

About the Presenters



Susan Harris MacKay is Director of Teaching and Learning at Portland Children's Museum. She is tireless in her work to fulfill the mission of Opal School: to strengthen public education through provoking fresh ideas concerning environments where creativity, imagination, and the wonder of learning thrive.



As Associate Director of the Museum Center for Learning, **Matt Karlsen** supports Opal School's mission to strengthen public education through provoking fresh ideas concerning environments where creativity, imagination, and the wonder of learning thrive.

www.froghollow.bc.ca/ | www.opalschool.org/



In Dialogue with Opal School

November 30 and December 1, 2017

Like the early childhood programs in Reggio Emilia, Opal School has always viewed its work through a political lens. We know that play and the arts are essential in developing the imagination, empathy, and agency through which to construct new theories that set a path for new images of citizenship. In today's world we are often faced with social injustice against which young children's voices stand as a strong counter-balance. School is a place that children expect to be designed to help them make sense of the world around them and at Opal School they set this year's theme of Play, The Arts, and Education for Democracy.

About Frog Hollow Reggio-inspired Learning Centre

At Frog Hollow Reggio-Inspired Learning Centre it is our intent to share our thoughts and reflections regarding the Reggio Emilia approach with our community. We work in partnership with individuals and organizations inspired by this approach and hope to become a place to bring together on-going, meaningful dialogues that advocate for the rights of children as active citizens of today.

The Role of the Educator in Emergent Curriculum

November 30, 7:00–9:30pm,
Frog Hollow Reggio-Inspired Learning Centre
2131 Renfrew Street, Vancouver.

The concepts of “emergent curriculum” and “emergent learning” can be challenging when it comes to putting them into practice. Educators can become unsure of their roles and may feel that they are being asked to just stand back and wait for things to happen. Emergent curriculum calls for so much more than passivity. But what?

As educators who practice with an emergent curriculum, we find ourselves holding many different roles and we must find the passion and the power in us to manage this complex and yet rewarding approach.

On November 30th, our evening session will explore the role of the educator in emergent learning and share stories of Opal School and Frog Hollow Children Centres to further illustrate this subject.

**certificates for Professional Development hours will be available*

To register:

www.Nov30workshop.eventbrite.ca
www.Dec1workshop.eventbrite.ca

For more information:

contact Maryam Naddaf
maryam@froghollow.bc.ca 604 817 2491

Play, the Arts, and Education for Democracy

December 1, 9:00am–3:00pm,
Croatian Community Centre
3250 Commercial Drive, Vancouver.

Play and the arts are instrumental in supporting children to find their place within complicated, nuanced questions. On December 1st, we will reflect together on children’s experiences and ideas through unpacking their dialogues, designs, and dilemmas as we work together to make meaning of democracy, justice & rights.

Through examining our varied stories, we hope to make progress in understanding a series of questions that lie at the heart of our practice:

What habits, dispositions, and understandings are necessary for participatory democracy? How might we nurture them in school?

How do play and the arts help us see beyond the limits of the systems we have now to feed our imagination for more just worlds of greater democracy?

How can we create learning environments for democracy guided by a strong image of children as creative, competent, and capable, full of gifts that the world needs now?

**certificates for Professional Development hours will be available*

**lunch will be provided*