

“The development of true ideas and concepts is based upon rich sensory experiences. True knowing is to be fully awake to sensation – to experiences that are full of sensation.”

“As a teacher, I have found that the only time I am really preparing students for the life that they will live, the life of the future, is when I teach them how to fully use their senses and live in the present.”

– Michael D’Aleo, Keynote Speaker, 2012 Gateways Conference



“I came away from the keynote talks at the Gateways Conference feeling inspired and knowledgeable about the importance of unstructured play for my children. The speaker’s wonderful stories and perspectives influenced a positive shift in my parenting. Thank you!”

– Shannon Ryland, after attending the 2011 Gateways Conference



Calgary Waldorf School



CALGARY WALDORF SCHOOL
515 Cougar Ridge Drive S.W.
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www.calgarywaldorf.org
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3rd ANNUAL GATEWAYS

A Conference on
Childhood for
Parents, Educators,
and Caregivers

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Sensing Our
Natural World:
The Root to Learning
April 20 & 21, 2012

WALDORF SCHOOL

CALGARY WALDORF SCHOOL
www.calgarywaldorf.org/gateways.html

KEYNOTE TALKS BY MICHAEL D’ALEO

(Friday evening and Saturday morning)

Sensing our Natural World: The Root to Learning

The constantly changing dynamic world in which we live requires us to pay attention. The answers of yesterday are, at times, no longer appropriate for today. In short, we are being asked to come back to our senses.

The ability to perceive what is happening around you has always been the starting point for all truthful insights and new ways of thinking. The healthy development of the senses is most powerfully accomplished in the early years of life. Our senses develop most richly in conjunction with regular exposure to the powerful yet subtle integration of the natural world.

My two talks will focus on this theme. We will investigate the foundational role that perception has played in all scientific and cultural breakthroughs. This will make apparent the critical importance of developing a healthy foundation for the senses in childhood. Looking at our present technological and societal conventions through this new lens of “sensing” will allow us to see what changes have been beneficial, but also those elements that cause us to feel disconnected from our surroundings and ourselves. Through a clear understanding of how we work with our senses and our thinking capacities, we can move toward a future of greater environmental and societal integration.

About Michael D’Aleo

Michael is a founding member and Director of Research of the Saratoga Experiential Natural Science Research Institute (SENSRI: see www.sensri.org) in Saratoga Springs, NY. He was a co-founder of the Waldorf School of Saratoga Springs High School, where he teaches physical sciences and mathematics. Michael is an instructor at teacher training institutions and is also the co-founder and leader of the successful Middle School science teacher training “Teaching Sensible Science”.

Michael has a Mechanical Engineering degree from Rutgers University and a Masters degree in Education from Sunbridge College.

He holds patents on 17 inventions and has taught Waldorf science and math for 21 years, following 7 years leading design and development for a US electronics company. Michael lectures internationally on the topics of science and education – at universities, science symposia, and conferences for parents and teachers.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2012

6:45 pm Registration opens

7:30 pm Welcome

7:45 pm **Evening Keynote Talk**
by Michael D’Aleo

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2012

8:15 am Registration opens

9:00 am Welcome

9:15 am **Morning Keynote Talk**
by Michael D’Aleo

10:45 am Break

11:15 am Morning Workshops

12:45 pm Lunch

2:15 pm Afternoon Workshops

3:45 pm Break

4:00 pm Wrap-up with Michael D’Aleo

Note: With the exception of babes in arms, this conference is for adults only, please.

LUNCH AND SNACKS

Delicious food is included in your fee.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, contact Brenda Porter at gateways@calgarywaldorf.org or phone 403-287-1868 ext. 182 or visit www.calgarywaldorf.org

WHERE IS THE SCHOOL?

(at 515 Cougar Ridge Drive SW)
The Calgary Waldorf School is located in the south-west neighbourhood of Cougar Ridge – up behind the ski jumps and flag at the top of the Canada Olympic Park ski hill.

WORKSHOPS: MORNING SESSION

1 The Unintended Effects of Electromagnetics on the Human Being

with Michael D'Aleo and Johanna Kalkreuth

We will look at some of the latest findings about the effects of wireless communication devices (such as cell phones and wi-fi) on the human being. Simple ways of reducing exposure to these effects will also be discussed.

2 Parenting as a Path of Self Development

with Kathy Brunetta

Explore together through discussion what it is to be a parent and how teachings from Maslow, Steiner, Gibran, and our own experiences help us understand what our children need from us.

3 Felting for Fashion

with Glenda Koppe and Virginia Smith

In this two-part workshop, with muscles and patience you will create a beautiful felted bag. Continued in the afternoon.

4 Songs, Stories, and Science

with Rose Maynard

Let songs and stories from the Waldorf Kindergarten curriculum take you on an experiential journey, while weaving in discussion about how play and movement directly develop the brain.

5 Harmonic Conspiracy

with Christina MacWilliam

Take a musical journey through the Grades and learn what your voice can do to bring people together. You don't need to know how to sing, only be willing to try.

6 Woodcarving

with Greg Nybo

Turn a log into an egg using hand-carving techniques and math principles. Welcome to Grade Six the Waldorf way! This two-part workshop is continued in the afternoon.

7 Explore Geometry through Movement

with Christina Wallace-Ockenden

Discover the fun of moving in choreographed geometrical patterns. Experience the harmony it brings to the group and to each person.

8 Art with Natural Plant Colours

with Malcolm Glover

Ephemeral and living, these colours help us bring our creative process into relationship with the natural world and its health-giving qualities. Open to anyone interested in exploring the unique properties of natural plant pigments through art.

9 Get Your Motor Running

with Jenn Bergfeldt

Build a motor as you experience a Middle School physics lesson in action.

WORKSHOPS: AFTERNOON SESSION

A Practical Examples of the Benefits of Exposing Children to the Natural World

with Michael D'Aleo and Sigrid D'Aleo

We will look at the benefits for children who have regular experiences in the natural world. Examples will be drawn from parent-initiated activities and from the new "Forest Kindergarten" at the Waldorf School of Saratoga Springs (where Sigrid teaches).

B The Nature of Boys: Parenting Your Son through the Elementary Years

with Laureen Loree

Explore with warmth and appreciation the wonders and gifts specific to boys through developmental milestones and changes particular to 6, 9, and 12 years of age. Bring your curiosity and your questions. Come away with practical parenting approaches to support your son.

C Felting for Fashion

with Glenda Koppe and Virginia Smith

Continuation of the Morning Workshop.

D Tweens, Media & Marketing, and Waldorf Education

with Dean Carter

Learn how the wisdom of Waldorf education can moderate the pervasive media and marketing influences in the lives of our 9 – 12 year olds.

E Rhythm and Beat with African Marimba

with Sandy Ockenden

Experience the lively and joyous world of African rhythm and beat using Zimbabwean-style marimbas, hand drums and shakers. See how our experience relates to child development and learning. No musical experience needed.

F Woodcarving

with Greg Nybo

Continuation of the Morning Workshop.

G Why do we do Form Drawing in Waldorf Schools?

with Kate Pentland

Form Drawing is unique to Waldorf education. Join me in exploring why Waldorf students do form drawing, as you try your own hand at drawing some of the simple and the complex forms done in the Elementary Grades.

H Silk Merino Scarf Making

with Arwen Cruse

Discover the magic of wet felting with wool and silk. Treat yourself or gift another with your beautiful, hand-made, soft and luxurious silk merino scarf (20 cm x 2 m).

I Baking Bread and Building Traditions

with Miriam Bezeau and Hema Venkateswaran

Make your own tasty loaf of bread and some delicious East-Indian roti, while exploring how family traditions help nourish us.

J Games and Movement for the Child in You

with Diana Zinter

Let your playful side take a movement journey through young and middle childhood. I'll also include some posture and movement education basics for adults. Wear comfortable clothing and sturdy but flexible shoes.



REGISTRATION FORM

Name, PERSON 1: _____

Name, PERSON 2: _____

Address: _____

City and Prov.: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone (with area code): _____

Email: _____

Note: *The conference is limited to 150 participants on a first come, first served basis. Register by March 23rd for our Early Bird Prize draw!*

Workshop Choices:

PERSON 1

1st morning choice: (1 to 9) _____

2nd morning choice: (1 to 9) _____

1st afternoon choice: (A to J) _____

2nd afternoon choice: (A to J) _____

PERSON 2

1st morning choice: (1 to 9) _____

2nd morning choice: (1 to 9) _____

1st afternoon choice: (A to J) _____

2nd afternoon choice: (A to J) _____

Conference Fee (includes lunch and snacks)

\$100 per person (by April 5)

\$125 per person (after April 5)

\$160 per couple (by April 5)

\$200 per couple (after April 5)

Cheque or money order enclosed for \$ _____

(Make payable to the Calgary Waldorf School)

Please mail the registration form to:

Gateways Conference

Calgary Waldorf School

515 Cougar Ridge Dr. S.W., Calgary, AB T3H 5G9

OR after February 1st, register and pay on-line

via www.calgarywaldorf.org/gateways.html