



The River Current

A Message from our Executive Director

Dear River Montessori Charter Families,

November...a month of thanks and gratitude...the Fall-like weather starting to appear...and, oh, the rain...how great did that feel? It is, quite simply a beautiful time of the year and it is so easy to be thankful for all we have. Our growing school gives us many reasons to be grateful here at River Montessori Charter School. We are so fortunate to have an

incredibly dynamic community that “shows up,” participates, and delivers a thoroughly holistic Montessori experience every day for our



children. RMCS is best practice in education and together, we are fortunate indeed to offer the children an authentic Montessori program and to be part of developmental learning in public education. What we are grateful to see every day...

RMCS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

- 2 Professional Development Day/NO SCHOOL
River Crew Available
- 6 Ice Skate & Donate at Snoopy's Home Ice: 4-5:30pm
- 9 River Crew **Registration Deadline** for Thanksgiving Break
- 10 Prospective Parent Meeting, 6:00pm
- 11 Veterans Day/NO SCHOOL or River Crew
- 17 RMF Dine & Donate: Mary's Pizza Shack
- 20 RMCS Board of Directors' Meeting: 1:00pm
- 23-27 Thanksgiving Break/NO SCHOOL
(River Crew Open Mon-Wed)
- 30 Return to School

December

- 7 **River Crew Registration Deadline** for Winter Break
- 8 RMCS Board of Directors' Meeting: 5:30pm
- 17 RMF Cal Skate & Donate: 6:00pm
- 21 Winter Break begins (through January 4)
River Crew Open Mon – Wed of each week

[YOU CAN ALSO VISIT RMCS WEBSITE'S CALENDAR](#)
(Click on link above)

- ♥ Our children love school! It is quite a thrill to watch them run into their school each morning from the Welcome Line – how often do you see that happen with school? Or, how many adults eagerly anticipate and run into their work every day? Our children know this place is full of opportunities for them!
- ♥ Our Faculty and Assistants lead the children so beautifully with an unwavering belief in Montessori philosophy and practice. They prepare for hours on end to ensure that students receive the keys to the Montessori experience so that they may thrive and meet their potential: independence through *Competence, Confidence, and Commitment* to each other and their *Community*. I am inspired everyday by their ideals and determination to do it better every day.
- ♥ Our administrative staff finds a way to get things done despite the leanness of the group and the overwhelm of operational obligations. Like teachers, everyone does more than they should, and it shows in what they are able to accomplish with the limited resources and time.
- ♥ Our volunteer Board of Directors show their steadfast commitment to Montessori Methodology through compliance review, oversight, and long-term planning. Somehow, in addition to their own jobs, families, and responsibilities, they remain dedicated to the vision and importance of an authentic Montessori school in the public sector and we benefit greatly from their governance.
- ♥ RMF is on fire! The enormous time and effort that the leadership puts into the organization and how they serve our students is immeasurable – and somehow they pull it off with a smile, laugh, and continuously fun events for the children and families! The Annual Fund is growing every day, thanks to their promotion and family contributions! We are very grateful for the focus on providing assistants in the classroom and look forward to one day providing full-time assistants for the classrooms!

- ♥ Our dedicated parents make a huge difference! The warmth, encouragement, feedback, and support from families make the partnership and collaboration a pleasure for faculty and staff.

A beautiful time of year, an inspired place of learning for children, and lofty, purposeful work for all...lucky, lucky us!

Peace, peace,
Kelly

PS...A special thank you to everyone who participated in International Day! It

STILL makes my heart melt when I think about all those beautiful faces, the individual and collective spirit shared, and how much we all learned about each other and the world that day...here's to you for making it a very special experience!



RMCS receives the UCP of the North Bay – 2015 “Gratitude Award”

River Montessori is honored to have been a recipient of the UCPNB’s “Gratitude Award,” presented in recognition of our ***Friendship Program established with the Cypress School***. Click on the photo below to see at the wonderful video they have created.



You are sure to recognize some of our amazing students!!!

“The greatest sign of success for a teacher...is to be able to say, ‘the children are now working as if I did not exist’.”
~ Maria Montessori

INTERNATIONAL FAMILY DAY

...a huge success!!!

This month, River families and children represented their heritage or a chosen country to share with others during a wonderful evening fundraiser.

What an incredible display of art, music, artifacts, food tasting, cultural dress, costumes, flags, collections, currency, games, dancing, and cultural experience. Children and parents proudly represented their countries, and discovered even more understanding about the world while raising monies for RMCS!

Thank you to our *International River Families!*



Keep reading to view some International Family Day pics!

ROWING WITH RIVER CREW



Take a look at the [River Crew Chronicle](#). It is full of lots of great information, including information about the exiting clubs happening in River Crew.



RMCS BOARD NEWS

Dear River Parents,

As president of the school's governing board, I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you a bit about what we do – and invite you to join us! The RMCS board of directors works behind the scenes to guide and support the school. We meet on a monthly basis to review the organization's strategy, its policies and educational plans, and its budget. We also maintain several board committees that do deeper work between board meetings on issues like fundraising, finance and community outreach.



The school's bylaws have always specified that we include significant parent representation on the board because of the importance of their insight and perspective in our work. Today, two RMCS parents sit on the board: Carolyn Duffy and Tammy Cleland. We have one vacancy for a new parent to join the board beginning this November for a two-year term.

WISHING FOR... Carpet squares/samples; Dining Room Hutches/TV Cabinets; Indoor Trees/Plants; Outdoor Tables/Chairs/Umbrellas; Hydrangeas

“Our care of the child should be governed, not by the desire to make him learn things, but by the endeavor always to keep burning within him that light which is called intelligence.” ~ Maria Montessori

Joining the board is a great way to give back to RMCS, and to help us grow in the years ahead. If you are considering running for the position, you should:

Submit your name and brief biography (1 to 3 paragraphs) to our Secretary, Tammy Cleland at: tcleland@rivermontessoricharter.org by Friday, November 6th.



Voting will take place Monday, November 9th – Thursday, November 19th. The parent-elect will be notified immediately following the election, and must attend the

November 2015 board meeting (Friday, November 20th at 1:00pm).

If you have any questions or know community members who would like to join the board or its committees, please email me at: nlorenz@rivermontessoricharter.org.

Honored to serve this community,
Norman Lorenz
President of the RMCS Board

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- November 20th at 1:00 p.m.
- December 8th at 5:30 p.m.
- January 8th at 1 p.m.
- February 9th at 5:30 p.m.
- March 11th at 1:00 p.m.
- April 12th at 5:30 p.m.
- May 10th at 5:30 p.m.
- June 28th at 5:30 p.m.

MONTESSORI MATTERS



Maren Schmidt, an AMI trained elementary teacher, is author of *Understanding Montessori: A Guide for Parents*, and writes the weekly syndicated column, *Kids Talk*. Visit <http://MarenSchmidt.com>.

Freedom Within Limits Of Responsibility

Freedom and responsibility are linked together.

We are free to act when we have the right and also take responsibility.

For example, in our society, we have the right to drive a car. We exercise this privilege to drive by taking the responsibility to learn how to drive, get a license, have a car and the financial obligations that ensue. Then, we have the freedom to drive.

Understanding the relationship between freedom and responsibility can be a difficult one.

When we are 14, freedom dreams of driving a red Mercedes convertible down the road at 120 mph, the wind flying. By 30, we know exactly the costs of that freedom in terms of responsibility. The freedom to drive our dream car takes significant responsibility.



Exercising our right to drive, by assuming responsibility for that privilege, allows us the freedom to drive. Maybe not a two-door roadster, but the freedom to drive.

In our country, we have many rights. In America, at 16 we have the right to drive a car. We must assume the corresponding responsibilities of taking care of a car, getting a license, driving carefully as to not harm others or ourselves, and be willing to pay if we cause damage.

“Would that everyone could visit a Montessori school where teachers ‘follow the child,’ and children are engaged in the love of learning. Montessori provides a light of sanity in the world of education.” ~ Jane Nelson

We have the right. We take the responsibility. We receive the freedom.

In mathematical terms: Rights + Responsibilities = Freedoms.

As parents and teachers, we fail our children when we allow them freedoms without requiring the necessary responsibilities to obtain that freedom. When we confuse rights and freedoms, we neglect to teach our children how to obtain and keep freedoms.

As effective parents, we limit the freedoms we give our children, enlarging them as our children develop more responsibility. If a freedom is extended before the corresponding responsibility has been established within the life of a child, we place the child at high risk for failure. If we give children cars before they know how to drive, before they understand the cost of money, before they are aware of how their actions can affect others, we invite failure, expensive accidents, serious injury and death.

We want to assure success for our children. To be responsible we need to help our children learn to "respond with ability." As we observe our children developing abilities, we can offer corresponding freedoms.

For the young child, we limit their freedoms, for example, by not allowing them to go outdoors alone. Once our children show us that they will stay in the yard, wear appropriate clothing, and not endanger themselves by climbing the fence, etc., then we might enlarge their freedoms to include going outside by themselves with our permission.

As the child over the age of six begins to explore the world around him, the issues of freedom and responsibility are many times at the core of power struggles; the child desires a freedom, but lacks the responsible skills to be able to have the freedom. By teaching the skills necessary for the freedom, we can help the child. In other cases, the child might be responsible and we do not allow the freedom, because we consider the child too young. A power struggle ensues. Conflict is created by not allowing responsibility and freedom to follow each other.

For the adolescent, there are times when a freedom has been granted and the responsibility is shrugged. For example there may be a teenager who has earned the freedom to drive the car but gets a speeding ticket or leaves the gas tank empty. The freedom has to be taken away and then re-earned.

The consequence of neglecting a responsibility should correspond to the freedom that flows from it. The freedom to have friends over to spend the night might correspond to the responsibility to help with household chores, or getting schoolwork completed.

The freedom to play with your toys comes from playing with

them safely and properly or putting them away correctly.

The freedom to have dessert comes from helping with dinner, brushing your teeth without being told, or eating for proper nutrition.

The freedom to go to a movie comes from taking care of your chores, being respectful of others.

If you are in conflict with your child over desired freedoms, determine if responsibilities match the freedoms requested. If not, sit down and plan with your child (even a three- year-old) how to develop responsibilities that lead to freedom.

Freedom is limited by the ability to respond to a right or privilege. Wise parents limit and give freedom based on the observable abilities of their children. When we understand rights, responsibilities and freedoms, our children will learn to respond with ability, earning freedoms that lead to independence.



“Montessori is at the heart of an approach to motivation that the science shows is both more humane and more effective. Every school, educator, and parent can learn from this enduring and successful approach.” ~ Daniel Pink



RIVER FOUNDATION NEWS

There is so much happening this month!

Don't forget to read the weekly [RMF Flash!](#) It is full of information about the foundation and how you can help your school community.

Also...please consider donating today through the "Give" section of the Foundation website. No contribution is too small and every dollar you give goes back to our children and our school!

Please remember that the River Montessori Foundation monthly board meetings take place the third Friday of every month at 9:00 am. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Bring your ideas and suggestions!

Finally, many hands make light work.

INTERNATIONAL FAMILY DAY



COMMUNITY NEWS...

HALLOWEEN CANDY BUY- BACK

WHERE: ACTIVE SPORTS CLUB IN PETALUMA

WHEN: SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

OPERATION GRATITUDE...

LETS ALL SUPPORT THE TROOPS

**THERE WILL BE A JUMPY HOUSE FOR THE
KIDS**

CARD MAKING FOR THE TROOPS

**YOU CAN DONATE YOUR EXCESS
UNOPENED CANDY**

\$1 A POUND

TELL YOUR SCHOOL, FRIENDS AND FAMILY!

**SENDING CARE PACKAGES TO U.S. TROOPS
OVERSEAS!**

With deepest gratitude to...



Karen Arendell for RMCS chair repairs (25 chairs!)

Sarah Koenig, Amy Loh, and Megin Hallinan for help in Kaweah

Paulina Telderer for help in the garden

For care of classroom pets: **David Dame, Renee' Hamley, Ember Teijeiro, Danielle Othwein, and Carolyn Duffy**

Karen Orlandi – for laundry help

Megan Dawson – yummy cookies for Kawaeh

April Rehberg, Danielle Caponi Bolla, and Ingrid Alverde for help in Tuolomne

Maureen Buckley and Elizabeth Huang for help in San Lorenzo

Amy Atchley for reading help in Ellis Creek

Julie Petersen help with Kaweah hike

Elizabeth Berkowitz and Shamitri Perera for facilitating art in Yuba

Eden Belov & Nancy Feldstein for your help with Upper Elementary

Renee Hamley for help in Yuba

Michelle Lofton for help with pumpkin fundraising and other fundraising projects for field trips

Kecia Kaiser for help with cork project in Klammath

Deb Volat for help in San Lorenzo

Andrea Friedman for helping with the Copper Creek class hike & taking International Family Day photos

Abby Kreutz for square dancing help in Yuba

Sean Fannin for help with PE in San Lorenzo

Paulina Telderer, Jessica Smith, Joe & Cat Campbell, Karen Turner, Rama Mejia, Elizabeth Huang, and Maureen Buckley for help with San Lorenzo field Trip

Liz Rantissi for help in Kaweah

Jessica Holten for reading help in Ellis Creek



Special thanks for...

Our parent volunteers who help EVERY WEEK with Foundation and Upper El lunch fundraisers (Pizza, Burrito, Wednesday Wraps, & Pasta):

Eden Belov, Danielle Orthwein, Betty Li, Michelle Lofton, Eric Turner, Dana Wade, Becky Kruetz, Erin Ayers.