

Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake



LEARNING AT THE LAKE

Learning enhanced with mathematics and science—
exploring the beauty of the world.

Winter 2009

Greetings!

This has been a banner year for the Montana Learning Center, not only for what we've accomplished but for what we've set in motion. We are grateful for your gifts of financial, material, and volunteer support. We are also thankful for the enthusiasm of students, teachers, and other campers who've enjoyed MLC this year, for our dedicated staff, and for the time and effort invested by our Board members.

There is a wholeness to the MLC experience that addresses multiple aspects of educational and personal growth. When I worked at a YMCA long ago, we often talked about the connection between body, mind, and spirit and the need to nurture all three of those components. I'd like to use that metaphor to share with you some of the exciting prospects for MLC in 2010.

Body – the MLC Campus

It's difficult to advance mind and spirit if the body isn't healthy. MLC's buildings, grounds, equipment, and staff form the "body" that supports its mission to serve students, teachers, and families with educational programs. Over the years, we have maintained and improved the MLC campus in big and small ways such as painting walls, installing a handicapped ramp, remodeling interiors, and renovating the beachfront. In 2010 we are tackling our first major expansion project—remodeling and updating the kitchen/dining facility. We have the generous support of architects and contractors who are friends of MLC, who have designed a multi-level project that will allow us to build in stages. Even so, this is an expensive undertaking. We were fortunate to obtain \$50,000 in funding from the Montana legislature, but we still have a \$35,000 deficit to fill in order to complete Stage 1. **Your opportunity: Provide financial support for the kitchen remodel project and for resolution other maintenance issues.**

Mind – MLC Educational Programs

I am amazed at how our programs have expanded over the years! As always, we continue to bring teachers to the lake each spring, summer, and fall to study mathematics and science. Board member Paul Andersen is already selecting the latest technology and Web 2.0 tools to be featured at the annual March "Springtime in the Rockies" technology conference. Board member Marie Vanisko has been awarded funding for a "Montana Green Technology" project that will team high school teachers with college faculty to study mathematical modeling related to environmental issues in their home communities. MLC also hosts meetings and retreats for educational organizations, and this year Board member Glenn Allinger successfully developed a structure for offering family-oriented educational workshops.

Our math, science, and exploration programs for students are the centerpiece of MLC's summer programming. Board members Beth Thomas and Dick Seitz are already planning and promoting three age-appropriate youth camps that blend science and mathematics with outdoor learning and recreation and earn accolades from kids and parents alike:

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“It is a real camp with hiking, swimming, boating, great food, campfires.... The staff and campers share an enthusiasm for the subject matter and can develop friendships that extend beyond the single week of the camp....I wish they would host a Math and Science camp for parents!”

“I am excited to go back again for a fourth [year]. I love this camp.”

“It was the most fun I had all summer! ☺ I learned so much!”

Your opportunity: promote our summer youth events with student you know, or sponsor a scholarship for a student in grades K-10.

Spirit – MLC Youth and Adults

The Montana Learning Center is much more than merely a facility or an organization. MLC creates a “sense of place” that inspires its residents to remember not just what they learned, but where and how they learned it. This unique blend of learning and teaching, challenge and relaxation, isolation and community represents the spirit of the Montana Learning Center and its vision to prepare lifelong learners for a modern world. I hope you’re proud, as I am, of the Montana Learning Center and that you will continue to actively support MLC through a financial gift in 2010 as well as ongoing personal support.

Jennie Luebeck, MLC Board Member
Montana State University - Bozeman