

## Diversity at MIS



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Head of School

In the Spring and Summer of 2010, the Diversity Task Force completed a series of focus groups to engage school stakeholders in defining diversity for the MIS community and identifying strategies to better reflect and live our values with regard to diversity. This feedback was used to create a Diversity Statement that the MIS Board of Trustees adopted in October.

Now, MIS is working to create a plan with measurable objectives to bring this statement to life. The Diversity Plan will propose specific, concrete objectives and a timeline for implementation in four general areas:

- ⇒ Curriculum Development
- ⇒ School Leadership
- ⇒ Student Community
- ⇒ School Culture and Values

The Task Force formed work groups for each of these four areas. With Task Force leadership and facilitation, these work groups, comprised of MIS teachers, board members, students, and parents, will meet 3-4 times over the spring to flesh out goals and objectives for their focus area and develop a three year timeline to implement the goals at MIS. The Diversity Task Force will use the work of each of the groups to develop a comprehensive Diversity Implementation Plan to present to the MIS Board of Trustees over the summer. Many thanks to everyone who is helping the school envision greater ways to create and embrace diversity as a community.

## MIS DIVERSITY STATEMENT

**D**iversity at MIS means moving beyond simple tolerance to support and celebrate the rich dimensions of each individual. MIS accepts and respects families, faculty, staff, and community members of all backgrounds and identities who seek connection through the shared goals of lifelong learning and principled global citizenship. MIS embraces broad perspectives and diverse knowledge to further its educational program and guide its students towards personal and global understanding and compassion.

Explore IB World Magazine and this recent article about the home/school connection, entitled, [Clarity Begins at Home](http://www.ibo.org/ibworld/sept2010/claritybeginsathome.cfm). Visit <http://www.ibo.org/ibworld/sept2010/claritybeginsathome.cfm>

## VOICES OF PRIDE



### Missoula International School Students Sing at Citizenship Ceremony

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, the students in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades at MIS gathered to sing for the twenty five people taking their final steps to naturalization at the Federal Building. Students practiced the national anthem and “Paz y libertad,” in Spanish.

Among those sworn in as new American citizens were MIS preschool teacher Adriana Cardozo and her husband, Dr. Fernando Cardozo-Pelaez, Associate Professor in the UM Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The two have lived in the United States for more than twenty years, but the road to dual citizenship has been long and sometimes difficult. For Adriana, the steps have been worth it, “It is so important in a democratic system, to be able to participate in social and political issues. Coming from Colombia, we often have a difficult time when we travel to other countries.”

For MIS students, the ceremony represented a way to learn about the U.S. government and to connect students to the Missoula community in a meaningful way. Following the ceremony, United States Senator Max Baucus wrote MIS to congratulate the students on a job well done.



## ¿Cómo nos sentimos?



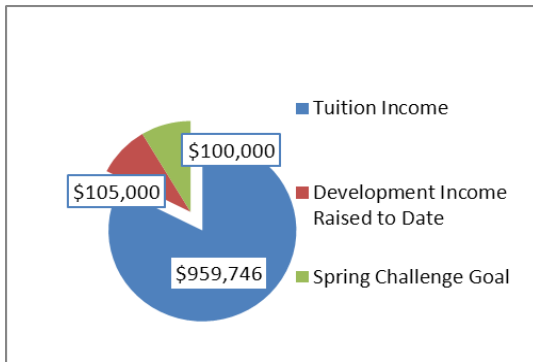
Students in the 4/5 preschool recently completed their third Unit of Inquiry: “The Way We Feel” (¿Cómo nos sentimos?) Students enjoyed connecting to what they learned from their favorite frog, Kelso. Students had a lot of fun sharing their emotions in different ways through creative movements, art projects, learning centers, singing, and dancing.

The unit concluded with a preschool performance for family and friends, combining acting, music, and dance related to the central idea: “We communicate our feelings in different ways” (Nosotros comunicamos nuestros sentimientos de diferentes maneras). Stacy Billingslea deserves a big thank you for working with the 4/5 preschool to create a presentation for every child to celebrate.

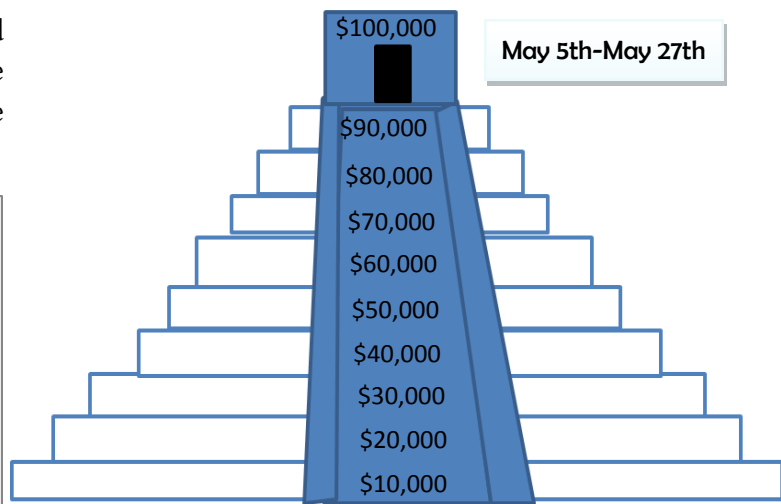


## COMING UP: MISsion Forward Spring Challenge

All independent schools rely on income raised through charitable contributions in order to support faculty salaries, provide financial aid, improve our facility, and keep tuition costs down. Respond to the Spring Challenge, and help MIS reach the overall goal of \$205,000 by the end of May!



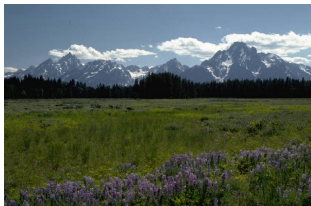
Every Step Counts \$100,000 Spring Challenge 2011



Every Gift is A Step Towards our Goal

## ADVENTURES IN LEARNING: Tetons and Mexico

The middle school is gearing up! Helena and Brad will be taking the sixth and seventh graders to the Teton Science School in Jackson Hole, WY for our annual trip! We have exciting plans lined up for the week of May 2<sup>nd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, such as a stewardship project that ties in well with the middle school's science unit on animals. The project also completes the MYP community service goals. Students will work with the Conservation Research Center to remove fencing to improve mule deer habitat and migration corridors. Students are excited to have the opportunity to conduct transect surveys and try radio telemetry.




Students will also create their own research project using the scientific method and the natural environment of Grand Teton National Park. Other highlights of the trip in the past have included the night hike, group games, and wildlife watching. This trip gives the students an opportunity to study science while teaching them life skills about how to take care of themselves away from home.

The eighth graders are preparing for their annual trip to La Paz, Mexico. Lynn will lead students on this adventure in language, culture, environmental conservation, and international friendship with Ecology Project International (EPI.) Arriving at La Paz, EPI will escort the group to their campus where students will meet the local middle school participants as well as become orientated with their surroundings.

They will then travel to *Isla Espiritu Santo* where they will camp on the beach for the majority of the week. On the island, students work closely with their Mexican leaders and peers and have the opportunity to snorkel with sea lions. Similar to the Teton group, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders will use the scientific method to research animals and the desert island ecosystem in the Sea of Cortez.

Upon returning to La Paz, they will visit a local orphanage and exchange books written for each other. This trip to Mexico is a rich cultural and language experience, culminating the educational experience at MIS.

## Looking ahead...

April 2011		May 2011	
22	PA Council Brown Bag with MC Jenni, "Have you Done Your Homework?"	2-7	Teton Science School Trip (Sixth and Seventh Graders)
25-29	Parent/Teacher Conferences	2-9	Eighth Grade Mexico Trip
30	YMCA Missoula Riverbank Run	9 NO SCHOOL	Professional Development Day
		20	Field Day / *Spirit Shop Sale
		30 NO SCHOOL	Memorial Day

### "HAVE YOU DONE YOUR HOMEWORK?"

MIS parent, MC Jenni, offers discussion and activity on why this question can end up to be a heated and frustrating event for parent and child. Learn about how you can make choices that can turn homework into a source of connection, inspiration, and joy for the whole family. Join MC this coming Friday (April 22), from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for this Parent Association Brown Bag Presentation.

## Earth Day 2011 Strengthens MIS and Missoula Community

MIS is extremely grateful to the families who attended Earth Day last Saturday.

Working together with MIS teachers, families cleaned up the grounds, moved rocks and woodchips, and nearly completed phase two of the Playground Improvement Project. The first tree was also planted in honor of Earth Day.

The second through fifth graders worked to clean up along the Clark Fork River and the middle school students collaborated with the Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Group to clean up the Bugbee Nature Preserve. Our joint efforts made a big difference!

