

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

BLUEBIRD BULLETIN

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What's Inside...

PTM News and Notes. 5
A Memorable Year with More Sure to Come—a letter from outgoing PTM President Vanessa Leslie

Graduating Bluebirds are Set to Leave the MIR Nest. 2
Report from the Board. 3
End of year report and goodbye to Leon Garcia
Curriculum Matters. 3
Actually...

Camp Out at Camp Montessori. 6
Volunteers Wanted for Parent Work Day. 6
Annual Fund Pledge Reminder: If you've pledged but have not yet turned in your donation, please do so in the office by Friday, June 29.

Class of 2012

Join us in celebrating the moving on and moving up of our 2012 Elementary graduates. **Graduates will be honored on Friday, June 8 at 1:00 PM in Emily and Teesie's classroom.**



Primary classes will also hold special ceremonies to recognize those students moving up to Elementary. Check with your child's teacher or class clipboard for dates and times.

So Long, Farewell, Our Friends

by MIR'S GRADUATING 6TH YEAR STUDENTS

*"A man is not what he is because of the teachers he has had, but because of what he has done."—
Maria Montessori*

In a few days, our 6th grade graduates will be on campus for the last time as MIR students. These fine young men and women have shared a productive year together in class and a fun year together as friends. In their own words, they share what they take with them and what they leave behind as they journey beyond the MIR campus. *Nine of our 10 graduates will be attending Grove Farm School in the fall. Sadie Brown is relocating to Oregon with her family.*

Skye Blee began at MIR in 2010 in Emily's class.

At Montessori I have gained much independence, more than I could've asked for, and developed the responsibility and heart to care for the young and elderly. These are things that will help me make my way in this world. I will miss, of course, the teachers, lessons, planning our trips and the freedom to write our own plays. Those were some great experiences. I'll miss my friends and the past times we had together, but I know there are more things that will brighten my future. I will be remembered for being a hard worker; always trying to stay caught up in my lessons and eagerly waiting more. Children will remember me for my drawing, writing and running abilities. This experience has fostered my leadership skills, which will

be very useful later on in my life.

Sadie Brown began at MIR in 2002 in Jean and Maryhelen's class.

I have gained so much from MIR in so many unique ways. I have gained the ability to make good friends. Also, I now have the ability to know how to ask for help, which will help me greatly in the future. I will also need to be able to fundraise and be responsible with money, food, and so much more, which Montessori has helped me learn. I have developed my leadership skills, time management and financial abilities. I will miss everything about Montessori; the wonderful staff, work, lessons, environment, trips, freedom, etc. But overall, at Montesso-

(Continued on page 2)

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ri I will miss my adventure. I guess, though, it truly is not over because I am a Montessori child. I am not sure what I will be remembered for, but what I do know is that whatever it might be, I am confident that it will be just right.

Anjali Carter-Rau began at MIR in 2002 in Liana's Toddler class.

Throughout my years at Montessori, I think that the thing I gained most at MIR is independence and knowledge. I have learned so much with the help of my friends, family and teachers. I look forward to farm work, fundraising opportunities and meeting new people at the Farm school next year! I will miss all of the amazing people who have educated me most of my life. I will

miss doing whatever work I wanted and having a large amount of freedom. Most of all, I think I will miss my friends, but look forward to moving up with some of them next year. I can only hope that people will remember me as a peacemaker and a true friend to all.

Naveen Carter-Rau began at MIR in 2002 in Liana's Toddler class.

One of the things that I think MIR has helped me the most with was making me an independent person. It has also helped me with time management and to develop leadership skills. Another big thing that Montessori has helped me with is that I always want to know more about everything and was able to learn whatever I wanted to. One of the big-

gest things I am going to miss about Montessori is the freedom. That, and the fact that we have no homework. When I leave, I hope to be remembered for how smart I am, my height and my kindness. To finish off, I would like to say that I will miss MIR

Ryan Cocchia began at MIR in 2004 in Jean and Maryhelen's class.

From my years at MIR, I gained experience in many things I would not have if I was anywhere else. I developed my ability to be patient with others, especially with the younger children. I also gained a huge appreciation for my relatives and ancestors for all that they have given me. I will definitely miss all of my friends and teachers. I think people will remember me for just be-

ing myself all of the time and for always being confident. These years at Montessori have been the best of my life!

Jonathan Gervais began at MIR in 2004 in Kara and Dorama's class.

I have learned a lot here but some of the biggest things I have learned were independence and confidence, which has made me want to learn more about everything. Some of the things that I am going to miss most about MIR are the awesome teachers who have helped me get through school and all of the freedom to choose what I want to work on. What I hope to be remembered by is being nice, helping out others, and working a lot at the Farm school.

(Continued on page 4)

Graduating Bluebirds are Set to Leave the MIR Nest



Skye Blee



Sadie Brown



Ryan Cocchia



Jonathan Gervais



Carolyn Lambson



Kennedy McCarthy



Laura Sousa



Addison Woolie



Naveen Carter-Rau



Anjali Carter-Rau

Report from the Board

by PAMELA FORD, PRESIDENT

At the end of another school year, the members of the MIR community are thinking of all kinds of things: end-of-year events, vacation plans, summer school fun, and even the next school year.

Members of the Board are happy to wind up a year that was very full: the Grove kitchen was turned into a commercial kitchen, the WASC Self-Study and Accreditation Visit were completed, and the Board itself completed a Board Training session in the early spring.

One of the things learned during both the Board Training and in the process of the WASC Self-Study is that the Board should be evaluating itself to assess its members' ability to work together to carry out the school's mission. This meant that we needed to learn how to do such an evaluation and then to implement it. I am happy to say that we did!

The results are significant. We asked several questions of all board members about what our tasks are, how we should best be carrying out those tasks, if we are communicating well, and what we should be planning to do in the immediate future and the more distant future. I grouped the responses to these questions so that we had Maura's responses separate from the responses of the rest of the Board. This was intentional because one of the "instructions" from our Board Training process was to find if the Board and the Head of School are in agreement about the goals for the school.

The result of this evaluation process is great: not only do members of the Board share many overlapping ideas about our tasks and processes, but the Board itself shares the same overall ideas that the Head of School describes. We are moving in the same direction and we are on the same train!

In that vein, we will welcome two new board members in July: Treva Webster and Lorraine Slattery-Farrell. I will introduce them to you more fully in the Fall.

Our Board By-Laws require that terms of membership on the Board be limited, and at the end of this year we will say good-bye to Leon Garcia who has served as the Treasurer for the MIR Board for six years. He served during a time of major changes in the structure and processes of the Board and during significant growth in MIR. We thank him for his dedication to MIR, his good work, and his great sense of humor and grace in all that he did for MIR.



Curriculum Matters

By PETER DAVIDSON,
ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL

Actually...

"Sometimes very small children in a proper environment develop a skill and exactness in their work that can only surprise us."—Maria Montessori

Recently I met with the parents of toddlers who will move up to Primary in the fall. Before sending them into the Primary classrooms to observe, I asked them to introduce themselves and say a few words about what they have appreciated most about their children's experiences in the Toddler classes. Of course they talked about how much they appreciate how patient and nurturing the staff are and how conscious of the children's well-being. They shared how much their children have learned, how they have grown socially and in their ability to focus and persevere, and how much more independent and responsible they are now than they were even a few months ago. They mentioned their children's acquisition of skills in dressing and feeding themselves, putting their toys away and especially, toileting.

One parent made a comment that made us all smile. She was talking to her little girl recently and was surprised when her 33-month-old daughter casually dropped the word "actually" into the conversation with appropriate usage and context. This sparked a lively discussion among us about the way that the Toddler staff talks to the children. The teachers and assistants are careful to get down to the children's level, make eye contact, and speak slowly and distinctly and with correct vocabulary and diction. They are careful never to "talk down" to children but instead speak to them almost as though they were tiny adults.

At this age children are increasing their vocabulary exponentially and are able to absorb language from their environment seemingly without effort, like little sponges. The richer the language in their environment, the more fully their ability to communicate will develop. This then can be the role of the adult—to make that language environment rich and colorful and stimulating and precise.

In my first year in the classroom I created sets of vocabulary cards for my students in fruits and vegetables, modes of transportation, trees and flowers, and many classifications of animals, both vertebrate and invertebrate. Imagine the surprise of one of the parents in my class when she took her 5-year-old daughter for a walk and pointed out a pretty bird. "Yes, Mommy," her little girl

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 2)

Carolyn Lambson began at MIR in 2001 in Liana's Toddler class.

When I leave Montessori, I will miss so much; from the materials, to my friends and teachers, to the incredible amount of freedom, trust and independence. All of these things combined to create such an amazing environment to be in and I will really miss it. I will also miss all of Emily's jokes, hugs, lessons and comfort. Montessori is such an awesome school that I will really miss. I have gained so much while being at Montessori. I have gained much knowledge, patience and independence. I developed many skills on how to fundraise, plan trips and travel over the past year. I also learned how to make friends, to be tolerant and patient, to trust others, and so much more! I feel that when I leave that I will be remembered for my enthusiasm, my energy level, and my kindness.

Kennedy McCarthy began at MIR in 2002 in Liana's Toddler class.

I will definitely miss my lovely teacher Emily and all of my friends. I have made so many new great relationships. I will also miss being able to plan trips and fundraisers, as well as go on amazing trips. I think that I gained leadership skills throughout all of the fundraising we have done. I also gained a lot of independence. It's good to have independence because it is easier to get things done. I think that people will miss my laugh because it is sincere and I do it a lot!

Laura Sousa began at MIR in 2002 in Aedin's Toddler class.

From 11 whole years at Montessori, I have gained skills such

as responsibility, kindness, how to handle money, and how to use my time wisely. I believe these are all things that are very important and everyone should know about. There are so many great things about MIR and I am going to miss them all! I wish I could take it all with me! Although, if I had to pick two things I would miss the most, it would probably my teachers and peers. I will be remembered for keeping up with my work and begging for more. I will also be remembered for my love of learning, especially math.

Addison Wroolie began at MIR in 2007 in Emily's class.

I have collected so much knowledge here at Montessori and made some awesome friends. I have also become more independent and I've learned many ways to express my creativity. I've discovered that I love writing and illustrating, or really doing anything with a pencil, because I was allowed the freedom to explore my interests! All the fundraising and planning for our trips have taught me a whole lot. I will of course miss Emily and all the other teachers at MIR, as well as my friends that aren't going to the Farm school. I will definitely miss having no homework (well, having fun homework, such as drawing and gardening) and the very fun lessons and materials. Most of all, I think, I will miss the overall freedom that we have to work on anything we want to. I'm not a mind reader, but if I had to guess, I would hope I would be remembered for my jokes, songs, writing, and everything I try to do to make people laugh.

(Continued from page 3)

responded, "That is called a Blackburnian warbler." Just this week one of our teachers had a similar experience on the playground. "Look!" said a 5-year-old boy, "It's a red tailed hawk!" Not to be outdone, one of his classmates added to the conversation. "I just saw a black bird on the playground." "Was it a crow?" the teacher asked. "No," the little girl continued, "I think it was a black phoebe!"

I'm recounting these stories for a simple reason. Summer is coming and soon many of these lovely children will return to the daily company of their first and most important teachers – you, their parents. As you take them on



vacation or to the beach or the park or even your backyard for a barbeque, remember what rich opportunities for conversation

surround us. Our children notice ever so much more than we do about our surroundings. When they notice a bird, a flower, a shiny green bug, or a sleek yellow sports car, stop a moment and take the time notice it with them and have a conversation. Think of it as an opportunity to enrich their language environment. And don't be embarrassed if you don't know a blackburnian warbler from a black phoebe. It is even more powerful if you say, "I

don't know what kind of bird that is, but I know where we can find out!" Actually, it is.



A little bird told me...PTM News and Notes

A Memorable Year and More Sure to Come by VANESSA LESLIE, OUTGOING PTM PRESIDENT

My daughter Violet asked me the other day, “when is the next spring carnival?” and after a chuckle (because we just had a carnival recently), I replied, “not until next year.” She then followed with, “when is the Halloween carnival?” and I further replied, “in October.” In this very simple conversation, two things became evident to me.

These events are leaving an impression on all of our children. Whether it’s seeing their friends on a day other than a school day, or visiting their classroom booths, or assisting with a gallery exhibit, what they are taking are enriching experiences that we (parents, teachers, and administrative staff) are contributing to. Sometimes Camp Montessori is the first camp for many children and their parents. Our children will be looking back at these times someday with fond memories. On Parent Work Day, our children watch us take interest in caring for their environment. What better opportunity as parents do we have to be involved in their community and to be an example for them?

The other thought that came to me, was the fact that I said to my daughter with such conviction that the carnival events will be held next year. This is due to the confidence that I have in our community. Without doubt, there will be other leaders joining the PTM board or becoming room representatives that will be just as eager to keep these Montessori traditions alive.

I have had another memorable year serving as President of PTM and thank you all for entrusting me and my fellow Board Members with the responsibilities of liaison between parents, teachers, and administrative staff and supporting the educational efforts of MIR in accordance with Montessori philosophy. We hope each child and parent can look back and agree that it was another great year at Montessori In Redlands!

We ask that you join us in thanking your room representatives for their dedication both in your classrooms and with PTM events: Allison Pate, Annie Rumar, Anuja Shah, Carmen Levesque, Carolyn Schutten, Christie Pleiss, Donna Barkley, Jennifer Burrows, Julie Lowe, Juliet Conlon, Karen Oliver, Kathleen Liess, Katia Hage, Misty Agrawal, Molly Hopkins, Olivia Montaghani, Rachel Mickelson, Rebeca Montes, Rika Minami, Shelley McCarthy, Tara McFann, and

Violet Aguilar-Wyrick.

A special thank you goes out to Jill McDermott, Shelley McCarthy, Emily Fitzgerald and Lisa Oliver. Thank you all for your altruistic actions and never ending support.

Much gratitude goes to Jean Bonner-Drinkwine, a dedicated teacher, friend, and mentor. Without you none of this is possible. You are THE driving force behind all of this! Saying thank you doesn’t give what you do for our children enough justice.

Thank you to our current and outgoing PTM Board Officers:

Heather Florida, Treasurer: I’m forever grateful that we had this experience together. I have found even more reasons to admire you! You have the skills to pay the bills! That’s for sure! No pun intended. Thank you!

Kathleen Liess, Vice President: Just when I thought that no one could fill Shelley’s shoes, you came along! You are extremely thoughtful and brought some fun to the meetings with great raffle prizes to boot! Any person who brings fun is a friend of mine! You got a friend in me and in many others, I’m sure. You are creative, (just check out the PTM Board in the lobby), imaginative, and super sweet. Thank you! The Board is fortunate to have you AND Vanessa Causley another year.

Vanessa Causley, Secretary: Aussies are great people and loads of fun! I have had first hand experience with you Bella! You are a bright ray of sunshine with your smile and charisma. Your way with words and organization of your meeting minutes are awesome. I’m sure the meeting minute format will remain the same for years to come thanks to you!

Another special thanks goes to the Board of Trustees. I have found a whole new respect for what you do. I will never take for granted the dedication each of you has for the success of our school. You are an exemplary group of individuals. Thank you for answering my questions and making me feel a part of something special.

I urge parents who haven’t been room representatives to look at next year as a perfect opportunity. If you are interested, please talk to your current room rep or teacher.

Again, thank you for letting me be of service and I will see you around next year. May you all have a memorable summer!

BIRTHDAYS



students

Veritus Miller	6/1
Paxton Brockardt	6/3
Lincoln Brockardt	6/3
Evan Brandon	6/4
Flynn Orton	6/4
Gavin Herford	6/5
Otto Ormsby	6/6
Korben Wroolie	6/8
Anagha Satish	6/9
Gareth Haire	6/11
Paul Zakarian	6/11
Abigail Cheng	6/12
Leandro Alvarez	6/13
Thomas Alvarez	6/15
Vinnie DeVito	6/15
Perry Im	6/16
Wesley Levesque	6/17
Campbell Burrows	6/18
Ramya Saravanan	6/18
Ava Mabudian	6/21
Violet Leslie	6/23
Toby Rice	6/23
Ethan Chang	6/26
Nidhi Pidaparathi	6/25
Strawberry Wroolie	6/25
Garen Zakarian	6/29
Benjamin Chun	6/30
Aidan Spangrud	6/30

staff

Camilla Bodnar	6/7
Kim Montague	6/11
Rachel Mickelson	6/12
Samantha Muster	6/19

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Camp Out at Camp Montessori

End the school year with a night under the stars at Camp Montessori on Friday, June 8 starting at 6:30 PM. We will pitch tents under the trees of MIR, cook hotdogs and hamburgers, sing songs, tell stories, and have a whole lot of fun. In the morning everyone will enjoy a pancake breakfast. Children ages 5 to 12 are welcome on their own or with parent volunteers. Children under 5 must be accompanied by a parent volunteer.

Fees are \$30 per child or \$15 for children accompanied by a parent volunteer. Sign up in the office. Payment is due at sign-up. Parent volunteers will be asked to help with cooking, clean-up, and activities.

Turn in Your Annual Fund Donations

If you made a pledge to the 2011-2012 MIR Annual Fund and have not turned in your donation, do so now. **All pledges should be turned in by June 29.**

Volunteers Wanted for Parent Work Day

Help keep our campus in great shape for the summer! Join us for Parent Work Day immediately following Camp Montessori, 8:30-11:30 AM on Saturday, June 9. Many hands make light work!

June 2012

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
28	29	30	31	1
School closed for Memorial Day. No school, no childcare.		Liana's class party @ Brookside Park, 9:15-11:30 AM Kelly's class talent show and ice cream social, 4-6 PM PTM Room Rep appr. night @ Farm Artisan Foods, 7-9 PM	Nicole/Magaretann's class play @ G. Wallichs Theater, U of R, 6:30 PM	
Teesie/Emily's class camping trip				
4	5	6	7	8/Sat. 9
Kara/Dorama's graduation ceremony (for parents of graduates only), 11 AM-NOON	Nikki's class Father's Day breakfast, 9-10 AM Margaretann's class trip to California Science Center, 8:30 AM-4 PM CANCELED Music recital for Yang Chen's students, NOON-1 PM Emily/Teesie's class talent show and potluck, 3:30-5 PM	Margaretann's class pool party, 9:30 AM-3 PM FIELD DAY—Primary and Lower Elementary, 10 AM-3 PM Emily's Upper Elementary Pool Party, 10 AM-2:30 PM Aedin's class ice cream social, 10:30-11:30 AM Sara's class potluck, 11 AM-1 PM Teesie's Lower El water Field Day and party, 2-3:30 PM	Marie's class potluck @ Sylvan Park, 9-1:30 PM Nikki's class party, 10 AM-2 PM 6th year lunch at Farm Artisan Foods, NOON-1:30 PM Elementary Choir performance, 4:15-5:15 PM	Dorama/Kara's class party @ Brookside Park, 9 AM-NOON Jean/MH's class ice cream social and move up celebration, 10:30 AM-NOON Christine's class ice cream party, 10:30 AM School Closes @ 12 PM 6th years graduation, 1 PM Camp Montessori 6:30 PM Saturday—PARENT WORK DAY, 8:30-11:30 AM
11	12	13	14	15
School closed for staff in-service. No childcare.				
18	19	20	21	22
Summer Session I begins				
25	26	27	28	29
			Elementary SS field trip to Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden	Annual Fund donations due Last day to cancel or make changes to Summer Session 3 Primary SS field trip to Aquarium of the Pacific