

MONTESSORI CENTER SCHOOL

2014-2015 Annual Report



.....
“Whoever touches the life of the child, touches the most sensitive point of a whole, which has roots in the most distant past and climbs toward the infinite future.”

.....
-Maria Montessori

A Message from the Head of School



Dear MCS community members and supporters,

As you look at this Annual Report, I hope that you enjoy reliving all the wonderful and magical moments that happen at MCS. Moments that are made possible, in large part, due to the generous support of our community members.

MCS' mission is a noble one in that we aim to provide children with an education that will transform their lives. Our emphasis is so much more than academic. Our objective is to provide children with a well-rounded character education that will instill in them a lifelong love of learning, and the confidence to go out and make the world a better place.

This year's cover highlights the beauty of our Montessori materials, classrooms, and the power of offering children developmentally appropriate work that leads them to focus and to grow. The quote below the picture guides our daily work at the school, and also highlights how important your contributions are to MCS. When you work with children, and support their healthy development, you are impacting not only their lives, but that of the countless others. One day, these children will become citizens of the world. All of you that so generously give to our school, in all the different ways, are touching the infinite future!

On behalf of all of us at MCS, I thank you for your generous and continued support.

Patricia Colby, PhD
Head of School

.....
***"So the whole life of a child is
an advance towards perfection,
towards a great completeness."***

- Maria Montessori
.....

Montessori Center School is proud of its achievements made in the 2014-2015 school year. We are happy to provide this annual report to our parents and donors so that together we can celebrate our accomplishments and look forward to MCS' continued prosperity.





About Montessori Center School

Mission Statement

Our mission is to offer a Montessori education that encourages intellectual, social, physical, creative and moral development, preparing students for academic excellence; confident, lifelong learning; and responsible, caring lives.

Statement of Educational Philosophy

Montessori Center School's philosophy embraces the natural worlds and the panorama of cultures, knowledge and arts. It fosters respect for the individual, others and the environment as part of a well-rounded education that emphasizes intellectual, social, physical and moral development.

The Montessori approach is designed to assist the child in acquiring the necessary social skills and self confidence for each child to his or her potential. This is accomplished by building on interests, nurturing enthusiasm and making activities available to fit individual needs.

History- 49 Years and Counting!

MCS was founded in 1965 and became a nonprofit in 1971. For 49 years, we have been preparing students, 18 months through 6th grade, to graduate from our school academically and socially confident, resilient, and compassionate.



From the President of the Board of Trustees

Scott Ehrnstein

Dear Montessori families,

As my first year as Montessori Center School (MCS) Board President has come to a close, I am happy to report that our school is in good financial health, staffed with wonderful faculty and administrators, and moving closer toward achieving the dream of building our own campus. As I hope you have noticed, there have been many physical improvements to the campus including a fresh coat of paint, new tables and even a new door color for one of our classrooms. This past year, I was fortunate to be able to work closely with the school administrators and some of the MCS faculty members. Without exception, I have found them to be motivated, passionate individuals with high integrity. They are a very strong team.

I expect my second year as Board President to continue to be interesting and rewarding. We have a very strong Board of Trustees comprised of an outstanding group of MCS supporters with a wide variety of skills. For the 2014-2015 school year, there were 12 board members and six committees: Executive, Finance, Development, Trustee, New Campus, and Head of School Search committees. By participating in one of these committees, trustees help support, improve and guide MCS.

While all of the committees are important, of particular interest to both the parents and faculty are the newly formed Head of School Search Committee and the New Campus Committee. The creation of the Head of School Search Committee was precipitated by the sad news that our wonderful Head of School, Dr. Patricia Colby will be leaving us. Thankfully, Dr. Colby is working closely with our Head of School Search Committee to find the next leader to guide our school. As the year progresses, we will include representatives from both the MCS faculty and MCS families in the hiring process. As promised, you will be updated as progress occurs.



Our New Campus Committee continues to work diligently toward bringing the dream of building our own campus to life. While this process is complicated and slow, the New Campus Committee team is meeting the challenge of analyzing and responding to complex issues which arise when developing land in Santa Barbara. I encourage you look at the beautiful architectural rendering of the proposed campus online at www.mcspb.org/about/mcs-hollister-campus-site and help, however you are able, to bring this dream to fruition.

As we enter our 50th year, I am thankful that our students are blessed to benefit from this truly amazing learning institution. I encourage those of you with younger children to watch the Brown Door kids either on the playground or in the classroom. They are a testament to fine parenting and our exceptional school. This year, I look forward to being a part of a team that has and continues to enable MCS to flourish and which is the nexus between an exemplary past and a hopeful future.

Respectfully and gratefully yours,

Scott Ehrnstein
Board President

Meet the Board of Trustees 2014-2015



Scott Ehrnstein
President



Lindsay Shinn
Vice President



Brian Johnson
Secretary



Dale Haslem
Treasurer



Rashi Bahri



Jeff Brookshire



Ken Cohen



Suzanne Cohen



Greg Jensen



Nicki Parr



Steven Schott



Andrew Vesper

.....
*Imagination does not become great until human
beings, given the courage and the strength,
use it to create."*

– Maria Montessori

.....

Interview with Lori and Mazy Ostovany

“There are so many opportunities at MCS. Thinking outside of the box, embodying respect, and individualism are all qualities that collectively contribute to a confident, grounded and reflective human being.”

What drew you to MCS?

We first learned about MCS because our niece and nephew had been attending the school. Then, after touring MCS ourselves, we just couldn't believe how it felt like such an enriching sanctuary compared to any other school we visited. Immediately we were struck by the overall positive energy, beautiful campus and organized classrooms. From the indoor to outdoor spaces, MCS truly radiated a happy aura.



When did you start?

Even though we immediately fell in love with MCS, our oldest son, Noah, who was 3 at the time, was placed on the waiting list for the fall of 2004 because there were no openings. That was stressful! All that summer, we were on pins and needles, debating whether or not to sign a contract with another school to secure him a place. The day before that contract was due, we received a wonderful call from Dell Barden, then MCS Admissions Director, letting us know a spot had opened up for Noah. We were ecstatic! Noah began that fall, Sophia followed at 2-years-old in 2005, then Luca at 2-years-old in 2010.

What made you choose the Montessori Method?

Although we did not necessarily choose MCS because it was a Montessori school, we immediately began to appreciate that fact. We embraced that the classrooms had children of varying ages, that our kids could follow their own peaks of interest, with gentle guidance of course, and that the focus was on independent thought and feeding curiosity. We also respected there was really no distinction between 'work' and 'play'. Such a specialized and individualized educational experience, within a society that tends to be fairly dogmatic, continues to be refreshing to us.

What makes you volunteer at the school?

Having personal connections with the programs and activities at MCS makes us feel like we, as parents, get to be a part of it all too! Whether it's volunteering time in the library for the past decade, being asked into the classroom to make raviolis, carve pumpkins, build decoy bee hives to deter wasps, make animal sounds (thank you Mazy!), or driving to the various field trips, we feel good helping. It's another way to be connected with our kids and their Montessori moments.

As a donor, how do you see your donations being used?

It's important for us that the school we fell in love with over a decade ago, continues to function and thrive now just as it did then. Whatever part of our donation is needed to maintain and advance that, we strongly support. It's also important to us that the faculty and staff are taken care of, the quality of the programs and specialists are supported, and the overall campus improved upon so that MCS continues to be a special, beautiful place.

What is your favorite MCS activity?

We adore the personal expression showcased in the performances and variety shows, and when it comes to our favorite school-wide event... definitely Harvest Picnic! In all our years here, we have never missed it. The kids love it and it's a great opportunity for everyone to reconnect after the school year begins. A close second would have to be the Jogathon. Our kids do have a competitive edge, so watching them try to beat their previous years' lap totals is entertaining and helps raise more money for the school.

What are one or two aspects of the learning at MCS that you hope your children will carry their entire lives?

Having had two kids graduate as 6th graders from MCS, we know that the confidence and independence they developed over all their years here will serve them well in the future. There are so many opportunities at MCS. Thinking outside of the box, embodying respect, and individualism are all qualities that collectively contribute to a confident, grounded and reflective human being.

What are some things you've learned as a parent through your experiences at MCS?

Mainly, it's so important to be part of our kids' lives. Sure, they look to us for validation, but really, we feel that it's them that validate us. We've learned that any way we can show our support to them, to remain involved and available, is enriching on so many levels.

Noah



Sophia



Luca



Annual Giving

Gifts to the Fund for MCS

We would like to acknowledge our donors who generously contributed to the 2014-2015 Fund for MCS.

Your support is not only appreciated but necessary to provide an enriching curriculum as well as to ensure the future of our school continues to shine bright.



Benefactor

\$5,000 +

Janelle and Daniel Green
Mary Kaljian
Doris and Greg McPhee
Cliff and Phyllis Ruddle

Leader

\$2,000 - \$4,999

Ed and Holly Bennett
Misook Heo and Tom Burk
Stephanie Liu and Alessandro Castellarin
Betsy and Michael Challen
Annie Pham-Cheng and George Cheng
Theresa and David Dolotta
Gaile and Dale Haslem
Christine Emanuel and Daniel Janssen
Luci and Richard Janssen
Lori and Mazy Ostovany
Renee and Nick Papadopoulos
Kim and Hugh Sutherland
Scott Vincent

Sponsor

\$1,500 - \$1,999

Leonard Chen
Citrix Systems, Inc
Kristan and Kenneth Cohen
Dario Furlati
Roberta Sengelmann-Keshen and
Tamir Keshen
Jillian and Peter Muller
Shelley and David Neubauer
Michelle and Chad Stevens

Patron

\$500-\$1,499

Shaunah and Eric Berg
Jennifer and John Berger
Maria Elosu and Robert Brace
Marilou and Bill Brace
Erin Neil and Jeff Brookshire
Emel Zaim and Bernd Christiansen
Melissa and Regas Christou
Ariana and Josh Cobb
Patricia and Steve Colby
Tricia and Thomas Corby
Julie and Scott Ehrnstein
Virginia Gardner
Saman Qadri and Usman Habib
Crystal and Gregory Jensen
Erin Leifer and Brian Johnson
Sonia and Calvin Kim
Sheri and John Mardiat
Julie Schneiderman and Carl Meinhart
Jo Moskowitz
Erin and Jon Ohlgren
Petra Strand and Tony Oppe
Theodore Polos
Immaculate and Roshan Rajappa
Madeleine Sorapure and Bob Samuels
Lisa Belluzzi and Richard Steinberg
Sarah Kempe-Mehl and Noah Stites-Hallett
Amy and George Tharakan
Yeonwook and Steve Uyeno
Tiffany Corby and Luke Werkhoven

Friend

\$250-\$499

Ingrid Bowman and Alejandro Andreatta
Ben and Naomi Bollag
Yumi and Daniel Bollag
Yiru Lin and Chiyuan Cheng
Rashi Bahri and Ashutosh Chitnis
Maria and Tyler Clark
Heather and Ryan Conolley
Nate Cultice
Shasta and Lopaka Delp
Kristina Jong and Paul Douglas
Allison Mayers-Oakes and Douglas
Duncan
Michelle Taylor and Steve Gully
Hollye and Jeff Jacobs
Kalai Kennedy
Cristina and Roy Killgore
Dhara Solanki and Sachin Lad
Jennifer and Scott Moody
Alyssa and Jordan Morris
Nicki Parr
Anne and Marcelo Rodriguez
Carole Ryan
Maggie Saunders
Abby and Steve Schott
Lindsay and Mike Shinn
Melinda Staveley
Mariaelena and Stewart Welch
Kimberly and Brian Wilson

Contributor

\$25-\$249

Brooke and Ken Barbisan
 Dell Barden
 Kevin Barthel
 Kath and Larrie Brainard
 Sarah Case and Jay Carlander
 PJ and Douglas Carmean
 Diane Gulotti and Guy Cekada
 Annalynn Clark
 James and Jeanette Collins
 Margaret McCleery Cota and Gordon Cota
 Birgit Crable
 Kacy Cristofani
 Susan Dempsay
 Richard Drake
 Nancy Dubie
 Garrett Durand
 Kelly and Leif Eason
 Elinor and Robert Emanuel
 Laury Oaks and Doug English
 John and Marilyn English
 Ellen and Brendon Evans
 Kathy Finck
 Cheryl Giordani
 Marilyn and William Gully
 Sharmila Gunasekara and Asiri DeSilva
 Patricia Haro
 Kelly Bedard and John Hartman

Inga and Patrick Hartmann
 Clarisse Hoag
 Brian Hofer
 Melanie and Rob Jacobs
 Mikki Jee
 Dawn and Joel Kaufman
 Cristina and Roy Killgore
 Gina Newell and Jens-Uwe Kuhn
 Mary Kuntsal
 Dr. Joan Seaver Kurze
 Claude-Lise Lafranque
 Sharon Liddy
 Clare and Terry Lombardi
 Denise Mabardi
 Lynda and David Martin
 Nicole May
 Rachel and Kevin McDonald
 Marc McGinnes and Seyburn Zorthian
 Cydney Miller and Michael York
 Dorothy Miller
 Shannon and Stephen Minne
 Linda and Terry Mitchell
 Irene Morales
 Melanie Newhouse

Mary and John Nixon
 Susan Pesheck
 Dr. and Mrs. Quang and Julie Pham
 Alexis Pope
 Cindy Pratt
 Georgia Pulos
 Peg Quinn
 Anne Raiter
 Shereen Ramawtar
 Rebeca Mireles-Rios and Victor Rios
 Schoola
 Sandra and Eric Seale
 Carla Shapiro
 Rachel and Andreas Simon
 Kathryn Parker
 Karen Lin Suzuki and Lloyd Suzuki
 Alexandra Stagis
 Angela and Martin Tanner
 Jody Kaufman and Bryan Thompson
 Caitlin and Joe Tufts
 Krista and Graham Williams
 Wenying Weng and Ke Zhang

Together, we raised \$113,068



Above and Beyond

Total giving - Inclusive of all gifts to MCS

There are many ways to give to MCS. We would like to recognize those donors who have made generous donations of \$1,500 or more over the 2014-2015 school year. Thank you for believing in MCS!

Benefactor

\$5,000 +

Misook Heo and Tom Burk
Annie Pham-Cheng and George Cheng
Ariana and Josh Cobb
Teddi and Reggie Drew
Janelle and Daniel Green
Gaile and Dale Haslem
Jeff and Hollye Jacobs
Christine Emanuel and Daniel Janssen
Mary Kaljian
Sheri and John Mardiat
Carol and Bob Martin
Doris and Greg McPhee
Lori and Mazy Ostovany
Cliff and Phyllis Ruddle
Kim and Hugh Sutherland
Scott Vincent



Sponsor

\$1,500 - \$1,999

Jennifer and John Berger
Dario Furlati
Roberta Sengelmann-Keshen and
Tamir Keshen
Alyssa and Jordan Morris
Jo Moskowitz
Jillian and Peter Muller
Shelley and David Neubauer
Rashmi Sethi and Prashant Rajvaidya



Leader

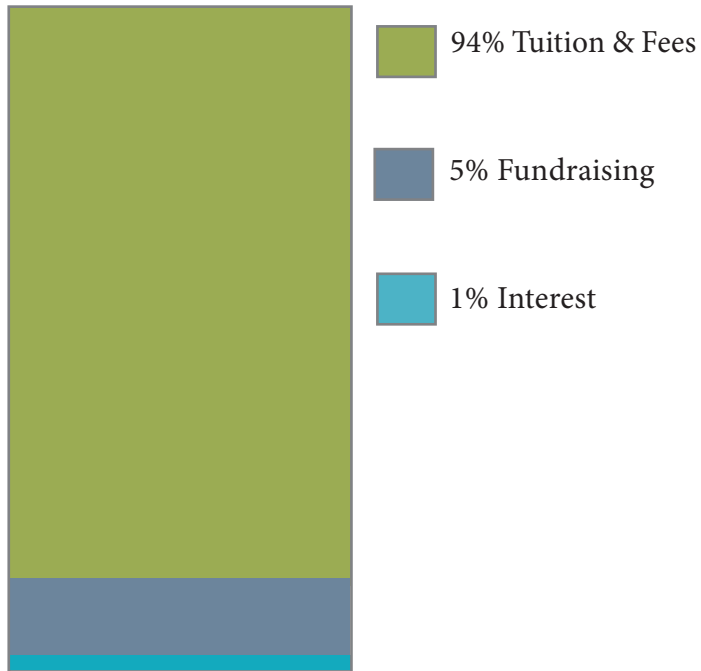
\$2,000 - \$4,999

Ed and Holly Bennett
Erin Neil and Jeff Brookshire
Stephanie Liu and Alessandro Castellarin
Betsy and Michael Challen
Leonard Chen
Emel Zaim and Bernd Christiansen
Kristan and Kenneth Cohen
Suzanne and Michael Cohen
Lisa and John Derrick
Theresa and David Dolotta
Julie and Scott Ehrnstein
Anne and Tom Goodson
Luci and Richard Janssen
Laurie and Ty Montee
Erin and Jon Ohlgren
Renee and Nick Papadopoulos
Karla and Brandon Smith
Michelle and Chad Stevens
Amy and George Tharakan
Yeonwook and Steve Uyeno

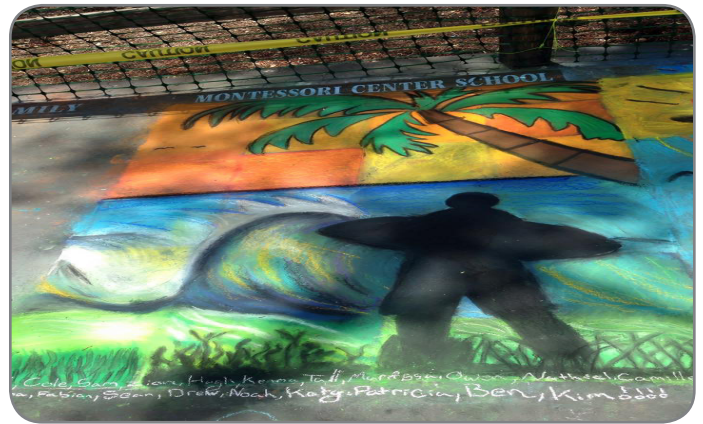
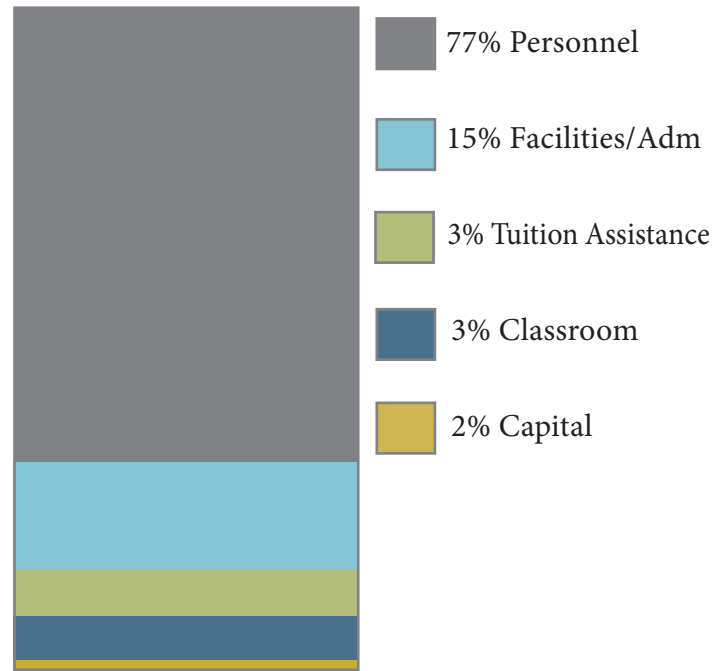


2014 2015 Financial Report

Income



Expenses



I Madonnari Festival - 6th Grade Class





We believe that children are naturally curious and eager to learn when supported by an age-appropriate curriculum and enriched learning environment that allows them to make progress at their own pace.



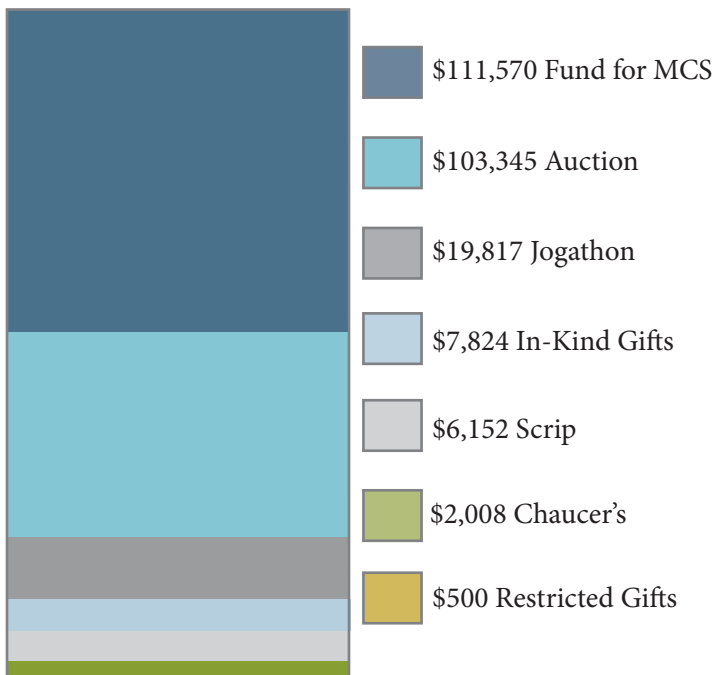
Fundraising at MCS

Tuition dollars are essential to attaining important operational goals. However, giving beyond tuition is necessary to help us reach our educational objectives and fill the “gap” between the tuition fees and the actual cost to educate students. Your generosity provides MCS the opportunity to meet our goals for the 2014-2015 school year. We are truly grateful for your investment in MCS. Every gift matters.

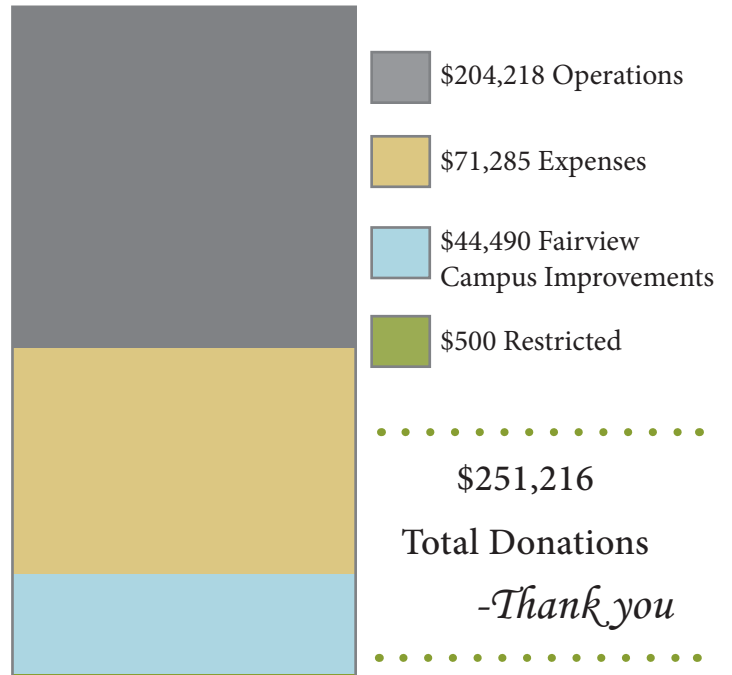


Your donations make a difference to the future of MCS and the children we serve! Fundraisers raise critical unrestricted funds that the school can devote to the most immediate need. Below you can see just how funds were allocated.

Net Fundraising Revenue



Fundraising Allocations



CLASSIC HOLLYWOOD

And the Oscar goes to...

MCS families and friends gathered on Saturday, February 28th at the Bacara Resort for the full classic Hollywood experience. They walked the red carpet, posed for the Paparazzi, and enjoyed MCS' "Oscar Awards". A committee of MPO volunteers helped to transform the Bacara Resort into an evening of classic Hollywood glamour and elegance.

The evening included dinner, drinks, dancing, and a live and silent auction. Together, we raised over \$100,000!! An Oscar worthy performance itself.

A BIG thank you to our outstanding Auction Committee!

Vanessa Decker
Melissa Christou
Anne Braumhiem
Bonnie Gerstenfeld
Laurie Montee
Peggy Polos



AUCTION SPONSORS

It takes a generous community of sponsors to put on such a successful and memorable event. We couldn't have done it without you... Thank You!

Aldo's Italian Restaurant
Ambiance Nail Care Services
Arden Associates
Aum Physical Therapy
Azure Seas Cruises
Bacara Resort & Spa
Beachside Bar and Cafe
Bicycle Bob's
Bikram Yoga Santa Barbara
Blenders in the Grass
Blue Agave
Blush Restaurant & Lounge
Brad Paisley
Bragg Live Foods
Brandi Davis Fitness
Breakwater Restaurant
Bryant & Sons Jewelers
Ca'Dario Ristorante
California Learning Center
China Pavilion
Melissa and Regas Christou
Chuck's Waterfront Grill
Circle Bar B Guest Ranch
Resort
Cloud 10 Jump
Community West Bank
Kristan and Ken Cohen
Country Catering & Meat
Market
DAWG
Denee's
Derrick Curtis
Drisht Yoga Essentials
Eladio's Restaurant
El Capitan Canyon Resort
Emotional Coaching
Endless Summer Bar - Cafe
Ensemble Theater Co
Evolutions Medical Spa
Eye and Vision Care
Fairview Car Wash
Figueroa Mountain Brewing
Co.
Fitness 805
Forever Beautiful Spa
Girls Rock SB
Goleta Valley Tennis
Academy

Granada Theatre
Guided Discoveries
Halper Fine Art
India Club
Island Packers
Jane Restaurant
John Mardiat Photography
Just 4 Fun Fitness
Kernohan's Toys
Killer B Fitness
Le Reve Spa
Lindamood Bell Learning
Processes
Louie's California Bistro
Madeleine's Photography
Margaret Cota
Michelle and Tim Kirkelie
Cydney Miller
Montecito YMCA
Montessori Services
Morello Wines
Jillian and Peter Muller
My Gym
Old Spanish Days Fiesta
Olio e Limone & Olio
Pizzeria
Pacific Wealth Strategies
Group
Painted Cabernet
The Pantry
Peg Quinn
Ranch of the Golden Hawk
Redbox
Salon Patine
San Ysidro Ranch
Santa Barbara Adventure
Company
Santa Barbara Auto Group
Santa Barbara Cavi-Lipo
Santa Barbara Children's
Dental Practice
Santa Barbara Gymnastics
Club
Santa Barbara Museum of
Art
Santa Barbara Rock Gym
Santa Barbara Skin Institute
Santa Barbara Symphony

Santa Barbara Tamales to Go
Santa Barbara Trolley
Company
Santa Barbara YMCA
SB Museum of Natural
History
Santa Barbara Training
Segway of Santa Barbara
Shalhoob Meat Co.
Skin Dance Spa
Skydive Santa Barbara
Sweat Outdoors
Swim with Phyn
The Oaks at Ojai
The Stonehouse Restaurant
UCSB Arts and Lectures
UCSB Athletics
Upham Hotel
Wency Elaine Dog & Puppy
Training
Wheel Fun Rentals
Yogurtland



Montessori Center School's Brown Door Production of

A Special Thank You...

Peg Quinn- Set
Claude-Lise LaFranque- Music
Derrick Curtis- Choreography
Abby Schott- Costumes
Jolie Kocmur- Costumes
Claudia St. George- Costumes
Tara Miller- Costumes
Stephanie Liu- Costumes
Bonnie Gerstenfeld- Costumes &
Performance Help



Produced and Directed By Kellyn Johnson

Sophia Colby- Spotlight
George Tharakan- Performance
Help
Michelle Stevens- Performance
Help
Claire Lawrence- Performance Help
Amber Miller- Stage Manager
Kenna Sutherland- Costumes
Kate Vesper- Costumes
Kim Sutherland- Costumes &
Performance Help



HARVEST PICNIC

The MPO hosted this community event which brought the whole school together to enjoy an afternoon of fun!

Activities included a bake walk, carnival games, crafts, a petting zoo, face painting and great food!



UNITED NATIONS DAY

UN Day at MCS was a unique celebration which acknowledged the richness of cultural diversity and honored those who work towards creating a peaceful world. All MCS students gathered, surrounded by flags of many nations to sing songs of peace and greet the peace dove.

JOGATHON

MCS' students, parents and staff put on their crazy socks and raised record breaking funds for our school by running, jogging and walking laps around the elementary field.

This was an event the students looked forward to all year long!



SCIENCE NIGHT

This was an evening of discovery for the entire MCS community, bringing children, parents and teachers together for hands-on science experiments. A variety of local science based organizations displayed exhibits for students to learn about and explore the sciences.

“Free the child’s potential and you transform him into the world.” -Maria Montessori



Special Recognition

Montessori Center School would like to thank Mary Kuntsal for 27 years of exemplary service in library science.

Her passion for reading inspired generations of students.

We wish Mary all the best in her retirement!

2014-2015 Faculty and Staff



Administration

Patricia Colby PhD, Head of School
 Birgit Crable, Business Manager
 Garrett Durand, Director of Development
 Alyssa Morris, Director of Admissions
 Cindy Pratt, Office Manager
 Melanie Newhouse, Assoc. Administrator
 & Director of Student Support
 Shereen Ramawtar, Bookkeeper
 Steve Diaz, Groundskeeper

Pre-Primary

Gold Door

Margaret McCleery Cota, Head Teacher
 Sharmila Gunasekara, Assistant Teacher
 Wook Uyeno, Assistant Teacher

White Door

Nicole Staska, Head Teacher
 Sandy Gorman, Head Teacher
 Suki Contreras, Assistant Teacher

Primary

Blue Door

Dell Barden, Head Teacher
 Pat Haro, Assistant Teacher

Navy Door

JoAnn Serpa, Head Teacher
 Krista Williams, Assistant Teacher

Red Door

Mikki Jee, Head Teacher
 Sharon Liddy, Assistant Teacher

Silver Door

Kacy Cristofani, Head Teacher
 Carla Shapiro, Assistant Teacher

Yellow Door

Clarisse Hoag, Head Teacher
 Danylli Brown, Assistant Teacher

Lower Elementary

Gray Door

Anne Raiter, Head Teacher
 Cheryl Giordani, Assistant Teacher

Green Door

Irene Morales, Head Teacher
 Alexandra Stagis, Assistant Teacher

Orange Door

Rick Drake, Head Teacher
 Nicole May, Assistant Teacher

Purple Door

Melanie Jacobs, Head Teacher
 Ellen Evans, Assistant Teacher

Upper Elementary

Brown East

Loric Box, Head Teacher
 Nancy Dubie, Assistant Teacher

Brown North

Cydney Miller, Head Teacher
 Amber Miller, Assistant Teacher

Brown West

Kim Keller-Box, Head Teacher
 Katy Parker, Assistant Teacher

After School Care

Coreen Snow
 Peggi Robinson
 Kathy Finck
 Caitlin Tufts
 Dorothy Miller
 Annalyn Clark
 Suki Contreras

Specialists

Peg Quinn, Art
 Mary Kuntsal, Library
 Alexis Pope, Library
 Crystal Jensen, Library
 Caitlin Tufts, Spanish
 Claude-Lise La Franque, Music
 Derrick Curtis, Physical Education
 Kellyn Johnson, Drama and Theater
 Francis Cosworth, Computer and
 Technology



Montessori Center School
401 N. Fairview Ave., Suite #1
Goleta, CA 93117