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THE YEAR OF POSSIBILITY

by PETER DAVIDSON, HEAD OF SCHOOL

As you read this, although I'm writing in December, it will already be 2017! It's the season of reflection, when we look back on 2016 and ahead to the new year. And what a year 2016 was at MIR! It was a year we celebrated stability as it capped off our 40th anniversary year, but it was also a year of change.

One year ago we were greeted with the news that our long time Head of School, Maura Joyce, was moving to Houston, Texas. Shortly thereafter, Christine Povero announced her retirement after decades of service to the school and Toddler community. Following that, Nicole Fedorow-

Rehder let us know that her husband had accepted a job in Atlanta, Georgia. That's a lot of change in one year for a school that prides itself on staff longevity and consistency!

We also raised money for (thank you all for your help) and broke ground on the new Student Services Center, to house our Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist, Educational Consultant, and tutors all in one ideal space. As I write this, the building is still under construction, though getting closer every day to completion.

In February we started our search for a

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SAVE THE DATES FOR PARENT EVENTS

JOURNEY & DISCOVERY

SUNDAY, FEB. 5, 8 AM-2 PM

MIR invites you to experience a day in the life of a Montessori student. For most of us, Montessori is so different from our own educational experience, and we have many questions. Journey & Discovery is your opportunity to get the answers.

PARENT EDUCATION NIGHT: GEOMETRY THURSDAY, JAN. 19, 7 PM

Based on the positive feedback from the Coffee, Tea, and M.E. on the same topic, we are dedicating a full Parent Education Night on Geometry. Several teachers will present lessons to show how Geometry is learned at the different levels.

REPORT FROM THE BOARD

BOARD PREPARING FOR NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL

By TREVOR NORTON, PRESIDENT

We are excited to have ended the year having hired a new Head of School, and we are looking forward to helping her and the school prepare for her arrival in July.

In addition to our regular work over the next six months, the board will also form an “on-boarding” committee. This committee, will be led by alumni parent and board member Adrienne Ortega. The committee will be working on making a smooth transition for Jennifer, the staff, and the entire community, and for communicating with the community about all things related to our new Head of School.

While change can be difficult, we know that your children are all in the capable hands of their teachers and assistants. We have every confidence in them to continue their excellent work during this administrative change.

PTM NEWS

By VICTORIA HOBSON, PTM TREASURER

JOURNEY & DISCOVERY

My husband and I are the proud parents of a 7-year-old boy who has been attending MIR since he was a toddler. Shortly after his enrollment, we attended a Journey & Discovery day that left lasting impressions for us both.

On the first part of the journey, we were asked to silently observe the Toddler, Primary, and Elementary environments. We had pens and clipboards to record any questions we had, and we were given time after the observation period to discuss what we'd seen. The second part was spent discovering the classroom from the child's perspective. We were allowed to put our hands on the same materials our children were using and encouraged to explore lessons that interested us.

Each classroom was set up for us with work materials and teachers available to guide us through the steps and provide us with lessons. Because my focus is on the children while I'm in my son's classroom, it was nice to be in his workspace without him. I was able to really appreciate the layout of the room. Contrary to any of the classroom experiences I'd had growing up, the Montessori workspace was thoughtful and intentional. I could see that there was freedom in the choice of work, and that familiarity with the materials from prior lessons would allow my son to continue to build on the concepts he was learning.

It wasn't until after a lesson in parts of speech and diagramming sentences that I remembered I was an adult, stuffed into a tiny chair, giggling with embarrassment at my husband with the joy I was experiencing at having “done it myself.” It was that mo-

ment when we realized what an exceptional educational opportunity our children have here.

It was so valuable to us to see how the children were introduced to the work and to deepen our understanding of how they learn by doing. I would encourage all parents to attend a Journey & Discovery at some point in your time at MIR.

MIR will be hosting Journey & Discovery Sunday, February 5, 2017, 8 AM-2 PM. If you are interested in attending, look for the sign up on the Parent Portal.

Journey & Discovery is not a PTM event. Below is a reminder of a few upcoming PTM activities you'll want to add to your calendar.

NEXT PTM MEETING, JANUARY 5, 2017-6 PM

Is your new year resolution to be more involved at school?

We'd love to see you at the next PTM meeting and hear your ideas. FREE childcare is provided for enrolled students and can be reserved online through the Parent Portal.

SKATE NIGHT FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2017 5-7 PM AT CAL SKATE IN GRAND TERRACE

Please join us for a family night of fun at CalSkate. Tickets will be available in the office for \$6 each, or at the door of CalSkate for \$8.



YEAR OF POSSIBILITY *(cont.)*

MIR SCRAPBOOK

new Head of School. Thanks to diligent efforts by our Board and our Head Search Committee, we were able to identify two highly qualified finalists whom we brought on campus in October for three days each of meetings, interviews, and parent presentations. And so as our year began with Maura's announcement, it ended with the announcement that Jenny Davidson would be joining us July 1 as our new Head of School.

And that leads me to the new year, to 2017, and the excitement and possibility that comes with thinking about the future. There is much to look forward to! This month we will be starting a new 6-week series of Positive Discipline classes for parents with Student Services team members Dorama Montoya and Margaretann Harrison. In February, with any luck, we will be holding a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Student Services Center.

This is also the time of year that we think of as the real substance of the school year when, after the short months of November and December with their holidays, vacations, and parent/teacher conference days, we have 2 ½ months of fairly uninterrupted school. This is often the time of the year when children can really dig into their work and surprise us with their accomplishment and progress.

And so, as tempting as it might be to spend time looking back on 2016, which shall ever be "The Year of Change" at MIR, I much prefer contemplating 2017, which I hereby name "The Year of Possibility." So goodbye 2016 and change, and hello 2017 and possibility!



HOLIDAY SING



CALENDAR

POSITIVE DISCIPLINE PARENTING CLASS STARTS JANUARY 11

“Everybody knows how to raise children, except the people who have them.”—P.J. O'Rourke

Parenting is hard. Get parenting help from your peers and Margaretann Harrison and Dorama Montoya, Certified Positive Discipline Parent Educators, in our new Positive Discipline parenting class.

The class will help you navigate the rough waters of parenting in a friendly, support-group style atmosphere.

Classes meet 6-8 PM on Wednesdays starting January 11, and ending February 15. Register by 5 PM on Friday, January 6.

Space is limited to 24 people/12 couples. The cost is \$75 for individuals or \$125 per couple, which includes books. *The cost will be billed to your account.*



OH NO! MY CHILD GREW OUT OF THEIR MIR SHIRT



If your child grew out of their red shirt before they had a chance to wear it out, bring it back to the office and we'll find a new home for it! In exchange, we'll give a new shirt that fits. ☺ *Please only exchange gently used shirts. If your shirt is too worn, we'll still replace for the correct size but won't try to re-use the old one.*

January 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2 School and childcare closed in observance of New Year's Day.	3 Staff in-service No school, no childcare.	4 School resumes Teesie's Back-to-School pancake breakfast	5 PTM Meeting, 6 PM	6 7 Grove School Chili Cook-off, 9 AM-1 PM
9	10	11 Positive Discipline	12	13 "Lunch with Peter," 11 AM
15 2 nd Semi-Annual payment due	17 Lower Elementary—McCallum Theater	18 Math Club Positive Discipline	19 Parent Ed Night, 7 PM	20 Jean/MH—Pennypickle's Workshop Kelly—Riley's Farm
16 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day No school, no childcare.	Soccer		Sportball Math Club	
23	24 Soccer	25 Kristen—Lewis Family Playhouse Math Club Positive Discipline	26 Nikki—Sawdust Factory Sportball Math Club	27 6 th Year breakfast fundraiser, 7:30-9 AM Assembly, 9:15 AM PTM Family Skate Night, CalSkate, 5-7 PM
30	31 Soccer	1 Payments due Re-enrollment begins for 2017 Math Club Positive Discipline	2 PTM Meeting, 6 PM Sportball Math Club	3 Box Top Friday