

## Lifelong Learning at MIS



Julie Lennox,  
Head of School

*“MIS inspires principled global citizens and lifelong learners...”*

The opening of the MIS mission statement describes more than just MIS students; the adults in our community are also eager participants in the goal of lifelong learning. Our adult Spanish classes are a huge success this fall as both MIS parents and other adults in the Missoula community gather twice a week to increase their Spanish language skills. Throughout the fall several MIS teachers continued their professional development at workshops in Missoula and Portland and brought back new ideas and approaches to MIS classrooms. The adults in the MIS community provide strong role models to our students on what lifelong learning really means.

A new series initiated by MIS’s Parent Association Council provides another avenue for MIS parents to continue to learn and explore the many facets of parenting. MIS’s Parent Workshop Series is offered the third Friday of each month at lunch time. In October a group of fifteen or so MIS parents joined Jeff and me to learn more about the IB Learner Profile and how parents can support its development in natural ways at home. In November, join us to learn more about a workshop several MIS teachers and parents went to called “Raising Peacemakers.” At this workshop, they learned about a social education curriculum called Kelso’s Choice. This program is designed to empower children to handle small disputes on their own and to know when a small problem becomes a big one and requires an adult to help. Kelso’s Choice provides a framework that may be useful at home as well as at school. In December, we invite you to join your child for our Pizza Friday the day before the winter break—just for the fun of it. In January, the Parent Workshop will be a brown bag lunch discussion of a book you are invited to read with other MIS parents, *Little Girls Can Be Mean* by Michelle Anthony and Reyna Lindert.

### Upcoming MIS Parent Workshops (Brown Bag Series)

MONTH	DAY	TIME	TOPIC
November	Friday, November 19, 2010	11:30 A.M.—12:30 P.M.	Presentation of Kelso’s Choice
December	Friday, December 17, 2010	11:30 A.M.—12:15 P.M.	Join your child for Pizza Friday
January	Friday, January 21, 2010	11:30 A.M.—12:30 P.M.	Book discussion: <i>Little Girls Can Be Mean</i> by Michelle Anthony and Reyna Lindert.

### Check it out!

Portland's International School offers Oregon's first elementary International Baccalaureate program | [OregonLive.com](http://OregonLive.com)

Six MIS teachers visited the International School in Portland. They visited Spanish immersion classrooms and exchanged ideas about the Primary Years Program with their Portland peers.

[http://www.oregonlive.com/education/index.ssf/2010/04/portlands\\_international\\_school.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/education/index.ssf/2010/04/portlands_international_school.html)

## A New Landscape for Play

by Jeff Kessler

The MIS playground will begin its physical transformation Thursday, November 11, after many meetings and a lot of planning. Already you may have noticed that a basketball hoop has been moved and lowered to make it accessible to younger students.

The focus of Phase One this year will be to create a dedicated play area on the big playground for the preschoolers to explore. The work begins with the creation of a low dirt berm that will section off the southwest corner of the playground. This berm will be landscaped with native plants and small boulders. The entire area will be mulched. One broken swing set will be removed and eventually replaced with a sandbox, a digging area and a balancing log. Some of the play equipment from the current preschool playground will be moved to this area. Closer to the building a quiet, outdoor seating area will be created for older students to hang out with their friends. A storage shed for outdoor equipment will also be built.



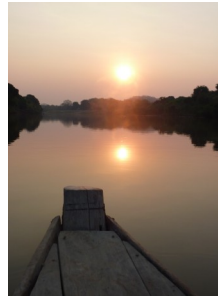
The plan, which considers the diverse sizes, ages and abilities of MIS students as well as the natural landscape, has been made possible by the hard work of the playground committee led by Jenny Ferguson, David Brooks and Keri Brittain. Look for upcoming ways for parents and students to become more involved in the near future.



## Spanish Language Corner

### Reflexiones del “Wild East,” Episodio 2

Journey to the Amazon, episode 2  
by Ted Muhs



*Puesta del sol, Rio San Martin*

Al subirnos a la avioneta notamos que ninguno de los asientos tenía cinturones de seguridad ni tampoco estaba sujetado al piso el asiento de Jack. Nuestro piloto nos aseguró que no hubiera problema mientras golpeaba ligeramente los instrumentos del tablero que no querían funcionar. Al despegar, nos dirigimos hacia el norte en dirección a Brasil. A nuestro piloto no le importó la capa espesa de humo que no nos permitía ver nada. Él era tan bajito de estatura que no podía mirar por el parabrisas, y nos daba miedo verlo hacer llamadas por su celular, contar su dinero y comer galletas en lugar de pilotear la avioneta. De vez

Divisar—to observe  
Pilotear—to pilot  
Despegar—to take off (plane)  
Aterrizar—to land  
Refrescarse—to refresh oneself  
Relajarse—to relax  
Estatura—stature  
Intentos—attempts  
At raves de—through  
Cinturón de seguridad—seat belt  
Humo—smoke  
Restos—wreckage, remains  
Carne de res—beef



*La familia Montgomery relajándose en la casita de El Prado*

en cuando, cuando podíamos ver a través del humo divisábamos los restos antiguos de unos aviones caídos que no habían tenido tan buena fortuna. El piloto nos explicó que hace varios años se habían estrellado por estar sobrecargados de carne de res. Al fin, después de dos intentos, divisamos a través del humo a Magdalena, una tranquila y remota aldea en medio de las vastas y poco pobladas sabanas. Después de aterrizar en una pista de yerba y dar las gracias a Dios por habernos ayudado a llegar a salvo, fuimos a una residencia donde pasamos la noche refrescándonos con un jugo de frutas poco conocidas y relajándonos en hamacas.

## Heard in the Halls: Music Classes at MIS

by Eletra Vandenberg

“The Hills are Alive With the Sound of Music,” as well as the halls, the gym, the playground and the music classroom where singing, chanting, clapping, playing, improvising, creating, moving and listening happens every day.



In October, students at MIS successfully participated in two musical events: *Gday* for Grandparents and Grand Friends and *Día de los Muertos* with guest artist Penelope Baquero. Both events were a joy to prepare for and demonstrated what the students have been learning in class to date.

As we look ahead to the winter holidays, Rocío and I are busy preparing the Spanish translation for the Missoula Children’s Theater production of *La Princesa y el chicharo (The Princess and the Pea)* during MCT

Week, November 29-December 3, 2010. Public performances are on December 3 at 3:00 P.M. and 5:30 P.M.

We will have a Holiday InFormance Program on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Students are working on songs that celebrate Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and seasonal music from around the world and the United States. This program will feature the talents of individual students and small and large groups. Please mark your calendar for this special event with times to be announced soon.

In the spirit of the lyrics sung by Anna in the musical, *The King and I*, I am certainly, “Getting to Know You, Getting to Know All About You.” What an adventure.



## MIS looks forward to MCT week!

It is once again that time of year when MIS students are “hamming” it up and preparing for the World Premiere of our annual Spanish MCT production. This year they will perform *La Princesa y el Chicharo (The Princess and the Pea)*. All students in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades will be cast members.

*La Princesa y el Chicharo (The Princess and the Pea)* is MIS’s fifth annual Spanish language play produced in partnership with Missoula Children’s Theatre (MCT). Auditions with MCT Tour Directors will take place on Thursday, November 18 from 9:30-11:30 A.M. for 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders and 12:15-1:15 P.M. for 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> graders.

The cast will spend much of the week rehearsing with MCT tour directors and K/1 multiage teacher, Rocío, the week of November 29-December 3 and then will present two performances on Friday, December 3 at 3:00 and 5:30 P.M. here at MIS.

Tickets for the shows will be \$5 per person. Each MIS family with 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students will receive TWO FREE TICKETS to one of the shows.

Please direct questions regarding the performance to the school office: [office@mismt.org](mailto:office@mismt.org).

More detailed information about the show will be distributed to cast members in the near future.

We believe our community of learners will **impact the world** in positive ways as we **embrace international friendships**, **share information and ideas** in **multiple languages** and forge **creative solutions** through **cross-cultural dialogue**.

## L☺☺king ahead...

November		December	
18	MCT Casting Day @ MIS	3	MCT play—two performances at 3:00 P.M. and 5:30 P.M.
19	Parent Workshop	15	Winter “Informance” Time TBA
24–26	Thanksgiving Break	17	Pizza Friday—PARENTS INVITED!
29–December 3	MCT week	20-31	Winter Break
JANUARY 3, 2011—SCHOOL RESUMES AFTER THE WINTER BREAK!			

### Recent MIS Community Events bring together Generations and Cultures



**G** day 2010 was a Grand Success as grandparents and grand friends joined MIS students and teachers in the classroom while sharing together music, food and inspiration. The many parent volunteers made the event memorable and festive.



**T**he Missoula International School celebrated its Day of the Dead event on October 29 with the theater piece “Recordando nuestro Golfo de Mexico,” written and directed by artist Penélope Baquero in collaboration with MIS students and teachers. The Missoula International School incorporated this celebration as part of the curriculum in order to give the MIS community an opportunity to expand its understanding of life cycles through the eyes of a very complex and beautiful tradition.



Students enacted the story of a boy named Isaac who is in despair about the death caused by the Gulf Oil spill and of his friend María, a chicana girl who shares with him her family tradition of Dia de los Muertos. This friendly gesture helps him process his sadness, leading Isaac, María, and their community to celebrate and bring hope to the world. Throughout the play, the living and the dead interact in a thoughtful and playful manner.

The Middle School students co-wrote the play by creating slap-stick skits and circus acts as well as writing dialogue. The production was embellished by three movable shrines depicting traditional folk art forms from Mexico. A great selection of music, from Michael Jackson to traditional Aztec Dances brought the ancient and modern traditions together.

Penélope Baquero is a Colombian artist living in Montana since 2000. She has been involved in community theater, painting, dance, performance art, and art education. She is the cofounder of Sundog Ecovillage, an intentional sustainable community in the Potomac Valley. The sights, sounds and tastes of the event engendered an authentic appreciation for the cycles of life and death.

