



*A Community of Learners*

## **Informational Memo: Preschool Kindergarten Summit 2018**

TO: School Board  
Superintendent Kocanda

FROM: Maureen Chertow Miller, *Director of Technology*

February 27, 2018

### **Overview & Background**

In February of 2016, the Alliance for Early Childhood partnered with local early childhood organizations and school districts to launch the Inaugural Preschool Kindergarten Summit. The idea for the Summit came from The Winnetka Public Schools, offering a high-quality professional development experience for early childhood educators. Early childhood professional programming lags in relation to K-12 opportunities, yet holds the greatest opportunity to enact long-lasting impact.

In 2016, the theme of the event was “*Play in the Early Years.*” The following year, the theme was “*Cultivating the Whole Child: Building Strong Social Emotional Foundations in Today’s World.*” Both years resulted in exceeded expectations as far as quality and attendance. Much of this is due to the nationally recognized leaders coming to speak and provide inspiration at the annual summit.

### **2018 Programming**

The 2018 conference was again held at the Chicago Botanic Gardens on Tuesday, February 13, 2018. This year’s theme was *Fostering Creativity*. Registration was at capacity with 233 attendees and guests included educators from primarily the North Shore but also included guests from other states and regions. District 36 sent a contingency of 18 teachers, administrators, and associates, including Stacey Wellman who was one of the featured presenters..

Highlights of the program included a keynote by Gever Tully, founder of Tinkering School and Brightworks in San Francisco, and author of *Fifty Dangerous Things (You*

Should Let Your Children Do), and several extended sessions on Block Play, Froebel Gifts and the Reggio Approach.

### **Other Featured Speakers**

<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Session</b>
Rebecca Burdett	Block Building Basics
Joan Almon	Fostering Creativity Through Play
Donna Mandel	Moving Toward Meaning: The Elegance and Power of Integrating Physical Literacy and Choreography into Studies with Children
Karen Haigh	Looking at the Reggio Approach and its Connections to Creativity

### **Next Steps**

The Summit Planning committee will review feedback and begin planning next year's event.