



Telluride Mountain School

LABORATE DURE ... LUDITE DURE WORK HARD ... PLAY HARD



Join us for Morning Meeting!

Every Monday and Friday morning at 8:30, the entire school meets to share community, school and personal events. Students also frequently make presentations. These meetings are open to all parents and community members. This is a great way to learn about our school. Visitors are always warmly welcomed!

100%

Last Year's Annual Fund had nearly perfect participation!

In this economy we really appreciate your contribution to our school... We hope to make this year's goal of 100% participation. Make your donation today!

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EXPERIENCE, LEADERSHIP, WISDOM, WARMTH

Jim Loan: Interim Head of School

Telluride Mountain School welcomes Jim Loan as the new Interim Head of School. After a national search, Loan was chosen from a field of top candidates. One of the most instrumental educators in the Denver metro area over the past three decades, Jim brings 36 years of independent school experience with him.



As one of the founders of Denver Academy, a school for students with learning differences, his foresight and leadership helped hundreds of students to finally experience success in education. Under his leadership, Denver Academy grew to become one of the largest private schools in the country for students with unique learning styles.

In a year of record growth at the Mountain School, Jim feels the excitement, and shared some of his impressions. "It took a promising school with a dedicated board of trustees, an energetic and hard-working faculty/staff, along with a very special student body and supportive parents to bring me back into the mainstream of another independent school."

"The Mountain School is a quite gem, located in a progressive and energetic community. Since my arrival I have witnessed a faculty dedicated to helping students develop academically. Beyond that, the emphasis on character development and physical and emotional development also takes center stage in the education of each young person. Time and time again each faculty member goes the extra mile to ensure that every student meets his or her potential in all aspects of school life. It's easy to talk about shaping the whole child, but few schools accomplish this goal as well as the Mountain School."

"The balance between academics, experiential education and character development is difficult to achieve, but at the Mountain School this is realized. I wish I could take some credit for designing this fine program but I am simply a vessel poised with experience and wisdom that comes with years in the field."



“The Montessori teachers offer a truly inspirational and warm setting. The personal confidence my children have gained is amazing!”

—Montessori parent of children 2009 (graduated) and 2011



Montessori at Mountain School

By their high school years, TMS students are globetrotting individuals and strong outdoor enthusiasts who have backpacked, ice-climbed, paddled, and skied terrain ranging from deep desert canyons to icy mountain peaks. They not only speak Spanish but use it to interview native speakers and grapple with complex issues such as immigration from Mexico. They have studied world history, geography, cultures, and globalization both in the classroom and in their coordinated travels to destinations ranging from Western Europe to Ladakh, India.

It all starts at Montessori at Mountain School. Three- to six-year-old children begin their journey in the safety of a warm and welcoming classroom. Global studies begin with geography, including the fantastic globes and puzzle maps of the Montessori curriculum. M@MS graduates know their continents and oceans! Cultural studies include an annual “trip” around the world to study the food, clothing, art, music, languages, plants, and animals of the seven continents. Early history studies begin with a look at human needs, such as shelter, clothing, and food, and create a framework for understanding both the shared qualities and differences of people round the world. Natural studies begin with early lessons in botany and zoology, such as parts of the flower and classifying vertebrates. Early Spanish lessons begin with songs and games and take advantage of children’s early abilities to absorb languages and their sounds. And, while three-year-olds aren’t prepared to negotiate peace treaties, they begin the important work of understanding feelings, respecting others, compromising, and sharing. Perhaps it is true that everything your need to know, you learn in kindergarten!

The next time you are in Morning Meeting watching Upper School students present on their international experiences, think back to the Montessori classroom. There, three- to six-year-olds are working on puzzle maps, cooking a traditional Indian meal, learning their Australian animals, singing a song in Spanish, and beginning to acquire the skills, knowledge, and attitudes that will enable them to contribute on the global stage. Montessori at Mountain School is the child’s first door to the world.



A Well Deserved Promotion

Karen Walker joined the Mountain School in 2003 as Director of what was then Telluride Montessori School. Over the years, her role in the school has grown in virtually every direction. As Lower School Head she has long been responsible for steering our celebrated preschool and Kindergarten program, and she is credited with bringing the Montessori curriculum into the 1st/2nd and 3rd/4th grade classrooms.

More recently, Karen's role has expanded to include oversight of the Intermediate and Upper Schools. She pays close attention to the scope and sequence of the entire program, ensuring the curriculum is up-to-date, complete and logical, delivering the rigorous academics central to the Mountain School mission.

Karen also manages the school's admissions process, administers financial aid, hires and trains faculty.

Recognizing her extraordinary capabilities, Karen was recently promoted to Associate Head of School. We are all grateful beneficiaries of her exceptional intelligence, intuition, experience and good old-fashioned hard work.

Thank you, Karen, for all you have done for the Mountain School — past, present and future!



MOUNTAIN SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

Ah Haa Best In Show Award goes to...

Mountain School senior, **Jonas Fahnestock** for his oil painting entitled "Self Portrait." In the 8th annual Ah Haa Youth Art Awards, winners were selected based on originality and strength of the work submitted. Congratulations, Jonas!

7th & 8th Grade Winners

Scarlet Holvenstot, *First Place*

Clara Brown, *Honorary Mention*

Look what our Parents' Association is up to!

The TMS Parents' Association volunteers support our school community in so many ways. They coordinate numerous popular events such as **Wednesday Teacher Lunch, Holiday Party & Dessert Contest, Friday Pizza Lunch, Mom's Mixer, Dad's for Donuts** and the biggest fundraiser of the year, **Friday Night at the Movies**. Parents are encouraged to join any time of the year.

Contact PA president, *Jessica Galbo* at galbo@montrose.net for more information.

SAVE THE DATE

Friday Night at the Movies!

Friday, May 7, 2010

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Join us for an evening of short films, hors d'oeuvres, live and silent auctions. Put this special night on your calendar and invite your friends! All proceeds support the Mountain School scholarship fund.



5th & 6th Grade Classrooms Expand

The 5th and 6th grade class jumped by five new students this year, making it the largest multi-age class at the Mountain School to-date. Because low student-teacher ratios and individualized attention are essential to our mission, the class was split in two. Teachers Tommy Thacher and Rex Lybrand lead this spirited group of seventeen Intermediate School students.

Language

The goal of the Spanish language program here at TMS is communication. We try to emulate an immersion experience as much as is practical in an academic setting. In the primary years this is achieved through stories, songs and culture. Starting in 5th grade an emphasis is put on building vocabulary. In 7th grade the students start to focus on the mechanics of grammar. All the while, classroom instructions and simple dialogue is conducted in Spanish. By Upper School, students are mostly comfortable with communicating in Spanish.

Pictured above: 3 tree series: left: Lucia Iurino, middle: Henry Martin, right: Koko Waller. Action Figure: Henry Martin. Colorful tree: Lucas Casas. RRA Photos left: Alexa Posner, right: Blake Burchill and Miles Welch.



The Arts Inspire

The Mountain School art program (grades K-12) encourages students in all areas of visual self-expression. Through the exploration and study of various artists, art forms, and diverse cultures, students learn about all different areas of art. Projects are designed to incorporate knowledge from other academic areas and disciplines. This cross-curricular connection provides students with a more comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

Experiential Learning in the Rock and Roll Academy®

Sheamus is at the keyboard playing a familiar sounding progression. "What is that?" I ask, not quite able to place it. "In This River," Sheamus replies, continuing to play the hauntingly beautiful progression. Robert drifts over. "I know that song," he says, picking up the bass, "What are the chords, Sheamus?" They confer for a moment and the song starts to take shape.

"You know, that's funny," I say, "James, in fifth grade, was just saying he wanted to sing that song." "Maybe we could do it for the concert," Sheamus suggests, "We just need a drummer." "I'll play it!" Charles offers, moving behind the drum set, "It's easy." Robert says he'll go see if he can find James.

A minute later Robert is back with James. Although four years apart in age, they are unified by the music... James goes directly to the microphone. Within minutes they are playing a very convincing version of the song. Robert has left the door open. About a dozen students of all ages come in to hear the music. When they finish, there's a smattering of applause. It's good, effortlessly and undeniably good. No need to say much. "I gotta' go to math," Robert says, and we all head our separate ways.

Welcome Our New Board Members

The Board of Trustees is pleased to welcome four new members. All of these capable and dedicated volunteers are parents of younger Mountain School students, bringing fresh energy and perspective to the school's leadership. (Full board member bios available online at www.telluridemtnschool.org/governance)



Stephanie Anagnostou, began her work on behalf of the Mountain School as a member of the Interim Head Search Committee and now lends her expertise to the Compensation Committee of the Board of Trustees. Stephanie is an attorney, having worked most recently as Senior Vice President and General Counsel on the executive management team at Raindance Communications, Inc., a web conferencing provider headquartered in Boulder, CO. Stephanie, her husband Bernard Hatcher and their children moved to Telluride in 2009 from the San Francisco Bay Area, with the Mountain School factoring high in their decision to relocate. Son Thomas is currently in 2nd grade, daughter Olivia attends Montessori at Mountain School, while younger son Hugh expects to enroll in Montessori in 2011.



Michael Bradley, his wife Ashley and their son Morgan moved to Telluride full-time from Scottsdale, AZ in 2007. Having spent two to three months a year here since 2004, they felt Telluride offered an improved quality of life and Telluride Mountain School provided a unique educational opportunity for Morgan, who is now in 4th grade. A telecommunications professional with years of experience in Chicago and Scottsdale, Michael most recently helped develop Diversified Telecommunications Consulting and later Foothills Telecom. A member of the Mountain School's Buildings and Grounds Committee, Michael has begun a new career in building and development here in Telluride, having founded Refined Custom Homes.



Father of 1st grader Blake and Montessori student Graham, **Mark Burchill** served on the Finance Committee prior to joining the Board of Trustees, and continues to do so. He is CEO and an owner of Resort Sports Network (RSN), a national television network that airs in high-end resort towns, including Telluride. Prior to moving to Colorado from New York City in 2003 with his wife Suzanne and children, Mark was a cofounder of 24/7 Media, a global Internet marketing company that was publicly listed on Nasdaq and had over 1,000 employees.



Diana Mulligan, her husband Sean, and daughters, Quincey (6th grade) and Matisse (4th grade) moved to Telluride in 2004 from the San Francisco Bay Area. Prior to retiring in 1997, Diana worked for Centex Telemanagement and MFS Intelenet in Sales and Service Management, most recently as Vice President and General Manager. Diana has a Master of Arts in Transpersonal Psychology, and has contributed to many local non-profit boards, most recently as President of Telluride Academy, where she continues to serve as a board member. Prior to joining the Mountain school Board of Trustees, Diana was a member of the school's Interim Head Search Committee.



The Fall Outdoor Education trips follow a specific developmental scope and sequence, building a foundation of tangible skills that amass from the previous and lead into the next. For example, this year third and fourth graders learned basic water safety and canoeing skills, which will lead into flat water, then swift water kayaking opportunities in future years. In addition to developing hard skills, students build relationships with peers and teachers that foster meaningful interactions in the classroom throughout the academic year. From local dirt roads, to desert slot canyons and iconic Western Slope terrain, this year's trips left a lasting impression on the TMS student community.

First and second graders headed out on a day-trip up Tomboy Road to Imogene Pass to learn about local history, geology, and ecology. Local historian and TMS parent Ashley Boling added to the trip with on-site lectures of local lore. **Third and fourth grade** students hiked to Lake Hope, participated in plein air landscape drawing lessons, and practiced group camping skills in an overnight experience at Priest Lake. Additionally, they learned basic water safety and canoeing techniques on Trout Lake. **The fifth and sixth grade** group visited the John Wesley Powell River History Museum in Green River, and then headed into the desert to explore slot canyons of the San Rafael Swell while base-camping out of Goblin Valley State Park in Utah. **Seventh and eighth graders** set off on a self-supported backpacking trip to explore the Ancient Puebloan ruins of Bullet and Kane Canyons of Grand Gulch in southern Utah. On the adventure, they learned about the region's geology and ecology, while gaining useful desert backcountry skills. **Ninth and tenth grade** students practiced bouldering and climbing skills in the Moab area before canyoneering through Ding, Dang, and Chute Canyons. The **TMS upperclassmen** departed directly from town into the local mountains on a "rite of passage" trip. Orienteering the route from Mill Creek into Yankee Boy Basin, high-alpine camping each night and fly fishing in the Blue Lakes area left students humbled yet confident of their mountaineering abilities within our local environment.

Students on all trips experienced the unique environs through field lessons, group activities, and intensive sketchbook drawing.

Upon returning, students give back to the Mountain School community with Presentations of Learning delivered to students and parents during Morning Meetings. Students take care to look to the Telluride Mountain School Mission and Core Values as they evaluate the lessons learned. These young outdoor enthusiasts gain skills in public speaking and presentation while sharing stories and teaching from first-hand experiences.

MISSION

Telluride Mountain School delivers a program of challenging academics that promotes critical thinking, aesthetic expression and ethical behavior, while encompassing a commitment to community service, global citizenship and engagement with the natural environment. The school culture embraces independence, personal responsibility, compassion, curiosity and joy.

CORE VALUES

Respect We honor self and community, and value that which is different.

Love of Learning We foster lasting curiosity, creativity and passion in a challenging and safe environment.

Responsibility We understand the impact of personal actions, and uphold service as an integral part of scholarship and citizenship.

Integrity We adhere to values and ethics that enable us to approach our studies and lives with courage, pride, honesty and empathy.

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Top Education Consultant Commends Telluride Mountain School Programs

John Littleford of Littleford & Associates visited Telluride Mountain School twice during the past school year, providing board training and delivering the June graduation address. With degrees from Dickinson College, Princeton University, and Harvard University and over 25 years of leadership in education, Mr. Littleford is a sought after consultant with more than 2,000 clients worldwide, including some of the nation's most prominent independent schools.

As part of his visit, Mr. Littleford shared some of his views with the Mountain School's constituencies. He noted reasons parents typically choose independent schools: small class size, academic rigor, programmatic flexibility, discipline and character development, and personal relationships between committed faculty and students. Of Telluride's young independent school, Littleford said, "Telluride Mountain School provides all of these typical independent school qualities in this lovely mountain town. But the school goes further. It provides an experiential education program that not only expands a child's horizons, but makes each moment away from campus a rigorous learning experience, one of enormous intellectual and emotional growth."

Littleford also recognized the rigor of the academic curriculum, saying, "For the children of the Mountain School, test scores are high relative to the strongest independent school standards in the nation. This is important because some comparisons to regional or local benchmarks mask the reality that some state education programs are stronger than others."

Commenting on today's tough economic climate, Mr. Littleford encouraged parents to "forgo material extras" and invest in an independent school education "where the cost/benefit ratio is clear." He concluded, "The education of a child is one of the most important lifetime investments a parent can make."

"The education of a child is one of the most important lifetime investments a parent can make."

Reach Your Peak at



Telluride Mountain School

200 San Miguel River Drive Telluride, CO 81435-8924

tel: (970) 728-1969 www.telluridemtnschool.org

Return receipt requested - nonprofit bulk rate



Mural by 1st through 12th grades completed as a part of the Mountain School's MLK Day tradition, representing the contrast between global and personal struggles on the road to peace.

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US Postage Paid
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Telluride, CO