



BLUEBIRD BULLETIN

JUNE 2014 VOLUME 38, ISSUE 10

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Join us in celebrating the moving up and moving on of our 2014 Elementary graduates as well as our many students moving up to the next level this year.

Our 6th year Elementary graduates will be honored on Friday, June 6 at 1 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 the class clip-board for dates and times.



MOVING UP, MOVING ON

by MIR 6TH YEAR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

"It is the child who makes the man, and no man exists who was not made by the child he once was."—Maria Montessori

Friday, June 6, our MIR graduates, "the 6th years," will be on campus for the last time as our students. These fine young men and women have shared many productive years together in class and many fun years together as friends. They were challenged to sum up their most memorable moments in as few words as possible. Their creative responses are below. All 15 graduates will be attending The Grove School's Farm campus in the fall.—Maura Joyce

Parker Abt began at MIR in 2005 in Kara and Dorama's Primary class

My experience with Montessori over the years has been excellent. The thing I like the most is to do things with my friends. All of my teachers have been great from my starting teachers, Kara and Dorama, to my ending teacher, Margaretann.

Francesco Argentina began at MIR in 2003 in Liana's Toddler class

My favorite MIR experience was build-

ing the gaga pit—it was a fun project because I got to work all day with my friends. I can't pick out one teacher above the rest—I liked all my teachers so much. I am very excited about Farm, but also sad to leave MIR.

Karina Brenchley began at MIR in 2004 in Jean and Maryhelen's Primary class

One of my favorite memories of school is moving from Primary to Elementary because that was one step closer to graduation. Emily has been influential because she has taught me many things. I look up to her and respect her. I am Karina Brenchley, a happy graduate!

Emmy Dixon began at MIR in 2005 in Jean and Maryhelen's Primary class

When I started this school I was shy. Over the years I grew confident, determined, and very skillful. I love the clever idea of Montessori and the gigantic envi-

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PTM NEWS AND NOTES

By JENNIFER BURROWS, PTM PRESIDENT

THANK YOU MEMBERS OF MIR PTM—YES, THAT’S YOU!

As this school year draws to a close, we are reminded of how far our children have come over the last 10 months. We are also reminded of the fantastic group of teachers, parents, staff, and children that make up the MIR community—and how every one of us plays a part in the success of the school.

The month of June is my final month as your PTM President. In July, the PTM torch will be passed to Edie Punt, who will lead the PTM for the next two years. I appreciate all of the assistance that the members of PTM—all of our parents—have given to the Executive Committee over the last two years. Your suggestions have been heard. Your comments passed on to the appropriate groups. Your feedback acted upon. PTM is here for you, and have no doubt that Edie, Vice President Christie Pleiss, new Treasurer Jill Scholz, staff liaison Jean Bonner-Drinkwine, and a yet-to-be-named Secretary will serve our school community well.

I would like to send special thanks out to the PTM Executive Committee, Christie, Jill, Jean, and Maura. You are all the glue that holds the Executive Committee together. Thank you to our 2013-14 Room Reps—your participation in the meetings and discussions was unprecedented and much appreciated this year. Thank you to Jill McDermott, Coby Smith, Lisa Kensok, and Lisa Oliver in the front office for fielding my frantic phone calls, keeping us on track with our budget, and helping to promote school-wide events at PTM meetings. Finally, thank you to Annie Rumary for leading the BoxTops program, which has raised hundreds of dollars each year for our school.

But—stop the presses! Before I go, **don’t forget that PTM has some fun activities for the children over the summer.** Camp MIR is Friday, June 6, and we have two skate nights planned to keep the kiddos cool in the summer heat on Friday, June 27 and Friday, August 22 (just in time to reunite with friends before school starts). Hope to see you there!

BoxTops UPDATE

Thank you for turning in your BoxTops on BoxTop Fridays in May. We collected more than \$291 worth of BoxTops this month! This brings our total for 2013-14 to close to \$825. This is our highest grossing year, with a lifetime total of \$3,371 to support PTM activities! Not too shabby when you realize it’s done 10 cents at a time. Thank you for “taking the time to save a dime.”—*Annie Rumary, BoxTops Coordinator*



Bluebird Sophia Singleton proudly wears her MIR shirt while touring the Chocolate Kingdom chocolatier on a family vacation to Florida. “Though the temperature was cold, Sophia still wanted to show off her school spirit,” says mom Yvette Singleton.



MIR’s 4th and 5th year Elementary students had a great time and took on new challenges at Pali Adventure Camp.

Report from the Board

by PAM FORD, PRESIDENT

WHAT HAPPENS TO MIR GRADUATES

When I opened our mail last week, I found a graduation announcement. This came from Clare Hinkle, an MIR graduate, who is now graduating from Fresno State. She majored in Agricultural Business and will spend the summer in Europe examining the wine growing business.

This announcement got me to remember the diverse accomplishments of our MIR graduates over the years. When MIR was young, one only had to complete Primary to be a graduate! Over the years, the Elementary Program was added, and for several years MIR had a vibrant middle school. Let me share with you a very random set of MIR graduates and their accomplishments.

Since the University of California at Santa Barbara is on all of our minds this week, let me tell you that Rafael (Rafa) Correa is there, safe, and will graduate at the end of summer quarter. Another UCSB graduate is Thomas Phillips. He is now working on his MBA at the University of Redlands.

Business is also on the mind of Ryan Berk, a graduate of the MIR middle school. Ryan's entrepreneurship brings two great businesses to Redlands: a la minute ice cream and Parliament Chocolate. Ryan is also known for developing the idea of Pocket Parks within the city.

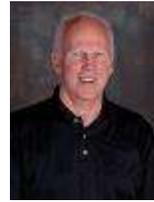
Jami Spencer manages and promotes the Mitten Building, a well-respected event center known to many in Redlands because events held there are lovely and because of the way in which this older building has come back to life in the current millennium. The Mitten Building is where MIR holds its Spring Gala.

Uzair Farooq (Nikki's son,) studies at Cal State Monterey Bay, a very Montessori-like college. Although he is still only in his junior year, studying accounting to be a Certified Public Accountant, he has already been hired for his first post-graduation job.

Alex Camarillo (Ellen's son) studies at Oregon Institute of Technology and graduates this year. For his senior project, he and a friend designed and built an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) from the ground up.

Clare's sister Calle graduated from The Grove School last spring and found that Fresno State is also

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Curriculum Matters

By PETER DAVIDSON,
ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL

RISING CLASSROOM LEADERS

"Joy, feeling one's own value, being appreciated and loved by others, feeling useful and capable of production are all factors of enormous value for the human soul."—Maria Montessori

My June *Bluebird Bulletin* article is usually focused on the students who are graduating from MIR. However, a recent experience substituting in a classroom while the teachers and 6th graders were away on their annual trip to Washington D.C., brought a different group of students to my attention: the 10 and 11 year olds who will graduate a year from now.

With the 6th graders away, it was their chance to shine, and shine they did. They were working on bringing projects to a conclusion that will be added to their portfolios. As much as they were a bit giddy with the absence of the 6th graders, they were nonetheless quite determinedly working on their portfolio projects. What I enjoyed the most, however, was an invention of three fifth grade boys.

All of the fifth graders studied and researched American history this year, and these three boys thought it would be good to celebrate all of that hard work and increased knowledge by putting on an American History Jeopardy Tournament. They created categories and wrote questions, devised a scorekeeping system, arranged a jeopardy panel,

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5th year students host an American History Jeopardy Tournament.

MOVING ON, MOVING UP *(cont.)*

(Continued from page 1)

ronment. I am amazed with the community I work in and hope that Montessori will stay busy for centuries to come.

Josef Emge began at MIR in 2005 in Nikki's Primary class

Josef is my name and soccer is my game. My 6 years at MIR have been joyful and genuine. In Primary Nikki was helpful; in Elementary Nicole was sweet and Margaretann was loveable. Pali gave me confidence while DC stirred my curiosity. School has made me excited, delighted, and cheerful.

Colin Garcia began at MIR in 2003 in Aedín's Toddler class

My favorite memory of school has been all the amazing camping trips and meeting all of my friends. The most influential adult has been my teacher Emily. The most influential peer has been Anthony. The academic skills that I have developed most fully are science and math. This school is great!

Colby Grames began at MIR in 2006 in Jean and Maryhelen's Primary class

My MIR years have been filled with many fantastic memories from when I was little through 6th grade. All of my teachers have been encouraging and enthusiastic about helping students. The freedom to choose aided my love of learning in geography, science, and history.

Sunny Hudson began at MIR in 2004 in Christine's Toddler class

My experience at MIR has been very exciting. One of my memories of MIR is when we were able to climb trees. I feel like my math and language skills have developed throughout Upper Elementary. I was also given the freedom to learn a lot about biology through doing my capstone project. I've had a great 10 years at MIR and am thankful for my awesome teachers.

Sarah Kensok began at MIR in 2003 in Aedín's Toddler class

A delightful memory from the past few years is Pali Mountain. The most influential adults for me have been Emily and Saskia. My most dependable peers are Karina,

Dagny, and Sunny. I've developed academic skills like math, geography, and reading. I have developed better social skills like treating people respectfully.

Dagny Kulkarni began at MIR in 2003 in Liana's Toddler class

Overall my years at MIR have made me much more confident, determined, and skillful. The lessons I have been presented have made me more curious and eager to learn more about the world. I will never forget the wonderful opportunity that MIR has given me and I am so incredibly grateful.

Daniel Larrance began at MIR in 2004 in Christine's Toddler class



My favorite memory of school has been all the awesome camping trips and meeting all my friends and my "awesome-est" teacher Emily. The most influential person has been Colin Garcia. The academic skills I have developed most fully are math and science. This school is awesome. I have enjoyed my time.

Jacob Paugh began at

MIR in 2004 in Sara's Primary class

My wonderful years at MIR are filled with fond memories. I've been influenced by the kind and understanding nature of Sara, Kelly, and Margaretann. I've learned to love math and interesting conversation. I've developed confidence and a sense of humor. Climbing trees, I will miss most.

Anthony Petrilli began at MIR in 2003 in Liana's Toddler class

I went to MIR for a while and left, but came back in my 5th year. At first I was a little scared but I met new friends. When I first started back, I felt nervous, but now I'm more confident and know myself well, thanks to my teachers and friends.

Strawberry Wroolie began at MIR in 2007 in Jean and Maryhelen's Primary class

My experience at MIR has been very fun and helpful. My teacher Emily has given me lessons that I understand and enjoy. Montessori helped me become more confident and

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MIR SCRAPBOOK: ADVENTURES

MIR's 6th year Elementary students learned a lot and had a great time in Washington, D.C.



MOVING ON, MOVING UP (cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

helped me become who I am. It also has helped me learn how to work independently and how to work in groups. One of my favorite memories was climbing the trees with my sister and her friends.

Paul Zakarian began at MIR in 2007 in Jean and Maryhelen's Primary class

The environment here at MIR is great. My most developed subject is math. I have learned many social skills. The people I have been most inspired by are Margaretann, my teacher, and Josef, my friend. My favorite memory is going to Washington, D.C.



Emily's Elementary students explore the ocean, the Santa Barbara Zoo, the Santa Barbara Mission, and try out some boogie-boarding during their camping trip.

REPORT FROM THE BOARD (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

right for her, but not because of a degree in agricultural business. Calle and her horse have gone to college together (yes, I did say “horse”) because they are on the university’s equestrian team. When Calle graduated from MIR, she did so with Kalie Hanson Campa (Maryhelen’s daughter). Kalie attends Cal State San Marcos (and yes, she, too is safe after one of last month’s wildfires closed that campus temporarily). At Kalie’s and Calle’s MIR graduation, an older MIR grad gave the commencement speech. That fellow was Jesse Alford who is now the president-elect of the American Youth Circus Organization, an organization that promotes and supports the participation of youth in the circus arts all across the US and Canada.

And when Jesse graduated from MIR, the commencement address was delivered by Julie Armantrout Kasarjian. Julie isn’t exactly an MIR graduate. Instead, she is the oldest of the Armantrout children whose parents got tired of driving from Redlands to San Bernardino every day to be sure their daughter got a Montessori education. Instead of being a graduate of MIR, Julie was the catalyst for MIR’s existence. So what does she do? She is the doctor in charge of the emergency room at Redlands Community Hospital. Let’s hope you don’t have to visit her often in her professional capacity, but if you do, it’s comforting to know that you will be in good hands.

If this list doesn’t suggest to you that MIR provides opportunities for a wide variety of educational and career pathways, then I will have to write another Board Corner listing even more of our graduates. The graduates listed above are clearly confident and innovative self-starters, who live interesting lives and take on challenging careers. Maria Montessori would be pleased.



Alex Camarillo, second from left, holding his UAV with his crew.

Alas, at the end of the year there are board members whose terms end and they complete their years of service.

We are losing Treva Webster this year as a board member. She has been able to provide us with wisdom in financial matters. She will continue to serve as a member of the Board’s Finance Committee. We will miss her contributions at Board meetings but appreciate her willingness to continue to serve.

Trevor Norton has served on the MIR Board of Trustees for 6 years. He has worn several hats during these years of service and in each of his many roles has provided valuable insight based on his own experience and expertise. Notably, Trevor has been deeply involved in recommendations, decisions, and actions about our school’s facilities. He has been the chair of the Facilities and Technology Committee and he has served this past year as the Vice President of the Board. Trevor remains an active member of the Montessori community, especially since he still has one child enrolled in the Elementary program. Many, many thanks to Trevor Norton!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ALUMNI

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

- ☞ Rohan CarterRau
- ☞ Justin English-Little
- ☞ Julian Rasco
- ☞ Jennifer Williams
- ☞ Drake Citron
- ☞ Nathaniel Moody
- ☞ Zoe Read Bivens

These former MIR students will be graduating from the following colleges this year:

- ☞ Alex Camarillo, graduating from Oregon Institute of Technology
- ☞ Rafael (Rafa) Correa, graduating from California State University, Santa Barbara
- ☞ Clare Hinkle, graduating from California State University, Fresno
- ☞ Madeline Engelfried, Reed College

HONORING GENA ENGELFRIED

The Grove School Head of School Gena Engelfried retires this year to move on to new adventures in Sumatra. Gena started at MIR in 1995 before leaving to help found Grove in 1999. MIR thanks Gena for her tireless service to the Montessori community in Redlands. She will be honored at a gathering at Grove on Monday, June 3, 4:30-6 PM.

RISING LEADERS (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)



A 6th year student presenting her capstone.

and took turns “hosting” the show. Look out Alex Trebek! They even played the Jeopardy music during final Jeopardy!

Their fellow students participated with an enthusiasm bordering on ferocity. I was amazed at their knowledge and ability to recall names and facts. But that was not what impressed me most. I could see in the creativity, problem solving, and execution demonstrated by these 5th graders that they will be ready in the 2014-15 school year to take their place as the leaders of their class. It even appears that they are starting to look forward to it!

This time of the year the teachers also are starting to look forward to next year. As much as they will miss the students who graduate from their class, they are already projecting forward to the amazing leaders their younger students will become. All of the strands of knowledge and skill are continuous in a Montessori classroom, and build step by step, only coming to fruition in the final year. Important as they are, though, these academic benefits pale by comparison to the blossoming of social competence, self-confidence, and leadership that only fully comes together in the final year in a class. The teachers know what awaits these children and eagerly anticipate the leap of maturity and self-esteem they will experience the next year.

In the final year at any level, the younger children look up to these oldest children for help, guidance, and modeling, and the teachers look to them in similar way. When a three year old needs her apron tied, whom does she ask? A 5- or 6-year old friend. If the teacher is giving a grace and courtesy lesson on how to wait your turn, whom will she call on to demonstrate? Those oldest children that she knows she can count on. In so many ways, these “elders” accept a mantle of leadership and responsibility that benefits everyone else in the class, but benefits themselves most of all. The self-confidence and self-esteem that a Montessori student gains in the final year in a classroom is irreplaceable.

This same phenomena repeated in each of the classrooms in the school, but it is perhaps at its most pronounced in upper elementary. Sixth graders are not just in their final year in their class but in their school. In a profound sense they are also in their final year of the amazing intellectual potential of childhood. In a Montessori classroom they have the opportunity to put a capstone on their academic accomplishments before adolescence divides their attention with other concerns. More importantly though, in that final glorious year, they become not only the leaders of their upper elementary classroom, but of the entire student body of Montessori in Redlands.

As I watched these fifth graders create and participate in their Jeopardy tournament, I felt that MIR will be in good hands next year!



IN MEMORIAM

Former MIR teacher Manuela “Nellie” S. Macias died peacefully on May 15, 2014 in Highland. Nellie taught at MIR from the early 1980s to 1996. She truly loved all of her students, and loved teaching.

Nellie left MIR to work as a librarian in Highland, where she put her Montessori training to use by teaching adults how to use the computer, and non-English speakers how to navigate technology in English. “I came to this wonderful world to teach,” she once said. “This brought so much joy to my life. I created a big, loving family with all of my students.” MIR is grateful for her years of service to its students, and she will be missed by the alumni, teachers, staff, and parents whose lives she touched.



CAMP OUT AT CAMP MONTESSORI

Friday, June 6, beginning at 6:30 PM.

Enjoy a campout experience on the grounds of MIR. We will pitch tents on Jean and Maryhelen's playground, cook hotdogs and hamburgers, sing songs, tell stories, and have a 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. Volunteers will be asked to help with a number of activities including food set-up and preparation for dinner or breakfast, serving dinner or breakfast, clean-up for either meal, and trash duty along with chaperoning children.

Fees are \$30 per child or \$15 for children accompanied by a parent volunteer. **Sign up online via SchoolCues. You will be billed for the fees.**



CAMP MONTESSORI

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SUMMER WOMEN'S YOGA GROUP

Angela Brenchley, a certified yoga instructor and the yoga teacher at MIR, is holding a women's summer yoga group on Thursdays, June 12–July 17 (no class on July 3). Classes will be held 6:15–7:15 PM in the MIR yoga room

The cost is \$35 for all five sessions or \$10 to drop in. **To register or ask questions, contact Angela directly at intuitive.attentive.yoga@gmail.com or call or text 909-633-9652.**

Your monthly statements are your tax records. MIR does not provide an end-of-year tax statement. We have designed our monthly statements to provide the information you need for taxes.

June 2014

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2 Music recital for Yang Chen's students, 12 PM Celebration for Gena Engelfried @ The Grove School, 4:30 PM	3 Emily's class pool party Margaretann and Kristen's class pool party Sara's class end-of-year party, 11 AM Teesie's class Nature Gallery, 3-6 PM	4 Liana's end-of-year social @ Brookside Park, 9 AM Maria's end-of-year celebration, 10:30 AM Aedín's ice cream social, 10:30 AM Nicole's class performance @ Glenn Wallichs Theatre, U of R, 6 PM Margaretann/Kristen's class show @ G. Wallichs Theatre, U of R, 7:30 PM	5 Margaretann/Kristen's "moving on" celebration, 8:30 AM Nicole's class end-of-year celebration @ Brookside Park, 9 AM Teesie's class Jog-a-Thon/water balloon toss, 9:30 AM Nikki's class end-of-year party, 10 AM Kelly's class performance @ Glenn Wallichs Theatre, U of R, 6 PM Emily's class show @ G. Wallichs Theatre, U of R, 7:30 PM	6 School Closes @ 12 PM Teesie's class party (kids only) Kara/Marie's class picnic @ Brookside Park, 9:30 AM Emily's class graduation celebration, 10-11 AM Christine's class ice cream party, 10:30 AM Jean/MH's class ice cream social and move up celebration, 10:30 AM 6th year lunch @ Farm Artisan Foods, 11 AM-1 PM 6th years' graduation, 1 PM Camp Montessori 6:30 PM
9	10	11	12	13 Last day to cancel or make changes to Summer Session 2
School and childcare closed for staff in-service. No childcare.				
16 Summer Session 1 begins	17	18	19	20
23	24	25 Elementary SS field trip to the Inland Empire 66ers baseball game	26	27 Last day to cancel or make changes to Summer Session 3 Primary field trip to the Natural History Museum of LA Summer Session 1 ends PTM Family Skate Night, 5 p.m.
30 SS1 payments due Annual Fund donations due Summer Session 2 begins	1	2	3	4 School and childcare closed for Independence Day Holiday.