

## **BLACK RIVER PARENTS' ORGANIZATION - ELEMENTARY COMMITTEE**

### **Mission Statement:**

As a subset of the existing Parent Organization, while working closely with the Montessori teachers and staff, we aim to simplify and facilitate the process through which parents may support the students and faculty in the 1st through 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Our goal is to facilitate extracurricular activities that support the Montessori and Academic focus of the school while increasing the socialization opportunities for students, as well as their parents, among the entire elementary student body. The goal is to recognize the unique and diverse needs of the elementary age group while continuing to foster the unity of the whole Black River Community. All BR Montessori elementary parents and legal guardians are encouraged to participate in the group and events.

### **Specific Areas of Focus:**

#### **1. Community Building:**

Offer opportunities for parents and students to interact with other families outside of school hours (evenings and weekends) to further the sense of Black River community within the school.

Examples: picnic, ice-cream social, family game/spectator nights, ski club

#### **2. Academic Enrichment/Cultural Events:**

Provide the manpower, organization and financial backing to offer outside activities, clubs and or events that support the activities in the Montessori classroom. Only with the Montessori lead teachers' approval and at the request of the Montessori teaching staff would activities be scheduled during the school day. Otherwise, all activities would be scheduled outside of school hours. The Montessori environment takes much preparation so after school club activities must be scheduled in non teaching rooms, and led by parents or other qualified non-teacher adults.

Examples: Native American event, gardening club or multi-cultural night.

#### **3. Parent/Montessori Education:**

Assist the lead Montessori teachers in producing a parent education opportunities calendar, creating and updating a Recommended Reading List for parents and arranging for outside speakers at the request of the lead Montessori teachers. Under direction of the elementary staff, help facilitate new parent understanding of the school culture.

Examples: Parent Orientation Night, Curriculum Night, Build Montessori Library

#### **4. Classroom Support:**

Organize a list of parents who are interested in volunteering at the school. Those teachers who have a specific need would then have a ready list of parent volunteers to utilize.

Examples: Car-off Line Support, Community Service Club

## **Parent's Organization - Elementary Committee Responsibilities**

### **General Guidelines:**

Our focus is to provide requested support to the elementary faculty, enrichment and social events for the children, and represent the interests of the Montessori Elementary to the overall BR Parents' Organization. To that end, the group should strive to follow the operating guidelines below:

1. Events and activities are to be scheduled outside of normal school hours.
2. We will avoid using the BR classrooms, as the teachers use them after school hours.
3. Events for the next academic year will be planned during the prior spring, or as early as possible, in order to avoid the need for extra flyers and to allow communication through established channels, e.g. Ripples, Elem. Teacher Newsletters and BR website.
4. We will encourage all parents and guardians to be involved in the group by communicating committee opportunities and activity and event opportunities.
5. To make it possible for all families to participate, we will organize free or very low cost events the majority of the time.
6. The Elementary Committee must get approval of planned activities from the Lead Montessori Elementary Teachers.
7. The Elementary Committee is responsible for organizing, planning and coordinating each approved event. BR Faculty and Staff are not to be burdened with extra duties because of our activities, and they are not expected to attend all of our functions.
8. The Elementary Committee Chair will ensure that our activities are communicated to the overall Parent Organization.
9. Activities and events should support the academic and Montessori focus of the school while still fostering community-building among families, as well as, fun for the children.
10. Due to the sensitive nature and required extensive knowledge of the BR Montessori Approach, the Parent Education/Montessori Committee Chair will be selected by the Lead Montessori Elementary Teachers.
11. The remaining chair positions will be sought from those interested and involved in Elementary volunteer activities.
12. To encourage participation, the committee will telephone all parents/guardians who complete the PO Volunteer Interest Sheet. We will strive to engage all who express interest in volunteer opportunities.
13. Our is to have a Mentee for each Sub-Committee Chairperson, who will replace the existing chairperson the following year.
14. We will strive to offer activities that support the curriculum as outlined by the Lead Teachers, e.g. Native American, Civil War, Australia, or Spanish Language.
15. This committee will not pursue separate fundraising outside of the Black River Parent Organization's (P.O.) initiatives. Rather, we will coordinate P.O. fundraising with the Elementary, when it is requested by the P.O.

**Parent's Organization – Elementary Committee  
2006-2007 School Year Committee**

Elementary Montessori Lead Teachers Contacts - **Fran Olesen and Barb Boyce**

Chairperson - **Deb DuMez**

Liaison to Sub-Committees, Parent Organization, Teachers, and Administration  
Fundraising coordination with Elementary for Parent Organization  
Ensures that all committee positions are filled for the current and following year

Sub-Committees:

Community Building – **Jennifer Stockdale**

- Clubs - Ski club
- Hospitality - Spring Ice Cream Social, Fall Picnic
- Family Game / Spectator Nights
- Organize Elementary Committee info booth at events

Academic Enrichment – **Cindy Angerer**

- Events related to curriculum
- Community Service opportunities
- Gardening Club
- Transition to Middle School Coffee/ Night for new families and families of existing 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

Parent / Montessori Education – **Kathy Stratton**

- Under guidance of Lead Elem. Teachers, answer questions from parents on Montessori
- Spring New Parent Montessori Information Event
- Fall curriculum Night
- Survey Parents on options for educating them on Montessori
- Provide Montessori materials to every family - Subscription to *Montessori Life/ or IT IS NECESSARY, IT IS MONTESSORI* pamphlet / A Montessori Education Questions and Answers Brochure from AMS
- Other - Book Discussion Group, Lending Library

Classroom Support – **Carrie Olesh**

- Provide Volunteers, when requested by Teachers
- Contact elementary parents who complete P.O. Volunteer forms
- Car-Line Committee – recruit and train a dedicated group of parent volunteers to take over Drop Off and Pick Up at Car lines
- Other - Grant Research and Writing, Childcare for parent meetings