

MacDonald Montessori School Winter Conference

Weaving the Process of Documentation in the Daily Life Experiences of the School: Observing, Interpreting, Thinking, Taking Action and Analysis

Presentations from:
MacDonald Montessori
School Educators and
Amelia Gambetti Reggio Emilia, Italy



Friday February 16, 2024

9:00-2:00

Directors/Administrators

Workshop with Beth MacDonald
and Amelia Gambetti

Friday February 16, 2024

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Reception/School Visit

Opening Presentations

Saturday February 17, 2024

8:30-3:30

Experiences in Dialogue:

Presentations/Collaboration

Lunch

Break out sessions



Documenting...

- Map of Possibilities
- Presence of Families
- Identity of the Classroom
- Following & Revitalizing Threads:
Short Term/Long Term Children's
Research Projects
- School Wide Intentions
- Identity of Your Context
- Connection to the Neighborhood
- Expressive Languages
- Cognitive & Creative Languages
Together
- Celebrations, Birthdays & Special
Events
- Technology, Photography, Written
Communication
- Daily/Weekly Classroom Journals
- Image of the Child and Adults

MacDonald Montessori School

MacDonald Montessori School in Saint Paul, Minnesota, will be celebrating its 37th anniversary in Early Childhood Education in March 2023. The school is inspired by the Montessori and Reggio Emilia Approaches to learning and has been in dialogue with Amelia Gambetti, Reggio Emilia, Italy for the last 28 years. MacDonald Montessori School serves 188 children ages 6 weeks through 8 years old and has a committed, creative staff of 43 educators. The educators of MacDonald Montessori School have a wide diversity of backgrounds in education (early childhood and elementary), Montessori, Psychology, English, Home Child Care, Political Science, Art History, Advertising, Social Work, Child Development, Environmental Education, Visual Arts, Textiles, Anthropology, Music and Photography.



Presenters

Amelia Gambetti

Amelia Gambetti was an educator in the Reggio Emilia Municipal Infant Toddler Centers and Preschools for 27 years and in all those years she worked side by side with Loris Malaguzzi, the main founder of the Reggio Emilia Approach, who was her mentor. She worked on the creation and consequent updates of the "The Hundred Languages of Children" and "The Wonder of Learning" traveling Exhibits of the Municipal Infant Toddler Centers and Preschools of Reggio Emilia, Italy. Amelia was the Exhibit Coordinator from 1998 until 2016. Amelia was one of the founders of the NAREA organization (North American Reggio Emilia Alliance).



Amelia first came to the United States as a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst Lab School, from 1992 to 1993. She had an ongoing collaboration as a pedagogical support at the Model Early Learning Center (MELC), a school run by The Capital Children's Museum and the District of Columbia that served the inner city population in Washington, D.C. Since 1992, Amelia Gambetti has led several professional development opportunities in Italy, North America, Northern Europe, South America, Asia, Middle East and South Africa.

Amelia was a member of the Istituzione Scuole e Nidi d'Infanzia of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia Advisory Board (2003-2016). Currently, she is the Reggio Emilia Approach Liaison and Consultant to Schools and she is a pedagogical collaborator and consultant to many schools, universities and colleges in North America. In particular Saint Paul, Miami, Washington, D.C., Indiana, Oklahoma, Colorado and California. Amelia has also visited more than 300 schools in almost all of the 50 States in the U.S.



Beth MacDonald

Beth MacDonald has been the Executive Director of MacDonald Montessori School for 36 years. Beth MacDonald completed her Montessori training in 1985 and in 1994, she began a collaboration with Amelia Gambetti that is still on-going. Since 1994, Beth's intention was to create a "dialogue" between the two philosophies in order to find connections between the Montessori Method and the Reggio Emilia Approach, analyze, study and understand in which way the richness of their principles could provide depth and quality to her school. She has attended 12 study weeks in Reggio Emilia and has presented at Reggio Emilia inspired conferences throughout the United States and abroad. Challenges, changes, evolution and transformation of the School's thinking, difficulties, struggles and strategies will be shared as well as the effort and commitment that the School community has invested in creating a meaningful experience that respects both philosophies and their unique wisdom. Beth was one of the founders of the NAREA organization and a member of the Reggio International Network of 35 countries from 2006-2016.



“We also wanted to react to an education based on words and meaningless rituals and give POSSIBILITIES to a child seen as rich in resources and interests to a child interactive and constructivist. We wanted to create POSSIBILITIES to refine taste and aesthetic sensibility, to observe and find theories about children starting from scribbles and going forward. We also wanted to try out tools, materials, and techniques. We wanted to support creative and logical paths the children would CHOOSE to explore.”

-Loris Malaguzzi, Founder Reggio Emilia Approach

REGISTRATION FORM

SPACE IS LIMITED...REGISTER EARLY!

MacDonald Montessori Winter Conference

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

School/Center _____

Phone _____

Friday evening and Saturday \$225

Friday Director/Administrators Workshop \$150

Group rates available for groups of 3 or more

All participants will be required to provide proof of up to date COVID-19 vaccination prior to attendance. Please send in a copy of your vaccination and booster card with your registration forms.

Send Check & Registration form to:
MacDonald Montessori School
175 Western Avenue South
St. Paul, MN 55102

Phone 651.227.1039 Fax 651.227.7304
Email: liz@macdonaldmontessori.org
(Cancellations received two weeks before are eligible for refund)

*Check payable to MacDonald Montessori School