

MIR teachers (l-r) Kara Holzinger, Teesie Emge, Maria Hernandez, and Whitney Sforza with Head of School Jenny Davidson (front) at the Montessori Congress.



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2017
VOLUME 42, ISSUE 1
© Montessori in Redlands
LIC# 360910803-4-5

IN EVERY ISSUE:

PTM News
Curriculum Matters
MIR Scrapbook
Calendar

ARTICLES:

Season of welcomes
MIR enters a WASC year
MIR to offer vision screening
Piano and string lessons offered on campus
Starting the year off right
Camp out at MIR

REPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MONTESSORI CONGRESS

by JENNY DAVIDSON, HEAD OF SCHOOL

This summer several staff members attended the International Montessori Congress which is a recurring professional development event that was originally established by Dr. Maria Montessori in 1929. The Congress is an opportunity to connect with Montessori practitioners from all around the world in order to share experiences and knowledge in an effort to elevate our work with children.

For those of us in attendance, it was striking to see the incredible diversity of Montessori programs across the world and a joy to celebrate our commonalities. Whether Montessori is offered in a refu-

gee camp in Kenya, a public school in Thailand, a care home for the elderly in Australia, or in an independent school in Redlands – the core principles and practices remain the same.

During the Congress, keynote speaker Dr. Angeline Lillard offered an overview of the growing body of research that validates Montessori education. Even though Montessori is more than 100 years old, current research demonstrates that its practices support learning, particularly by connecting movement and cognition, offering practices for building executive

(Continued on page 4)

PARENT EVENTS IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

MIR offers multiple opportunities for orientation and education in August and September.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Back-to-School Night will be held Thursday, August 31, 5:15-7 PM. You'll learn about the school, life in the classroom, and what to expect for the new school year.

We will meet for a community picnic on the shady east playground of the south campus. Please sign out your children from class no later than 5 PM and make your way to the playground.

Bring a blanket or chair to sit on. Parents and Teachers of Montessori (PTM)

(Continued on page 4)

SEASON OF WELCOMES

BY MANDIE CODY SCHADWINKEL, ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL

Being new to California and Montessori in Redlands, I am grateful for the sense of welcoming around me. A lot is new for my family and me here, and we've experienced an unmistakable sentiment of familiarity, warmth, and feeling welcomed as we've engaged with the MIR and Grove School communities. It reminds me that seeking to know, understand, and welcome individuals is part of the Montessori philosophy and practice that we have all embraced.

The experience of being new has me reflecting on a few things. One is how significant it is to feel oriented and have a sense of place. It's something that the staff at MIR know intimately well as they work with the children and put forth huge efforts to be certain that each individual child receives this in their classrooms. Regardless of their age, abilities, preferences, expressions, characteristics, demographics, etc., each child is respected for exactly who they are. We celebrate the diversity that each unique child

(Continued on page 6)

PTM NEWS

By GABRIELLE SYMMES, VICE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year!

The PTM is looking forward to another exciting year of events and community building. The beginning of a new school year is a fresh start, and a wonderful time to catch up with old friends, as well as make some new ones.

We start off the year with a few fun activities that we encourage you to join. The first is **Skate Night**, held on Friday, August 25, 5-7 PM. The event takes place at Cal Skate in Grand Terrace, and is privately held for MIR, The Grove School, staff members, family, and friends. Tickets may be purchased in advance in the MIR office for \$6, or at the door on the night of the event for \$8. The ticket covers skate rental and admission. This is a wonderful opportunity to brush up on your skating skills, listen to some fun music, and hang out with friends.

Next up, we have our **Back to School Night**, on Thursday, August 31. The evening begins with a community assembly and refreshments, provided by the PTM. It is followed by **orientations** for Primary and Elementary classes, to get an overview of

the year ahead. (Toddler families will have their orientation on Wednesday, September 13.) This is a great opportunity to let your teacher know how you are able to participate throughout the year, and to get your questions answered.

For all of you happy campers, we have **Camp Montessori** happening on Friday, September 29. This is a fun-filled overnighter, for enrolled students of MIR. This is an evening under the stars, complete with a barbecue dinner, games, and activities. Children under 5 are required to have a chaperone, who will help with camp chores, such as meal prep, cooking, or clean-up. Children ages 5-12 are able to camp without a chaperone. The cost is \$30 per family.

Have you ever wondered what PTM is, and what purpose it serves? Well, PTM is a volunteer organization of the parents, teachers, and staff of MIR. It is led by an Executive Committee, staff representatives, and a team of parents, known as "Room Reps." Our mission is to build a strong and thriving MIR community. As a team, we conduct a number of school wide activities during the year, including Skate Nights, Camp

Montessori, the Halloween and Spring Carnivals, and other community building events. We meet regularly (usually once a month) to review and plan upcoming events and to discuss topics that are important to the community. Our meetings are open to anyone in the MIR community. Check the school calendar for meeting dates and times, and we'll save a seat for you!

We'd love for you to take an active role in PTM. If you are interested in becoming the **Room Rep** for your child's classroom, please let your teacher know in the next week or two.

If you have suggestions or questions related to PTM, feel free to email us at edavies.cymru@gmail.com or symmes03@verizon.net. See you around campus!

TAKE TIME TO SAVE A DIME

PTM collects **Box Tops for Education** to help fund its many activities. Box Top coupons can be found on many items you use every day, from Kleenex to cereal to copy paper. Clip the coupons and drop them off in your child's classroom or during Box Top Fridays in October, February,

(Continued on page 7)

CURRICULUM MATTERS

MONTESSORI U PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM

By LISA KENSOK

Montessori U is MIR’s program for parent education. Our goal is to help you understand your children’s development, and share how we educate your children according to their development.

Take advantage of Montessori U to

- Understand the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive milestones for your child at each stage of development.

- Gain a clear picture of how your children are growing and thriving in their time at MIR.

Montessori U classes are designed to fit the style and schedule of as many parents as possible. They include:

- Seminar-style classes—indicated in blue in the schedule below

- Discussion-based classes—indicated in green in the schedule below
- Hands-on classes and events—indicated in gray in the schedule below
- Guided observations—For Lower Elementary classes, dates TBD. *This is a new program we will be piloting with our Lower Elementary classes this year.*

Montessori U Class Schedule

SEPTEMBER	Lunch with the Teacher September 15, 11 AM "Your Primary Child" CD, ME	Parent Education Night: "Montessori Basics" * September 20, 7 PM, ME <i>Childcare provided for enrolled Primary and Elementary students.</i>	
OCTOBER	Parent Education Night October 3, 7 PM "Life after Montessori"* AO <i>Childcare provided for enrolled Primary and Elementary students.</i>	Coffee, Tea, and M.E. October 13, 9 AM "Your Lower Elementary Child" CD, ME	Parent Education Night: "Montessori Assessment & Outcomes" * October 24, 7 PM, AO, ME <i>Childcare provided for enrolled Primary and Elementary students.</i>
NOVEMBER	Parent-Child Night November 7, 5 PM, ME	Parent Education Night: "Beginnings," November 15, 6 PM, CD, P <i>For parents of 18 mos.-1st year Primary. Childcare provided for enrolled Toddler and Primary students.</i>	
JANUARY	Lunch with the Teacher January 12, 11 AM "Your Upper Elementary Child" CD, ME	Parent Education Night: "Standardized Testing in the Montessori Environment" * January 23, 7 PM, AO, ME <i>Childcare provided for enrolled Primary and Elementary students.</i>	Positive Discipline Parenting Course January 10, 17, 24, 31-February 7, 21, 6-8 PM, P (no class on Valentine's Day)
FEBRUARY	Journey & Discovery February 3, 8 AM -2 PM	Parent-Child Night February 13, 5 PM, ME	
MARCH	Lunch with the Teacher March 2, 11 AM "Your Toddler" CD, ME	Parent Education Night: Academic topic TBD March 13, 7 PM, ME <i>Childcare provided for enrolled Primary and Elementary students.</i>	<p>Classes fall into different focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academic Outcomes (AO) - Child Development (CD) - Montessori Education (ME) - Parenting (P) <p><i>Classes are listed by focus starting on page 4.</i></p>
APRIL	Parent Education Night: Academic topic TBD, April 17, 7 PM, ME <i>Childcare provided for enrolled Primary and Elementary students.</i>	Parent Infant Class Dates TBD, may be in May, 4-5 PM, CD, P	
MAY	Coffee, Tea, and M.E. May 11, 9 AM "The Adolescent Brain" featuring Ben Moudry, CD ME		

Courses marked with an asterisk (*) are especially recommended for WASC (see page 6).

PARENT EVENTS

(Continued from page 1)

will provide snacks and drinks.

At 5:45 PM, Primary and Elementary classroom orientations begin. All children will go to their classes with their parents. Primary children will then go with their assistants for planned activities while parents stay for the orientation. Lower Elementary students will also go with their assistants, and Upper Elementary students will participate in the orientation in their classes.

Toddler families can go home after the picnic. Toddler Parent orientation will be held separately on Wednesday, September 13 at 6 PM. Please consider whether toddlers and babies might disrupt the orientation meetings and plan accordingly.

LUNCH WITH THE TEACHER: "YOUR PRIMARY CHILD"

Friday, September 15, 11 AM

Join this informative discussion forum with teacher Jenny Ewalt to learn more about your child's development ages 3-6 years. Jenny will give an overview of this stage of development, then demonstrate a lesson or two to show how Montessori capitalizes on these characteristics for learning.

This is a discussion-based session, with plenty of time for you to ask questions of the teacher and your peers.

PARENT EDUCATION NIGHT: MONTESSORI BASICS

Wednesday, September 20, 7 PM

Childcare offered to enrolled Primary and Elementary students

You've signed your child up for this place that calls itself "Montessori," but what does that even mean? What is Montessori? Why should you care? What does it mean for your child?

Learn the answers to these questions and about Montessori past, present, and

(cont.)

future at this Parent Education Night. This is a seminar style class where you'll hear from Jenny Davidson and Mandie Schadwinkel, then have an opportunity to ask questions.

More details about the event and a sign-up form will be sent via email as we get closer to September 20. If you are interested in the WASC accreditation process (see page 6), we strongly encourage you to attend this event.

REPORT FROM MONTESSORI CONGRESS (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)



(L-R) Peter Davidson, Maria Hernandez, Whitney Sforza, Teesie Emge, Nikki Farooq, Sara Garcia, and Kara Holzinger with Lynn Lawrence (black shirt, between Sara and Nikki), Executive Director of Association Montessori Internationale (AMI).

functions and the academic and emotional benefits of freedom of choice. Dr. Lillard's full summary has recently been published in the third edition of her book, *Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius*.

We now know that in high-fidelity or classic Montessori classrooms, children show significantly greater school-year gains when measuring executive function, reading, math, vocabulary, and social problem-solving, than other children in low fidelity Montessori or in conventional classrooms.

Montessori in Redlands adheres to the high-fidelity principles that are offering these impressive outcomes. We have long work periods where children's concentration is supported, mixed age groups, a full

spectrum of Montessori materials, and well-prepared teachers who are also life-long learners.

Our school has shown an impressive commitment to excellence through our ongoing WASC accreditation and by participating in a Montessori Peer Review Council. This year we will be reviewing and refining our goals and expectations for student learner outcomes. We know that by continuing to work toward a high-fidelity Montessori model, we already offer a quality educational experience for our students. We also know that it is incredibly challenging to measure the things that matter the most—compassion, creativity, respect, curiosity, and an inherent love of learning.

Montessori in Redlands has an international reputation for excellence and I am personally honored and excited to be a part of its journey. Welcome back to MIR's 42nd year!

MONTESSORI U (cont.) CLASSES BY FOCUS

Classes are listed in date order. Classes that fall into two categories are listed in both categories.

Academic Outcomes (AO)

- "Life after Montessori," October 3, 7 PM
- "Montessori Assessment & Outcomes," October 24, 7 PM
- "Standardized Testing in the Montessori Environment," January 23, 7 PM

Child Development (CD)

- "Your Primary Child," September 15, 11 AM
- "Your Lower Elementary Child," October 13, 9 AM
- "Beginnings," November 15, 6 PM
- "Your Upper Elementary Child," January 12, 11 AM

(Continued on page 6)

MIR SCRAPBOOK

SOLAR ECLIPSE



A timeline of the eclipse in shadows



9:55 AM



9:58 AM



10:05 AM



10:32 AM



10:34 AM



10:35 AM

WELCOMES *(cont.)*

(Continued from page 2)

brings to the community. At Montessori in Redlands, part of the fabric that has made this school strong for over 40 years is this manifestation of respect that is shown for each individual child.

It's a privilege to be a part of a school community that has a commitment to authentic Montessori practices, and I'm grateful that MIR has prioritized excellent training and support of our staff members as a part of that. After two months of meetings with faculty, staff, administrators, and board members, it's clear that the plan for Montessori in Redlands is to stay focused on meeting the needs of the children - both individually and collectively as a community. In educational settings, it is possible to be distracted about where our efforts should best be placed even by the best intentions. Regularly engaging in reflection, dialogue, and examination on what's best for the children, as opposed to what's more convenient or attractive for adults, requires discipline. Montessori in Redlands has a strong history of exercising that discipline, and I am enthusiastic to be a part of its future.

I am committed to joining you in ongoing community-building within MIR, with the hopes that each family can feel the same kind of warm welcome I've experienced. Feeling welcome, important, valued and truly cared for is something that we, as faculty and staff, desire not only for your children here at MIR, but for your entire family. Without you as parents and partners choosing this Montessori experience for your children, this terrific community would not exist. You are a critical part of Montessori in Redlands, and I am eager to get to know you better and to approach my work to benefit each individual child.

MIR ENTERS A "WASC YEAR"

MIR is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). WASC is one of the seven official regional accreditors responsible for the accreditation of public and private universities, colleges, elementary and secondary schools in the United States, and foreign institutions that originate in the U.S. As the name suggests, WASC is the accrediting body for schools in the western region of the U.S.



MIR holds a six-year accreditation, the longest possible, and this year it is time to renew the accreditation.

The accreditation process involves intensive self-study in the areas of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Resource Management and Development; Support for Personal and Academic Growth, and Organization for Student Learning. Staff members, the Board of Trustees, and current and alumni parents are all involved in the process. The self-study is followed by an on-site visit of WASC members, who also observe at the school and make recommendations. This year, with two new administrators just starting, we have delayed the visit to fall of 2018, but all the work of WASC will occur this school year.

MIR will be reaching out to parents sometime in September to invite them to join one of our WASC committees. In the meantime, and in preparation, MIR is holding a series of Parent Education Nights in the fall that support the work of WASC and provide valuable information to all parents at MIR. We encourage everyone to make time to attend these nights, and childcare is provided at no cost for enrolled Primary and Elementary students. (Due to how late the evenings end, we are unable to provide childcare to Toddlers as the events usually end after their bedtimes.)

These Parent Education Nights include the following, and MIR expects to invite outside speakers to present all but the first one:

"Montessori Basics," Wednesday, September 20, 7 PM

"Life after Montessori," Tuesday, October 3, 7 PM

"Montessori Assessment and Outcomes," Tuesday, October 24, 7 PM

"Standardized Testing in the Montessori Environment," Tuesday, January 23, 2018, 7 PM

Please save the date for these important seminars.

MONTESSORI U *(cont.)*

(Continued from page 4)

- "Your Toddler," March 2, 11 AM
- Parent Infant Class, dates TBD, 4 PM
- "The Adolescent Brain" featuring Ben Moudry, May 11, 9 AM

Montessori Education (ME)

- "Your Primary Child," September 15, 11 AM
- "Montessori Basics," September 20, 7 PM

- "Your Lower Elementary Child," October 13, 9 AM
- "Montessori Assessment & Outcomes," October 24, 7 PM
- Parent-Child Night, November 7, 5 PM
- "Your Upper Elementary Child," January 12, 11 AM
- "Standardized Testing in the Montessori Environment," January 23, 7 PM
- *Journey & Discovery*, February 3, 8 AM-2 PM

(Continued on page 7)

MONTESSORI U (cont.)

(Continued from page 6)

- Parent-Child Night, February 13, 5 PM
- “Your Toddler,” March 2, 11 AM
- Academic topic TBD, March 13, 7 PM
- Academic topic TBD, April 17, 7 PM
- “The Adolescent Brain” featuring Ben Moudry, May 11, 9 AM

Parenting (P)

- Parent Infant Class, dates TBD, 4 PM
- “Beginnings,” November 15, 6 PM
- Positive Discipline Parenting Course, January 10, 17, 24, 31-February 7, 21, 6-8 PM (no class on Valentine’s Day)

MIR TO OFFER VISION SCREENING TO ALL STUDENTS

On Tuesday, September 12, students have the opportunity to have their vision checked on campus at no cost by MIR parent and pediatric ophthalmologist Leila Khazaeni, MD.

Dr. Khazaeni and her staff from the Loma Linda University Vision Intervention Program will measure and assess students’ eyes with a camera-like device called a photorefractive screener (pictured). The photoscreener does not touch the child. It checks for refractive error, misalignment of the eyes, opacities such as congenital cataracts or tumors, and unequal pupils. All of these problems are treatable if caught early.



Reports will be provided to parents. If your child needs further evaluation, you will be directed to see your child’s pediatrician for a referral to an appropriate eye care specialist.

If you would like your child screened, you will be asked to sign an authorization form on the day of the screening. Contact Ellen Camarillo (ecamarillo@mir.org) if you have any questions.

PIANO AND STRING LESSONS OFFERED ON CAMPUS

Mrs. Yang Steinke, a professional musician and experienced teacher, offers private lessons to MIR students at both the school and in her home. Currently she has a few openings for this school year. If your child is interested in learning piano, violin, or cello, call her at 951-743-7158.

STARTING THE YEAR OFF RIGHT

Here are a few guidelines to help ensure a smooth experience for this busy first week.

Drive no more than 5 MPH in the parking lot. With so many small children on campus it is important to drive slowly!

Remember to sign your child in and out. Sign your child in and out on the classroom sign-in sheets and record the drop-off/pick-up times accurately. **This information is required by law and crucial for us to accurately track children in an emergency.** A fee of \$9.50 will be incurred if you do not sign your child in or out. **If the drop-off and pick-up times listed on the sign-in sheet don't match your expectations, please see the office.**

Honor drop-off and pick-up times. To ensure we remain compliant with Califor-

nia labor laws and licensing and insurance requirements, MIR strictly enforces its drop-off and pick-up times. There is no “grace period” beyond the stated drop-off and pick-up times for your program. Refer to the weekly email sent for the first week of school for a list of those times.

Bring medications to the office, including diaper cream or sunscreen. All medications—prescription or over-the-counter—must be checked into the office, even for Upper Elementary students. Medications must be in their original container with the name of the child on it. Prescription medication must have the prescription label on it. Your pharmacy can print out a second label if you need it for this purpose.

Keep ill children at home. We have many very young students and students with sensitive immune systems. Bringing even a mildly sick child to school could lead to serious illness or complications in these sensitive ones. The school will call you to pick up your child if he or she is ill.

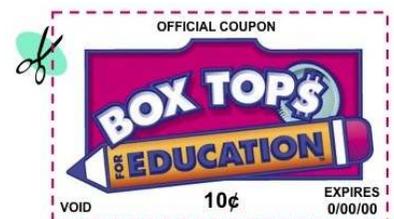
For more information on the school, its policies, and what to expect this year, join us for Back-to-School Night on Thursday, August 31 at 5:15 PM.

PTM NEWS (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

and May.

PTM receives \$.10 for each Box Top, and they add up. In the past, we have raised more than \$1,200. (that’s 12,000 Box Tops!) Let’s bring in lots and lots of Box Tops, and see if we can beat that record this year!



CALENDAR

CAMP OUT AT MIR

Join us for Camp Montessori on Friday, September 29, beginning at 6:30 PM.

Start the year off by camping under the stars at Camp Montessori! 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.



Camp Montessori is open to enrolled children ages 5-12 with or without a chaperone, or enrolled children younger than 5 with a chaperone. Chaperones will be asked to help with activities such as meal preparation, serving, and clean-up; trash duty; and helping keep watch over the children.

The camping fee is \$30 per family, with or without chaperones. The fee will be billed to your account. The fee covers all costs for the campout, including food.

Sign-ups are online. Look for a sign-up link in the weekly email.

RUNNING CLUB RESUMES FRIDAY, AUGUST 25: Elementary children ages 6 and older may join us. We meet at 7:30 AM outside Kristen and Whitney's classrooms. *Children may be dropped off no earlier than 7:30 AM.* Write "RC" in the time slot when you sign in your child to avoid incurring childcare fees. **Siblings of runners cannot be dropped off early unless you**

have contacted the office to confirm there is space and reserved early childcare. There is a fee for early drop-off of siblings.

CELEBRATE PEACE ON SEPTEMBER 21: MIR will celebrate the United Nations' International Day of Peace on the shady east playground of the south campus starting around 9:30 AM. Parents are welcome to join us!

August/September 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
21 First day of the 2017-18 school year Solar eclipse 	22	23	24	25 PTM Family Skate Night, CalSkate, 5-7 PM
28	29	30	31 School closes at 5 PM Back to School Night, 5:15 PM Prim. & Elem. classroom orientations Maria Montessori's bday	1 Payments Due
4 Labor Day No school, no childcare.	5	6 PTM Room Rep Orientation, 6-7:30 PM	7	8
11	12 All-school vision screening	13 Toddler Parent Orientation, 6 PM	14	15 Lunch with the Teacher, "Your Primary Child," 11 AM Jean/MH—Griffith Park Observatory
18	19 Nikki—Theron's, 10 AM	20 Parent Ed Night: Montessori Basics, 7 PM Kelly—Hangar 18 Climbing Gym	21 International Day of Peace	22 Autumn begins
Kristen's class camping trip—Idyllwild Park				
25	26	27 Teesie, Venus—McCallum Theater	28 Maria, Sara—Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center	29 Camp Montessori, 6:30 PM
Emily's class camping trip—Carpinteria State Beach				