

A Montessori school in a refugee settlement in Tanzania. Materials are either donated or hand-made by the teacher.



APRIL 2018
VOLUME 42, ISSUE 8
© Montessori in Redlands
LIC# 360910803-4-5

IN EVERY ISSUE:

PTM News
Curriculum Matters
MIR Scrapbook
Calendar

ARTICLES:

Grove "Farm to Fork" Dinner
Spring Gala News: Get Your Golden Tickets!
Summer School Enrollment is Open
Parent-Teacher Conferences

MONTESSORI IS GROWING IN UNEXPECTED AREAS

by JENNY DAVIDSON, HEAD OF SCHOOL

The Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) is an organization that was founded by Maria Montessori with the purpose of promoting and continuing her life's work. The core value that AMI offers to the MIR school community is the internationally recognized Teacher Training program that many of our staff members have completed. Every April, AMI holds a series of annual meetings in Amsterdam and, as an AMI board member, I have the pleasure of attending to learn about our global community.

These meetings offer an opportunity for

Montessori representatives from around the world to convene to share accomplishments, wisdom, and to support the work of this international organization. Presentations at the meetings have included fascinating stories of how Montessori principles can be applied in unexpected places.

Montessori and Soccer: An international soccer academy based in Amsterdam has adopted the Montessori approach not only in its academic classrooms, but also on the field. As a student-centered model based on experiential learning, Montessori edu-

(Continued on page 4)

APRIL FAMILY EVENTS

MIR Spring Carnival

Saturday, April 21, 11 AM-3 PM

Celebrate Spring at the MIR Spring Carnival on Saturday, April 21, 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.

MONTESSORI ART GALLERY

The Carnival will include an Art Gallery featuring parent, student, and staff art as

(Continued on page 4)

WELCOME NEW FAMILIES

MIR CAMPUS: A CLASSROOM WITHOUT WALLS

by TREVOR NORTON, PRESIDENT

Have you strolled through the Legacy Walk? I bet your children have. And I bet they noticed a whole lot more than you did.

The walk is a perfect example of one of the pillars of a Montessori education: the prepared environment. MIR's teachers put a tremendous amount of attention into preparing the environment for your children, because Maria Montessori found that a well-prepared environment facilitates maximum independent learning and exploration.

This new area of our already beautiful campus was carefully prepared by our master of all things facilities, Roger Smart, to allow children to explore and discover on their own. There are no signs to explain how, but the children can discover an enormous sundial (with both standard and daylight saving times) where their own bodies can become the hand of the clock. They can discover butterflies in the garden and find pieces of nature to play checkers on a board burned in to a table that was once a grapefruit tree. The discoveries

(Continued on page 4)

PTM NEWS

SPRING CARNIVAL PROGRAM GUIDE

by ELEANOR HAIRE, PTM PRESIDENT

All MIR families and friends are invited to the annual PTM Spring Carnival. This year it will be held on the MIR campus on Saturday, April 21, 11 AM–3 PM.

The low \$10 entry fee is per family and provides every child in your group access to a jam-packed program of activities including:

Classroom booths with games or crafts.

- Bounce houses (including 1 that is reserved for children ages 5 or under).
- Train-style race cars (the same ones featured at the Redlands Market Night).
- A Montessori Art Gallery featuring art from students, staff, and parents in our school community.
- A Marketplace of goods offered for sale.

The kickoff of our annual spring book fair! Frugal Frigate, a local, independent children's book store, brings a curated collection of its offerings to the MIR campus. Buy books for your bookshelf and earn books for MIR's bookshelves!

The carnival will also showcase some talented musicians and dancers. Don't miss these great performances!

- 12 PM—MIR World Music Band
- 12:30 PM—Aztec Dancers
- 1 PM—MIR Dance Club

The performance schedule is subject to change. Please check the performance board at the Carnival entry booth for performance details.

PTM will set up a BBQ lunch serving hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie dogs, and chips. Coolers of water will be set out and attendees are encouraged to bring their own water bottle to drink from. Meal tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased at the Carnival entry booth.

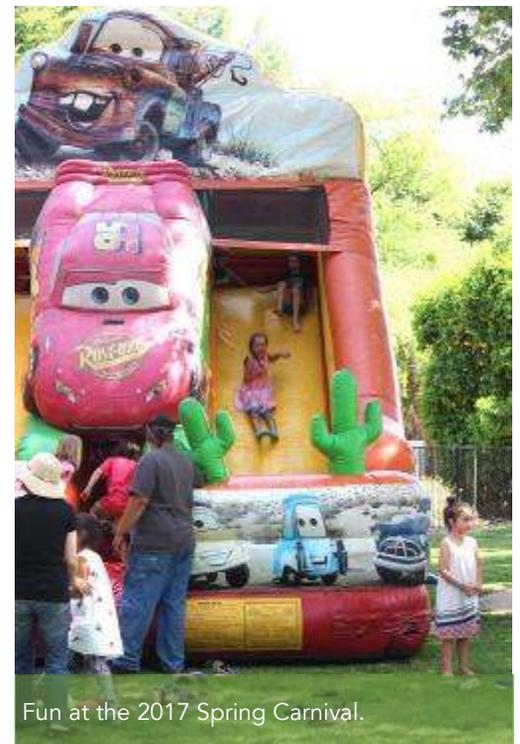
Sell your wares! Show your art!

If you are interested in showcasing your artwork or selling items from a home-based business at the Spring Carnival, please contact Jean Bonner-Drinkwine for more information. She is located in the Primary classroom behind the office foyer, or you

can email her at jdrinkwine@mir.org.

Volunteer at your class booth!

Many classes need 1/2 hour of parents'



Fun at the 2017 Spring Carnival.

(Continued on page 6)

CURRICULUM MATTERS

CULTIVATING A GROWTH MINDSET

by MANDIE SCHADWINKEL, ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL

During our most recent staff in-service, the MIR staff spent some time watching a short video and discussing some key concepts of what has become known as the “growth mindset.” (You can see the video for yourself at <http://ow.ly/Q6Ts30jgeAb>).

In 2006, Carol Dweck, a Stanford psychologist, coined the term growth mindset in her book, *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*, and it has gained a lot of ground with educators and parents alike. The underlying idea is that when people's attitudes and habits reflect that they believe that their talents can be developed, then they have a *growth* mindset. When people believe that talents are innate and not developed outside of what nature has gifted to us, that perspective is referred to as a *fixed* mindset.

Studies confirm again and again that individuals with more of a growth mindset respond to challenges by understanding that learning and development can occur when we put forth effort, productive strategies, and determination. The illustration to the right (courtesy of Carol Dweck) shows examples of the differences between fixed and growth mindsets.

The question we often ask ourselves as educators and parents is: How do we encourage this growth mindset in our children? We know that we have quite a bit of influence on them and that they look to us for feedback at nearly every turn. That's a serious responsibility that deserves our attention. It often isn't natural or easy to know how to interact and communicate with our children in a way that helps them to hear the messages we intend to express

and to support them in having a growth mindset. Here are some phrases Dweck recommends to encourage our children:

Growth Mindset: What to Say

“When you learn how to do a new kind of problem, it grows your mind.”

“If you catch yourself saying, ‘I'm not a history person’, just add the word ‘yet’ to the end of a sentence.”

“That feeling of math being hard is the feeling of your brain growing.”

“The point isn't to get it all right away. The point is to grow your understanding step by step. What can you try next?”

Here are phrases she cautions against:

Fixed Mindset: What *Not* to Say

- “Not everyone is good at math. Just do your best.”
- “That's OK, maybe writing is not one of your strengths.”
- “Don't worry, you'll get it if you keep trying.”

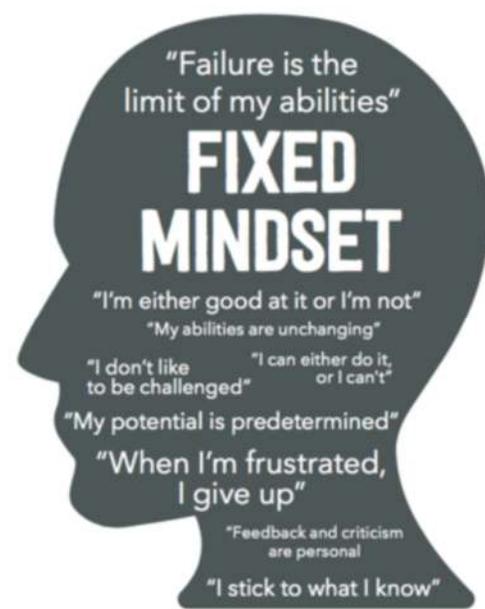
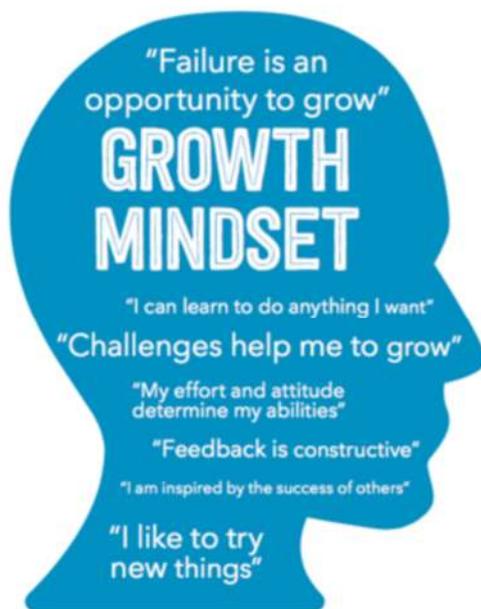
- “Great effort! You tried your best.”* (What's harmful about this phrase? See below.)

Some highlights that came from our staff meeting on this topic include the following. These are items that came from our discussion as educators, which gives you some insight into how your child's teacher is interacting with them. I hope that it also gives you some strategies to try at home.

Only help children when they truly need it. Observe well to know where they need support. Provide the support in a clear manner with the goal of helping them understand what steps they were missing, then back away when they are on track again.

***Be specific when complimenting children's work so that it is not just the effort, but the effort that is leading to learning progress that is getting acknowledged.**

(Continued on page 6)



CAMPUS WITHOUT WALLS (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

that our children make in this garden, and all over campus are an integral part of their education. There are more lessons going on than the children (or parents) are even aware. My experience is that these are the lessons that stick. Our MIR environment is so much more than a “playground”—it’s a classroom without walls.

APRIL EVENTS (cont.)

well as art from The Grove School students. 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.

CHILD-PARENT NIGHT AND PASTA DINNER

Tuesday, April 17, 5-7 pm

School and childcare close at 5 PM

Child-Parent Night is one of the most popular events we hold, and we are holding a Spring event so you can see how your child has grown this year.

This is a child-led event. Your child will show you what he or she does each day. This is your chance to enjoy the pride they take in the work that they do. Teachers will be on hand to guide children as necessary. This is not “surprise your child with pop quizzes to make sure they’ve learned some-

by EMILY ROBISON, PRIMARY AND ELEMENTARY PARENT thing.” You’ll be able to ask specific questions about your child’s progress at Parent-Teacher Conferences.

School and childcare close at 5 PM for this event. If you have more than one child at MIR, the schedule gives time to rotate to each child’s classroom.

Spring Parent-Child Night activities take place in Toddler, Primary, Lower Elementary classrooms, and Kristen and Kelly’s classes. Emily’s 5th year students will host a Pasta Dinner as a fundraiser towards the class of 2019 Washington, D.C. trip (they’re very first fundraiser!). For \$5 you’ll get pasta with meat or marinara sauce, salad, bread, and a beverage. This is a great way to keep your younger ones from getting hungry on this late night at school.

“FARM TO FORK” DINNER TO BENEFIT GROVE TEACHER-TRAINING

Parents and Teachers of Grove (Grove PTG) and the Armantrout Montessori Education Foundation are hosting a fabulous dinner on Saturday, April 14, 4-7 PM called “Farm to Fork.”

The dinner is a fundraiser to help raise the \$5,000 needed to send all Grove teachers to the Montessori adolescent training being held at The Grove School this summer. This is a rare opportunity to train as many Grove teachers as possible at a relatively low cost due to the location of the training.

Tickets are \$65 and can be purchased online at <https://armantroutmef.wufoo.com/forms/zvce8d01qkznj9/>. The event will be held in Heritage Park, and beer and wine will be available.

MONTESSORI IS GROWING (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

education has found a new and unexpected niche supporting elite level soccer players as they improve their game.

Montessori and Dementia: Across the world, service providers for the aged are adopting Montessori principles for dementia care. Montessori practitioners prepare the environment, activities, and routines based on the needs and abilities of individuals with dementia. Results from these programs demonstrate an enriched quality of life as aged individuals stay engaged in meaningful daily living.

Montessori in Refugee Settlements: In Tanzania, AMI provides guidance to a community of displaced individuals to operate a Montessori school for children in their community. Now that the school is established, there are currently two Teacher Training programs underway to meet the demand to expand the program. In these classrooms, every Montessori material is handmade by the teacher with the resources that are available within the settlement.

Every year as Montessori leaders gather in Amsterdam, it becomes clear that Montessori is growing significantly in both size and scope. This method of education has had an international presence for more than 100 years, but new organizations, schools and teacher training courses are opening at an unprecedented rate. It is worth celebrating that more families, and communities are discovering the insights and opportunities that this method of education has to offer.

MIR SCRAPBOOK

PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY: BODIE CROWDER



Principal for a Day is a live auction item at the MIR Spring Gala.



CULTIVATING A GROWTH MINDSET (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

If the learning progress is not there, the effort needs to be redirected so that it will become more fruitful. Adults can often guide children and provide the link they are missing to make their efforts more successful.

This point is key. As parents and as educators we know it can be harmful to praise a child's qualities ("You're so smart!") and have learned to praise effort "Great effort! You tried your best." What Dweck recommends is praising effort that leads to progress ("Good job reviewing your work to see where you missed steps. What did you discover?").

We can model the growth mindset by saying out loud certain things that reflect this mindset in our own lives. We can say "I can try" when asked by the child if we can help them; tell them about mistakes we made during our day and how we reflected and decided to try another way to get different results; and in general, we can be friendly with error and feedback ourselves.

Recognizing that having and encouraging a growth mindset can be complicated and nuanced. None of us have it all of the time, and we constantly can be working to cultivate it. Our goal as educators and parents is to embrace what Dweck calls "the power of yet" in our own lives to help the children. "I can't do it...yet."



All these beautiful items are up for auction at the MIR Spring Gala & Auction. Can't make the auction? Ask the office about a Golden Ticket.

PTM SPRING CARNIVAL PROGRAM GUIDE (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

time to help staff the class booth. Partner with a friend to watch each others' children during the carnival to make this possible. This is a great way to help out the class for a short time.

To volunteer, look for a sign-up sheet in your child's class or talk with your child's teacher or PTM Room Rep. Many Elementary classes do not need help—the children run their booths—but the Primary and Toddler classes all do need your help.



THANK YOU TO OUR GALA SPONSORS

The following individuals and organizations have provided financial support to the MIR Spring Gala & Auction to ensure more of the funds raised go directly to support MIR programs, rather than the costs of the event.

Thank you for your support.

PLATINUM "EVENT" SPONSORS



Anon.



SPRING GALA NEWS

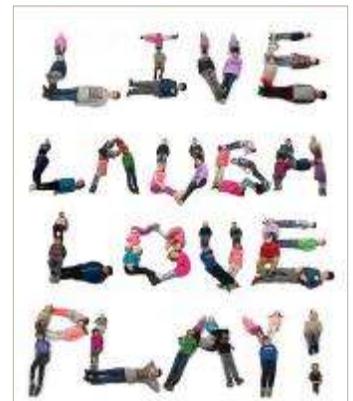
THE SPRING GALA IS HERE!

Saturday, April 7, 2018 | 6 PM - MIDNIGHT | The Mitten Building in Redlands

We can't wait to see you on Saturday night! Below are the awesome classroom items on auction. There's more than one way to win an item, even if you can't attend the auction.

- 1) **If you would like to bid but aren't able to attend**, contact the office about setting up a proxy bidder. This person will bid on your behalf up to the limit you set.
- 2) **How awesome would it be to win a classroom item for only \$100?** (Most sell well over that amount.) Buy a Golden Ticket in the office and you could win the item of your choice before it goes into the live auction. You do not need to be present to win.

But wait, there's more: We have a few opportunity drawings that you can participate in even if you aren't at the Gala. By your \$5 tickets in the office for a chance to win a Gift Card Tree, a monthly basket of produce from the Grove Farmers Market, or \$800 off a week at the Pali Summer Institute.



CALENDAR

SUMMER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT OPEN



The MIR Summer Program offers enrichment and fun for all ages.

The MIR Summer Program complements MIR's school-year program by reinforcing what the children have already learned and providing activities that support continued growth and development at every level. Fun is definitely part of the equation, with outdoor and water play, swimming, field trips, and many more activities appropriate to the summer.

This year, the Summer Program is available for nine weeks to accommodate the later start to the next school year. Sessions are organized into four two-week sessions and a final one-week session.

We offer half-, full-, and all-day programs as well as before- and aftercare.

Enroll online through the Parent Portal. A \$100 deposit is required. Continuing students and new students confirmed for the 2018-19 school year may enroll, and enrollment is first-come, first-served.

Learn more at mir.org/summer.

The MIRROR is published by Montessori in Redlands, 1890 Orange Ave., Redlands, CA 92373, License number 360910803-4-5. © 2018 Send questions, stories, or photos to lkensok@mir.org.

LEARN ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher conferences offer you precious individual time with your child's teachers. Conferences will be held Thursday and Friday, April 26 and 27. You will receive a progress report for your child and be able to discuss your child's growth in each academic and social-emotional area.

Look for an email with instructions on how to schedule your conference. Sign up for related childcare via the Parent Portal (go to mir.org and click the orange Parent Portal button on the screen).

Some teachers have additional dates and times available for conferences, and those will be displayed on their schedule. If you are unable to meet during any of the available slots, please work directly with your child's teacher to arrange an alternate conference time.

April 2018

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Elementary Dance Monday Chess Club	3 PTM Meeting, 6 PM PTM officer nominations open Soccer	4 Elementary Dance Math Club	5 Spring Picture Day Sportball	6 Friday Chess Club	7 Spring Gala, 6 PM-12 AM
9 Elementary Dance Monday Chess Club	10 Soccer	11 Kelly—Folk Music Center Elementary Dance Math Club	12 Teesie/Emily/Venus —Crystal Cove Tide Pools Sportball	13 4th years—Heritage Tour Friday Chess Club	14 Grove "Farm to Fork" Dinner to raise funds for Montessori adolescent teacher training, 4-7 PM
16 Elementary Dance Monday Chess Club	17 School closes at 5 PM/Parent-Child Night & Pasta Din- ner, 5-7 PM Soccer	18 Elementary Dance Math Club	19 All Primary classes— Bridges Auditorium Sportball	20 Assembly, 9:15 AM Childcare reserva- tions due for P/T Conferences Friday Chess Club	21 F.F. book fair Spring Carnival, 11 AM to 3 PM Dance performance at carnival
23 F.F. book fair Elementary Dance Monday Chess Club	24 F.F. book fair Emily—Devil's Punchbowl Soccer	25 F.F. book fair Math Club	26 F.F. book fair	27 F.F. book fair	28 Redlands Day of Service, 9 AM-1 PM (Volunteer at Herit- age Park to build the amphitheater)
30 Staff in-service No school, no child- care. PTM officer nomina- tions close	1 Payments due PTM Meeting, 6 PM PTM officer elections open Soccer	2 Math Club	3 PTM officer elections open Sportball	4 BoxTop Friday Maria & Sara—Lewis Family Playhouse Friday Chess Club	5
			Parent/Teacher conferences for all classes. No school, childcare by reservation.		