

The Icebox

The Monthly Newsletter of Montessori in Redlands



Celebrate Spring

Join us in celebrating Spring at the Montessori in Redlands Spring Carnival this **Saturday, May 3, 11 AM-3 PM** at the school.

The weather for the day will be warm but not hot, perfect for a fun filled day outdoors with the family. Enjoy 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

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What's Inside

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- Last Day of School Schedule Change for Elementary and Middle School Students

What Makes Montessori Montessori?

by MAURA JOYCE, HEAD OF SCHOOL

This time of year the office is inundated with families looking at our school. They come because they have “heard” about us and want to see if this is the place for their children. One of the first questions we ask inquiring parents is “What do you know about Montessori?” The answers vary from “nothing” to “a little bit” to lengthy and elaborate descriptions of ideas and materials.

What makes Montessori *Montessori*? It is an interesting question. If we were to ask each of the parents at MIR to share their understanding of Montessori, we would get lots of answers, each a little bit different. Over the years I have heard:

- ♦ “Montessori is hands-on work.”
- ♦ “It is children working at their own pace.”
- ♦ “Montessori is beautiful material for the students to explore with.”
- ♦ “Montessori has great teachers.”
- ♦ “It is independence and free choice.”
- ♦ “Montessori is a friendly community.”
- ♦ “In Montessori children love to learn.”

All of the responses correctly describe elements of a Montessori education. Montessori in Redlands has all of these “things”, but it is the philosophy and the spirit of Montessori that makes it the great school that it is. Montessori theory has a deep and profound respect for the human being on its journey from infancy to adulthood. This respect guides everything we do—how we speak to the children, how we arrange things on the shelf, how we present a lesson, how we treat the environment. Our main duty is to create a place where the child is able to grow and develop the physical, intellectual, social and emotional self. MIR has everything they need educationally but most importantly it is a place where they are honored and valued and allowed to become a full human being.

What makes Montessori *Montessori* is that it is more than a way of approaching education, it is a way of approaching *life*.

“The first duty of an education is to stir up life, but leave it free to develop.”—Maria Montessori



Student Birthdays

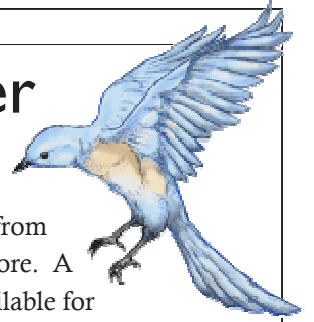
Ariana Martinez	5/2
Laura Sousa	5/2
Jordan Cherniss	5/4
Aja Levesque	5/4
Jessica Martin	5/4
Sanjana Maria Fernando	5/5
Melina Bline	5/6
Sarah Kensok	5/8
Drake Citron	5/9
Owen Greene	5/9
Joshua Morales	5/9
Kira Clutter	5/12
Anthony Montemaro	5/12
Ronnie Ravins	5/13
Natasha Spangrud	5/14
Tyler Little	5/15
Sidarth Kulkarni	5/16
Catherine Duan	5/17
Kennedy McCarthy	5/18
Hennessy Mueller	5/19
Rohan Carter-Rau	5/21
Drew Blauth	5/23
Curren Oakes	5/24
Peter Van Esch	5/24
Addison Wroolie	5/24
Amira Marshall	5/26
Liv Massih	5/26
Andrew Ma	5/28
James Porep	5/28

Staff Birthdays

Maryhelen Campa	5/11
Pamela Henry	5/18
Jacqueline Chandler	5/19
Eddie Villa	5/19

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PTM Corner



Spring has sprung! That means Spring Carnival is almost here. Be sure to join us on Saturday, May 3, from 11 AM to 3 PM. There will be games, crafts, and rides galore. A lunch of burgers (veggie ones too) and drinks will be available for purchase.

Show how much you appreciate your child's teachers.

Remember your teacher on May 6, Teacher Appreciation Day. They work hard all year to give your child the best education they can. Let's be appreciative!

Wear your Bluebird t-shirt—and take a picture! May 30 is Bluebird Day. Show off your great sense of style and school spirit by wearing your Bluebird shirt with your student! T-shirts may be purchased in the office. And don't forget to take those pictures and submit them to the *Icebox*. You, too, could be one of the lovely models featured on these pages!

Cast your vote for PTM Officers. Nominations for PTM Vice President and Treasurer are in and soon it will be your turn to vote. Look for information, biographies, and ballot boxes and be sure to cast your vote!

Bluebirds Detour to Italy



Bluebirds Sarah and Anna Kensok contemplate history on a Spring Break trip to Italy. Sarah explores a suit of armor set outside a medieval museum in San Gimignano in Tuscany, Italy. Anna wonders how the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa got that way and whether it will fall down. Both girls display their Bluebird t-shirts with pride!

GO GREEN CLUB GREEN CORNER

HISTORY OF EARTH DAY

BY ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF MIR

Happy post Earth Day! You may be wondering—What is the purpose of Earth Day? How did it start?

The idea of Earth Day developed over a period of seven years starting in 1962. Earth Day was started by a person named Gaylord Nelson. For several years he had been wondering why the state of the environment was not a bigger issue in the U.S. He realized that he needed to let President Kennedy know about this issue. Senator Nelson did this by going on a national conservation tour. The President liked this idea so he went on his own, 5-day, 11-state conservation tour.

After the President's tour, Gaylord Nelson thought of the idea of Earth Day. Gaylord Nelson organized a protest over what was happening to our environment. At a conference in September, 1969, he announced that there would be a demonstration on behalf of the environment in Spring 1970. This day came to be known as Earth Day. It has been celebrated every year on April 22, since 1971.

5 Ways You Can "Go Green":

1. Cut your food into smaller pieces so it cooks faster, saving energy.
2. Install a water filter on your tap instead of buying water in plastic bottles.
3. Bring your own reusable bags to the grocery store rather than using paper or plastic bags.
4. Recycle your old cell phone. If all Americans recycled instead of throwing away old cell phones, we'd save enough energy to power 194,000 households for one year.
5. Switch to organic milk. If you bought a gallon of organic milk each week, you'd help keep 10 pounds of chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers) out of the environment.

Thank you for going green!

MIR Celebrates National Physical Fitness & Sports Month

May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. Join us in celebrating physical activity and sport during our PE class' favorite month of the year! This month we will be focusing on our most asked-for activities, such as Capture the Flag, Kick Ball, Ga Ga Ball, Dead Ant Tag, Noodle Hockey, and Four Square.

Run Through Redlands

Put on your Bluebird t-shirt and join us for the Run through Redlands on Sunday, May 4. Walk or jog with us in the noncompetitive 2K family fun that starts at 8:45 AM. This is a great opportunity to participate with your whole family and let your children feel the excitement of people getting together and being healthy. A few Bluebirds will also participate in the main 5K, 10K, and 1/2 marathon. Be sure to cheer them on! Learn more at www.redlands-events.com/RTR1.htm.

Be Sun Smart

May is also Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month. Sun exposure is the most preventable risk factor for all skin cancers, including melanoma. You and your child can have fun in the sun and decrease your risk of skin cancer by being sun smart. Wear water-resistant sunscreen a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 15 that provides broad-spectrum protection from both ultraviolet A (UVA) and ultraviolet B (UVB) rays to all exposed skin. Learn more tips at www.skincancer.org/prevention.



BOARD CORNER

by LEELA MADHAVARAU, PRESIDENT,
MIR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MIR Revamps Financial Aid

As a school that prides itself on building and maintaining community, MIR is committed to retaining all students. The Board of Trustees recognizes that the current economic situation is not only having an impact nationwide, it is impacting our community as well. As a result, the Finance Committee, with Board approval, has restructured the Financial Aid program offered by MIR.

In addition to increasing the pool of money available for financial aid, MIR is working through the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) to access the School and Student Service (SSS) Financial Aid program. SSS is used by more than 2,400 K-12 schools and organizations across the country to help assess a family's ability to pay for independent education and to help families feel confident that their request for financial aid is being treated objectively and professionally. Once need is established, MIR can then distribute aid to families based on need, commitment to the Montessori program, and history with the school.

MIR is moving toward its long-term goal of being able offer partial tuition relief to those families who might otherwise leave the school as well as retaining the ability to offer discretionary grants for emergency assistance. We want to ensure that MIR families explore our financial aid package before making a decision not

(Continued on page 8)

MIR Scenes: Middle School

“Free the child's potential, and you will transform him into the world.”—Maria Montessori



All photos are courtesy of Maryhelen Campa, Primary teacher.



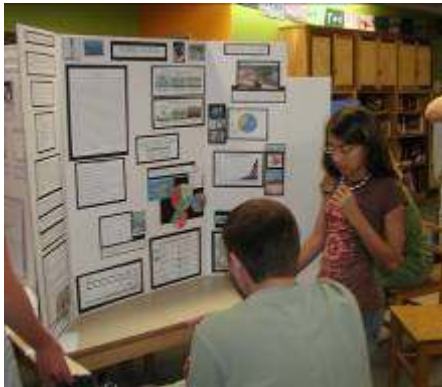
Upper Elementary Science Fair Parent/Child Night Report

BY ZOE BROWN, AGE 10

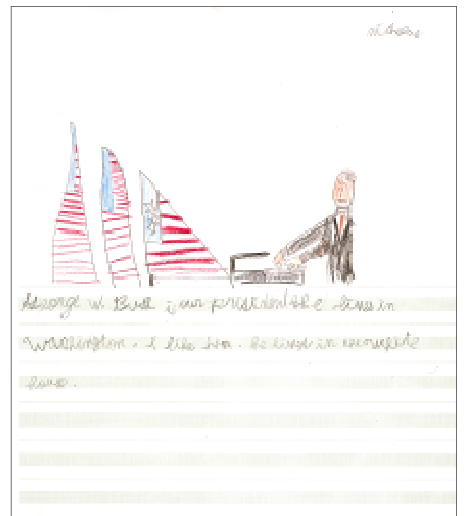
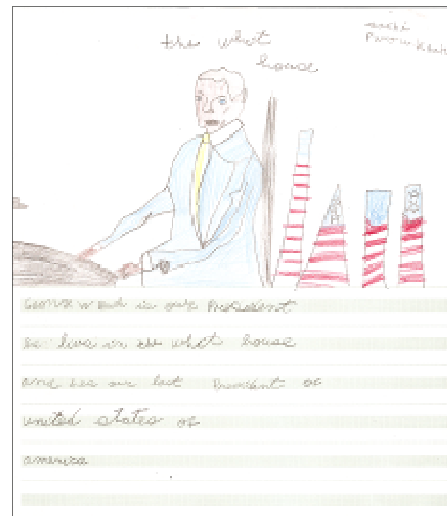
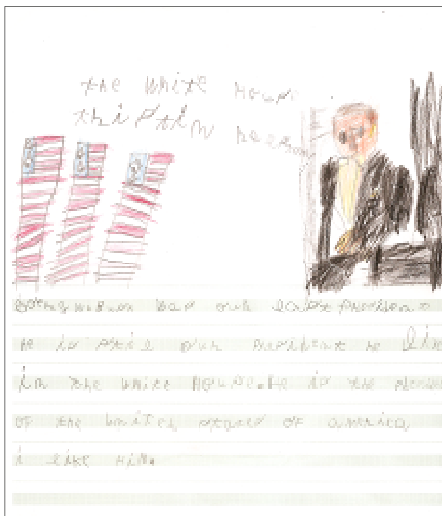
Mara and Emily's UE has been working on Science Fair Projects for the last eight weeks. We all did a lot of reading and research. We made phone calls and set up "goings out" to places like Scripps Institute of Oceanography, University of California at Riverside, and Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority. While there, we met and learned from scientists and researchers who are experts in their field.

In addition, we found or designed experiments for our topic. Also, we made project boards to display our hard work (see photos).

On Parent/Child Night, we gave an oral presentation to parents. Teachers and students from the Grove High School served as evaluators for our projects. I think the best part of Science Fair was having accomplished a large-scale research project!



Three Views on a President: Nikki's Primary class studies George W. Bush



George W. Bush was our last president and he is still our president. He lives in the White House. He is the president of the United States of America. I like him.—Tristan Ralston

George W. Bush is our president. He lives in the White House and he's our last president of the United States of America.—Sachi Pawooskar-Almeida

George W. Bush is our president. He lives in Washington. I like him. He lives in the White House.—Nicholas Puckdee

Elementary Summer School Offers Unique and Enriching Experiences

Enrollment for Elementary summer school is now open to all Elementary students in Redlands and the surrounding communities ages 6 years (must have completed first grade) through 12 years. New for this year: **MIR and Grove Middle School students up to 14 years may also enroll for these programs.**

MIR has developed a program that encompasses the arts, humanities, and athletics to provide an enriching experience that is unique in the community. Classes are taught by MIR teachers and assistants to provide a truly high-quality experience not available anywhere else.

Four separate two-week sessions are offered. The school is closed June 16-20 and August 18-September 1. Not all activities are divided into two age groups; some are only available for grades 5-9.

Session I: June 23–July 3

Camping and Hiking: Open only to MIR Continuing Upper Elementary (UE) and Middle School (MS) students (5th-8th grades)

This exciting and challenging program culminates in a four-day camping trip to Big Sur. The first week covers basic camping and hiking skills, the natural history of the Big Sur area, First Aid certification, and planning the logistics for the trip. Monday through Thursday of the second week is spent in Big Sur, chaperoned by MIR staff.

Scrapbooking and Homemade gifts: Lower Elementary (LE)

Children will practice the art of storytelling and exercise their creativity by designing scrapbook pages using photos, memorabilia, journaling, and embellishments. The end result will be a keepsake gift for someone special in their lives. All materials except for photos will be provided; students only need a creative spirit and a special person in mind as the gift recipient.

Outdoor Sports: (LE/UE)

Children will exercise body and character as they hone their skills and understanding of basic rules in basketball, kickball, soccer, and softball; learn good sportsmanship; and learn the value of being a respectful team member.

Cooking: (LE/UE/MS)

Students will develop their self-sufficiency by learning



how to make complete meals including drinks and desserts. The meals will range from a quick “treat” to an intricate family meal. The class culminates in an “All-American” BBQ prepared by the students on Thursday, July 3, in honor of the Fourth of July.

Swimming: (LE/UE/MS)

Students will cool off and develop their swimming skills in this afternoon session. The Redlands Swim Team staff will instruct students at all skill levels at Redlands High School. From basic swimmers to the well-advanced, students will practice their skills in freestyle, backstroke, butterfly, breaststroke, water polo, and junior lifeguard training. Yucaipa Bus Service will transport students.

Session II: July 7–18

Writer’s Workshop: (UE/MS)

Students will be encouraged to use their creative vision to compose numerous works of writing using various techniques and styles including stories and poetry. This is a great opportunity for students to develop their writing skills with one-on-one guidance. Students will present their work at the end of the session.

Puppet Making and Reader’s Theater: (LE)

Offering both a creative outlet and reading practice, this class will introduce children to a variety of styles of puppets as well as fables, fairy tales, animal stories, and myths. Children will be guided in the process of puppet making including puppets of straw, paper bags and plates, socks,

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and fabric. They will also work with simple marionettes, shadow, and finger puppets. At the end of the session, children will use their class-made puppets and drama skills in a final puppet show.

Printmaking and Calligraphy: (LE/UE)

Children will learn about the history of printmaking and will make several prints of their own using latex blocks and ink. Children will be introduced to italic uppercase, lowercase, and custom style alphabets using the chisel tip pen.

Sign Language: (LE/UE/MS)

Acquiring a new language is fun and keeps the brain engaged! Students will learn American Sign Language using visual aids, games, demonstrations, and guest speakers. Join us and learn to talk with your hands.

Swimming: See Session 1 description.

Session III: July 21–August 1

Drama: (UE/MS)

This will be an exciting theatre experience for students who love to explore the world of imagination. Inspired by mythological and folkloric themes, students will use brainstorming, improvisation, and rehearsals to create and perform a short original play. Students will play drama games to learn acting techniques and vocal production during this fun and collaborative two weeks.

Cooking from the Garden: (LE/UE)

Students will bring tastes from the garden into the kitchen as they learn to use fresh herbs in recipes. Exploring how these tiny plants influence the flavor of a variety of dishes will be the focus of this workshop.

Calligraphy and Writing: (LE/UE/MS)

The history of writing will be brought to life through the study of lettering as an art form. Students will practice their creative writing skills and use calligraphy to enhance their stories and poems.

Swimming: See Session 1 description.

Session IV: August 4–15

Acrobatic Skills: (LE/UE/MS)

Children will learn basic acrobatic and tumbling skills (somersaults, cartwheels, etc.) in this action-packed class! At the end of the two-week session, they will put on a performance to show off their skills. This is an all-day session.

Calligraphy and Watercolors: (LE/UE/MS)

The history of writing will be brought to life through the study of lettering as an art form. Students will use inks, paints and paper to enhance the beauty of words. They will learn numerous techniques that can be combined with calligraphic lettering to create wonderful visual effects. Each student will create a final piece suitable for framing.

Cuisine around the World: (LE/UE/MS)

The children will be taken on a “culinary trip around the world”, preparing dishes from many different countries and creating their own cookbook of recipes along the way. The class will culminate in a fabulous meal prepared by the students.

To learn more or enroll, pick up a brochure and enrollment packet at the MIR office or visit www.montessoriiinredlands.org/summer. **The enrollment deadline is Friday, May 30.**

Elementary Students Do the Grand Tour of Washington, D.C.

BY JULIAN RASCO, AGE 12

Mara and Emily's 6th years got back from their D.C. trip about 2 weeks ago just in time for Science Fair (see “Upper Elementary Science Fair” on page 5). The trip was from the 9th to the 16th of April.

We had a good time and got to see a lot of the famous sites including the Washington Monument and the Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson Memorials. Other highlights of the trip included the Kennedy center, the Capitol tour, and the spy museum.

The cherry blossoms were in bloom. We were really glad that we were able to see them. We were amazed by their beauty.

The house in the Capitol Hill neighborhood where we stayed was cool. We went to Trader Joe's to get the groceries and we all chose a day to plan a meal for.

The White House and Capitol tours were interesting. The White House tour wasn't as exiting as we expected, but it was still awesome. we had lots of fun!!

Thank You to the Parents Who Served

MIR would like to thank the parents, teachers, and staff who pitched in on Parent Work Day on Saturday, April 19. Many school maintenance tasks were completed as a result. Thank you to Evan Brinton, John Berry, Kylene Stillman, Bob and Tina Booth, Jillian Mueller, Angela Keller, Derrick English and staff members Eddie Villa and Liana McCall.

We truly could not have done it without you!

MIR to Offer More Financial Aid

(Continued from page 3)

to re-enroll due to financial difficulties. In addition, Key Bank, our tuition management company offers a variety of payment options including automatic debit and credit card payments and educational loans. These options give families greater flexibility in managing tuition payments to meet their situation.

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

Leela MadhavaRau

President, Board of Trustees

leela_madhavarau@redlands.edu

Phone: (909) 792-2406

Change in Schedule: Final School Day Extended for Elementary and Middle School Students

School closes at NOON on Friday, June 13. **All Toddler and Primary students must be picked up at NOON.**

Elementary and Middle School students are invited to stay until 3:30 PM on that day to participate in the 6th year and Middle School graduations and Middle School farewell party. Participation is optional but students are encouraged to stay.

Celebrate Spring (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

Services food drive, which begins on April 28.

Does Your Class Need Help?

All classes will have booths at the carnival. Talk with your child's teachers or look for a sign up sheet to see if they still need volunteers to support the booths. Shifts are only a ½ hour during the carnival. This is a fun way to participate in making the Spring Carnival a great day for everyone.

Montessori Marketplace

The popular **Montessori Marketplace** will return once again this year. Local small and home-based businesses will offer fun and family friendly products for sale, from Tupperware to costume jewelry. A portion of the proceeds help support the school so please patronize the Marketplace.



These lovely jewelry pieces are examples of what will be offered by Colleen & Marilyn's Creations at the Montessori Marketplace.

May 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			01	02 Summer school Early Enrollment registrations due
05 Staff in-service day. No school, no childcare. 	06 Teacher Appreciation Day Elementary Summer School open enrollment begins 	07 Kelly's class field trip Middle School to Hangar 18	08	09
12	13	14 Middle School to Hangar 18	15	16
19 Board of Trustee's Open Forum, 6:30 PM	20	21 Middle School to Hangar 18	22 Kara & Dorama class field trip	23
26 Memorial Day. No school, no childcare. 	27	28	29	30 Bluebird Day and assembly, 9:15 AM
	Middle School Capstone Projects			