

We are more reflective of a family than of a class. Together we enjoy cooking a well-balanced hot lunch every Wednesday. We also focus on the environment through composting, gardening, the use of natural cleaning products and reduction of paper waste. Finally, we often engage in causes that address issues of social justice and sustainable living. We see ourselves as global citizens.

Progressive Education philosophies and practices have provided a lens for our work since our inception. Staff members dialogue with a variety of professionals and connect with students and teachers from other schools in the exploration of themes and ideas. Staff members attend a variety of conferences and education initiatives. They also reach out to organizations that feed their souls and keep them fresh and engaged. Our teacher/researchers are members of professional organizations, interest groups and advocacy movements. They are artists, writers, musicians, wood workers, chefs and jewelers to mention a few. They are well-rounded citizens who share their talents and interests generously.



Voyagers' Community School
PO Box 532
Farmingdale, NJ 07727
732-842-1660



Voyagers' Community School 2nd Annual Education Conference

"The Value of Community"

Teaching and Learning:
The Work of
Children and Teachers Together



Keynote Speaker
Lella Gandini, EdD

Tuesday May 18
through
Friday May 21, 2010



Voyagers' Community School is located in Farmingdale, New Jersey, a suburban community in Monmouth County. We are surrounded by natural beauty. Each day we walk

together visiting various natural habitats that provide an amazing learning laboratory. Democracy, community and the power of children are key elements of our foundation; we are drawn to the richness of resources in our surrounding community calling on painters, writers, shop owners, farmers and others as children's interests become evident.

Open since 2004, we offer a progressive academic space to elementary through high school age children. Our environment, including a l'atelier, is rich in materials and resources with an eye toward learning with children, in provocative, innovative and aesthetically engaging surroundings. We are inspired by the theories and practices held by Reggio Emilia theorists and practitioners as well as those espoused by John Dewey, Sylvia Ashton-Warner, Caroline Pratt, John Taylor-Gatto, Ron Miller and Jerome Bruner.

We teach traditional academics in non-traditional ways. We offer full-time and part-time enrollment so home schooled children can join our



community. Our studies are driven by children's interests, which provide the basis for classes such as physics, history through music, the study of money, storytelling, botany, woodworking, moviemaking and comic drawing. Classes are offered in 5-7 week sessions and change as children's interests and wonderings change. Children are supported as they think critically and creatively and problem-solve every day.



Lella Gandini, EdD, A consultant in early childhood education and Leslie University visiting scholar, 2007-2009. She taught previously at Smith College and at the University of

Massachusetts, Amherst. US Liaison for the Dissemination of the Reggio Emilia approach. Lella is an accomplished educator, author and editor of many books including The Hundred Languages of Children: Advanced Reflections on the Reggio Emilia Approach and In the Spirit of the Studio: Learning from the Atelier of Reggio Emilia. She has published articles on parenting, early education and related topics. She serves as associate editor of *Innovations in Early Education: The International Reggio Exchange*.



Karen Giuffre', MEd, Founder and Director, established Voyagers' Community School in 2004. Karen is a graduate of the Education and Partnership Masters Degree Program at

Goddard College in Plainfield, Vermont. During her studies she visited many Reggio inspired schools throughout the United States including L'Atelier in Miami and the Opal School in Portland, Oregon. She was also fortunate to meet and continue a dialogue with Nel Noddings and Riane Eisler.

In 2004 Karen was privileged to visit Reggio Emilia, Italy to attend the international conference, "Crossing Boundaries." During her stay she toured schools and the documentation center. She also considered the thinking of such notables as Jerome Bruner, Amelia Gambetti, Lella Gandini and Veia Vecchi .

Karen continues her studies as she attends conferences, visits schools and engages in dialogue with colleagues. She presents at local and national conferences. She also provides staff training and is proud to state that Voyagers' Teachers remain current and well educated. They are not afraid to consider new ideas and look with an open mind at all possibilities.

Schedule

Tuesday, May 18—Thursday, May 20, 2010
9:00 A.M. — 5:00 P.M.

Pre-conference visitation:

- Shadow our teachers
- Visit our classrooms
- Observe our practice
- Join our staff meetings

Attendees will see first hand how progressive theory and practice comes together across curriculum when working with elementary age students. \$375

Thursday, May 20, 2010
4:00 P.M. — 9:00 P.M.

Keynote address by Lella Gandini, dinner at "Our House" restaurant and roundtable discussion. \$75

Friday, May 21, 2010
8:30 A.M.— 4:00 P.M.

Professional workshops and panel discussion with comments by Lella Gandini, Karen Giuffre' and Alba DiBello, founder, A Child's Place School and Founding Chair NJEPPRE, Inc. \$125

Hospitality:

Hotel rooms are available at a special rate of \$99.00 per night. Please contact: Courtyard Marriott, Wall, NJ 07753 800-321-2211

Use group code: Voyagers' Community

Transportation to and from the school will be provided each day.

Workshops

Doing Democracy with Young Children
Elizabeth Baker, Founder and Director of The Patchwork School, Louisville, Colorado

Developing Genuine Relationships Through the Art of Play
Karen Chayot, CDA and Kathy Goldenberg, MEd Co-Founders, The Project P.L.A.Y. School

The Richness of Collaboration Between School Communities: The Mushroom Project
Kadi Cook, MEd, Teacher/Researcher, Voyagers' Community School and Debra Piescor, Master Teacher, A Child's Place School

Negotiating Learning in Community with Children: Vibrant engagement and anticipation
Karen Giuffre', MEd, Founder and Director of Voyagers' Community School

Democratic Education: Foundations & Practice
Isaac Graves, Outreach Coordinator and Conference Director for The Alternative Education Resource Organization

When Students Aspirations Challenge a Teacher's Sensibility
Richard Knab, Teacher/Researcher, Voyagers' Community School

Lego and Math: The Perfect Match
Sandy Miller, Teacher/Researcher, Voyagers' Community School

Designing An Atelier With Children at the Helm
Kelly Sadowski, Voyagers' Parent, Board Member NJEPPRE

Using Creative Art to Express Ideas about Where Lions and Tigers Live When They Are Not in a Zoo
Susan Wier, Master Teacher, A Child's Place School



"The value of Community"

Tuesday May 18 - Friday May 21, 2010

Attendance Options: PLEASE CHECK ONE

Register before April 15	after April 15
May 18 - 20 ___\$375.00	___\$405.00
May 18 - 21 ___\$450.00	___\$495.00
May 20 and 21 ___\$195.00	___\$215.00
May 20 ___\$75.00	___\$90.00
May 21 ___\$120.00	___\$135.00

AERO or NAREA Members take a 10% discount

Dinner on Thursday and light breakfast and hearty lunch are included on Friday.
___Vegetarian meal desired

To register, please complete the form below and fax or mail to:
Voyagers' Community School
PO Box 532
Farmingdale, NJ 07727
Phone: 732-842-1660 Fax: 732-365-1531
Email: conference@voyagerskids.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

___ Check enclosed

___ Purchase Order/Voucher enclosed

___ Please bill my Visa, MasterCard, Amex:

Card #: _____

Expiration date: _____

Signature: _____

Amount: \$ _____