

MONARCH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2011

MONARCH SCHOOL

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Welcome Back, Len Taylor

Monarch School is pleased to welcome Len Taylor back to the academic team. Len taught math at Monarch School from 2006 to 2008, at which point he made the decision to move to Florida to be closer to his son. After two years teaching in Florida, Len began to consider moving back to the northwest. Around the same time, we began looking to fill a math teacher position. Len's return to Monarch School was the perfect fit for all of us.

Len currently teaches Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Precalculus. In his free time, Len enjoys fly fishing and other outdoor activities. Len's teaching experience and understanding of Monarch School students has made for a smooth transition back into the school culture. We look forward to having Len around for many years to come.

~Jamie Jones, Academic Director~



Students at Silverwood Theme Park.



Students enjoying Lake Pend Oreille with Patrick McKenna.

GIVING BACK – WORDS OF GRATITUDE

This month I would like to honor a very special alumni parent who has given back to the Monarch Parent Community, who impacted the lives of hundreds of Monarch families. Bruce Janklow, who has served as a leader of the Monarch Parent Foundation (MPF), is stepping down from the board after five incredibly productive years. Bruce and Ilene's daughter, Dory, was a member of PG-9, Aurora Borealis. She graduated from high school and Monarch School in December 2005.

Bruce's multi-faceted contributions to the Monarch Parent Community are evident through the transformation of the MPF (formerly the *Monarch Alumni Association*) throughout the past five years. In 2006, when Bruce began to serve on the board, he joined a group of four other alumni parents who basically held an annual phone conference call. The not-for-profit organization had been created to process donations from Monarch parents. These gifts were often earmarked for specific equipment/materials that families thought the school would benefit from having. Bruce joined the board just as he was retiring from his business as a management consultant, and he channeled his energy, experience and business acumen into the MPF.

Bruce brought a new vision to the MPF that focused on creating a proactive organization that would serve as a vital source of valuable support and programming to families of children at risk. Under Bruce's leadership, a strategic plan was developed with a clearly defined mission and goals that *support and assist families of children at risk so they can:*

- Complete their therapeutic programs successfully with maximum benefit
- Successfully retain, build on and utilize their therapeutic tools and values after graduation
- Build an inclusive, supportive, participatory and accessible community

During his tenure on the board, Bruce initiated and shaped the following activities that benefit current and alumni parents:

- Established the MPF Annual Campaign to solicit donations that support our mission

- Developed a Financial Assistance Program to support tuition needs of families in crisis
- Created the new Monarch Parent Web Site
- Initiated the MPF Regional Conferences (six events completed to date)
- Designed the Graduation Workshop program
- Strengthened communication and partnership with Monarch School
- Developed a relationship with FOFCC (Friends of Families with Children in Crisis), an organization that partners with MPF in financial assistance packages for families in need
- Partnered with the school to organize Alumni Reunions, including the on-campus reunion in Summer 2008
- Expanded the MPF board consolidating roles and responsibilities

Bruce has also personally provided support and guidance to many families in moments of deep struggle with regard to their teens/young adults. Speaking from his own experiences, Bruce reaches out to help families focus on the steps they personally can take while giving their children the room to learn from the natural consequences of their decisions. We benefit from his firm and loving support in times of need.

As we extend a heartfelt **thank you** to Bruce for all that he has accomplished for the MPF, I challenge all Monarch parents to carry the momentum of Bruce's energy forward. Step up and give back to the Monarch Parent Community! Your time, monetary contributions and active support to other families will help us maintain the foundation that Bruce has established and ensure that MPF continues to be a vital source of valuable support and programming to families of children at risk. If you would like to give back to the Monarch Parent Community on a more active basis, please email me at cmessick@pitt.edu so we can set up a time to talk.

~Cheryl Messick, Monarch Parent Foundation President~



Will Night

Receiving your will challenge can be a stressful process for students preparing to present themselves in front of the school. When I received my challenge three weeks before Will Night, I didn't know it was going to be as difficult or "challenging" as it was. The challenge given to me by my peer leader was to create my own challenge. The first few days after receiving this I felt stressed and pressured to come up with the perfect challenge for myself. Coming up with a challenge was the hardest part of the Will Night process for me, and I ended up changing what my challenge was going to be five different times before I felt that what I came up with was right for me.

I have seen many Will Nights and I felt a pressure to come up with something new and different. I realized two days before challenge check off that performing a dance in which I embraced my beauty and courage was simple and perfect for me. For the first part of my challenge I danced to no music because I knew it would be hard for me. It was not easy for me, but when I made mistakes I just kept on dancing. After a few minutes of dancing to silence, I made a short statement that I was beautiful and I committed to accept myself for who I am. Music then began to play and I completely let go and just let myself have fun. I danced all across the stage

spinning and jumping, and running through the crowd. I kept a huge smile on my face the whole time. At some point while dancing I really felt myself recognizing how beautiful a person I really am.

I felt so happy that I was able to dance and feel completely free of judgment, even though I was performing in front of the school. My values on my will shield are "hope, love, and truth," and my motto is "be free." This represents what I was standing for when I was letting go and being myself. Will Night was a really fun and beautiful experience for me, and I was happy to complete something that was so challenging. It was also beautiful to see all of my friends presenting their will challenge and standing in their values.

~Student~



Love, Boundaries and Manipulation

My friends are beginning to have kids. When I return home to Michigan to visit them, we steal time away from their husbands and babies to catch up on our lives and relive memories. In every conversation there inevitably comes a time when they ask with wide eyes, "Why do you think kids end up at your school?" They ask me for advice on how to be a good parent and what not to do. I laugh inside, thinking of my two year old Wheaten terrier, and tell them, "Say, 'NO,'" and do not back down.

I could say that what I have learned working here is all about setting firm boundaries and saying "No." However, I believe what we do here is about so much more than that. It is about setting a limit with my arm around a student's shoulder or having a follow up conversation later about how he or she is feeling in regards to my boundary. Love and boundaries. They are needed in equal parts to help our students understand limits, and at the same time know that they are loved and cared for.

One of my friends has a nine month old son. She tells me that he cries for her in his crib and when she walks in he sees her and smiles. She looks at his face and can tell it was a "fake" cry with no tears. Over

time she has learned to be able to discern the difference between an honest cry and a 'fake' one just from listening. I tell her to get used to it and that her son is learning to manipulate her. He does not do this to hurt her, he does it for survival. He has learned what makes her respond in order to get his needs met. He is smart. She will need to be strong and set boundaries with him, while all the while making sure he knows that he is loved.

Our students are smart. They learn to manipulate the world from an early age. They do not do this to harm anyone. They do it for survival, to get their needs met. Needs change over the years and if we do not begin to set firm boundaries they may use their well-honed skills of manipulation to meet needs that do more harm than good.

~Erin Nugent, Peer Leader, Orchid Eclipse~



Monarch Receives Additional Accreditation!

Good news!!! Monarch School recently completed our reaccreditation through NIPSA (National Independent Private Schools Association). In addition we added a secondary accreditation through Northwest Accreditation Commission. We were honored to receive several commendations regarding the quality of our faculty members and the strengths of the academic and therapeutic programs we offer.



August 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

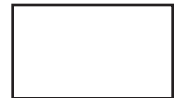
- 12 Legacy Night
- 13 Graduation!
- 20 Shakespeare in the Park
- 21 OA Day Trip
- 26 End of Block Music Performance
- 27 End of Block Drama Performance
- 28 Hope Market Music Performance
- 29 Finals Week

September 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

- 2 1st Home Visit 9/2 - 9/6
3rd Home Visit 9/2 - 9/11
- 4 Ashland Trip 9/4 - 9/9
- 5 Labor Day
2nd Home Visit 9/5 - 9/11
- 15 Parent/Student Adventure Trip 9/15 - 9/18
- 19 Fall Quarter Begins
- 23 All School Conference 9/23 - 9/25
- 29 Rosh Hashanah (Sept. 29-30)

October 2011						
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						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- 8 Yom Kippur
- 10 Columbus Day
- 16 OA Trip
- 17 National Boss Day
- 21 1st Home Visit 9/21 - 9/25
3rd Home Visit 9/21 - 9/30
- 22 ACT Test
- 23 OA Trip
- 24 2nd Home Visit 9/24 - 9/30



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