

## WECAN IDEA

Lynn Turner and Leslie Wetzonis Woolverton, WECAN IDEA Coordinators

Warm Winter Greetings, WECAN Community,

We hope you have had a restorative winter break and are invigorated by the fresh start filled with many new beginnings as we move into the new year. Days will begin to get longer, and the light will grow daily as we move forward to spring. January marks the time for inner reflection and celebrating the warmth of the heart. Now in the midpoint of the school year, may we continue to move with purposeful intention filled with courage, joy, and love, stepping forward to greet new experiences and meet challenges with strength.

We have expanded our work by developing a new set of recommended training guidelines for the WECAN Board, Membership, and Teacher Training Institutes that support WECAN's commitment to Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access. These recommendations, created with the support of our I.D.E.A. Advisory Circle Members, are intended to help colleagues further understand the depth and breadth of I.D.E.A.

On Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 7:00 - 8:30 pm EST we will honor ***Appreciating the World, the Earth, and All People: Deepening our Relationship with the Six Nations' Thanksgiving Address with colleagues from the Everlasting Tree School***. You can read more information about this in the News and Events below.

During this year's February WECAN Conference, we will offer two opportunities to come together in person. On Saturday, from 1:10 -1:50 pm, we will host an **I.D.E.A. Listening Circle** space. At this time, we will have a space to share questions, concerns, and successes around your I.D.E.A. work in your school communities. In this brave and intimate space, we will support and encourage one another to share our authentic voices as Waldorf colleagues and friends, working hand-in-hand to improve our community's culture of inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. On Sunday, we will host an **I.D.E.A Post Conference Listening Space** at the close of the conference, from noon to 12:45 pm. In this short time, we hope to hear questions and inspirations so we can bring your voice back to the WECAN conference team.

Let's embrace this ongoing work together and further our understanding of why and how this work matters — especially for young children! There is no opting out of our work together in all areas of I.D.E.A. We continue to encourage all WECAN members to participate, grow, and deepen their understanding in these areas that celebrate efforts toward equality for all. Together we are committed to supporting and guiding your efforts and growth in inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. Please continue the path forward in this important journey.

WECAN News Update, Winter 2024

Thank you always and stay hopeful each and every day as we continue our path forward in “right relationship” with each other and centering work on diversity. Please email us with any questions, areas of concern, or progress in your school community you wish to share with both of us. Please continue to visit the WECAN website for new and updated resources throughout the upcoming months or email us if you want to connect with us. We would love to hear from you! Our email addresses are [lwetzoniswoolverton@waldorfearlychildhood.org](mailto:lwetzoniswoolverton@waldorfearlychildhood.org) and [lturner@waldorfearlychildhood.org](mailto:lturner@waldorfearlychildhood.org).

With love and gratitude,  
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