

4th Biennial International Froebel Society Conference

Froebelian Pedagogy in a Modern Context: Education & Social Action

Jena, Germany, April 8th – 10th 2010

The fourth biennial conference of the International Froebel Society (IFS) was held in Jena, Germany where Friedrich Froebel himself was a student. The conference was attended by over 220 educators from Germany, Britain, Ireland, Finland, Ukraine, India, Taiwan, New Zealand, U.S.A. Delegates from the university, primary and early childhood sectors listened to lectures, participated in workshops, viewed films and visited schools operating in the Froebelian tradition. It was uplifting to observe the engagement of so many younger lecturers and teachers who are attempting to maintain Froebelian principles in their work.

On the final afternoon of the conference some delegates visited Froebel's first school in Keilhau, the only remaining one of the schools founded by Friedrich Froebel still operating as a school. The group then proceeded to Bad Blankenburg where a tour of the Froebel Museum was conducted.

The conference was conducted through both German and English.

Keynote speakers

Prof. Michael Winkler: The Political and Social – Pedagogical Froebel

Prof. Karl Neumann: Parents, Nursery school, Kindergarten, School: Partners in Childrens' Educational Processes

Prof. Kevin Brehony: A Critical Review of Alternative and Oppositional Elements in Froebel's thought and their impact on the Early Kindergarten Movement

Prof. Helen May: Refashioning the Colonial Kindergarten: A Political Story

Retirements

Dr. Peter Weston, President of IFS and Franciska Bayliss, chairperson of the IFS committee since its inception in 2003, retired from these roles and were presented with certificates acknowledging their immense contribution to perpetuating Froebelian ideals throughout their respective careers.

Similarly Professor Karl Neumann Dr. Helmut Heimann and Heinreike Schauwecker-Zimmer were presented with certificates acknowledging their contributions to maintaining Froebelian principles to the forefront of German and international educational discourse.

Prof. Kevin Brehony, Roehampton University, London and Brian Tubbert, Froebel College, Dublin assumed the roles of President and Chairperson respectively.

It is proposed that the next IFS conference will be held in Roehampton University, London in 2012 on the site of the former Froebel teacher training college.



New IFS President, Professor Kevin Brehony inaugurated by Professor Karl Neumann



Freobel's First School at Keilhau



Outgoing IFS President, Dr. Peter Weston & Chair Franciska Bayliss receiving certificates recognising their lifetime contribution to Froebelian principles from Prof Neumann & Conference Organiser, Ulf Sauerbrey



Froebel Museum at Bad Blankenburg



Original University building at Jena



Conference delegates visit Froebel Haus, a local school operating to Froebel principles and pedagogy