



MONARCH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2013

MONARCH SCHOOL

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Monarch Parents Foundation

www.MonarchAlumns.org



Hiking at Kootenai Falls



Spring 2013 - Gift Trip

This past March, five students from the May 2013 graduating class went on a journey to Missoula, Montana, and experienced “giving” in a whole new way. The students, along with staff members Scott Richardson and Bambi Marshall, volunteered at the Poverello Center in Missoula.

The Poverello is a charity group that provides shelter, food and clothing to those less fortunate in order to assist them in getting back on their feet and being successful. The center receives donations of food and clothing every day. At the Poverello we cleaned their kitchen and food storage room, painted walls, unpacked and sorted donations of clothing, served food, and even ate lunch and connected with the clients. Volunteering was an inspirational and emotional experience for all of us.

But all seriousness aside, not only did we work, we had fun!

In our free time, we participated in group activities such as eating dinners out, going to the mall, watching movies and playing football in the back yard. The gift trip was an exciting and fun experience

for us all.

On Sunday morning, our last day, we hiked up the mountain behind the University of Montana and sat on the big “M” at the top. We connected to each other in a way most of us have never done before.

Overall, the gift trip was an emotional, inspiring, fun and connecting experience that we will all cherish for the rest of our lives. ~JC, Wolf Song Student~





Monarch Parents Foundation

It was nine years ago that our family landed at Monarch School with fear, hope and uncertainty. The program was only three years old at the time, and our educational consultant told us he didn't recommend programs to families until they at least had a five year history. But, I just had a "feeling" that this was the right place for our son and I insisted on visiting Monarch. Dylan arrived from wilderness in June 2004, and so began our journey.

Like many Monarch families, our path included times of challenge, growth and times with limited growth and back-sliding. Our son initially told us how the other students had "real problems," that he had learned his lesson and didn't need to be in a place like this. We followed the advice of the school and held firm to our boundary that Dylan would be there until he graduated, and that if he "walked" he would be sent to a different school. That boundary was the first of many that helped our son begin to get back on the right path.

While Dylan adapted to the program, I found a need for support, as friends and family at home had no understanding of what we were going through. During parent seminars, and especially at the dinners in Sandpoint, I had a chance to meet parents whose children had been at Monarch for a while. They shared their experiences and helped me understand many aspects of the program. I used the parent website not just to look for photos or read the weekly update, but to have conversations with other parents. We shared our hopes, fears and celebrations; and were there for one another when needed. Additionally, at the time there was a weekly Sunday evening chat hosted by an alumni parent (thank you Charlie Bird!) during which I had a chance to talk with alumni and current parents.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the parent website and the Sunday chats were a lifeline for me. The support, guidance and input from more seasoned parents gave me an understanding of the work I needed to do while my son did his. At that time, there was a culture that current parents reached out to welcome new parents to serve as their guide. In later years, the MPF developed the Parent Mentor program to formalize that process.

The MPF was first incorporated in 2004 under the name of the *Monarch Alumni Association* and was re-named *Monarch Parents Foundation* in 2009. Developed by Monarch parents for Monarch parents, the association initially focused on fundraising to provide equipment/materials for the school that parents wanted to donate (i.e., soccer field, basketball court, meditation fountain). Over time we have evolved into a group that fundraises to provide tuition support to families in need, creates programming for parents, creates and manages the website and works to build a community of support.

I encourage you to participate in the activities of the Monarch parent community. Use it to receive support and to give support to those behind you who are new to Monarch. Attend the MPF meeting and after graduation consider volunteering to be a Parent Mentor, writing an article for the MPF newsletter or running a graduation workshop. Give back to the community that has been there for you and I guarantee you'll end up receiving more than you give!

~Cheryl Messick, Monarch Parents Foundation – Board President~



Why Performing Arts at Monarch?

Performing Arts is the form of art in which the artists, known as performers, use their own selves as material to convey artistic expression. Art helps us to improve our quality of life; our existence is framed by the understanding of our environment, others and ourselves. The Performing Arts are the organic research of the Human Connection. This Connection brings a synchronism between our mind, core and heart that can unleash the creativity from within. Why performing arts at Monarch School? Because since the beginning of time, art has been the universal language that cuts across racial, cultural, social, educational, and economic barriers and enhances life, appreciation and awareness; by experiencing arts we better understand our own human nature. Art is a language that everyone should speak.

~Jesús Quintero, Drama Instructor~



Jesús. the Director!



My First Home Visit!

Home for me is in Los Gatos, California. Before my recent visit, I had not been home for a little over a year; it meant a lot to me to be able to go on this visit. Months before I had the opportunity to take a trip home, I was not doing well. I was struggling with being at Monarch, not putting forth effort into my academics, and I did not have healthy communication with my family. It took me many months to finally decide to do something different. I started applying myself in school, which brought my grades up, and I began to have a better relationship with my family. I reached step 2 and continued to do well; within six weeks I was promoted to Step 3, making me eligible for my first home visit.

A couple of weeks after I reached Step 3, I was preparing for my visit home. Going home meant so much to me. Besides the excitement of just being able to see my home that I have been away from for so long, going home also meant that I had accomplished something awesome. I was putting effort into all aspects of my life, and I had gained trust, enough that people trusted me to let me go home. This was a great recognition of my work.

My actual home visit went great! The feeling of

landing in an airplane at your hometown is indescribable. Seeing my house, my dog, my family, and my room was amazing. I did some wonderful things on my visit, such as watch basketball, play basketball, play with my dog, go on hikes, and spend quality time with my family. What was incredible to me was not just the visit itself, but what this opportunity represented.

~JS, Wolf Song Student~



Remember Mother's and Father's Day!

Wit & Wisdom

“Those who bring sunshine into the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.”

—J.M. Barrie

“Far away, there in the sunshine, are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them, and try to follow where they lead.”

—Louisa May Alcott

“Just living is not enough. One must have sunshine, freedom and a little flower.”

—Hans Christian Andersen

“He that will enjoy the brightness of sunshine must quit the coolness of the shade.”

—Samuel Johnson

“Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine.”

—Anthony J. D'Angelo

“If you spend your whole life waiting for the storm, you'll never enjoy the sunshine.”

—Morris West

“What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity.”

—Joseph Addison

“Change, like sunshine, can be a friend or a foe, a blessing or a curse, a dawn or a dusk.”

—William Arthur Ward



May 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			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	

- 4 SAT Testing
- 11 Graduation!
- 12 Mother's Day
2nd Home Visit 5/12-5/18
3rd Home Visit 5/12-5/19
- 13 1st Home Visit 5/13-5/17
- 24 All School Conference 5/24-5/26
- 27 Memorial Day

June 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						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						

- 1 SAT Testing
- 8 ACT Testing
- 10 Finals Week
- 14 1st Home Visit 6/14-6/18
2nd Home Visit 6/14-6/20
- 16 Father's Day
- 17 3rd Home Visit 6/17-6/26
- 21 Graduate WS 6/21-6/23
- 27 Gift Trip 6/27-6/30
Parent/Student Raft Trip 6/27-6/30

July 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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			

- 1 Summer Quarter Begins
- 4 Independence Day
- 19 Lower School Conference 7/19-7/21
- 27 Challenge Night
- 28 SSAT Testing

