

Salsa Ball is Steppin' Out to Give a Child a Step Up

MIS

turned fifteen this year! So put on your high-heeled boots, grab a tiara, a tux, your best ball gown—Salsa Ball 2011 is *Steppin' Out* on February 26th to celebrate its XV Años, or *Quinceañera*, MIS style, with a goal to raise \$30,000 for student financial aid. Join the “Honor Court” of *damas* and *chambelanes*, ladies and gents, as well as the *padrinos* and *madrinas*, our event sponsors, for music, dancing, feasting, and playing at the Holiday Inn Parkside as we toast a new era of achievement and opportunity for MIS.

As part of an ancient rite of passage and still celebrated in many Hispanic cultures today, the fifteen-year old girl puts on a tiara and a change of shoes at her *Quinceañera* party to represent her new role and responsibilities as an adult. She offers her thanks to those who supported her during her growth, who offered her a step-up as she moved full circle into adulthood.

MIS entered its fifteenth year having just established itself as the first International Baccalaureate World School in the Pacific Northwest and in the role as a leader in 21st Century bilingual education in Montana. With this greater maturity comes the responsibility of providing a step up to any child who merits an IB World School bilingual education by keeping tuition affordable for families.



Decorated Boot,
by Ella Varney,
5th grade



The Salsa Ball 2011 committee is currently planning a *Quinceañera* fiesta to be remembered for the next fifteen years. Like the family and friends who spend many months behind the scenes planning the details of the traditional *Quinceañera*, MIS would like to thank parents Lisa Baumes, Gini Aten Erving, Kari Brittain, Lisa Kauffman, Melisa Schelvan, Andi Hoelzel, Ian Smith, Julie Osborn, Heidi DeArment, Bobby Bird, Vicki Kilminster-Bird, and Julie Salinas for their time and energy thus far. There are still many ways to help with the planning or the party. Mark your calendar, get involved and step out for the XV!

Contact Bethany O’Connell for info.
Email: boconnell@mismt.org

SALSA BALL 2011 is STEPPIN' OUT!

What: Salsa Ball 2011 *Quinceañera* Celebration
When: Saturday, February 26, 2011
Where: Holiday Inn, Parkside
Who: Everyone and anyone 21 and up who wants to support MIS and have a good time.
Why: To celebrate the 15th Anniversary of MIS and raise \$30,000 for financial aid. Give a child a step up at Salsa Ball!
How Much: The cost is \$25 per person (includes dinner, a drink or two, great silent auction items, music, dancing, daring, and yes, birthday cake and games.)

Musical Celebration of the Season

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Preschool-1st grade
11:00—11:30am

2nd-8th grade
2:15-3:15pm

Please Join Us at MIS!

Auction Sneak Peak

Bolivian Gem Captures the Spirit of the Quinceañera



A common tradition for the *Quinceañera* is to present the fifteen year-old girl with a ring or a special piece of Jewelry. In the true spirit of the 15th anniversary of MIS, 4/5 preschool teacher Jenny Gómez donated this spectacular pendant

made of natural Ametrine, which is formed when amethyst and citrine come together and can only be found in the Mine of Anahi in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Carefully mounted in 18 karat gold, you really must see it to appreciate its beauty and color. The pendant will be just one of the unique items you can only find at Salsa Ball on February 26th.

50/50 Steppin' Out Raffle

Feeling lucky?

The 50/50 Raffle is just one way to support Salsa Ball 2011, MIS's *Quinceañera* celebration!

Tickets are \$15 each (Quince dólares) and will be available beginning Monday, January 10th. Enter the raffle for a chance to earn 50% of the ticket sales!

*Raffle drawing to take place during Salsa Ball on February 26, 2011. Must be present to win.

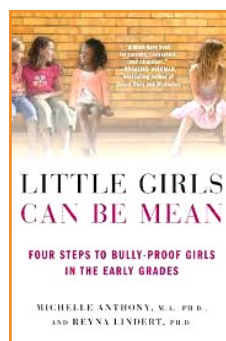
Beyond Coffee

The MIS community is growing with caring and supportive families. Our busy schedules do not always allow us the time to simply chat about what MIS means to each of us and what we would like to gain from our involvement at MIS. The parents and members of the community who serve on the MISsion Forward Fund Development Committee would like to know more about you and your experience here. They are available to discuss the many ways to support the mission, vision and values of MIS. If you receive a call this year from a Fund Development Committee member, please enjoy a moment of reflection over a cup of coffee or tea. Your ideas and support will help MIS reach its full potential for the next fifteen years and beyond.

Fund Development Committee 2010-2011

Susan Beck
Lucy Beighle
Heidi DeArment
Marco Littig
Caroline Kurtz
Sandra Simmons
Amber Sherrill, Committee Chair, Trustee
Doug Webber, Chair of the Board of Trustees
Bethany O'Connell, Director of Development

PA Council Brown Bag Series



Join us for a Book Discussion
Friday, January 21st
11:30am-12:30pm
MIS Conference Room

*Little Girls Can be Mean:
Four Steps to Bully-Proof Girls in the
Early Grades*
By Michelle Anthony, Ph.D.
And Reyna Leinart, Ph.D.

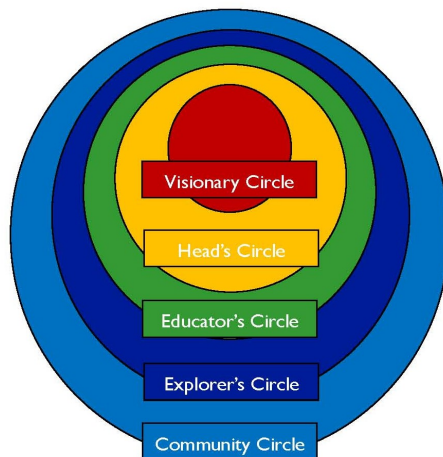
Purchase a copy or check one out from Julie Lennox

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**.

UPDATE: Full Circle and Beyond

One of the important roles of the MIS Board of Trustees and the Fund Development Committee is to envision MIS from 30,000 feet above and beyond, to guide the school in achieving the goals of the Strategic Plan and to secure the future sustainability of MIS.

These big picture goals include building a reserve fund for MIS, securing the facilities of the school while improving classroom and playground space and providing new educational opportunities for students and teachers. Your annual support of the MISsion Forward Fund makes the vision a reality.



Your gift to the MISsion Forward Fund is important! Strong parent participation gives greater opportunities to our community of lifelong learners. Please make your gift today.

Visionary Circle \$25,000 and above
Head's Circle \$10,000-\$24,999
Educator's Circle \$2,500-\$9,999
Explorer's Circle \$500- \$2,499
Community Circle \$499 and under

How are we doing?

MISsion Forward Fund 2010-11 Goal:
\$200,000

Contributions to date: \$69,680
Parent Participation to date: 16%
Faculty Participation to date: 100%
Board Participation to date: 100%

There are many ways to plan your gift to MIS. Please contact Bethany O'Connell, Director of Development, if you have any questions. boconnell@mismt.org

The Times They are a Changin'

Tax Considerations for Charitable Giving as 2010 Winds to a Close



As you've likely noticed, Congress has not yet taken definitive action on a number of key issues relating to individual income, gift, and estate taxes for 2011. In charitable giving, there are several planning considerations that may create opportunities as 2010 winds to a close:

Itemized deduction phase-out: In the past, the phase-out rules have limited the deductibility of certain itemized deductions, including charitable contributions, when a taxpayer's income exceeded a certain threshold amount. For 2010, there is no income based phase-out of itemized deductions. Currently, the phase-out rules are scheduled to return in 2011.

Gift tax: Although there is no estate tax for 2010, the gift tax is still in place. The gift tax is a separate tax levied on transfers that exceed a

specified amount (currently \$13,000). Direct payments to an educational institution, however, are **not** considered gifts for purposes of assessing this tax. This applies regardless of the relationship between the payer and student. In this situation, the tax code makes a huge distinction between a direct payment to an educational institution and a cash gift to an individual.

Generation skipping transfer tax (GST): In addition to the gift tax, transfers from grandparents to their grandchildren are also generally subject to the generation skipping tax. This tax has been repealed for 2010, making it a good time to consider such gifts.

Donation of retirement distribution to charity: Taxpayers over the age of 70 generally have to begin taking required minimum distributions from their qualified retirement accounts. These distributions are


considered taxable income and are taxed at ordinary income tax rates. In 2009, taxpayers were given the ability to donate their distribution directly to a charity without paying income taxes on the withdrawal. This benefit has not yet been reinstated for 2010, but many anticipate Congress will do so before year-end.

Please note that the above information is general in nature and may not apply to your particular circumstances. As always, you should consult with your personal tax advisor about how these issues may affect you.

Make MIS a priority in your charitable giving plan and enjoy the tax benefits.

Norm Williamson,
MIS Board of trustees, Parent, CPA,
CFP®

L☺☺king ahead...

| December | | January | |
|---|---|---------------------|---|
| 15 | <i>Musical Celebration of the Season:</i> preschool -1st at 11:00—11:30 am AND 2nd-8th at 2:15-3:15 pm. | 3 | Classes resume |
| 17 | All School Assembly | 10 | Adult Education and After school classes begin. *Art Club begins. |
| 17 | Pizza Friday—PARENTS INVITED! | 14 No School | Professional Development Day |
| 20-31 | Winter Break | 17 No School | Martin Luther King Jr. Day |
|  | SEASON'S GREETINGS! | 19 | Re-enrollment contracts due |
| | HAPPY NEW YEAR! | 21 | PA Book Discussion: <i>Little Girls Can Be Mean</i> , 11:30-12:30 |

Let's give a special round of thanks to all of the room parents for organizing our Holiday Parties this year!

MCT Week 2010: La Princesa y el Chicharo, The Princess and the Pea, a Big Hit

21st Century Skills Taught Through Performing Arts

Even if you did not know to laugh at every joke in the Spanish language play, you experienced the joy of total language immersion at MIS. With just one short week to rehearse, students in the 2nd-8th grades at the Missoula International School teamed up with the Missoula Children's Theatre (MCT) for the world Spanish language premiere of *La Princesa y el Chicharo* (The Princess and the Pea), conceived and written with music by Michael McGill and translated by MIS teacher Rocío Muhs. The young thespians did not disappoint with their vibrant singing and choreography, but more importantly, they were gaining important skills for the 21st century, such as confidence in learning music, movement, and fluency in a second language.

