

SUNDANCE MONTESSORI SCHOOL



*Enriching the Mind and
Spirit of Our Children*

VIEWBOOK

2009-2010

Sundance Montessori School

Our “Solar” Community



Our school community is analogous with the Solar System; it has many parts that function together to make the community complete. With the school (sun) at the center of the system, support is offered to the classrooms (planets). The school administration forms the corona of the sun, aiding in the ability of the sun to offer a beacon of light to the vast services we provide our school community.

Our sun has a moon (Moondance/MAPS), which follows after the sun has set for the day, in order to provide total care for the students and their families.

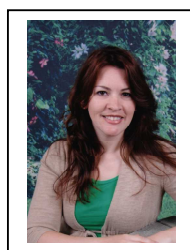
Surrounding the sun, and creating a protective ring around the planets is the Asteroid Belt (parents), which maintains and keeps our community strong. Our astronomers (teachers) are witness to amazing human potential, as they observe the stars of our community (the students). Comets (our alumni) appear in the system every so often sharing their accomplishments, and offering encouragement to our students in achieving their goals as they journey through their well-rounded education within the Montessori environment.

Our Solar System is supported by the Galaxy (Board of Directors), whose job it is to maintain the school’s mission of building a strong community of teachers, students, and parents. Through our shared community we will nurture the individual spirit of each child through the Montessori Method.

Sundance Montessori School, Inc.

Board Members

Sundance Montessori School established a school board in October of 2008 for the purpose of creating a not-for-profit corporation. The school board currently consists of five members, including the school director. Initially the board was responsible for drawing up bylaws for the school's operation. The board will continue to support the school on a regular basis regarding policy decisions and provisions for the operation of the school. The board will also meet at least twice annually to ensure that the school is continuously moving forward with the vision, while honoring the school's mission.



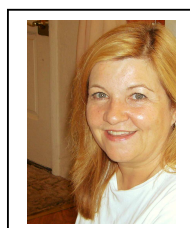
Robin Saia, Director

Robin began her Montessori training and internship in 1995, receiving her Early Childhood (3-6) Certificate in 1996. She took over as Director of Sundance in 1999. Robin earned her Elementary (6-12) Certificate in 2005. Robin has been teaching children for 13 years, but her initial Montessori training began as a child when she attended Folsom Montessori School. As a Board Member, her duties will include, without limitation: managing the day-to-day operations of the facility, teaching, supervision and training of faculty, fundraising and administration, and attendance at Board meetings.



Brenda Rios, Admissions Director

Brenda began her career at Sundance in 2005. Her prior experience in child-related agencies include a youth group home and foster care agency, and a K-12 school for "at-risk" youth. Brenda holds a Bachelor's Degree in English, with an emphasis on Professional Writing, from New York Institute of Technology. She completed her Montessori Assistant Teacher training program at the Montessori Teacher College in July 2009. As a Board Member, her duties will include, without limitation; assisting parents and children during the enrollment process, maintaining the flow of communication between the school and parents, and attendance at Board meetings. In addition, Brenda will plan, administer and supervise the elementary art program.



Wendelin Richards, After School Program Director

Wendy is the Director of the After School Program, Moondance/MAPS. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education with a minor in Psychology. Her teaching credentials include Early Childhood, Kindergarten and Elementary education, as well as Elementary Psychology. Wendy has been working with children for over 25 years as a Lead Teacher in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Special Education classrooms. As a Board Member, her duties will include, without limitation; managing the day-to-day operations of the Moondance after school program, teaching, and attending Board meetings.



Libby Vincent, Ph.D., Board Member

Libby Vincent earned her Bachelor's Degree from the University of California Los Angeles, her Masters in Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary, and her Ph.D from the University of Edinburgh. Dr. Vincent is currently employed as an Adjunct Professor with Fuller Theological Seminary. As a Board Member, her duties will include, without limitation; school administration, financial review, and attending Board meetings.



John E. Spoomer, III, Board Member, Incorporator

John Spoomer received his Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the University of California, Hastings; and is currently a senior associate at the law firm of Bullivant Houser Bailey PC. As a Board Member, his duties will include, without limitation; corporate governance, financial review, and attending Board meetings.

Primary (Inner Planets)

“The Keys to the World.”

Maria Montessori spoke of “giving the world to the child in his first plane of development.” In the Primary Montessori classroom, children are given the keys to the world through the prepared environment, trusting adults, and the freedom to explore. These keys open the door of possibilities for the child’s own work, and therefore allow development to take place within the child automatically.

EARTH Classroom

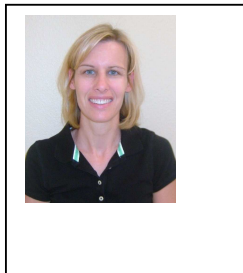
Half Day

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



Astronomer: Mrs. Geraldine Alfonso, Lead Teacher

Mrs. Dina has her Montessori Early Childhood Certification and has been teaching at Sundance for several years. In addition to her Montessori training, she holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communication/Broadcasting from Far Eastern University in Manila, Philippines. Prior to Sundance, Dina also worked at Intel and Franklin-Templeton. Dina is the songbird of Sundance, as our school music teacher. Students benefit from her love of music by learning to read notes, music appreciation, and sing songs they will fondly remember.



Astronomer: Mrs. Shelley Brusa, Intern

Mrs. Shelley is currently enrolled with the Montessori Teacher College to complete her Montessori Early Childhood Certification. She holds a Master of Science degree in Education from California State University Hayward and a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies with a Minor in Psychology from Saint Mary’s College of California. Shelley has a wide range of experience helping children overcome challenges in literacy and language as a Kindergarten Intervention Teacher, a Literacy Coach, and a 3rd and 4th grade teacher in Concord and Brentwood, California.

Earth Half Day Schedule

9:00 a.m. -9:30 a.m.	Circle Time
9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m.	Job Time/Snack
11:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.	Lessons
12:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 p.m. -1:00 p.m.	Recess

MARS Classroom

Full Day

8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.



Astronomer: Ms. Molly Mix, Lead Teacher

Ms. Molly first joined Sundance as a parent, and quickly fell in love with the Montessori philosophy enough to want to teach full time. After interning with Ms. Laura in the Redwood class for two years, Molly has taken over as Lead Teacher of the full day classroom. Molly has been instrumental in bringing greater social awareness and community outreach programs to Sundance; involving the students, faculty and parents alike in programs that encourage giving, compassion, and awareness of the needs of others in our community and the world. Her involvement doesn't end with the classroom, but extends to assisting the after school program in their Montessori education, as well as hosting after school clubs for the elementary students.



Astronomer: Mrs. Kathy Nitchoff, Intern

Mrs. Kathy shares a similar beginning in Montessori as Mrs. Robin; her mother was a Montessori Directress/School Owner, who subsequently passed on her passion for early childhood education to her daughter. Kathy worked alongside her mother in the Montessori classroom while she was still in high school. In 2004, Kathy returned to the family's school in Naperville, Illinois to teach alongside her sister. Kathy also taught Bible School classes to children on the Kayenta Indian Reservation in Arizona.

Kathy will intern under Ms. Molly, as she completes her Early Childhood Montessori Teacher training.

Mars Full Day Schedule

8:30 a.m. -9:00 a.m.	Opening Circle/Lessons
9:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.	Job Time/Snack
11:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.	Lessons/Circle
12:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 p.m. -1:15 p.m.	Recess
1:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Story/Rest Time/Kindergarten Lesson*
1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Job Time/Snack
2:30 p.m.	School Out—Moondance begins

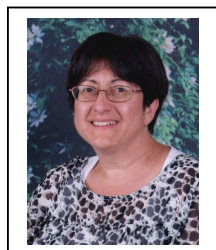
Kindergarten Lessons*

Monday – Science
Tuesday- Language/Math
Wednesday – Language/Math
Thursday – Spanish
Friday – P.E.

MERCURY Classroom

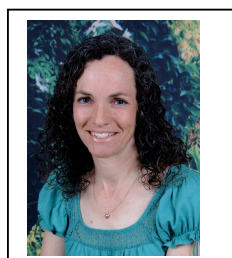
Full Day

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



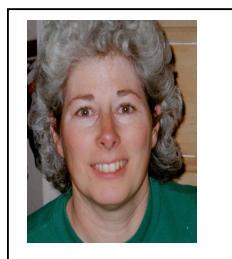
Astronomer: Mrs. Linda Riek, Lead Teacher

Mrs. Linda began teaching at Sundance in the fall of 2005. Her prior experience included teaching Kindergarten and lower elementary grades in public school. She has a State of California Teaching Credential and her Early Childhood Montessori Teaching Certification. Linda holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Graphic Design/Illustration from San Jose State University. She is a master of classroom management and organization, and brings her creative spirit to the classroom, in particular the Practical Life environment, where her unique jobs elicit awe and inspiration from her fellow teachers, and excitement from the students, who can't wait to get their hands on the materials.



Astronomer: Mrs. Susan Forde, Assistant Teacher, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Mrs. Susan joined Sundance in 2006, initially as a substitute teacher, and was so well received by the children and faculty that she accepted an assistant teaching position when we returned the following year. Before working at Sundance, Ms. Susan spent years as a Child Life Specialist in the UC Davis Healthcare System, providing therapeutic play and educational opportunities for patients aged birth to 18 years. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Developmental Psychology from UC Santa Barbara and a Master of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education from Mills College, Oakland.



Astronomer: Mrs. Elaine Ferreira-Pro, Assistant Teacher, Thursday/Friday

Ms. Elaine joins our faculty this year after being a welcome presence on the Sundance campus for many years, beginning in the fall of 2002, when her son Adam attended the school. She has more recently been seen around the school volunteering in her son Ben's elementary classroom, as well as other classrooms. Elaine has a BA in Child Development from California State University Sacramento and taught second and fourth grade for 18 years at St. John Vianney School in Rancho Cordova. She is a member of the Folsom Historical Society, and a docent in training at the Folsom History Museum. Elaine completed her Montessori Assistant Teacher training in July 2009, and is eager to fully immerse herself in the classroom once again.

Mercury Full Day Schedule

9:00 a.m. -9:30 a.m.	Opening Circle/Lessons
9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m.	Job Time/Snack
11:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.	Lessons/Circle
12:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 p.m. -1:15 p.m.	Recess
1:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Story/Rest Time/Kindergarten Lesson*
1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Job Time/Snack
3:00 p.m.	School Out—Moondance begins

Kindergarten Lessons*

Monday – Science

Tuesday- Language/Math

Wednesday – Language/Math

Thursday – Spanish

Friday – P.E.

Elementary (Outer Planets)

“The Keys to the Universe.”

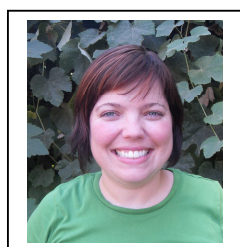
In the Elementary Montessori classroom, children are given the keys to the universe. In her book “To Educate the Human Potential” Dr. Montessori describes the six-year-old confronted with the ‘Cosmic Plan’:

“Since it has been seen to be necessary to give so much to the child, let us give him a vision of the whole universe. The universe is an impossible reality, and an answer to all questions. We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe, and are connected with each other to form one whole unity. This idea helps the mind of the child to become fixed, to stop wandering in an aimless quest for knowledge. He is satisfied, having found the universal centre of himself with all things.”

JUPITER Classroom

Junior 1

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



Astronomer: Ms. Kelly Regan, Lead Teacher

Ms. Kelly joins Sundance with her knowledge as an elementary teacher and with prior early childhood experience she gained at a childcare center. She previously taught at the California Montessori Project in the 1st through 3rd grades. In addition, Kelly was an elementary teacher at a private school where she learned how to meet the needs of a multi-age, multi-needs classroom. Kelly also has experience substituting for San Juan and Rio Linda School Districts. She brings her vast experience to Sundance along with her love of animals. The students in her classroom are guaranteed to have many wonderful zoology lessons.



Astronomer: Ms. Sarah Malone, Assistant Teacher

Ms. Sarah was the previous owner/care provider of Sarah’s Family Daycare, before deciding to become involved in Montessori education. She was the Head Teacher in the Early Childhood Program at Countryside Montessori School for many years. In addition, Sarah was a Teacher’s Aide at the Yocha De-He Wintun Academy in Brooks, California, where the Montessori philosophy was presented with great emphasis on being true to Dr. Montessori’s methodology. Sarah takes great pride in introducing peace curriculum to children who do not always have the tools to problem solve or approach a situation with compassion and respect.

Junior I Daily Program Schedule

8:00 a.m.	Classroom is open for student arrivals
8:30 a.m.	School begins
8:30 a.m. -9:00 a.m.	Morning Meeting & Music
9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.	Work Time and Snack
11:00 a.m. -11:45 a.m.	Recess
11:45 a.m.	Lunch
12:15 p.m.	Silent Reading
12:45 p.m.	Afternoon Meeting
1:00 p.m.	Cultural Lesson
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Work Time and Snack
2:30 p.m.	Recess
3:00 p.m.	School’s out—Moondance begins

Classroom Lessons

Monday – Geometry, Poem/Writing, History
Tuesday- Language, Botany/Gardening
Wednesday – Math, Art, Library
Thursday – Geography, Journal Writing, Spanish

Friday – Spelling Test, Physical Education, Zoology, Social Studies

NEPTUNE Classroom

Junior 2

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



Astronomer: Mrs. Suzanne Patterson, Lead Teacher

Mrs. Suzi joined Sundance in the summer of 2007. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from Rice University and a BBA in Computer Information Systems from the University of New Mexico. After a 10 year career at Intel as a Senior Programmer, Suzi took some time off to focus on her family. During that time both of her children attended a Montessori preschool, and it was then that she discovered a passion for Montessori teaching. She became Lead Teacher in an Early Childhood Program. At Sundance Mrs. Suzi has graced the Cherry classroom as an Assistant to Mrs. Dina, and moved into the Aspen Elementary classroom as a teacher intern while going through her Montessori Elementary Teacher training Program.

Having earned her Montessori Elementary Teacher Certification in 2009, she is ready to guide the Junior 2 classroom through a delightful year of rewarding Montessori education.

Junior II Daily Program Schedule

8:00 a.m.	Classroom is open for student arrivals
8:20 a.m.	School begins
8:20 a.m. -9:00 a.m.	Morning Meeting & Music
9:00 a.m. -11:15 a.m.	Work Time and Snack
11:15 a.m.	Lunch
12:00 – 12:30 p.m.	Recess
12:45 p.m.	Silent Reading
1:00 p.m.	Afternoon Meeting
1:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Cultural Lesson
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Work Time and Snack
2:45 p.m.	Recess
3:00 p.m.	School’s out—Moondance begins

Classroom Lessons

Monday – Geometry, Poem/Writing, History

Tuesday- Language, Botany/Gardening

Wednesday – Math, Art, Library

Thursday – Geography, Journal Writing, Spanish

Friday – Spelling Test, Physical Education, Zoology, Social Studies

Sundance Parents

The Asteroid Belt of our School Community

Located between the inner and outer planets, the asteroid belt is the supportive, protective ring around the sun; the rock that forms the foundation of our school community.

Parent Education Night

Parent Education Nights provide parents the opportunity to learn about topics relevant and related to getting the most out of your Montessori educational experience. Topics range from Child Behavior, Nutrition, and Montessori curriculum explained in greater detail. Parent education nights also give parents the opportunity to meet and mingle and share ideas with each other to further strengthen our community.

Parent Coffee Meets

Several times throughout the year, each classroom will arrange to have coffee and time to meet outside before the school day begins. This is a wonderful time to chat with other parents in your child's class, ask questions of your school administrators, and relax in good company before the start of your day.

Parent Participation

Sundance Montessori honors the vital role parents play in sustaining the programs in our school community. The concept of community is essential in the education of each child, and will lead each student to explore, understand, and grow into full and active members of larger communities, both locally and globally, as represented by the examples given by their parents.

Green Thumb Committee

The Sundance Children's Garden is open year round, every day, and on weekends, as a safe, green space for children and their families to enjoy the outdoors and to learn about growing food for sustainable living. The Green Thumb Committee is an organization of parents and faculty that are determined to bring the garden experience to the community and teach green practices for everyday living.

Satellite Programs

Included in Curriculum

Spanish

Mrs. Margarita Rivera has taught Spanish in schools for many years, in K-12 and Community College levels. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Spanish Elementary Education at the University of Oregon, her Master's degree at Humboldt State University and another Master's degree in Spanish/Portuguese at the University of Santa Barbara. Additionally, she holds a doctorate degree from Stanford University. She taught 3rd grade at Salinas City Elementary before retiring to move to Folsom. She brings with her a fresh, new curriculum, for students aged 5 and over, in which the children will be able to read, write, and have simple conversations with their peers in Spanish.

Advanced Art

Junior I: Mrs. Margarita Rivera

Junior II: Mrs. Brenda Rios

Margarita and Brenda are artists who bring their love of the arts to the elementary students in lessons that both teach and inspire. Margarita's influences include the impressionists, with Van Gogh among one of her favorite painters. Brenda's influences include the surrealists and abstract artists, with particular favor in the artists Wassily Kandinsky and Salvador Dali.

Both Margarita and Brenda have been painting for years, and enjoy watching children create from their own imagination. Each rewarding art lesson students receive will enable them to uncover the master artist in themselves.

Physical Education

Stretch-N-Grow

Children aged 5 and over will participate in our Physical Education program from Stretch-N-Grow. Stretch-N-Grow provides a fun, high energy fitness program from which children reap tremendous rewards.

Library

Callisto

The children's library boasts a circulation of over 500 books, some brand new, but many gently donated by our parents. Children have library time built into their classroom schedule each week. Students may check books out and bring them to their classroom to read during silent reading, or share with their classmates.

Children's Community Garden

Children will have ample time to learn and explore in their outdoor classroom garden environment. With expansion plans underway, new activities will enhance their gardening experiences: composting, greenhouse practices, worm composting, as well as many meditative, relaxing qualities; a walking labyrinth and seating for quiet nature observation.

Satellite Programs

Offered independently, After school



Dance

El Dorado Dance Academy

Debi Davis Worth, Executive Director of El Dorado Dance Academy brings a world of dance experience to Sundance students. She has danced and taught in L.A., New York, London and Japan. She began training in classical ballet at the age of 13 and signed her first professional contract at the age of 17 with the Music Circus's Broadway Series *Camelot*. Debi continued her dance education while earning her Bachelor degrees in Dance and Anthropology from UC Irvine. At Sundance, students will participate in creative movement classes and have the opportunity to perform in a Winter and Spring Showcase.



Drama

Kadie Brock's Acting & Dancing Company

Students have an opportunity to enroll in Kadie's exciting after school drama class, being offered once a week for one hour. Kadie has experience working with the talent agencies of Barbizon School of Modeling and John Robert Powers, as well as a children's educational theatre program with Kaiser Permanente in Oakland.

The drama class offered to Sundance students will focus on basic acting, improvisation, commercial acting, theatre make up, costume, monologue, scene study, masks, and puppetry.



Spanish Immersion

Ms. Blanca Lawton, Director

Ms. Blanca brings practical, conversational Spanish to Sundance, in a fun, effortless program. Children will learn through songs, games, hands-on activities and pretend play, to make second language acquisition come as natural as playing!

Moondance After School Care

Where every child can experience the joy of friendship.

Moondance is an afterschool program available to students attending Sundance. More than an afterschool program, Moondance offers your child the opportunity to become part of a unique community, where children learn to celebrate each others' differences, as well as their shared similarities. Moondance is a place where every child can experience the joy of friendship.

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Friday

1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.



Ms. Amber Didion

Moondance Teacher

Ms. Amber gained her early childhood experience at Folsom Lake College in the early childhood education center. Her prior childcare experience included providing daycare services for the patrons of the Spiritual Center for Positive Living. Amber is very enthusiastic about her Montessori experience at Sundance and strives to create a natural bridge between the experience the children have in their classroom, to the one she provides for them after school in her care. She encourages the children to be

kind to

one another and creates a place for them to have fun and be expressive.

Your Child's Experience in Moondance

Children in the 3-5 age group participate in: music, movement, dramatic play, games and crafts that teach about making friends and being a good friend. We practice the rules of friendship, sharing and caring, through fun and exciting games.

Children in the 6-9 age group continue to expand on the many aspects of play and social interaction through art, music, dance, acting, and storytelling. In this age group, children are able to utilize a combination of activities to develop their own interests and share that with their friends. We support the children in expanding their social connections and skills creatively.

M.A.P.S. IPG



Play is a fundamental human right; it is through play that children develop cognitive, language, social, emotional, creative, and motor skills. We see the traditions of values of our culture in the play of children. Regardless of a child's gifts or challenges, they deserve the opportunity to share the joy of being part of a community.

M.A.P.S., Inc. provides social skills therapy to children with developmental delays. We teach children how to make and be a good friend. In small play groups comprised of 5-7 children, 2 with a developmental challenge, and 3-4 children without these challenges, two professionally trained, compassionate therapists carefully guide and teach children what it means to be, and have a friend.

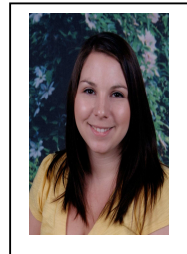
Each group meets for one and a half hours, either on Tuesday and Thursday, or on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The IPG sessions have circle time, play group games, enjoy snacks, do art projects, make music videos, and much more. The children are carefully matched by age and interests to make their play experience more rewarding. Everyone has a lot of fun, and for many children this is a life-altering experience!

PLAY GROUPS



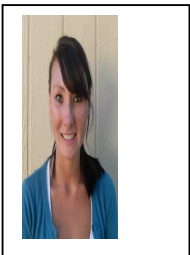
Bird House

Play Guide: Ms. Jessica Hannibal



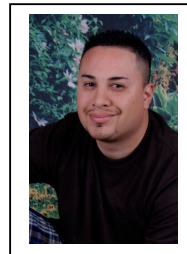
Club House

Play Guide: Mrs. Jessie LaFond



Tree House

Play Guides: Ms. Terra White and

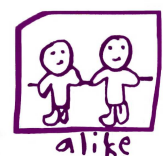


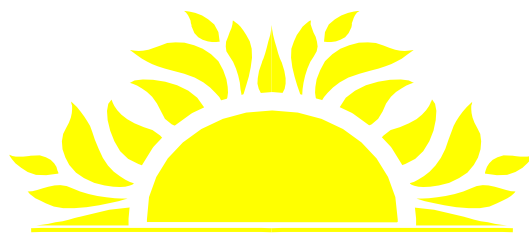
Mr. Adam Maldonado



Play House

Play Guide: Mrs. Ashley Lambert





Sundance Montessori School, Inc.
216 Natoma Street
Folsom, CA 95630
(916) 985-6034

www.sundancemontessori.com