

A I u m N e w s l e t t e r



Montessori
International
Children's
House

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October 2012

Foundations and Future

This was a summer of change as we saluted Jean Burgess on her retirement. Family, friends, the extended MICH community thanked her for making a home a House! Words are not enough to express how lucky we were to establish MICH's foundation for the future under Jean's guidance.



See How We've Changed!

As it has through all its years, MICH underwent a transformation this summer as we gave our house a facelift! A large entrance and foyer now welcome everyone. Gone is the single, narrow, original exterior staircase to the lower level. In its place is a wide, safe stairway lit by two skylights that also add daylight to the lower level via two glass panels in the lower level wall. The area under the staircase has quickly become a favorite space for Upper Elementary students to practice performances/presentations – yes it really is big enough! This new almost three story high space is also the perfect gallery for our graduate photos.



Welcome to Elizabeth Whitaker!

The building is not all that changed this summer. After a period of transition, Elizabeth Whitaker became our Administrative Director on June 18th. Elizabeth brings a wealth of administrative experience to MICH. She received her Master of Business Administration from the University of Illinois in 1997 where she was a member of Beta Gamma Sigma academic honor society. Her extensive background includes a managerial position at the Ronald McDonald House in Madison, Wisconsin; a Development Specialist with University of Illinois, College of Engineering; and successive positions as Customer Service Manager, Human Resources Coordinator, Controller and Project Manager with MarsVenus.com and AskMarsVenus.com, companies specializing in relationship coaching. Most recently, Elizabeth was the Practice Manager for four medical practices comprised of 13 providers generating annual revenues in excess of \$5,000,000.

Of equal importance is her knowledge and support of MICH. Elizabeth served as Treasurer on the Board of Directors for five years with responsibility for developing school budgets, audit review, and evaluating financial statements as well as chairing the Finance Committee.

Her knowledge of MICH is also very personal as her two children, Claire and Jacob, attended MICH for thirteen years and are proud MICH alumni!

Our future is bright with Elizabeth at the helm.



Alum Updates ...

Don't see your name? It must be because we don't know what you are doing but we want to! Please email information and pictures to mking@montessorinternational.org

Ryan Atkinson is a senior at Indian Creek Upper School and plays varsity soccer. He is looking forward to lacrosse season. He has committed to Monmouth University in NJ to play Division I lacrosse and study Biology/Pre-Med.



Ben Atkinson is a freshman at Indian Creek Upper School and plays JV soccer and is looking forward to playing lacrosse in the spring.

Sarah Baker was named a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist.

Dakari Brown appeared as Sebastian in Indian Creek's Broadway Bound Camp production of *The Little Mermaid*.

Bethanne Albert-Bruninga ('99) just started a PhD program in Ecology and Evolution at Rutgers University in New Jersey, and is engaged (wedding will be June 2013) to Jacob Socolar, a fellow graduate of Swarthmore College who is now a PhD student at Princeton University. Photo was taken in the Chiricahua mountains in southeast Arizona where they went on a month-long road trip last year.



Martha Campbell ('10) played Shirley in the Children's Theatre of Annapolis' production of *Get Smart*.



In 2009 **Michael Cassidy** ('98) graduated from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, majoring in history, with minors in political science, psychology, and leadership. He was a member of the Corps of Cadets. A 4-year member of Navy ROTC, he was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy upon graduation, and accepted into pilot training. After postings at Pensacola, Florida, Enid, Oklahoma, and Meridian, Mississippi, Lieutenant Junior Grade Cassidy completed pilot training in June 2012 and has been assigned to the Naval Air Station at Oceana, Virginia (Virginia Beach), and will train on the Hornet (single-seat F18) for the next phase of his training.

In 2011 **Sean Cassidy** graduated from Yorktown High School in Arlington, Virginia, and achieved Eagle Rank in the Boy Scouts of America. For his Eagle Project, he organized a pancake breakfast at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, raised more than \$1,000, and donated more than 700 pounds of nutritious food to the Arlington food bank. He's completed his first year at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, and plans to teach history at the high school level and coach baseball. He has umpired for Arlington Little League Baseball for six years. This past summer he returned to Little League Camp in Williamsport, Pennsylvania as a coach, and will umpire in a Little League 50/70 tournament at Cooperstown Dreams Park, New York.

Monica Anselm ('90) **Garcia** and hubby are living at the YMCA Trout Lodge and Camp Lakewood, in Potosi, MO. Monica is working at the camp store as well and as a Primary Assistant one day a week at Des Peres Montessori in St. Louis.



Check out **Rachel Gawell's** music group at www.ballroomthieves.com

Meg Graham started graduate school (landscape architecture) this fall at University of Virginia.

Cormac Graham is back in Brooklyn and continues to work for Julie Mehretu.

Lana Humes ('08) was on the Spring Track & Field team at Severn School. She made the IAAM All Conference team, and placed 3rd in the 400 meter IAAM State finals. Her Severn team is the IAAM-B Conference Champion with an undefeated season.



Lana, far left, on her Arundel Soccer Association team – winners of the Seaside Classic held in Rhode Island in July 2012.

AJ Himes graduated from Washington College with a BA in Business Management. He interned at NBC/Saturday Night Live and the Direct Marketing Association Education Fund in NYC. He is now the manager at the new Under Armour's store in West Ocean City, MD.

Sarah Killian was the valedictorian at Annapolis High School this past June and is attending Tufts University.

Lexi Kubisiak attends the University of West Virginia.



Hola from beautiful San Miguel de Allende, Mexico! **Rowan and Tristan Jackson** are enjoying their year abroad. In these pictures, Tristan is climbing an Otomi pyramid and Rowan is joining the "Cavalcade of Conspirators" in an Independence Day parade. Their favorite experience so far, though, was releasing balloons to "decorate the sky," as Tristan put it, on the inaugural day of their new school, La Academia Internacional de San Miguel de Allende. Viva Mexico!

Maggie Mei Lewis ('05) has been busy with work and classes and hopes to transfer to University of Maryland College Park next year. She just became a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society due to her 4.0 GPA.

Andrea Minot returned from Uganda where she lived with her family for the last two years. She is now in ninth grade at the Key School. Andrea is involved in club activities with MICH alumnus Claire Tucker.

Alex Minot returned from Uganda where he was living with his family for the last two years. He is now in sixth grade at the Key School.

Drew Newman ('02) is in her senior year at the University of South Carolina.

Grace Newman is studying at Anne Arundel Community College.

Congratulations to **Meghan Burgess O'Brien** and husband, Patrick, on the birth of their first child. Ellyn Katherine O'Brien was born on 10-13-12 at 9:58 pm, weighing in at 7 lb. 7oz. Everyone is doing great – including grandmom and dad – Jean and Scott Burgess.



Nicholas Rossetti is once again playing varsity soccer, as a forward, for Broadneck High School and is currently enrolled in the AACC Jump Start program, taking one business class three days a week in preparation for his transition to college. He remains single preferring to pursue his passion of playing soccer and concentrating on his studies. Nicholas is pictured with his cousins, Taylor and Alex, during their recent Annual End Of Summer Party.

... when last we heard

Caroline Steele ('12) played at the American Fine Arts Festival at Lincoln Center in New York City in June. Her selection was entitled "Gathering Berries." Caroline studies piano with Liliya Kasimova.



Lizzie Sughrue ('02) has been inducted into Psi Chi, the International Honor Society for psychology majors.

Carl Tucker ('11) and **Jonah Svendsen** ('12) stopped by to help the 6th years set up the Upper Elementary classroom.



Claire Whitaker helped out at the Back to School Picnic this year. Claire competed in the 2012 Water Polo Junior Olympics in Stanford, California in August. Her team placed 2nd in the gold division, and she was named as an honorable mention All-American in the competition.



This year's graduates got together this summer for a week long canoeing trip at Echo Hill Outdoor School!

From left: Jacob Whitaker, Jonah Svendsen, Caroline Steele, and Maggie Campbell

Staff Updates

Bernadette Bolte is now teaching at the Ambrint International School in Rome.

Elena Coe has retired to spend more time with family especially the grandchildren. Her grandson, Benjamin, is now a student at MICH.

Leona Schultz has taken a position at St. Martin's in-the-Field as a resource teacher.

Colette Tetterer retired in June and proclaims that she doesn't miss us! Of course, she goes on to say that she means getting up early and getting to work – that she misses all the staff and students!

We are grateful for all they have done for MICH and its students and wish them all the best in their new endeavors!



ENTRY VIEW



MONTESSORI INTERNATIONAL
CHILDREN'S HOUSE
1641 Winchester Road Annapolis, Maryland 21409



2011- 2012 Annual Fund



Thank you for Giving MICH a Facelift!
Once again the generosity of MICH parents and our extended family of grandparents, alumni families, foundations, and businesses have made MICH better for its students and families.

Grandparents

Mr. Millard Alexander & Ms. Lee Henry
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Cronin
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Danek
Mr. and Mrs. John Goodrow
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Gotterer
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Goudounis
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Henton
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Mr. and Mrs. Tony Specca
Mr. and Mrs. Leigh Turner
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Walden
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ward
Mr. and Mrs. Pat Woodward

Staff

Nancy Anselm
Jean Burgess
Jessica Carzon
Elena Coe
Anthea Cooper
Janice Jiles
Chris Kelley
Margo King *
Jamie Kirk
May Ann Little
Marge Lohmann
Pam Mitra
Sylvia Provencher
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Colette Tettemer
Lisa Tomlinson
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[What's Cooking at MICH?](#)

[Annual Fund News for this year!](#)

Alums - We Could Use Your Help

Secret Shop – December 2nd, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

There are a variety of ways that you can help – Shopping Assistants with the younger students, Check-in, Packaging gifts, etc. Please email Margo King if you are interested – mking@montessorinternational.org.

Post us on your Facebook Page

We would love to know what MICH alums are doing but we can't contact them if we do not have their emails. It would be great if you would note on your page that we are trying to get updates on everyone. They can email Margo King at mking@montessorinternational.org.

Babysitting List

If you are interested in being on a babysitting list for our current parents, please email Margo King with your contact information (mking@montessorinternational.org).

Mark Your Calendars

MICH Auction

May 11, 2013

Loews Annapolis

We're on Facebook!

Please like us – really like us! . . . on facebook. We are listed as Montessori International Children's House (MICH). You can easily get to our page by clicking the link on the homepage of our website – www.montessorinternational.org. Stay in touch with us via facebook.

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To see a full color version of the Alumni Newsletter, visit our website at www.montessorinternational.org → Alumni



Ties That Bind

A sense of community, support and caring filled the glorious early morning air when MICH staff and friends joined Sylvia Provencher (Team Sylvia) September 29th for the Run/Walk Break the Silence on Ovarian Cancer. Sylvia was diagnosed last August and spent last year going through chemotherapy, surgery, and recovery. We are all thankful that she is doing well and is back working at MICH this school year! Trish DiPietri Brewer (a MICH parent) and her mom (a 5 year survivor!) were also at the walk. Laura Stomski (alum parent) and **Jackii Stomski** ('09) ran the 5K in support of her mom-in-law, Doris. **Mara Fleming** (MICH alum who is currently a senior at Savannah College of Art & Design) designed a beautiful scarf to be used for fundraising. Who knew we had these connections beyond MICH!

Most importantly our collective efforts helped increase awareness of this disease. Every survivor has stories of how knowing about the symptoms helped them get diagnosed early or how they wish they had known about the symptoms earlier. So we wanted to share with you – information that survivors want you to know - <http://www.ovarian.org/symptoms.php>

How Does Our Garden Grow? - Wonderfully!

Thanks to Mae Kate Campbell ('07)! For the past two summers Mae Kate, with help from family & friends, has transformed our student vegetable garden area. Mae Kate took on this project to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award. From tilling the soil to building the planters, mulching the area, supervising plantings, braving the long hot summers to seed and water – and if that was not enough, she has continued to oversee her project – sharing her skills and knowledge with the elementary students!



What's Cooking at MICH? A New Kitchen!

Well we have decided that we are gluttons for punishment – this coming summer we will once again be serenaded by the sound of jackhammers, enveloped in clouds of drywall dust, and type in time to a cacophony of hammers! We will be reconfiguring the inner hallway next to office, building a new kitchen, and increasing storage and display space. The kitchen will no longer be a hallway with appliances. The new dedicated space will be a much better classroom for our students – specifically designed for our youngest and oldest students to enjoy. Pallets of folding chairs will no longer grace the large group room and water bottles will no longer be objets d'art in the kitchen and hallways.

These exciting new plans are only achievable with the help of our extended family – we hope that current parents, alumni parents, grandparents, and friends will help us make this a reality by making a contribution to the Annual Fund. If you do – it is a perfect recipe for success!

Congratulations to our newest Graduates!



We bid a very bittersweet farewell to our graduates: (from left) Maggie Campbell, Caroline Steele, Jonah Svendsen, and Jacob Whitaker. Collectively they represent 37 years of MICH education! We have been privileged to see them grow from tiny tots to remarkable young people that we are very proud to call MICH graduates.

These graduates represent all that we want our graduates to attain. They love to learn, they are sure of themselves, they embrace life, they care about others, and they are joyful.

We look forward to their continued success!

A THANK YOU NOTE FROM THE 6TH YEAR PARENTS

When our children leave school this Friday, it will be with a mixture of joy and sadness. MICH has been their community, and ours, for many years. Jacob, Maggie, Caroline and Jonah have learned so much here, from a simple lesson on table washing to those challenging algebra equations. They have learned how to express their deepest thoughts through poetry and stay within budget when shopping for food.

We are thankful that they've had the opportunity to be part of this community and are very glad we stayed through the Upper Elementary years. UE is the jewel in the crown of a Montessori education. It is there that all the lessons and preparation from Primary and Lower Elementary seem to come together as the children delve into math, science, geography, history of ancient civilizations and so much more. Our children very much wanted to complete their 6th year at MICH and we, as parents, are especially grateful for this last year. The children would likely say they've learned a lot, made good friends and had fun. They would talk about putting on the class play, camping overnight and hiking the Appalachian Trail. We agree with all that - - but would add that during this year the four of them have grown in confidence, leadership, teamwork and responsibility. We have found there is much magic and wonder in the 6th year!

Our heartfelt thanks go to the Toddler, Primary, LE and UE directresses and assistants for what you've helped our children learn. Our appreciation extends to the rest of the staff as well because all of you have influenced the children in a positive way. They leave MICH with a love of learning, a compassion for others, a sense of responsibility for the world around them and friendships that will last a lifetime. Thank you so very much!

The Campbell, Steele, Svendsen and Whitaker families