ALL-DAY SESSION 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  All day session -- $150.00

Montessori 101: A Synopsis of the Theory, the Curriculum and Role of the Adult – Michele Mohar (General Audience)
Are you new to Montessori? Would you like to learn a little more about why the Montessori classrooms works the way they do? Receive a broad overview of Montessori theories, the curriculum areas and the role of the adult in a Montessori classroom. This general session is appropriate for classroom assistants, enrichment teachers, parents and any others interested in learning more about Montessori education.

MORNING SESSION 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  Half-day session -- $75.00

Roots, Stem and Blossom: Professional Development and Personal Growth – Mary MacIntosh (IT, EC, EL, Admin)
This workshop will highlight the importance of 'taking care of yourself' while also progressing with ongoing professional growth. The roots are the Montessori knowledge that is nourished through professional growth, the stem is the spirit and heart that is strengthened through personal growth. The flower blooms from the nourishment of the collective knowledge in a collaborative community. This session will offer insight into enriching yourself both personally and professionally.

The Assessment Process – Janet Gallagher (IT, EC, EL, Admin)
Identifying a child with learning differences can be a long and challenging journey. The process can take years with multiple steps including observation, in-class strategies, conversations and evaluations. How do we start the identification process? How do we navigate all of these complex steps? How do we support the child and family? Join us to discuss the identification process and how to best support the child and family through this complex journey.

Bringing Music and Movement to the Montessori Classroom – Kelley Granger (EC / All Interested)
Children LOVE to sing and play musical instruments. As teachers, we worry about making this time meaningful, successful and coordinated. Join us for this session on exploring songs and musical instruments to create joyful group times, peaceful transitions and effective independent work time activities. You will leave with wonderful ideas and valuable resources for your classroom.

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN 12:00 – 1:00 pm

AFTERNOON SESSIONS 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  Half-day session -- *$75 each

Introduction to AMS Early Childhood Certification Program – Mary MacIntosh (EC / All interested)
Are you interested in becoming an AMS certified Early Childhood Teacher? This session will explore the academic and practicum components of the VCMS Early Childhood training program. Learn the details about becoming a certified Early Childhood teacher and get specifics about the requirements. *The $75 session cost will be applied to the application fee for those who attend and then become an Early Childhood candidate.

Inclusion Strategies in the Montessori Classroom – Janet Gallagher, Vickie Turnamian and Natasha Siva (IT/EC/EL)
Every child has a unique method of learning and interacting with the Montessori environment. It is our job to follow the child and discover ways to meet each child’s unique learning needs. This session will explore a variety of strategies for working with children who are exhibiting learning differences in the Montessori classroom using the Montessori materials and supplemental materials. This session will provide easy alternative methods and reinforce the fact that you are already using effective strategies with children every day!

Learning from the Nature Right Outside Your Classroom Door -- Kristi McCullough (EC/EL)
Our prepared environment offers so many opportunities that we often forget the valuable information right outside our classroom door. Come and learn ways to bring nature to all aspects of your curriculum on a daily basis by looking at the immediate outdoor environment through a different lens. This session will explore a variety of simple activities and daily strategies that will help the children develop a love and respect for the natural world.