

# Panelist Biographies

**MISD Alumni Panel 4/18/17**



College in Maryland.

**Ana Amiguet, Talent Specialist, LePort Montessori Schools-Charlotte, North Carolina.** Ana is a former Montessori student from early childhood in her native Puerto Rico. In high school, when asked to write an essay about a hero in her life, Ana wrote about her Primary Montessori teacher, who instilled in her a life-long love of learning. After getting her B.A. in English Literature from Brown University, Ana earned her Association Montessori International (AMI) diploma from the Montessori Institute of San Diego, and her M.Ed. in Montessori Education from Loyola

Ana has worked as a Primary Montessori teacher in classrooms in California, Massachusetts and North Carolina, as well as at non-profits both working with and advocating for children in foster care. Ana is currently working as a Montessori teacher recruiter for LePort Montessori Schools, and is enjoying connecting with passionate Montessorians from around the world. With a young daughter currently in a wonderful Montessori Primary classroom, Ana has enjoyed seeing Montessori from both the inside and out!



**Joellen Castro, Upper Elementary Guide, Temple Hill**

**International School- Quezon City, Philippines.** Joellen, or Teacher Joy as she is fondly called by almost everyone around her, has been working as an assistant in a Montessori School in the Philippines for 9 years when she was offered the opportunity to study Montessori Elementary Education at MISD in 2013. Now she works as the upper elementary guide in the same school. She has a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from the University of the Philippines and currently working on getting her master's degree in Mathematics Education from the same university.



### **Sean Doyle, Lower Elementary Teacher, Countryside**

**Montessori School- Northbrook, Illinois.** Sean has worked at Countryside Montessori School for four years, and is a lower elementary teacher. Before Countryside, Sean worked in the public/traditional school system for over 10 years. He left the public school system voluntarily, after realizing that his educational philosophy no longer coincided with the perceived mission of the public school system. He is absolutely delighted that he has made the transition to the Montessori method, and has not looked back! Sean also has the pleasure of having his two children attend Countryside. His 9-year-old boy is in elementary, and his 5-year-old girl is in the All Year Montessori (AYM) program.



### **Sharon Lickerman, Head of School, Resurrection Episcopal**

**Day School- New York, New York.** Sharon Lickerman has deep experience in child development from a social, emotional and intellectual perspective and is dedicated to the growth, development and well-being of children. She has been an AMI Montessori Educator for more than 15 years, following completion of her training under Dr. Silvia Dubovoy at the Montessori Institute of San Diego. Sharon was a Directress at REDS from 2000-2013, and has been involved across various areas of the school beyond the classroom, including as a member of the school's Outreach and Transition committees, and as a faculty representative on the Board of Trustees. In the 2014-15 academic year, Sharon served as an Education Specialist at REDS, where she provided guidance and support to the REDS community, working in collaboration with faculty, staff and parents to be a strong advocate for REDS students.

From June 2013-August 2014, Sharon was Associate Director of Reachwithin, whose mission is to improve the emotional and social well-being of abused and neglected children by helping them access, cherish and build their inner strength and character.

Sharon earned her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin, and an M.A. in Early Childhood Special Education from New York University.



### **Krista Riihimaki, Creative Director at White Poppy Media.**

**Documentary Film: [www.childdisrupted.com](http://www.childdisrupted.com) San Francisco, California.** Krista received her AMI / NAMTA certificate at the Orientation to Adolescent studies after graduating from the Birth to Six (Infancy +Primary) AMI training at MISD. She worked as a Montessori guide for two years at Pacific Rim International School, where she taught in the Children's house as well as the middle school as a science specialist. Her students produced and won an award for a creative science film about composting. She then went on to work at LePort Schools' flagship campus in San Francisco, helping to open a toddler classroom. Krista is currently working full time on a

documentary about the effects of the overuse of technology on children's development in a film called "Child, Disrupted" ([www.childdisrupted.com](http://www.childdisrupted.com)).