NEWSLETTER CONGRATULATIONS MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATES!

CLASS OF 2018

www.mehermontessori.org

🕨 A Note from Mrs. Muñoz

It is hard to believe that another school year is coming to an end. I feel extremely fortunate to work with such an incredible group of people that are so dedicated to Montessori education and to the children and families of Meher Montessori School. I am also grateful for our amazing students. Watching their hard work and joyful learning reminds me every day why I chose this as my life's work. Our special Meher community is rich and full of love and I am honored to work with the staff, students and their families every day.

It is very exciting to see our Middle School continuing to send out such strong and capable young people to high school. This year is our fourth year of a graduating class at the Middle School and as joyous of an occasion that is, I always feel a bit melancholy at the thought of seeing our students leave. Best of luck to Kyla McIntyre and Michael Holmes. It has been an honor to know you and work with you. I have complete confidence that you will go on to the next chapter in your lives and be successful and strong leaders. Always carry your Montessori beginnings in your heart and know that we are always here for you and rooting for you.

A BIG thank you to all the wonderful parents that have worked so hard for and have been so supportive of our Meher school. From being support teachers at our Middle School to helping with fundraising and special activities, without you, our community would not be as successful as it was this year. Again, thank you all from the bottom of my heart. You are much appreciated.

This year had some wonderful highlights, one of which was our oldest upper elementary students participating in the Montessori Model United Nations in New York City. They came together with Montessori students from all over the world and had an incredible experience. We hope to participate in this special event every other year so that all of our students will get an opportunity to participate in this at some point.

Have a wonderful summer. We happily will continue to see many of you for our summer school and summer camp programs. Thank you for allowing me to serve you and your children.

Peace and love to you all, Adela Muñoz

Graduation 2018

Mrs. Rivera's Class Mrs. Roque's Class Ms. Tenold's Class Ms. Strand's Class Mr. Mindes' Class Wednesday, June 13, 2018 Wednesday, June 13, 2018 Thursday, June 14, 2018 Thursday, June 14, 2018 Thursday, June 14, 2018 Summer School
June 18 – July 27
Summer Camp
July 30 – Aug 31

Mrs. Rivera's Class

CLASSROOM NEWS



The month of June is known for many things. This month officially begins the summer season and sets aside a special day to honor Fathers. The weather becomes warmer at peak times of the day. June is also known for Flag Day celebrations and National Safety Month.

There will be ten graduating children in our class: Patrick Barguera-Gomez, Jordan Chew, Camila Kulwicki, Hernandez, Maddison Mendez, Viviana Sophia Meraz-Flores, Arin Onar, Miles Rodriguez, Ivanna Salinas and Logan Tong. These children are ready and excited to be in Ms. Tenold's class starting this summer and this coming school year. They are working and polishing the remaining lessons they have to learn in math and language. Their special interests are multiplication, division and the mathematical word problems that go with them, fractions and last but not least, creative writing. The most exciting for them during the day is describing a picture or poster given them. They are free to express themselves in whatever way they feel; it may be a sentence or a paragraph. In the afternoon at least four graduating children will volunteer to help in the straightening, dusting, and arranging

of the materials in each area. They set a very good example to the other children especially those in line to be future graduates next year. My assistants and I are so proud of them and will miss their company. The younger children are intently working on early reading and writing work. They are enjoying some initial cursive writing and many are using the movable alphabet in preparation for reading words. For sure they will explode into reading next year.

I had a great time and educational talks with our parents in the week of our parent conferences. Important information about the child's learning process, future lessons to be given and learning goals for their child were giving to the parents. Guidelines on supporting the flow of intellectual attitudes, and how to show good values and right conduct were the most valued topics with the parents. At this time, I'd like to thank our dear parents for the support and encouragement they have given to their child. I highly appreciate your partnership in this educational achievement!

Our "Parent and Children Open House" was very successful. Parents, relatives and friends were so happy to see the children work and talk about their work in class. I could see the excitement of every child in class as their parent waited patiently till their child was done with a work and was ready for the next one. The children were great- not only did they continuously work on the materials, but they kept in mind and observed classroom rules!

Our Mother's Day celebration was simple but memorable to all the mothers in our class. Mrs. Roque and I joined in the celebration in order to share the fun and camaraderie of being the primary classes. The children were very excited to surprise their mom with the gifts they had for them: a cell phone stand and a llama mother and child banner. Then the moms shared a lively breakfast with their child after their pictures were taken in each backdrop of the staircase.

I would like to thank our parents for the support they gave to our Book Fair. Thank you for the books bought and donated to our class, we highly appreciate your generosity and love. These books will be read in our circle times and be placed in the library corner. Funds raised are used to buy Montessori materials needed in class for our children to use. We made it to our last 100% School Shirt participation on Friday, May 21st! Thanks again parents and children for your effort and camaraderie resulting in having a 100% School Shirt participation for the year!

A big thank you to Mrs. Ji Suh and Ms. Salena Bayon who work faithfully and well with our children in class and help make a beautiful and ideal projects throughout the year. We have finished our Father's Day project and the dads will receive them on the day of our graduation ceremony. A million thanks for another successful, fun and great year working with you both. God bless always.

Our May birthday celebrants are the following: Ava Alatorre - 5 years old, Viviana Meraz-Flores – 6 years old and both Julian Mota and Kingsley Sum turned 4 years old. Grand happy birthday to you all!



Mark and save the date – Graduation day, Wednesday, June 13th – 10:00 a.m. in the Church. Reception will follow in the classroom. Parents and at least 2 family guests are invited. Thank you so much for your understanding.

With all our love and gratitude: Mrs. Rivera, Mrs. Suh, Ms. Bayon, Ms. Kulwicki and Ms. Ramirez

"The most important period of life is not the age of university studies, but the first one, the period from birth to the age of six. For that is the time when man's intelligence itself, his greatest implement is being formed."

—Dr. Maria Montessori

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Mrs. Roque's Class

CLASSROOM NEWS



Last month's Highlights ...

• Mother's Day Breakfast – It was a delight to see the mothers in both primary classes who came to this early morning event. They had the chance to also have their pictures taken with their child. Special thanks to Ms. Bayon and Ms. Lopez for our backdrop by the stairwell.

• Parent-Teacher Conferences – It was wonderful to have had the chance to meet all of you (parents) and talk about your child's progress in school. A 100% attendance for this one.

• **Book Fair** – We have new books in the classroom to add to our reading corner. Many thanks to the families of the following children who have donated generously to the wish list box: Zoe Alvarado, Connor Tran, Diego Campa, Paolo Ramirez, Victoria Delgado, Ava Santos, Julian Diaz, Anasofia Veneziano, and Madison Kim.

• **Parent Open House** – There was a great turnout that night. The children came excited to show their parents the work they do in the classroom. It was hard for some children to leave after we announced that the evening was over because they wanted to stay longer and show their parents more.

We have several children celebrating their birthdays this June. Walton Chan, June 2nd (4 years old,) Anasofia Veneziano, June 15th (5 years old), Matthew Yip, June 15the (5 years old), Azik Monterroza, June 30th (6 years old).

The school year will soon come to a close and for some of our children it is time for moving on and saying goodbye to old friends. Others, will still get the chance to see their old friends as they move up to the Lower Elementary classroom. We wish all of you the best as you meet new challenges ahead.

Congratulations to our Class of 2018

Jorge Alcala Jacob Beltran Claire Liu Julia Madera Azik Monterroza Paolo Ramirez Ava Santos

Graduation Day is on Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at 10:45 a.m. in the Church.

june 2018

A small reception will follow after the ceremony in the school patio.

The parents of our graduating children are coordinating for this lunch.

Sign-up sheets will also be available for a dish you may want to share.

We will also honor all the Fathers on this day, as the children have prepared gifts just for them.

Please plan on coming for this special event as ALL the children will be performing and presenting a special number that you don't want to miss!

This has been a great year. Each one of your children has been a blessing as we watched them grow and mature in their own way. Our lives have been enriched as well by their enthusiasm, energy and openness.

"The mission of the little child is to shape the man he will later become so nature gives us energies that manifests themselves in our psychic development. Each period is a preparation for the next, and it prepares us very carefully, every day. Nature has given us laws and energies so that this construction can take place." (from The 1946 London Lectures by Maria Montessori, p. 26)

Have a great Summer. Till next time,

Mrs. Roque, Ms. Alvarado, Ms.Lopez, Ms.Kulwicki and Ms.Martinez MS. TENOLD'S CLASS WENT TO DOCKWEILER BEACH KIDS OCEAN DAY







SOME STUDENTS WERE INTERVIEWED BY FOX 11 NEWS!

Class News

The end of the year has been full of activities and events! We collected much plastic for a student recycling program and the two girls in charge of it went to a recycling center with a parent to drop it off. They hope to continue with the program, and wish to thank everyone for their support. The same two girls planned a 70's themed party for our class with carefully chosen music, treats, and costumes! A great celebration together towards the end of the year! We also had a successful class trip to Dockweiler Beach for Kids Ocean Day. There were 4,500 students and 500 volunteers this year, and many students in our class were featured on the local news channels explaining why we were all out there and talking about their favorite sea animals.

We will also need families to volunteer for Summer Pet Care for our bearded dragon and two finches. You can split the time, or take a pet for the entire time. **The weeks we will need pet care are July 27- September 4**.

Curriculum News

Going Outs are a fundamental part of Montessori education. These are different than a whole class trip

and are instigated by only a few students at a time. Two boys ended out the year by visting the Natural History Museum with a parent on Thursday, May 31 to add greatly to their continous study of dinosaurs and other ancient creatures. They were eager to share what they saw at the museum with the class upon their return.

At the end of the year, we do much review and I meet with each child to see what concepts to revisit and practice for the remaining few weeks, and at the same time students continue to pursue topics that interest them with their classmates.

Mrs. Gonzalez has been doing beautiful watercolor still lifes with the class with a big sunflower plant in our classroom. Her two daughters also wrapped up their time volunteering in our room each week, and we are grateful to them for their time and effort with our students. Over the year they patiently taught many art and literature concepts and the children in our class look up to them and enjoy having young adults help them out with fun and interesting lessons.

Calendar News

We have also been spending time planning for graduation where we will celebrate the past year and the oldest members of our class who will be moving on. Students are practicing some performances and speeches, and we are reflecting on the year. Graduation is set for **Thursday, June 14, 2018 at 10 a.m.** in our classroom.



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CHRISTIAN DURAN



"Christian is nice and thoughtful." - Grace Kuan-Vasquez

"Christian is really nice. He's passionate about Hamilton and it's funny seeing him and Isaiah singing Hamilton songs at the top of their lungs in the middle of class." - Nixus Flores

"My favorite memory with Christian is when we would talk about video games and shows. It was fun while it lasted." - Adrian De Dios

"Christian and I built a time capsule with Mr. X and it was fun. He likes Hamilton, so yeah he is really fun." - Isaiah Escamilla

"Christian and I might bug each other sometimes, but he's actually really nice. He was my partnerfor groups, and I've learned so much about him. I'm sorry for all those times I stole your chips, but thank you!" - Allison Pan

"Christian's passion for music, rhythm, and drumming are very inspiring to his classmates. He puts a lot of heart into everything he does, and he especially shone bright at the Montessori Model United Nations Conference!" -Ms. Strand **ISAIAH ESCAMILLA**



"In my opinion, Isaiah is nice, generous, and passionate." - Grace Kuan-Vasquez

"Isaiah is a really great friend and my best memories with him are the time capsule and singing Hamilton songs." - Christian Duran

"Isaiah is really generous. When I think of Isaiah the things that pop into my head are: Hamilton, Halsey, and 21 Pilots. I'm grateful for all those times he let me use his iPad to listen to Maroon 5." - Nixus Flores

"What I like about Isaiah is his knowledge about history." - Adrian De Dios

"My singing buddy! Plus Nixus too! Our little group is awesome. Thank you for all those times you let us listen to music, which formed our little group. You've made us all a little happier." - Allison Pan

"Isaiah's clever and quirky wit kept us laughing throughout the year. His poise, passion, and conviction come through in everything he does." -Ms. Strand

UPPER ELEMENTARY GRADUATES

NIXUS FLORES



"Nixus is very talented, kind, and funny. She really likes puns and also 21 Pilots." - Christian Duran

"Nixusisveryhardworkingandfunny." - Grace Kuan-Vasquez

"Nixus is a very kind person and works very hard. It was fun in the class while it lasted." - Adrian De Dios

"She's fast, so fast and Nixus is friendly and good at art." - Isaiah Escamilla

"Nixus is so awesome! She's smart, funny, cool, fun, and likes Maroon 5! She always helps me with work if I need it and is very similar to me. I will really miss her and I will never forget her. I hope she fulfills her dream to go to a Maroon 5 concert!" - Isaiah Escamilla - Allison Pan

"Nixus has many wonderful incredible qualities, and everyone enjoys She posse being in her presence. She's worked of detern very hard and has a lot to be and inspin proud of. Whale done, Graduate!" -Ms. Strand -Ms. Strand

ALLISON PAN



"Allison is really good at art, very funny and also nice." - Christian Duran

"Allison is really funny and nice. She's also good at art. I'm going to miss her and bopping out to Maroon 5 with her. She's one of my closest friends and is fun to be around." - Nixus Flores

"I think Allison is considerate and very giving." - Grace Kuan - Vasquez

"What I really like about Allison is that she draws very well." - Adrian De Dios

"Allison is good at art. I like her art and she is nice and she loves music like Halsey. She is the best." - Isaiah Escamilla

"Allison has become such an incredible leader in the classroom. She possesses a substantial amount of determination and creativity, and inspires everyone around her." Ms. Strand

UPPER ELEMENTARY GRADUATES

GRACE KUAN-VASQUEZ



"Grace is very funny, nice, and smart. She also makes good songs." - Christian Duran

"Grace is hilarious and fun to be around. She constantly makes me laugh in class, and she's also one of my closest friends." - Nixus Flores

"Grace is a very kind person." -Adrian De Dios

"Grace is cool and makes good slime. It is fun to talk to her and she also likes Halsey, so she is super fun." - Isaiah Escamilla

"I will also really miss Grace. She has been with me since Lower Elementary, she has always been really nice to me and helps me through hard times. She's smart and talented!!" - Allison Pan

"Grace's laugh is very contagious; she has such a great sense of humor. She is very talented and bright, and I also enjoyed when she shared fascinating facts with me." -Ms. Strand

ADRIAN DE DIOS



"Adrian is so good at running and sports." - Grace Kuan-Vasquez

"He's fast on the playground and good at making things with clay. Good luck at the Middle School!" - Nixus Flores

"I will really miss all the memories that we had together. It was fun while it lasted." - Christian Duran

"Adrian is really good at making things with clay." - Allison Pan

"I remember when Adrian made a clay character hotel in 4th grade; it was interesting." - Isaiah Escamilla.

"Adrian is incredibly patient, kind, and hard working. He also fixed anything that needed repairing in the classroom!! His strong leadership will be missed. " -Ms. Strand

Have a great summer everyone!

CLAY AZTEC SUN STONE

HISTORY RESEARCH





- Beginning with a Family Kick-off BBQ, Sunday, July 8th at 5:30 pm
- Meet your teachers, fun/games/music
- Classes held daily beginning
- Monday, July 9th thru Friday, July 13th
- 9:00 am to Noon No enrollment fees!
- Grades: Preschool 8th Grade
- Church Phone: (323) 721-0840
- Contact: Jean Sais (626) 589-4095

🕨 Mr. Mindes' Class

Meher families ... happy -soon to be- summer! We have reached the final chapter of the 2018 school year! Our school-wide standardized testing concluded; the Middle School's first seedlings, cultivars of the Cucurbita pepo (otherwise known as pumpkin) planted; students H₂Go cart sales at the elementary school finished for the year; and, lastly, we had the end of the year music performance. So, just a few closing remarks before we part for the summer.



Creating a living, breathing soil

Masayo from Shumei paid her monthly visit to the Middle School to help transform a section of long neglected and desiccated soil into a biologically active micro-biome that will support a thriving vegetable and herb garden for years to come.

Under Masayo's direction, students, with the help of Alex Chagoya, thrust shovels and swung garden picks into the dry, clumped soil to loosen

CLASSROOM NEWS

it, enabling them to amend it with mulch and plant their seedlings. Some students chose to plant barefoot, giving them the opportunity to work, play, and learn in the wet soil, muddied by watering of the crusted soil.

Micro Economics Class- Business Principles with an Entrepreneur

Below is an end-of-the-year word from the Micro-economy teacher, Ms. Espinoza ...

As the year comes to a close, it is exciting to see the results the students have accomplished this year. You may have noticed the students' cart, "H₂Go"- which was a revamped version of last year's Meher Cart. There were many business concepts that the students discussed behind the scenes before the sale of fresh waters took place on Thursdays. The students discussed such topics as teamwork, leadership, preparation, planning, goals and results, and accountability to name a few. Even though it may seem like they were just selling water, students learned many lessons by running the cart.

The last few weeks centered on money. What an interesting topic this has been! I was particularly excited about opening the students' minds to what money really is, and how they relate to it. Additionally, they were asked to journal about their perceptions of money, how much they save, and what the sources of their money are. It was interesting to see how statements such as, "I don't have any money," quickly changed once a student saw just how much they actually do have. After a month of observation, each student chose a money topic to write about. Have you thought about your relationship with money?

A year-end musical performance

Having practiced reading music and playing their instruments, the students will be performing a yearend concert of the pieces they have been working on for the younger students at the elementary school. Ms. Holmes has shared with me how impressed she's been with the students' progress in reading music and playing their instruments.

A graduates parting note

Recently, the students were given the assignment to write a short essay, a travel piece of sorts that called on the students to find their own path in the essay. Being the tech hound that he is, Michael chose NVIDIA (envid-ee- uh), a kind of Intel of graphic cards, as his destination. I found it interesting that Michael's essay mentions his older brother, a high school student at the time, with a title that will shortly describe Michael. In Michael's words ...

I have a passion for computers, or what may be called an obsession. It started while watching my brother build his computer when he was in high school. I followed his hands closely as he snapped, fastened, and tightened components together; I was hooked on computers and technology.

GILLY SHAEFFER gillyshaeffer.com

Gilly Shaeffer our former Director and teacher at Meher Montessori is currently exhibiting her art work at The Huntington in the Brody Botanical Center from May 19 – August 26, 2018. "Out of the Woods" and "Amazing Trees" will be displayed for viewing. For details: http://huntington.org.

For many years Gilly worked with staff and students to bring art alive to Meher Montessori, taking our students on field trips to art museums and giving after-school art lessons.

A painting by Gilly Shaeffer below:





Public Open House – Saturday June 9th, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. is Meher's Public Open House. If you refer anyone to our school that enrolls, you will get \$100 off your tuition.

Scholastic – I would like to thank everyone who helped support our Scholastic Book Fair. Despite our unpredictable hours of operation this year, we were lucky enough to reach our sales goal, which will allow us to have the Fair again next May. The profits from the sales will help to add new lunch shelves to our school. I would also like to give a special thank to everyone who purchased a book from my wishlist box. Thanks to your generosity, 20 of the wishlist books were purchased for the school. I have been working my way through reading a book or two everyday after recess. And finally, an extra big thank you to all the moms and dads who volunteered to run the Fair, and help with setting it up and breaking it down. We could not have had the Book Fair without vou!!

Last Month – May was our second round of parent/teacher conferences. We have conferences every December and May.

Thank you to all the families that attended our Annual Parent Open House. I hope watching your child work with the materials in the classroom was as enjoyable for you as it is for me everyday. I loved watching the children show you all their work. It was so fascinating to me to see what each child chose to take out to "show off" with that night. I hope it gave you a better snapshot of what their day in our Montessori classroom looks like. I am constantly blown away by the desire and capabilities of all of your children to work with new materials, to push themselves to try something just a little more challenging, and to hear them squeal in delight when they accomplish a new task. I am so happy that many of you got to experience that same feeling of pride while watching them work at Open House.

Miss McCray, Miss Tinajero and I would like to thank all the thoughtful families that showered us with goodies for Teacher Appreciation Week. We definitely felt extra appreciated those 5 days.

In the Classroom - As another vear comes to an end, our children are getting ready to move on, move up in rank, and say good-bye to some friends. Our annual end of year graduation program will take place on Thursday, June 14th at 10:30 a.m. in Upper Heicher Hall. A potluck luncheon will immediately follow. This year's graduates are Aron Budzik, William Gott, Maelin O'Connell, and Gabi Young. As always, all the children will get up on stage to sing a few songs before we turn the spotlight over to the graduates. We hope everyone can attend.

Wrapping Up – We ended the year with 100% School Shirt Day participation! Yay! On June 8th, the children will make their own sundaes for the final "cooking" activity of the school year.

A letter went out on May 24th regarding our summer staffing. Miss Tinajero will be out from June 11th-August 10th, as she begins her first summer of AMI Montessori training. While we will miss her for those two months, we are happy to welcome Miss Mills back to the Altadena Campus. Much like Miss McCray, Miss Mills has been with Meher Montessori for over 30 years. After about 15 years at our Monterey Park campus, Miss Mills will be returning to our little Altadena campus from June 11th -August 10th. She and Miss McCray will alternate opening and closing schedules during the summer.

Also, please remember that the School is closed Friday, June 15th. Summer School will begin the following Monday, June 18th and will go until Friday, July 27th.

Until September,

Miss McCray, Miss Tinajero & Mrs. Wildhaber





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We are so proud of alum Evita Chávez, Mrs. Chávez' daughter and sister to alum Elias Chávez. Evita started her primary education with Mrs. Thomas, continued Lower Elementary with Mr. George and completed the Upper Elementary with Mr. Harrod. She later entered Ramona Convent Secondary School for middle and high school. In 2015, Evita completed her undergraduate studies in Urban and Environmental Policy at Occidental College, (cum laude). Upon graduation, she was accepted into the very prestigious California Senate Fellows Program in Sacramento and subsequently hired as a legislative aide to a CA State Senator upon completion of her Fellows program. Evita is on the move again, this August, she will be moving on to Cambridge, Massachusetts to complete her graduate studies at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design in Urban Planning. Meher Montessori School is proud of all its alums no matter where they are or what they attempt in life because we know they have all had a very good Montessori foundation. Kudos to the Chávez family for their children's educational accomplishments.

Elias Chávez (2008), son of Mrs. Chávez and brother to Evita Chávez (2005) began his educational career in Mrs. Thomas' class at Meher Montessori School when he was just 3 years old.

Eli always attributes his love of learning to his first teacher Mrs. Thomas, his love of reading to Mr. George, and his unforgettable

knowledge of maps of the world and geography, including his love of the great outdoors to Mr. Harrod. He often comments that his educational success and his organizational skill, the way he studies and learns is a direct result of his Montessori background, always thinking outside the box, a strong critical and logical thinker. After completing elementary at Meher Montessori School, he moved on to complete middle and high school at The Waverly School, a small progressive school in Pasadena.

Eli continued his studies at Occidental College, a small liberal arts college in Los Angeles. During his junior year at Oxy, Eli studied abroad at the University of East Anglia (UEA) in Norwich, England



enriching his English major. As a graduate of the class of 2018, Eli's future plans include his continuation of his degree in English at the graduate level, perhaps back in England. Whatever Eli does or wherever he decides to study, he and his family believe that he will always be successful in all his endeavors due to his Montessori beginnings.



Michael Magdangal graduated from Meher in 2008, he then went to middle and high school at The Waverly School with Elias Chávez. Michael continued his education at California State University at Long Beach graduating this year with an Engineering Degree.

CLASS OF 2018



MRS. RIVERA'S CLASS

Camila Hernandez, Logan Tong, Maddison Kulwicki, Patrick Barquera-Gomez, Ivanna Salinas, Jordan Chew, Viviana Meraz-Flores

Arin Onar, Miles Rodriguez, Sophia Mendez



MRS. ROQUE'S CLASS Julia Madera, Jorge Alcala, Claire Liu Jacob Beltran, Ava Santos, Azik Monterroza, Paolo Ramirez

CLASS OF 2018



MS. TENOLD'S CLASS

Frances Estrada, Brandon Marquez, Geanna Lucero, Ayushi Bhakta, Rafaela Cordoba



MS. STRAND'S CLASS

Adrian De Dios, Christian Duran, Allison Pan, Nixus Flores, Isaiah Escamilla, Grace Kuan-Vasquez

CLASS OF 2018



MR. MINDES' CLASS Kyla McIntyre and Michael Holmes



MRS. WILDHABER'S CLASS Maelin O'Connell, William Gott, Gabi Young, Aron Budzik