

# The Icebox

The Monthly Newsletter of Montessori in Redlands



## Helping Your Child To Help Himself

If your child was hungry and you gave him a bowl of soup, would you then eat it for him to save him the trouble or to get it done faster?

Of course not, you answer, but in fact every day we do things unnecessarily for our children for just these reasons. In the process, we hamper our children's ability to develop their own self-sufficiency.

Come to Parent Education Night on Thursday, October 11 at 7 PM to learn about the importance of helping your children develop their independence. Hear from alumni how their Montessori education and its focus on independence helped them become capable, confident, and responsible adults. Learn about the 2007-2008 MIR Annual Fund and how contributing can help your child to help himself. We hope to see you there!

## What's Inside

- Meet Your PTM Room Representatives (PTM Corner)
- Halloween Carnival (PTM Corner)
- Board of Trustees Plans for the Future of MIR (Board Corner)
- Middle School Students Take On Cross Country Challenge
- Penny Davis To Moderate New Parent Support Group
- Schools Pause for Peace

## The Most Important Skill

by MAURA JOYCE, HEAD OF SCHOOL

What would you say is the most important thing you want your child to learn before he or she graduates from high school? What one key skill do you think is vital to his/her success as an adult? Most of us as parents and educators can come up with a list of things, but narrowing it down to one is challenging. Dr. Maria Montessori identified several crucial areas of development to create a well-rounded, responsible, contributing member of society. But she began with her focus on one.

After countless hours of observation of infants, Montessori realized that every ounce of energy put out by a new human person is working towards the acquisition of independence. Every turn of the head, movement of the hand, attempt at communication (crying and smiling) was an effort on the part of the child to be able to engage in this world s/he is born into.

Being born completely dependent on the adult, the human infant has all its needs met by the parents and family members to which s/he belongs. As the months and years go by, we strive to be good, loving and nurturing parents and do all that we can for our child. At some point during this time, one of the child's needs becomes more and more pronounced, yet it is one easily missed by the adults. It is the need for independence—the child's cry, "Help me to do it by myself."

I had my child after becoming a Montessori teacher and after I had heard the words of Maria Montessori. And yet, again and again, I miss my child's desire to do things on his own and by himself. Why do I miss it? Because I am in a hurry and need to get out the door. Because I want it done a certain way. Because I have been doing it for him for years and haven't thought about him needing or wanting to do it himself.

Fostering independence in our children is necessary if we hope to some day see them living on their own as a successful adult. Maria Montessori wisely pointed out that the child begins this process at birth and we, as caregivers, need to foster that independence.

Please join the staff and some of our very own alumni on Thursday, October 11 at 7 PM as we present *Help Me to Do it By Myself: Fostering Independence*.

Come early, enjoy food and music and stay late for our Annual Fund kick-off!

# PTM Corner



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

### Students

Heather Harrison	10/1
Marshall Berry	10/2
Lauren Scott	10/3
Elijah deMaison	10/4
Makenna Liess	10/4
Katie Lamoureux	10/5
Daniel McCall	10/6
Colby Grames	10/8
Josephine Crowder	10/10
Eva Cantwell	10/11
Madeline Chun	10/11
Bennett Watson	10/13
Ferdinand Bellermann	10/17
Zabrina Dunham	10/18
Brigid Lamoureux	10/18
Daniel Cheng	10/25
Jace Hogue	10/27
Jasper Mueller	10/27
Shriyaa Narayanan	10/30

### Staff

Deborah Louks	10/2
Carol Sonntag	10/11
Cheryl Thomas	10/19
Joan Riggs	10/31

## Bluebirds About Town: Submit Your Photos

Icebox is looking for photos of parents, children, or staff about town in their Bluebird t-shirts. Show your school spirit and submit your photos for publication! The more unique the location, the better. Contact Lisa Kensok at [lisa@lisakensok.com](mailto:lisa@lisakensok.com) to submit your photos.

Thank you to the wonderful attendees and volunteers who made Back to School Night a huge success! As always, it was a great kick-off to the new school year. The next school event will be the Parent Education Night and Annual Fund Kick-off celebration on Thursday, October 11 at 7 PM. That night will be another great opportunity to learn about our school.

## Halloween Carnival Volunteers Needed

**Friday, October 26, 5:00 PM–8:00 PM**

**Costume Parade starts at 5:30 PM**

Plan to bring the entire family for a fun night of games, rides, and festivities at the annual PTM Halloween Carnival! Admission is free and opportunities to help are plenty. This is a great way to fulfill your volunteer hour requirements. If you would like to help, please attend the Carnival Planning Meeting on Wednesday, October 17, 5:00 PM–6:00 PM in the Yoga room. Set-up for the carnival will begin Thursday evening, 5:30 PM–7:30 PM and continue all day Friday. We hope to see you there!

### **Items we need for the carnival:**

Please let Jean Bonner-Drinkwine know what you can bring: 909-241-8100.

Bags of candy    Bottles of water  
Broccoli        Butter  
Grated cheese    Hot dogs and buns  
Ice                Sour cream  
Potatoes (10 lb. bags, not cooked)  
Chili (canned or homemade)  
Soda



## Don't Get Caught Without Your Bluebird Shirt

Thanks for showing off your school spirit on Bluebird Day (September 28). The next Bluebird Day will be held on Friday, October 26. MIR students, staff, and families are encouraged to wear their Bluebird t-shirts as a show of school spirit and just for fun. Is your shirt old? Worn out? Or you don't have one yet? Stop by the office and place your order. We offer many shapes and sizes to suit the weather and your style!

## Support Your PTM: Innisbrook Fundraiser

Thank you to all who have already placed Innisbrook Gift Wrap orders. Your order will be delivered to your child's classroom. You can still place orders online at [www.innisbrook.com](http://www.innisbrook.com). Our school code is 102074. Orders placed online will be shipped directly to your home.

## Meet Your 2007/2008 PTM Room Reps

**Toddlers:** Liana—Jennifer Cristall; Aedin—Anu Diekmann; Christine—Rena Rice  
**Primary:** Jean/Maryhelen—Melissa Walker, Karen Derris, Angela Keller, Jo Lynn Lambert; Kara/Dorama—Heather Florida; Kristin—Mary Lamoureux, Donna Savacool-Barkley; Nikki—Lindsey Wiefels; Sara—Jennifer Paugh, Nina Kulkami

**Elementary:** Mara/Emily—Shelly McCarthy; Kelly—Deborah Ralston; Margaretann/Nicole—Brandi Jennings; Emily/Justin—Christine Little, Julie Scanlon, Alesandra Wilson

## Upcoming PTM Events

- ◆ Halloween Carnival—October 26, 5:00 PM-8 PM
- ◆ Bluebird Day—October 26 (wear your T-shirt)

## Kelly's Class Santa's Little Helpers

Kelly's elementary class students are participating in a fall community service project for Santa Claus, Inc., an organization in San Bernardino that offers a "Santa's workshop" to provide toys for 11,000 needy families in the area. If you would like to donate your used toys, elves at the workshop fix them up for display. Please contact Kelly Read through the office for more information.

## Middle School Students Take On Cross Country Challenge

Middle School P.E is off to a running start—literally. Students will be running in the Mt. SAC Cross Country Invitational, in Walnut, California, on October 12, 2007. Mt. SAC is one of the nation's largest and most prestigious cross country competitions for elementary, middle, high school, and college students.

The goal of the meet is to promote cross country as an individual and team sport while building confidence, self-respect, and friendship among the participating students. Our students have been training hard and we wish them the best of luck!

## Penny Davis To Moderate New Parent Support Group

Penny Davis will moderate monthly parenting support group meetings starting Tuesday, October 23 at 6 PM. The meetings will offer a friendly atmosphere for you to share and get help with your parenting challenges using Positive Discipline. 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. Fees are \$10 per person or \$15 per couple.

## Montessori Musicians Invited To Perform at Children's Hospital

Students are once again invited to play for patients at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital annual performance, which will be held on Monday, December 3, at 10:30 AM. The event will include music teacher Yang Chen's annual recital. This invitation is open to all MIR students. To sign up your child or volunteer as a chaperone, stop by the office or e-mail

[Pamela.Henry@montessoriiinredlands.org](mailto:Pamela.Henry@montessoriiinredlands.org).

## BOARD CORNER

by LEELA MADHAVARAU, PRESIDENT,  
MIR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## Planning for the Future

As has been mentioned previously in these columns, the Board is now doing much of its work within committees. One of the tasks assigned to a committee is the development of a long-range plan for the school. This process of strategic planning will be a lengthy one and, as we move along further, will require much input from the entire MIR community.

We are engaging in this task to ensure the future of the school and our ability to serve generations of children beyond those attending now. We ask difficult questions about the potential for growth and the market for a Montessori education in the Redlands area. This is very much behind the scenes work but we anticipate that you will begin to see results before the end of the year. When we do come to you for input, we hope that you engage in the process enthusiastically, helping us to determine what will be best for the future of MIR.

If you have questions for the Board, would like to meet us face to face, or have suggestions for us, we will be holding an Open Forum on Monday, October 22 from 6:30 PM to 7:00 PM in the Yoga Room. Refreshments will be served.

As always, please feel free to contact me with questions or comments:

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

# Schools Pause for Peace

Montessori in Redlands and Grove School joined other schools and organizations around the world in celebrating the International Day of Peace (Peace Day) on Friday, September 21, 2007. The celebration included a moment of silence at noon followed by student speeches and thoughts on the topic of “What Brings Peace.” The most moving of these was the speech read by Elementary student Anjali Carter-Rau, age 8 (see sidebar).

In addition to the speeches, Kara and Dorama’s class presented a paper tree with leaves describing peace as

“not interrupting” and “going to school,” among other sayings. Middle School student Kalie Hanson-Campa, age 12, dedicated the new MIR peace pole in honor of her many years under the tutelage of Elementary teacher Margaretann Harrison. The pole reads “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in English, Spanish and Zuni Indian. It also reads, “May peace be in our homes and communities.” The pole was placed on campus between two cypress trees that were planted by students on September 11, 2001, in memory of the lives lost.

## What Brings Peace

Anjali Carter-Rau, age 8

When I wear this T-shirt which says, ‘Girls for Peace,’ people keep asking where I got it. I think this is because people really want peace. If they want to make sure there is peace, they will say no to all wars. That is a big action but we can bring peace to MIR with little actions. When someone says something racist, it is all of our responsibility to say that it isn’t appropriate. If we all speak up, we can bring peace. We all can bring peace by trying to talk people out of fighting. We should all be peacemakers and not let anyone down.

## October 2007

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
01	02	03 Picture Day	04 Kara and Dorama’s class field trip	05 Deadline extended—Innisbrook orders due
08 Staff in-service day. No school, no childcare.	09 Toddler classes field trip	10 Nikki’s and Sara’s classes joint field trip	11 Mara/Emily class trip to Catalina Island	12 Middle School to the Mt. SAC Invitational
15	16	17	18	19
22 Board of Trustees Open Forum, 6:30 PM-7:00 PM	23 Positive Discipline Parent Support Group meets, 6 PM	24	25	26 Bluebird Day Assembly, 9:15 AM Halloween Party, 5:00 PM-8:00 PM
29	30	31 Sara’s class field trip HALLOWEEN 		

## PARENT WORK DAY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The following families accomplished a long list of work on Parent Work Day, which was held Saturday, September 29 immediately following Camp Montessori. Jobs completed include: Painting in Emily and Mara’s room, painting the bike path on the Primary playground, gardening in three areas of the playground, office work, and closet and loft organization. If your name is not listed here, please inform office staff so we can recognize your efforts.

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|----------------|----------------------|
| Acero-Azenaro  | Lamoureux            |
| Barnes/Perea   | Mabudian             |
| Berry          | Martin               |
| Blauth         | McCarthy             |
| Booth          | Minami               |
| Brinton        | O’Brien              |
| Chin           | Pahuja               |
| Duan           | Palmer               |
| English/Little | Reading-Rocco        |
| Fearon         | Simon                |
| Florida        | Soloman              |
| Houston        | Sonntag-Garcia       |
| Hugo           | Spangrud             |
| Inouye/Gervais | Strelnikova/Ivanenko |
| Jennings       | Wells                |
| Khazaeni       | Wright               |
| Kulkarni       |                      |