

AUGUST 2014

# MISSOULA VALLEY MONTESSORI

WHERE CHILDREN COME FIRST

## Dear MVM Families,

Summer is winding down and soon we will be launching our sixth year at MVM! We are really looking forward to another year of learning, laughter, and fun. It is always exciting to get to know new students, but also to continue on the journey we have started with returning students.

We have some exciting announcements to share with you from new teachers and assistants to new curriculum areas and important upcoming events. If you have any questions about anything, please do not hesitate to call or email us. We strongly believe that communication is the key to a successful school.



## Fun in the Garden

Our 2014 Summer Program was great fun, with our merry band of children playing both in and outdoors with enthusiasm, creativity and spirit! Our garden plots provided ample material for plant care and harvesting, as well as subject matter for each child's individual 'Nature Journal'. In her journal, one young lady placed the query, "How do the plants drink the water?", while another stated, "I love the blue flowers. I will share them." We also enjoyed Sprinkler Days, music circles and loads of laughter. Thank you to our families who were able to participate in making our Summer Program a success!



## MVM MEET & GREET NIGHT -August 19th from 5:00-7:00

This evening is a combination of our annual Welcome Picnic and Back to School Night. We will begin by talking to parents about logistical matters while the assistants watch your children on the playground.

**We encourage ALL parents to attend.** We are making some changes that we need to share with everyone. After we finish going over important information with all of you...it's time to eat! **If your last name begins with A-M please bring a main dish. If your name begins with N-Z please bring a side dish.** We will provide drinks, cutlery, and dessert! Thank you in advance for your help. We are looking forward to seeing everyone gathered together!

## New Faces at MVM

We are thrilled to announce that **River Yang** will be the lead teacher in the classroom of eight primary students, otherwise known as the “little room.”

River has a Ph. D from Pennsylvania State University. She taught at the college level in both China and the U.S. and has worked extensively with young kids through volunteering at elementary schools and teaching language to children aged 3-15. A strong believer in philosophy and preschool education, River joined us as a teacher’s aide last year, fulfilling her long-cherished dream of becoming a preschool teacher. She received her Montessori teaching certificate from North American Montessori Center, and is excited to work with us as a lead teacher this year.

**Alyssa Stahl** will be an intern in the “blue room” with Kim and Kelli this year. Alyssa is getting her certification from the Montana Montessori Teacher Education Institute in Kalispell where both Kim and Maggie received their training. She is a recent graduate from the University of Montana with a B.A in Elementary Education. Alyssa lives with her husband Eric and their three cats!

## AROUND CAMPUS

\* *Alyssa Stahl, our new intern*



\* *River and her daughter Hannie*

### Returning Faces

Anna and Maggie will be reunited in the Early Learner classroom. This summer Maggie completed her Montessori teacher training. Congrats to her! Maggie started working at MVM with Anna and has been looking forward to spending her days with the youngest members of our school once again. She and Anna make a great team.

In the “green room” you will find Catherine, Jessica and Lillian. Jessica returns to MVM after welcoming baby Emma to the world last March. She will be spending her mornings in the green room. In the afternoon when Jessica goes home to

Emma, Lillian will step in as the classroom assistant.

### LOGISTICS:

Hopefully you received your contract as well as the supply list, calendar, and emergency contact form. Just a reminder that we need all forms (including immunization records) no later than the first day of school for your child. We greatly appreciate your cooperation with these logistical matters!

# Early Learners

Welcome to all our new families! We look forward to sharing the coming year with you, along with all the growth and exploration it brings. The Early Learners program is geared to meeting each child where they are developmentally and celebrating every child for who they are. We are dedicated to giving your child an optimal environment in which to learn and play. Here at MVM we want you to know that the twos aren't terrible, they're terrific!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:

#### **August 25th**

If your child has a schedule that includes Mondays then the 25th is the first day of school. Otherwise your child's first day is the 26th. The first day is always exciting but also filled with anxiety for some children and many parents. Children are extremely perceptive and they can pick up on your mood. So if you are smiling and calm then they will feel that way, too. If your child is clinging to you or crying please know we are prepared for that. We have a lot of things planned to get their attention and redirect them. Once you have turned in any supplies/paperwork (getting all of this to us prior to the first day will allow you more time to focus on your child) bring your child to his or her classroom. Feel free to spend a little time with them, but try not to linger too long. The shorter the transition, the sooner the child will adjust. Then give a big hug and wish them a great first day!

### Can You Help?

Throughout the year there will be opportunities for you to help behind the scenes (sharpening pencils, making books, washing rags, etc.) For those of you who can help during the school day we need parent **volunteers during recess** (11:30-12:30) for the primary students and /or during lunch (12:30-1:00). We will talk more about this at the Meet and Greet night, but we wanted to let you know this would be a great way for you to help us. We will discuss this again at the Meet and Greet night, but wanted to plant the seed in your head ahead of time.

## New Curriculum Focus!

We are very pleased to announce that this year we will offer a focus on three important subjects twice a week in the afternoon: Music, Science, and Mandarin! Twice a week the children will spend 30 minutes learning about music with Kim, science with Catherine, and Mandarin with River. All three teachers are excited to dig deep into these curriculum areas and offer fun and enlightening lessons to your children.

### CURRICULUM NIGHT:

#### **Sept. 16th for Early Learners**

#### **Sept. 18th for Primary**

Anna will host a curriculum night on September 16th for all parents of Early Learners. Kim, Catherine, and River will host a similar event for all parents (primary and any interested Early Learner families) on September 18th. This is a chance for us to explain the Montessori curriculum and for you to ask questions and explore some of the materials your children are using at school. In years past we have only focused on one or two curriculum areas. This year we will focus on all areas in one night. We will let you know the time of this event as the date approaches.