



Two Elementary students get a lesson in flag folding at a going out they organized to the Lincoln Memorial Shrine in Redlands.

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PUSHING OUT THE WALLS OF THE CLASSROOM

by MAURA JOYCE, HEAD OF SCHOOL

Maria Montessori dedicated her life to designing classrooms that would meet the needs of the children who worked within them. She was particular about details, fastidious about arrangement, exact about materials, and ensured they were complete in their design.

No matter how infamous her classrooms became, she was wise enough to know that she needed to keep one “wall” of the classroom “open.” Montessori created a place for children to have many, many experiences, but she knew that all her work inside the classroom was simply a preparation for a bigger classroom. Montessori’s

main purpose of education was to prepare the children for the time and culture they live in. She recognized that the classroom was not limited to the four walls and materials inside it. The children needed experiences beyond that...they need to get out.

At MIR, one of the ways we open up the classroom is through field trips, beginning with our youngest students. At first the trips are simple: getting shoes on, walking in a line, getting on a bus, going to a park, having lunch, returning home. As the child gets older, they embark on different ones: performances, museums, botanic

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CELEBRATE AT THE MIR SPRING CARNIVAL

Celebrate Spring at the MIR Spring Carnival on Saturday, April 30, 11 AM–3 PM. Enjoy a bounce house, inflatable obstacle course, rides, food, classroom game booths, prizes, and more.

Admission is \$10 per family and covers all activities. A \$5 meal will be available with choice of meat/veggie burger or hot dog, chips, and a drink.

Park in the North Campus lot as there is another event in Heritage Park that day.

MONTESSORI ART GALLERY

The Carnival will include an Art Gallery featuring parent, student, and staff art as well as art from The Grove School stu-

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REPORT FROM THE BOARD

By ANNE DESMARAIS, SEARCH COMMITTEE CHAIR

HEAD OF SCHOOL SEARCH TO RE-LAUNCH IN JULY

The initial search for our next Head of School (HoS) closed on March 11. After reviewing the applications we received, the Search Committee and Board have decided to proceed with our “Plan B.” While there were several fine candidates, we agreed that giving the search more time ensures we hear from a larger pool of potential candidates overall, allowing us to do a more thorough search to find the right person for MIR.

With this in mind, we will re-open the search on a more typical schedule, starting in summer 2016 with the intent that the new HoS start July 1, 2017. We will engage our highly qualified Assistant HoS Peter Davidson as Interim HoS for the 2016-17 school year. This plan was outlined in our initial communications to the school in January.

Our new planned timeline is to receive applications in the summer, host site visits for finalists in the fall, and hire our next HoS by calendar year-end to start in July 2017. When we bring finalists on campus for those site visits, we will invite you to hear their community presentations and provide us with evaluative feedback.

The Board and the Search Committee are committed to finding the right person and right fit for MIR, and we are confident that

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PTM NEWS

BY JILL SCHOLZ, TREASURER

NOMINEES NEEDED FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Thank you for your continued support of PTM Events and Fundraisers!

We appreciate all of our families for their continued support. All money we raise goes back into MIR to support campus improvements and PTM-sponsored events. From the carnivals to the skate nights and our parent education evenings, PTM actively works to support our school and community to the best of our ability. Be it by joining in the ‘fun’draisers or taking the time to volunteer, we couldn’t do it without you!

EVENTS

Don’t forget the PTM Family Skate Night

If you haven’t done this yet, make sure you mark your calendars for the next one on Friday, April 8, 2016. The evening includes lessons for both those brand new to

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Student Naomi Wong shows her school pride on a recent family trip to Hong Kong. She visited one of the busiest streets in Causeway Bay and was excited to see different types of vehicles on the road. She also shopped at a store featuring characters from LINE, a popular mobile app similar to WhatsApp.

Submit your t-shirt photos to lkensok@mir.org.

CURRICULUM MATTERS

by PETER DAVIDSON, ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL

SPRING (AND BIG WORK) IS IN THE AIR

The other day as I went into a Primary classroom to fetch prospective parent observers, I was stopped in my tracks by the sight of the youngest student in the class carrying a full watering can out to the garden to water newly planted flowers. He passed in front of me carrying it oh-so-carefully and not spilling a drop, all the while humming a merry tune. Needless to say, the observers were amazed at his care and concentration, but even more by his obvious enjoyment. After all, as adults we don't tend to equate work with enjoyment, as for us "work" is something of a "four letter word."

As we exited the classroom and headed toward my office, little did we know that we would encounter other examples of big, concentrated, enjoyable work along the way. And we didn't have to go far. Before the first gate we encountered an excited group of Elementary students with sketch pads and measuring tape. "What are you

guys doing?" I asked, and was greeted with the thunderous response, "We're designing our own garden! And it's going to be awesome!"

Crossing the bridge we passed a Primary classroom. In its outdoor extension were no less than 10 children, ranging in age from tiny three-year-olds on up to husky fives, wearing colorful garden gloves. It was a hive of activity. They were digging up weeds, turning over dirt, planting flowers, and watering. So infectious was their energy and enthusiasm, that even I considered donning garden gloves and joining in!

Rounding the building and heading up the gravel path toward my office we encountered yet another group, this time six Upper Elementary students armed with shovels, trowels, and buckets, attacking the dirt on the slope beneath the grapefruit trees in front of my office door. I had to ask. "Excuse me, but what exactly do you think you're doing?" "We're building our

own river model! Isn't it great? We're going to have islands, and canyons, and river bends, and a lake, and bridges!" I explained to the startled observers that eventually they would be pouring water mixed with color-coded gradations of sand and gravel down their 'river model' to study the erosive effects of water and the depositing of sediment.

Entering my office we immediately engaged in a conversation about the meaning of Big Work, which Montessori declared was the birthright of every child, and which we found on display in all its energy and glory everywhere we went on this beautiful day, with Spring in the air.



NEW AUCTIONEER MAKES FOR DYNAMIC SPRING GALA



With the dynamic and entertaining assistance of new auctioneer Russ Stolnack, the MIR Spring Gala & Auction raised more than \$71,000 for

the new Student Services Center to open next school year. Stolnack, a full-time auctioneer and part-time comedian, brought a new energy to the event that helped make the event a success.

This Spring Gala & Auction was a celebration of MIR's 40th anniversary. MIR founding parent Margie Armantrout addressed the audience, who also heard from former Board member Rich Trafton; his

son, MIR alumnus Alex Trafton; and MIR and Grove alumnus Jennifer Williams, a current student at Vassar University.

After the live auction finished, MIR staff surprised Head of School Maura Joyce with a humorous and heartfelt acknowledgement of her participation in her final MIR Gala. In honor of her new position in Houston, Texas, she was presented with a "40 gallon" foam cowboy hat and real cowboy boots as a parting present.

Thank you to everyone who attended, bid, bought opportunity drawing tickets, donated to the auction, and volunteered their time to assist with the classroom items. We feel honored to have such a supportive and generous community.

MIR would like to thank the Spring

Gala team and volunteers for making this event possible:

- ◊ Jill McDermott, Chair
- ◊ Lisa Oliver, Administrative Coordinator
- ◊ Victoria Hobson
- ◊ Lisa Kensok
- ◊ Kathleen Liess
- ◊ Shelley McCarthy
- ◊ Andrea Ray
- ◊ Rena Rice
- ◊ Coby Smith
- ◊ Shawnda Zook



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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SILVER SPONSOR



PROGRAM BOOK SPONSORS

- ◊ Connie Taylor, PhD.
- ◊ Redlands Pool Service
- ◊ Yucaipa Premier League

AUCTION ITEM AT HOME



The children whose parents won Teesie's classroom item, a puppet theater, wasted no time in putting it to good use. Mom Leila Khazaeni reports: "Here is a photo I found on my iPhone from the morning after the Gala. (Photo credit to Camron Khazaeni, before we even woke up!)"

MIR SCRAPBOOK: SPRING GALA

PHOTOS: JENNA LOWERY, CIRCUS RUNAWAY PHOTOGRAPHY (EXCEPT WHERE NOTED)



PHOTO: SPARROW STUDIOS



PHOTO: SPARROW STUDIOS



BOARD REPORT (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

this decision will best support our children's education and serve our school community. Your questions are always welcome; drop us a note at headsearch@mir.org.

PUSHING OUT THE WALLS (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

gardens. These give the children experiences beyond the classroom—sitting quietly, applauding appropriately, enjoying real specimens and works of art they have seen in books.

Our older students venture further, enjoying a type of field trip in the Elementary program called “going out.” Elementary teachers still schedule some all-class field trips to give the students an idea of places where they can further their studies. But the real purpose of these trips is a preparation for “going out.” A “going out” is organized by the students and is related to their work and interests.

When I first began teaching, I was not quite sure of the “going out” concept myself, but quickly learned the difference at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

Six of my students had decided to study the history of transportation and organized a “going out” to the Transportation Hall at the museum. My students called to find the hours, looked up which DC Metro route we would take, got permission from their parents, and brought money for the train. We got on the train with notebooks in hand and an agenda—Casey would be looking at boats; Matt had trains; Max, horse drawn vehicles; and Sam would handle anything that flew.

We came up from the Metro to see the large museum building surrounded by many large yellow buses. We were not the only students visiting on that day. Later on, as my students sat quietly on the floor, sketching canoes, writing about steam engines, and estimating the wing span of gliders, a large group of about 35 loud, talkative elementary students walked through the hall at lightning speed, pointing to a few things and following the teacher's cry of “Move along everyone, move along.”

Academically, this was a much different experience for these two groups of students. The Montessori students were using the museum as an extension of the classroom, while the others seemed to be visiting the museum as tourists and only had time to skim the surface of the exhibits.

From the perspective of life experience, my students had to use a variety of organizational, social, and problem solving skills to have a successful academic trip. That is what I call preparation for life! As Maria Montessori said, *“When the child goes out, it is the world itself that offers itself to him. Let us take the child out to show him real things instead of making objects which represent ideas and closing them up in cupboards.”*

MIR RIDERS WANTED FOR BICYCLE CLASSIC

by ELLEN CAMARILLO, BIKE CLUB LEADER

The Redlands Bicycle Classic returns to Redlands and surrounding communities April 6-10, 2016. The Redlands Bicycle Classic is the longest continuously running invitational stage race in American professional bike racing.

While the classic features exciting professional cycling competition, it offers an op-

portunity for children as young as age 3 to participate in the public races on Saturday, April 9.

The Redlands Classic will once again feature the School Duel as part of the public races. The School Duel was created to provide a constructive way for kids to show school spirit while participating in a healthy physical activity. Children ages 3 to 17 can test their skills and ride their tricycles and bicycles on the same course as the world class pros. (The sight of 3- and 4-year-olds sprinting on tricycles is awesome.) The school with the most student participation will be awarded the School Duel Cup.

Entry into the School Duel is free. Register online at redlandsclassic.com/official-public-races-entry-form no later than Monday, April 4. Be sure to select Montessori in Redlands as your school on the form and wear your red MIR shirt when you participate in the races.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Ellen Camarillo at ecamarillo@mir.org.

SPRING CARNIVAL (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

dents. Information on how to submit work will be sent soon by email.

MONTESSORI MARKETPLACE

Local small businesses will sell their wares. Contact Jean Drinkwine if you are interested in having a booth.

FRUGAL FRIGATE BOOK FAIR

Frugal Frigate will start a week-long book fair at the carnival. The book fair will continue through the following week.

SUPPORT YOUR CLASS BOOTH

Check with your PTM Room Rep or child's teacher to see how you can support your child's class carnival booth.

PTM NEWS (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

skating and those wanting a refresher. Lessons are held at both 5:45 PM and 6 PM. There are skates available as small as Toddler size 9 and V-shaped supports available for an additional \$5 for those new to skating. This event is open to all MIR and Grove students as well as friends and family they would like to bring as guests. We always have a great time as we get the whole rink to ourselves until 7 PM and are allowed to stay after if we wish. We look forward to seeing you there!

Save the Date for the Annual Spring Carnival

The Spring Carnival will be held Saturday, April 30, from 11 AM to 3 PM. Admission is \$10 per family, which covers all activities. A \$5 meal will be available for purchase in the food both with choice of meat/veggie burger or hot dog, chips, and a drink.

PTM ELECTIONS ARE THIS YEAR

The PTM Executive Board comprises people who volunteer their time because we are passionate about supporting our children, the school, and the community. Every two years a general election is held to fill the offices for the following two years. I wanted to take this opportunity to elaborate on each office so that we all have the opportunity to consider those folks around us who would be a good fit for each position.

President—This officer chairs all general and executive meetings. They act as our backbone by coordinating the work of the officers and any committees. This position also serves as an ex-officio (non-voting) member of the Board of Trustees.

Essentially the President is responsible for carrying out the aims and purposes of

the PTM as a whole.

Vice President—Our Room Representative coordinator. They help recruit and coordinate the actions of all of our designated room reps. This person is also responsible for coordinating our Skate Nights. Additionally this position stands by to fill in for the President should they be absent from a general or executive meeting.

Secretary—This is our “organizer-in-chief.” They are responsible for keeping an accurate record of the proceedings of all of the executive and general meetings as well as maintaining the bylaws. Our Secretary is also responsible for sending all faculty and staff birthday cards each year.

Treasurer—The keeper of the budget. All bills are paid by this person. This requires keeping an accurate record of the current finances, which includes tracking the individual transactions. Coordinating with the schools’ Business Manager from time to time aids in this task.

To be eligible for one of the above positions, the nominee needs to have served at least one year as a designated room representative and have attended a minimum of four meetings of the PTM general membership within one school year.

Take a good look at the Room Reps around campus. Do you think someone would be make a good fit for one of these positions? Then nominate them!

Nominations will be accepted following our April meeting, which will be held Tuesday, April 5 at 6 PM. Nominating someone is simple: send an email to ptmnominations@mir.org and we’ll take over from there. The general elections, which are held online, will open after our May meeting on Thursday, May 5 and will close on Friday, May 13.

SLOW FOOD FEST AND BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday, April 2, 8 AM-12 PM there will be a Garden Fair and blood drive at the Farmers Market at The Grove School. Special guests will present expert advice about gardening and landscaping. The Farmer’s Market will be hosting a blood drive by Life Stream as well. Make an appointment to donate blood by calling 800-879-4484 or online at LStream.org.

FAMILY FESTIVAL TO BENEFIT BARTON SCHOOL HOUSE

A high school student at The Grove School has organized “the Barton House Benefit Fest” to raise funds toward the completion of the schoolhouse. This is family friendly and should appeal to all ages. Augie’s Coffee House, à la minute, and Cheesewalla will be there, and there will be activities such as a water balloon toss and watermelon eating contest.

Proceeds will help fund moveable walls and other work needed to turn the space into useable classrooms for Grove.

Barton House Benefit Fest!

VENDORS
CHEESEWALLA
EST. REDLANDS, CA
AUGIE'S
a la minute

LOCAL MUSIC!
SAMANTHA SUDAK 12:50
KIKIM CRUX 4:35

SAT. APRIL 2nd 12:30-5:30

ADULTS \$10 CHILDREN \$6 (10 and under)
Grove School: 200 Nevada St. Redlands 92373

All day event starting at 12:30! Vendors, food, activities, and local music! All admission proceeds go towards the Grow The Grove Campaign for the Grove School.

All proceeds go benefit The Barton School House

3:50
3:05
5:20

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CALENDAR

PARENT ED THIS MONTH: COLLEGE SAVINGS AND THE ADOLESCENT BRAIN

LEARN ABOUT SAVING FOR COLLEGE ON TUESDAY, APRIL 5

PTM has invited a local financial planning firm to speak with MIR and Grove parents Tuesday, April 5 at 7 PM about saving for college. It's never too early or too late to get started!

Childcare is available for enrolled Primary and Elementary students. RSVP and sign up for childcare via the Parent Portal. *Please RSVP even if you don't need childcare.*

LEARN WHAT GOES ON IN THE ADOLESCENT BRAIN FRIDAY, APRIL 8

Contrary to popular belief, adolescence isn't "terrible" and teenagers aren't "crazy."

Maura will explain what's really going on in the adolescent brain at Coffee, Tea, and M.E. (Montessori Education) on Friday, April 8 at 8:45 AM in the Yoga Room. She will be joined by Grove Head of School Ben Moudry. A light breakfast will be served.

This is a rescheduling of the Coffee, Tea, and M.E. planned for April 1. No RSVP needed.

SPRING PICTURE DAY IS THURSDAY, APRIL 7.

Check the weekly email for full details.

SUMMER SCHOOL EARLY REGISTRATION IN PROGRESS NOW

The MIR Summer Program is fun and enriching for all ages.

Consistency in environment and routine is important to the younger child's physical, social, and academic development. Continuing their Montessori program through the summer ensures that consistency to support this development.

For the Elementary student, the summer program is all new. It is designed to provide fun and reduce summer "brain drain." Swimming is offered as an option (for an extra fee).

The program runs in two-week sessions and offers half-, full-, and all-day programs for all ages.

Registration for current MIR families is open now and continues until classes are full. **The deposit for families who register by April 15 is \$100.** All families who register after April 15 will be required to pay the full amount of the first session attending at the time of registration. To enroll, complete all registration forms and bring them to the office along with your required deposit. Enrollment is first-come, first-served. Visit mir.org/summer for more information and all forms.

April 2016

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
28 Staff in-service No school, no childcare. Board of Trustees Open Forum,	29	30 Kelly—Indian Hill Trail 6 th year Elem. parent meeting, 4 PM Bike Club	31 Last day of Early Registration 4 th year Elementary Heritage Tour	1 Payments Due 2 Blood drive and Slow Food Festival, Farmer's Market, 8 AM-12 PM Barton School House festival, 12:30-5:30 PM
4	5 Kara/Jenny—Children's Discovery Museum PTM Meeting, 6 PM Parent Ed—Saving for College, 7 PM Soccer	6 Parent-Infant Class Bike Club Sportball	7 Spring Picture Day Positive Discipline Class	8 Coffee, Tea, & M.E., 8:45 AM PTM Family Skate Night, CalSkate 5-7 PM
11	12 Soccer	13 Maria and Sara's classes—Living Desert Parent-Infant Class Bike Club Sportball	14 Jean/MH—L.A. Arboretum & Botanic Gardens Positive Discipline Class	15 Tax Day Summer School early registration ends
18	19 Kelly—Lewis Family Playhouse Soccer	20 Teesie—Lewis Family Playhouse Parent-Infant Class Bike Club Sportball	21 Positive Discipline Class	22 6 th Year Breakfast Burritos, 7:15-9 AM Kristen—Ralphs Distribution Center
25	26 Soccer	27 Parent-Infant Class Bike Club Sportball	28 Parent-Infant Class parents-only discussion Positive Discipline Class	29 Assembly, 9:15 AM 30 Spring Carnival, 11 AM to 3 PM
Pali Mountain Trip, 4 th and 5 th year Elementary students				