

Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Laboratory

School Connections

2023-2024 Year in Review

LEADERSHIP ROLES IN THE EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

- 2023-2024 – Tara Rousseau served on the Ontario Art Education Association's (OAEA's) Curriculum Committee, soliciting, reviewing and editing Visual Arts curriculum as part of OAEA's membership resources.
- 2023-2024 – Tara Rousseau revised the bylaws of the National Art Education Association (NAEA) LGBTQ+ Interest Group. Bylaws were submitted to NAEA summer 2024.
- June 2023-2024 - Chriss Bogert serves as the President-Elect of the International Association of Laboratory Schools.
- June 2024-2025 – Chriss Bogert serves as the President of the International Association of Laboratory Schools.

RESEARCH IN THE LAB SCHOOL FOR 2023-2024

The Lab School is committed to research that explores what is possible in education and how children learn best. The Lab School fosters a strong community of researchers and teachers working collaboratively, with the aim to strengthen understanding of best developmentally appropriate practices in the education of children (ages 3-12). The Lab School research program often includes projects with our teachers as collaborators, co-designers, or primary investigators. We receive many applications for research each year from within the University of Toronto, and from researchers and institutions across the globe. [Information about applying to do research in the Lab School can be found on our website.](#) Research projects must first pass through an [ethical review process from the University of Toronto](#) or their own institution, and then are vetted and approved by the JICS Lab School Child Research Committee. The unique nature and reputation of the Lab School is a significant draw for researchers when applying to the Lab School as a potential setting for their research. Priority is given to proposals consistent with and supportive of the goals of the Lab School: exemplary education for elementary school children, teacher education, and educational research. The Lab School also looks for research that builds upon our three philosophical tenets of security, child development, and inquiry. The JICS Lab School makes

a significant contribution to the education, human development, and applied psychology work within our university, in the wider educational community in Canada, and internationally.

The JICS Lab School has supported the following research studies this year:

- 2023 - In partnership with the Youth Association for Academics, Athletics, and Character Education (YAAACE), The Robertson Program for Inquiry-based Teaching in Math and Science, Dr. Zack Hawes, and Lab School Teachers Michael Martins (Phys Ed) and Walker Kitchens (Grade 2), continue their Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) funded work in designing lessons and evaluating an approach to mathematics teaching and learning built on children and youth's interest in basketball. YAAACE is a Black-led, non-profit community organization whose principal mission is to improve the lives of the children and youth living in Toronto's under-resourced communities. The central aim of the proposed partnership is to use basketball to improve the teaching and learning of probability.
- Spring & Winter 2024 - Walker Kitchens and Nadia Dharsee collaborate on a research project with U of T Researchers Paul Dietz and Sarah Kushner, studying how animatronics could be used in the classroom. In the winter term, Walker and Nadia collaborated on lesson design with the U of T team that would teach students how to use animatronics materials and then integrate these materials into literacy lessons. These lessons were then implemented by Walker and Nadia in the spring term.
- Dr. Jennifer Wemigwans, Assistant Professor in the Adult Education and Community Development program at OISE, University of Toronto, collaborates with JICS teachers to co-author a recently published journal article: "The Haudenosaunee Ohén:ton Karihwatéhkwén Thanksgiving Address: Moving Beyond the Havoc of Land Acknowledgements." This article seeks to challenge the prevalent practice of opening gatherings with a Land Acknowledgement, which can sometimes come across as mere "empty gestures of performative allyship" (Blair, K. 2021). The piece advocates for a critical re-evaluation of this practice, arguing that engaging with the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address and the act of giving thanks provides a more meaningful foundation for Indigenous Knowledge education in elementary school-aged children. A limited number of copies of this article are available in our school office.

The Lab School is very grateful for the valuable contributions of all members of the JICS Lab School Child Research Committee. A special thank you to Elaine Lam (parent of children in Grade

3 and Grade 5) for her continuing role as the parent representative on this committee since 2018.

For more information about Research in the Lab School:

<https://www.oise.utoronto.ca/jics/research-at-the-lab-school/>

Contact Chriss Bogert, Vice Principal and Chair of Child Research Committee

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SUMMER 2023

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- August 16 – Krista Spence attends *Deep Diversity Audit* webinar presented by Anima Leadership.
- August 23 – Krista Spence attends Canadian Geographic Education Summer Conference 2023 online, titled *Why Geography Matters: Lessons from our Changing Planet*.
- August 24 – Krista Spence attends Natural Curiosity Webinar, titled *Sending Out Roots: Connecting Indigenous Stories of Place to Curriculum* presented by Caleb Wesley.

SEPTEMBER 2023

DISSEMINATION:

- Fall 2023 – *Play Outdoors Magazine* publishes articles titled *It's All About Relationships: Learning from Indigenous Perspectives on Land-Based Learning* and *The Power of Gratitude: Indigenous Perspectives on Land-Based Learning* in its Fall 2023 issue (volume 4, issue 3). JICS nursery students were participants in this research for 3 years, conducted by Dr. Monica McGlynn Stewart et al.
- September 28 – Jessica Haber and Marcia Bumbury present in the MA-CSE program (OISE:UT) about the advantages of long-term planning.
- September 2023- January 2024 – Natural Curiosity develops and runs the NC National E-course for 75 preservice and early career educators across Canada.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- September 20 – Doug Anderson lights fire and feasts the bundle in JICS courtyard. Chriss Bogert, Richard Messina, Krista Spence, and other teachers in attendance. Doug is an alumni parent, co-author of *Natural Curiosity 2nd Edition*, and a wonderful Indigenous scholar and educator who has been teaching the JICS students in the outdoors.
- September 21 – Tara Rousseau, Nick Song, and Nadia Dharsee attend *Artful Design + AI* keynote performance by [Prof. Ge Wang](#) from Stanford University, at UTS. This unique learning opportunity explored the fascinating STEAM intersection of music, coding, art, science, design + making, and artificial intelligence.

PARENT EDUCATION:

- September 11 – Parent Education Committee meeting over Zoom.

VISITORS:

- September 8 – 15 undergraduate students, 2 instructors, and 1 from Baika Women's University in Osaka, Japan visit JICS.
- September 21 – Aki Sakuma from Keio University (Tokyo, Japan) and Mariko Yang-Yoshihara from Stanford University visit JICS.

OTHER:

- Fall 2023 – Sarah Luongo, seconded JICS teacher from 2015-2018 and Associate Teacher for the MA-CSE program (OISE:UT), wins a 2023 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence.

OCTOBER 2023

DISSEMINATION:

- Fall 2023 - Over six weeks, Michael Martins (Phys Ed Teacher) collaborated with Dr. J Garrett-Walker to enrich the APD2200 Child Study course of the MA CSE Program. Their collaboration delved into programming and planning for Health and Physical Education curriculum, engaging 60 first-year teacher-candidates. The candidates explored physical literacy, movement concepts, fitness components, and strategies to foster a safe, inclusive learning environment in Physical Education. The culmination of this effort was the creation of two 'Fitness Festivals,' where teacher-candidates presented their designed activities to Grade 1 and Grade 6 classes at JICS.
- October 13 - Tara Rousseau and Zoe Donohue present on classroom management/fostering classroom community in the MA-CSE (OISE:UT) program.

- October 14th – Natural Curiosity develops and leads *Cultivating Curiosity Through Connection: Nurturing Inquiry and Land-Based Learning for Early Childhood Educators*, an outdoor learning day focussed on Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion-focussed for 150 ECEs with Five Counties Children's Centre and the City of Peterborough, connecting NC's framework to *How Does Learning Happen*.
- October 20 – Nadia Dharsee and Norah L'Esperance give a presentation in the MA-CSE program (OISE:UT) titled *The Learning Environment*. Nadia offered insights from her journey, contrasting classroom setups in the Public School system with her approaches at JICS, covering topics like furniture placement, alternative seating, wall usage, and fostering a sense of belonging for all students.
- October 21 – Natural Curiosity hosts *Aki Kinomaagewinan: Engaging Educators and Youth in Indigenous Land-Based Learning Through Natural Curiosity*, a retreat centred on Indigenous approaches to plant medicines and gardening in partnership with ENAGB Indigenous Youth Agency at the Humber Teaching Lodge featuring Joseph Pitawanakwat, Dr. Rebecca Beaulne-Stuebing and Dr. Debby Danard.
- October 26 – Krista Spence is featured in Parent Education Lunch & Learn session about *Perspective-Taking and Empathy*, introducing a variety of books and resources ranging from board books through picture books to novels, graphic novels, and non-fiction resources for parents and their children.
- October 2023-February 2024 – Natural Curiosity launches a 6-part hybrid learning series for 50 educators in CIS Ontario schools.
- October 2023-ongoing – Natural Curiosity co-develops and co-leads an online series, *Season 2: Learning from the Land* with Outdoor Learning Store for 1,000 participants.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- October 5 – Richard Messina and Chriss Bogert visit Toronto French School and Crescent School.
- October 18 – Krista Spence attends *Experiences in Community-Based Indigenous Education* webinar featuring Shady Hafez, presented by Yellowhead School, at the Toronto Metropolitan University. This Fireside chat explored issues associated with the exclusivity of western knowledge institutions and the successes and challenges of bringing higher learning directly to Indigenous students within their home communities.
- October 19 – Krista Spence attends *The Wisdom of Grandmothers in Children's Literature and Beyond* webinar hosted by Dr. Angela Nardozi, featuring Indigenous Cree author, Dr. Brenda Wastasecoot, and Italian-Canadian author, Gianna Patriarca. Presented by Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Brock University, Indigenous-Italian-Canadian Connections Project, University of Toronto.

- October 19-20 - Christel Durand and Tania Debbs participate in the Annual AIM Institute held in Kelowna, BC. The primary objective of this year's institute was to foster personal connections and reconnections among educators, providing a platform for sharing best practices with like-minded teachers who harbor a fervor for languages and pioneering teaching methodologies.
- October 19-20 – Tania Debbs attends a workshop about outdoor learning: *L'éducation en plein air: Apprendre et enseigner dehors en tous lieux et en toutes saisons*, by Jean-Philippe Ayotte-Beaudet, professor in the Department of Preschool and Elementary Education in the faculty of Education at the Université de Sherbrooke and holder of the Research Chair on Outdoor Education.
- October 20 – Krista Spence attends all-day Natural Curiosity Fall Retreat in partnership with ENAGB, titled *Aki Kinomaagewinan: Engaging Educators and youth in Indigenous Land-Based Learning Through Natural Curiosity*, featuring Dr. Deb, Joe Pitawanakwat (Indigenous Plant Medicine Educator, Creator's Garden), and Rebecca Beaulne-Stuebing (Metis Assistant Professor at York University). The retreat took place at Awnjiktigaan (Eglinton Flats), a historically and culturally significant stretch of land along the Gabekanaang-ziibi (Humber River).
- October 24 – Richard Messina, Chriss Bogert, Jenny Jenkins, and Christel Durand attend Psychology Foundation's *Breakfast of Champions* at Carlu.
- October 26 – Jessica Haber participates in an education session hosted by the Red Urban Nation Artists Collective and the City of Toronto at the Bickford Park Murals.
- October 28 – Krista Spence attends the TDSB EcoSchools & OISE *Environmental and Sustainability Education Conference*, focusing on *Accelerating Climate Change Education*. Sessions included an address from Elder Dr. Duke Redbird and discussions on *Well-being and Climate Change* and *Engaging Students in Climate Change Education*.

PARENT EDUCATION:

- October 10 - Grade 5 & 6 Parent Education evening: Preparing for the Transition to Grade 7.
- October 12 - Parents of BIPOC children meeting over Zoom.
- October 23 - "All Parents" meeting over Zoom.
- October 26 – Lunch & Learn with Ellie over Zoom, titled *Empathy & Perspective Taking*. This talk provided information about the connected social emotional skills of empathy and perspective taking, and how parents can understand and support this with their children.

VISITORS

- October 17 - Visitors from Atelia Kids School: Alison Randall (Pedagogista Educational Leader), Jenna Niven (Director), Richa Sharma (Assistant Director), and Joan Bowman (Atelierista).
- October 25 – Laura Cavanagh from Seneca College visits JICS.
- October 26 – Visitors from the Linden School: Molly Tucci (Music Teacher), Nasrin Matini (Interim Principal), and Jean Geary (Director of Admissions).

NOVEMBER 2023

DISSEMINATION:

- November 2 – Walker Kitchens and Raadiyah Nazeem presents to the MA-CSE Program (OISE:UT), sharing reflections, recommendations, and strategies for early career teachers
- November 16-19 – Krista Spence presents a poster presentation *Grounding Indigenous Learning in the Library and on the Land through Relationship and Reciprocity* at the National Council of Teachers of English *Conexiones 2023* Annual Convention, Columbus, OH.
- November 16-19 – Krista Spence and Norah L'Esperance give a presentation titled *Drawing on Indigenous Knowledge to Teach Students About Climate Change* in the session *Connection English Language Arts and Climate Crisis* at the National Council of Teachers of English *Conexiones 2023* Annual Convention, Columbus, OH.
- November 26 – Krista Spence and Raadiyah Nazeem publish the article [Receiving the Frances Lincoln Children's Librarian Prize at the American Library Association 2023 Conference: Perspectives](#) co-written with Alia Jones (University of Wisconsin-Madison) in the Canadian School Libraries Journal, Fall 2023 Issue.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- November 1 – Jessica Haber attends a session by the FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS & INUIT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO on *Pedagogical Considerations and Resources for Teaching Treaties in the Classroom*.
- November 7 – Tania Debbs attends an online workshop about outdoor learning, titled *L'éducation en plein air: Apprendre et enseigner dehors en tous lieux et en toutes saisons*, by Jean-Philippe Ayotte-Beaudet (professor in the Department of Preschool and Elementary Education in the faculty of Education at the Université de Sherbrooke and holder of the Research Chair on Outdoor Education).

- November 9 – JICS Faculty engages in a talk on Resilience by Dr. Diana Brecher, Scholar-in-Residence for Positive Psychology at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU).
- November 10 – JICS Faculty tours the ROM exhibition *Being and Belonging: Contemporary Women Artists from the Islamic World and Beyond*. Facilitated by Nadia Dharsee, the tour was guided by Dr. Fahmida Suleman, the exhibition's curator, and Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto. Dr. Suleman shared her profound knowledge and passion for the collection, reflecting defining issues of our time from the perspectives of 25 women artists connected to the broader Islamic world.
- November 16-19 – Norah L'Esperance and Krista Spence represented JICS at the National Council of Teachers of English Conference (NCTE) in Columbus, Ohio, a conference dedicated to literacy educators.
- November 20 – Grade 6 teacher Nadia Dharsee visits Greenwood College School.
- November 21 – Grade 6 teacher Nadia Dharsee visits Royal St. George's College.
- November 23 – Grade 6 teacher Nadia Dharsee visits Upper Canada College and St. Michael's College School.
- November 29 – JICS Faculty attends a workshop by Dr. Laurie Faith, Assistant Professor MA CSE OISE, discussing the Activated Learning (AL) approach, aimed at enhancing self-regulated learning and motivational mechanisms for classroom teachers. This session provided valuable insights into addressing learning and behavioral challenges among students with weak Executive Functions (EFs) (November). EFs are the higher order cognitive processes that support human learning and performance. Her book, *Executive Function Skills in the Classroom: Overcoming Barriers, Building Strategies* is a must-read and the JICS faculty look forward to continuing our learning with Dr. Faith.

VISITORS:

- November 8 - Donna Indrakumaran (Experiential Learning Coordinator - DPCDSB) visits JICS.

DECEMBER 2023

DISSEMINATION:

- December – Elizabeth Morley (Principal Emerita) represents JICS and IALS in Thailand to tour 4 laboratory schools. The host of the event was most remarkable for its progressive approaches. Thamassat Laboratory School is only eight years old and are now beginning to be involved with IALS in several ways.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- December 4-8 - Carol Stephenson and Richard Messina represent Canada at the prestigious 5th Global Forum on the Future of Education and Skills 2030 (E2030) in Bucharest, Romania (December). This distinguished event, hosted by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), delved into the theme of "Towards the OECD Teaching Compass in a VUCA world: Navigating through uncertainty and complexity with generative AI, post-Covid recovery & natural or human-made disasters." The OECD, renowned for its Programme for International Student Assessment (the PISA Test), focusses on enhancing nations' educational landscapes by identifying and fostering the knowledge and skills pivotal for better jobs, lives, prosperity, and social inclusion. At the core of this educational transformation lies the OECD Teaching Compass, set to steer the evolution of international education. Carol and Richard's role at the forum revolved around contributing to the design of this compass to navigate the integration of generative AI into educational policies.
- December 13 – JICS staff attend Laidlaw Research Centre AI in Education Workshop with Dr. Jenny Jenkins.
- September 23 – Feasting of the Bundle in the lodge on New College Campus with JICS staff and Indigenous educator Doug Anderson.

PARENT EDUCATION:

- December 14 – Lunch & Learn with Ellie over Zoom, titled *Supporting Your Relationship with Your Child and Their Tech*.

JANUARY 2024

DISSEMINATION:

- January 11 – Natural Curiosity co-hosts a webinar with Robin Wall Kimmerer [Season 2: Learning from the Land](#) with Outdoor Learning Store for 1,000 participants.
- January 25 – Walker Kitchens and Raadiyah Nazeem present to the MA-CSE Program (OISE:UT), sharing reflections, recommendations, and strategies for early career teachers.

- January-February – Natural Curiosity develops and receives approval to offer a special topics elective course this summer for MA-CSE students called *Cultivating Natural Curiosity in Environmental Education with Elementary Students*.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- January-March – Krista Spence audits OISE UT Winter 2024 course LHA1184H S LEC0101: Indigenous Knowledge Implications for Education, with Dr. Jennifer Wemigwans.
- January 8 – JICS at the Movies fundraiser for tuition support fund screens *Four Daughters* followed by question and answer session with Oscar-nominated director Kaouthar Ben Hania.
- January-March – Jessica Haber takes an 8-week course titled “Accelerating Climate Change Education (CCE)”, led by Maria Valsamis from OISE and Kahsenniyohstha Lauren Williams. The course aims to grow teachers’ knowledge and practice of CCE by learning collaboratively with other educators on topics such as socio-emotional learning, Indigenous ways of knowing, climate justice, hope and age-appropriate climate action, through live sessions and readings in between.

PARENT EDUCATION:

- January 15 – Parents Association executive meeting.
- January 30 – Parents of BIPOC children meeting at JICS.

FEBRUARY 2024

DISSEMINATION:

- February 9 – Chriss Bogert and Richard Messina present in MA-CSE (OISE:UT) program about inquiry.
- February 22-23 – Krista Spence and Norah L’Esperance present at *Reading for the Love of It* conference on *An Introduction to Natural Curiosity: The Importance of Indigenous Perspectives in Children’s Environmental Inquiry*.
- February 29 – Marcia Bumbury presents at *Toronto Educator Association for Mathematics* conference on *Equity in Early Years Math*.
- February 29 – Marcia Bumbury facilitates a discussion in the MA-CSE (OISE:UT) program on *The Debate Between Public vs. Private Education*.

- Natural Curiosity develops and accepts registrants for a first-of-its-kind Nêhiyawéwin (Cree) Online [Language Course](#) in partnership with the Outdoor Learning School and Store (ongoing).

VISITORS:

- February 13 – Michal Perlman, Richard Messina, and Chriss Bogert host associates from the Saudi Arabia Ministry of Education at JICS: Dr. Hassan Khormi, Deputy Minister for Public Education; Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Amri, Deputy Minister of International Cooperation; Dr. Naelah Al-Muqwishi, General Director of Policies and Development of Scholarships; and Mr. Hassan Al-Mohammad, Senior Academic Relations Office.
- February 15 - Staff from Trent University visit JICS: Dr Cathy Bruce (Vice President of Research & Innovation), Sarah Twomey (Dean of Education), and Rita Russo (Director of KPRDSB).
- February 26-29 – Kobe Shinwa psychology students visit JICS.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- February 21 – Lesson Study: All JICS staff meet for presentations on *Courtyard Connections: Ways of Seeing and Partnering with the Space* (Jessica Haber, Norah L'Esperance, Judith Kimmel, Tara Rousseau, and Krista Spence), *Animatronics & STEM in Kindergarten: Mini Machines – Making Things Work in SK!* (Walker Kitchens, Carol Stephens, Nadia Dharsee, Nick Song, & Raadiyah Nazeem), *Fractions in Grade 3: Starting Points* (Zoe Donahue, Marcia Bumbury, Michael Martines, and Robin Shaw), and *Reflecting on Professional Development: AIM Fall Institute in Kelowna* (Christel Durand).
- February 29-March 1 – Richard Messina attends NAIS Conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

PARENT EDUCATION:

- February 8 – Lunch & Learn with Ellie, titled *The Social Lives of Children: How to Support Your Child Through the Ups and Downs of Friendships*. This talk focussed on children's friendships and typical struggles that occur with their friends and classmates, as well as what is helpful as a parent when you hear about being excluded or other behaviour.

MARCH 2024

DISSEMINATION:

- March 4 – Norah L’Esperance tours MA-CSE (OISE:UT) students through the courtyard.
- March 5 – Krista Spence tours MA-CSE (OISE:UT) students through the courtyard.
- Natural Curiosity co-develops *Take Me Outside’s Outdoor Learning Certification Program*.
- Natural Curiosity adapts Project Learning Tree’s U.S.-based guide *Trees & Me: Activities for Exploring Nature with Young Children* for a Canadian audience with local Indigenous perspectives (available here: [Trees & Me: Activities for Exploring Nature with Young Children](#)).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- March 6 – JICS staff attend Laidlaw Research Centre Faculty Research Workshop Presentation with Kang Lee, titled *A Conversation About Racial Bias Reduction: What Works and What Doesn’t*.
- March 13-20 – Christel Durand attends *OUTSIDE of the Box Learning Lab* in Brazilito, Costa Rica, to learn about strategies for multilingual learners.

PARENT EDUCATION:

- March 7- Parent Education event: A gathering for members of the parent community to discuss their experiences of social, cultural and class diversity and to learn more about the experiences of others so that we can generate a collective vision for the future, facilitated by renowned facilitator and author Kai Cheng Thom.
- March 26 - Parents of BIPOC Children meeting at JICS.

APRIL 2024

DISSEMINATION:

- April 4-6 – Tara Rousseau presents and attends the National Art Education Association’s National Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Tara facilitated the LGBTQ+ Interest Group membership meeting, business meeting, and 2SLGBTQIA+ affinity space, while also presenting *Painting Rainbows: The Importance of Gender and Sexuality Alliances in Elementary Art Studios*.
- April 19-20 – Tara Rousseau presents at and sits on conference organizing team for the Ontario Art Education Association’s annual conference. Tara presented *Painting Rainbows: The Importance of Gender and Sexuality Alliances in Elementary Art Studios*.
- April 24-26 – Chriss Bogert, Tara Rousseau, Zoe Donahue, and Krista Spence present at International Association of Laboratory Schools annual conference in Muncie, Indiana. Chriss Bogert, Zoe Donahue, and Krista Spence present *Seeing the Lab School Through Children’s Eyes – Reflections and Perceptions about the Jackman Institute of Child Study*.

Lab School; Krista Spence presents *Working with Indigenous Partners and Incorporating Indigenous Knowledge Into a Lab School Program*; Tara Rousseau and Chriss Bogert present *Painting Rainbows: The Importance of Gender and Sexuality Alliances in Elementary Art Studios*; and Chriss Bogert presents *The Laboratory School as a Research Collaboratory*.

- April - Tara Rousseau transitions from Co-President to Past Co-President of the National Art Education Association (NAEA) LGBTQ+ Interest Group. Tara will hold the Past Co-President position until 2026.
- April - Tara Rousseau transitions from executive Member-at-Large and is elected as Co-Chair of the Ontario Art Education Association (OAEA), a 2-year term ending in 2026.

VISITORS:

- April 2 – Staff from OISE:UT Continuing and Professional Learning Department visit JICS: Elisabeth Rees-Johnstone, Michael Cassidy, Trish Mazzotta Shaheen, Joe Romano, and Brian Kalakula.
- April 4 – Staff from Burriss Lab School, Indiana visit JICS: Stefanie Onieal (Assistant Principal), and Amy Miller (Science Teacher/Outdoor Learning Coordinator).
- April 18 – Associates from Halton District School Board (Tom Thomson, Andrea Day, Karen Hibbins, Nadine Spearin, Roberta Guest) and Beaufort Delta Divisional Education Council (Cole Feidler, Erica Thompson, Steve Dagar, Richard McKinnon) visit JICS.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- April-August – Jessica Haber enrolls in virtual course *Take Me Outside – Outdoor Learning Certificate Program*.
- April 15-19 – Richard Messina represents JICS and IALS in International Connections Committee, Japan.
- April 29 – JICS staff attend Laidlaw Research Centre Research Presentation, titled *What does a Good Teacher Sound Like? Using Machine Learning and Voice to Predict Teacher Effectiveness* presented by Dr. William Arbour, University of Montreal in collaboration with Dr. Philip Oreopoulos and Dr. Marlène Koffi, University of Toronto.

PARENT EDUCATION:

- April 5 – Presentation by Dr. Elin Kelsey, a distinguished professor at the University of Victoria School of Environmental Studies and renowned author, titled *Why evidence-based hope matters: Supporting children's wellbeing and resilience in the face of the*

climate crisis. Dr. Kelsey spoke to parents and educators about nurturing children's wellbeing and resilience in response to the climate crisis.

- April 11 - Lunch & Learn with Ellie, titled *Supporting Your Child's Relationship with Food*, which featured registered dietician Jessica Zupan. This presentation focussed on building positive relationships with food and overcoming common feeding difficulties.

OTHER

- April 2 – Paige Lancaster is chosen by the OISE/UT Staff Excellence Awards Selection Committee to receive the *Cultivating Community Award*.

MAY 2024

DISSEMINATION:

- May– Tara Rousseau completes work on a position statement for the National Art Education Association (NAEA) and submitted to NAEA's position statement working group. Title: *Allyship Regarding 2SLGBTQIA+ Students and Educators*.

VISITORS:

- May 6 – Staff from Montcrest School visit JICS to tour the playground.
- May 7 – Hirokazu Yushikawa (Robbie Case Lecturer & Kaja Jasinska, developmental cognitive scientist, APHD, OISE) tours JICS.
- May 10 – JICS hosts Grandpals Day.
- May 13 – Chris Bingley, Assistant Headteacher of Churchill Fellowship/Thornleigh Salesian College, UK, visits JICS.
- May 14 – Visitors from As-Sadiq Islamic School: Beverly Pavan, Layal Shaito (Grade 1 teacher), Irum Shah (Grade 2 teacher), Fatema Rashid (Grade 5 teacher), Fatima Abbas (Grade 6 teacher), Mario Boccia (Principal), and Tina D'Arpino (Reading Intervention teacher).
- May 23 – Dr. Caatherine Hamm and PhD student Katheryn Coff visit JICS from the Faculty of Education at the University of Melbourne.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- May 7 – JICS staff attend Robbie Case Lecture with Hirokazu Yushikawa.
- May 9-11 – Nadia Dharsee attends 2024 Outdoor Learning Conference 2024 in Banff, Alberta. The theme of the conference was *Place and Pedagogy: Where Learning Happens* and focussed on *Indigenous Ways of Knowing, Health and Wellbeing, and Environmental and Climate Change Education*.

PARENT EDUCATION:

- May 28 – Parents of BIPOC Children meeting over Zoom.
- May 30 –31 – New nursery families visit JICS.

JUNE 2024

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- June 17 – Dr. Laurie Faith (OISE) presents to all staff about “Executive Functions in Thinking classrooms”.
- June 17 – JICS staff tour the Toronto Holocaust Museum.
- June 18 – Dr. Brent Davis (Math Minds) presents to all staff about math inquiry.
- June 19 – Feasting of the Bundle and presentation by Doug Anderson about Indigenous education to JICS staff.
- June 21 – John Mighton presents a JUMP MATH workshop for classroom and special education teachers.

VISITORS:

- June 3 – Early Childhood Educators from Hydro Bright Lights Childcare Centre visit JICS Nursery program.