This workshop will remind us that a sense of wonder in all of nature starts with us as Montessori guides. Our awakening is more complex but necessary in order to share the exploration of nature with children. We will also share materials designed to help bring natural studies into the classroom, understand trends in children and nature and renew a relationship with nature, even in our own neighborhoods and local parks, we can regain wholeness: a connection to life and our own communities. Bring a notebook and pen for guided writing, but no previous writing experience required.

Cultivating a Sense of Wonder of Nature in Ourselves and Children - Level: Children’s House
Martha Carver
This workshop will remind us that a sense of wonder in all of nature starts with us as Montessori guides. Our awakening is more complex but necessary in order to share the exploration of nature with children. We will also share materials designed to help bring natural studies into the classroom, understand trends in children and nature and renew a relationship with nature, even in our own neighborhoods and local parks, we can regain wholeness: a connection to life and our own communities. Bring a notebook and pen for guided writing, but no previous writing experience required.

Cultivating Educational Partnerships in a 21st Century Global Society - Level: General
Josh Miller, Ph.D.
A need exists to foster global partnerships through 21st century technologies, as a means of broadening and deepening the cultural literacy of students and educators. These partnerships extend beyond our current understanding of collaborative learning, as the emphasis is placed upon sustainable relationships that truly integrate human differences. This workshop is designed to highlight the advantages of developing global partnerships, which serve to enhance collaborative learning. Such efforts include the advancement of autonomy, creativity, and authenticity as students and educators design real world projects that meet the needs of an evolving global community.

Regaining Wholeness: Wild Writing With Youth - Level: General
Jan Welik, Ph.D.
Experience a reconnection to the natural world in this interactive writing workshop. The ancient power of storytelling is harnessed to not only introduce children to the development of language, but to also introduce children to the development of language, but to also include the advancement of autonomy, creativity, and authenticity as students and educators design real world projects that meet the needs of an evolving global community.

Montessori & Our Ever Changing Future: Helping Children Learn to Think the Montessori Way - Level: Level: Elementary I & II
Paul Epstein, Ph.D.
We live now in an ever-changing future. This changes what and how children must learn. Instead of learning to memorize (which most of us successfully did), children must learn how to think. Thinking involves comparing, contrasting, categorizing, creating, collaborating, communicating, empathizing, persisting, and more... Paul will use Montessori materials, photographs, and video to demonstrate how children learn to think in Montessori early childhood and lower elementary classrooms.

Cultivating Educational Partnerships in a 21st Century Global Society - Level: General
Josh Miller, Ph.D.
A need exists to foster global partnerships through 21st century technologies, as a means of broadening and deepening the cultural literacy of students and educators. These partnerships extend beyond our current understanding of collaborative learning, as the emphasis is placed upon sustainable relationships that truly integrate human differences. This workshop is designed to highlight the advantages of developing global partnerships, which serve to enhance collaborative learning. Such efforts include the advancement of autonomy, creativity, and authenticity as students and educators design real world projects that meet the needs of an evolving global community.

Regaining Wholeness: Wild Writing With Youth - Level: General
Jan Welik, Ph.D.
Experience a reconnection to the natural world in this interactive writing workshop. The ancient power of storytelling is harnessed to not only introduce children to the development of language, but to also include the advancement of autonomy, creativity, and authenticity as students and educators design real world projects that meet the needs of an evolving global community.

Montessori & Our Ever Changing Future: Helping Children Learn to Think the Montessori Way - Level: Level: Elementary I & II
Paul Epstein, Ph.D.
We live now in an ever-changing future. This changes what and how children must learn. Instead of learning to memorize (which most of us successfully did), children must learn how to think. Thinking involves comparing, contrasting, categorizing, creating, collaborating, communicating, empathizing, persisting, and more... Paul will use Montessori materials, photographs, and video to demonstrate how children learn to think in Montessori early childhood and lower elementary classrooms.

Robotics and Montessori - Level: Elementary I & II
Mark Sciflet
The art of building robots increases engagement in learning. Working on projects builds grit. The process of building robots provides a sequence of potential “aha’s” — moments. Projects don’t instill the same stress to perform as do tests. Projects promote creativity, not kill it like a lot of traditional education. Using Lego Robotics Ev3 Kits, we change the classroom into a hands-on Robotics Laboratory. We will model real life mechanisms and use our creativity, logic, and problem solving skills. The really cool thing about FIRST LEGO League is all skill levels are welcomed and needed, technical or non-technical.

Enlivening Elementary Language with Storytelling - Level: Elementary I & II
Synee Barrett, M.Ed.

Learning Through Art Integration in the Elementary II Classroom - Level: Elementary II
Josh Shively & Amoreena Rathke
Discussion of a year-long collaboration between the Art and E2 teachers at a public Montessori charter school. Their project taught application of 21st century skills learned through the art integration model with the goal to positively increase student’s perceptions of the value of the arts and to engage learning by providing an environment in which students demonstrated understanding of the Great Lessons by creating an art-based response. Participants will learn ways to increase student skills in creativity, decision-making, organization, prediction, and transference through art integration, take away integrated lesson ideas, and create a small piece of art inspired by The Fourth Great Lesson: The Story of Writing.

We live now in an ever-changing future. This changes what and how children must learn. Instead of learning to memorize (which most of us successfully did), children must learn how to think. Thinking involves comparing, contrasting, categorizing, creating, collaborating, communicating, empathizing, persisting, and more... Paul will use Montessori materials, photographs, and video to demonstrate how children learn to think in Montessori early childhood and lower elementary classrooms.

Robotics and Montessori - Level: Elementary I & II
Mark Sciflet
The art of building robots increases engagement in learning. Working on projects builds grit. The process of building robots provides a sequence of potential “aha’s” — moments. Projects don’t instill the same stress to perform as do tests. Projects promote creativity, not kill it like a lot of traditional education. Using Lego Robotics Ev3 Kits, we change the classroom into a hands-on Robotics Laboratory. We will model real life mechanisms and use our creativity, logic, and problem solving skills. The really cool thing about FIRST LEGO League is all skill levels are welcomed and needed, technical or non-technical.

Enlivening Elementary Language with Storytelling - Level: Elementary I & II
Synee Barrett, M.Ed.

Learning Through Art Integration in the Elementary II Classroom - Level: Elementary II
Josh Shively & Amoreena Rathke
Discussion of a year-long collaboration between the Art and E2 teachers at a public Montessori charter school. Their project taught application of 21st century skills learned through the art integration model with the goal to positively increase student’s perceptions of the value of the arts and to engage learning by providing an environment in which students demonstrated understanding of the Great Lessons by creating an art-based response. Participants will learn ways to increase student skills in creativity, decision-making, organization, prediction, and transference through art integration, take away integrated lesson ideas, and create a small piece of art inspired by The Fourth Great Lesson: The Story of Writing.

We live now in an ever-changing future. This changes what and how children must learn. Instead of learning to memorize (which most of us successfully did), children must learn how to think. Thinking involves comparing, contrasting, categorizing, creating, collaborating, communicating, empathizing, persisting, and more... Paul will use Montessori materials, photographs, and video to demonstrate how children learn to think in Montessori early childhood and lower elementary classrooms.

Robotics and Montessori - Level: Elementary I & II
Mark Sciflet
The art of building robots increases engagement in learning. Working on projects builds grit. The process of building robots provides a sequence of potential “aha’s” — moments. Projects don’t instill the same stress to perform as do tests. Projects promote creativity, not kill it like a lot of traditional education. Using Lego Robotics Ev3 Kits, we change the classroom into a hands-on Robotics Laboratory. We will model real life mechanisms and use our creativity, logic, and problem solving skills. The really cool thing about FIRST LEGO League is all skill levels are welcomed and needed, technical or non-technical.

Enlivening Elementary Language with Storytelling - Level: Elementary I & II
Synee Barrett, M.Ed.

Learning Through Art Integration in the Elementary II Classroom - Level: Elementary II
Josh Shively & Amoreena Rathke
Discussion of a year-long collaboration between the Art and E2 teachers at a public Montessori charter school. Their project taught application of 21st century skills learned through the art integration model with the goal to positively increase student’s perceptions of the value of the arts and to engage learning by providing an environment in which students demonstrated understanding of the Great Lessons by creating an art-based response. Participants will learn ways to increase student skills in creativity, decision-making, organization, prediction, and transference through art integration, take away integrated lesson ideas, and create a small piece of art inspired by The Fourth Great Lesson: The Story of Writing.
While most young children settle into Montessori learning environments, you will learn why it is essential to prepare yourself and your environment. “Establishing lasting peace is the work of education; all politics can do is keep a truce,” said Teri Talpe. Participants will review scenarios with videos. They will learn alternative actions. Providing opportunities for children to let their imaginations fly. Assessment does not sound “Montessori” on the surface, but this research-based approach connects, classifies, and helps children understand. And we’ll practice plenty of practical applications for the classroom. This session focuses on inquiry in upper elementary and early adolescent programs. These students are more aware of the inquiry process as they ask questions, collect information, gather new understandings, and become more certain of their discoveries. Attendees will learn how to establish emotionally supportive environments. Examples of current inquiries from your classroom are welcomed. Montessori Conference Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017 — UW-La Crosse

Joyful Learning Beyond Borders

8:45 a.m. REGISTRATION, CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & VENDORS
8:45 a.m. WELCOME
9:05 a.m. KEYNOTE
9:45 a.m. Creating a Partnership of Peace
10:15 a.m. BREAK
10:30 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSION 1:
10:45 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSION 2:
11:30 a.m.- 12:15 p.m. BREAKFAST & VENDORS
While most young children settle into Montessori learning environments, Montessori educators looking for new and relevant children's books on the premise of peace and respect in every corner of our learning communities. You will learn why it is essential to prepare our children and our environment to create a partnership of peace. We will consider how this preparation significantly influences many identified keys to success, such as fostering self-regulation, empathy, resilience, and cooperation. Kathy will share her passionate belief that education, far more than learning skills and content, is about the development of human potential. You will leave with a new appreciation and understanding of Montessori’s legacy of establishing peace through education!

CONCURRENT SESSION 1:
Social Justice and Children's Literature - Level: General

Kathy Leitch

Montessori educators looking for new and relevant children’s books on the premise of peace and respect in every corner of our learning communities. We will start with the importance of language to individual development, the physical, emotional, and cognitive impact of stress, and valuable research-based strategies for managing stress and your students. We will learn about the latest developments in social-emotional learning support Montessori pedagogy and will practice plenty of practical applications for the classroom.

Creating a Partnership of Peace
11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Kathy Leitch

Utilizing Montessori pedagogy, ancient teachings and current research, Kathy will explore the impact that kindness, compassion, and inner peace can have on educating world citizens in the 21st century. She will share how we can create a culture that transcends borders by infusing Montessori’s premise of peace and respect in every corner of our learning communities. You will learn why it is essential to prepare our children and our environment to create a partnership of peace. We will consider how this preparation significantly influences many identified keys to success, such as fostering self-regulation, empathy, resilience, and cooperation. Kathy will share her passionate belief that education, far more than learning skills and content, is about the development of human potential. You will leave with a new appreciation and understanding of Montessori’s legacy of establishing peace through education! Montessori Conference Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017 — UW-La Crosse

Joyful Learning Beyond Borders
This workshop will remind us that a sense of wonder in all of nature...Martha Carver

Experience a reconnection to the natural world in this interactive writing session. As we look around the globe, we see youth aching to connect with their natural environments. The really cool thing about FIRST LEGO League is all skill levels are welcomed and needed, technical or non-technical.

Cultivating Educational Partnerships in a 21st Century Classroom - Level: Elementary II
Josh Shively & Amoreena Rathke

The act of building robots increases engagement in learning. Working on projects builds grit. The process of building robots provides a sequence of potential “figure it out”— moments. Projects don’t instill the same stress to perform as do tests. Projects promote creativity, not kill it like a lot of traditional education. Using Lego Robotics Ev3 Kits, we change the classroom into a hands-on Robotics Laboratory. We will model real life mechanisms and use our creativity, logic, and problem solving skills.

Robots and Montessori - Level: Elementary I & II
Mark Scribner

The act of building robots increases engagement in learning. Working on projects builds grit. The process of building robots provides a sequence of potential “figure it out” — moments. Projects don’t instill the same stress to perform as do tests. Projects promote creativity, not kill it like a lot of traditional education. Using Lego Robotics Ev3 Kits, we change the classroom into a hands-on Robotics Laboratory. We will model real life mechanisms and use our creativity, logic, and problem solving skills.

The really cool thing about FIRST LEGO League is all skill levels are welcomed and needed, technical or non-technical.

Levels of 21st century skills learned through the art integration model with the goal to positively increase student’s perceptions of the value of the arts and to engage learning by providing an environment in which students demonstrated understanding of the Great Lessons by creating an artist-based response. Participants will learn ways to increase student skills in creativity, decision-making, organization, prediction, and transference through art integration, take away integrated lesson ideas, and create a small piece of art inspired by The Fourth Great Lesson: The Story of Writing.

Cultivating a Sense of Wonder of Nature in Ourselves and Children - Level: Elementary II
Martha Carver

This workshop will remind us that a sense of wonder in all of nature starts with us as Montessori guides. Our awakening is more complex but necessary in order to share the exploration of nature with children. We will also share materials designed to help bring natural studies into the classroom, understand trends in children and nature and renew a relationship with nature, even in our own neighborhoods and local parks.

Bring a notebook and pen for guided writing, but no previous writing experience required.

Regaining Wholeness: Wild Writing With Youth - Level: General
Syneva Barrett, M.Ed.


Learning Through Art Integration in the Elementary II Classroom - Level: Elementary II
Josh Shively & Amoreena Rathke

Discussion of a year-long collaboration between the Art and E2 teachers at a public Montessori charter school. Their project tangible application of 21st century skills learned through the art integration model with the goal to positively increase student’s perceptions of the value of the arts and to engage learning by providing an environment in which students demonstrated understanding of the Great Lessons by creating an artist-based response. Participants will learn ways to increase student skills in creativity, decision-making, organization, prediction, and transference through art integration, take away integrated lesson ideas, and create a small piece of art inspired by The Fourth Great Lesson: The Story of Writing.

January 21, 2017
UW-La Crosse
Joyful Learning Beyond Borders
Helping children reach their fullest potential – at their own unique pace.