



Students show off the instruments they created for MIR's Peace Day assembly.

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## PEACE AS PEDAGOGY

by PETER DAVIDSON, HEAD OF SCHOOL

As I said to the students at our Peace Day celebration in September, it's my privilege to meet with prospective parents after their first observation in a Montessori class. In fact, I probably met with nearly all of you before you enrolled your children here.

Do you remember what I asked you after your observation? *"What did you see? What were your impressions of your first observation in a Montessori classroom?"* Probably you responded as nearly all prospective parents respond, by noting how calm, peaceful and harmonious it was, that the students seemed happily engaged in their own activities but shared the classroom in a generous and courteous way.

That's the same impression I had when I first observed in a Montessori classroom more than 40 years ago, and it was as surprising to me then as it is to parents now. It was just as much of a surprise to Maria Montessori more than 100 years ago, so much so that she hardly believed the evidence of her own eyes: *"It took time for me to convince myself that this was not an illusion. After each new experience proving such a truth, I said to myself, 'I won't believe it yet; I'll believe it next time.'"*

What she discovered was that in an environment carefully prepared to meet the characteristics of each developmental

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## PARENT EVENTS IN OCTOBER

MIR is inviting parents to a number of events in October and we want to provide a schedule so you can plan your calendar accordingly.

**Parent Education Night: Life after Montessori, Tuesday, October 4, 7 PM**

Get a glimpse of what the future looks like for Montessori graduates.

MIR will host a question-and-answer evening with MIR graduates ranging in age from middle school to adult. They will share how their experience at MIR prepared them for the "real world" and answer your questions honestly. A dessert reception will follow.

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# REPORT FROM THE BOARD

By TREVOR NORTON, PRESIDENT

## INTRODUCING THIS YEAR’S BOARD

Your Board of Trustees is made up of people dedicated to the future of Montessori in Redlands. We strive to help the school be financially stable and healthy now and in the future. This year, much of our focus is also directed toward finding a new Head of School and that process is going well.

We are a diverse group and I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce you to everyone.

I am **Trevor Norton**, Board President. This is my second year as president after having served on the Board for several years as a member and then Vice President. I have two children that attended MIR; Reid, who is now at the Farm, and Lillian, who is now at The Grove School. I work at the University of Redlands as the Director of Production in the Theatre Arts program.

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# PTM NEWS

By VICTORIA HOBSON, PTM TREASURER

## MEET YOUR ROOM REPRESENTATIVES

Please join me in extending a big “thank you” to all of the Room Representatives (“room reps”), new and returning, who have made a commitment to serving as a liaison between the classroom and parents this year. Their time and energy are so valuable in creating an atmosphere where parents are informed, teaching staff is supported, and, most important, students have fun.

Teacher	Room Representative	Teacher	Room Representative
Aedín	Datra Oliver	Nikki	Coral Pham
Liana	Stephanie Wertman	Venus	Sharon Stewart
Kim	Lisa Stanners	Tessie	Richard Ladson
Jean & Maryhelen	Karen Zwicker	Whitney	Mana Saldanha
Kara & Jenny	Megan Wolfe	Kelly	Anu Diekmann
Sara	Brandy Caler	Kristin	Erin Pagel-Mohr
Maria	Laura Houck	Emily	Annie Rumary

## HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

As we say goodbye to summer and welcome fall, we look forward to chilly weather, college football, and HALLOWEEN! If you have attended the Halloween Carnival in the past, you know that the evening is filled with family, fellowship, and FUN. If this will be your first MIR Halloween Carnival, here are answers to a few frequently asked questions:

*Who is invited to attend the MIR Halloween Carnival?*

Everyone! Toddlers to grandparents, and everyone in between, is invited to the carnival. Classes will set up booths with age-appropriate games and crafts.

*Do I have to wear a costume?*

Costumes are not required, but they are encouraged. Children love to play dress up and they love it when their parents dress up, too. You may want to bring a tote for any costume items that need to be shed due to heat or so that your child can maximize their fun. Any items left behind can be claimed from the lost and found. Keep in mind, this event is for children. Please don’t dress in overly scary or gruesome costumes.

*Will there be food?*

Yes! There may be some candy, too. There will be a serve-yourself dining hall set up in Jean and Maryhelen’s classroom featuring hot dogs (beef and veggie) and baked potatoes with all the fixings. Meal tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased that night.



Student Isabella Becerra shows her school pride while enjoying sunrise at the summit of the Haleakala Crater in Maui, HI on summer vacation.

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# CURRICULUM MATTERS

by DORAMA MONTOYA, RESOURCE SPECIALIST

## SOUND, MUSIC, AND THE BRAIN

Sound is a vibratory energy that touches us and influences our moods and feelings like nothing else. The power of sound is subtle, but often we are not aware of it. Yet, from the moment we are born, sound surrounds us continuously.

In fact, our auditory system has already been busy developing while in the womb. The sounds of our mother's voice and the internal noises of her body and ours are carried to us through the vibration of her bone structure, or bone conduction. After birth, our ears will have to adjust to the new environment, where most sounds will be conducted to us through air. Parents instinctively hold their babies close to their own bodies while talking and singing to their child. This allows a body-to-body transmission of sound that resembles the pre-natal way of perceiving the mother's voice; it is also a way to ease their transition to the world.

The health of the developing brain depends on many factors. Loving environment, nutrition, and mental stimulation are all very important to a child's development. We know that sound stimulates the brain; music is organized sound. As such, music plays an essential role in the growth of the young child's brain.

Studies have shown that music has a calming effect on the unborn child's heart. Recent findings have also demonstrated that prenatal learning is possible; therefore, exposure to music before birth may enhance development, and in some cases, alleviate or minimize developmental delays. However, this is not a new concept. From the beginning of time, sound, music, and the arts have played an important role in the development of human beings. Ancient cultures knew

about this power and learned to use it to their advantage. Music is an intrinsic part of ceremonies, celebrations, initiations, harvests, and feasts throughout the world. As a culture, however, we are just beginning to rediscover its power and to learn to use it to our own benefit.

Dr. Alfred Tomatis, an ear, nose, and throat (ENT) doctor, psychologist, and educator in Paris, France, brought about a revolution in sonic science over the last 50 years.



Upper Elementary students played bells and chimes at the 2016 Peace Day assembly.

Dr. Tomatis' extensive research led him to discover that sound, and most importantly, the frequency of sound, can affect our nervous system. He observed that high frequencies had the power to arouse, stimulate, and energize, while lower frequencies had a devitalizing effect.

Dr. Tomatis's discoveries led to further exploration and greater advances in neurodevelopment and psychoacoustics—the psychological study of the human perception of sound. Sound therapy and music-based brain stimulation are becoming very popular as a way to counteract the ravaging effects of

sound pollution. Listening to carefully modified classical music helps 'mold' or 'organize' the brain function at its core, especially for children or adults with auditory processing disorders. Music by composers such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Joseph Haydn, and Antonio Vivaldi, to say a few, are helping improve concentration, sensory processing, motivation, and other challenges in countless children and adults. Sound and music are nutrients for the nervous system.

A consensus among experts is that you should begin to communicate and connect with your children even before they are born. Listen to the music you like, but include listening to classical music in your daily routine. Protect your child from loud noises. Listening to very loud music is damaging to the ears. Sing, dance, and play games with your child. Learning nursery rhymes will help later with spelling and math skills, and dancing and moving to the music will help with fine and gross motor coordination.

As soon as your child is old enough, encourage him/her to learn to play an instrument of his/her choice. The active learning of music stimulates a different memory system in the brain than passive or verbal learning. The brain is musical, and through functional brain imaging, neuroscience has proven that when we listen to music, virtually the whole brain is involved.

Perhaps anticipating the work of Dr. Tomatis, Dr. Maria Montessori designed the Montessori curriculum to include music as an integral part of the classroom. Students at all levels sing and move to music, with the complexity of songs and music increasing with age. Toddlers learn to clap rhythms, a

*(Continued on page 6)*

# INTRODUCING THE BOARD *(cont.)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

Other returning voting members:

**Tim Ormsby**, Vice President, was a Montessori in Redlands parent from 2006 to 2015 and is a current Grove parent. He is a software documentation writer at Esri.

**Alisa Evans**, Treasurer, is the Director of Business Development for the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), and for School and Student Services (SSS by NAIS). She lives in Redlands with her husband and 4-year-old son, who attends MIR in Nikki's class, and 2 year old daughter who is in Aedin's class.

**Dean Silliman**, Secretary, is a Montessori parent whose two daughters each started at MIR at age two and who are now in Upper Elementary. Dean is an attorney who has served on the Board for several years.

**Jennifer Burrows** served as PTM President. A Montessori parent, she works in marketing and public relations, possessing skills that are always valuable to a school like ours. She is used to managing multiple projects for various outcomes.

**Anne Desmarais** is an MIR and Grove parent. At work, she provides training and management consulting for nonprofits, government and higher education. Outside of work, she enjoys family time, teaching Pilates, nature, the arts, reading and baking. She is Chair of our Head of School Search Committee.

**Adrienne Ortega** is an Assistant Principal for a local school district. She is an alumni parent (with two children at Grove) and a current parent with one student at MIR. She brings years of experience in education as well as being a Montessori student herself.

**Michele Vercoski** is a current MIR parent who has had children in MIR from Toddlers through Elementary. She is a practicing attorney.

Our non-voting members are:

**Peter Davidson**, Interim Head of

School, has been involved in Montessori as a teacher and administrator for 42 years, including the past eight years as Assistant Head of School at MIR.

**Emily Drinkwine** has been in the MIR community for 16 years, serving as an assistant for four of those and teaching for 12. She is currently an Upper Elementary teacher and has participated in the Montessori Peer Review Council, as well as assisted other schools in the growth of their programs. In her spare time, she enjoys yoga, running, being with family and furry friends, and volunteering for the local circus program.

**Vanessa Stewart** is MIR's new Assistant Head of School. She has a Masters Degree in Special Education and comes to us after five years as Head of School at a LePort School in Orange County.

**Aedin Artigue** grew up in Ireland where she attended Montessori school and subsequently, on the same campus, completed her own training. She and her husband Michael have been integrally involved in the history and growth of MIR almost since the beginning, and she is now in her 37<sup>th</sup> year of teaching. Aedin is looking forward to welcoming her second grandchild to her classroom and our community.

**Lisa Oliver** has been at MIR for 13 years and is Chief Financial Officer. She is the proud mom of two MIR and Grove School alumni.

**Eleanor Haire** is PTM President, proud Welsh-born woman, and most importantly, mum to Gareth and Rhiannon. Eleanor has happily been part of the MIR community since Gareth started as a toddler in Christine's class in Spring 2011. Her children have thrived while she has enjoyed being part the vibrant MIR community. During school hours, you'll find her managing website projects at Esri.

Finally, our new voting members are:

**Steve Wuhs** is a Professor of Political Science at the University of Redlands, and serves as the university's Assistant Provost for Internationalization. He is the father of Teo (Kristen's class) and Mara (Kelly's class).

**Kathleen Liess** is Kentucky-born and California raised. She works with law firms around the country. She is a compassionate "people person" with a strong desire to help.

**Gabrielle Singh** currently serves as Assistant Vice President of Advancement & Senior Philanthropic Advisor at the University of Redlands. She and her husband Dave are parents of two MIR alumni, Rohin and Sofia Singh, who were students in Liana and Kim's toddler class and Jean and Maryhelen's class.

Come say hello to us at Coffee Curbside on Monday, October 31!

## UPDATE ON THE SEARCH FOR A NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL

As you are aware, Peter Davidson is serving as our Interim Head of School (HOS) following the move of long-time HOS Maura Joyce to a new position in Dallas, Texas. The Board of Trustees formed a Search Committee made up of parents, faculty, and community members, who began recruiting for a new HOS. The plans are for the new HOS to start on July 1, 2017.

The Board is pleased to announce that two very well qualified candidates have made it through to the final round in our hiring process. These candidates will visit MIR in October to meet with the entire community before the Board makes its final decision.

Parent input is important to this process. We value the input parents provided during our focus groups last spring and we hope you will attend the parent presentations on October 17 and 25. Questions about the search can be sent to [headsearch@mir.org](mailto:headsearch@mir.org).

## PARENT EVENTS (*cont.*)

(Continued from page 1)

**Glass Classroom, Friday, October 14, 9 AM-12 PM**

Parents can get a thorough look at Montessori classrooms in action at this event. Attendees will observe in classrooms at various levels (Toddler, Primary, Lower, and Upper Elementary) and talk with the experts about what you saw.

*Space is limited.* Sign up on the Parent Portal. **Please note, you will not be observing in your child's classroom, to avoid distracting them from their work.**

**Meet the Candidate Monday, October 17 and Tuesday, October 25, 7 PM**

The two finalist candidates for Head of School will give a presentation to parents, then answer related questions. Surveys will be provided following the presentations to allow you to provide your input on each candidate.

## RUNNING CLUB TO GO TO MT. SAC

Running Club children in 3<sup>rd</sup> year Elementary or older will participate in the Mt. SAC Cross Country Invitational on Friday, October 14. Students must have run at least once with Running Club to participate.

Contact Jean Bonner-Drinkwine ([jdrinkwine@mir.org](mailto:jdrinkwine@mir.org)) or Teesie Emge ([temge@mir.org](mailto:temge@mir.org)) with questions about Mt. SAC or Running Club.



## ‘DONE IN 31’ MIR FUND CAMPAIGN BEGINS THIS MONTH

This month, MIR holds its annual “Done in 31” campaign in which we invite you to join in giving to the MIR Fund.

MIR is the school it is today thanks to the generosity of countless families, friends, and community members who have selflessly given their time, their talent, and their monetary donations since its founding in 1976.

**Your gift to the MIR Fund helps the school to be better today than it was yesterday for your child, and even better tomorrow.** Your gift to the MIR Fund supports:

- ◆ **Our excellent Montessori-trained faculty**, by providing robust professional development to recruit and retain talented teachers such as our new Lower Elementary teacher Venus Elliott and newly promoted Toddler teacher Kim Montague.
- ◆ **Our beautiful indoor and outdoor learning environments**, such as the many enhancements made to classroom outdoor spaces on both campuses and our new Student Services Center.
- ◆ **Our wonderful students**, by providing for tuition assistance for MIR families experiencing unexpected financial challenges.

Our goal for this year is to raise \$100,000, and we hope for 100% participation by families. (All MIR Board and staff members have donated or pledged already.) Current participation is 13% with more than \$13,000 raised. ☺

We mailed home a letter with more details about the MIR Fund and with answers to frequently asked questions about who it benefits and how your donation makes a difference.

For additional information, visit [mir.org/giving/annual\\_fund](http://mir.org/giving/annual_fund). If you have questions about the MIR Fund, or if you wish to set up monthly, recurring donations, please contact Development Coordinator Jill McDermott ([jmcdermott@mir.org](mailto:jmcdermott@mir.org)).

**Thank you for your support.**

## DONE IN 31 PLEDGE DRIVE

“Done in 31” is an annual pledge drive that runs October 1-31, during which we try to reach to 100% participation by families, staff, and the Board. We have reached this goal for the Board and staff and now we just need you!

### IF WE REACH 100% PARTICIPATION FOR THE WHOLE SCHOOL

If all classes reach 100% participation by October 31, we will celebrate with a special all-school dance party.

### DONATE OR PLEDGE TODAY

Pledge or donate online at [mir.org/legacy](http://mir.org/legacy), or stop by the MIR office. Pledge forms are also available outside classrooms.

### BE A PERMANENT PART OF MIR HISTORY

Donors who give \$1,000 or more will earn a dedicated paver in MIR’s new Legacy Path.

## PEACE (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

stage, with freedom of movement, and choice between activities that meet their inner needs, children become both calm, engaged, concentrated, and satisfied, and create societies of general peacefulness and cohesion.

At that time, the world was falling headlong into the first and second World Wars. It seemed to her that these unexpectedly calm, peaceful children held within them a special hope. As she said, “*Within the child lies the fate of the future*” and “*If help and salvation are to come, they can only come from the children, for the children are the makers of men.*”

In some sense, it’s that same hope that brought me into Montessori teaching. It is quite possibly what convinced your child’s teacher to take the Montessori training, and that keeps all of us coming to work here every day.

I’d like to point out, however, that this is not a political statement, but a philosophical and pedagogical one. We strive never to promote our own political views with the children, any more than our religious beliefs. Instead, we are each doing our part by helping to raise children who will become thoughtful, considerate, resourceful, and responsible adults. The kind of friends and neighbors we’d like to have, and the kind of citizens our country and world need.

The outcomes of our work will be on display at the upcoming “Life after Montessori” Parent Education Night, on October 4. We have invited MIR graduates of a variety of ages, from a variety of backgrounds, to speak to us and answer your questions about their lives after MIR. We hope you’ll join us and get an inkling of what awaits your children in the future, and the “hope for mankind” that I have been writing about. I think you will conclude that with these young adults and your children, the future is in pretty good hands.

## PTM NEWS (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

*Will there be games?*

You bet there will. There will also be crafts and face painting. Your classroom room rep will be working with your child’s teacher or the students (depending on the age) to create a booth that will be set up on the south campus. There will also be an inflatable slide, a bounce house, and the Market Night car ride.

*This sounds fun. How can I get involved?*

This is my favorite question to answer. You can involve yourself in so many ways. First, you can check in with your room rep or teacher to see what you can do to help. Second, you can keep an eye out for the classroom booth sign-up sheet and volunteer 30 minutes of your time hosting in the booth. And last, if you’re unable to attend the carnival, consider coming to Jean and Maryhelen’s classroom on Thursday, October 27, 5-7 PM to help transform the classroom into the dining hall.

### NEXT MEETING

The next PTM meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 4, 6 PM in the yoga room. Everyone is welcome to attend.

It is a pleasure to serve such a great community of amazing students, wonderful families, and dedicated staff. As our family begins our 6<sup>th</sup> school year at MIR, I feel privileged to continue working with all of you!

## BREAKFAST AND ‘BOO GRAMS’

The 6<sup>th</sup> year Elementary students will hold two fundraisers this month to raise money for their trip to Washington, D.C.

On Friday, October 21, they will sell breakfast for \$5—look for details in an email.

Students and adults will be able to send “Boo Grams” to friends and family on October 28. More details on how to participate in this fun tradition will be sent by email.

## MUSIC AND THE BRAIN (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

practice repeated in older ages. Specific materials and work at the Primary and Elementary levels introduce students to ear training, music notation, scales, music composition, history, styles, expressions, and more.

All of this takes place in the classroom, not in a separate music class with a specialist. Dr. Montessori was always focused on ensuring the classroom supported children’s optimal development and recognized the value and purpose of music in that development. Perhaps most importantly, children learn that musical expression is not the realm of a few gifted people, but a birthright common to all of us, and a deeply rooted part of the human experience.

## FALL PICTURE DAY IS OCTOBER 5

Picture Day is Wednesday, October 5. Before this date, you will receive an envelope for each child. Please confirm your child/ren’s information and the spelling of their name and return the envelope on or before picture day even if you are not ordering photos.

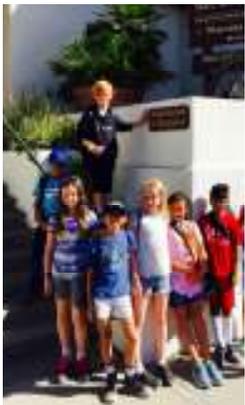
You will receive a picture packet with one 8x10 photo, two 5x7 photos, four 3x5 photos, 12 wallet photos, one class photo, and an ID card. This packet is provided at no additional cost (it is included in your reenrollment fee). To order additional photos, mark your order on the envelope and return it with payment inside. *Please note: we will not be doing sibling photos.*

If your child is sick or his or her picture does not turn out as you wish, there will be a makeup picture day on Thursday, November 3. Two-day Toddler families may wait for this date to take photos or bring their children directly to the photography site on October 5.

# MIR SCRAPBOOK

## UPPER ELEMENTARY CAMPING TRIPS

### EMILY'S CLASS



### KELLY'S CLASS AND KRISTEN'S CLASS



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# CALENDAR

## HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

*Friday, October 28, 5-7 PM*

Bring the entire family for a night of games, rides, and festivities. We'll hold a costume parade at dusk (adults—nothing too scary/gory, please). **Admission is free.** A dinner of hot dogs (veggie and regular) and baked potatoes with toppings will be available for \$5.



## TOUR THE CAMPUS ON OCTOBER 21

So much change has happened to the MIR campus that it's hard to keep up! Construction of the Student Services Center is in progress, and a lot of updates were made to north campus over the summer.

Whether you are new or returning to MIR, we invite you to take a tour of the many changes on campus on Friday, October 21, 9-10 AM. We will meet outside the office on the south campus. Head of School Peter Davidson will host the tour. We may even see and hear from the elusive Roger Smart.

Wear sensible shoes—we will be walking over dirt, gravel, and wooden walkways.

## MIR TO PARTICIPATE IN GREAT SHAKEOUT

Earthquakes are a fact of life in California. Each year MIR participates in the Great California ShakeOut to help prepare students and staff for what to do if one hits during the school day.

On Thursday, October 20 at 10:20 AM, more than 9 million Californians will participate in this state-wide (voluntary) earthquake drill along with MIR and The Grove School.

For more information about the Great

ShakeOut and what you can do to prepare for an earthquake, visit [shakeout.org](http://shakeout.org).



# October 2016

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<b>3</b> Annual Fund "Done in 31" Campaign began October 1  Rosh Hashanah	<b>4</b> PTM Meeting, 6 PM Parent Ed: "Life after Montessori," 7 PM Soccer Dance Rosh Hashanah	<b>5</b> Picture Day (all classes)  Math-nasium	<b>6</b> Teesie, Venus FT—McCallum Theatre  Sportball Dance	<b>7</b> <i>Box Top Friday</i> Nikki, Jean/MH FT—Lewis Family Playhouse
<b>10</b> Staff in-service No school, no child-care.	<b>11</b> Toddler FT—Live Oak Pumpkin Patch  Soccer Dance	<b>12</b> Maria, Sarah, Kara/Jenny FT—Lewis Family Playhouse Parent meeting for Pali campers, 4 PM Math-nasium	<b>13</b>  Sportball Dance	<b>14</b> <i>Box Top Friday</i> <b>Glass Classroom, 9 AM-12 PM</b> Mt. SAC Invitational Track Meet
<b>17</b> Meet the Candidate, 7 PM	<b>18</b> Whitney FT—LACMA  Soccer Dance	<b>19</b>  Math-nasium	<b>20</b> The Great ShakeOut  Sportball Dance	<b>21</b> <i>Box Top Friday</i> 6 <sup>th</sup> Year Breakfast Burrito fundraiser, 7:30-9 AM
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Meet the Candidate, 7 PM  Soccer Dance	<b>26</b>  Math-nasium	<b>27</b> Teesie, Venus, Whitney FT—University of Redlands Sportball Dance	<b>28</b> <i>Box Top Friday</i> Assembly, 9:15 AM <b>School Closes at 5 PM</b> Halloween Carnival, 5-8 PM
<b>31</b> Annual Fund "Done in 31" Campaign ends Coffee Curbside  Halloween	<b>1</b> <i>Payments Due</i> Childcare reservations due for Veterans Day PTM Meeting, 6 PM  Soccer Dance	<b>2</b> Kristen FT—Olivera St. Emily FT—California Science Center Nikki FT—Jurupa Mtn. Discovery Center Math-nasium	<b>3</b> Retake/make-up Picture Day  Soccer Dance	<b>4</b> Coffee, Tea, and M.E. (Montessori Education), 8:45 AM  PTM Family Skate Night, CalSkate, 5-7 PM

6<sup>th</sup> Year "Boo Grams" fundraiser