



MONTESSORI  
School of Denver

# Parent Programs 2021-2022

MSD offers unique, thoughtfully designed, informative, adult events during the school year that we refer to as our “Parent Programs.” These events provide the opportunity to learn more about child development, best practices when it comes to teaching and parenting, gives you a peek inside the classroom, and more about the hallmarks of a MSD education. There are virtual morning coffees, evening presentations, weekend workshops, and much more! All of these events are dynamic experiences that get you even more engaged in your child’s education. We look forward to seeing you, whether it be in person or online!

1460 SOUTH HOLLY STREET, DENVER, CO 80222  
303-756-9441 • [montessoridenver.org](http://montessoridenver.org)

# Details

## RSVP

Please RSVP for all programs that denote a reply request. Events are subject to cancellation due to low RSVPs. Notice of cancellations will be emailed. Zoom links will be emailed and/or posted to Virtual Campus the day of the events.

**RSVP for all events by emailing [events@msd-co.org](mailto:events@msd-co.org).**

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## Work Bond

By attending select Parent Program events, Work Bond may be awarded. Please check the description in this brochure, or in the MSD Bee, for the number of Work Bond credits awarded for each event listed. In fulfilling a family's Work Bond obligation for the school year, each family is required to earn at least two Work Bond credits by attending Parent Program events. Of course, we hope you will attend as many as you can!

Please keep track of the Parent Program events you attend and submit the number of credits you earn through [our submission form](#). If you have any questions regarding Work Bond, please contact Nicole Trotter ([ntrotter@msd-co.org](mailto:ntrotter@msd-co.org)) in the Business Office. Thank you for your participation!

### Did you know?

When scheduling Parent Program events throughout the school year, we try to accommodate all parent schedules. We plan events in the mornings, mid-day, early-evening, evening, and even a weekend or two! If you have feedback that you would like to share with us regarding these events, or if you have an idea for a topic, please email [events@msd-co.org](mailto:events@msd-co.org).

# MSD Distinguished Speaker Series

Please join us for these special events featuring an amazing array of guest speakers, brought to you by MSD's Distinguished Speaker Series!

## **Britt Hawthorne**

### *Anti-Bias Education for Families: How to Create Brave Spaces at Home*

Monday, November 1, 2021,  
6:00-8:00pm, MSD Campus

Britt Hawthorne (she/her) is a nationally recognized anti-bias/anti-racist teacher-educator. Britt partners with action-oriented educators, helping them to plan their next steps for creating classroom environments that are inclusive and equitable for all learners. Her work seeks to move justice from being an idea to the accepted culture. More widely, she proudly serves on the AMI/USA Human Rights and Social Justice Committee to offer direct input into developing areas of equity, diversity, and inclusion. Britt is the co-creator of the Instagram #antiracist-bookclub and the co-founder of ABAR at School. To learn more about Britt, visit her website at [www.britthawthorne.com](http://www.britthawthorne.com).



## **Dr. Catherine Steiner-Adair**

### *The Big Disconnect*

Thursday, February 10, 2022,  
6:00-8:00pm, MSD Campus



Dr. Catherine Steiner-Adair is a clinical psychologist, author, speaker, and consultant. A leading expert specializing in child development, education, family relationships, and workplace/family balance, she speaks and consults on a wide range of topics, the impact of technology on childhood

including social, neurological, physical and psychological development, a thoughtful approach to technology in schools, at home, and work/family in nourishing healthy re-

relationships in the digital age, and developing a thoughtful approach to technology in school and life. Also author of a popular school-based girls leadership program, Steiner-Adair shows how to deconstruct the unhealthy cultural messages that make girls vulnerable to eating disorders. She speaks worldwide to numerous audiences, including educators, health professionals, PTAs, camps and religious groups, corporations, and nonprofit organizations.

To learn more about Dr. Steiner-Adair, visit her website at [www.csadair.com](http://www.csadair.com).

### **Debbie Roffman**

*Where Did I Come From? (And Other Wildly Misunderstood Questions Children Ask)*

Thursday, January 20, 2022,  
6:00-8:00pm, MSD Campus

*The 5:5 Paradigm: How to Raise a Sexually Healthy Young Person*

Wednesday, April 13, 2022,  
6:00-8:00pm, Zoom



Debbie Roffman is an educator, consultant, and author. A teacher of sexuality education in grades 3-12, Debbie has decades of experience in working with families and schools throughout the United States. She strives to help communities find common ground by keeping the focus on young people and their universal needs around healthy sexual development. She was appointed to serve on the National Advisory Council for Sexual Health and serves as an editor for the American Journal of Sexuality Education. She is the author of several books, including *Talk to Me First: Everything You Need to Know to Become Your Kids' 'Go-To' Person About Sex*, and, most recently, *The Science of Babies*, for young children and their parents and teachers. To learn more about Debbie, visit her website at [sexandsensibility.net](http://sexandsensibility.net).

# Overview of Topics

## **MSD 101**

Saturday, August 28, 2021, 9:00am-12:00pm

**Work Bond Credits: 4**

This special event is just for our new families. Parents will enjoy a morning filled with learning about the ins and outs of MSD, the school's history, and all that is in store as they begin their MSD journey. A true rite of passage for all new MSD families! Sorry, no childcare will be provided on campus.

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## **Back to School Night**

Thursday, September 9, 2021, 6:00-8:00pm, Zoom

Join us as we embark on a new school year! Come and find out what's in store for the year from our Head of School, Board, Family Association, and your Classroom Teachers. We are looking forward to connecting (virtually) with you all!

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## **Eighth Grade Outplacement Meeting**

Monday, September 13, 2021, 8:30-10:00am,  
A&A Commons

**Work Bond Credits: 1**

Eighth grade parents are highly encouraged to attend this very informative chat. We will discuss the high school admissions process and schedule individual meetings with your family to talk more about how to make this big transition go smoothly, with regards to finding a great high school fit for your child.

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## **Parent Education: DEI at MSD**

Friday, September 17, 2021, 9:00-10:00am, Zoom

**Work Bond Credits: 1**

MSD is committed to fostering a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment for all its community members. Join this virtual chat to learn what that looks like across campus, related events slated for the year, and opportunities for you to engage and support your child and their classroom. Hosted by Joo Ree Chu, Director of Student Support, and Natalie Wyatt, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Curriculum Specialist.



**Parent Coffee: “Toddlers and Toileting”**

Video recording sent out: Friday, September 17, 2021  
Follow-up Q&A session: Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 9:00-10:00am, Zoom  
**Work Bond Credits: 1**

Come and learn from the Toddler faculty about child development from two to three years, including how to support toilet learning at home and at the school, the Montessori way! They will talk with you about recognizing signs of readiness, independence, and the transition into underwear.

Click [here](#) to RSVP for the Question & Answer session.

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**Parent Coffee: “Program Transitions”**

Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 9:00-10:00am, Zoom  
**Work Bond Credits: 1**

Please join Tori Virlee, Annie Springer, and Carrie Ross, members of our Student Support and Educational Leadership Teams, for a conversation about your child transitioning to the next program level at MSD. This Parent Coffee will specifically focus on transitioning into Primary, First Grade, and Sixth Grade - all big milestones for children! Discussion will include program-specific information, developmentally appropriate support that we provide, and things that you can do to support your child at home. You will walk away with knowledge about what to expect from this transitional period as well as some ideas to help you and your child navigate the new waters with ease.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

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**RiverSweep - Fall Family Stewardship Day**

Saturday, September 25, 2021 9:00-11:00am

Bring your whole family and join our MSD community for this annual do-good opportunity at Globeville Landing Park. Each Family Stewardship Day starts with an hour-long volunteer project, followed by games and crafts with the South Platte River Environmental Education (SPREE) staff!

Register at [https://www.thegreenwayfoundation.org/family\\_fall\\_stewardship.html](https://www.thegreenwayfoundation.org/family_fall_stewardship.html).



## **Virtual Buzz In Week!**

Week of October 4, Zoom

We are delighted to continue this new tradition this year, virtually! Look for more information from your classroom teachers on how and when you can “Buzz In” to the classroom for a look at the good work going on inside.

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## **Town Hall**

Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 6:00-7:00pm, Zoom

**Work Bond Credits: 2**

An opportunity to hear an update from Head of School, Julie Bragdon, about the good work that continues to happen at MSD to keep the school year going and keeping families safe. Questions to be submitted prior to the event and answered by Julie and other members of the Administration and Education teams.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

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## **Parent Education: Literacy at Home**

Tuesday, October 26, 2021, 9:00-10:00am, Zoom

**Work Bond Credits: 1**

Parents are often told to develop a strong routine at home of reading regularly with their children. Once that routine is established, you can make the most of that reading time with some strategies to support your child’s reading comprehension. Join Learning Specialist Chelsea McKinlay to learn about the different component skills of reading comprehension and some specific types of questions you can start asking to strengthen this important skill.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

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## **MSD DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES**

**Britt Hawthorne - Anti-Bias Education for Families:  
How to Create Brave Spaces at Home**

Monday, November 1, 2021, 6:00-8:00pm, MSD Campus

**Work Bond Credits: 2**

Do you want to learn how to create unbiased home environments for your children? This in-person workshop is designed for those interested in delving into anti-bias education at home, whether they are new to the topic or have already begun the work. You’ll learn how to: Create

(cont. next page)



a home environment that will affirm your child; Understand the four goals of creating an anti-racist and anti-bias home environment; Understand key stages in identity development; Respond to pre-prejudice; Work as a family toward justice. Presented by Britt Hawthorne, nationally recognized anti-bias/anti-racist teacher-educator.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

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**Alumni Night Round Table**

Thursday, November 11, 2021, 6:00-7:30pm, Location TBD

Work Bond Credits: 1.5

This is one of our favorite nights of the school year! Join us as we welcome MSD graduates in high school, college, and beyond, to talk about how MSD's education and values have shaped their school and life experiences after MSD. You will be able to ask questions about how the skills they learned at MSD aided in the transition to high school, college, and even choosing a career. Come and meet these inspiring young people for yourself!

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

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**Parent Education: Montessori Beyond Primary - Elementary and Middle School 101**

Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 9:30-11:00am, Zoom

Work Bond Credits: 1.5

Come and learn about the Montessori experience at the Elementary and Middle School levels! Annie Springer and Carrie Ross will discuss the milestones, experiences, and the continuum of learning that happens in these MSD programs. Current parents and teachers will also be on hand to share their experiences and perspectives. After the presentation, you will have the opportunity to (virtually) observe these programs in action! Don't miss this chance to see how Montessori continues to support and foster a love of learning well beyond the Primary years.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.



## Parent Education: Child Abuse Prevention

Friday, December 3, 2021, 9:00-10:00am, Zoom

Work Bond Credits: 1

In previous years, MSD brought in facilitators from the Front Range Center for Assault Prevention to educate our community about child abuse and prevention techniques. This was done every three years, but did not occur last year due to COVID restrictions. Beginning this year, MSD is adopting the ChildHelp curriculum in order to deliver this important information on a more frequent and local basis. Learn more at this session hosted by MSD's School Psychologists, who will deliver this curriculum with the benefit of having direct connections to MSD students.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

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## Virtual Buzz In Week!

Week of December 13, 2021, Zoom

We are delighted to continue this new tradition this year, virtually! Look for more information from your classroom teachers on how and when you can "Buzz In" to the classroom for a look at the good work going on inside.

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## Parent Choice Night

Wednesday, January 12, 2022, 6:00-7:30pm, Zoom

Work Bond Credits: 1.5

This evening of choice gives parents the opportunity to select one of three to four topics of interest, spanning from Toddler to Middle School program levels, presented by MSD Faculty and Staff members. Topics will be finalized prior to the event.

- **Managing Anxiety in Children** – Tori Virlee
- **Conflict Responses and Addressing Challenging Behaviors** – Annie Springer
- **Learning a Foreign Language** – Magdalena Ortega Neri
- **Cultivating Intrinsic Motivation** – Reghan Lusk
- **Practical Life at Home** – Lauren McEachron

Click [here](#) to RSVP.



**MSD DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES**

**Debbie Roffman - Where Did I Come From? (And Other Wildly Misunderstood Questions Children Ask)**

Thursday, January 20, 2022, 6:00-8:00pm, MSD Campus  
Work Bond Credits: 2

As adults, most of us grew up with few if any role models who demonstrated for us what a grownup actually looks and sounds like when they are speaking comfortably and openly with children about sexuality. Capacity, skills and confidence grow as soon as we learn to look out at the world from behind their eyes and discover the unexpected and true meaning of the questions they pose. Hint: it's about *science*, not "sex."

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

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**Town Hall**

Wednesday, February 2, 2022, 6:00-7:00pm  
Work Bond Credits: 2

An opportunity to hear an update from Head of School, Julie Bragdon, about the good work that continues to happen at MSD to keep the school year going and keeping families safe. Questions to be submitted prior to the event and answered by Julie and other members of the Administration and Education teams.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

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**MSD DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES**

**Dr. Catherine Steiner-Adair - The Big Disconnect**

Thursday, February 10, 2022, 6:00-8:00pm, MSD Campus  
Work Bond Credits: 2

In her award winning book, [\*The Big Disconnect: Protecting Childhood and Family Relationships in the Digital Age\*](#) (HarperCollins), Dr. Catherine Steiner-Adair examines ways in which technology and media change how children learn and grow and shows parents how to balance the benefits of tech while reducing the risks it poses at every stage of development. She identifies digital age challenges for parents and educators, and ways to strengthen children's social and emotional development to help them grow to be responsible, resilient, confident, and capable young adults. Click [here](#) to RSVP.



**Buzz In Week!**

Week of March 7, 2022, Location TBD

We are delighted to continue this new tradition this year! Look for more information from your classroom teachers on how and when you can “Buzz In” to the classroom for a look at the good work going on inside.

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**Parent Education: Education at the National Level**

Friday, April 8, 2022, 9:00-10:00am, MSD Campus

**Work Bond Credits: 1**

Select MSD Faculty and Staff members will just be getting back from their own learning opportunities at the American Montessori Society (AMS) and National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) conferences. We will be eager to share what the buzz is all about at the national level, and most importantly, where MSD fits into these meaningful discussions on how to best prepare our students for the future. Come get the inside scoop!

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

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**MSD DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES**

**Debbie Roffman - The 5:5 Paradigm: How to Raise a Sexually Healthy Young Person**

Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 6:00-8:00pm, Zoom

**Work Bond Credits: 2**

Warning: If you’re a person who finds parenting overwhelming from time to time, you may not be able to say that again! Children are creatures who come into the world with only five core “nurturing” *needs*, which means that from cradle to college we parents have only five “nurturing” *roles*. And, because good parenting is good parenting, these same five needs and roles apply equally to the process of nurturing healthy sexual and gender development.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

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**Parent Education: Preventing the Summer Slide**

Friday, May 13, 2022, 9:00-10:00am, Zoom

**Work Bond Credits: 1**

Research studies have shown that students lose significant knowledge in reading and math over summer break,



undoing much of the hard work they put in during the school year. This can lead to a snowball effect as they experience subsequent skill loss each year. Join MSD's Learning Specialist, Chelsea McKinlay, and Librarian, Serge Fedorowsky, as they share steps parents can take to slow this "summer slide" and enhance literary skills over the break. Together, we will cover specific, manageable activities you can use to support reading, writing, and problem-solving skills at home and make education a fundamental (and fun) part of your summer!

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

# MSD Podcasts

You can listen to MSD's podcasts on Podbean, Apple Podcasts, Google Play, and Spotify - just search 'Montessori School of Denver.' Links listed below open in Podbean.

## [Toilet Learning \(Toddler Level\)](#)

Mary Broeckling, Toddler Teacher at MSD, sharing her expertise on successful Toddler toilet learning.

## [Smooth Morning Routines](#)

Anne Hewetson, former Director of Elementary Education and current Dean of Programs and Student Life at MSD, sharing tips and tricks for helping you and your child get out of the house in the morning on time—and happy!

## [Raising an Independent Child](#)

Rachel Northrop, Director of Early Childhood Education at MSD, sharing her perspective on raising an independent child – the Montessori way!

## [The Power of a Daily Gratitude Practice](#)

MSD Mom, Michelle Dawson PsyD, teaches you how a simple daily gratitude practice can massively improve your resiliency to stress, make you happier, and improve your sleep. She introduces the neuroscience behind why noticing the good helps to rewire our brains and decrease stress.

## **The Adolescent Experience**

### Part 1. [Transitioning to Middle School and Adolescence](#)

Travis Snyder, former Director of Middle School Education at MSD, gives insight on the transition to Middle School and adolescence. This is the introduction to a three-part series called, "The Adolescent Experience."

### Part 2. [Navigating the Adolescent Years](#)

Travis introduces the Four Montessori Planes of Development, as well as gives some suggestions to navigate the adolescent years. This is part two of a three-part series on this very important topic, "The Adolescent Experience."

### Part 3. [The Teenage Brain](#)

Travis explains how the teenage brain works and how you can stay sane while raising an adolescent. This is part three of a three-part series, titled, "The Adolescent Experience."

## [Staying Connected as a Couple While Raising Kids](#)

It's so easy to get swept up in the demands of parenthood



that you forget about being a couple. Listen to MSD mom, Sarah Tie, MA, NCC, share her wisdom about how to stay connected to your life as a couple while you're raising kids. She will show you that it's a great investment in the family because when you and your partner are happy and healthy, your kids are getting the best from both of you.

### [The Importance of Sleep](#)

Listen as two MSD moms, Michelle Dawson, PsyD, and Lisa Kerscher, LCSW, share the latest brain research to show how vital sleep is in order to clear out toxins, prevent disease, and regulate our stress responses. They will teach techniques that you can implement to manage stress, find better sleep and be a better YOU!

### [Reflections on a Montessori Education: MSD Graduates Tell Their Stories](#)

Listen to four of our recent graduates briefly reflect on the outcomes of a MSD education.