



## MSM 2019 Conference Workshop final Descriptions and Bio's

**Morning Workshops:** This year there are two morning Sessions of Workshops. Please note the two time schedules: **Session A Traditional Workshops 11:00-12:15**

**Session B Intensive Workshops 11:00-12:45**

### Session A Traditional Workshops 11:00 – 12:15

**Age Group Focus:** Infant/Toddler

**Title:** *Journaling with Toddlers*

**Abstract:** Scribbling. What's it all about: The Art of Journaling with Toddlers. Are you tired of finding scribble art jammed in the back of a child's cubby? Or do you struggle with the end of the day tears over a lost piece of art work? After being inspired five years ago by a blog post, I implemented journaling in my toddler class. This workshop is designed to learn more about the stages of drawing, the importance of scribbling, and tips and tricks to help and inspire others to start documenting via journaling.

**Presenter:** Amy Wood

Amy Wood holds an Infant Toddler Montessori Certificate and is the Lead Toddler Teacher at Bedford Montessori and has a Master's in Art and a concentration in Montessori Education from St. Catherine University. Over the past twenty years, Amy has worked with 3-6 year olds and most recently with Toddlers. Inspired by a blog post on journaling with Toddlers, she began her journey of documentation through journaling with Toddlers into her classroom. This has been a transformative experience and by sharing her experience and resources, Amy hopes to inspire others.

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**Age Group Focus:** Early Childhood

**Title:** *Positive Discipline: Fostering Prosocial Behavior*

**Abstract:** This workshop helps teachers understand the child's developmental behavioral challenges. It provides tools and techniques to guide children's social and emotional development. This workshop will highlight the following: 1. Developing an understanding of the root cause of challenging behaviors using real-life situations. 2. Developing self-regulation in children by creating an awareness of their capability and by empowering them. 3. Developing an appreciation in the power of choice and by extension, actions, and consequences. 4. Developing positive verbal and emotional communication. 5. Setting expectations for children encourage successful outcomes – freedom within limits. 6. Developing effective and realistic

strategies to handle challenging behaviors. 7. Identifying conflict about to happen and proactively applying effective mediation techniques. 8. Nurturing mutual respect, cooperation, and building resilience. 9. Tips and tools to practice positive discipline.

**Presenter: Asiya Peerzade**

Asiya Peerzade holds an Early Childhood Certificate from the Indian Montessori Center and currently works at eBridge Montessori School. Asiya has 12 years of classroom experience in which over the years it was noticed that she had a loving, kind, and firm way to help children with behavioral challenges. This led Asiya, to study the science behind positive discipline, studying behavioral management at Dean College. Asiya currently conducts workshops for communities to educate parents about positive discipline and hosts workshops for professional development. Asiya is also coaching staff and parents to help guide their work with children who exhibit behavioral challenges.

**Age Group Focus: Early Childhood**

**Title: *Pack Your Suitcase***

**Abstract:** Pack your suitcase and take a trip to create a beautiful and enticing Geography and Culture shelf. In this session participants will get ideas about how to create materials, sequences them, and present the continents of the world in a new and exciting way.

**Presenter: Ashley Epstein**

Ashley Epstein is currently a lead teacher in the Children's House at Newton Montessori School. Following graduation from Skidmore College, Ashley received her training at NEMTEC and has been teaching for 10 years. Ashley has offered many parent education and staff professional development events. From her experiences traveling, and creating many geography teaching materials, Ashley hopes to create a more peaceful world by introducing children to different cultures in hopes that they learn they are just a piece of the puzzle of Earth.

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**Age Group Focus: Lower Elementary**

**Title: *Getting Out of the Recess Rut***

**Abstract:** This workshop will present one school's attempt to shake things up at recess. When "Interest Groups" were offered, teachers saw improvements in participation and new patterns of socialization. Attendees will learn how one school worked to differentiate recess; how they offered "Interest Groups" during recess; and how they explored various activities that they could offer students to engage in during recess. Attend this workshop to see how you might shake things up during recess at your school!

**Presenter: Kayla Stiffler**

Kayla Stiffler is currently a lead Lower Elementary teacher at Newton Montessori School and completed her graduate degree at Framingham State University studying Literacy and Language Development. Kayla holds a Lower Elementary Montessori credential from North American Montessori Center and she is currently enrolled in the 6-9 Montessori training program through METTC.

**Age Group Focus:** Lower Elementary

**Title:** *100 Years of Favorite Read-Aloud Books*

**Abstract:** Consistently reading good literature aloud to young children offers an introduction or a re-visit to classic children’s literature with the purpose of developing excitement as you meet characters and friends from stories remembered from long ago. These read-alouds provide a rich opportunity for exposure to beautifully written literature – long remembered phrases from childhood stories- and a look back at a simpler time when a nightly “Read-Aloud” was a family event that adults and children all looked forward to.

**Presenter:** Patricia Shapiro

Patricia Shapiro has been the past Head of School at Bedford Montessori for 21 years, holds an Early Childhood Montessori Certificate and has been a teacher trainer teaching Montessori Philosophy at NEMTEC and has also taught an Early Childhood class for many years. Patricia has had a life- long fascination with children’s books and has offered many workshops on Children’s Literature sharing her love of beautifully written literature and the many benefits of the regular Read-Alouds with children in school.

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**Age Group Focus:** Upper Elementary

**Title:** *Journey North Mystery Class: Geography, Math or ?*

**Abstract:** This Mystery Class is a web-based, 4 month challenge where students are tasked to find 10 cities around the world. Participants will 1) experience the works as learners; 2) learn to lead their students through this entire process; and 3) learn to personalize and expand it through storytelling.

**Presenter:** Tom Griffith

Tom Griffith teaches Upper Elementary at Hilltop Montessori School and holds an Upper Elementary Montessori Certificate from CMTE and holds a Master’s Degree in Environmental Studies from Antioch New England. Tom Griffith has been developing the elements of this curriculum presentation with students for 15 years. The Mystery Class investigation, which is a web based 4 month challenge for each student, has become a hallmark of the fifth year students at Hilltop Montessori School.

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**Age Group Focus:** Upper Elementary/Middle School

**Title:** Cell Biology, Mitosis and Stop Motion Animation

**Abstract:** Every human starts as a single cell and grows to an organism made of trillions of cells! What are cells and how do they work? Those who attend this workshop will learn about organelles and DNA, the master molecule. After studying cell division, learn how your students can use stop motion animation to creatively show the process of mitosis.

**Presenters:** Nancy Sergi-Gott & Alison Gott

Nancy Sergi-Gott has a Masters from Ohio State in Environmental Monitoring. Nancy also holds a Lower Elementary Montessori Certificate from NAMC. Nancy currently teaches Lower Elementary part time and supports science education for the LE and the UE classes as the Science Specialist at the T. E.C. School.

Alison Gott is the Science and Technology Teacher at S.E.T. School and holds a BA from UMass Amherst in Biology. Alison has taken the Montessori Overview at Lexington Montessori. Alison's experience in teaching science animation and technology to Lower and Upper Elementary classes at her current school has informed her preparation for this presentation.

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**Age Group Focus:** Middle School

**Title:** Not a Vacation: *Planning Field Work with Students*

**Abstract:** Attendees to this workshop will be walked through the process of planning a week-long field study with students. Everyone should leave with ideas for 1) Scaffolding planning documents, 2) Planning trip details in collaboration with students, and 3) Planning meals, transportation, and facilitation with the entire class immediately before the trip.

**Presenters:** George Hakim & Kim McKaken-Marsh

George Hakim teaches at Lexington Montessori School as a Middle School Teacher. George holds a MS Montessori Certificate from CMSTEP and a Master's from Simmons University in Children's Literature. He has visited over 50 countries including China, which was the result of a district travel grant. Several of George's trips have been with students, and he has been planning week-long, interdisciplinary trips with adolescents for five years.

Kim McMaken-Marsh is a Middle School Teacher at Lexington Montessori School and is an AMS 2018/19 Emerging Leaders Fellow. Kim holds a Lower Elementary Montessori Certificate from CMTE/NY and a B.A. from Emory University in English. Kim has been coordinating week-long, interdisciplinary, overseas trips with adolescents for 11 years.

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**Focus: Administration**

**Title: *Evaluating Heads of School***

**Abstract:** Evaluating Heads of School is notoriously difficult. The data collected rarely connects to what the head of school does as school head responsibilities vary so greatly from one school setting to another. This session will: identify meaningful criteria, determine how to measure that criteria, and then explore how to assemble the data from an *assessment* tool to determine what it means as an *evaluation*.

**Presenter: Charis Sharp**

Charis Sharp holds a Montessori Certificate in Administration from the Houston Montessori Center. Charis also holds a Ph.D. from Antioch University in Leadership and Change. Charis has presented at AMS Conferences, offered workshops and led retreats and has also worked in research, and with school leaders in a wide variety of contexts including board work for the Washington Federation of Independent Schools, the Pacific Northwest Montessori Association, and the Montessori Public Policy Initiative. Charis is currently working with six private Montessori schools which represent both the AMI and AMS communities.

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**Focus: General**

**Title: *Amazing Monarchs- How to be a Monarch Guardian***

**Abstract:** The Monarch Guardian project begins at the very start of school. We are fortunate to live in the Northeast where in early September Monarch butterflies are beginning their fourth generation for the year. Moving northward, they are laying eggs each cycle, letting the next generation “take the baton”. The eggs that we find will mature into hearty butterflies that live longer than the others and make the astonishing 2000 mile migration to Mexico. Through observation and hands on nurturing, children learn the life cycle of the butterfly, the interconnection of species, grace and courtesy, and so much more! We will be showing slides and sharing support materials.

**Presenters: Sarah Bourque & Elizabeth Love**

Sarah Bourque holds an Early Childhood Montessori Certificate from North East Montessori Institute and studied Biology Med Tech at Framingham State University. Sarah has been teaching for 15 years and raising Monarchs from egg to butterfly for 18 years. Sarah learned about this project from the former President of the Massachusetts Butterfly Association who for years mentored Sarah and taught her how to observe, collect the eggs, build the containers, and where to find milkweed. Sarah later began sharing her experiences with other schools that went on to create their own programs for Monarch Guardianship and education. Sarah teaches at the Bilingual Montessori School of Sharon.

Elizabeth Love holds a Ph. D from Suffolk Law School and holds an Early Childhood Montessori Certificate from Northeast Montessori Institute and is a lead teacher at Summit Montessori School.

**Focus:** **General**

**Title:** *Montessori Multi-Tiered System of Support for ALL*

**Abstract:** The number of students with challenges is increasing. A multi-tier system of support provides a framework for classrooms at every level using a team approach which includes school leaders and their staff. The Montessori Multi-Tier System of Support is a comprehensive framework for serving ALL learners. Participants will learn information for implementing MtSS. They will also learn about specific tools for inclusive classrooms and techniques for supporting challenges of behavior and various learning styles. MtSS is a system of practical solutions to be used in all school classrooms.

**Presenter:** **Christine Lowry**

Christine Lowry holds a Children's House Montessori Certificate from CMTE NC and a Master's Degree in Special Education from UNC Chapel Hill. Christine has presented at IMS, SEMC and many state conferences and consults with schools through Montessori Now.com. Christine currently is a Consultant to MSM working with the MSM Board Advocacy Committee. Christine has founded, directed and taught in two Montessori schools serving students with diverse behavior and learning needs. She presents at workshops and works with schools and teachers as they increase their skills and implement a multi-tiered system that supports ALL learners.

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**Session B *Intensive Workshops* 11:00-12:45**

**Focus:** **Administration Intensive**

**Title:** **Marketing Montessori with a Team Approach**

**Abstract:** Those of who are insiders are very familiar with the many benefits that students derive from our Montessori programs. But often we speak to the broader world, including prospective families, as if they are familiar with our internal jargon. This is an interactive session and is intended for all school personnel including: Head of Schools and Teachers who work with parents or for those who are responsible for Admissions, Marketing and Communications. Geordie will lead the exercise of unpacking and translating Montessori lexicon so that we can explain what we are doing and what differentiates Montessori from other approaches ...without the buzz words.

**Presenter:** **Geordie Mitchell**

Geordie Mitchell is the Director of Enrollment Management and the Director of Strategic Initiatives at Buckingham, Browne and Nichols School in Cambridge. Geordie has a B.A. from Haverford College and a M.Ed., from Lesley University. Geordie is highly experienced in admissions, enrollment management, marketing, and development. He is currently on the Board of Summit Montessori School.

**Focus:** *Administrative Intensive*

**Title:** *Authentic Montessori and Challenges to its Implementation*

**Abstract:** The focus will be on implementation, learning about the challenges in implementing as Montessori suggested and seeing if we can develop plans to address the issues. Professor Lillard will talk about a paper Lillard and Virginia McHugh, former executive director of AMI/USA and currently consultant to the Wildflower schools, wrote on authentic Montessori by culling Maria Montessori's books for indicators of how she thought the system should be implemented. Participants will be asked to discuss what they find challenging and even perhaps unsuitable in these indicators, in hopes that we will all leave with a better understanding of Montessori implementation and its challenges in our current environment.

**Presenter:** **Angeline Lillard**

Dr. Angeline Lillard is a Professor of Psychology at the University of Virginia, and has been studying Maria Montessori's methods for more than two decades. Angeline Lillard is an elected Fellow of both the American Psychological Association and the Association for Psychological Science. She obtained her BA in English Literature from Smith College and her PhD in Psychology from Stanford University. She has been a Keynote Speaker at dozens of Montessori conferences worldwide, including the three major Montessori Centennial conferences in Rome, New York, and San Francisco. Angeline has published over 100 articles and chapters including in Science, Pediatrics and many top Psychology journals.

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**Focus:** *General Intensive*

**Title:** *Are We Making Jack a Dull Boy?*

**Abstract:** There are boys in all levels of Montessori classrooms, and nearly all struggle with behavioral expectations. Most of their teachers are females, and many of them did not grow up with brothers who might have introduced them to the world of boys. Boys lag behind girls in school. Teachers are often frustrated by boys' aggression, inattentiveness, disorganization and disengagement. This workshop differentiates normal boy development from behaviors that are rightfully worrisome, explores the nature-nurture controversy of differences highlighting neuroscience research, and identifies ways to meet boys' physical and social-emotional needs.

**Presenter:** **Biff Maier:**

Biff Maier co-directs the Montessori Elementary Teacher Training Collaborative (METTC). He is an AMS consultant and ELF mentor. He served on the AMS National Board of Directors as chair of the AMS Teachers Section. Biff has an Upper Elementary Montessori Credential from the International Center for Montessori Studies in Bergamo, Italy and he received an M. Ed., from Xavier University and a B.A. from Duke University.

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## PM Traditional Workshops 1:45-3:00 PM

Age Group Focus: **Infant Toddler**

**Title:** *Yoga and Mindfulness for Toddlers*

**Abstract:** Yoga and mindfulness activities are perfect for Toddlers. Yoga helps Toddlers build peace from the inside out! Combining yoga poses with mindfulness practices promotes a child's natural experiences to live in the moment. Providing these experiences in the classroom also builds muscle strength, promotes concentration, and a healthy outlet supporting their natural sensitive period movement. This workshop will connect mindfulness and yoga techniques to your Montessori prepared environment, curriculum and literacy skills. You will be given sample activities, lesson plans, basic breathing techniques, and learn simple yoga poses that you can do with your Toddlers. You will learn how to easily implement these lessons and activities in your Toddler classroom with the tools, samples, and the list of resources provided in this session.

**Presenter:** **Karen Mellor**

Karen Mellor is a Lead Toddler Teacher at Cambridge Montessori School. Karen received her AMS 0-3 Montessori Certification through the Cambridge Montessori Institute. She also has a M.Ed. in Creative Arts in Learning from Lesley University, a B.A. in Integrative Social Sciences from Michigan State University, and a Flower Yoga Certificate focused on children ages 2-11.

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Age Group Focus: **Early Childhood**

**Title:** *Supporting Montessori Observation with Technology*

**Abstract:** For the past three years, Wildflower Schools have been experimenting with using technology to support Montessori observation 1) Technology to gather basic information automatically for teachers, 2) Tools to support teachers in recording their own observations, and 3) Systems to support teachers in reviewing and making meaning of all the information. Workshop attendees will leave the workshop with a clear sense of what we have learned, including both research and practical lessons from the classroom, and a sense of the future potential of the work.

**Presenter:** **Mary Rocket & Theodore Quinn**

Mary Rucker has been in the Montessori arena since 1979, as a student, a Primary Teacher, Head of School, teacher trainer, AMS consultant on accreditation and has served on the Board of several Montessori Schools in the Boston area. Mary helped to open the first Wildflower School in Cambridge, MA in 2014 and is currently a Primary Teacher/Administrator and Partner in the Wildflower Foundation. After a years-long challenge to make observation and record keeping an integral part of her classroom, while keeping her primary environment technology free, Mary is thrilled to be a participant in and contributor to this current exploration of the use of unobtrusive technology to assist teacher documentation.

Theodore Quinn is the Head of Research and Innovation of Wildflower Schools. Before joining Wildflower he spent nearly a decade as the Senior Vice President of Organizational Learning at Teach for America, where he led a wide range of research, innovation, data, and knowledge management activities. Prior to entering the field of education, he was an Associate Principal

with McKinsey & Co. He holds a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Chicago and a B.S. in physics from Stanford University.

**Age Group Focus:** **Early Childhood**

**Title:** *How to Build an Effective Language Environment*

**Abstract:** This workshop will clearly demonstrate how to build the language area in a Montessori Children's House classroom. The materials will begin with Sandpaper Letters and progress through Function of Words. After attending the seminar, the participants will comprehend a checklist of ideas for five colored sections in the environment, beginning with phonetic CVC words, moving into phonetic blends, transition to long-vowel rules and then digraphs. Function of Words will be presented last. My presentation will prove how the design allows each child to move through the sequence independently.

**Presenter:** **Christine Manzi**

Christine Manzi holds an Early Childhood Montessori Certificate through NEMTEC and holds a B.A. from Nichols College. Christine is currently a Children's House Lead Teacher at Shrewsbury Montessori School.

Becoming a Montessori teacher was a career change decision for Christine when her children were younger. Christine's prior managerial positions in small businesses, offered her an opportunity to become comfortable presenting to a large audience. Christine is committed to the Montessori process and the value of sharing her belief that the language component developed in collaboration with her colleagues will support any Montessori classroom.

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**Age Group Focus:** **Lower Elementary**

**Title:** *Sing for Joy: Fostering Community and Creativity*

**Abstract:** This workshop will appeal to many teachers for its ability to create trust and community through deep listening and shared creativity. Lower Elementary is a natural venue for community singing however singing at all levels is equally as valuable. Participants will learn the science behind Circle Singing, how it assists in brain development in children and adults, and how it creates a sense of well-being. Participants will learn protocols, and be given resources and examples that will allow them to confidently introduce this activity to others. Active participation in singing in this workshop will offer the participants an opportunity to deeply understand the theory and practice of Circle Singing.

**Presenters:** **Michael Silverstone & Diana Traylor**

Michael Silverstone co-leads a Lower Elementary classroom at Newton Montessori School. He holds a Lower Elementary Montessori Certificate from METTC and a Master's Degree from NYU. He was a presenter at the AMS 2018 Conference as part of the Emerging Leaders Fellowship Program, and a former English Instructor at CUNY, NY.

Diana Traylor is a Lower Elementary classroom teacher at Lexington Montessori and holds a Montessori Certificate for Lower Elementary from CMTE and holds a B.A. from Oberlin College with a degree in Art History. Diana is also a trainer with METTC since 2014 and has presented Singing for Joy workshops in the past MSM and AMS conferences. Diana is a Circle Singing Facilitator for METTC during Certification Training, a Musician, and is an avid student of World

Music. Diana also has a special interest in arts integration in the Lower Elementary classroom. Diana is a charter member of Circle Singing of Boston since 2014.

**Age Level Focus:** [Lower Elementary](#)

**Title:** *Manage It All – Linking Content and Social Emotional Learning*

**Abstract:** Participants in this workshop will be able to develop and implement models for creative classrooms based on examples of how Social Emotional Learning opportunities occur in daily lessons across all curriculum areas. Participants will be shown how to integrate SEL skills and practices through everyday work in the classroom versus teaching SEL as a separate subject and boost student SEL skills while engaging in hands-on activities. During this workshop participants will explore the use of collaborative tasks to foster SEL interactions; and see the teaching of SEL skills as extensions of leadership skills already present in their classrooms through Grace and Courtesy; and appreciate the value of consistently fostering SEL through this interdisciplinary approach.

**Presenter:** **Sherla Collymore-Phillips**

Sherla Collymore-Phillips holds an Early Childhood Montessori Certificate and a NAMC Lower Elementary Montessori Certificate. Sherla also holds a B.A. in Arts and Science with a focus on Literature, Linguistics and Sociology. Sherla is the Co-Curriculum Director of Torit Montessori School in Boston. She was instrumental in implementing community based curriculum programs into the Early Childhood classrooms and now focuses her time in the Elementary program which she was instrumental in establishing. Sherla is passionate about supporting classrooms that encourage an integrated curriculum, foster teacher learning, and create strong confident teacher leaders.

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**Age Level Focus:** [Upper Elementary](#)

**Title:** *Teaching Anti-Bias through Literature*

**Abstract:** Workshop participants will learn how to incorporate social justice themes into their Montessori classroom literacy instruction. We will discuss how to choose books for both read-aloud and literature circles that have themes which are both relatable to students, providing mirrors to their own experiences, and also windows into the broader world in which we live. We will further discuss incorporating extension activities that supplement the Montessori elementary cultural curriculum and provide students opportunities to grapple with big ideas like immigration, racism and prejudice, and systematic oppression.

**Presenter:** **Krystal English**

Krystal English is a Lead Elementary Guide at Amherst Montessori School and holds an Upper Elementary Montessori Certificate from METTC. Krystal holds a M. Ed from George Mason University. At Amherst Montessori the literacy curriculum revolves around literature circles, and Krystal highlights novels that provide accurate representations of identities that are typically marginalized in our culture. Krystal often uses this approach, which she learned from a teaching experience in a D. C. school, to facilitate projects from her students' interests in the novels they read.

**Age Level Focus: Upper Elementary**

**Title: *Making It Up As We Go: Improv and Cosmic Education***

**Abstract:** Upper Elementary and Administrators would equally benefit from this hands-on workshop. The workshop focuses on collaborative storytelling. The theory of improvisation applies across age groups while the stories and content vary among the ages. Improvised theatre is unscripted storytelling, so it relies on the players' knowledge for conveying ideas, relationships, and situations. The Upper Elementary are bursting with Cosmic knowledge and are ready to outwardly show and share their insight of the world and universe! Outcomes will include: Basic tenets of improvisational technique (building consensus and trust through 'Yes, AND-ing', experiencing taking risks, relying on another, and persevering into the unknown, and exploring and conveying stories through diverse means – dramatus personae, living paintings, and group storytelling.

**Presenter: Lisa Thauvette**

Lisa Thauvette holds an Upper Elementary Montessori Certificate from the Washington Montessori Institute and a Master's in Education from Loyola College. For the past 11 years Lisa has been the Head of School at International Montessori in Brussels, Belgium after several years as a guide in the elementary program. Currently Lisa is a consultant and trainer at Tilt Think. For the past 4 years Lisa has been a member of a professional improvisation troupe performing internationally. Her experience in improvised comedic theatre not only ensure lively and engaging sessions but also lend a unique perspective to applying improv theory for building trust, ideas, and relationships.

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**Age Level Focus: Middle School**

**Title: *Technology, Social Media, and Parenting***

**Abstract:** This presentation is a detailed overview of how technology is changing the lives of developing teenagers. As educators we need to first understand how and why the technology is being used. We must understand how it has changed the needs and challenges of teenagers. The scientific research must be looked at closely. Participants will also take away information that will support their continued work with educators and parents in their own school communities.

**Presenter: Susan Angelides**

Susan Angelides is the current Head of School at Oak Grove Montessori School and holds a B.A. in Child Development from the University of Rochester. Susan has had great deal of experience working with parents and is herself the parent of eight children. From her work for seven years as a Montessori Head of School and from her previous experience as the Executive Director of Residential Adolescents Program aged 12-18, Susan is looking forward to sharing her insights into the changing needs of teenagers and the support our schools can provide through teacher awareness and parent education.

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**Focus: Administration**

**Title: *Building Trust Through Collaborative Leadership***

**Abstract:** In this workshop participants will have the opportunity to reflect on their own practice as they learn about another model to support schoolwide collaboration. Ask yourself if participants if you have ever been in an organization where it was unclear how decisions were made. From this vantage point participants will learn to identify elements of a healthy decision making model. They will also learn to avoid the pitfalls that lead to confusion and resentment amongst school personnel. Participants will leave with activities and a new framework to reference, along with resources that target a path to building trust and collaboration.

**Presenter: Edward Kuh**

Edward Kuh has the experience of 14 years as a Head of School. He is currently the Head of Shrewsbury Montessori School and holds a M. Ed in Educational Leadership and Policy Study from the University of Washington. Edward also had classroom teaching experience working in a Montessori school teaching 3-14 year olds science. He has also worked in public, private, and international schools. He is a trained executive coach and has extensive experience in governance, philanthropy, and running capital campaigns. Ed is also committed to anti-bias and social justice work through peace education.

**Focus: Administration**

**Title: Panel: *MSM's Montessori Advocacy in Massachusetts***

**Abstract:** This panel discussion will share important updates regarding the efforts of the MSM Advocacy Committees in the state of Massachusetts. We will address how our efforts are helpful to Montessori schools and credentialed Montessori teachers in the state. There will be opportunity for Q & A.

**Presenters: Laurel Zolfonoon & Christine Lowry and MSM Advocacy Committee**

Laurel Zolfonoon is the Chair of the MSM Advocacy Committee. Laurel is the Head of School at Concord Montessori School and holds an Early Childhood Montessori Certificate from MTCNE and a Master's in Mathematics from Boston University.

Christine Lowry holds an Early Childhood Montessori Certificate and a Master's in Education. Christine is the founder and principle consultant at Montessori Now. She is engaged in numerous advocacy projects

that impact Montessori Education at state levels. She has worked with the national Montessori Public Policy Committee, and has consulted for AMS on several projects focused on public policy. Her efforts in assisting other state organizations, similar to MSM, to advocate for policy changes at the state level have been very successful.

**Focus: Administration**

**Title: *Increase Your Enrollment by Graphic Design***

**Abstract:** Most independent schools face three challenges: limited time, staff and advertising dollars. Make the most of all three with graphic design knowledge. In this workshop participants will learn five essential design principles, train your eye to recognize and correct weaknesses, and connect design with advertising strategy. Participants will also learn to implement these skills for increased enrollment and retention.

**Presenter: Ashley Robinson**

Ashley Robinson is the Coordinator of Branding, Communication, and Strategic Projects at Newton Montessori School. Ashley holds a B.A. from Stonehill College in Graphic Design and English. Ashley has five years of experience as a graphic designer including advertising, publication, web, signage and exhibition graphics which she applies regularly in her at NMS. Since joining NMS in 2015, Ashley has helped the school to increase elementary enrollment by 57% and increase the total enrollment by 12%.

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**Focus: General**

**Title: *MSM Networking with your Colleagues by Levels***

**Abstract:** A recent survey found that teachers spent just 3% of their day collaborating with other teachers. Beyond this networking session, IMAGINE the network opportunities we might create given time to plan to make it happen! Attend this social planning time in Round Table Level Discussions and bring your creative suggestions to share and be a part of forecasting how we might create more opportunities to connect MSM Montessori Teachers.

**Presenter: Networking Level Leaders:** Each Level Leader for this year's Round Table Discussions will be a Montessori Certified Teacher from several of our Montessori Schools of Massachusetts Schools.

**Focus: General**

**Title: *The Language of Encouragement***

**Abstract:** This workshop will explore appropriate ways to offer feedback to individuals in all kinds of situations. How we use words to provide encouragement while giving specific information that can help assess success will be discussed. Adult learners will be able to frame their comments in specifics that provide real feedback and encouragement. Participants will be able to evaluate and modify their own language when commenting on children's work. Participants will gain an understanding of how social pragmatics help give meaning to the comments and feedback they give children and others whom they engage.

**Presenter: Nancy Rose**

Nancy Rose holds an Early Childhood Montessori Certificate from the Teacher Education Center in Palo Alto, CA. Nancy also holds a Master's Degree in Special Education from the University of

Colorado. Nancy is currently an Early Childhood Consultant at Quest Montessori School. Nancy has served on the faculty at CME/NY, NMI, CMI and co-founded MEQR, and is a past Board Member of AMS. Nancy has also presented at local, state, and national conferences. She has also worked with classroom teachers, administrators, board members, and community agencies working with children and families.

**Focus:** **General**

**Title:** **Meeting the Needs of Children with Disabilities**

**Abstract:** When teachers and administrators of independent schools face challenges in working with students with special needs, more may be needed than a classroom teacher alone can provide. How can we get the right support for these students? Workshop participants will learn about 1) laws that protect students with disabilities; 2) step by step collaborative process to getting supports; 3) the pros and cons of seeking outside services.

**Presenter:** **Julia Papas:**

Julia Papas is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist with over 15 years of experiences in the field of psychology and education. Julia holds a Master's Degree in Psychology and Education from UMass Boston. Julia has also attended a Montessori Administrator's seminar at CME/NY. She has spent 5 years of her career in Montessori Schools, 4 of which were in leadership positions. Julia's unique set of experiences and professional expertise has helped facilitate numerous challenging conversations with parents. Julia has also worked with low income families in high-contact areas, as well as independent schools.