

Inspiring a Healthy Spirit, a Strong Character, and a Clear Intellect



BLUEBIRD BULLETIN

MARCH 2009 VOLUME 35, ISSUE 6

© Montessori in Redlands, LIC# 360910803-4-5

What's Inside...

Report from the Board: Board of Trustees makes tough choices for a tough economy

MIR 'Go Green' Corner: Take action. Turn off. Vote Earth during Earth Hour

The Art of Education: Children's work

MIR Spring Gala Auction Items: Classrooms work hard on the finishing touches

Bluebird Bike-a-thon Raises more than \$1,300

Journey & Discovery: Parent sees math in a new way

Early Registration has begun



By Maura Joyce, Head of School *"The child is much more spiritually elevated than is usually supposed. He often suffers, not from too much work, but from work that is unworthy of him."*—Maria Montessori

MIR will host the 12th Annual Spring Gala & Auction on Saturday, March 21, from 6 PM to midnight at the Redlands Country Club.

Celebrate good times with an evening of disco fun, free drinks, all-you-can-eat buffet, and silent auction. **The highlight of the night will be a live auction, hosted by the incomparable Sam Neely and featuring beautifully hand-crafted art and customized furniture items created or decorated by the students at MIR.** Get a sitter, dress up, and enjoy an adults' night out.

Don't miss the party of the year!

To purchase tickets, contact the MIR office or call 909-793-6989.

It's Time to Move Beyond The Industrial Age

Every year I head to the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) Administrative Workshop at their mid-February Refresher Course. Gathering with over 100 Montessori administrators (alongside 800 teachers adding to the collegial atmosphere) is always inspiring. This year Peter Davidson and I traveled to Houston for the event and listened to several engaging speakers. None was more impressive than Sir Ken Robinson, internationally recognized for his written work and research about creativity and innovation.

Sir Ken (as he asked us to call him) spoke to us about something we already know—the extraordinary capabilities of children. His studies have led him all over the world to look at education systems and

how they cultivate (or don't) human creativity. What he shared with us was what he found to be true everywhere: Education systems generally are designed to develop only a few of the talents of the human person. Most are locked into an old system—the industrial age model—that focuses more on a specific set of subjects of study. This came from the belief that certain knowledge, math and language in particular, would result in college and then a job.

Sir Ken contends that we no longer live in that world where strong performance in math and language guarantees employment. On the contrary, the most successful innovators of our time are the ones who have harvested their creative capacities

"...we no longer live in a world where strong performance in math and language guarantees employment."

(Continued on page 7)

PARENT-TO-PARENT

Thank You to Parents

The PTM Board thanks all parents for your support. We could not do and support all of the activities we do without you. Here are some of the things PTM sponsors; Staff Appreciation Breakfast, Gala Tickets for Teachers, Lunch for August Staff In-Service, February Journey & Discovery Lunch, Laptop Lunchbox Program, Fall Carnival, Spring Carnival, Back to School Night and more!

PTM NEWS AND NOTES

Dinner is On Us

PTM will offer two items for the Spring Gala & Auction: Dinner- and Dessert-a-Month.

We will donate a Dinner-a-Month for the third year. The winner of this item gets dinner prepared once a month, which typically includes a main course, salad or vegetable, bread or dessert, and sometimes wine. The Dessert-a-Month is new this year. The winner of this item gets a yummy cake, pie, cookies, or cobbler once a month.

If you like to cook or bake

and would like to volunteer please contact Shawnda at 909-936-9965.

Bluebird Running Club—Join Us on Fridays!

The MIR Bluebird Running Club meets every Friday morning outside the office at 7:30 AM and runs until 8:30 AM. The weather will be getting warmer, so let's get moving!

Children ages 6 and older are welcome to join. Parents are also welcome.

Please have your child wear running shoes and bring a wa-

ter bottle. Make sure to write "RC" next to your child's name on the sign-in sheets and you will not be charged for childcare. Running club does not meet on rainy days.

Bluebird Merchandise On Sale

All youth and adult crew neck sweatshirts are now only \$5! Youth medium and large long sleeve shirts are also \$5. Tote bags are \$6 or 2 for \$10. Place orders in the office and merchandise will be delivered to your parent folder.

Order from Innisbrook At Any Time

Low on wrapping paper? Need a Gift? Order through Innisbrook.

You can place orders online at www.innisbrook.com. Our school code is 102074. Orders placed online will be shipped directly to your home. PTM makes 50% of all sales.

MIR Bluebirds will Fly in Run-Through-Redlands

Staff, students and parents will participate in the annual Run-

(Continued on page 6)



Bluebirds Omar and Sarah Najjar visited pyramids and tried out an iconic form of transportation on a recent family trip to Egypt. Omar is standing in front of the Great Pyramid called Khufu, built around 2560 BC. The pyramid behind Omar and Sarah is called Mankure, built during the fourth dynasty around 2500 BC.

Report from the Board...

Making that Choice

By Leela MadhavaRau,
President Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is aware that March is a month of decision making for the Montessori in Redlands community. This week you will receive the registration packages for the 2009-2010 school year and we know that you may have questions before making a major decision about your children's education.

Each year, as I prepare to write my check to register my children, I consider why it is worth it to me. At a recent meeting, I commented that MIR allows my children to retain that sense of curiosity that is inherent in us all. All too frequently, curiosity is bred out of us because it is difficult for the adults in the world to keep answering questions. One of my children said that he has millions of questions about everything in the world and MIR allows him to answer some of those questions, even when they are of interest only to him—"why do mollusks only have one foot?" or some other esoteric thought.

I work at a university so I spend a lot of time thinking about the characteristics that employers say they want to see in future employees. I am amazed at how thoroughly and completely a Montessori education addresses these concerns. I know the thought of your children being wage-earners may seem a long way off for many of you; be assured that MIR is producing learners who will be engaged and thoughtful citizens, self-aware and self-reliant, inquisitive and self-motivated, able to prioritize, team players, cooperative leaders, problem-solvers, as well as individuals who will be flexible, with a sense of purpose, imagination, and a lifelong love of learning.

As you make your decision, please know that you have a number of resources available to you, including the Board of Trustees Open Forum on Monday, March 23 at 6:30 PM in the Yoga Room. Feel free to ask questions about some of the difficult choices we have made for the upcoming year, including a zero percent tuition increase and some changes to the discount policy. As always, please feel free to contact me personally with any questions or comments, or even my reasons for keeping my children in Montessori schools through high school.

Leela MadhavaRau
leela_madhavarau@redlands.edu
Phone: (909) 528-2813

MIR 'GO GREEN' CORNER

Take action.
Turn off.
Vote Earth.



Climate change is one of the most serious issues facing our planet today. From melting glaciers to increasingly intense weather patterns, we are already feeling the impacts.

On March 28, 2009 at 8:30 PM local time, tens of millions of people in more than 240 cities around the world will come together to make a bold statement about their concern about climate change by doing something quite simple—turning off their lights for one hour. Known as "Earth Hour," this act symbolizes that by working together, each of us can make a positive impact in the fight against climate change. Here in the U.S., it sends a message that Americans care about this issue and stand with the rest of the world in seeking to find solutions to the escalating climate crisis.

To alter the course of climate change we must act now. One person committed to reducing energy consumption can make a difference, but millions working together can change the world.

MIR has agreed to join us in taking this symbolic step. Respect for the earth is an integral element of a Montessori education. We hope that Montessori families will take part in this simple, yet powerful event.

For more information and to sign up, visit www.EarthHourUS.org.

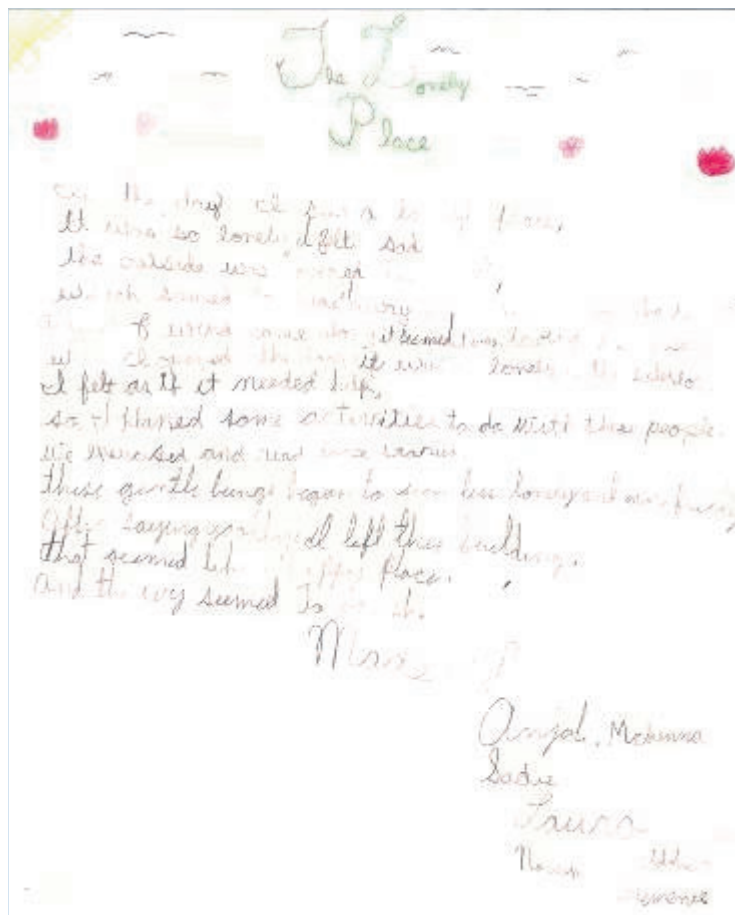
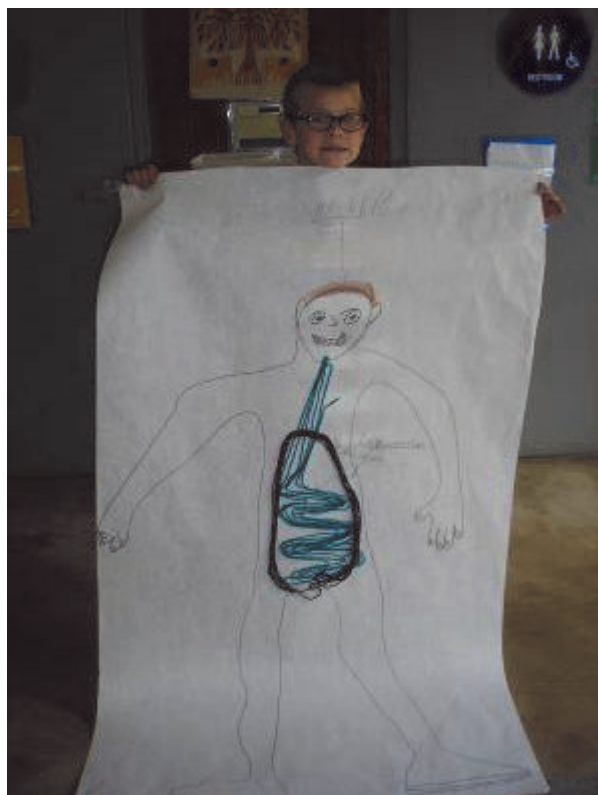
**The Norton-Brainerd family
(Reid, 5, is in Sara's class)**

Teacher Seeks Tennis Rackets

MIR physical education teacher Rachel Mickelson is asking for donations of 16 rackets to help start a tennis training program at the school. Dig your old rackets out of the closet and bring them to the office. The Elementary students of MIR will be most appreciative!



The Art of Education



2-27-09
 Demiana

The Stars

I've always wondered what it's like
 like swinging on a star, until one
 day my dreams carried me up and
 up into the sky, higher and higher
 I went until we reached the stars,
 it seemed as if I was being lifted
 onto a star and all the other
 stars danced around me. When
 I woke up I really was on a
 star!

by
 Demiana



Classrooms Put Finishing Touches on Gala Items

SARA



THE WORLD

The children have painted each hemisphere of the world onto two 30 x 40" canvases, using acrylic paints. Each child mixed his or her own colors and helped to design a part of The World.

LIANA



KEEPSAKE BLANKET

A beautiful keepsake blanket with preserved memories of your child and their toddler friends. This age goes by so quickly—capture this time with the purchase of this blanket!

JEAN AND MARYHELEN



DAY AT DISNEYLAND

Jean and husband Peter Drinkwine will take two children for a fun-filled day at Disneyland.



A YEAR IN THE LIFE...

Get a precious glimpse into your child's daily life with this photo journal of your child's Montessori experience from September to June. *(For students in Jean and Marybelen's class only.)*

EMILY



MIR SPECIAL-EDITION FAMILY GAME NIGHT BUNDLE

Enjoy family game night with a deck of playing cards, the classic elimination game *Guess Who?*, a memory game, and a homemade chess set, all customized to feature students from Emily and Molly's class. Children's pictures adorn the playing cards, *Guess Who?* characters, and memory game cards. The homemade wooden chess set was handcrafted by students with guidance from master woodworker Peter Drinkwine. These games are truly unique and a must have for a fun night in with the kids!

AEDÍN



CHILD'S READING CHAIR

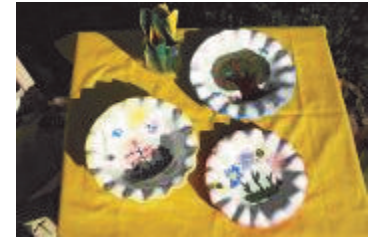
Child's soft reading chair stuffed and decorated by the children. Accompanied by a snuggling blanket, reading buddy, and a basket of toddler-friendly books. Perfect for a child-friendly reading nook in your home!

KRISTIN



MAKE THE KID'S TABLE THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE

Take home this sweet children's table with two matching chairs and seat covers, reversible tablecloth, and four matching cloth napkins. The table is accompanied by a set of four glasses and four ceramic dish sets that include a large plate, small plate, and bowl, each decorated in whimsical nature scenes with MIR children's fingerprints.



WORKS IN PROGRESS OR NOT PICTURED

Many items were not yet ready to be photographed or were still in progress when photographed. Be sure to ask your teacher to see your child's auction item! Many will also be on display in the school lobby along with the baskets for the silent auction.

KARA/DORAMA



ONE-OF-A-KIND COOKBOOK

All year, the children have carefully recorded the recipes for the tasty creations they've cooked up each Friday for snack. We have gathered their favorites into a special cookbook, decorated with beautiful snapshots of the children at work, and provided a child-friendly cooking set to allow you to share this experience with them at home.

Baby-sitting Service Can Help Find Care for the Big Night

Elementary assistant Bobbi (Margaretann and Nicole's class) offers a baby-sitting referral service to help you find care for the Spring Gala or other nights. Information is below.



FAMILIES...

How often have you had to cancel an evening out or turn down an invitation due to inadequate child care? Well that's where we come in!! We are a PROFESSIONAL BABYSITTING REFERRAL SERVICE that is setting a new and exciting standard for sitting services. We do ALL of the leg work. You no longer have to make phone calls to end up with no sitter. Make one phone call or send one email to us and we'll take care of the rest.

See how you can become a member by visiting www.need-a-sitter.com today!!

Serving:
Beaumont, Calimesa, Highland, Loma Linda, Mentone, Redlands, and Yucaipa.

Jean and Maryhelen's Class Sow Love

For the past two years, Jean and Maryhelen's class have for-gone the traditional Valentine's Day celebration of treats in favor of using the day as an opportunity to teach children the importance of giving to others.

Instead, parents donated \$2, which was used to purchase pots, soil, and flowers. The kids prepared the pots with soil and planted the flowers. The class then loaded up a wagon with the plants and delivered them to residents of the nearby Mission Commons retirement community, along with about four songs. The "Grandmas and Grandpas" were filled with joy and the class promised to visit again soon.



Calling All GIS Geeks (Or Anyone Talented with Computers and Maps)

The MIR facilities committee is in need of a map of our campus showing the campus as a whole as well as a map separating the different playgrounds and surrounding areas. GIS experts with a willingness to volunteer can help us go further by assisting with developing data and maps for our facilities (CAD and GIS), which would allow us to better manage our property for the long run. **If you can help, please contact Jill McDermott or Maryhelen Campa.**

(Continued from page 2)

Through-Redlands on April 18 as part of the Bluebird Running Club, and we invite you to join us! This is a good race for all levels. You can walk or run, and strollers are allowed. The race starts at the Redlands Mall and finishes at the historic Redlands Bowl.

If you would like to participate, registration forms are available in the office. The 5K rate is \$25, due by April 13. All proceeds are donated to local charities and youth scholarships. Contact Jean Bonner-Drinkwine at 909-241-8100 or see Emily Fitzgerald for additional information.



MIR PE Teacher is Picture of Health

MIR physical education teacher Rachel Mickelson is featured on infused owater peach mango bottle labels in tribute to her healthy lifestyle and community involvement in promoting health among families. "Rachel is just an incredible athlete and is very involved as a mom and also as an educator," said Amy Mueller, director of sponsorship for owater. "She finds time to be active and be healthy and share her love and passion for the various sports she competes in. We think that is admirable, impressive and inspiring." Way to go Rachel!

Bluebird Bike-a-thon Raises More than \$1,300

On Friday, February 20th, 35 MIR students and 10 adults took to the Santa Ana River Bicycle Trail in the first Bluebird Bike-A-Thon. The students organized the Bike-a-thon to raise funds to purchase and install bike racks for the school campus to promote bicycle riding.

The students are currently pouring over catalogs and checking the internet to find suitable bike racks. The students also plan to use \$100 of the money to purchase an acre of rain forest to save it from development.

Due to the success of the Bike-A-Thon, there has been interest in forming a MIR Bicycle Club for students and parents. If you are interested in being a part of this, please e-mail Ellen in the office at ellen.camarillo@montessoriinredlands.org.

MIR cyclists are also encouraged to take part in the Redlands Bicycle Classic public races on Saturday, March 28. Register online at www.redlandsclassic.com. Wear your MIR bluebird t-shirts and show your school pride!



It Figures: One Parent Learns the Practical Value of Math at *Journey & Discovery*

By Steve Wuhs, Assistant Professor, Department of Government, University of Redlands

For me, it was all about the binomial cube.

You remember: $(a+b)^2$, right? It's algebra, algebra that was drummed into my head so well that even after a good 20 years of mathematical atrophy I could still recall the solution: $a^2 + 2ab + b^2$. I was quite proud of myself for remembering, actually. That said, I was a little surprised to see the binomial cube in the *Elementary* room at MIR during Journey & Discovery, since I was pretty sure that I learned the binomial function in junior high. Even more troubling was that trinomial version, which I could not dredge up from my memory.

With a little assistance from my friend Kate, though, I figured out the trinomial cube, and in the process figured out something important about Montessori education. **It turns out that the binomial/trinomial functions actually have problem-solving value. Put into three-dimensional form, it actually helps one understand volume. Who knew?** And my son Teo, just turning four, is working on the 3-D puzzle now in Jean and Maryhelen's class—absent formulas and formalization, but the building blocks are there.

That was lesson number one about Montessori from Toddler through the Grove High School—that there are substantial and deliberate continuities among the levels of Montessori education.

The second lesson I took away from my day related to the marriage of logic, skills, and content. This was also evident in the binomial square, of course: Through it, students learn to manipulate objects, solve three-dimensional puzzles, compute volume, and represent volume in abstract, mathematical forms. The square is part of a continuum in how arithmetic is learned in Primary, how Elementary students learn geometry, and how science is used at the Farm. (I'm quite certain that my daughter Mara is encountering something similar in Liana and Kim's room—but I was on the upper tour while my wife did the lower tour.)

At MIR, we often hear about the centrality of the whole child to the Montessori education, and I certainly saw evidence of that holistic approach that Saturday. But what really struck me was that the model of education I discovered that day was so purposive: Disciplines informed each other, learning happened for a reason, and students were encouraged by environment and teachers alike to uncover what they wanted from their educations.

(Continued from page 1)

and honed their skills in creative problem solving. Sir Ken contends that the technological revolution is just beginning and that the old industrial model of education does a poor job of preparing our children for this new world. Instead, children should be given as much opportunity as possible to explore and discover, work with their hands, and move. Does this sound familiar?

At the conference, Sir Ken applauded the work of Maria Montessori and her innovation in seeing beyond the established educational format and recognizing the creative potential in children. In the Montessori environment, attention is given to the many aspects of the human person, including, but not limited to, the academic intellect.

If you are interested in hearing Sir Ken Robinson speak, check out his presentation on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iG9CE55wbtY>. I promise it will be 20 of the most entertaining minutes of your week.

MIR Receives the Gift of a Pondless Waterfall

MIR offers sincere thanks to parent Eric Triplett, "The Pond Digger," for his generous assistance in designing and installing our new pondless waterfall. The waterfall is situated in the garden area of the playground behind Jean and Maryhelen's Primary classroom and offers students a quiet, restful place for reflection.



BIRTHDAYS



students

Aulestia Adrian-Gaus	3/1
Taj Hoo	3/1
Abbey Umali	3/2
Catherine Mikhailova	3/4
Taylor Triplett	3/4
Eric Chue	3/5
Julien Ortega	3/6
Calder Ray-Fearon	3/6
Youngmin Kim	3/7
Nathan Law	3/7
Teo Wuhs	3/7
Sarah Najjar	3/8
Jeshurun James	3/9
Roland Dockham	3/10
Matthew Mikhailov	3/10
Joven Khera	3/11
Marc Hage	3/12
Christopher Macdonald	3/13
Chloe Pang	3/13
Madeline Tilton	3/13
Logan Wells	3/16
Aaron Bautista	3/17
Kaleo Loh	3/17
Julia Martin	3/18
Sunny Hudson	3/21
Simon Owen	3/22
Thomas Van Esch	3/29

staff

Nikki Delgado	3/5
Peter Dow	3/13

Bluebird Bulletin is published by Montessori in Redlands, 1890 Orange Ave., Redlands, CA 92373, License number 360910803-4-5. © 2009. To submit an article or picture, send it to Lisa Kensok at lisa.kensok@montessoriinredlands.org or bring it to the MIR office.

Observations Scheduled for Parents of Children Moving to Elementary

There are two scheduled parent observation dates for students transitioning from Primary to Elementary in the 2009-10 school year. On Wednesday, March 18 and Tuesday, March 24, both beginning at 9:00 AM, Head of School Maura Joyce will host a group observation and follow up meeting with parents. Please call the office to inform them of the day you will attend.

Parent/Teacher Conferences To Be Held This Month

Conferences for all ages and classes will be held Thursday and Friday, March 26 and 27. You will receive a progress report for your child and be able to discuss each academic and social/emotional area one-on-one with your child's teachers.

This is your opportunity to discuss your child privately with his or her teacher, without distractions. Visit the office to schedule your meeting time.

Early Registration Begins

Re-enrollment for the 2009-2010 school year occurs this month. **Families who register their students by March 31 will receive a discount on the registration fees.** After March 31, registration is first-come, first-served.

There are important changes to the tuition and discounts for next year. Please read your enrollment packet carefully. Bring your questions and comments to the Board of Trustees Open Forum to be held on Monday, March 23 at 6:30 PM.

March 2009

2 Early registration begins this week	3 Parent-Infant class, 4 PM	4	5	6 Final chance to buy discounted tickets for Spring Gala & Auction
9 Staff in-service day. No school, no childcare.	10 Parent-Infant class, 4 PM	11	12	13 Childcare forms due for Parent/Teacher conferences
16	17 Parent-Infant class, 4 PM Nicole's class field trip	18 Elementary observation, 9 AM	19	20 Coffee, Tea, & M.E., 9 AM and 4 PM Bluebird Assembly Emily's class field trip Spring Gala & Auction. March 21. 6 PM-12 AM
23 Board of Trustees Open Forum, 6:30 PM Childcare forms for Spring Break are due	24 Parent-Infant class, 4 PM Elementary observation, 9 AM	25 Parent-Infant class group discussion, 5 PM Jean/Maryhelen's class field trip	26	27 Parent/Teacher conferences. No school. Childcare available by reservation.
30	31	1	2	3
Spring Break. Childcare available by reservation.				
	Early registration ends			