



MONARCH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WINTER/SPRING 2016

MONARCH SCHOOL

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Monarch Parents Foundation

www.MonarchParents.org

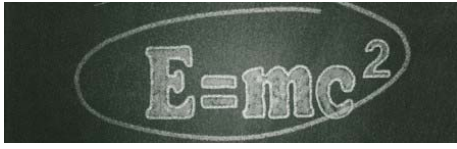
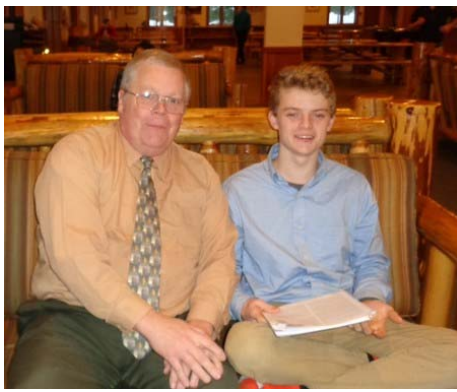


Introducing a New Teacher at Monarch

Monarch School is pleased to welcome Scott B. Johnson to our teaching faculty. Scott began his career by earning his Master's Degree in Physics and Astronomy from Brigham Young University. After graduating, Scott was a staff scientist on NASA's Kuiper Airborne Observatory; a modified C-141 cargo aircraft equipped to do astronomical infrared research from 41,000 feet, which included deployments to New Zealand for supernova research. He then spent several years as a Physics Instructor, first at Idaho State University, then at Ohio Northern University. While at Ohio Northern University, Scott completed his law degree and began work as an attorney in the juvenile courts. As their six children began to grow and leave the house, Scott and his wife decided to make their long-time dream of living in Montana come true. Scott taught math courses at Flathead Valley Community College prior to accepting the position at Monarch School, where he will teach both math and science classes, as needed. Scott's depth and breadth of education and experience

provide a valuable addition to Monarch School. Welcome, Scott!

~Jamie Jones, Academic Director~



"PERSEVERANCE & SPIRIT HAVE DONE WONDERS IN ALL AGES"

—GEORGE WASHINGTON

THIRD MONDAY IN FEBRUARY
PRESIDENTS' DAY



Monarch Parent Foundation: Connecting With Each Other and Doing Our Work

Happy New Year from the Monarch Parents Foundation (MPF)! We are a volunteer organization made up of nine alumni Monarch parents, whose purpose is to support families with teens in need through parent programming and financial assistance. Our theme for 2016 is “Do Your Own Work” and MPF will feature programmatic elements to enhance our families’ experiences around this subject, including community building, workshops, and grants for enrichment activities.

In 2015, MPF created a private Facebook group to help promote stronger connections among parents and a relatively easy way to communicate with each other. Parents are encouraged to post wisdom gained while being a parent of a Monarch child and questions about how other parents approach doing their work. It is also a place to ask questions, or express what you’re feeling at the moment. Reading and participating in this online conversation is a great way for all of us to continue to do our own work and feel more connected to each other. We invite you to take a look, be inspired, and share! If you are not currently a part of our Facebook community, please log in to www.monarchparents.org and click on the link “MPF Private Facebook Group.”

Another opportunity to continue to do your work is by attending this year’s Annual Parent Workshop. The workshop takes place May 19, 2016, from 9 am to 4:30 pm (the day before the Monarch All-School Conference), at Outskirts: Hope Marketplace in Hope, ID. Krissy Pozatek, LICSW (author of *The Parallel Process* and *Brave Parenting*), is returning to facilitate a workshop titled “Bravely Looking at Your Side of the Parent-Teen Relationship.” The Workshop is a great opportunity to connect with and support other Monarch parents, and learn new skills that you can apply immediately with your Monarch child. More details are included on our Website www.monarchparents.org.



Finally, we hope that all Monarch parents will take advantage of the MPF-sponsored Monthly Parent Phone Chats. These informative calls will connect you with other Monarch parents as well as provide another avenue by which to enhance your parenting skills. The purpose of the Monthly Phone Chats is to provide an additional pathway of communication between the school and parents. They also offer an opportunity for parent-to-parent sharing, and raise your awareness about important parenting issues that affect all of our families. Calls are led by a member of the Monarch clinical team, who discusses a topic, followed by an opportunity for parents to ask questions about that topic. Each call is also hosted by a MPF board member who brings with them the experience of a family who has completed the entire Monarch program. The Monthly Phone Chats take place on the first Tuesday of each month from 5-6 pm PST. Upcoming chat topics include: “Making the Most of Your Parent Visits at Monarch and Your Child’s Visits Home,” and “Getting to Know Your Child All Over Again.” Topics and call access information are posted on the MPF website prior to each call.

Doing my own work while my son was at Monarch, and now post-Monarch, is the main reason that I’ve had a successful outcome and it certainly has had a positive impact on my family.

Warm wishes from the Monarch Parents Foundation and Rhonda Bello, MPF President, rhonda@monarchparents.org.



Boys Retreat - Snowshoeing in Farragut State Park

There have been plenty of adventures that I have had at Monarch, but one of the most memorable has to be the boy's snowshoeing retreat. Community is a major part of the program, and it is especially important to myself (a member of the community!) This retreat was designed specifically to enhance the community by allowing us to get out and about, and bond over a shared "manly experience" of hiking through the snow in Farragut State Park. I was a bit nervous when I saw the page-long list of all the gear we needed to pack, but I knew I had something great waiting for me the next day.

When we woke up at 6:15, I figured out pretty quickly that the whole day was going to be jam-packed with activities. We ate breakfast, quickly packed our lunches, and hastily made off for Farragut Park at 6:45 am. We arrived at the park, departed from the vans, put on snowshoes and were circled up, talking about goals and strategies to support each other on the trip and on campus. Once we had all shared our two cents regarding our strategies, we headed out for a trek through the snow-covered wilderness that lied in wait down the path. We had a great walk, and the boys (for the most part) all stayed in a close, man-scented clump. We had originally planned to hike out to a lake about 2-3 miles down

the trail, but lost the reflectors guiding us onward. We decided, instead, to have a luncheon right then and there, and it was the closest to wilderness I've been since I graduated my wilderness program, which was uplifting. After our impromptu lunch, we gathered forces and moved faster than greased lightning toward the van, which netted us the hour we'd lost trying to find the reflectors. Once we had returned to campus, we started the barbecue and ate a feast fit for a king. When all the food had disappeared into the bottomless pits that teenagers have in place of stomachs, we headed to the sauna for a cleansing and relaxing rest. Steve McCall, our forestry director, hosted the event, and shared his culture in the form of Native American songs and traditions. Finally, we headed back to the lodge and settled into the couches to watch "Stand By Me," to end the day on a note of camaraderie and brotherhood. Overall, the day was a blast, and the days' experience gave the entire boy's community an amazing start to the block.

~M.S., Arbor Lightning Student~



Gaining More Daylight Each Day!

A Grand Discovery

The Grand Canyon area was declared a national park on Feb. 26, 1919.

President Theodore Roosevelt said of the site: "Leave it as it is. You cannot improve on it. The ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it."

The canyon, in northwest Arizona, is more than 270 miles long, a mile deep, and up to 18 miles wide.

Erosion from wind, rain, ice, and the Colorado River that runs through it formed the canyon millions of years ago. The layers of ancient rocks exposed in the canyon walls show a geological history of North America.

A trip to the bottom of the canyon and back up is a two-day journey. A trip by raft on the river takes about two weeks.

Grand Canyon National Park now includes more than 1 million acres. The canyon's spectacular views draw about 5 million visitors a year.

John Wesley Powell, a Civil War veteran who guided a rafting expedition through the canyon in 1869, first used the term "Grand Canyon."



February 2016						
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					

- 4 2/4 - 2/8 Yellowstone Trip
- 6 ACT Test
- 15 Presidents Day
- 19 2/19 - 2/28 3rd Home Visit
- 20 2/20 - 2/24 1st Home Visit
- 21 2/21 - 2/27 2nd Home Visit

March 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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		

- 5 SAT Test
- 11 3/11 - 3/13 Lower School Parent Conference
- 25 3/25 - 3/27 Transition Workshop

April 2016						
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

- 9 ACT Test
- 15 4/15 - 4/19 1st Home Visit
- 16 4/16 - 4/22 2nd Home Visit
- 18 4/18 - 4/27 3rd Home Visit
- 30 Graduation!

