



Going Green:

Environmental & Sustainability Education Conference 2014

Overview

You're invited to OISE's third annual *Environmental and Sustainability Education (ESE)* conference for graduate students in the MT and MA/Child Study Programs. This one day conference seeks to help provide OISE graduate students with an introduction to ideas and strategies for implementing ESE in their own classrooms in future. The conference features a keynote talk and two sets of workshops involving hands-on activities, an intro to teaching and learning resources, and discussion about contemporary approaches to environmental and sustainability themes.

This one day conference is taking place on **Friday January 10, 2014 at OISE** (252 Bloor St. West).

The Basics

Date: Friday January 10, 2014

Time: 9am-3pm

Location: OISE Library and other classrooms at OISE

Schedule:

9-10am – Welcome; Keynote Speaker; Q&A

10-10.15am – break

10.15-11.45am – Workshops Session 1

11.45-12.45 – lunch (bring your own - the library will be available for conference participants to meet)

12.45-2.15pm - Workshops Session 2

2.15-2.30pm – break

2.30-3pm – Closing speakers

To Register:

This conference is free for first year MT and MA/Child Studies graduate students, but pre-registration is required. There are some spots available for second year students on a first-come, first serve basis. To register, visit the Student Services website at:

<http://www.studentservices.oise.utoronto.ca/conferences.aspx>

Keynote Speaker:

EcoSchools: Working Together to Go Green

Pam Miller, TDSB EcoSchools' Instructional Leader

How does an organization the size of the Toronto District School Board- 259,000 students, 591 schools, 36,500 staff, 47 million square feet of real estate, 2,500 hectares of land - become and stay green? At the school level, the strategy for engaging students, staff and communities has been to develop, promote, and support the TDSB EcoSchools program. This session highlights the work of EcoSchools over the past 10 years in accelerating the change needed to move toward sustainability.

Pam Miller supports K-12 teachers implement ecological literacy into their classroom instruction in her role as the TDSB EcoSchools' Instructional Leader. Her work includes fostering best practices, developing resources, and building collaborative learning networks among teachers and staff to deepen teachers' skills, knowledge and approaches to Environmental Education. She has taught in the TDSB for 22 years both in the classroom and in TDSB Outdoor Education Schools and holds degrees in education (B.Ed, York University) and science (Honours B.Sc, University of Guelph).

Closing Speakers:

TBA

Morning Workshops/Leaders:

Natural Curiosity: Environmental Inquiry in the Early Years (K-2)

Andrea Cousineau, The Laboratory School at the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study

With the support of environmental giants David Suzuki and Edward Burtynsky, The Laboratory School at the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study (OISE, University of Toronto) launched a new teacher resource - Natural Curiosity in 2009. This "how-to" resource focuses on implementing a four branch framework approach to "Environmental Inquiry" (Inquiry based learning; Experiential learning; Integrated learning; and Stewardship). Teacher candidates and graduate students will learn how to use their students' questions, ideas, and theories as drivers for learning, while connecting to the Ministry Curriculum in an integrated approach. We will plan on spending some time outside, so dress for the weather. Note: This session will have similar components to the ESE Speaker Series workshop held in October 2013

Workshop geared to: Early Years (K-2)

Room: 10-204

Intro to Environmental and Sustainability Education

Erin Sperling, OISE

This introductory workshop will address ways that teachers can integrate ESE across the curriculum. Hands-on activities and a selection of resources will be shared, with theoretical examination and an applied focus. There will be time to explore understandings of "environment" and some of the policy recommendations from the Ministry of Education and Eco-schools.

Workshop geared to: All levels

Room: 11-200

Environmental and Sustainability Education (ESE) across subjects: Making it Happen

Jane Forbes, OISE

Need some engaging, relevant and inclusive ideas for incorporating ESE in your future program? What strategies best contribute to students becoming engaged and active citizens working toward sustainability? We'll connect sustainability issues within and across subjects and we'll look at how best to link student learning to their daily lives and communities. Come explore some sustainability themes through relevant, hands-on activities. Bring a laptop or other device to view resources and to access your curriculum documents during the workshop.

Workshop geared to: Junior, Intermediate & Senior

Room: 4-418

Games for Change: Using Games with Senior Grades to advance Curriculum Objectives

Chris Lowry, Evergreen

In this workshop Chris Lowry will present the early development of DeepCity 2030, a multiplayer online game to engage youth and young adults in an exploration of the future of cities. A brief demo video will be presented and explained. Variables of gameplay mechanics and design in relation to pedagogical agendas will be discussed. For the interactive part of the

workshop, participants are encouraged to bring laptops and to share any games that they consider to be effective vehicles of experiential learning, such as games that are currently used in schools or popular games that effectively convey behavioral lessons about cooperation, or content in fields such as history or science. We will discuss and critique 'games for change' from the player/student's perspective.

Workshop geared to: Senior grades

Room: 4-420

Ecological Literacy Through Outdoor Learning

Pam Miller, TDSB Eco-Schools

In introducing primary children to the world of nature, the best place to start is in their most immediate and familiar environments. This workshop will focus on laying a foundation for ecological literacy through interactive activities in the schoolyard. Activities will address outdoor learning skills, working with environmental issues with younger students, and facilitating inquiry. Be prepared to go outside for part of the session.

Workshop geared to: Primary, Junior, Intermediate

Room: OISE Library

Impact of Poverty on Learning

Xuan-Yen Cao and Kanaka Kulendran, The Stop Community Food Centre

The Stop Community Food Centre runs a variety of sustainable food systems education programs teaching children and youth from local schools where their food comes from and with hands on cooking and growing activities matched to the Ontario school Curriculum. During this workshop you will participate in an activity that will help you deepen your understanding of poverty and how it impacts learning.

Workshop geared to: All grades

Room: 2-289

Ecojustice and Advocacy through Music, Movement, and Poetry

Matthew Tran-Adams, OISE

The arts can enliven environmental education through a variety of creative media and this has the potential to invigorate a larger audience. Join us in a holistic experience, experimenting with sound and movement, using accessible technology responding to environmental literature and our urban environment. We will build a multimedia art piece and discuss broader applications of how to apply this to a variety of classrooms and ecojustice/advocacy work.

Workshop geared to: Intermediate and Senior

Room: FE 139 (*note: this is located in the 371 Bloor St West building*)

Education Inspired by Nature

Annie Vandenberg & Lee Earl, Evergreen

What does the sky look like today? Do you hear any birds? What are they saying? What's beneath the log? Pick up some rocks – are they smooth? Rough? In this hands-on workshop we will imagine and design a wonderfully dynamic play-learning environment for students that engages the senses and responds to children's developmental needs – social, emotional,

physical and cognitive. Through an integrated curriculum approach and inquiry-based learning, we'll explore how to connect nature with the classroom. The real fun begins as participants play with a palette of natural materials that will stimulate student's explorations and deepen their understanding of how the world works. Time permitted, we'll spend a brief period outdoors exploring the natural space. Please dress prepared for the elements.

Workshop geared to: Early Years, Primary, Junior, & Intermediate

Room: 2-295

Imagining My Sustainable City: Appreciating Place and Envisioning Toronto's Future
Barbara Lilker & Elizabeth Lenell Davies, No. 9: Contemporary Art & the Environment

Imagining My Sustainable City uses architecture and urban planning as a vehicle to explore many aspects of the grade 7 curriculum with a focus on enhancing ecological literacy. No.9's Architectural Educators bring real-world experience to the classroom as they teach students across the city of Toronto to envision their neighbourhood as a culturally, economically and environmentally sustainable destination. This workshop will outline the goals, teaching methodologies and materials used by No.9's educators.

Workshop geared to: Intermediate grades

Room: 2-199

Afternoon Workshops/Leaders:

FoodShare's Recipe for Change

Brooke Ziebell & Carolynne Crawley, FoodShare FoodShare Toronto is a non-profit community organization whose vision is Good Healthy Food for All. Their award-winning Field to Table Schools program works to restore good food education in Toronto schools with hands-on activities, workshops and growing projects. Since 2006, over 15,000 children and youth and 1000 educators have learned about composting, innovative food gardens, nutrition, cooking, local and global food systems and more to build the foundations for future health and vitality. Come along to experience first-hand the ways in which this program is getting students of all ages excited about vegetables and fruits!

Workshop geared to: All Levels

Room: 2-295

Using Eco-art as Environmental Activism

Hilary Inwood, OISE

Art education is an engaging way to introduce children and youth to age-appropriate forms of environmental activism. This workshop introduces the work of environmental artists who create innovative solutions to environmental challenges and demonstrates how to connect their work across the curriculum. Then you'll make a clay artwork to contribute to an eco-art installation at OISE, helping to create a culture of sustainability in our institution. No previous skills in art-making necessary!

Workshop geared to: All Levels

Room: FE 134 (note: this is located in the 371 Bloor St West building)

Natural Curiosity: Environmental Inquiry in Junior Grades (3-6)

Andrea Cousineau, OISE

With the support of environmental giants David Suzuki and Edward Burtynsky, The Laboratory School at the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study (OISE, University of Toronto) launched a new teacher resource - Natural Curiosity in 2009. This "how-to" resource focuses on implementing a four branch framework approach to "Environmental Inquiry" (Inquiry based learning; Experiential learning; Integrated learning; and Stewardship). Teacher candidates and graduate students will learn how to use their students' questions, ideas, and theories as drivers for learning, while connecting to the Ministry Curriculum in an integrated approach. We will plan on spending some time outside, so dress for the weather. Note: This session will have similar components to the ESE Speaker Series workshop held in October 2013

Workshop geared to: Junior Grades (3-6)

Room: 10-204

Eco-justice in Education

Erin Sperling, OISE

Why should we connect OISE's focus on social justice education to that of eco-justice education? What do race, class and economic status have to do with environmental learning? This session explores the rationale and approaches for eco-justice education as one way to infuse Environmental and Sustainability Education into classrooms and subject areas while supporting our dedication to social justice work. We will collaboratively build a working definition of eco-justice education, set it in context with social justice learning, and hear from a teacher doing innovative work in this area. This will lead to making our own subject-based connections to eco-justice education.

Workshop geared to: All levels

Room: 11-200

Composting in the Classroom

Elin Marley, School Garden Educator

This workshop will explore ways in which composting can be linked to the K-6 curriculum and will include examples of both indoor and outdoor school-based composting systems. We will take a hands-on look at a worm bin and discover how easily one can be set up in a classroom. Some sample hands-on compost education activities will also be shared, which you can take directly to your class.

Workshop geared to: K-6

Room: 2-199

The Jane Goodall Institute of Canada and Learning for a Sustainable Future:

Professional Learning Opportunities for Teachers Carissa MacLennan, Jane Goodall Institute

Using the example of Jane Goodall and her holistic approach to the conservation of chimpanzees and LSF's student action planning model; this workshop supports teacher candidates and practicing teachers in the development of skills in education for sustainable development and student-led action planning. *In this workshop, participants will:*

- Learn the steps to community-centred conservation, the approach used by JGI with local communities in Africa
- Apply the steps of community-centred conservation to examine an issue in one's own community through an activity which could be done with students of any grade
- Understand how meaningful student participation can be applied through LSF's twelve step action planning cycle

Workshop geared to: All Levels

Room: 2-198

Practical Approaches to Community Engagement

Natalie Amber, About Face Collective & PACT Grow-to-Learn

This workshop will cover step-by-step tips to help you create meaningful community engagement initiatives. From conceptualizing your initiative to finding funds to organizing groups/events, Natalie Amber will share tips and experiences from her own successful endeavours into community engagement that will give you the praxis based knowledge you need to thoughtfully and successfully create your own community engagement opportunities. Natalie Amber is a co-founder of the About Face Collective, and works for PACT Grow-to-Learn as a garden coordinator and community animator.

Workshop geared to: All levels

Room: 2-198

ANDOPOWATCHIKAN (seek your dreams): an exploration of traditional environmental teachings

Jim Adams, Red Bear

Having worked with children, youth and adults over the past few years, it has become apparent that there is a hunger for stories. Not just stories to entertain but stories to heal and to teach, not with didactic rhetoric but with open and honest dialogue. First Nations, Métis and Inuit stories are open ended. Elders often say not everything they share is of value to any of us at that time; we take what we need and leave the rest. This practice of connected selection speaks to the way in which Indigenous people lived their lives. There was an ever-present connection to all that was around them, seen and unseen. Taking what was needed and no more allowed for a continuation of all things and enabled past, present and future generations to be consciously connected. This workshop will include sensory based, interactive story telling activities.

Workshop geared to: All levels

Room: 4-418

Gearing up for a lifetime of Cycling

Kristin Schwartz & Zach Summerhayes, Bike to School Project

Cycling is affordable, healthy and convenient! At this session participants will become familiar with initiatives which enable students to discover the personal, social and ecological benefits of cycling for transportation. We'll be inspired by stories from other North American and European cities, curriculum aimed at elementary school students, and experiences of running bike shops and after-school clubs for higher grade levels. The workshop includes brainstorming on how to incorporate bikes into diverse subject areas, and opportunities to reflect on the barriers to cycling to school and how we might overcome them. Also, we'll get a chance to prepare and taste healthy smoothies made on the FoodShare bicycle-powered blender!

Workshop geared to: All levels

Room: 4-420