

# The Icebox

The Monthly Newsletter of Montessori in Redlands



## Parent & Child Night: Let Your Child Be Your Guide

Parent & Child Night, held Thursday, April 17 from 5 PM to 7 PM, is a special opportunity for your child: It is the night he or she becomes the teacher and you, the student.

Many a parent, hungry for information from their child about what they do each day, can relate to the frustration of hearing “nothing” when asked or, not much better, hearing a string of phrases they don’t understand. “What did you do today?” asks Mom. “Well, first I did finger board, then I did grammar box, then I did Spanish,” says Child. “Huh, wow, how was Spanish?” asks Mom, grasping at the one subject she recognizes. “Okay,” says Child. Mom sighs as Child wanders off,

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## Earth Day, Everyday

by MAURA JOYCE, HEAD OF SCHOOL

Phyllis Pottish-Lewis, an Elementary trainer with Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), contributed an article to the Winter 2008 Journal from the North American Montessori Teachers' Association (NAMTA). In her article entitled “The Child in Nature: Montessori’s Answer to the Ecological Crisis,” she talks about how Montessori was concerned about the state of our planet, even 100 years ago. As a result, she incorporated lessons about how humans fit into the natural world into the Montessori curriculum.

In the Elementary Montessori program, students are presented stories called the “Great Lessons” that give an historical overview and place the children in the context of their world. All of these stories convey a sense of gratitude for the gifts the earth provides and the contribution of those who came before us. In addition, children learn about their symbiotic relationship with nature through the natural sciences such as biology, ecology, and geology.

As April brings Earth Day and concerns about global climate change grow in people’s consciousness, I thought it would be appropriate to share how Phyllis summarizes Montessori’s aim to promote the awareness that Earth Day brings, everyday in the classroom.

*It was Dr. Montessori’s hope that these stories and awareness would engender within the child a sense of gratitude. Humans were given a bounteous world in which to make their living, and from their industry they left us a heritage for which we all must be grateful. Our burdens have been reduced because of the efforts of others, many of whom are anonymous or unknown, but who have contributed to the welfare of humankind. We must never forget how fortunate we are to live on this Earth and what we have received; thus, we must care for our world. When such gratitude is instilled in an individual it can be a force that will help in the salvation of our planet so that subsequent generations will have similar opportunities to receive and, in their turn, show gratitude for what was left to them.*

## What’s Inside

- PTM Seeks to Elect Two Officers (PTM Corner)
- Tell Us How You Really Feel (Board Corner)
- MIR Scenes/Student work
- Celebrate Spring at the MIR Carnival
- Viva Las Vegas! Pays Off in Fun and Fundraising
- Time to Enroll for Summer School



# PTM Corner



## STUDENT BIRTHDAYS

Kyle Wong	4/2
Meadow Greene	4/4
Savannah Mueller	4/5
Emily Louks	4/7
Calvin Cunnan	4/8
Anjali Carter-Rau	4/9
Naveen Carter-Rau	4/9
Aynsley Silliman	4/9
April Triplett	4/13
Piotr Andzel	4/14
Faith Houston	4/14
Walker Mueller	4/14
Cassandra Nabor	4/16
Alexandria Gidley	4/17
Virginia Henry	4/17
Kyrellos Ibrahim	4/20
Paawan Singhi	4/20
Sachi Pawoskar-Almeida	4/23
Chris Bonney	4/24
Deminica Maryanovich	4/24
Katelyn O'Brien	4/24
Aidan Hagglov	4/25
Anastasia Ibrahim	4/27
Natalie Ramsaran	4/27
Kevin Liu	4/28
Amory Martin	4/30

## STAFF BIRTHDAYS

Margaretann Harrison	4/9
Bobbi McCormick	4/20
Christine Povero	4/23
Chantelle Brown	4/25
Christine Kemmerer-Fisher	4/27
Sara Garcia	4/29

Spring has sprung! Thanks to all parents who made the Spring Gala such a success!! We are happy to report that the PTM-sponsored Dinner-of-the-Month item sold to two bidders for \$500 each. Thank you to all who contributed! If you like to cook and would like to volunteer to prepare two meals one day next school year, please contact Rena Rice at 909-798-1530 or [paul.rena@verizon.net](mailto:paul.rena@verizon.net). The meals are casserole-dish size plus a side dish, such as lasagna and salad, stroganoff and bread, enchiladas and rice, or any specialty you make.

**You are invited to Parent & Child Night, Thursday, April 17.** This is an "Open House" in the classroom, hosted by your child. Come learn about the favorite activities of your student. See page 6 for more details.

### Bluebirds to fly in 25th Annual "Run Through Redlands."

Come join or cheer on the Montessori Bluebird Running Club as they participate in the annual Run Through Redlands to be held Sunday, May 4th. Participants can choose to walk or run the 5K course, which starts at the

## Hangin' Out at Camp Snoopy



Bluebirds Ariana and Arnauld Martinez pose with their mom Hema on a recent family outing to Camp Snoopy at Knott's Berry Farm, wearing their Montessori in Redlands shirts for the occasion.

**Get published in Icebox.** Do you have a great photograph of you or your children in your Bluebird t-shirt? Submit it to the MIR office or e-mail [lisa@lisakensok.com](mailto:lisa@lisakensok.com) for your chance to be published in *Icebox*.

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# MIR Offers Yoga for Adults

**M**IR yoga instructor Angela Brenchley is offering yoga for adults on Wednesdays from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM from April 9 through June 4. The exercises are designed to help you stretch, improve your balance, and most importantly, relax!

Class size is limited to 20 participants, so stop by the office to sign up soon! No yoga experience is necessary.

The class fees are \$50 for all nine classes, and 100% of the proceeds will be used to benefit MIR programs and students.

The class will be held in the Yoga Studio on main campus, next to the office. Participants will need a yoga mat (or use one of the school's), a bath-size towel, and a bottle of water.

*(Continued from page 2)*

Redlands Mall in downtown Redlands and finishes at the historic Redlands Bowl. The race will be held rain or shine.

Race proceeds are donated to local charities and local youth scholarships. Learn more at [www.redlands-events.com/RTR1.htm](http://www.redlands-events.com/RTR1.htm).

**PTM seeks to elect two officers.** Vice President and Treasurer are open for nomination. Duties of the position include the following.

**Vice President:** The Vice-President assists the President with meetings and events, assists in the recruitment and management of designated room representatives, helps coordinate Room Rep Orientation, attends PTM meetings, and helps at PTM functions such as Back to School Night and Carnivals. In addition, the Vice-President becomes President if for any reason the President cannot perform the duties of the office, acts on behalf of the President in the event of the President's absence or temporary disability, and performs duties as assigned by the Executive Committee.

**Treasurer:** The Treasurer is responsible for all PTM monies and record keeping of all PTM transactions, acts as a liaison between MIR's accountant and PTM Board, attends PTM meetings, and helps at PTM functions such as Back to School Night and Carnivals.

These officers help PTM achieve its four main functions:

- ◆ Increase parent involvement in the school.
- ◆ Educate parents about Montessori theory and practice.
- ◆ Encourage communications among school staff, the Board of Trustees, and parents.
- ◆ Nurture a sense of community at Montessori in Redlands.

Nominations will be accepted through April 25. Stop by the office to learn more about PTM, the positions, or to nominate yourself or someone else.

## Upcoming Events/Meetings

- ◆ PTM meeting, April 10
- ◆ Parent Work Day, April 19
- ◆ Spring Carnival, May 3



## BOARD CORNER

by LEELA MADHAVARAU, PRESIDENT,  
MIR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### Tell Us How You Really Feel

**W**e at MIR strive provide the highest quality programs possible, and to engender an atmosphere of trust so that you feel comfortable coming to teachers, PTM representatives, Board members, or the Head of School to share feedback and ask questions about your children's education.

To be able to effect change and keep the school operating at a consistently high level, the school also needs to collect information from the parent body as a whole. To that end, **we request that you complete the new parent satisfaction survey, available at [www.montessoriinredlands.org/surveys](http://www.montessoriinredlands.org/surveys).**

The survey is anonymous and covers customer service, program and instruction quality, governance and administration, and other topics. It should take 10-20 minutes to complete.

To get the most complete information possible, we ask that all parents/guardians in each family complete this survey. Please take the time to provide us with considered responses, whether positive or negative. This is your chance to tell us how you really feel and help affect school planning.

We are required to complete this annual survey to maintain our WASC accreditation. Therefore, we ask that you answer these questions even if you have completed our

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# MIR Scenes: Elementary

*“The greatest sign of success for a teacher... is to be able to say, ‘The children are now working as if I did not exist.’”*

*—Maria Montessori*

All photos are courtesy of Maryhelen Campa, Primary teacher.



**Life Outside**

By Eva

Scamper, Scamper  
Rustle, Rustle  
Through those dead leaves  
Under a shining sun

Who is this scamperer,  
Hiding in the blacktop?  
People, Humans? Guess again!  
A Bird, chirping in the groves?

No way! One last guess!  
A coyote galloping in a mess?  
This scamperer is indeed,  
A tiny lizard, running free

I walk along the bridge,  
Observing my long shadow,  
Holding a cup in my hand  
Under a shining sun

I feel the leaf, smooth and long  
Staring at the sky is not wrong  
What is that? I turn and look,  
But I can't get a hook,

Look down, on the ground,  
What's that, scampering around?  
A LIZARD! Wow look at him,  
Blending in, like tree limb

That sweet little critter,  
Runs away in a skitter  
Under the leaves to his home,  
Where he will happily roam

Now whenever I hear a rustle,  
I know that somewhere a lizard hustles  
Without rapping a lot,  
He goes home, to the blacktop

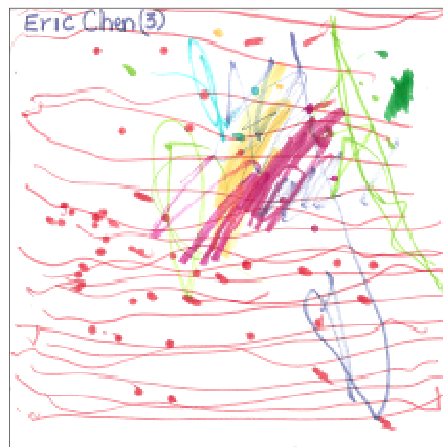
# Student Work



I like art. Art is when you make great pictures and show them to people. They will like them.—Tristin Ralston,



Today was my snack day and I brought muffins and Danimals. I chosed all of my best friends. I was so happy because it was my snack day. I got to be first in the line when we went to the playground.—Keirthana



**A Poem**  
Anonymous

No anything  
Small light  
Light speed  
Big stars  
Everything Law  
Hot and rise, cold/and/fall  
Over and over  
Fire  
Fine again

The end



**Spanish in Primary:** Parts of the Rabbit



**Spanish in Elementary:** Parts of the Rabbit

# Celebrate Carnival



# at the MIR



**S**ave the date for the Montessori in Redlands Spring Carnival! The Carnival will be held Saturday, May 3 from 11 AM to 3 PM.

The carnival offers a fun filled day for the family with a climbing wall, inflatable obstacle course, live music, rides, Scholastic Book Fair, classroom game booths, prizes and more. Admission costs \$5 per child 3 and older or \$10 per family and covers all games and activities. Adult admission is free with a canned food or non-perishable item donation to our Family Services food drive, which begins on April 28.

## Volunteers Needed!

We need your help making the Carnival a success. This is a great way to fulfill your parent volunteer commitment. Sign up in your class to help or contact Jean Bonner-Drinkwine at 909-241-8100 for more information about the following opportunities:

**Food and Refreshments:** Concessions at the carnival traditionally include hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and soda available for purchase at the food booth. We need volunteers to staff the booth.

**Class Booths:** Please sign up in your child's classroom to work for just a ½ hour during the carnival in the class booth. This is a fun way to participate in making the Spring Carnival a great day for everyone.

**Montessori Marketplace:** Parents who are involved in businesses that offer products suitable for this venue are invited to participate in the Montessori Marketplace. Examples of past participants include Pampered Chef, Creative Memories, and Tupperware. There is no rental fee for booths. A portion of the proceeds are returned to the school. If you are interested in learning more or reserving a booth, please contact Jean Bonner-Drinkwine.

## Viva Las Vegas! Pays Off in Fun and Fundraising

**V***iva Las Vegas!*, the MIR 11th Annual Spring Gala & Auction, paid off with a fabulous night of fun and fundraising. The Gala raised \$50,500 in much needed funds to support the school's programs, facilities, and teaching staff.

The Gala was held March 8 at Redlands Country Club and included live and silent auctions. Nationally acclaimed auctioneer and actor Sam Neely, who performs for 60 charity events each year, led the live auction tally to \$23,700. The silent auction brought in the rest.

The live auction featured beautifully hand-crafted art and customized furniture items created or decorated by the students at Montessori of Redlands. The top bid was \$1,700 for an oil painting of Redlands (*at right*), created by students in Kara and Dorama's Primary class. The painting will be hung at the new Ayres Hotels & Suites being built on Colton Boulevard in Redlands.

The auction of a puppy, already trained and ready to join a family with children, also brought fierce competition, eventually selling for \$1,600.

The event was truly enjoyable for all in attendance. In addition to Neely, who is a master at encouraging bidding in a humorous style, was as entertaining as always. Elvis also paid a visit, encouraging several guests to sing and attempt his trademark dance style.

Plans for next year's Gala are already underway, so mark your calendar for March 21, 2009.

## Thank You to Our Sponsors and Contributors

MIR would like to thank the following companies for sponsoring the Gala or significantly contributing:

*(Continued on page 7)*



# Learning + Fun = Summer School at Montessori in Redlands

Summer is fast approaching and it is time to enroll for Summer School at Montessori in Redlands. MIR offers programs for Toddler, Primary, and Elementary students that combine learning with summer fun.

Toddler and Primary summer school enrollment is open to continuing students and new students enrolled for the 2008-2009 school year. New families must have completed an observation of the program before registering.

Elementary enrollment is open to students 6 years (must have completed first grade) through 12 years. The enrollment deadline is April 28.

Four separate two-week sessions are offered for Toddler and Primary levels and four separate two-week sessions are offered for Elementary and Middle School levels. The school is closed June 16-20 and August 18-September 1.

## Toddler Summer Program

Toddlers will supplement their Montessori environment with special summer activities such as gardening, crafts, and water play. One outing per session will enhance their summer fun.

## Primary Summer Program

Primary students will incorporate the Montessori philosophy and materials with special projects such as cooking, gardening, sporting activities, and swimming. They will have a minimum of one field trip each session.

## Elementary and Middle School

Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary, and Middle School students will have a variety of opportunities to



explore personal areas of interest. Each session offers morning and afternoon activities; students choose one morning and one afternoon activity per session.

**Session 1 activities** include Camping and Hiking, Scrapbooking and Homemade Gifts, Outdoor Sports, Cooking, and Swimming.

**Session 2 activities** include Writer's Workshop, Puppet Making and Reader's Theater, Printmaking and Calligraphy, Sign Language, and Swimming.

**Session 3 activities** include Drama, Greek Mythology Theater Workshop, Cooking from the Garden, Calligraphy and Writing, and Swimming.

**Session 4 activities** include Calligraphy and Watercolors, Cuisine Around the World, and Acrobatic Skills.

To learn more about Summer School, pick up a brochure and enrollment packet at the MIR office or visit [www.montessoriinredlands.org/summer](http://www.montessoriinredlands.org/summer).

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- ♣ Ayres Hotel (Blackjack Sponsor)
- ♣ San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (Blackjack Sponsor)
- ♣ Beaver Medical Group (Blackjack Sponsor)

Special thanks goes to the following families for supporting the Gala by underwriting specific event items:

- ♣ John and Valerie Morales: Elvis and centerpieces
- ♣ Samir Hage, Agio Skin Enhancement Center, Inc.: Door prize

- ♣ Kensok family: Gaming table and door prizes
- ♣ Emge family: Centerpiece
- ♣ Georgette Harris: Centerpiece
- ♣ Oakes family: Centerpiece

We would also like to especially thank the lead members of the Spring Gala Committee for their tireless efforts to bring this event together:

- ♦ Jillian Mueller, Chair
- ♦ Christy Oakes, Marketing and Advertising

- ♦ Shawnda Zook, PTM President
- ♦ Karen Oliver, MIR Board of Trustees representative

Thanks also goes to all the parents who volunteered to make the Gala such a great success.

## Tell Us How You Feel (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

survey in the past. MIR can respond most effectively to concerns if we have an annual snapshot of our community's thoughts. We greatly appreciate the time you take from your hectic lives to give us your thoughts about MIR.

As always, please feel free to contact me with questions or comments:

Leela MadhavaRau

President, Board of Trustees

[leela\\_madhavarau@redlands.edu](mailto:leela_madhavarau@redlands.edu)

Phone: (909) 792-2406

## Help Keep MIR Beautiful on Parent Work Day

Our spring Parent Work Day will be held Saturday, April 19, 8:30 AM–11:30 AM. Work days are held twice a year, during which volunteers complete a number of maintenance tasks around the campus. Tasks range from painting classrooms to clearing overgrowth to making much needed repairs.

This is a great way to meet your 5 hour volunteer requirement and spend a spring day in the outdoors. Thank you in advance for your help!

## Parent & Child Night (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

having lost interest in the conversation.

Parent & Child Night completes that conversation in the most meaningful way possible for your child: You and your child have dedicated time, one-on-one, during which your child shows you the work he or she does each day.

The night is for parents of students in Toddler through Elementary and the format is simple—you come to school, and your child guides you through the work, giving you lessons, answering questions, or showing off a favorite activity. Teachers are on hand to answer questions and help with the work as necessary. If you have more than one child attending MIR, the evening is set up to give you time to rotate classrooms and take turns working with each child one-on-one.

“One of the most endearing aspects of the evening is witnessing first-hand your child's pride in their work. I'll never forget how one time my daughter led me into her classroom to show me the face-washing work first, her little face beaming with pride from the tiny mirror as she checked her work,” says Pamela Henry, speaking of younger daughter Kristen when she was in Sara's Primary class.

This event is your child's chance to shine, and they love it. While you may want to come prepared with ideas of work you really want to see, your child will have his or her own agenda for the evening. Let them lead the way.

## April 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mar 31 End of early enrollment	01 	02	03	04
Spring Break. No school. Childcare by reservation.				
07	08	09 Middle School to Golf Club	10 PTM meeting, 6 PM Spring Picture Day	11
Mara & Emily's class 6th graders trip to Washington DC				
14	15	16	17	18
Mara & Emily's class 6th graders trip to Washington DC			Kristin's class field trip	Saturday, Apr 19: Parent Work Day
Open enrollment begins		Middle School to Golf Club	Parent & Child Night, 5 PM-7 PM	
21	22 Sara's class and Nikki's class field trip 	23 Middle School to Golf Club	24 Kara & Dorama class field trip	25 Bluebird Day and assembly, 9:15 AM
28 Family Services Food Drive begins	29	30 Kristin's class field trip		Bluebird Day and assembly, 9:15 AM