

Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Laboratory School Connections

2020-2021 Year in Review

Multi-month/Ongoing Memberships and Commitments

- Beginning in April 2020 and reaching through to the spring of 2021 Richard Messina and Chriss Bogert take part in a series of “Collaborative Conversations” hosted by the International Association of Laboratory Schools in order to promote connections, the sharing of experiences, and an exchange of ideas in response to the challenges presented by Covid-19.
- Throughout the spring and summer Richard Messina attends weekly virtual meetings with over 100 heads of Canadian Independent Day Schools through the CAIS (Canadian Accredited Independent Schools) to share best practices, build knowledge about distance education, and best prepare for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Chriss Bogert continues to serve as a member of the board for the International Association of Laboratory Schools (IALS), and attends regular planning meetings regarding the Collaborative Conversations series and annual conference, as well as discussions regarding research collaborations, and monthly board meetings.
- Suzanne Schwenger continues her membership with the online Community of Practice for Music Teachers, coordinated through the Royal Conservatory of Music.
- Marcia Bumbury is a part of a Writing Team for the Ontario Association for Mathematics Education (OAME) tasked with writing a series of lessons using the new Ontario Math Curriculum Expectations.
- Marcia Bumbury is a Lead Instructor for ETFO AQ, overseeing a number of different courses including Kindergarten AQ during the Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer Sessions.
- Chriss Bogert, Richard Messina, and Carol Stephenson continue to serve as Advisors to the Robertson Program for Inquiry-Based Teaching in Mathematics and Science.
- Tara Rousseau is the continuing co-president of the NAEA (National Art Education Association) LGBTQ+ Interest Group.

Summer 2020

Dissemination:

- Rosa Na (Natural Curiosity) presents information about Natural Curiosity to Lakehead University AQ students.
- Richard Messina is quoted in Toronto Life Magazine in an article titled “Class Dismissed”. <https://torontolife.com/city/toronto-politics/the-tdsbs-rollout-of-online-learning-was-an-unmitigated-disaster/> appearing in the September 2020 issue of *Toronto Life* magazine.
 - “‘John Dewey is rolling in his grave,’ says Richard Messina. He is principal of the Lab School, a private school within the University of Toronto that serves as a laboratory for learning about child development. ‘In our survival mode, many teachers have needed to go backwards. Giving children the opportunity to make

discoveries for themselves is so different than just telling them what the right answer is,' says Messina. 'I totally understand that unions and teachers are concerned about teacher vulnerability online. But if you're not engaged in synchronous learning experiences, then you can only be transmitting.'"

- Carol Stephenson and Ben Peebles are interviewed, and Richard Messina is quoted in the book *Reopening Better Schools: Unexpected Ways COVID-19 Can Improve Education* by Dr. Aki Murata. Based on interview data with 50+ educators during the early part of COVID-19 pandemic-related remote teaching, the book examines the experiences of the educators: their challenges, struggles, and the solutions they came to during this unprecedented moment in education.
- Krista Spence and Doug Anderson are joined by TDSB educator Maria Vamvalis as they present: *A Covid-look at the Indigenous Lens on Natural Curiosity*, part two in a four-part webinar series from Natural Curiosity highlighting an Indigenous lens on the current crisis in education.

Professional Development:

- All lab school staff read *How to be an Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi. In August they meet to discuss their insights and expand their understandings of the text and its application.
- David Osorio takes Math part 2 AQ course

September 2020

Dissemination:

- Richard Messina is the closing plenary speaker at the Paratesol (Paraguayan Teachers of Other Languages) International Online Conference September 25 & 26, 2020 "Empowering Teachers to Empower Learners." He presents his talk, *The Uncovered Misconceptions of a Well-Intentioned Teacher: What I observed about children's learning and how it changed my practice* to an audience of 700 participants. Reflecting on his practice over his many years in education, Richard shares insights on his professional development as a teacher/researcher, revealing unexamined and often unconscious theories about teaching practices that prevent students from learning deeply. He provides examples of the discrepancy between commonly designed student activities (where students learn "about" the subject) and teaching for understanding (where students learn "to do" the subject).
- Norah L'Esperance presents at an online conference celebrating the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Rights of the Child in Chile, put on by Junta Nacional de Jardines Infantiles (JUNJI) the national organization of preschools in Chile. She presents: *Teaching Young Children at the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Laboratory School at the University of Toronto in Canada.*

Professional Development:

- David Osorio starts his EdD in Child Study and Education
- Raadiyah Nazeem starts her PhD in Developmental Psychology and Education
- Teachers are invited to attend research presentations by PhD students' Darshan Panesar (supervisor: Dr. Kang Lee) and Laurie Faith (supervisor: Dr. Rhonda Martinussen) as part of the Laidlaw Student Research Seminars presented in collaboration with the lab school.

Darshan Panesar presents: *Infrared Analyses of Sleep Activity: A Case Study*. Laurie Faith presents: *Planned Pedagogical Change: Predictors of High Implementation*.

Research:

- Norah L'Esperance & Krista Spence and the Nursery West students begin their participation in the research project *Designing and Implementing Environmental Inquiry Strategies in Early Years Programs* led by Monica McGlynn-Stewart, Ph.D., OCT, RECE, Professor, School of Early Childhood, George Brown College. The research program's overall objective is to provide enriching environmental inquiry opportunities for young children in urban, early years educational settings, with an aim to transform children's (and teachers') relationships with the outdoors and nature. Norah, Krista, and Haley Higdon from Natural Curiosity will also participate in regular research meetings and workshops with educators from across the 12 George Brown College Lab Schools.

Supporting Pre-service Teacher Training:

- Rosa Na (Natural Curiosity) presents information about Natural Curiosity to UofT OISE MA Students.

October 2020

Dissemination:

- ETFO's Professional Learning in the Early Years (PLEY) videos go live, featuring Marcia Bumbury's classroom tours and PLEY chats series (15 videos).
- Rosa Na presents a poster presentation about Natural Curiosity at the NAAEE Virtual Conference.
- Natural Curiosity launches its pilot online group coaching program, facilitated by Natural Curiosity coach, Maria Vamvalis, for 15 educators from diverse employers across Turtle Island, including: Durham District School Board, Rick Hansen Public School, LC4 Virtual School (TDSB), Bishop Lloyd Middle School, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, Rose Avenue Public School (TDSB), Robert H. Smith School (Winnipeg School Division), John Mahood Junior Public School (Waterloo Region District School Board), Peterborough GreenUP, and Livingstone Range School Division.

Parent Education:

- Ellie Lathrop presents: *Sleep: The Foundation for Family Wellbeing*.

Professional Development:

- David Osorio attends TDSB/OISE webinar *Activist Approaches to Educational Gardening with Hilary Inwood*.
- Oct. 28 Staff meeting: Isaac Murdoch, Indigenous Artist from Serpent River First Nation, leads staff in a virtual workshop.
- Danielle Marcoux-Hunter (Natural Curiosity) watches a recording of the TDSB Ecoschools/OISE webinar, *Eco-Racism in the Park: The Black Canadian Experience with Jacqueline Scott*.
- Rosa Na and Danielle Marcoux-Hunter (Natural Curiosity) attend the NAAEE Virtual Conference: *Inspire Change* from October 13-16, 2020.

November 2020

Dissemination:

- Haley Higdon (Natural Curiosity) facilitates a 2-hour virtual workshop for Educators from the Superior Greenstone District School Board.
- Carol Stephenson's "Build a Clock" lesson is featured by the Robertson Program's Monday Math Challenge series.

MA CSE:

- Yiola Cleovoulou uses one of Norah L'Esperance's past presentations *The Learning Environment* in her MA course.

Parent Education:

- Tickets to Psychology Foundation "Breakfast of Champions" are given to interested parents.
- JICS Parent Experts present *Parent Panel on COVID-19*. Expert parents will discuss their work responding to Covid-19, followed by a Q&A session. Parent panelists are:
 - Allison Chris: Associate Medical Officer at Toronto Public Health and Adjunct Professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health.
 - Shawna Irons: Family physician working in general practice, obstetrics, sexual health, addictions and COVID assessment centre.
 - Ian Randall: ICU physician in the Toronto Western Hospital Intensive Care Unit and a cardiac anesthesiologist with the University Health Network.
 - Lisa Strug: Senior Scientist at the Hospital for Sick Children, Associate Director of The Centre for Applied Genomics, Professor of Statistical Sciences and Computer Science and has a status appointment in the Division of Biostatistics at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health.
- Ellie Lathrop presents: *Siblings Strategies: Peaceful Ways to Handle Conflict*.

Professional Development:

- Staff are invited to attend UTFA lecture *The Stakes of 'Diversity' in Higher Education Today* by Professor Matthew Shenoda.
- Dr. Nicole Westburns speaks to staff to about their work understanding *How to be an Anti-racist* and educational equity.
- Staff walk to New College to see Askaakamigokwewigamig, new Mother Earth Learning Lodge, with Doug Anderson. They learn about what that space means, what significance it holds, and how it might be used by students.
- Chriss Bogert attends a webinar *Trauma-Informed Education* hosted by the Adoption Council of Ontario, November 2020.
 - Dr. Sian Phillips adjunct professor of psychology at Queen's university and co-author of *BELONGING: A Relationship Based Approach for Trauma Informed Education* presented on the Belong Program, which is a specialized classroom for students who have experienced trauma and attachment difficulties.
- Teachers are invited to attend a research presentation by PhD student Vaunam Venkadasalam (supervisor: Patricia Ganea) *Learning Physical Science Concepts: A Kindergarten Study* as part of the Laidlaw Student Research Seminars presented in collaboration with the lab school.

- Rosa Na and Danielle Marcoux-Hunter (Natural Curiosity) attend the TDSB Ecoschools/OISE webinar *Indigenous Land-Based Teaching & Learning with Mike Izzo*.
- Danielle Marcoux-Hunter (Natural Curiosity) attends the Humber College Indigenous Knowledges Gathering webinar, *The Dish With One Spoon* with Rick Hill.
- Danielle Marcoux-Hunter (Natural Curiosity) attends the Institute of Traditional Medicine webinar *Indigenous Herbal Medicine with Joe Pitawanakwat*.
- Rosa Na (Natural Curiosity) attends the OISE Lunch’N’Learn webinar, *Dish With One Spoon Wampum* with Rick Hill.
- Rosa Na (Natural Curiosity) attends the CCPA Manitoba webinar: *Indigenous Land Defenders* with Niigan Sinclair, Pam Palmater, and Winona Laduke.
- Haley Higdon (Natural Curiosity) enrolls in Elder Diane Longboat’s 7-week Indigenous Education virtual PD program.
- Krista Spence attends the Harold Innis Lecture *Truama and Healing in the Age of COVID with Jesse Wenthe (ft. Tanya Talaga)*.
- Krista Spence attends the *Dish with One Spoon*, hosted by the 2020 Indigenous Digital Delegation at MIT: Indigenous Knowledge Artificial Intelligence, and Digital Worlds.
- Krista Spence attends Jesse Wenthe’s: *A Story of Joy: Reducing the Harm so we can Heal* as part of the Vancouver Island University’s Indigenous Speaker Series.
- Krista Spence attends *Who Named That Bird? Decolonizing Birds with Joseph Pitawanakwat and Andres Jimenez Monge (TPL’s Environmentalist in Residence for 2020)*. An event hosted by the Toronto Public Library.

Supporting Pre-service Teacher Training:

- David Osorio is a guest speaker for Dr. Angela Nardozi’s first year MT Adapted Practicum. He presents: *Oral Storytelling Bridging Knowledge and Experience in Land-based Inquiry (Pre-Covid & Mid-Pandemic)*.
 - David presents four Sways to share his teaching experience and the evolution of his class’s land-based inquiry practice over the span of one calendar year. Explores Grade 2 inquiries into Trees as Natural Climate Solutions, Salmon Habitat Restoration, Virtual Knowledge Building for Land-Based Inquiry, and Fantastic Fungi.
- Marcia Bumbury presents to Leslie Stewart Roses’ *Play, Drama and the Arts* course at OISE Nov 10, 2020
 - Marcia presents: *Play is Learning, learning is play: Play based Learning in Kindergarten*
- Danielle Marcoux-Hunter (Natural Curiosity) presents information about the Natural Curiosity program to 35 Lakehead University students.
- Haley Higdon (Natural Curiosity) presents information about the Natural Curiosity program to University of Toronto OISE MT students at the MT Mini-Conference.

December 2020

Dissemination:

- Haley Higdon (Natural Curiosity) presents *Getting Outside with Natural Curiosity* at the Natural Curiosity and Take Me Outside webinar. The presentation explores how to get

students building reciprocal connections with the land through the Natural Curiosity framework and the importance of Indigenous perspectives.

- Carol Stephenson's *Make Your Own Board Game* video mini lesson for the Early Years is featured by The Robertson Program in their "12 Plays of the Holidays" series.

Professional Development:

- Danielle Marcoux-Hunter and Rosa Na (Natural Curiosity) attend a webinar on Indigenous land-based learning and traditional structures by Angela Mashford-Pringle (UofT).
- Krista Spence attends *Land as Teacher: Water Walk with Grandmother Vivian Recollet*.

Research:

- The research paper "Give Student Ideas a Larger Stage: Support Cross-Community Interaction for Knowledge Building" (Zhang, Yuan, & Bogouslavsky) is published in the *International Journal of Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning*. This article describes the findings of research conducted with Ben Peebles and Mike Martin's two grade 5/6 classes, exploring how the students used "super notes" to share their thinking across the classes, while conducting an inquiry into the human body.

January 2021

Dissemination:

- Doug Anderson and David Osorio present *Lighting the Fire: Enriching Environmental Learning Through Indigenous Perspectives During Covid-19* as part of Natural Curiosity's Embracing the Shift series.
 - David and Doug share about their yearlong collaboration of connecting students to local nature, through story, inquiry, and other heart-centred approaches to education that bridge Indigenous and Western ways of knowing.
- Haley Higdon (Natural Curiosity) facilitates a workshop for Educators for Yukon Education.
- Haley Higdon (Natural Curiosity) facilitates a 6-part Online Coaching program for 26 Educators from Durham District School Board (January - June 2021).

Parent Education:

- Ellie Lathrop presents: *Parenting in the Digital Age: Supporting your Relationship with your Child and their Tech*.
- Dr. Alexandra Makos presents: *Powering Down, A Digital Fog, or Igniting Curiosity? Ways to Support Children's Use of Technology*.

Professional Development:

- Teachers are invited to attend a research presentation by PhD student Melissa Kang entitled *Long-term effects of academic coping on math anxiety and engagement within an elementary laboratory school*. The data was collected in the JICS Lab School!
- Ben Peebles attends US National Science Foundation's Emerging Technologies webinar.
- Aamer Esmail from U of T's Anti-Racism & Cultural Diversity Office speaks with the staff about Anti-racist approaches in Education.

- Krista Spence begins the Indigenous Education Networks' Virtual Traditional Medicine Teachings Workshops. A four-part series, beginning in January going through to April.
- Krista Spence and Norah L'Esperance attend a Land-Based Learning Research Group Workshop with speaker Emma Greenfield as part of their participation in the research project *Designing and Implementing Environmental Inquiry Strategies in Early Years Programs* led by Monica McGlynn-Stewart, Ph.D., OCT, RECE, Professor, School of Early Childhood, George Brown College.
- Tara Rousseau attends *Intersecting Identities: Visualizing Student Voice in Art Education* (Robert Durocher from the Urban Indigenous Education Centre -TDSB).

February 2021

Dissemination:

- Natural Curiosity presents: *Stories from Yukon: A Whole School Approach to Natural Curiosity*.
- Ben Peebles is a panelist for the US National Science Foundation's *Research on Emerging Technologies for Teaching and Learning* webinar.
- Haley Higdon (Natural Curiosity) facilitates a 3-part workshop series for Educators from Peel District School Board (February - April 2021).

MA CSE:

- Chriss Bogert and Richard Messina give a workshop on the Lab School's inquiry approach to the MA CSE students.
- Haley Higdon and Rosa Na present for Yiola/Julia's OISE/MA Program 1st year students.

Parent Education:

- Haley Higdon presents: *Get Curious About Natural Curiosity*.
- Dr. Belinda Longe (TDSB, former JICS parent) presents: *Addressing Racism and Anti-Black Racism: Building Capacity and Understanding as a Parent*.
- The Mabin school kindly invites the JICS community to take part in an incredible opportunity to hear from three of the principal authors of the Sick Kids report on Covid-19.
 - Dr. Ronald Cohn, President and CEO, Dr. Jeremy Friedman, Paediatrician-in-Chief, and Dr. Michelle Science, Infectious Disease Consultant will each share their thoughts on COVID-19 and how to keep children safe during the second wave.

Professional Development:

- Norah L'Esperance finishes the fourth and final course in Stuart Shanker's Foundations program. This is a four-part course given online through The MEHRIT Centre Ltd.
- Teachers are invited to attend a research presentation by PhD student Brittany Burek entitled *And Then I Had a Popup Thought: The Process of Online Research and Comprehension for Postsecondary Students with Learning and Attention Disorders* presented as part of the Laidlaw Research Seminars in collaboration with the lab school.

- Teachers are invited to attend a Webinar presented by The Robertson Program entitled *Traditional Indigenous Mathematics in the Ontario Classroom with Brian Bellefeuille*.
- Tara Rousseau attends *Improving Pedagogical Practice in Art Classes Working with Students with Exceptionalities* (Dr. Christina Yarmol -TDSB).
- Tara Rousseau *Drawing Across the Color Line with Kids* an online workshop offered by Embracerace.org

March 2021

Dissemination

- Marcia Bumbury attends ETFO's *Presenter's Palette Part 2* Workshop event (March 9 & March 10).
- Norah L'Esperance & Krista Spence present a Natural Curiosity Webinar: *Embracing the Shift: Sharing our Pandemic Stories of Connecting to Land and Children's Natural Curiosity*.
 - Krista and Norah share their environmental inquiry practice with a focus on the importance of Indigenous perspectives in the early years. What does grounding early learning in the land look like in an urban setting, amid COVID-19? Learn about the discoveries that they have made with their students in the outdoor courtyard, where the children are spending more time than ever before.
- Tara Rousseau makes two presentations at NAEA (National Art Education Association) Conference.
 - *NAE(g)A(y): LGBTQ+ Educators Speak Out* and a pecha kucha style seminar. Tara presented with colleague Jess Graff, with whom she has been co-president of the LGBTQ+ Interest Group within the larger organization for the past two years.
- Chriss Bogert and Ben Peebles are panelists on the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children (CCRC)'s webinar: *Non-Discrimination and the Education System*.
- Haley Higdon (Natural Curiosity) facilitates a 4-part workshop series Educators from across Turtle Island (March - June 2021).
- Haley Higdon (Natural Curiosity) facilitates a second 4-part workshop series for Educators from across Turtle Island (March - June 2021).
- Haley Higdon (Natural Curiosity) facilitates a workshop for new teachers at the TDSB.
- Rosa Na and Danielle Marcoux-Hunter (Natural Curiosity) facilitate a workshop for Educators from Aspen View School (Alberta).
- Rosa Na and Danielle Marcoux-Hunter (Natural Curiosity) facilitate a workshop for Educators for SaskOutdoors.
- Rosa Na and Danielle Marcoux-Hunter (Natural Curiosity) facilitate a workshop for 10 educators through OSEE (Ontario Society for Environmental Education) Interactive Live.
- Chriss Bogert is a panelist on the information webinar for *Children Write: Child Rights Competition*. This event is designed to encourage young people to submit creative pieces of writing that envision, reflect, and discuss ways of taking action against racism.

Parent Education:

- Ellie Lathrop presents: *Mindful Parenting, Cultivating compassion and awareness*.

- Jael Richardson, author and artistic director of the FOLD literary festival, Books columnist on CBC Radio's *q*, and outspoken advocate on issues of diversity present: *The Gutter Child* a Q&A moderated by Harper Collins Editor and JICS Parent, Jennifer Lambert.

Professional Development:

- Victoria McCracken takes a 10-week online certificate course in Digital Marketing through Brainstation Toronto.
- Teachers are invited to attend a webinar hosted by The Robertson Program entitled: *Learning from Land: A webinar connecting Indigenous land-based experiences to curriculum with Marlo Beaucage and Nancy O'Donnell.*
- Teachers are invited to attend a research presentation by PhD students Samantha Burns and Sumayya Saleem (supervised by Dr. Michal Perlman) entitled: *The Mental Health Effects of COVID-19 on Low-income Mothers and Children* hosted by the Laidlaw Research Seminars in collaboration with the lab school.
- Krista Spence attends the Robertson Program's Indigenous Ways of Knowing Math and Science – part 2 *Ondaadan Gikino'amaadiwin Aki – Learning from Land with Marlo Beaucage and Nancy O'Donnell* hosted by Dr. Jean-Paul Restoule (University of Victoria) and Dr. Angela Nardozi (Listen and Learn).
- Tara Rousseau attends *Black Lives Matter at School Week Early Childhood Symposium: Disrupting Anti-Black Racism in Early Childhood Education – Center, Abolish, Liberate.*
- Tara Rousseau attends *Integrating FNMI Understandings and Practices in Visual Arts* facilitated by Kristy Howie (TDSB)

Research:

- OISE Professor Eunice Jang and her team of researchers begin the final segment of their research project “Blended Assessment of Literacy and Numeracy in Computerized Environments (BALANCE)” by working with lab school students and teachers from grades 3-6. This is a federally funded study exploring how intentionally co-designed technology-enhanced assessments support teaching and learning in classrooms, and help students in Grades 3-6 improve their reading, writing, and learning skills.

Supporting Pre-Service Teacher Training:

- Brenda Simon (Natural Curiosity) facilitates a Play workshop for 42 students in the OISE/MA Program.

April 2021

Awards:

- Krista Spence, Teacher Librarian for all students Nursery to Grade 6, Technology Integrator, and this year Nursery Teacher, receives an EECOM Award of Excellence in recognition for her many contributions to the school as an exemplary environmental educator. Krista is a leader in the school modelling a commitment to ethically incorporating Indigenous knowledge, culture, stories, and perspectives into her teaching in partnership and consultation with Indigenous elders and partners. She is also an environmentalist and a gardener, and is integrally involved in the restoration and tending of land around the school. Krista believes in demonstrating her goal of connecting to the

land and building relationship with the natural world in both her work as an educator and in everyday actions. Krista inspires the entire school community to think and feel more deeply about their own relationships to Mother Earth and all her inhabitants.

Dissemination:

- Doug Anderson, Chriss Bogert, Haley Higdon, Norah L'Esperance, Rosa Na, Raadiyah Nazeem, David Osorio, and Krista Spence present *Lighting the Fire: A Laboratory School's Journey Towards Nurturing Reciprocal Relationships with the Natural World* at EECOM 2021.
- Haley Higdon and Rosa Na present: *Natural Curiosity: The Importance of Indigenous Perspectives in Children's Environmental Inquiry* at EECOM 2021.
- Asha Bruce and Megan Abley (Natural Curiosity) present for a class at St. Georges Schools.
- Carol Stephenson's virtual mini lesson on creating bird feeders is shared by the Robertson Program as part of their Earth Day celebrations.

Professional Development:

- Staff are invited to attend IALS Collaborative Conversation: *Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion in Lab Schools*.
- Natural Curiosity team and several lab school teachers attended workshops at the Canadian Environmental Education Conference (EECOM 2021).
- Krista Spence attends the Indigenous Toronto Book Launch.
- Krista Spence attends *Indigenous Cooking* a session focused on learning how to make Cedar tea.
- Tara Rousseau attends *Therapeutic Approaches in Art Education: Foundations and Intersections of Art Therapy and Art Education* (Dr. Lisa Kay, Tyler School of Art & Architecture, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA).
- Tara Rousseau attends *Breaking Down "Structural" and "Systemic" Racism for Our Children* an online workshop offered by Embracerace.org

May 2021

Dissemination:

- JICS Staff put out a statement advocating for the immediate re-opening of schools in Ontario.
- Marcia Bumbury and colleague Lisa Rossiter-Thornton present: *Equity in Early Years Math* an online workshop hosted by OAME Toronto Equity Counts.
- Haley Higdon and Rosa Na (Natural Curiosity) facilitate 3 workshops for Educators at the ETFO Innovate Conference.
- Haley Higdon (Natural Curiosity) presents for 1,000+ viewers at an Outdoor Learning Store webinar.
- Haley Higdon (Natural Curiosity) presents for Educators at the OISE Part I EE AQ course.

Parent Education:

- The Mabin School graciously invites the JICS community to partake in their Parent Ed session: *Being Smart About Gifted Learning* with Dr. Dona Matthews and Dr. Joanne Foster.
 - Dona Matthews and Joanne Foster discuss ways to provide an “optimal match” between individuals and their learning experiences. They focus on ways to nurture engagement, resilience, creativity, and productivity, and they offer practical strategies for maintaining a healthy life balance and strengthening connections at home and school.
- The Lab School and parents create a new parent conversation and advocacy space for racialized families. The inaugural meeting of the JICS Advocacy Space for Racialized Parents and Parents of Racialized Children takes place online (May 25).

Professional Development:

- Rosa Na and Danielle Marcoux-Hunter (Natural Curiosity) attend the MFNERC Lighting the Fire Conference.
- Danielle Marcoux-Hunter (Natural Curiosity) attends a WIX webinar about Website SEO.
- Danielle Marcoux-Hunter (Natural Curiosity) attends an introductory workshop by Water First.
- Norah L’Esperance and Krista Spence attend two land-based learning workshops with Safra Najeemudeen as part of their participation in the research project *Designing and Implementing Environmental Inquiry Strategies in Early Years Programs* led by Monica McGlynn-Stewart, Ph.D., OCT, RECE, Professor, School of Early Childhood, George Brown College.
- Krista Spence attends the Robertson Program’s Indigenous Ways of Knowing – Part 4 *Gaa-gikinoo’amawigooyang: When They Teach Us with Jason Jones* hosted by Dr. Jean-Paul Restoule (University of Victoria) and Dr. Angela Nardozi (Listen and Learn). Jason Jones shares how teachings can be learned from animals.
- Tara Rousseau attends *Culturally Responsive Teaching in the Art Room* (Bobbi Dorka & Sonia Trivedi, Peel District School Board) and *Gender & Racial Diversity/Inclusion in STEAM Programs* (Linda Johnson, The Institute for Arts Integrations and STEAM, Westminster, MD). These two workshops conclude the Ontario Art Education Association’s *Equity and Social Justice in the Art Room, Speaker Series*.
- Tara Rousseau attends *Using Books to Engage Young Children in Talk About Race & Justice: Part 2* an online workshop offered by Embracerace.org

June 2021

Dissemination:

- Marcia Bumbury is featured on two episodes of *TVO Kids Power Hour: Power of Learning Primary Lesson series*. Lesson 1 explores counting to 50, while designing an indigenous garden. Lesson 2 explores how to share fairly.
- The JKs artwork about plants, inspired by a visit from Frank Ferragine “Frankie Flowers”, is shared on *Breakfast Television*.
- Doug Anderson and Haley Higdon (Natural Curiosity) are guests on VoicEd podcast: *In Conversation with Stephen Hurley: Exploring Current Trends & Issues from Across the Country and Around the World*.

- Doug Anderson and Haley Higdon (Natural Curiosity) facilitate a webinar for OISE ESE's Learning Garden webinar series.
- Marcia Bumbury is part of a writing team to create math lessons for Gr. 4-6 for Pearson Canada's Mathology website.

Parent Education:

- Parents are invited to attend *Kids and the Covid-19 Vaccine* a town hall hosted by Children's Healthcare Canada, with Dr. Jim Kellner, and Dr. Megan Bettle. The event will offer parents an opportunity to ask questions about the vaccination.

Professional Development:

- Staff attend a workshop discussing Micro-aggressions with Aamer Esmail from U of T's Anti-Racism & Cultural Diversity Office.

Supporting Pre-Service Teacher Training:

- Haley Higdon (Natural Curiosity) presents for Queens University Community-Based Indigenous Teaching Ed Program students taking in an Environmental Education course.