

A group of Grove School students, including the authors' son, collecting an oral history from a local elder as part of a community project in November 2017.



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WHY WE CHOOSE MONTESSORI FOR OUR CHILDREN

by ANDY AND MANDIE SCHADWINKEL

As parents, we have the responsibility of making all kinds of decisions that affect our children's lives and influence them. I think you'll join us in agreeing that where our children spend most of their waking hours during the week is at the top of the list for important parenting decisions. Where they attend school and what their experiences and opportunities are like there matter in the lives of children, and we all want to support our children the best that we can.

Each year, we revisit our goals and priorities in how our children are guided - both at home and at school. As our chil-

dren have developed and changed, their interests and abilities have changed, yet the fundamental components of an education we seek for our children have not.

Time and time again, our priorities align with what a high-quality Montessori education has offered our children.

Here are some reasons why we continue to commit to Montessori more than twelve years after first enrolling our oldest child in a Montessori school at 18 months.

Our children (and all of the children) are treated with respect and are encouraged to be individuals: It's important to

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SHARE THE LOVE IN FEBRUARY

The Grove School is holding its "Share the Love" Fair at the Grove Farmers Market on Saturday, February 10, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. to support the community.

PTM will host a toy and book swap at the Fair. Find or give away gently used toys and books. Anything not taken by the end of the market will be donated to Redlands Family Services Association. **You can also drop off your PTM Food/Baby Item Drive donations at the PTM booth.**

LiveStream will be hosting a blood drive at the market as well, until 1 PM. Most adults are eligible to donate, as are 15-17 year-olds with parent consent.

WELCOME NEW FAMILIES

GIVING TO MIR IS NOW MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

by GABRIELLE SINGH, BOARD OF TRUSTEES DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

The 2017 Tax Reform represents a dramatic change for non-profits, MIR included. It is estimated that the number of families and individuals who itemize their deductions will decrease significantly in 2018, as the adjusted gross income (AGI) has increased from 50% to 60%. This could result in a decline in charitable giving. This unpredictability of how many people will alter or reduce their philanthropy poses a risk to MIR and all non-profits. Every year, MIR crafts a budget that includes the generous gifts from our community. The 2018-2019 will be no different, and will continue to rely on support from parents, friends, and alumni.

Your gifts to MIR are vital to our ability to provide the quality of education and Montessori learning environment you have come to appreciate. Your gifts help us in many ways. By means of example, the minimum wage in California has increased this year, as have healthcare costs. Many of these are absorbed by our operating budget. The gifts you make towards MIR allow us to ensure that we can

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PTM NEWS

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

by MARGARET OHAYON, PTM SECRETARY

The 2018 Winter Olympics are about to start, and chances are that you'll be hearing about and/or seeing some amazing competitions happening. The Winter Olympics have events in 13 disciplines, which fall into 3 main categories... slope sports like skiing and snowboarding, ice rink sports like skating, hockey and curling, and sliding sports like luge and bobsleigh. Thankfully we live in an age where we can experience the magic of the Olympics via our TV sets and Internet. But did you know that you can enjoy the magic of these winter sports right here in Southern California as well?

SLOPE SPORTS

The beautiful mountains that surround this area provide plenty of opportunities to engage in skiing, and snowboarding. The closest ski hill, Snow Valley in Running Springs, is just a short 30-min drive from Redlands. Not much further you'll find Big Bear and Snow Summit, as well as Mountain High and Mt. Baldy. For cross-

country ski lovers, Rim Nordic in Running Springs has 13 miles of ski trails. In many of these resorts, young kids (of Primary-level age) ski free, while for older kids and adults make sure to check out snowjam-card.com for some of the best deals on discounted and even free lift tickets at these local resorts.



MIR students enjoying the slopes.

RINK SPORTS

Like the closest ski hill, IceTown in Riverside is also just a short 30-min drive from Redlands. IceTown offers public skating times, skating lessons, hockey leagues and camps, and figure skating. Check out icetownriverside.com for details.

OTHER WINTER ACTIVITY OPPORTUNITIES

If slope or rink sports are not your thing, you can head up to the mountains for some good old-fashioned sledding. For something a little more serious, many of the ski resorts have a "snow tubing" park nearby. And most low-key of all, why not just head up to an open meadow in Oak Glen after a day of winter rain in Redlands and build a snowman or have a snowball fight (but be sure not to park on someone's private property).

We are lucky living where we do in that



MIR student ice skating.

we can choose to go to the snow when we want. So get out there and enjoy it! And who knows... maybe, just maybe, we'll see an alumni of MIR at the 2026, 2030, 2034 or 2038 Olympic winter games!

CURRICULUM MATTERS

STANDARDIZED TESTING IN MONTESSORI WRAP-UP

by MANDIE SCHADWINKEL, ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL

In January, MIR was pleased to host Dr. Jackie Cossentino, Director of Research at the National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector, for a parent presentation. In her time here, Dr. Cossentino offered an overview of the roots of standardized testing in educational assessment and some suggestions for how Montessori schools could better measure our outcomes.

Although the history of standardized testing goes back 100 years, the practice of high-stakes testing culminated with the adoption of the No Child Left Behind Act in 2001. Standardized testing was implemented in an effort to measure and minimize the knowledge gap among students and the performance gap among schools, regardless of economic and other inequities.

Since 2001, experience has demonstrated that standardized tests have a limited

impact on student performance and school improvement. Standardized tests are designed to measure either student proficiency or growth. If a test is designed to measure proficiency, the content of the test must be designed based on decisions about essential knowledge at a given grade level. Unfortunately, there is little consensus about what should be considered essential knowledge. This is why there are a multitude of tests available from both states and corporations. Alternatively, if a test is designed to measure growth, students must be tested multiple times over the school year, which detracts from instruction time and student learning.

Although there is little consensus about the content that should be included on tests, there is an uncontroversial body of research shows that the following educational outcomes truly have an impact on

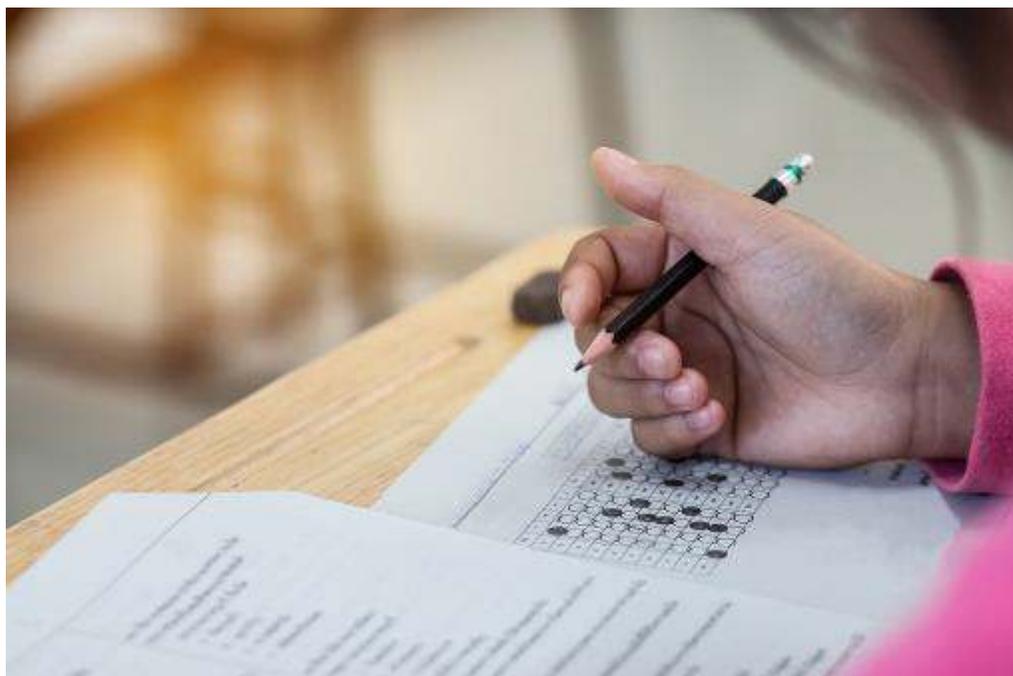
success in life:

- Communication
- Collaboration
- Engagement
- Focus/self-control
- Perspective taking
- Creative innovation
- Confidence
- Critical thinking
- Taking on challenges
- Reading
- Inquiry/flexible thinking
- Use of evidence
- Self-direction

These outcomes are more difficult to measure but these are the areas where Montessori children develop considerable experience and skills. Rather than memorizing facts to be drilled on a test, Montessori students actively use and practice their initiation, concentration, working memory, inhibitory control, deep literacy, and social fluency. **Considerable research backs this up, and you can find links to studies at mir.org/about-montessori/why-montessori.**

There are tools developed to measure a student's executive functions such as initiation, concentration, working memory, and inhibitory control. In programs across the country, Montessori children consistently demonstrated more developed executive functions than their peers, regardless of their economic status or ethnicity. Montessori classrooms were specifically designed to support these outcomes through practical life exercises, memory games, and the social atmosphere of the Montessori class-

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MIR SCRAPBOOK

SCENES FROM THE SCHOOL YEAR

Enjoying the new Legacy Walk butterfly garden.



Emily's 6th years doing service work on The Grove School's Farm campus.



Elementary student donating a toy to the Toddler program.

First lepidopteran visitor to the butterfly garden.



Making lemonade in Kim's class.



Math work in Venus' class.



Cooking in Venus' class.



A walk in the rain.



Chalkboard surprises.

MIR SCRAPBOOK

SCENES FROM THE SCHOOL YEAR



Story time in Aedín's class.



Music with parents in Maria's class.



Trying out the Legacy Walk sundial.



Roger giving a tour of the Legacy Walk to Maria's class.



Working on Aedín's auction item.



Math work in Venus' class.

First session of Elementary Chess Club.



Running Club



Music with parents in Maria's class.



Lunch with the Teacher: Your Upper Elementary Child.

STANDARDIZED TESTING WRAP-UP

(cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

room. When these skills are highly developed, children have the capacity to learn the more traditional academic subjects.

Dr. Cossentino's recommendation to Montessori schools across the nation is to purposefully measure executive function skills, formalize observations, collect data, and survey children who have transitioned out of Montessori in order to document their curiosity, persistence, empathy, and collaboration. She also recommends tracking our alumni after leaving Montessori with the hypothesis that the benefits of Montessori education manifest later in life.

Here at MIR, we will continue to do standardized testing as a practical life activity, to help students to learn test-taking skills. The test results can also serve as one additional data point to help teachers to understand students' strengths and challenges. This year, MIR will be using the *TerraNova Third Edition Complete Battery*, which we have used for many years. We feel that this paper-based test provided consistent and reliable data for us in terms of what a standardized test can measure.

MIR will continue our ongoing evaluation of all of our assessment tools and our overall reporting and assessment framework. We appreciate the recommendations of Dr. Cossentino, and our school will consider some creative ideas to measure those traits that will truly contribute to students' long-term success in life.

For more reading about essential outcomes, Dr. Cossentino recommended these books:

- *Becoming Brilliant* by Roberta Michnick Golinkoff and Kathy Hirsh-Pasek
- *Mind in the Making* by Ellen Galinski
- *The End of the Rainbow* by Susan Engel

WHY WE CHOOSE MONTESSORI

(cont.)

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us that our children get the direct and indirect message every day that each person is worthy of and is given respect. Being able to find ways to pursue their interests and abilities while comfortably expressing themselves and learning how to support that in others around them is critical to us.

It's a dynamic education with a long view: Assisting them to succeed, both in their next endeavors in school and most importantly, in life, is a priority. All of the academic, social and executive functioning skills that they are learning and given space to practice set a strong foundation to reach out and connect with the world around them.

Human development is central: How to grow as a person with awareness, confidence, engagement, and humility is incorporated in so many parts of Montessori education. It can be tempting to think that tools for education should change at the same rate as the technological tools, which have advanced exponentially even in our lifetime. The tools for learning about how to be a higher functioning human being aren't able to be downloaded - they have to be observed and inspired - and they are critical. Montessori pedagogy acknowledges the value of exposure to new societal tools and maintains a focus on the needs of human development.

Relationships: Montessori communities are well regarded for the support that comes from the adults and children around them. A shared mission where children begin a life journey of self-realization, love of learning, and global responsibility continues to excite us about Montessori education and the positive influence it will have on the future.

We've known and observed several dec-

ades of Montessori graduates and find them to be gracious, successful, proactive and joyful in their endeavors: It's pretty convincing to have dozens of Montessori graduates in our lives who remind us again and again how powerful early education is for children and adolescents. Being in peaceful, stimulating and encouraging environments is a pretty terrific launching pad for life.

ROSA PARKS OUTING

by ANNA, EMERSON, KAYLA, LUCINDA, MATVEY, NAREIN, SEBI, AND SOPHIA, TEESIE'S CLASS

Rosa Parks stood up for what was right. She was open minded and open hearted. Last week a group of us from Teesie's class went to San Bernardino to participate in the Rosa Parks memorial statue unveiling. We thought it was important to celebrate her life because she is a hero that we can look up to; we can follow in her footsteps because she stood up for herself and others and did what was right. Even when it was trying, she persevered. The experience was exciting, amazing, happy, energizing, and a little bit boring (because we are kids and there were lots of speeches). It was also disappointing because there were so many adults there we couldn't see the statue, and we plan to go again this week to see it better.



SPRING GALA NEWS

GET INVOLVED AND HAVE A LOT OF FUN

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

With the 20th Annual MIR Spring Gala & Auction fast approaching, we're getting together enthusiastic parents to get involved! Contact Jill Huff at jhuff@mir.org if you'd like to volunteer. Classrooms are doing their part: live items are in progress. Below are Emily's and Liana's gorgeous class items.

As an MIR family, there are many different ways you can support the event and its fundraising goals:

- **Attend and bid.** Bid on great items in the live and silent auctions.
- **Donate to the auctions.** We are seeking donations of goods and services.
- **Sponsor the event.** This is a great way to support the fundraising goals of the event if you are not able to attend or are not sure you'll bid.

Full details about the evening are available at mir.org/gala.



Emily's class completed this vintage Redlands Orange Crate mosaic using more than 14,000 Legos.

Thank you for your support!

Liana and Maria created silhouettes for each child in the class for this beautiful item.



GIVING TO MIR (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

retain the best Montessori trained teachers, staff, and administrators who care deeply for your children and create an enriching classroom experience only a Montessori education can provide. Simply stated, your gift supports the programs and the people that make MIR so special.

Please join me in attending the upcoming 20th Spring Gala & Auction on April 7, 2018 at 6 PM at the Mitten Building. I hope to see you there—at our biggest fundraising event of the year.

If you can't join me, consider donating to the silent auction or sponsoring the event. Learn more at mir.org/gala.

Thank you to everyone who has made a gift to MIR this year. I encourage you to commit to directing a portion of your philanthropy to MIR every year, as your continued support is a testament to the value of the education your children have received.

FIRST CONTACT



FUNDS RAISED FROM THE GALA WILL HELP MIR RELAUNCH ITS **FIRST CONTACT** PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SUPPORT SERVICES TO CHILDREN UNDER 5 WHO NEED THEM, AT MINIMAL COST TO FAMILIES.

First Contact, first launched in 2007-08 with a grant from *First 5 San Bernardino*, tracked children's development throughout the Toddler and Primary programs and progress in meeting physical and cognitive milestones. The first five years are considered the most crucial in identifying and providing services if needed. MIR wants to make these services as low cost as possible for parents in this critical age group to ensure students get the services they need.

CALENDAR

RE-ENROLL EARLY TO GUARANTEE YOUR SPACE FOR NEXT YEAR

During February, current MIR families have the opportunity to re-enroll current students and apply for enrollment for siblings for the 2018-19 school year, ahead of open enrollment.

As a further benefit for current families, the enrollment fee is \$350 per child. Starting March 1, and for new families, the enrollment fee will be \$500.

Re-enrollment takes place online. Forms are available through the Parent Portal. **There are two forms and both forms must be completed to complete re-enrollment.**

Look for an email from admissions@mir.org with full information and instructions for re-enrollment.

Re-enrolling early ensures that you secure a space for your child for the next school year. While enrollments will be accepted after February 28, space cannot be guaranteed after that date.

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.

BRING IN YOUR BOX TOPS ON FRIDAYS

Box Top Fridays began February 2. Collect all your Box Tops and bring them to curb or send them into childcare with your child(ren). If you can, take time to make sure none are expired.

Box Tops bring in \$.10 per coupon. PTM collects the Box Tops to help fund activities for the school such as the Halloween and Spring Carnivals, Skate Nights, and more. Each year PTM collects hundreds of dollars worth of Box Tops, so they really add up!

February 2018

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
29	30 Soccer	31 Whitney—Redlands Aikiki Math Club Positive Discipline	1 Payments Due Early Re-enrollment Begins for 2018-19 Kristen—Getty Museum PTM Meeting, 6 PM Sportball	2 Box Top Friday Running Club Elementary Chess Club 3 Journey & Discovery, 8 AM-2 PM
5 PTM Food Drive begins	6 Soccer	7 Childcare reservations due for February 16 Elementary Bike Club Math Club Positive Discipline	8 Sportball	9 Box Top Friday Running Club Elementary Chess Club
6 th year "Friendly Grams" fundraiser			6 th year "Friendly Grams" fundraiser	
12	13 Parent Meetings (by invitation): Intro to Lower Elem., Intro to Upper Elem., 7 PM Soccer	14 Emily—Braswell's/Somerford Place/Brookside Park Elementary Bike Club Math Club Valentine's Day	15 Lower Elementary—Hangar 18 Climbing Gym Sportball	16 Teacher Professional Day No school, childcare by reservation. PTM Food Drive ends Chinese New Year
19 President's Day No school, no childcare.	20 Soccer	21 Elementary testing Elementary Bike Club Elementary Dance Math Club Positive Discipline	22 Nikki—UC Riverside Botanic Gardens Elementary testing Elementary testing Sportball	23 Box Top Friday Jean/MH—Living Desert Assembly, 9:15 AM Elementary testing Running Club Elementary Chess Club
26 Elementary Dance	27 Soccer	28 Early re-enrollment ends for 2018-19 Elementary Bike Club Elementary Dance Math Club	1 Payments Due Sportball	2 Lunch with the Teacher "Your Toddler", 11 am Running Club Elementary Chess Club