Discipline* class and want support in continuing to apply these principles, please e-mail or call me to express your interest in participating in a parenting group. Teachers are also welcome! Please let me know

- ◆ Your name and e-mail address
- ◆ How often you would like to meet (once a week, twice a month, once a month)
- ◆ What days/times are best for you

Once we know the level of interest, we can set up a schedule and meetings space. Thanks for your time and interest!

Anne Desmarais  
E-mail: [anne\\_desmarais@hotmail.com](mailto:anne_desmarais@hotmail.com)  
Phone: 909-793-6795

## Key Dates to Remember in September

Thursday, September 13	Back to School Night, 5 PM. Primary and Middle School orientations, 6 PM. Elementary orientation, 6:30 PM.
Monday, September 17	Innisbrook Gift Wrap Fundraiser begins.
Thursday, September 20	PTM Representative orientation.
Friday, September 21	MIR International Day of Peace celebration, 12 PM.
Thursday, September 27	Toddler parent orientation, 6 PM.
Friday, September 28	Bluebird Day—wear your t-shirt! First schoolwide assembly, 9:15 AM. Camp Montessori, 6 PM.
Saturday, September 29	Parent Work Day, 8:30 AM-11:30 AM.