



**MAESA EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS CONFERENCE**  
**Friday, October 26, 2018**

**Teacher-to-Teacher: Best Practices**

**Hosted by**  
**St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School Lower School Campus**  
**400 Fontaine Street, Alexandria, Virginia**

**Ms. Jalene Spain Thomas, Head of Lower School**

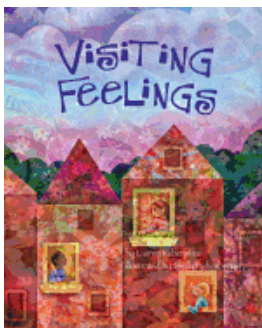
*The purpose of the **Mid-Atlantic Episcopal School Association (MAESA)** is to strengthen the community, enhance the mission and promote the witness of Episcopal schools in the Mid-Atlantic region. We seek to do this by providing opportunities for heads of schools, administrators, teachers and chaplains to meet regularly with colleagues from other Episcopal schools to explore areas of common concern and interest. We also promote programs for teachers and students, which enhance learning in our schools and encourage service to our surrounding communities. Finally, in association with the National Association of Episcopal Schools, we advocate our needs as schools within our several dioceses and within the national Church.*

**Workshop participants will have the opportunity to attend the Keynote and three workshops from the array offered. Conference registration fee includes delicious breakfast treats and lunch.**

**Registration fee per person for MAESA member schools ..... \$ 75.00**  
**Registration fee per person for non-members ..... \$ 100.00**

**Program At A Glance**

8:00-8:30am	Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:30-9:45am	Welcome & Keynote Address
9:50-11:20am	Session One
11:30-12:15pm	Networking Lunch & <u>Guest Author Book Signing &amp; Vendor Sales</u>
12:20-1:50pm	Session Two
1:55 -3:25pm	Session Three
3:30pm	Complete Surveys & Pick-up Certificates & Depart
All Day	Vendor Sales



MAESA is pleased to welcome children's author Lauren Rubenstein, JD, PsyD, a licensed clinical psychologist in private practice in Bethesda, MD. Through arrangement with *Hooray for Books* of Alexandria, VA, Dr. Rubenstein will be signing and selling her children's book, *Visiting Feelings*. She also teaches yoga and mindfulness to children and adolescents, including kids in Haiti living in extreme poverty. Her humanitarian work in Haiti has been featured in the *Huffington Post*.

## **KEYNOTE: “Partners on the Path of Childhood” Ms. Jacky Howell, Early Childhood Specialist**

Join in this uplifting and inspiring presentation on the relationship we as adults on young children’s lives. Be ready to laugh as well as reflect on this inspiring journey we share with children. We will be reminded of both the responsibility and opportunity we have in affecting children on their journey through childhood.



Jacky Howell has over 43 years experience as an early childhood teacher and administrator. In addition she has over 30 years experience as a course instructor and presenter on topics related to early childhood development and curriculum. She is a published author with her book, *Rituals and Traditions: Fostering a Sense of Community in Preschool*. In addition, she has published many articles in early education journals. She received her Master’s degree in Human Development from Pacific Oaks College and is a certified OSSE trainer. Currently she is a consultant and trainer with her own business, azspire llc., <http://www.azspire.com>. She works with early childhood programs as a consultant, does webinars, and workshops and presentations locally and nationally.

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### Workshop Offerings - Choose 3:

#### **A. The Magic of LEGOS-How Early Readers Can Use Them to Read! (Sessions 1,2)**

*This workshop is geared to students in grades 1-2.*

**Instructor: Carly Flanigan, M.A.,M.Ed, Lower School Learning Specialist, JK-5, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School**

We all know that early readers need to learn how to “chunk” their way through multisyllabic words. I have a proven strategy to help early readers understand the role that syllables play using LEGOS. In this workshop participants will learn how to use LEGOS to make syllables more visually accessible and concrete, brainstorm lesson planning options, and experience success!

Carly is always looking for new ways to make thinking and learning visible! She has given workshops on reading comprehension and phonics to both SSSAS faculty and in the wider Independent School community.

***DC Core Knowledge Area: Curriculum. Maryland Core Knowledge Area: Curriculum***

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#### **B. Picture Books: Perspectives and Pathways (Sessions 2,3)**

*This workshop is geared for teachers from age 2 through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade*

**Instructor: Julie M. Esanu, MLIS Lower School Librarian St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School**

Children’s picture books not only tell stories, they transmit values. Stories can be vehicles to explore essential topics such as identity, empathy, equity, diversity and inclusion and they provide pathways to explore perspectives. Exposure to multiple perspectives and practice making connections allows children to see others’ perspectives and understand that they have the power to make a difference and change society. It is our responsibility to introduce these powerful pathways to our students to build empathy and inspire action.

This presentation will address how picture books provide perspectives and pathways for students' understanding by providing mirrors, windows and sliding glass doors. Participants will learn about the evolution of children's picture books and receive suggestions on how to use diverse picture books in the classroom to support curriculum.

Julie Esanu is the head Lower School Librarian at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School. She received her MLIS from the University of South Carolina, and her BA in Political Science from The George Washington University. Prior to obtaining her MLIS, Julie was a program officer at the National Academy of Sciences where she focused on national and international scientific data and information policy. Julie is passionate about exploring empathy, identity, and perspectives in children's literature to ensure that all students have access to windows, mirrors, and sliding glass doors.

***DC Core Knowledge Area: Curriculum. Maryland Core Knowledge Area: Curriculum***

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### **C. Looking at Cognitive Development Through Play and Stories (Sessions 1,2)**

*This workshop is geared for teachers of children from age 4 to 3rd grade*

**Instructor: Thomas R. Stevens Head of School, St. John's Episcopal School**

In this workshop we will look at stories children tell and the games they play as a way to understand their cognitive development and thinking. Using activities that children choose to do freely rather than using testing that presents adult-directed questions or tasks offers a different window to look at the complexity of their thinking. This information might then be used to present appropriately challenging opportunities in class.

Tom knew early on he wanted to work in education and chose to study developmental psychology in college (Yale) and grad school (Columbia University, Teachers College). Since then Tom has never left school, working in preschool through eighth-grade and preschool through twelfth-grade schools for the last forty-five years as a teacher, coach, and administrator.

***DC Core Knowledge Area: Child Growth & Development/ Social emotional development and mental health. Maryland Core Knowledge Area: Child Development/ Curriculum***

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### **D. Images of Meaningful Mathematics in the Early Grades (Sessions 1,2)**

*This workshop is geared for teachers of children JK and Kindergarten*

**Instructors: Dr. Monica Neagoy, Jeanna Reidy & Cheryl Van Coverden**

Too often, adults' images of young children's mathematics are reduced to simplistic modes of thinking, talking, and doing. The presenters, co-authors of a preschool/pre-kindergarten mathematics curriculum in the making, will offer powerful images of what mathematics can look like, sound like, and feel like in preschool/pre-kindergarten. Throughout the explorations presented, you will discover the importance of the teacher's role in empowering students to think, to question, to reflect, to create, to problem-solve, and to communicate their mathematical discoveries. Participants will leave with curricular sample modules that can be replicated in your own classrooms with your budding mathematicians.

Jeanna Reidy is going into her fourth year teaching junior kindergarten at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School. She earned a Master of Early Childhood Education degree from Lesley University in Massachusetts. Prior to St. Stephen's & St. Agnes, she held various roles from teaching multiple grades pre-k to sixth grade, served as an educational consultant for families, and most recently, was director of Emmanuel Preschool for two years before

returning to the classroom at SSSAS. With over ten years of teaching experience, Jeanna values children's intrinsic competencies, has a passion for inquiry-based learning, and strives to inspire young, curious mathematical thinkers, which led to collaborating on child-centered, innovative math curriculum.

Prior to her thirteen years in JK at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes, Cheryl Van Coverden worked with special needs students at the high school level. Cheryl's twelve years in Special Education has instilled in her the willingness to differentiate instruction with the focus on the needs of all students. Nurturing a child and helping them to develop a real desire for learning, caring for others and self-respect is her goal. As an educator Cheryl's passion is to challenge each student and provide an opportunity for all to succeed to their fullest potential. When exploring mathematical concepts our focus is on the power of inquiry and actively listening to students to drive their inquiry and problem-solving.

Dr. Monica Neagoy, an International consultant, independent scholar, popular speaker, PD provider, and author of books in English and in French, presently lives in Paris, France but works on both sides of the Atlantic. Her English books on early algebra (CORWIN Press) and fractions (ASCD/NCTM) are for teachers; her French books are an adaptation of the Singapore approach to France's math standards ([www.monicanegoy.com](http://www.monicanegoy.com)). Whether working in English, French or Spanish, with teachers, parents, or students, Monica's lifelong goal has been to inspire her audience with a fascination for the beauty, power, and wonder of mathematics. Her passion for mathematics is contagious!

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### ***DC Core Knowledge Area: Curriculum. Maryland Core Knowledge Area: Curriculum***

#### **E. Little People Chapel (Sessions 2,3)**

*This workshop is geared for teachers of children ages 2 to 5 years*

**Instructor: Kathy Hanna, St. Anne's Episcopal School**

Leading and designing chapel for our early childhood friends can seem daunting. Together we will explore various developmentally appropriate worship experiences and corresponding resources. We will look at prayer, story and song that nurture the spiritual formation of children then plan a chapel service together. Participants will leave with examples of worship examples for their own chapel.

Kathy serves as chaplain at St. Anne's Episcopal School in Middletown, DE. She earned her B.A. at the University of the South and her MA at the College of William & Mary. She has over 20 years of experience as a classroom teacher.

### ***DC Core Knowledge Area: Curriculum.***

#### ***Maryland Core Knowledge Area: Child Development***

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#### **F. Exploration and Wonder in a STEAM Classroom (Sessions 1,3)**

*This workshop is geared for teachers of preschool and kindergarten*

**Instructors: Shari Petrakis, Director St. Thomas' Preschool Fort Washington, PA & Amy Roak, STEAM teacher**

Learn from St. Thomas' Preschool director about the STEAM classroom experiences they offer their students in the school year: investigation into hibernation, making homemade paper love notes, transforming the room into a buzzing honey bee hive to teach the vital things bees do every day, and becoming soil scientist learning about the unique qualities of seeds.

Shari has worked with children in the school setting and home setting for 25 years. Before coming to St. Thomas' she worked for the Intermediate Unit with children with Autism, as a Behavior Specialist and in many school

districts throughout Delaware and Montgomery County. Outside school Shari enjoys spending family time with her husband, two children, two dogs and also running.

Amy LOVES learning and loves being a cheerleader for young people to question, ponder, grapple and wrestle with new and exciting ideas. She has been blessed with the gift of 17 years as a mom-at-home for two daughters, one son and a wonderful husband. She also digs gardening, floral design, knitting, foreign languages, hosting exchange students and reaching out through mission trips to other cultures.

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***DC Core Knowledge Area: Curriculum. Maryland Core Knowledge Area: Curriculum***

### **G. Block Play and What Children Can Learn (Sessions 1,3)**

*This workshop is geared for teachers of preschool and kindergarten*

**Instructors: Amy Davies & Katie Rothwell, Washington Episcopal School**

What are 10 things children can learn from block play? These teachers will share their block play curriculum and share how exploration with blocks fosters thinking, collaboration and creative expression.

Amy Davies is a teacher at Washington Episcopal School where she encourages curiosity, creativity, and joy through meaningful experiences. She recognizes that early childhood is a critical time for brain development and believes that children learn best through play. Amy earned a BA in English and Communications at the University of Michigan, a BFA at the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design, and is currently working toward an MS in Educational Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

Katie Rothwell is a Rhode Island native who attended Providence College and received her bachelor's degree in Elementary/Special education in 2003. For the past fifteen years she has been teaching preschool and is currently entering into her third year at the Washington Episcopal School in Bethesda, MD. She lives in Silver Spring, MD with her twin 7 year old daughters, husband, and two dogs.

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***DC Core Knowledge Area: Child Growth & Development/ Social emotional development and mental health. Maryland Core Knowledge Area: Curriculum***

### **H. The Challenge of the JK Classroom (Session 1 only)**

*This workshop is geared for teachers of children ages 5-6 years*

**Instructor: Alison Salanski, St. Clement School**

More parents are giving the “gift of time” to their children with summer birthdays allowing them to stay in Preschool an additional year. What does a JK curriculum look like? Keeping children on a continuous path to learning and in a developmentally appropriate fashion by “redoing” the curriculum for younger 4-year olds can be exciting and challenging. Explore how to teach young emergent readers and writers and build literary skills by focusing on the four basic areas of language: speaking, listening, reading and writing. in a play based, experiential journey of discovery.

Alison Salanski is a Lead Teacher for St. Clement Episcopal School. Ms. Salanski originated the Junior Kindergarten classroom at St. Clement—a unique space designed specifically for those children with summer birthdays who are Kindergarten eligible, but whose parents have decided to give them the gift of an extra year of development. The Pre-K class encourages the continuation and extension of cognitive development and intellectual curiosity in a warm, nurturing preschool environment. Ms. Salanski is a Master Teacher, and has an MA in Education.

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***DC Core Knowledge Area: Curriculum/ Learning Environments. Maryland Core Knowledge Area: Curriculum/ Child Development***

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## **I. Kitchen Classroom – Building a Variety of Skills for Early Learning (Sessions 2,3)**

*This workshop is geared for teachers of children ages 2.5 through Kindergarten*

**Instructors: Dory Herman-Sample & Joelle Morris, St. Clement**

This hands-on workshop offers teachers a unique way for teachers and children to work on wide-ranging number of skills. From small motor, literacy, pre-math, social-emotional and sensory skills, children can learn them all in the kitchen while cooking up delicious food. Learn how a half an hour in the kitchen can engage children in many ways using simple and expensive tools. As children work on fine motor skills we discuss ingredients and their origins, learn about geography and the natural world. In this workshop we will break into small groups to give you the opportunity to create, taste and explore.

Dory Herman-Sample is the Director of St. Clement Episcopal in Alexandria, VA. She has been a preschool director for 20 years, and before that, taught Kindergarten or preschool in private schools for 20 years. Ms. Herman-Sample has a Masters' degree in Family Counseling, and a BA in Psychology and Education. Ms. Herman-Sample is the Secretary of the Alexandria Preschool Directors' Association.

Ms. Joelle Morris is a certified Naturalist, and enjoys sharing her love of the natural world through cooking with young children. Ms. Morris uses the kitchen to explore geography, culture, and customs, as well as build small motor skills, develop vocabulary, and broaden palates; she strives to educate the children in the "farm to table" element of the food they eat. Ms. Morris loves the thrill of seeing a picky eater try something new. Ms. Morris has degrees in Art History and Communications, and worked in the television industry.

***DC Core Knowledge Area: Child Growth & Development. Maryland Core Knowledge Area: Curriculum/ Health, Safety & Nutrition***

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## **J. Nurturing the Spiritual Lives of Adults in Schools (Sessions 2,3)**

*This workshop is geared for teachers of children of all ages*

**Instructor: Dr. Jo Harney, Head of School Christ Church Episcopal Preschool**

Teachers and parents are an essential part a school communities, but come with a unique set of needs that can be overlooked when examining a school's Episcopal identity. This workshop will take a look at the principal distinguishing qualities of an Episcopal school, and apply them to those who work in our schools and the children who attend them. Specific examples will be provided for meeting the spiritual needs of adults and sharing will be welcomed.

Ms. Harney has served since 2010 at Christ Church Episcopal School in Greenville DE, a parish-based early learning program serving children aged 18 month through 5 years. Prior to her work in early childhood, J spent 22 years teaching general and choral music in k-12 schools in Alabama, New Jersey and Delaware. In recent years she has worked to create programs which incorporate parents and teachers into the spiritual life of the school by providing opportunities to worship, learn, reflect and serve. Jo holds a Doctor of Ministry degree in Educational Leadership from Virginia Theological Seminary.

***DC Core Knowledge Area: Building Family and Community Relationships. Maryland Core Knowledge Area: Professionalism/Community***

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## **K. How Visuals Create Deeper Meaning for Students (Sessions 1,3)**

*This workshop is geared for teachers of children of Kindergarten through 3rd grades.*

**Instructor: Ann Bremner, Director of Lower School Mathematics, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School**

There are a multitude of math manipulatives available to help students work concretely with math concepts. We will explore various tools and the many ways that visual representations help children to “see” the math and create a deeper meaning and understanding of essential basic math concepts. Highlighting the importance of number talks, finger perception and recognizing quantities, we will share various routines to incorporate visual representations into your everyday teaching.

Ann is the Director of Lower School Mathematics at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School. She received her BA from the University of Notre Dame, MAT from Trinity College and her Math Specialist Leader MEd from George Mason University. Ann has taught preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grades for 25 years, including several years as a math coach supporting teachers. She is very passionate about cultivating young mathematicians and empowering teachers to support students on this journey.

***DC Core Knowledge Area: Curriculum. Maryland Core Knowledge Area: Curriculum***

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## **L. Physical Education in your Preschool: Thinking outside the box (Sessions 1,2)**

*This workshop is geared for teachers of children ages 2 through Kindergarten*

**Valerie Eckert Long, Christ Church Episcopal Preschool**

Does your school offer physical education? Are you looking to add a physical education component to your classroom curriculum? Discover how you can implement classroom themes into a physical education program to enhance your students' learning. Learn how to incorporate yoga even for your youngest students to enhance flexibility, refine balance, develop focus, and learn how to soothe themselves. Come prepared to play games that you can begin to incorporate into your classroom starting the Monday.

Valerie Long has taught physical education at Christ Church Episcopal Preschool since 2014, and has served as summer camp director since 2016. Prior to her work at Christ Church, she was an education programs specialist at the Delaware Museum of Natural History. Valerie studied music at Westminster Choir College. She has a passion for keeping young children active and engaged in ways that enhance their physical development.

***DC Core Knowledge Area: Curriculum/ Child Growth and Development. Maryland Core Knowledge Area: Curriculum/ Health, Safety & Nutrition***

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## **M. Ticklish Topics and Tough Talks:**

### **How to share not-so-good news with parents (Sessions 1,2)**

*This workshop is geared for teachers and administrators - all ages*

**Julia H. Berry, MA, ECE & Human Development, is Head of School at St. Columba's Nursery School**

No one likes to deliver difficult news, but for teachers and administrators, the need to share information about children's learning or behavioral problems at school is a regular necessity. Join a conversation about how to prepare for and host conversations with parents when you have news that may be difficult to deliver and hard to hear.

Julia has been an early childhood teacher and administrator for more than thirty years, most of which were at St. Columba's Nursery School where 20-30% of students are admitted have special needs. She has also taught parenting education for more than twenty-five years and has had many opportunities to discuss all kinds of issues with parents.

**DC Core Knowledge Area: Observing, Documenting and Assessing to Support Young Children and Families. Maryland Core Knowledge Area: Special Needs**

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## **N. Take the Learning Outdoors (Sessions 1,3)**

*This workshop is geared for teachers of children ages JK-5th grade*

**Instructors: Brian Kane, Director of Environmental Stewardship & Zoe Hillman, Lower School Associate Director, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School**

In this mobile workshop, participants will explore how the natural world informs curriculum in grades K-5. The workshop will share how the school uses the outdoors to extend learning and participants will take part in hands-on activities that walk through the SSSAS campus, examining a number of its ongoing environmental learning initiatives.

Zoe is in her fourth year as Associate Director of the Lower School at SSSAS. A passionate Early Childhood Educator, Zoe has taught internationally in Europe, the UK and the US. She is an avid gardener and chicken keeper and hopes to support children and teachers to develop a deep association with, and stewardship of, the natural world. Zoe is particular eager to help connect teachers and schools to their local environment, and use even the smallest outside spaces, gardens, and natural areas as valuable resources for cross-curricular learning.

Brian Kane, Brian Kane has taught at schools and universities throughout his career as an environmental professional and consulted for 15 years as a landscape architect at many area schools. He is an advocate of watershed education in grades K-12 as well as advocating for cleaner waterways in our region and loves spending time near the Chesapeake Bay whenever possible.

**DC Core Knowledge Area: Curriculum. Maryland Core Knowledge Area: Curriculum**

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## **O. Building Community with Mindfulness, Problem Solving, and Anti-Bias Education (Sessions 2,3)**

*This workshop is geared for teachers of children ages 2 through 5*

**Instructors: Makai Kellogg and Sabina Zeffler School for Friends**

This session will include examples of hands-on activities and strategies that will fit any classroom and an opportunity to brainstorm in small groups ways to create an environment that nurtures and promotes growth in caregivers and children alike.

Makai Kellogg is an anti-bias early childhood educator and the Equity and Diversity Coordinator at School for Friends in Washington, DC. She is also an advisory board member of the DC Area Educators for Social Justice network. Makai has a strong interest in traveling, reading, social justice, and anti-racism work.

Sabina Zeffler is the Special Needs Evaluation Consultant at School for Friends. She is an essential member of the school community whose expertise in child psychology, special education, and occupational therapy has helped



countless teachers and families meet students' needs. She practices yoga and mindfulness which she is able to incorporate in her work with young children.

***DC Core Knowledge Area: Curriculum/ Inclusive Practices. Maryland Core Knowledge Area: Curriculum/ Child Development***

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**P. Director's Forum (Session 3 only)**

School administrators are invited for an open topic discussion on school operations, management and evaluation of programming. Led by MAESA board members.

***DC Core Knowledge Area: Program Management, Operation, & Evaluation. Maryland Core Knowledge Area: Professionalism***