



BLUEBIRD BULLETIN

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Class of 2013

Adieu to Our Friends

by MIR'S GRADUATING 6TH YEAR STUDENTS

"Free the child's potential and you will transform him into the world."
—*Maria Montessori*

Join us in celebrating the moving on and moving up of our 2013 Elementary graduates as well as our many students moving up to the next level this year.

Our 6th year graduates will be honored on Friday, June 7 at 1:00 PM at the Contemporary Club in Redlands. Friends and family are welcome to attend.

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.

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. *Nineteen of our 21 graduates will be attending Grove Farm School in the fall. Makaila McCarthy will be attending the Hershey Montessori Farm School in Ohio, and Matthew Mikhailov will be attending Valley Preparatory School.*

Demiana Ibrahim began at MIR in 2002 in Liana's Toddler class.

MIR has helped me gain independence. This is definitely something I will take with me from this school. I think people will remember me for my love of reading. I will miss the freedom of MIR.

Elena Forristall began at MIR in 2002 in Aedin's Toddler class.

MIR is the best school in the world! I will miss the freedom and trust that this school provides. I will take my knowledge and my responsibility to have the best life ever! People will remember me for my energetic spirit.

Ryan McNaughton began at MIR in 2006 in Kristin Megill's Primary class.

I believe that MIR has given me the best education possible. Whenever I am having trouble with something, I remember back to when I found a piece of high school homework that was a sheet of fractions (+, -, x, /) that I could do! All in all, MIR has held my hand through these important steps of my lifetime and now I am ready to move on and fulfill my dreams.

Daniel Richards-Dinger began at MIR in 2007 in Kelly's Lower Elementary class.

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

By JENNIFER BURROWS, PTM PRESIDENT

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

The PTM Board and the school are grateful to all parents who assisted in PTM events this school year. Each and every hand volunteered was an enormous contribution to the success of PTM and the success of the school. Our goal of strengthening the MIR community is only complete with your support.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to PTM room representatives. These are members of the parent community who communicate PTM news to each class and raise support for events. Each of the room representatives spend extra time and effort to make sure that every parent in their class knows what activities and fundraisers the PTM has planned for the year. Individually, we thank JJ Cadkin, Lori Digulla, Heather Floridaia, Molly Hopkins (in absentia; relocated to the San Diego area), Kym Howo, Vanessa Leslie, Tara McFann, Rachel Mickelson, Rika Minami, Olivia Montaghmi, Joanne Parkinson, Allison Pate-Smart, Coral Pham, Charity Plaxton-Hennings, Christie Pleiss, Leann Pulido, Jill Scholz, Holly Stillings, Gabby Symmes, and Flor Urrea-Krahn. The PTM would be remiss if we didn't give thanks to our fearless office liaison, Jill McDermott, for her constant editing, answering questions, and reminders, which have been essential to PTM's success.

Thank you to our outgoing PTM Board Officers—Kathleen Liess, Vanessa Causley, and Carmen Levesque.

- Kathleen Liess, Vice President: Thank you for your two years of help organizing key events, supporting the Spring Gala, and for always being willing and able to get it (whatever "it" may be) done.
- Vanessa Causley, Secretary: Thank you for being timely with Board communication, remembering teacher birthdays, and for always lending a hand throughout your two years of service. Your wit and wisdom will be missed!
- Carmen Levesque, Treasurer: Thank you for being budget conscious, making purchases, and keeping the books in order. You have been a great addition to the Board, and we're sorry to lose you!

Thank you to our continuing PTM Board Officers and supporters:

- Jean Bonner-Drinkwine, Teacher Liaison: Thank you for your advice and insight throughout my first year on the Board. Your tireless dedication to the PTM and MIR community is admirable and greatly appreciated!
- Annie Rumary, Box Tops Coordinator: Thank you for your unflagging support coordinating the collection and submittal of Box Tops. Your hard work has been essential to the success of this program!

Finally, thank you to the entire MIR community for providing your suggestions, comments, and questions over my first of two years as PTM President. Collectively, we all help to enrich the lives of the children at the school through PTM. We look forward to seeing what our parents can do in 2013-14. As The Brodys sing, "Have a good summer!"

PTM ANNOUNCES NEW OFFICERS

Thank you to all parents who voted in the recent PTM elections. We're happy to announce that Primary and Toddler parent Christie Pleiss will be the new PTM Vice President. Primary parent Jill Scholz will take on the role of Secretary. Please offer your congratulations when you see them on campus. Welcome to the PTM Board, Christie and Jill! In addition, Heather Floridaia will reprise her role as Treasurer for the remainder of Carmen Levesque's term. Carmen was unable to complete her term due to other commitments.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ALUMNI

The following former Montessori in Redlands students will graduate from The Grove School this year:

☞ Brandon Anzaldi	☞ Patrick Duggin
☞ Savannah Bachar	☞ Calle Hinkle
☞ Tori Church	☞ Shailah Keme
	☞ Max Machler
	☞ Trey O'Brien
	☞ Brandon Oliver
	☞ Duncan Smith

Two former MIR students will also be graduating from the United States Air Force Academy this year:

☞ Garrett Womack
☞ Andrew Hoops

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Report from the Board

The Board's Summer Activities

BY PAMELA FORD, PRESIDENT

That “summer feeling” is in the air, even if it is cloudy as I write today. In spite of May Gray and June Gloom, the children know that a new season is around the corner. There will be more picnics and camp-outs, and lazy evenings outside. Members of the Board of Trustees look forward to these things just as much as you do. We hope that you have a wonderful summer, no matter what shape it takes.

While we will enjoy our summer, we will not be absent. We have a few tasks to carry out on behalf of Montessori in Redlands. I thought you might like to know of a couple of them.

In June, all of the board members will spend a Saturday together on what we call our “Board Retreat.” We spend the day addressing our assessment of the past school year and our goals for the next school year. Our conversations always focus on what is best for MIR now and in the future.

The Finance Committee continues to meet through the summer months; for the financial details that they handle never take a vacation.

In August members of the Board have a tradition of celebrating Banana Split Day together with the members of the Board of The Grove School. Even if we don't do it on the actual Banana Split Day (Banana Split Day really exists: Google it), we will get together to socialize and hear about Grove's finalized plans for the year ahead. And, yes, we will make banana splits! (Some of us are messier than others.)

The first Board meeting of the new school year falls on the first day of school (August 26). Everyone—children, parents, staff and the board—will be ready and willing to leap into a great new school year.

Thank you for choosing Montessori in Redlands for your family. We are all in this journey of discovery together.



Curriculum Matters

by PETER DAVIDSON,
ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL

What do Montessori students do after graduation?

“It is not in human nature for all men to tread the same path of development, as animals do of a single species.”—Maria Montessori

Recently a parent posed a question as to what Montessori graduates do later in life. Specifically, she had heard that many become enamored of the theater arts and try for an acting career. While it is true that music, art, and drama are incorporated into the daily life of every Montessori classroom, and that our elementary students often write and perform in plays, I had never been asked this question before. I couldn't think of any Montessori graduates (other than George Clooney) from my personal experience of 30+ years in the work who had pursued an acting career, and I told her so. But, it piqued my curiosity and inspired me to do some quick research. It just happens that I keep up with 47 Montessori Elementary graduates from my old school (Montessori School of Beaverton) on Facebook, who are now adults in their mid-20s to mid-30s. I decided to see what they were up to.

The easiest information to glean was their college education, as 44 out of the 47 listed at least an undergraduate education. Of the three who didn't, one started a family early, one joined the military, and one played professional hockey. Of the rest, 20 attended public universities, (Alabama and Indiana, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Cal State



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CURRICULUM MATTERS *(cont.)*

(Continued from page 3)

Long Beach, Evergreen, NYU, Oregon, Oregon State, Pennsylvania, UC Santa Cruz, UCSD, UNLV, Washington) and 22 attended private colleges (Antioch, Brandeis, Columbia, Concordia, Drexel, Duke, Occidental, Pomona, Reed, Rensselaer Polytechnic, Rhode Island School of Design, Sarah Lawrence, Scripps, Stanford, USF, Whitman). Two attended universities outside the U.S.: University of Nantes and the Sorbonne. Twelve attended or are attending graduate school, including Auburn, Brandeis, Emory, Pacific, Pennsylvania and the University of London, Portland State, Stanford, and University of Chicago, with one in medical school at Oregon Health Sciences University.

From this particular (and admittedly unscientific) sample, it looks as if Montessori graduates overwhelmingly attend college, and some pretty fine colleges, at that. And many go on to graduate school—a quarter in this sample.

Careers are harder to pin down, as not everyone posts that information on Facebook. However, 22 of the 47 did post that information, and their careers are surprisingly diverse. The largest number (7) are in high tech, including managers at Intuit, Microsoft, Amazon, and a telecom firm; engineers at Intel and Western Digital; and an entre-

preneur who started her own web design firm. The second highest number (5) have careers in education, with careers in finance (4) a close third. Among the finance people there is an investment banker, an investment manager, an accountant, and an actuary. Among the educators, one is a writing teacher, one a music teacher, one in Teach for America, and one an administrator with a French Immersion School. There is even one who is a Montessori teacher! The remaining careers include an attorney for the IRS, a jewelry buyer, the professional athlete, the soldier, a homemaker, a nurse in a cancer clinic, and a freelance writer who just published her first novel. Some pretty interesting, varied, exciting and important careers, but not an actor among them!

Obviously, this is not a large enough sample to be statistically significant. Nonetheless, I am tempted to look for some patterns here, which I suspect would be repeated in a larger sample. Montessori students are not afraid of math, which I think accounts for the number in engineering and finance. Montessori grads are also in touch with their verbal sides, hence the writer, teachers, and attorney. But, more importantly, given the variety of colleges and career paths, I suspect that Montessori grads are not afraid to be themselves, and are passionate about what they pursue in life, whatever that may be. Even acting!

ADIEU TO OUR FRIENDS *(cont.)*

(Continued from page 1)

MIR has graciously given me many things, including friends, a *great* hands-on education, and extraordinary teachers: Kelly and Emily. I will carry the amazing values and tolerance that this school has taught me throughout my adulthood. Though I will miss the friendly air of MIR and the great people inside of it, I am now ready for the Farm. I can't thank all of the staff of MIR enough for influencing my life and sending me down a more educated path.

Blake Rice began at MIR in 2003 in Kara and Dorama's Primary class.

For me, what I have acquired by working at MIR is being kind, being patient, staying organized, being competitive, and the ability to compromise and improvise in tricky situations. I think people will remember me for my awesomeness, my peanut allergy, and my four fingers. To me, what I will miss and leave behind is memories, the soccer net, the basketball court, and Kelly's and Emily's classrooms!

Drew Blauth began at MIR in 2003 in Liana's Toddler class.

I have earned valuable knowledge and friendships during my experience at MIR. I absorbed understanding and tolerance as well as gaining memories. I will be remembered because of my friendships. I will miss MIR because it has been a "home" to me and because of the friendly staff.

Keerthana Toure began at MIR in 2005 in Nikki's Primary class.

I have gained independence and self-confidence. At MIR I can state my opinions and not be shy around people. I will remember all the good things I've learned both academically and other values that will help me in the future. I think people will remember me because I'm a good friend. I will miss pretty much everything here, the great friends and classmates, and all the good memories.

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Anna Kensok began at MIR in 2002 in Aedin's Toddler class.

I will take the communication skills I learned and my memories with me to Farm and wherever I go. I don't really know what people will remember about me but I hope it is nice. I will miss the freedom and the fun trips we had in Elementary.

Jennifer Hitchcock began at MIR in 2010 in Margaretann's Upper Elementary class.

Montessori has helped me gain confidence and helped me find my voice to speak out. When I leave MIR I will take with me all the things I have learned and my special memories. I hope people will remember me for my artistic ability. I will miss the familiarity of Margaretann's class, the funny times I've had here, and all my classmates. I am going to be really sad to leave MIR but I am also excited for the new things waiting for me out there.

Kristen Henry began at MIR in 2005 in Sara's Primary class.

I feel I've gained independence from MIR. I think people will remember my kindness when I leave this school. I will miss a lot of things about MIR, but I will miss the big campus and pretty environment most of all.

Ben Murphy began at MIR in 2003 in Liana's Toddler class.

I will take a lot from MIR, but I think the most cherished things I will take are my memories. I think by leaving a pond in my class garden, people will remember me for my effect on the environment. I think I will miss everything at MIR, from the ability to discuss work to playing soccer on the playground. I will always remember MIR in my heart.

William Clafin began at MIR in 2010 in Margaretann's Upper Elementary class.

When I leave MIR I will take good memories and lots of knowledge. People will probably remember me as a nice and loyal friend who is sometimes mischievous. I will miss not having homework and my old friends.

Walker Mueller began at MIR in 2002 in Christine's Toddler class.

This school has helped me develop my intelligence since I was one and a half years old, but MIR wants to do more than just teach. They want to inspire and encourage you to build your self-esteem. They teach academics and social skills and, trust me, they've done a great job with me. Just ask Margaretann and my other teachers. I have been taught well.

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Back row: William Clafin, Daniel McCall, Daniel Richards-Dinger, Claire Maury-Holmes, Kristen Henry. **Middle row:** Taj Hoo, Jennifer Hitchcock, Ben Murphy, Rachel Porter, Makaila McCarthy, Walker Mueller. **Front row:** Elena Forristall, Bennett Watson, Demiana Ibrahim, Ryan McNaughton, Matthew Mikhailov, Blake Rice.

See page 6 for photos of students not pictured here.

(Continued from page 5)

Claire Maury-Holmes began at MIR in 2011 in Margaretann's Upper Elementary class.

My time at MIR has been amazing. I will miss amazing people that I have met here but I will never forget the memories that I have made with them. I hope people will remember me for my sense of humor and my originality and I will remember everyone for their kindness towards me. Thank you all for the great memories!

Lillian Norton-Brainerd began at MIR in 2005 in Sara's Primary class.

I have gained many things from my years in MIR, not just academically but things I can take with me to Farm, like self-confidence and independence. MIR has helped me a lot with everything from re-learning negative numbers to lessons on roots and understanding cubing. Next year when I go to Farm, I will leave behind a lot of things like the familiar rhythm of what happens everyday in the classroom. I will miss everyone in our class and even the people I did not know. I hope people will remember me for trying to be nice to them and not bugging them too much. Overall, leaving MIR will be hard, but change is something that will happen throughout my life.

Daniel McCall began at MIR in 2002 in Christine's Toddler class.

I have learned so much here at MIR. My fellow friends and teachers will remember me in many ways. My writing skills have grown so much and I am very thankful that I've had the opportunity to go to this school. I will miss MIR but it will be another place I could call "home".

Taj Hoo began at MIR in 2005 in Kristen Megill's Primary class.

I have gained and will take a lot of knowledge when I leave, as well as memories, and a Ben [Taj's friend Ben Murphy—ed.]. People will remember me as shy, funny, and sometimes a trouble maker. I will leave behind 8 years of memories. I will miss having no homework, the way MIR teaches, and my friends who won't be coming to Farm with me. I will miss MIR.

Rachel Porter began at MIR in 2002 in Liana's Toddler class.

MIR has shown me my full potential. I will miss the one-on-one time with the teachers and our hilarious lessons. I hope to take the skills I have learned here everywhere that I go. I am going to miss doing service with the younger students, and our end-of-the-year camping trip. I think I

will be remembered for my enthusiasm for learning.

Makaila McCarthy began at MIR in 2009 in Emily's Lower Elementary class.

I feel as though I will be remembered for my willingness to help younger students in this community. On my journey through life I will take with me my positive mental attitude; in Emily's words: PMA! I will miss the friendships I have built throughout my wonderful time here!

Bennett Watson began at MIR in 2003 in Kara and Dorama's Primary class.

I will miss all of the teachers and staff of MIR who have guided me through my 8 years at this amazing school. I have gained in these years the power of knowledge, respect for others and friendships that will last a lifetime. I will leave behind my sense of humor, my love for reading and compassion for others.

Matthew Mikhailov began at MIR in 2002 in Aedin's Toddler class.

Here at MIR I have gained knowledge, creativity, and leadership. According to my friends, I have left behind a pond and a few good memories. I think I will miss the campus and most of the freedoms given here at MIR.



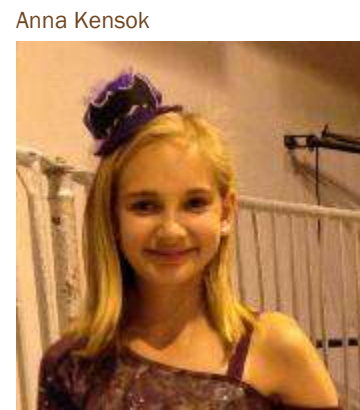
Keerthana Toure



Lillian Norton-Brainerd



Drew Blauth



Anna Kensok

MIR Scrapbook: Recent Trips and Events

MIR 6th year students on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.



The students at Fords Theater, where Abraham Lincoln was assassinated.



Each year MIR's graduating students visit a location that is both fun and educational. Students select the location, plan the trip, and raise the funds to go. The trip falls under the heading of "Practical Life," helping them build life skills and independence in addition to an appreciation of our history and culture. For a complete travelogue of the trip, visit [facebook.com/montessoriinredlands](https://www.facebook.com/montessoriinredlands).

Scenes from a Primary classroom.



Parent-Child Night, students' favorite night of the year.



Grove School E-Waste Collection Fundraiser

Drop off your electronic waste and help the Grove School's athletic program to raise funds. The e-waste collection takes place 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, June 1, at the corner of Orange Avenue and Iowa Street. Convenient drive-through drop-off is available. For more information, call Anke at the Grove office: 909-798-7831.

Start Your Summer Under the Stars at Camp Montessori

Camp Montessori will be held Friday, June 7 starting at 6:30 p.m. Pitch a tent on Jean and Maryhelen's playground and enjoy the fun. Dinner and breakfast will be provided.

Children 5-12 years old may participate in Camp Montessori with or without a chaperone. Children younger than 5 may attend with a chaperone. The cost is \$30 per child without a chaperone, and \$15 per child with one.

Sign up in the office. Payment is due when you sign up.

Get Ready for Field Day on Monday

Primary and Elementary students will enjoy "Field Day" activities on Monday, June 3. They will get wet. Students should wear clothes that they can get wet in, but not bathing suits. **No flip-flops or towels, please.**

From the MIR Development Office

Turn in Your Annual Fund Donations

If you made a pledge to the 2012-2013 MIR Annual Fund and have not turned in your donation, please do so now. **All pledges should be turned in by June 28.**

Spring Gala Results

Thank you to the parents and friends of MIR who responded enthusiastically to the wonderful treasures presented to them at this year's Spring Gala & Auction. You've helped MIR raise \$ 50,200 to support the school's academic programs, facilities, teaching staff, and financial aid program. Total proceeds for the evening, including the live auction, silent auction, and sponsorships, came to \$78, 964.

Women's Yoga Group Starts On Campus

Elementary parent Angela Brenchley, a certified yoga instructor, is holding a women's yoga group on Thursdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m., here at MIR. Class started on May 16 and continues to July 25 (no class on July 4).

The cost is \$60 for the full set of sessions or \$10 to drop in. Payments should be made directly to Angela. She will donate part of the proceeds to the 6th year trip for the MIR class of 2014.

June 2013

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
27	28 Emily/Teesie's 3rd year student fishing trip	29 Elementary Read-a-Thon to help tornado victims Kelly's class art show, 4-6 PM	30 Emily/Teesie's Lower El. trip to Theron's Nicole/Magaretann's variety show @ Glenn Wallichs Theater, U of R, 6:30 PM PTM Room Rep appr. night @ Farm Artisan Foods	31 Final Box Top Friday Nicole's Lower Elementary student end-of-year party at Empire Bowl, 9:45 AM Bluebird Assembly and Principal for a Day, 9:15 AM
School closed for Memorial Day. No school, no childcare.				
Teesie/Emily's Upper Elementary camping trip				
3 Field Day for Primary and Elementary students Music recital for Yang Chen's students, NOON	4 Maria's class Father's Day coffee & donuts, 8:30-9:30 AM Sara's class end-of-year party, 11 AM Emily/Teesie's end-of-year slideshow and potluck, NOON	5 Liana's end-of-year social @ Brookside Park, 9 AM Maria's end-of-year potluck, 10 AM Aedin's ice cream social, 10:30 AM Emily/Teesie's rehearsal @ G. Wallich's Theater, U of R Emily/Teesie's talent show @ Glenn Wallich's Theater, U of R, 6:30 PM	6 Teesie's Lower Elementary "Color Splash" party Emily's Upper Elementary Pool Party, 9 AM-2:30 PM Margaretann's Upper El. pool party, 9:30 AM-3:00 PM Nikki's pool party, 10 AM	7 Marie/Kara's class picnic @ Brookside Park, 9 AM-NOON Christine's class ice cream party, 10-11:30 AM Jean/MH's class ice cream social and move up celebration, 10:30 AM-NOON 6th year lunch @ Farm Artisan Foods, 11 AM-1 PM School Closes @ 12 PM 6th years graduation, 1 PM Camp Montessori 6:30 PM
10	11	12	13	14 Last day to cancel or make changes to Summer Session 2
School closed for staff in-service. No childcare.				
17  Summer Session 1 begins	18	19	20	21 Primary Sportball
24	25	26	27 Elementary SS field trip to Yucaipa Regional Park	28 Annual Fund donations due Last day to cancel or make changes to Summer Session 3 Primary SS field trip to the Los Angeles Zoo Toddler Sportball