



MONARCH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Fall 2014/Winter 2015

MONARCH SCHOOL

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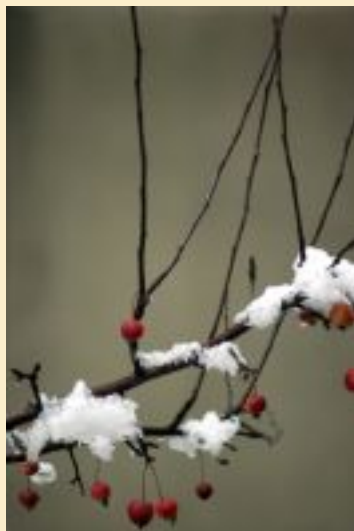
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Monarch Parents Foundation

www.MonarchParents.org



Veterans Day



Peer Group Naming Ceremony

I arrived at Monarch School Aug. 1. During my first month of my stay, I climbed into the back of a school van along with 11 other students in my peer group. We traveled about an hour-and-a-half to our destination, a small town named Laclede in ID. It only took about 45 seconds to pass through the town. On the opposite end of Laclede, we pulled off the side of the road and parked. I was thinking, "Where in the world are we?" There was a forest on one side of the highway and a river on the other. The purpose of this visit was to hold our peer group's "Naming Ceremony."

We all shuffled out of the van, grabbed a bunch of things, and played "Frogger" to get to the other side of the highway. We hopped over the guardrail and headed down a nearly invisible trail. We crossed a set of railroad tracks and walked through some bushes. There were raspberries growing along our journey that we enjoyed during our hike. The group followed one of our fearless leaders, Jon, up a hill. Many of us slipped and slid as we climbed, because the hill was mossy due to recent rainfall. We reached the top,

which will be remembered by the entire peer group because this is where we would stay until we had selected our peer group's name.

Things started kind of slow, as the students began to think of possible names. We quickly decided on having an animal as part of the name. It wasn't long before we settled on Wolverines. We knew it wasn't enough, but it was a good start. We began to think about values that are important to us and tried to include them in the name. This was much tougher than one might think. With a group of 12 kids from very different backgrounds, we struggled. We voted several times and, after having our lunch, we came up with the name WOLVERINE SUMMIT!

The stress of the day was over with the final vote that was cast to solidify our name, and then the fun began. Jon began by setting up the ropes, and we all had the chance to climb the rock we were sitting on. We also got to play in the river for a bit. We enjoyed a "belly flop" contest off a two-to-three-foot ledge. I would say that, all in all, it turned out to be a pretty good day.

~PD, Wolverine Summit Student~





Monarch Parents Foundation (MPF): New Connections

We just finished our annual meeting on the campus of the Monarch School, and we had the privilege to meet many of the families whose children are currently enrolled. For some of them, it was their very first visit; some of the parents we had met before, and it was a sweet reunion. Every board member of the *Monarch Parents Foundation* has a child who has attended the Monarch School. And no matter how rocky our journey has been, we remember the love and **connections** we felt there and can't wait to come back to it. While we were there, we also got to reassure the parents that it's worth all the effort; the learning there gives us lifelong tools and **friends with whom to connect**.

Our Mission and Purpose is to support Monarch parents. While the student is taken care of by the school, we are here to support the parents. We are all part of this community of Monarch families, and as a community, we support each other.

What it means to have a **community**:

- You're not alone.
- Other families experience many of the same issues you're struggling with.
- You get to know the other families, **make connections**, reach out, and call each other.

We need kind listeners! (Take advantage of the on-campus conferences!)

- A strong community helps parents. Strong parents more effectively help their kids!

To help carry out our mission, we periodically invite new members to join us. This year, we found six exceptional parents who bring a variety of experiences and backgrounds to our organization. After having spent three intense days of working with them and getting to know them better, I am thrilled to introduce them to you here:

Gregory Beard – strategic planning
Rhonda Bello – financial assistance
Allison Buonamassa – fundraising
Ruth Davis – parent programming
Nina Rego – secretary and next year's treasurer
Melanie Reynolds – membership management

The new board members mean new ideas and new ways to effectively support our community. We will be developing new programming over the next few months and fine-tuning what we are already doing. You will hear about it here and also on the parents' website at www.MonarchParents.org.

We would like to hear from you any ideas, suggestions and comments you may have. Feel free to contact me by email at inge@monarchparents.org.

~With warm wish from the MPF and Inge Jechart,
MPF Board President~

P.S. Here are some quick facts about the *Monarch Parents Foundation* –

- We serve the community of Monarch parents.
- We incorporated as a **not-for-profit-organization ten years ago!**
- We are run by a board of directors comprised of alumni parents.
- We operate separately and independently from the Monarch School.
- We are passionate about our community of Monarch families!



Monarch Experiences the Shakespeare Festival

This past break week, our two English teachers, Anna and Brian, took our annual trip to the world-renowned Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, OR. The trip begins with a grueling 14-hour drive, but the idyllic condos and lineup of both Elizabethan and contemporary theater quickly erase any travel fatigue. In addition to the stellar performances and backstage tour, we were incredibly fortunate this year to have a personal connection with one of the actors. Anna Boshka spent her freshman year at the University of Oregon, and her roommate from that year is the daughter of the actor who played Prospero in *The Tempest*, Denis Arndt.

After seeing the show, we invited Mr. Arndt over to our condos to get a firsthand account of what it takes to create a character like Prospero on the Ashland stage. Introducing himself as Denny, he sat down on the arm of one of the couches and immediately started asking questions: "What do you think of magic? What's *The Tempest*? What'd you guys think of Prospero's relationship with Ariel?" The students engaged in a back-and-forth that was a treasure to experience. Then it was over. Denny, ever the actor, knows to quit a stage leaving his audience wanting more. Fortunately, he accepted our invitation to join us at Pasta Piatti for our final celebratory dinner. Two

of our students were lucky enough to sit with Denny at dinner, and they shared this conversation about their time with Denny (nota bene: apparently teens sometimes resort to text-speak when discussing Shakespeare):

W: What was your favorite part of our meal with Prospero?

S: His dry cynical humor. wbu?

W: I liked that too! I thought he was incredibly insightful; he had much to say about the OSF and today's acting in general! What did you think about his critique of *Family Album*?

S: OSF?

W: Duh bro! Oregon Shakespeare Festival! #obvi
S: I really appreciated his view on modern theater, especially with *Family Album*. The modern elements that were so heavily put into that play really took away from the performances as well as, in my opinion, the cheesy plotline.

W: Totes brah! I thought his comparison to *Sea World* was über funny. Did you like *The Tempest*?

S: Bruh was that even English they was speaking?

W: LOLLOLOLOLO!!! Bahahah! Do you have any questions for me, Brosef?!?!?

S: Kakakakakaka! What about the actor that played Prospero's daughter? What u think o her,)

W: hmmmmmm... She was SOOO good! Did you know she was in *A Wrinkle in Time*? #blewmy mind

S: Ikr! she wuz gr8.

W: I really enjoyed our meal w/ Prospero. I'll remember it forever. It was ultra fun!

S: Ikr super fun #preach opportune. of a lifetime bro.

W: Shoot! Time 4 class. I g2g. TTFN!

S: Aight bro ttyl ;D

~Brian Grosenbaugh, English Teacher ~



Fall Departing; Winter Arriving!



Some people like the warmth of summer, but others prefer the briskness of winter's chilly air. Gather with friends or family and discuss what you like best about winter.

- What is your favorite winter activity? Have you ever been ice skating, ice fishing or snow skiing?
- Have you ever built a snowman? What did it look like? What materials did you use to decorate?
- Did you have snowball fights when you were a kid? Did you ever build a snow fort?
- Was school ever canceled because of the weather? What would you do on these snow days?



November 2014						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

- 7 11/7 - 11/9 Transition Workshop
- 11 Veterans Day
- 27 Thanksgiving

December 2014						
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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			

- 8 Finals Week
- 12 Fall Semester Ends
- 13 ACT Testing & Legacy Night
- 14 GRADUATION!
- 15 3rd Home Visit 12/15 - 12/23
- 16 2nd Home Visit 12/16 - 12/22
- 25 Christmas

January 2015						
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	31

- 1 New Year's Day
- 5 Winter Semester Begins
- 9 All School Conference 1/9 - 1/11
- 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 24 SAT Testing

