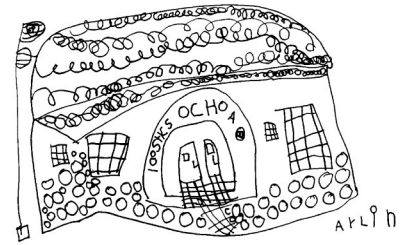


Ochoa Community Magnet School

A Reggio-Inspired Elementary School



Creating Excellence in Teaching and Learning

February 2012
Volume 1, Issue 2

A Conference for Teachers and Families Brings 175 to Ochoa Teachers Open Their Classrooms for Conference Participants

The Dilemma of Reggio-inspired Programs in the Age of Standardization

On January 12th, Superintendent John Pedicone welcomed 175 educators, families and university students to Ochoa and opened the international conference, *The Dilemma of Reggio-inspired Programs in the Age of Standardization* sponsored by the Tucson Children's Project. In collaboration with Ochoa, Child-Parent Centers, Inc., TUSD PACE and Desert Spring.

Our Ochoa teachers and staff played a key role throughout the three day conference. On Saturday all of our classrooms were open for visitors who were very interested in learning more about the Reggio approach at the elementary school level.

Lella Gandini, Mary Hartzell and Karen Haigh, the conference presenters, discussed the role of community, the involvement and active participation of families in the life of the school, and the importance of an organizational framework that is defined by intention and commitment.

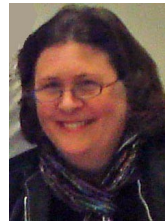
Congratulations to our teachers, staff and Principal Aranda!



Dr. Lella Gandini



Mary Hartzell



Dr. Karen Haigh



Dialogue with colleagues is at the heart of every good conference—the opportunity for exchange and reflection is a critical component of professional development.



Karla Silva and her husband spoke of their experience as parents of a 1st Grader at Ochoa. Karla works at Child-Parent Centers, Inc. and attended the conference with Head Start colleagues.



Agrapina Reyes, our PACE teaching assistant, sat with the UA Semilla teachers. The teachers will spend 10 weeks at Ochoa learning from our teachers and sharing their story with our children.

What would you do if you were in charge of the world?



If I were in charge of the world I'd bring world peace.

If I were in charge of the world there'd be no littering.

If I were in charge of the world you wouldn't be in the streets, you wouldn't be without a bed or food, if I were in charge of the world.

By Whisper Palimo
Third Grade
Ms. Bennett

Ochoa's Study of Reggio Deepens with the Consultation Visits of Dr. Lella Gandini and Dr. Karen Haigh

Lella Gandini visited every classroom and met individually with each teacher at Ochoa. Her observations and provocations were discussed at length and will serve as a focus for continued study and dialogue throughout the year.



In January, Karen Haigh met with teachers and the Administrative Team. She saw that the learning environments throughout the school had been transformed in the past year and suggested that we develop strategies to deepen the learning for children through incorporating research areas and studios in the classrooms.



Lella spoke of the teachers' in Reggio "creating situations of interest and desire" for children to encounter.



Ochoa Teachers Take A Leadership Role at the Conference

Ochoa Teachers facilitated small discussion groups during the conference Seminar Day, 1/13, and **Carrie, Brandi, and Julie** presented their reflections to the entire group of participants—well over 125!

On Saturday, classrooms were opened and teachers welcomed visitors and their many questions. This was a leap of faith on our part, as our study of Reggio is in the beginning stages and our questions far out number the strategies that we have in place. However, our confidence has improved significantly as a result of participating as *active researchers* in the RE approach within the context of a public, elementary school.



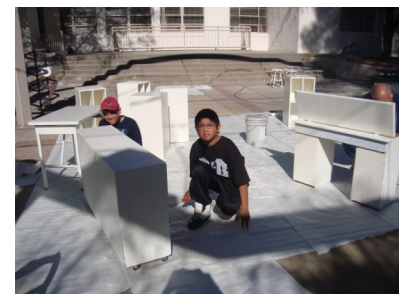
Julie, Carrie and Brandi share their small group's reflections—speaking before a crowd of over 125!



Thank you...

Laura Markowitz and Film Crew for continuing to document our study of Reggio, throughout the conference

Children, Staff and Families who came to work and paint on 1/7/2012, to ready the school



5th graders work in the sun to paint classroom furniture.

Welcome...

Alfie and your brilliant Experimental Rhythm & Beats Studio.

Kira Rendon-Moore our new Learning Resource Coordinator.

UA CREATE students and faculty as you bring your studies to our campus into our classrooms.

UA SEMILLA Maestras who will be with us for the next 10 weeks.

February

- 6th Lella Gandini visits classrooms of 3, 4 & 5th Grades
- 7th Linking Lunch to Your Child's Learning—An Encounter with Materials in the Studio
- 14-17 8 Teachers and Admin Team Attend Opal Visitation Conference
- 23 & 24 **Rodeo Days—Enjoy the Break**
- 29th Site Council Meeting @ 3:30 in Room #5