

Wonder Conference

Session Descriptions

Thursday, October 10

An Intimate Evening w/Diane Stanely *

Join us for an intimate conversation with author Diane Stanley on Thursday evening October 10th. A limited number of guests will participate in conversation with Diane while gathering at SLO Classical Academy's unique high school. During this time, she will share how she altered her future trajectory when she took her very first art class during her senior year in college. From medical illustrator to prolific children's book author, the story of Diane's path is sure to inspire.

Key

- ♥ Preschool/Junior Kindergarten
- Kindergarten
- ▲ Primary (1st-2nd)

- Intermediate (3rd-4th)

- ◆ Lower Middle School (5th-6th)
- Upper Middle School (7th-8th)

- * All Levels

Friday, October 11

Down Home: Multiples and Organizing ♥●▲■

Homeschooling Parent Panel

In this session, find sage advice from seasoned home teachers and fellow parents about managing learning at home with multiple children at different levels. Receive tips on how to best get (and stay) organized in your space, as well as your schedule. Learn how to tackle specific challenges, and hear stories that will remind you that you can do it too! There will be opportunities to ask specific questions and engage in dialogue about life Down Home.

Beginning your Essentialist Journey *

Susie Theule & Betsi Ashby

In a world full of options and FOMO, it's easy to pile your plate full only to realize you can't keep up, are overwhelmed, and not really doing a great job at any of the things. Are you ready to take a journey towards essentialism so you can focus on what's most important and lead a more calm, fulfilling life? Paring down for sounds lovely, sure, but is it worth prioritizing in a life that already feels over-prioritized? And, seriously, is a *LESS. BUT BETTER*. Life even possible? We will explore and interact with the whys, the wonders, the challenges, and the hows to get you headed in the right direction--and lead a guided discussion of how to start right. now.

Kindergarten Singapore Math ●

Amy Houser & Sarah Root

Open your eyes to the world of kindergarten math! Come & learn how to teach math in a fun and engaging manner suitable for all kinders! The simple patterns they learn to identify now lay the foundation to more complex patterns, algebraic thinking, and problem-solving in later years. You will leave this session with tips & tricks to create a positive and successful math experience for you and your child!

Socratic Seminar: The Practice of Wonder ◆●

Thaddeus Kozinski

Instead of just hearing about joyful learning, you'll experience it--by discussing a short reading together (no prep required!). Socratic seminar is both *LESS. BUT BETTER*. and joyful. In teaching through questioning, the informational content is less but the student/child engagement is more, so the learning experience is better. It is more joyful to teach and learn by inquiry and exploration than through lecture and direct instruction.

Block Play ♥●▲■

Merideth Eades & Jessica Wilson

In this session, we hope to inspire you to see beyond playing with blocks and to get to venture into the wonder of connecting your child's natural inquisitiveness with learning across the disciplines. From magna-tiles to natural blocks to the forefather of block play, Fredrich Froebel, we will guide you in how to incorporate the wonder of these materials in your daily life.

On the Craft of Research, Writing, & Editing *

Diane Stanley

How does one cull through volumes of history and information to create a best selling children's book? How does one headed for medical school end up an author of children's literature? Discover how Diane Stanley has internalized doing *LESS. BUT BETTER*. and woven editing into her life and her career. Hear about the motivation and various life choices that led her to become a successful author, and learn about her process of writing, editing, and crafting a story. This session includes hands-on editing and processing with Diane as your instructor.

Primary Singapore Math ▲

Jenn Perneel

This session covers levels 1 and 2 in the Primary Singapore Math textbook, basic Manipulatives through Place Value Discs, and foundational skills, such as math facts and mental math.

Wonder Boxes ♥●▲■

Anna Ingalls

Create and present your own Wonder Box to children of all ages. Anna Ingalls will share the vision behind her unique gift that accompanies her interactive literature readings. You will receive a Wonder Box and a guided lesson on painting your own wooden characters from one of Diane Stanley's beautiful stories. All supplies will be included for this hands-on workshop. This is sure to instill a new sense of wonder within the world of literature for you and your children.

Intermediate Singapore Math ■

Lisa Ann Dillon

Have you wondered why we encourage your student to play math games? As we learn more about how the brain works, something that comes up repeatedly is how exploring concepts in many different ways helps kids to build more solid Number Sense. And a solid Number Sense leads to the firm foundation kids need to succeed at higher level mathematics. It helps kids who are less confident overcome any fear of failure and encourages confident students to look deeper into concepts from many different angles. In this session, we'll learn games that teach the core concepts of Levels 3 and 4 math, and we'll also explore some of the key concepts for each level. Come and play at math--it's sure to reveal the why behind the how of Singapore Math instruction and to equip you for more dynamic instruction on your home days!

Latin is Alive & Well ▲■◆●

Pamela Gerhardt & Sarah Weinshenk

After coming to a better understanding of why we study Latin, participants will have the opportunity to translate a poem by Horace and discuss it in a Socratic seminar. Participants will also receive a sample lesson in basic Latin grammar with a hands-on activity and join in a discussion on how to help and inspire their young Latin scholar at home.

Nature Play ♥●▲

Merideth Eades & Jessica Wilson

In this session, we will give you the tools to wonder along with your child in a number of natural settings. From looking out your window to sitting on your porch or venturing out into the forest, we hope to bring the outside in, and the inside out.

IEW: Why IEW & Where it Leads ▲■

Lisa Ann Dillon

KWOs, QAs, SVs, LYs, Dress-Up labels, and Final Drafts! If you are even slightly confounded by these abbreviations or the concepts they represent, then we've got the session for you! Join Mrs. Dillon as she systematically walks you through an IEW assignment from the KWO to the Final Draft. Learn how to help your child play with language and find the joy in searching for just the perfect Dress-Up. You will come away equipped to help your child take her/his writing to the next level. We will explore ways to engage the reluctant writer and lead the confident writer towards more dynamic and complex writing. Immerse yourself in the process your child will go through to become a capable writer, and come away with a better understanding of how to bring IEW to life at home.

IEW Olders: Beyond the Basic KWO Summary and Dress-ups ◆●

Jen Wright

As students head into fifth and sixth grades they will begin to explore pulling important details from a longer source of information, rather than keywords from each sentence, and they will fuse details to write longer assignments. Retelling narrative stories and exploring Stories from Pictures will also allow students to expand their writing skills in creative ways. At this workshop, parents will look at students samples and practice adding advanced stylistic techniques including decorations and sentence openers. We will also discuss common struggles of the emerging independent writer, and how to encourage and nurture children to grow in taking responsibility for their writing mechanics.

Capture Your Life with Haiku *

Amelia Marini & Betsi Ashby

Discover a journaling and meditative practice that is both sustainable and meaningful. In this session we will discuss how writing daily haiku serves to document your life, eschew the nonessential, and engage in moments in a more intentional and playful way. Haiku is so much more than the 17 syllable poems you wrote in elementary school--although it does require a childlike perspective. Haiku is a deep and tradition-filled practice containing so much more than meets the eye. A true lesson in haiku isn't complete without time spent outside, so be sure to bring your walking shoes and some sunnies.

The Importance of Solitude ■◆●

Ronelle Volk

Description coming soon!

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Saturday, October 12

Whole Brain Child ♥●

Lea Payne Scott

In this workshop, you will explore the fundamentals of The Whole Brain Child by learning how your child's brain is wired, exploring practical, brain-based strategies that nurture your child's developing mind, and discovering how to build your child's social and emotional intelligence. We will discuss the basics of integration, the role of mirror neurons, and more. By the end of the workshop, you will be equipped with tools to respond to your children in ways that wire their brains for health, happiness, creativity, and compassion.

The Managed Tech Life *

Jeannett Gibson

Like it or not, technology is a very real part of our lives and is here to stay. Do you struggle with balancing allowing tech in your kids' lives? Are you a self-avowed low/no-tech household or do you follow more of a laissez-faire approach to tech? Join us as we discuss ways we can navigate this ever-changing landscape (how do we ever keep up?!), while still maintaining our sanity and finding ways to unplug and engage in the wonder all around us

5th-6th (Lower Middle School) Singapore Math ◆

Wendy Rey & Jen Wright

We will discuss foundational skills learned at these levels (fractions, decimals, and percentages), but our primary focus will be on Fractions. At this workshop, parents will learn the value of exploring these concepts with the use of visual manipulatives, including pattern blocks and fraction towers. We will explore games and puzzles which help students develop strength in visualization skills--which is extremely helpful with fraction-sense mastery. We will also explore some challenging word problems with the use of model drawing, which will make these algebraic-type problems a cinch!

Concrete Algebra: Approaching Abstract Ideas with Manipulatives ●

Paige Bartel

This training is designed to help you with the material covered at the pre-algebra and algebra level and to teach parents in-class strategies that help make an abstract idea (variables) into a concrete concept. We will utilize manipulatives known as algebra tiles and learn how to define like terms. We will cover all four operations of polynomials (with 1 and 2 variables) and a few abstract concepts, such as factoring polynomials and simplifying algebraic equations. The goal is for you to be able to support your student at home with confidence! This training is recommended to all parents, whether your student is struggling, excelling, or in between.

Whole Brain Parent *

Lea Payne Scott

What can we do to cultivate FOMO patience with our children? In this workshop, we will explore brain-based strategies for reducing our own reactivity during challenging moments. In a relaxed and engaged atmosphere, we will discuss ways to be emotionally responsive to our children and to ourselves. By looking at the latest research on brain development and attachment science, we will discover the role of mindfulness, insight, and empathy as it relates to parenting. At the end of the workshop, you will leave refreshed and equipped with new strategies for staying regulated and connected with your children.

5 Minutes of Wonder Play *

Guy Kinnear

Wonder and play are foundational practices for every teacher, artist, writer, musician, engineer, architect, or any other profession which brings new things into the world. For children, wonder and play come naturally, but it comes harder for adults. For teachers and parents, it is a challenge to keep wonder and play alive as our children grow to adulthood. In this session, Guy Kinnear will teach how Wonder and Play work as a lifestyle, and as a group, we will explore how Wonder Play can be nurtured as an individualized daily practice.

Word Play: All About Spelling & Narration ▲■

Jenn Perneel

All About Spelling is a rules-based spelling program that teaches spelling concepts through repetition and application (instead of specific word memorization found in other spelling programs). In this session, Jenn will explain the All About Spelling program and give tips on how to best implement it back at home, including simplifying this complex program and managing the tiles & cards effectively. Additionally, we will explore playing with words through narration. What is that really, you ask? Attend to find out! Narration is a building block to becoming a good writer. As a child narrates out loud, they are actually practicing the first part of the writing process: putting ideas into their own words. You will learn tips & tricks like how to prompt your child or help them summarize, and you will get to try it out yourself! Ultimately, this verbal retelling leads to more independent writing in third grade.

Whole Brain Adolescent ●

Lea Payne Scott

In this workshop, we will explore the recent discoveries of the adolescent brain that explain why this is a vital - and sometimes maddening - phase of life for everyone involved. Using Dan Siegel's book *Brainstorm* as a framework, we will demystify commonly held myths about adolescence as we look at this period through an adaptive lens. We will also discuss exciting ways in which understanding how the adolescent brain functions can help us not only survive but thrive together as healthy families through the teenage years and beyond.

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