

Montessori Schools of Connecticut is pleased to present the annual professional development conference

Peace in Education: Diversity, Empathy, Communication

Morning Keynote Speaker:

Victoria Christgau

In Pursuit Of Peace

Developing lasting peace requires vision and firm commitment towards shared power as a way of life. Growing peace across lines of difference and building a just community, is the third way... not exclusively mine, nor yours, but ours in earnest collaboration. Victoria will elaborate on the work she has done in schools, colleges, urban and suburban communities and with law enforcement, for over thirty years.

Victoria Christgau, a lifelong peace/arts and nonviolence educator, is the Founder and Executive Director of the Connecticut Center for Nonviolence (CTCN). She has been a Teaching Artist with the CT Office of the Arts for over twenty years and has founded and produced the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Commemoration of Litchfield County. In 2007, at the request of her mentor, legendary civil rights leader, educator and activist, Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr., Victoria founded the Connecticut Center for Nonviolence. As a Level III certified Kingian Nonviolence Trainer, Victoria has presented hundreds of nonviolence workshops, trainings and residencies at schools, colleges and numerous venues, implementing the philosophy and strategies of Kingian Nonviolence across racial, social, economic and generational divides.

Breakout Sessions:

Seats in each of the workshops will be on a first come, first served basis. Please have each of your staff members choose one workshop each from the morning and afternoon sessions and include the total number of staff interested in each workshop on your registration form. This will help ensure we have adequate space for each workshop according to demand. **For full workshop descriptions and presenter biographies please see our website at <https://montessorischoolsct.org/news-events/annual-conference/>.**

Morning Workshops:

In Pursuit of Peace in the Classroom

Victoria Christgau, Founder/Executive Director, Connecticut Center for Nonviolence

Debby DeGuire, Lower Elementary Directress, Washington Montessori School

Audience: All Levels

The Montessori Approach to Transitions

Toko Odorczyk, Director of Development & Community Relations at The Montessori School of Greater Hartford

Audience: All Levels

Empathy and Civil Discourse: The Practical Application of Teacher Research in Improving Communication

Joshua A. Russell, Director of Research, Center for Montessori Studies at the University of Hartford, Ph.D. Educational Researcher

Paige M. Bray, Ph.D., Director of Montessori Studies at University of Hartford

Tim Nee, Managing Director of the Montessori Training Center Northeast

Courtney Reim, AMI trained primary guide and Coordinator of Partnership Data at University of Hartford/Montessori Training Center Northeast

Audience: All Levels

Equity and Diversity in Middle School Curriculum

Michelle Lamb, Humanities 6-8 Teacher at Fraser Woods Montessori School.

Audience: Middle School



Friday, November 1, 2019

at

Fraser Woods Montessori School

8:00 – 9:00

Registration & Breakfast

9:00 – 2:30

Keynote & Workshops



- Historical Connections: Montessori, the Montessori Method, and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd***
Susan Piescik, Catechist & Consultant for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, St Patrick St Anthony, Hartford, CT.
Sarah Christopher, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Catechist, Enfield Montessori School & St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church, Hartford, CT
Deb Pelletier, Coordinator of Religious Education, St Patrick St Anthony Church, Hartford, CT
Audience: All Levels

- Working Effectively with Difficult Parents***
Chris Robertson, Head of School, Fraser Woods Montessori
Gina Tryforos, Student Support Coordinator and Dean of Faculty & Program, Frasier Woods Montessori School
Audience: All Levels

- Capture Interest from more Prospective Parents through an Educated Marketing Strategy***
Stan Kang, Chief Executive Officer, The Montessori Agency
Audience: Administration

Afternoon Workshops:

- Technology, Social Media, Parenting and Educating***
Susan Angelides, Head of School, The Cobb School Montessori
Audience: All Levels

- Normalization in the Primary Classroom***
Marifrances Cooney, Primary Directress, Hudson Country Montessori School
Audience: Primary

- Empowering Middle-School Students Doing Citizen Science***
Tom Fahsbender, Director of Middle School Curriculum, Washington Montessori School.
Nora Hulton Director of Stewardship and Sustainability, Washington Montessori School.
Audience: Middle School

- The Montessori Approach to Transitions***
Toko Odorczuk, Director of Development & Community Relations, The Montessori School of Greater Hartford,
Audience: A/I and Primary

- 'Do I really sound like that?' Getting Back on Track When Communication Breaks Down***
Ed Thorney, Outdoor Education Coordinator and School Counselor, Litchfield Montessori School.
Audience: All Levels

- Creating Community, Connection and Joy through Singing Games and Dances***
Matilda Giampietro, PhD, Music Director and Coordinator of Specialists, Washington Montessori School.
Audience: All Levels

- Montessori Model United Nations: Building a more Peaceful World through Education***
Peter Megginson, a Montessori Model United Nations MMUN Bureau Liaison.
Audience: Elementary

- Expanding the Circle: Conversations about Animals in the Montessori Peace Curriculum***
Martha Readyoff is currently the Director of Learning Support Services at Washington Montessori School
Audience: All Levels

- The Emotionally Intelligent Classroom***
Lorena Seidel M.Ed., author of *The Purposeful Child: A Quick and Practical Parenting Guide to Creating the Optimal Home Environment for Young Children*

Registering for the Conference

Online Registration: <https://montessorischoolsct.org/news-events/annual-conference>

Fees:

A lite breakfast and lunch (vegan/gluten free option available upon request) are included in fee.

- MSC member schools: **Early Bird Registration** \$65 pp until 10/11/19
- MSC member schools: Registration after 10/11/19 \$75 pp
- Non-member schools and individuals: \$100 pp or groups of 5 or more: \$75 pp

Conference Registration Return Policy:

Refunds are available upon request only. Fees will be refunded in full if canceling prior to 10/11/19. If canceling after 10/11/19 and up to 10/18/19, the school or registrant will be refunded 50% of registration fee. After 10/18/19 the school or registrant is fully responsible for payment and no refunds will be issued.

Important Information for Schools Using Title II Funds:

Title II funds are now disbursed directly to MSC after the conference has taken place. In order to qualify for early bird pricing, schools will need to pay in full for the conference prior to the early bird deadline of 10/11/19, and then apply for their Title II Funds. Once MSC receives the Title II distribution from the town, the school will be reimbursed. Thank you!

Payments:

Checks should be made to: **Montessori Schools of CT**

Mail to: Mark Meyer, Treasurer, MSC
44A Shelter Rock Road
Danbury, CT 06810
ATTN: MSC Conference

Conference Directions & Parking:

The Fraser Woods Montessori School is located at:
173 South Main St.
Newtown, CT 06470

Fraser Woods Montessori School has limited on-site parking. **Parking at the school will be reserved for Speakers, Workshop Presenters and conference volunteers.** All other will be directed to park at off-site parking and shuttle buses will be running to bring participants to the school. Off-site parking will be clearly marked.

Please park at Sand Hill Plaza located on Main Street (Route 25), one quarter of a mile south of Fraser Woods Montessori School.

Address to navigate to parking:
Sand Hill Plaza
228 S Main St.
Newtown, CT 06470

For more information, directions and to register online please visit our conference website at <https://montessorischoolsct.org/news-events/annual-conference>