



VIMA Conference April 2013

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Steve Hughes

**Fueling the Flame Within: Montessori Education
and the Development of the Self**

FRIDAY April 26 & SATURDAY April 27

Maria Montessori Academy Victoria, BC



FRIDAY APRIL 26, 2013

9:30 – 11:30 AM KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Dr. Steve Hughes

Fueling the Flame Within: Montessori Education and the Development of the Self

Beginning as a tiny spark in infancy, the light that shines within a child can, over time, grow to become a steady, strong flame if he or she experiences an environment that recognizes, respects, and fuels that inner light. What are the requisite features of such an environment? What makes Montessori education so effective in "fueling the flame" of each child's developing identity? Part of Dr. Montessori's genius was understanding that the human development requires different experiences at different stages. Using the set of cognitive capabilities described as "executive functions," see how, across each of the first three planes of development, the Montessori method supports growth of foundational cognitive capabilities, provides essential practice opportunities, and allows children to identify the defining values that help to create creative, moral, inspired, and successful adults.

Workshop Session One, 12:30-2:15

Workshop 1A Science at Circle Time

Montessori said: "We especially need imagination in science. It is not all mathematics, nor logic, but it is somewhat beauty and poetry."

Thus, in the spirit of the creative, I love to weave the stories, poems, songs, and action rhymes through the pictures, activities, experiments, and dirt, that I hope all children will be allowed to run through their fingers. Come see how you can introduce and develop botany in your classroom.

level: EC

Presenter: Helane Ellis

Helane has a degree in Elementary Education from UBC, completed her Early Childhood certification at UVic, and did her Montessori Training in Victoria at the Angela Martin Montessori Training Centre. She has 18 years experience teaching Montessori 3-6 year olds. For several years Helane worked for the Angela Martin Montessori Training Centre teaching the provincial course on Guiding Behaviour in Young Children, as well as doing the botany and zoology workshops for the Montessori course.

Workshop 1B Keeping Everyone on Track

Do you use a day planner to remind you where you should be and when? Well, you are not all that different from children with special needs who use visual schedules to keep their days on track, in manageable pieces. In this workshop, we will share information and our experiences (both challenging and joyful) with integrating children with autism, seizure disorders, Down Syndrome, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, ADHD, visual and hearing impairments, severe behaviour and many other special needs into our Montessori community. We learn a lot from each child that comes into our lives and are better people for it. What we learn from children with special needs often translates into better practice for all children in our care. level: EC, EL

Presenters: Christina Filipovic, Linda Hutchison & Sandra Einarson

The three of us have very diverse educational backgrounds but we all have taken courses and workshops in special education and cumulatively have many years of experience working with 'typical' children (who always have their own challenges) and children with special needs who have specific or non-specific diagnoses.

Workshop 1C Classroom Bliss: Secrets of the Prepared Teacher

Classroom Bliss: Secrets of the Prepared Teacher is an inspiring course on how to achieve peace and success in a classroom environment through the Maria Montessori's concept of the Directress as part of the Prepared Environment. It provides techniques for stress-free classroom management, effective academic presentations, and detailed guidelines on handling special children by creating an ideal classroom atmosphere and developing faith in the Child. Success stories will be shared by all. level: EC, EL

Presenter: Susie Rialp

When Susie was 19 years old, she stumbled upon a Montessori School and felt that this was where she belonged. While studying for a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, she added Education as one of her major studies, and taught children while training for the Montessori Method of Education through an AMI trainor. After graduation, she headed to London, England to further her studies in Montessori at the St. Nicholas Training Centre. She founded the Mission Montessori Center in the Philippines, a school that taught the children of the working class in the morning and sponsored a class of indigenous children in the afternoon. Susie took her Master studies for Special Education, but had to immigrate to Canada where she worked for the Montessori Centre of Victoria, now known as Selkirk Montessori. She received her training with the AMI for the Elementary Program while working at Selkirk. Susie has been teaching for 38 years.

Workshop 1D R.I.G.H.T.S. Education – An Integrated Curriculum based on The Convention on the Rights of the Child (United Nations 1989)

R.I.G.H.T.S. Education is an integrated curriculum based on The Conventions on the Rights of the Child (United Nations 1989) for grades one through eight. It embraces Maria Montessori's vision of achieving true peace through the pursuit of justice and love. In attempting to answer the Cosmic Education question, "Who am I?", R.I.G.H.T.S. Education begins with exploring children's rights on an individual level. It then takes the child through a series of projects and presentations designed to increase awareness of the lives of other children globally. It culminates with empowering children to stand together as agents of change towards a more just and peaceful world. level: EL, MIDDLE

Presenter: Lesley Friedman

Lesley graduated with an Education degree and thereafter stayed home to raise four children. Simultaneously, she enjoyed creating art in her home studio and garden. Recently, Lesley trained in Montessori methods for the elementary classroom. A passion for children's rights, justice and global peace inspired the creation of R.I.G.H.T.S. Education.

Workshop 1E Building Positive, Caring and Trusting Relationships

In this session participants will learn about bullying and its effects on others. We will explore the difference between bad play and bullying and learn how to determine what kids of negative play can be called bullying. Participants will find out how to recognize bullying behavior and how to respond so the behavior stops. As well, current research on Anti bullying programs will be presented as well as a way to ensure the adults are building positive, caring and trusting relationships with the children and families in their charge. The issue and extent of cyber bullying will also be examined, as well as ways to take action and keep students safe. level: EL, MIDDLE

Presenter: Cindi Seddon

Cindi Seddon has a national and international reputation as an expert on Bullying and how to build safe caring communities. Over the past several years, Cindi has been a two time featured guest on 'The Sally Jesse Raphael Show'. As well she has had guest appearances on 'The Gayle King Show'; 'The Vicky Gabereau Show' and CTV's 'W-FIVE with Sandie Rinaldo'. More recently, Cindi has been the keynote guest on many national and international radio talk shows and has been a contributor and lead speaker at many international forums and conferences focussed on the topic of bullying. She had authored 2 books on the subject and produced and award winning training video.

Cindi speaks with passion about the many factors that must be present in order to build safe and caring communities and she facilitates these discussions with community builders throughout North America.

At home in Port Moody British Columbia, Cindi is a mother of 2 amazing teenage daughters, a wife and life partner of teacher Kevin Frost for 30 years, and a full time middle school principal and educator. She enjoys skiing in the winter, sailing in the summer and running year round.

Workshop 1F Montessori Mozart's

This workshop explores a music-enriched Montessori environment for teaching the whole child.

Designed for both new and experienced teachers, you will increase your comfort and competence with Montessori's approach to music education! Discover how to use the Montessori sensorial materials to teach the basic concepts of music while keeping the lessons fun and the child engaged. Gain musical confidence as we explore the

integration of music, movement, rhythm, song, and the brilliance of the musical bells. The comprehensive music curriculum is presented in an easy to follow fun-filled daily lesson plan format, with music and movement sing-along CDs, suggested activities and bell material presentations.

Take home practical suggestions to use immediately in your classroom. Each carefully formatted lesson plan includes music and movement activities, vocal exercises, solfege instruction, opportunities for use of percussion instruments, rhythm exploration, and suggestions for corresponding sensorial bell presentations. Further lesson plans include introduction to the orchestra through the musical tale for children 'Peter and the Wolf'; the study of music from around the world; make various instruments for creative expression; music notation materials and composition.

All while having musical fun! level: EC, EL

Presenter: Maureen Harris

An established expert in early childhood education, Maureen Harris, has over 25 years experience as a consultant, educator, clinician and lecturer. She founded Montessori Mozarts in 2005. As an international consultant, Harris has worked with education associations in Africa (Tanzania), Europe (Ireland), Asia (China), Canada and U.S.A.. Her current research focuses on alternative education within a Maasai community, Tanzania and the exploration of traditional native music as a means to engage learning. She has earned the 2012 University of Windsor Alumni Award of Merit, the 2005 Canadian Premier's Award for Excellence in Teaching, and also honoured with the Extinguished Teacher Award for the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers. Maureen is currently teaching in the faculty of education, at the University of Windsor and completing Doctoral research in Education. Her most recent publication includes 'Music and the Young Mind' a text book for pre-service teachers published by MENC, USA, and 'Enrich a Mind and Imagine the Possibilities', published in the International Journal of Arts Education.

Her belief lies in the power of quality education to support the child's innate talents and individuality. This in turn provides the young adult with the critical thinking skills to flourish in an ever-changing 21st Century global community.

Workshop Session Two, 2:45 – 4:30

Workshop 2A Unleashing the Creative Spirit

An important gift you can share with children of any age is to inspire their creative imaginations, and this workshop will enable you to do just that by unleashing your own. You will learn how to prepare yourself, prepare the environment, and provide your students with meaningful and developmentally appropriate creative experiences. You will leave with a new understanding of yourself as an educator and as an artist. level: EC, EL

Presenter: Julie Karlonas

Julie Karlonas, the founder of *Art Work*, has been providing art instruction for children and adults for more than 25 years. She holds a master's degree in Montessori education, AMS Elementary I and II teaching credentials, and a studio degree in printmaking. In addition to teaching Creative Arts for the Montessori School of Education at Saint Mary's College, she lectures and conducts teacher-training seminars. Julie is also a working artist whose paintings, prints, and drawings have been shown throughout Northern California.

Workshop 2B Everything in the Universe has a Name !

Meet the Noun and Verb families, play the Adjective and Preposition Games and discover that learning grammar is fun the Montessori way! We'll include definitions and functions of the parts of speech and the symbols and colours used in integrating language and the Cosmic Curriculum. Fun for learners of all ages! (Intended for children 5-9 years, this material can be developed according to the reading level of participants and may be adapted for ESL adult learners). level: EC, EL

Presenter: Carol Scarratt

Carol Scarratt is founder and now Professor Emeritus of Western Montessori Teachers' College Society, established in 1979. With over 30 years involvement in the Montessori Method, she holds a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership and Training from Royal Roads University Victoria, where she also received the Chancellor's Award for highest academic achievement in her cohort

She holds Montessori teaching diplomas for children birth – 12 years (St Nicholas Montessori, UK). Carol is presently principal consultant of @Renaissance Services, her private practice offering Change Management, Appreciative Inquiry and Professional Development to learning organizations.

Workshop 2C “Seeds of Generosity: Storytelling in the Classroom”

Margot has created [The Generosity Stories](#) from her translations of some traditional stories from South Asia. As she shares them in the oral tradition without a script, the stories and their powerful messages of compassion and generosity enter the listener. Come to listen and consider how you too might share stories like these in your classroom to help water the seeds of compassionate action. level: EL

Presenter: Margo McLoughlin

Margo McLoughlin is a French Immersion teacher, writer, and storyteller. She is an active member of the Victoria Storytellers' Guild. Margo gives workshops on several topics for Royal Roads Continuing Studies, including Mindfulness in the Elementary Classroom and Storytelling. She is also a recent graduate of the Community Dharma Leader training program at Spirit Rock Meditation Center in Woodacre, California. Margo translates and performs the Buddhist stories known as the Jataka tales. Margo has edited two anthologies of generosity stories that will be published in the fall of 2012—*Seeds of Generosity: Storytelling in the Classroom* and *The Giving Heart: Folktales for Exploring Generosity*.

Workshop 2D Using Technology to Engage Learners

This workshop addresses how digital technologies can be used to engage, rather than distract, elementary and adolescent students in Montessori (and traditional) classrooms. Digital technologies are inherently customizable and interactive, and they have blurred the distinction between producers and consumers in the Information Age. When teachers understand the strengths and limitations of these devices they can shape learning experiences that promote autonomy, authenticity, connection and inquiry. level: EL, MIDDLE

Presenter: Mark Powell

Mark currently teaches 6-12 year-old students at *American International Montessori School* in Berkeley CA, where his daughter is in the Chinese Children's House program. He has been teaching for 18 years, in Montessori lower and upper elementary classrooms in the Boston area and the East Bay area, and more recently for three years as Technology Co-ordinator at *St. Paul's Episcopal School*, a progressive mainstream private K-8 school in Oakland CA. He was a teacher trainer at the *Center for Montessori Teacher Education, New York* for twelve years. He has published 20 articles on Montessori education in *Montessori Life* and various other non-Montessori journals, and wrote a chapter in a recently published book entitled *A Place for Play* edited by Elizabeth Goodenough. He has delivered workshops at *American Montessori Society* national conferences and at private and public Montessori Schools from coast to coast in this country and in Puerto Rico, Australia and New Zealand, and has consulted for over 50 Montessori schools in his capacity as field consultant for CMTE/NY.

Workshop 2E Do You See What I See?

In spite of our best efforts, our children may not be benefiting equally from early quality instruction for phonemic awareness and phonics. Children who are not progressing as desired may be among the 10-20 percent of visual-spatial learners who experience dyslexia—its gifts and its challenges. Find out how disorientation, common across all 37 symptoms of dyslexia, can distort perceptions and negatively affect learning. Find out how both children and adults can utilize their visual-spatial thinking talents to control their perceptions when accuracy matters, master the triggers that cause their disorientation, and enable learning. level: ALL

Presenter: Dr. Carole Ford

Dr. Carole Ford's studies and work as an elementary school teacher, a teacher of teachers (University of Victoria), a workshop presenter, a co-author of books for teachers/academics, and a Davis™ Dyslexia Correction Facilitator, have been inspired by our moral responsibility to help both children and adults maximize their potential.

SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2013

Workshop Session One, 8:30 – 10:15

Workshop 1A Why is the robin's tummy orange?

This workshop will examine how to harness young children's passionate wonder about the natural world around them to provide an entry into the Montessori biology curriculum. Participants will utilize principles of mind mapping to create an exciting curriculum which is inspiring and relevant to the unique environment of Vancouver Island. level:EC

Presenter: Dianne Murphy

Dianne Murphy is retired from the position as Director of the Sheridan Montessori Teacher Early Childhood Education Program. This program was the only Montessori education program offered by a public college within the province of Ontario. Prior to developing this program, Dianne was a professor of early childhood education at Sheridan College and directress of the Sheridan College Montessori Preschool Program.

Workshop 1B Autism, A Montessori Approach

This course is designed to educate Montessori teachers on ways to work effectively with children with autism spectrum disorder. There is great interest in the Montessori community in this topic since an increasing number of children with this disorder are appearing in Montessori classrooms.

This course is an introduction to the blend of Montessori and Applied Behavioural Analysis. Participants will begin with an overview of ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) including common behavioural problems. Following the exploration of autism participants will have the opportunity to view video footage on the blend of an ABA/Montessori program. level:EC/EL

Presenter: Michelle Lane – Barmarpov

Michelle Lane-Barmarpov was the founder of the Lane Montessori School for Autism in Toronto, Canada. This not for profit school was the first of its kind to combine Applied Behavior Analysis with the Montessori curriculum in the world. In 2005, Michelle was awarded The Premier's Award in recognition of her work.

Workshop 1C Animals in Music.

Explore and experience nearly 300 years of music written to portray the character or the lives of animals. This workshop will provide tools for both musical and non-musical teachers to successfully present a classroom-tested curriculum that will expose students to great music and increase their awareness of the natural world. The session will also include classroom and end of year program activities. level:EL

Presenter: Joseph Weisnewski

Mr. Weisnewski is a composer, musician and certified Montessori teacher. He has composed music on commission for choral and chamber groups and has worked as musical director for theater companies.

He studied music at Palomar College, San Francisco State University and privately with professionals in both the United States and England.

He currently resides in Seattle where he teaches in several Montessori schools, instructing nearly 500 students a week.

Workshop 1D Montessori for Teens! -----The Importance of Montessori Middle School

The transition from childhood to adulthood is challenging for everyone involved. This session examines the importance of continuing Montessori education through the middle school years. It offers teachers and parents practical ideas for preparing a space, developing curriculum and creating an environment where adolescents can flourish. level:EL/MIDDLE

Presenter: Patrick Vincentine & Brooke Rose

Both Brooke and Patrick currently teach at Maria Montessori Academy as Directors of the Middle School Program. They received their Montessori training from the Houston Montessori Center.

Workshop 1E Marketing for Montessori Schools

We are all looking for the best approach to keeping interest and enrollment in our schools high. This interactive workshop is divided into three parts to explore this goal:

1. Participants will work together to identify and define their own understanding of their school's unique identity. This is an essential feature to setting one's school apart from other schools when reaching out to prospective families.
2. Research shows that over 80% of prospective families come to any school because of word of mouth. Participants will be guided to share and develop ideas and practices to better market their school through highly positive and effective word of mouth.
3. Reaching an external audience is the final piece of Marketing schools. Participants will share and develop ideas regarding great ways to create interest in their school. An essential part of this will be developing an understanding of how to measure the effectiveness of different initiatives tried to ensure one's school receives full benefit from the effort put forth and dollars spent on any external marketing done. level: ALL/ADMIN

Presenter: Dr. Glenn Zederayko

Dr. Glenn Zederayko is in his sixth year as Head at TMS School which combines a flagship Montessori program from Toddler through grade 6 with an IB Program from grade 7 through graduation. With over 25 years of experience in four private schools in three provinces, Glenn serves as a volunteer board member for the CCMA which is working to promote Montessori education nationally.

Workshop Session Two, 10:45 – 12:30

Workshop 2A Where is the Normalized Class?

Montessori said that the greatest sign of success for a teacher is to be able to say that the children are working as if I did not exist. She said less about the precise methods that a teacher must employ to establish a normalized classroom and the unobtrusive teaching style that distinguishes Montessori classrooms and teachers from all others. Participants in this workshop will learn about the specific teaching strategies that create and sustain a normalized and child-centered learning environment. level: EC

Presenter: Mary Flewelling-Pinchen

Mary Flewelling-Pinchen, casa directress, consultant and author of "Directing the Montessori Children's House" earned her A.M.I. primary teaching diploma from the Toronto Montessori Institute in 1984 after attending Queen's University in Kingston, On. Since that time, she has been teaching and mentoring in casa classroom at various schools in Toronto and South-Western Ontario. Mary offers teacher workshops, parent education seminars and organizes professional development programmes for the Canadian Association of Montessori Teachers (CAMT).

Workshop 2B Dance and Drama

Explore how drama and dance can enhance your classroom, vitalize your students and encourage learning. You will be amazed at what your students will produce. Come join me and together we can learn how to make learning fun and meaning through the arts. level: EC/EL

Presenter: Patricia Patrick

Patricia Patrick has been teaching for the past 28 years in both independent and public schools as a Montessori teacher/administrator. She has always enjoyed dance and drama and has incorporated both in all of her classrooms. Patricia Patrick has taught preschool, elementary and middle school students and has marveled at what each level can achieve and accomplish. She is always looking for new ways to keep the joy of teaching alive and has found that drama and dance always energizes her and seems to do the same for the students!

Workshop 2C Food for thought ... not Consumption

Given the numerous environmental concerns in our world today, what are we as Montessori educators doing to advocate for our children's future? In our schools and classrooms, are we leading by example? Are we walking the talk? Every day should be Earth Day if we are to prepare the next generation of global citizens. The interconnected spiral Cultural Curriculum lends itself aptly to this topic at all phases of development. Fresh emphasis on this often underdeveloped area of the Montessori curriculum will help us to understand human's place within nature and our responsibilities to the planet. The urgency of our environmental crisis demands that many of our students find their cosmic task in nature. level: EC/EL

Presenter: Karen Fagan

Karen Fagan is a 30 year Montessori educator, Montessori mother and Montessori grandmother. With a degree from Trent and Advanced MACAR qualifications she went on to lead Toronto's High Park Montessori School for many years. Now retired in rural Ontario she pursues her passion for living the reflective life, enjoying nature and volunteering with special needs children.

Workshop 2D Teaching and Learning Together in Multi-Age Classes in a Parent-Involved School

Learning and working together for many years, we have developed programs that we know are beneficial to students. Using a Power Point presentation of images from our own classrooms, we will share a variety of open-ended, hands-on activities, which we have found increase our students' independence, self-confidence, and creativity. We will include several demonstrations of our teaching and will encourage active participation from the teachers attending the workshop. level: EC, EL

Presenter: Linda Picciotto and Debbie Marchand

Linda Picciotto and Debbie Marchand both taught primary classes for many years at South Park Family School, an alternative parent-involved school in Victoria. They often planned together and combined their classes for many activities. Linda has written several books about her teaching practice, some first published by Scholastic and now available as ebooks on www.primaryteachersbooks.com. She and Debbie wrote two of these ebooks together, and they collaborated on a history book of South Park School which won a Hallmark Award.

Workshop 2E Affirming Montessori's Vision of Peace

A fun and interactive workshop that will restore your energy, help you to find your inner strength and give you a refreshed perspective on how to nurture yourself and give the best to your students.

Through interactive lecture and activities participants will be given a wide variety of strategies that will lead them to a greater understanding of how to identify their own strengths and build the resources needed to engage peacefully and lovingly in the classroom.

level: EL, MIDDLE

Presenters: Lize Hart and Cathy Goss

Lize Hart and Cathy Goss are co-presenters of *Affirming Montessori's Vision for Peace*. They were initially drawn to Montessori education through their children's positive experience. They've been enthusiastic teaching partners for ten of their many years teaching at Boundary Bay Montessori House, Delta. Their *joie de vivre* has resulted in a establishing lively and loving environments which enable positive learning experiences for students, their families and other educators. Years of professional development and certifications as facilitators of *The Virtues Project* have enabled them to be astute presenters as they share the breadth of their experience and support others to integrate new knowledge. Their compassion and caring has strengthened relationships within their work environment and has been a source of influence and encouragement for those who attend their workshops.

Workshop 2F Leadership Theory for the Montessori School

Leadership theory is not just for academics. School leaders tend to lead from instinct and experience. This is often effective, but does not always allow us to approach situations with intention and reflection. Come learn about three leadership theories that resonate with Montessori philosophy that can help you to bring a deeper understanding to your own leadership. level: ADMIN

Presenter: Charis Sharp, PhD

Charis Sharp has been working in education for over 20 years, most of which has been in the area of professional development and education reform. Charis holds a Masters in Teaching, a Masters in Whole Systems Design (Organizational Development), and a PhD in Leadership and Change with a focus on Small Schools. Charis has been working a Montessori school as head of school for nearly four years and has recently begun the Montessori Administrator's Certification at the Houston Montessori Center. Charis Sharp is the treasurer for Pacific Northwest Montessori Association and serves on the Public Policy committee for American Montessori Society.

Workshop Session Three, 1:30 – 3:15

Workshop 3A Making Music Happen

This music workshop will help Teachers, Parents and music makers who want to learn more about music literacy teaching skills that can be used with all ages from beginners to moderately advanced performers.

These hands on creative tools that teach literacy in music are puzzles that are inspired by the Montessori equipment used in classrooms. This equipment can be used in a class setting, or with individuals and it can also be very effective when the student is also studying an instrument and needs to advance in basic music theory knowledge. level:EC

Presenter: Bambie Maree

Bambie brings more than 35 years of experience as an educator and performer to our conference. Trained under Winifred Wood at the Victoria Conservatory of Music with a double specialty in traditional classical piano pedagogy, Suzuki pedagogy and piano performance, the University of Victoria, and the Toronto Conservatory of Music, she also received additional training in pedagogy at the Suzuki Institute in Matsumoto, Japan.

After 10 years on the faculty of the Victoria Conservatory, she served backstage for 7 years at the Shaw Festival Theatre and then as Director of Music for Ontario's Picton Theatre Festival. Coordinator for the Garden City Kiwanis Festival and Founder of both the Niagara and Victoria Suzuki Piano Schools, she has taught for 10 years in Montessori environments. She is excited to bring her performance experience and innovative pedagogy to the Montessori Association.

Workshop 3B Re-engage in Your Own Spiritual Preparation

Get re-inspired to engage in continuous improvement in your own beautiful, free classroom. Re-engage in your own spiritual preparation that will bring a fresh take on the prepared environment.

See lovely classrooms from around the world where children are thriving in less-than ideal conditions because Montessori works! level:EC

Presenter: Mary Ellen Maunz

Mary Ellen Maunz holds a M.Ed. in Montessori Education, a BS in Child Development and is certified to teach Montessori in early childhood and elementary I and II. She has spent 40 years teaching and training in Montessori. She is Founder and Program Director of Age of Montessori, a MACTE accredited online and in-person teacher education course and has directed a teacher education course in St. Petersburg, Russia for 7 years. She served on the MACTE Board of Directors for 8 years in the 1990s.

Workshop 3C When Elvis the Elk Sings, Students Listen

How do you reach people that don't seem interested in your message? For us the problem wasn't the message it was the way we were delivering it. This session will illustrate how music revolutionized the way do science education, the amazing results we generated, and some simple tools for how everyone create and use education songs. level:EL

Presenter: Scott Mair

Scott is a curious guy. He likes rocks, bugs, flowers, trees, birds ... you get the idea. Scott learned to love dinosaurs while curator of education at Alberta's Tyrrell Museum, stars as director of Victoria's Centre of the Universe and traffic while at the Natural History Museum in LA. He is currently program manager at Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary in Victoria.

Workshop 3D The Irlen Method: Is it the answer for some children?

This presentation may give answers to parents and teachers when wondering about that child that seems to be having difficulty is different ways, with comprehension, spelling, handwriting, focus on a task. Children for whom we don't have an answer, who may have unexplained headaches, fatigue, nausea, are perhaps misdiagnosed as ADD/HD, Dyslexic, Autistic, with difficult behavior. The Irlen Method can identify if a person has this sensitivity or not. If so, the solution is fairly simple, inexpensive, nonintrusive. level:ALL

Presenter: Bonnie Williams

Bonnie a longtime teacher, found Montessori in 1985, has been happily teaching in Montessori in Prince George, and now Kelowna, since. In 2004, she discovered the perfect match to Montessori education, answering concerns about ADD/HD, dyslexia, learning difficulties. A nonintrusive method, The Irlen Method, of treating these conditions. She has an AMS certificate for 6-9 and 9-12 year olds. Ms Williams is a fulltime teacher and the principal of Okanagan Montessori Elementary and Preschool in Kelowna, a small, but beautiful school. Bonnie was so happy to have three of my grandchildren go to preschool and elementary there.

Workshop 3E Supporting Non-violent Culture in Education

Empathetic listening and honest dialogue skills combined with knowledge of empathy and the brain as you may never have experienced it before! Explore coaching techniques for those moments when bullying and conflict rise up. An effective way to calm situations and turn them into learning moments! Turn the power of negative attention into power of learning! Children learn about themselves, their behavior, the behavior of the others and social skills. level:ALL

Presenter: Renee Lindstrom, GCFP

Renee Lindstrom, Supporting Nonviolence in Education, shares learning techniques that demonstrate changes in behavior through a connection to language choices and habits. Her aim: the development of words to express honest feelings and needs based upon shared values creating a natural outcome of empathy. Trained in Somatic Movement Education Renee is a presenter, coach and practitioner of both Feldenkrais, and Nonviolent Communication.