**T=Toddler**

**P=Primary**

**E= Elemantary**

**A = Administration**

**KEYNOTE 9:00 TO 10:20**

**Jesse McCarthy** has been in education for over 15 years. He received his B.A. in psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and his Montessori teacher's diploma for 3 to 6year-olds from AMI's Montessori Institute of San Diego (MISD). Through his career he’s worked with thousands of children, teachers, and parents as an elementary & junior-high school teacher, a Head of School for infants to 8th graders, an executive with a nationwide group of private schools, and a teacher and parent mentor.

**Montessori & Our Future**

We live in troubled times. Everyone sees that. Yet as we scramble for ‘new’ and ‘creative’ answers to our problems, there is a century-old solution right in front of our eyes: Montessori education. In this talk, we will discuss how Montessori holds the key to a bright future for, young and old alike.

**AM SESSIONS 10:30 TO 12:00**

**Jesse McCarthy - Dealing with “Difficult” Children (T) ( P) (E) (A)**

In this workshop, we will go over tools and strategies needed to ensure we don’t remain stuck in the weeds of winless battles with children. Using both abstract theory and down-to-earth examples, we’ll discuss the principles and practices that make it a delight to be around children, even those who:

* don’t listen;
* or who decide to hit peers to get them to listen;
* or who continue to tap on our shoulder, 1000 times a day;
* or who lie to their parents about how mean we’ve been;
* or who don’t do work, ever;
* or who just don’t want to put on their shoes;
* or who just don’t want to take off their shoes.

You get the point — we’ll cover it all. :-)

Please note that a good portion of the time we have together will be interactive, so come with any problem(s) you are actually facing today!

**Debra Gorman Cagle - Creating and Maintaining a Beautiful Environment (P)**

Debra holds her M.Ed in Elementary Education, B.S. in English, her Montessori Preprimary Certification, and her State of MICH K-9 Certification. Debra has been a Montessori Head Teacher for over 30 years. She is a Professor and Teacher Trainer for Adrian Dominican Montessori Teacher Education Institute, Montessori Teacher Academy in South Bend, Indiana and Siena Heights University. She is a lecturer for Montessori and Traditional schools. Debra is also co-owner of Montessori4Life Materials Company

Creating and Maintaining a Beautiful Environment – Discussion and demonstration on how to set up a successful prepared environment is the focus of this workshop. We will look at how to arrange for good traffic patterns, how to create an environment that flows and promotes peacefulness, and help you master classroom management.

**Katie Kopp- Building Bridges and Connecting with Parents (T)**

Katie holds a Bachelor Degree in Communication from Loyola University Chicago is AMS certified in Early Childhood Montessori and is currently completing Infant Toddler Certification through AMS. She also holds her K-8 Certification in Illinois.

After teaching Early Childhood Montessori in Chicago Public Schools, Katie moved to the Chicago suburbs with her family and began working with the infant toddler community at Ronald Knox Montessori School. Now as a mother of four young children and a Montessori trained teacher, she strives to bring a multi-faceted perspective to her work by bridging relationships amongst parents, children, the parent community and school members.  As Ronald Knox Montessori's Parent Child teacher, Katie works with families regularly in the classroom as well as leads discussion on developmental topics and observation skills.

**Heidi Gauger – Assistants: The Heartfelt Heroes of the Montessori Environment (T) ( P) (E) (A)**

Heidi Gauger has over 30 years of experience in Montessori. She has her BSSW and is certified for Primary Montessori from MMTEC, where she now teaches. Heidi has her CDA and is a facilitator for The Parent Talk and Teacher Talk Systems. She works with children, teachers, parents, and adult learners to reach their goals in the Montessori Community.

We will explore the roles, the expectations and the skills of the Montessori assistant. Philosophy sets the stage for the practical application of knowledge and experience to support lead teachers and guide the children in the environment.

**Barbara Murhpy PhD–Physical Education the Montessori Way (P) (E) (A)**

Barbara holds a PhD from Northwestern University and has experience in the business world first as an account executive for a global communication agency, and subsequently as an entrepreneur As a mother of two while living in Italy, Barbara fell in love with the Montessori philosophy. Now the co-creator of Montessori Gym, she is fulfilling her dream of adding value to children’s education and wellness through innovation.

A cornerstone of Maria Montessori’s approach to education is the development of the whole child across all areas of life, cognitive, social and physical. Many schools tend to rely on traditional methods for teaching of physical education, but a new concept is proposed: to undertake physical education the Montessori way. This novel approach to physical development considers and reinforces key pillars of the Montessori Method, including independence, active learning, purposeful action around sensitive periods and peer-learning.

**Karen Gladney – SBA Lending for Small Businesses (A)**

Karen is a Vice President in Business Banking at Comerica Bank

I am a Wayne State University alumnus and a Comerica Bank employee for 40 years who works with businesses in a wide variety of industries including manufacturers, robotics firms, service companies, contractors and nonprofits. As a Business Banker her focus is on helping business owners reach their goals by providing financing tools including working capital lines of credit, equipment loans, real estate loans, and a wide variety of cash management tools.  Karen is married, with three children (including one that enjoyed the Montessori experience!) and three grandchildren.

**Sue Fitzpatrick – STEM and Montessori (E) (A)**

Sue Fitzpatrick, Director of Parent Education and Community Outreach, wears several hats at Dearborn Heights Montessori Center. She has 30 years of combined Montessori classroom experience in preschool through middle school. She graduated from St. Mary’s College in Notre Dame, Indiana with a B.A. in Humanistic Studies and Philosophy. She holds a Montessori Primary credential for ages 3-6 from the Michigan Montessori Teacher Education Center and both Parent Talk and Teacher Talk trainer certification, which qualifies her to conduct parent education and teacher education courses in those skills. Most recently, Sue has taken over management of DHMC’s new Makerspace.

Montessori elementary classrooms are uniquely poised to fulfill the goals and processes of STEM education to prepare students for the future. Sue’s session will help you communicate to parents and administrators how the 100 year old Montessori method is still ahead of its time! She will cover examples of how the curriculum answers the United States Department of Education’s STEM 2026 Vision documenter Innovation in STEM education.

**PM SESSIONS 1:00 TO 2:30**

**Jesse McCarthy – Mastering Parent Communication (T) ( P) (E) (A)**

It’s no secret among teachers and administrators that communicating with parents can be challenging, and at times, frustrating and occasionally downright maddening. Add that we’re in Montessori education — a pedagogy that’s notoriously difficult to explain to the uninitiated — and there can be real trouble.

For example: What to do when an upset parent asks: “Why is my son washing tables all day?”…or a demanding father wants assurance that his child will be “pushed in math”; or a mom is yelling across the playground for three-year-old Emma to “Get over here now!”

This workshop is for those who want to improve their interactions with parents, regardless of comfort or skill level. We will go over time-tested principles & practices and role-play challenging scenarios to put you on the road to mastering parent communication.

**Heidi Gauger – Assistants: The Heartfelt Heroes of the Montessori Environment (T) ( P) (E) (A)**

Heidi Gauger has over 30 years of experience in Montessori. She has her BSSW and is certified for Primary Montessori from MMTEC, where she now teaches. Heidi has her CDA and is a facilitator for The Parent Talk and Teacher Talk Systems. She works with children, teachers, parents, and adult learners to reach their goals in the Montessori Community.

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**Jessica Ravineala - Motor Planning, Problem Solving, & Social Skills (T) ( P) (E) (A)**

**Jessica Ravineala** is an occupational therapist and co-owner of The Therapy SPOT. Jessica developed an interest in working with children at a very young age. She graduated from Grand Valley State University with a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, after studying psychology, human development, and art at Central Michigan University.  Her favorite part about working with kids is being able to affect the entire family’s ability to function by helping children overcome their challenges and realize their potential.

This presentation will help educators understand the complex skill, ‘motor planning’ and how it impacts problem solving, social interactions, and learning in an academic setting. Participants will be provided information about identifying children with possible motor planning challenges, as well as strategies they can try to support these children.

**Katie Kopp - Building Bridges and Connecting with Parents (T)**

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**Julie Harrison -Diversity throughout the Montessori Curriculum (E)**

Julie Harrison has nearly 30 years’ experience teaching in a Montessori classroom.  She has her Montessori certification in both early childhood and elementary. She founded One World Mind, a multicultural resource that presents workshops in diversity and has developed a diversity curriculum that spans the needs of children 3-12 years old. This program addresses all of the curriculum areas in the Elementary Montessori classroom.  In this breakout session Julie will share this unique Montessori curriculum with you while exploring how this is helpful in both your classroom and your school community as a whole.