



MONARCH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER/FALL 2014

MONARCH SCHOOL

PO Box 410
Heron, MT 59844
Phone: 406-847-5095
FAX: 406-847-0049

Monarch Parents Foundation

www.MonarchParents.org



Happy Labor Day



Newsletter Summer 2014

Summer brings good things at Monarch School as our organic garden begins to produce delicious fruits and vegetables which are picked by the garden crew and prepared by culinary students for all of us to enjoy. The farm crew raises chicks and hopefully a calf as well. Forestry students gather firewood for the winter while the equestrian crew cares for and rides the horses.

Each crew makes up part of Monarch School's vocational program which offers an educational experience while also exposing students to new and varied interests. During vocational crews, students work together to accomplish a goal. They learn the value of hard work, and they practice leadership skills, all tools which will benefit them in the future. The vocational crews nicely complement Monarch School's college preparatory academics and creative arts and music curriculum, all of which allow us to provide a well-rounded education for each and every student.

~Jamie Jones, Academic Director~





Monarch Parents Foundation (MPF): A Community of Parents Working Together

One of the special pleasures of my work with the Monarch Parents Foundation has been the opportunity to interact with current and alumni Monarch parents. We share a special bond, a common experience that's very strong. And most of us think (at least at the beginning of our Monarch journey) that we're the only ones in our local community who have these kinds of problems. Then we meet the other Monarch parents, and we know we are not alone! Interestingly enough, as a coach I see many non-Monarch parents struggling with all the same issues we have. Only they don't get pushed to the brink, to the edge, where they actually have to take action. We were (pushed) and we did (take action), and now we have the opportunity to learn how to parent differently, how to have a more peaceful family life. You see, the other families in your community do not get this unique opportunity. Many keep struggling, without guidance, without the support of a community such as the one we have here. Six years after my son's graduation from Monarch, I am extremely grateful for having had this experience!

As Monarch parents we have a number of resources available to us:

- Current parents can turn to their **Parent Mentor** with questions or for support and comfort. Parent Mentors are alumni parents who are specially selected by the *Monarch Parents Foundation* to be compassionate, kind, and helpful. They are available to all current parents for phone calls and email communications. Especially at the beginning of your child's stay at Monarch, it can be a life saver to have a person available who is there to comfort, reassure and encourage you, the parent.



- All parents, current and alumni, can use the forum on the parents' website at www.MonarchParents.org to share or ask other parents for feedback. Many "older" Monarch parents are happy to share their experiences or offer kind words of encouragement. I've seen heart-warming examples of parents opening up and being honest about their concerns and worries, and I've appreciated the outpouring of love and support from other parents—some even years past their Monarch tenure. I'd like to strongly encourage you to make use of this resource!
- For parents of the Lower School there is a new workshop called **New Connections**. It seeks to help create a community of parents who are connected and feel supported, as well as strengthen the Monarch parent culture of "older" parents reaching back to support "new" parents. The workshop will be held on Friday at the Lower School Conferences. It is my pleasure to accompany board member Alan Cohn to the July workshop. As I mentioned at the beginning, I enjoy meeting Monarch parents, being supportive and being part of this community. I also get to offer a perspective of hope.

In September, all our MPF board members look forward to meeting the current parents at the All-School Conference. We love this opportunity to soak up the special Monarch atmosphere, get to know new parents and rekindle friendships with parents we've met before.

This year we are celebrating 10 years of serving the Monarch parents community! More about that in our upcoming MPF Newsletter.

~ In gratitude and with warm wishes from the MPF board members and Inge Jechart,
MPF Board President ~
inge@monarchparents.org

My Growth at Monarch

When I reflect upon my Monarch journey thus far, I think of all of the things that I have been able to accomplish here. As things begin to wrap up for me, I think about how much I have grown and all of the opportunities that Monarch has given me. One of the most important things I've learned here is that if I put my mind to something, I can do it. Before coming here, I was the kind of kid who would often give up before I even began. When it came to academics, I slept in class and slipped by in public school by turning in half-completed homework every other week. Coming here, I suddenly had no idea how I was going to learn to study efficiently or how to accomplish the great feat of having to turn homework in on time. With the support of all of my teachers, I started having more confidence in myself as a student by the end of my first block. Teachers like Anna Boshka (English) helped me to combat my homework anxiety, meanwhile Mason Jones (Math) and Alysoun Johnston (History) taught me different test-taking strategies to help improve my skills. I went from being the kid who slid by to a student who began to have enormous confidence and drive in their academic abilities. I even earned two academic awards! Believing in me also went further than just becoming a good student; I began to try things that I would have been too scared to do in the past. Having

never run more than a mile on a treadmill, I decided to join the running class, the Monarch Milers. It hit me during the half Marathon in Whidbey Island how amazing of an opportunity the running class was for me. I had found a passion that I knew I would do for the rest of my life. I have learned a lot at Monarch; this place has not only given me the opportunity to work a lot on my relationships with my parents, with siblings and with myself, but has given me the courage to know that I can do anything that I put my mind to.

~EK, Winter's Ember Student~



EK ~ After "Edge of Hell" 4 Mile Race ~



EK - Running Strong!



Students at Silverwood Theme Park



Summer Fun Is Here. Enjoy It!

A Century of Julia Child

Julia Child was born on Aug. 15, 1912, in Pasadena, Calif. Before becoming an authority on French food, she worked for the Office of Strategic Services during World War II, where she met her future husband, Paul Child.

The couple moved to Paris in 1948. Looking for a hobby to fill her spare time, Julia took cooking lessons at the world-renowned Le Cordon Bleu. A chance meeting with two Frenchwomen writing a book about French cooking for American housewives led to Julia's involvement in creating one of the greatest cookbooks ever, "Mastering the Art of French Cooking."

The book's success fostered Julia's television show, "The French Chef." With her trademark buoyancy, distinctive voice and love of fine food, Julia warmed the hearts of every American who loves cooking. She passed away on Aug. 13, 2004, but her legacy will live forever. *Bon appétit!*



August 2014						
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 Parent/Student Rafting Trip - 8/1 - 8/4
- 14 Summer Semester Ends
- 16 Summer 2014 Graduation
- 18 2nd Home Visits 8/18 - 8/24
- 20 3rd Home Visits 8/20 - 8/29
- 22 1st Home Visits 8/22 - 8/26

September 2014						
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 Labor Day - Fall Semester Begins
- 26 All School Conference 9/26 - 9/28

October 2014						
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	

- 11 SAT Testing
- 17 3rd Home Visits 10/17 - 10/26
- 18 1st Home Visits 10/18 - 10/22
Bambi's Birthday!
- 19 2nd Home Visits 10/19 - 10/25

