

MacDonald Montessori School Winter Conference

Making Visible the Thinking,
Knowledge-Building &
Actions of Children,
Educators & Families in the
Daily Life of a School

Presentations from:
Amelia Gambetti
Beth MacDonald &
MacDonald Montessori Educators

Sharing experiences and research projects of Infants,
Toddlers & Preschoolers and their Families

Director's Workshop
Friday February 21, 2025
9:00-2:00

Friday February 21, 2025
6:00pm - 8:00pm

Saturday February 22, 2025
8:30-3:30



Friday February 21, 2025

9:00-2:00

Directors/Administrators

**Workshop with Beth MacDonald
and Amelia Gambetti**

Tour of the School with MMS Coordinators

Presentations & Dialogue in AM

Presentations & Collaboration in PM

Exploring the Challenges and Fragmentation Facing Early Childhood Centers and Schools:

Embracing Strategies,
Continuity, and Commitment



Beth MacDonald

Executive Director

MacDonald

Montessori School

Amelia Gambetti

Reggio Emilia Approach Liaison
and Consultant to Schools

Reggio Emilia Italy



“The schools in Reggio Emilia thus could not be just anywhere, and no one of them could serve as an exact model to be copied literally elsewhere. Yet they have common features that merit consideration in schools everywhere. Each school’s particular configuration of the garden, walls, tall windows, and handsome furniture declares: This is a place where adults have thought about the quality of environment. Each school is full of light, variety, and a certain kind of joy.....a space that reflects their personal lives, the history of their schools, the many layers of culture, and a nexus of well-thought-out choices.”

– Loris Malaguzzi
Founder of the Reggio Emilia Approach

PRESENTERS

Amelia Gambetti

Amelia Gambetti was an educator in the Reggio Emilia Municipal Infant Toddler Centers and Preschools for 25 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 collaborated with Reggio Children from 1996 to 2011.



Beth MacDonald Amelia Gambetti

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 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., 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 39 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.

MacDonald Montessori School

MacDonald Montessori School in Saint Paul, Minnesota, will be celebrating its 39th anniversary in Early Childhood Education in March 2025. 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 30 years. MacDonald Montessori School serves 188 children ages 6 weeks through 8 years old and has a committed, creative staff of 47 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, Theater, Anthropology, Music and Photography.





“The walls of our schools speak and document. The walls are used as spaces for temporary and permanent exhibits of what the children and the adults make come to life. Today we would need other kinds of space. It is clear that where there is an image of the child as being active and productive, the form, the distribution, the size and the organization of space has to take that into account. One thing is a school that speaks; another a school that is silent. If it is school that speaks we have to consider and help it to speak.”

-Loris Malaguzzi
Founder of the 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

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