

Parents enjoying the photo booth at the 2016 Spring Gala.



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MIR: ALSO A COMMUNITY OF ADULTS

by JENNY DAVIDSON, HEAD OF SCHOOL

We live in a time where we experience most of our social networks through our computers and phone screens. Humans are inherently social creatures, and connecting with our community can be fulfilling and fun. MIR not only supports the social development of children—we have an upcoming opportunity to come together as a community of adults at the MIR Gala on Saturday, April 7.

The Gala is an event for our entire community to gather, celebrate, and have fun with this year's vintage circus theme.

Whether you are new to our school or you

have relationships here that have lasted for decades, the Gala is meant for you!

This year's event includes a silent auction, live auction, and special appeal that will benefit MIR's First Contact program. First Contact makes MIR's student services available at minimal cost to the families of our youngest children. The first five years of life are considered the most crucial in identifying and providing services if needed. MIR wants to provide these services to children with identified needs at a low cost during these critical younger years.

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MONTESSORI U EVENT: STEAM IN MONTESSORI

Tuesday, March 13, 7 PM

STEAM is one of the latest buzzwords in education. Standing for science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics, Montessori education has always fully included STEAM in its curriculum (as well as history, literacy, current events, practical life, meaningful experiences in society, and being active in community service).

Experience for yourself some of the STEAM components of Montessori in this unique Parent Education Night, which will take the format of a science fair. RSVP via the Parent Portal. *Childcare is available for enrolled Primary and Elementary students.*

WELCOME NEW FAMILIES

WHAT WILL OUR LEGACY BE?

by TREVOR NORTON, PRESIDENT

Legacy. As I near the end of my service on the Board of Trustees, I have found myself thinking about legacy. What is my legacy here? What is yours?

Certainly the legacy of the Leon and Margie Armantrout is clear—they founded this wonderful school and continue to care for it. We will celebrate this fact on Monday, March 12 at 5 PM when we hold the official ribbon cutting for the new Legacy Walk and Garden.

The teachers' legacy is all the children that they have impacted through the years. I know that we will always cherish the time our kids got to spend with their teachers here, and I feel confident our kids will remember them for the rest of their lives.

We all have impact here—we are all a part of this school and a part of this community. This school can only continue with the

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PTM NEWS

POINTS OF INTEREST: TAKING YOUNG CHILDREN TO MUSEUMS

by JEAN BONNER-DRINKWINE, STAFF LIAISON

When I did my Montessori training in London (UK), one of the first things we were handed was a long list of museums, including the Charles Dickens Museum, Keats House, the British Museum, the Tower of London and many, many more. London is a museum-filled city. Our homework was to visit all of these places and write a paragraph about what we would do when we took our Primary students on a field trip to these museums. We were encouraged to look for what the trainers called “points of interest” to share with the children.

At the time as I was making my way all around London using public transport I could hardly see the value of this exercise. I was only 19 after all, and like many of you reading this, I was dubious about taking rowdy young children to quiet museums. Now I am more than grateful for it.

Spring Break is just around the corner and you may be wondering what you are going to do for that week when your children are at home (if they are not in child-

care at MIR). Maybe you have arranged to take a few days off yourself and are thinking of a “staycation.” I’d like to encourage you to consider taking your child to a Museum.

Many parents shy away from taking their children to museums thinking that it will just be too difficult, that the children



will be bored, or they will be disruptive. All of these things are possible, but a little preparation goes a long way. Here’s how to take your child to museums in a way that you will both enjoy, using the concept of “points of interest.”

1. Most museums have a website with a

few examples of the art displayed.

Print a few pictures ahead of time and look for them when you get to the museum.

2. Be a couple of paintings ahead of your child with your eyes, and find something in the painting to have them look for (“Do you see how he seems to look directly at you?”).
3. Move slowly through the museum, at your child’s pace. It is fine if you don’t visit every room in the place—you’ll be back.
4. Let your child be the guide. I once had to view every picture of Jesus with a crown of thorns at the J. Paul Getty Museum because that’s what the children I was with wanted to see. You will sometimes find that the children’s eyes see beauty where you may not. They are often way more open to modern art than I am.

But can your young child really “manage” themselves in a museum? Yes—if

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CURRICULUM MATTERS

MONTESSORI EDUCATION HAS ALWAYS RUN ON STEAM

by MANDIE SCHADWINKEL, ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL

The best way to educate children and youth is a perennial subject of thought and reflection. Movements framed by varying priorities rise and fall in favor like waves approaching the shore, one after another. Those of us who have either A) been around long enough to have a memory of different movements of recent decades or B) have studied education and noted its evolving nature in terms of what people feel is an ideal model can tell you that the needs of human development have changed very little, yet the thinking about what is best for children has changed very much over the last several decades.

One of the contemporary buzzwords/priorities is termed STEAM. According to Education Closet, which is a common resource for teachers looking for STEAM curriculum, STEAM is: an educational approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking. The end results are students who take thoughtful risks, engage in experien-

tial learning, persist in problem-solving, embrace collaboration, and work through the creative process.

Dr. Gloria Julius wrote the following as a guide for helping parents and educators think about the nature of STEAM education for the ages of children we serve here at MIR:

- Science encourages investigation and answering questions, often involving experimentation.
- Technology refers to using simple tools like crayons and rulers, as well as more complex ones like microscopes and computers.
- Engineering refers to recognizing problems and testing solutions.
- Arts encourage creativity and allow children to illustrate concepts they are learning.
- Mathematics deals with numbers, but also patterns, shapes, organizational skills and much more.

As someone who has a deep commitment to education and has studied it both through conventional and Montessori

lenses, I like to consider how popular ideas of the moment relate to Montessori practice. I can tell you that Montessorians are thrilled that the concepts of critical thinking, inquiry, problem solving, collaboration, project based, dialogue rich, child centeredness, etc. are being prioritized by parents, educators and leaders. These are concepts that Montessori teachers have championed for decades - we would love nothing more than to see these areas of emphasis become more and more a part of mainstream education! A difference between our classic approach and the STEAM movement is that Montessori teachers not only embrace this and think it's important for science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics, but we also think it's really important when learning about history, literacy, current events, practical life, meaningful experiences in society, and being active in community service. The Montessori pedagogy has always included this in our work with the children.

Because the priorities of a high-fidelity Montessori school do not swing like a pen-

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Three-dimensional and collage art created by the students in Jean and Maryhelen's Primary class.

WHAT WILL OUR LEGACY BE? *(cont.)*

(Continued from page 2)

hard work of parents, grandparents, alumni parents, and so many others volunteering their time to help in the classrooms, to chaperone on field trips, to be a PTM Room Rep or serve on the PTM Board or the Board of Trustees, or to donate money beyond their tuition to help expand facilities and programs. These actions all benefit not only your own children right now, but also to sustain us for the future. There are so many ways that we can all serve this school, our children, and the generations of children to follow. How can you get involved?

Over the years, my wife and I have volunteered our time in the classroom and on field trips, we have enjoyed many Spring Galas, attended Journey & Discovery, gone to parent education nights, and I have served on the board for 9 years. Yes, some of those things were to benefit our kids, but mostly we wanted to be a part of something bigger—something we believe in. Perhaps our greatest legacy will be to have ensured that this school will still be welcoming children when our children's children are ready to come to MIR.



MIR Legacy Walk & Garden. The grand opening will be held March 12 at 5 PM. The pavers in the Legacy Walk honor families who have given \$1,000 or more to the MIR Fund.

SUM– SUM– SUMMERTIME

by EMILY ROBISON, PRIMARY AND ELEMENTARY PARENT

Summer is rapidly approaching and it's time for the daunting task of planning activities for your kiddos on hot summer days. All the options out there can be overwhelming, but the MIR Summer Program is one option to consider that is familiar, fun, and educational. With four 2-week sessions and one 1-week session available, there are many reasons to enroll your kids this summer at MIR:

SWIMMING

I can seriously credit MIR for teaching all three of my kids to swim. This skill is fun and potentially lifesaving. The transportation is provided, and the Redlands Swim Team is trained to teach your kids at every level.

CONTINUITY

Your kids work hard all year learning and mastering lessons, and the summer program is a great way for them to prevent learning loss during the summer months. I wish I could go back in time and re-train my brain in the Montessori method, especially in math. Unfortunately, I struggle to help my kids with math the Montessori way and love that they have access to the materials and



lessons. This is better than quizzing them on math facts all summer!

NEW AND OLD FRIENDSHIPS

Summer sessions are grouped together by Toddlers, Primary, and Lower and Upper Elementary. Children can spend the days playing with familiar friends, but the program also offers them the chance to interact with children outside their regular school-year classes. I love when my kids mention a name I don't recognize and tell me he or she is their "summer school buddy." They also get an opportunity to work with and learn from different MIR teachers.

VARIETY

In the afternoons, Elementary level students choose activities based off interest. Past options include basket weaving, Spanish, Legos, DIY crafts, swimming, topography, and many more.

FIELD TRIPS

Each session ends with a different fun and educational field trip. Some past excursions include: Glen Helen Water Park, The Getty Center, and Kidspace Museum .

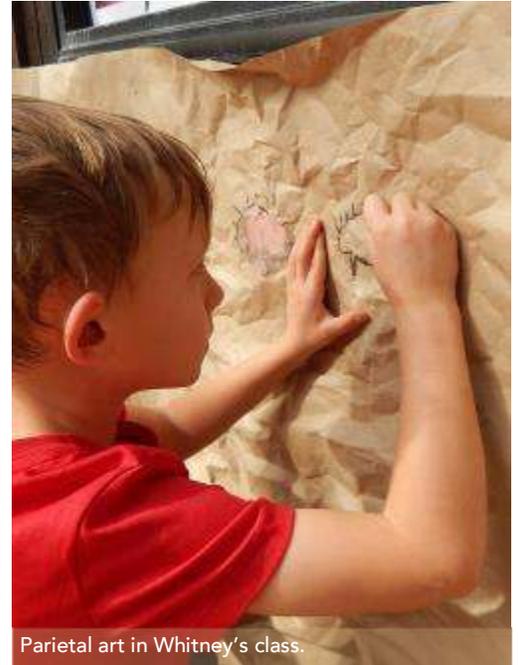
Hopefully you find a session that meets your scheduling needs and your child's interests. Happy planning!

MIR SCRAPBOOK

SCENES FROM THE SCHOOL YEAR



Algebra in Nikki's class (binomial cube).



Parietal art in Whitney's class.



Math in Sara's class.



Learning about the solar eclipse in Maria's class.



Math in Kara and Jenny's class.



MIR office
mystery artist
strikes again!



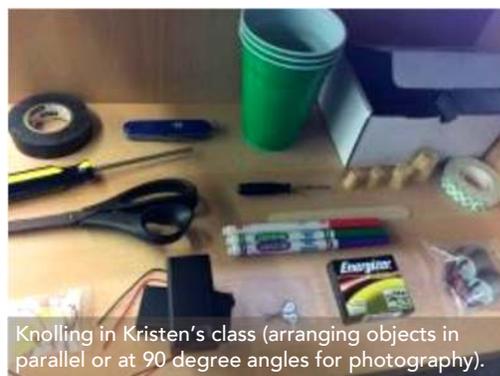
Engineering in Kelly's
class (balancing rocks
on a camping trip).



Kristen gives a brief lesson on hierarchy of numbers to parents attending the "Introduction to Upper Elementary" meeting.



Science in Emily's class.



Knolling in Kristen's class (arranging objects in parallel or at 90 degree angles for photography).

MONTESSORI RUNS ON STEAM *(cont.)*

(Continued from page 3)

dulum as often happens with conventional education in this country—in which one decade we are focusing a disproportionate amount of time on literacy while neglecting the sciences and math, swinging to cutting out music, art, and physical education, swinging back to integrating science and math back into the classroom - we often don't have the hype around introducing these disciplines back into the classroom. We never thought it was wise to leave them out! My observation is that when you are spending a lot of time making up for where the pendulum didn't swing in the previous decade, you are at risk for again leaving something very important out of curriculum.

The Montessori approach integrates multiple subjects and combines the child's interest, didactic materials, and the high-quality training that the teachers receive to make each part of the classroom engaging and purposeful. Many of you who have visited the classes at MIR in the past year have noted your own observations of how these elements of the Montessori experience come together in an atmosphere where children develop self-regulation, collaboration and friendliness and respect among peers, skills to manage error and risk, and a love of learning.



A student in Emily's class took this picture while working with the microscope.

COMMUNITY OF ADULTS *(cont.)*

(Continued from page 1)

There are several fun ways to get involved with the Gala. We are now seeking gifts and talents for the auction that will continue to deepen connections within our community. We will have a variety of prizes and experiences that are designed with MIR parents in mind. Take a moment to consider your skills, interests, expertise, business connections, or even spaces that you might be able to offer to contribute.

Some current prizes that are in process include customized parties and specialized workshops for children; a consultation to design a Montessori space in your home;



and as we send Peter Davidson off in style, we will auction off an opportunity to have him be a special pen pal for your child.

The Gala is going to be an evening full of festivities, so invite your friends and family too. Tickets are available as general admission, as a reserved table for 4 or a reserved table for 10. Space is limited.

Did you know that an active social life can improve your mood, boost your immune system, and improve your sleep? It can also increase productivity and even lengthen life. I can't promise that attending the Gala will do all of these things for you, but I can promise that you will be joining a great community of parents and staff who are ready for a fun evening with creative prizes, great food, and awesome entertainment. See you there!

PTM NEWS: POINTS OF INTEREST *(cont.)*

(Continued from page 2)

you expect them to. Children tend to live up (or down) to our expectations. If you expect your child to be out of control, he or she will be. If you expect that they are fully capable of managing themselves, they will likely meet that expectation.

It helps to set them up for success—don't expect them to manage themselves for a long period of time. Remember that when our classes go on a field trip, they are really only at their destination for an hour and a half to two hours, because we know that this is the limit of how long children can manage themselves without a break.

This stands for almost anywhere that you take your children. So often I see the most exhausted families just staying somewhere longer than their children have the capacity for. Know your child's limits, plan accordingly, and you will have a good time.

We are fortunate to live in driving distance of many wonderful museums. Many of these museums have "free days" or at least "free for children" days. The following museums offer a free or discounted admission or membership for children.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art—free membership for children until they are 18 years old, and free entry for the adult who accompanies the child. LACMA is right next to the La Brea Tar Pits. What child doesn't love woolly mammoths?? lacma.org/kids-families/nexgen-fast-facts#jns.

General admission to The Broad is free. Advanced tickets are recommended, thebroad.org. Admission is free on Thursdays at the Palm Springs Art Museum, psmuseum.org. Admission is free at The Getty Center, which includes the Getty Villa and J. Paul Getty Museum. getty.edu.

SPRING GALA NEWS

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW

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

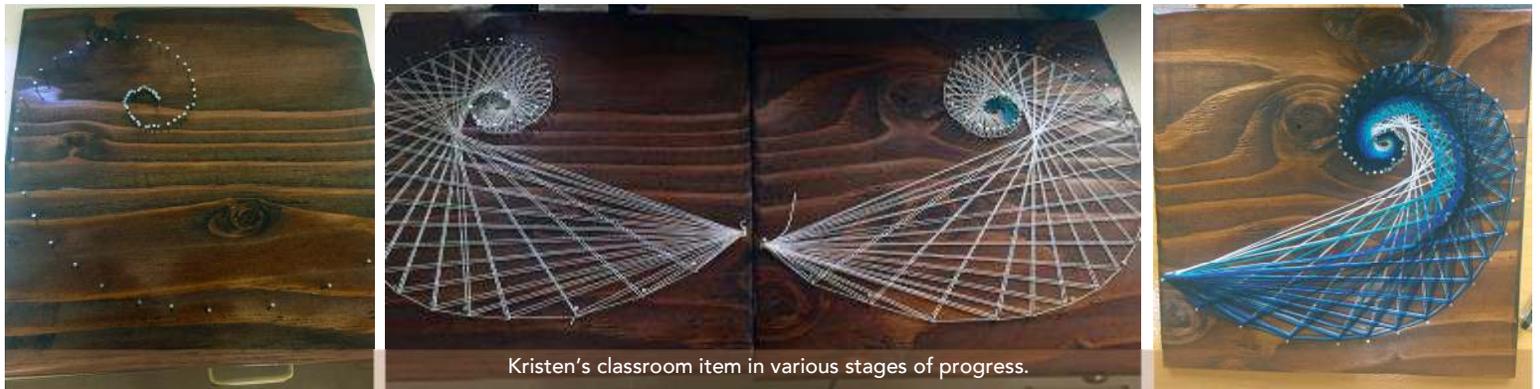
Buy your tickets now for the 20th Annual MIR Spring Gala & Auction at mir.org/gala. You can purchase general admission tickets as well as reserved tables for 4 or 10 and Gala sponsorships.

We use a system called ReadySetAuction (RSA) to allow you to purchase tickets online and to check out on your mobile device at the end of the auction. You will need to create an RSA account to perform either of these functions. When you visit mir.org/gala and click on "Buy Your Tickets Now," you will be sent instructions to set up your account.

The Spring Gala is a fundraiser featuring live and silent auctions and opportunity drawings. Proceeds from the auctions will help MIR re-launch its First Contact Student Services program (see details below).

Tickets are \$75 per person through Wednesday, March 14 for general admission tickets and \$85 thereafter. Reserved Patrons tables are \$400 for a table of 4 and \$1,000 for a table of 10. All reservations must be made by Wednesday, March 28. Learn more and buy your tickets at mir.org/gala.

Thank you for your support!



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

SUMMER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT OPENS MARCH 15

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. **More information and online enrollment will be available March 15.**

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.

GRAND OPENING TO LEGACY WALK & GARDEN

MIR will honor the school’s legacy at the grand opening of the Legacy Walk & Garden on Monday, March 12, at 5 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

The Legacy Walk & Garden honors our founders, supporters, and families for their important role in building and growing MIR. We invite you and your family to take a walk through the Legacy Walk & Garden when you have time. If you are interested in adding a family paver to the Legacy Walk, contact the MIR office.

March 2018

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
26	27	28	1 Payments Due	2 Lunch with the Teacher "Your Toddler", 11 am Running Club Elementary Chess Club
5 Elementary Dance	6 Soccer	7 Kelly—Riverside Art Museum Elementary Bike Club Elementary Dance Math Club	8 Sportball	9 Childcare RSVPs due for Spring Break PTM Family Skate Night, Cal Skate, 5-7 PM Running Club Elementary Chess Club
12 Legacy Walk & Garden opening, 5 PM Elementary Dance	13 Nikki—Oak Glen Conservancy Parent Ed Night: STEAM in Montessori, 7 PM	14 Early bird Spring Gala ticket deadline Sara’s class parent tea, 9:45 AM Elementary Bike Club Elementary Dance Math Club	15 Summer School enrollment begins	16 Running Club Elementary Chess Club
Pali Institute, 4 th and 5 th year Elementary students				
19	20	21	22	23
Spring Break. No school, childcare by reservation.				
26 Staff in-service No school, no childcare.	27 Soccer	28 Deadline to buy Gala tickets Whitney—Memorial Space Center Elementary Bike Club Elementary Dance Math Club	29 Kristen—Science Fair Expo, 3:30 PM Sportball	30 Assembly, 9:15 AM Running Club Elementary Chess Club