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Inside OISE @ Home Edition

March 25, 2020

Welcome to **Inside OISE @ Home Edition**. As the COVID-19 situation has progressed, many at OISE find themselves working, studying and interacting from various remote locations as they stay home.

We want to continue to share all the ways that our community remains connected and highlight some stories of how people are doing and managing as they continue with their academic, research and community activities. We will increase the frequency of this e-newsletter during this time.

Please share your updates with us! We want to know what's happening with you and the OISE community. Be well and stay well, everyone.



"Don't be afraid - we are very ready for this online reality"

CTL Chair **Clare Brett** says that many in



"We need a human touch especially during this time"

SJE Chair **Njoki Wane** wishes to remind

the department study and research the pedagogy of online learning and she feels everyone will be ready to meet our current challenge. "There is a lot of work in this process of going live into an online classroom environment so quickly, but don't be discouraged, there will be ongoing help," says Clare. CTL working to launch all their courses for the Spring/Summer to an online environment. Clare is proud to showcase this work and hopes the current efforts will support students and faculty now and well beyond this health crisis.

us that this is an especially important time to connect on a human level, to be patient, understanding and compassionate. "I have checked in with several students, some of whom are nurses on the frontline of the COVID-19 health emergency, and I see how vital it is to appreciate everyone's unique circumstance. For the moment, we need to reprioritize to address this crisis but also continue to be mindful of those most vulnerable to the virus and to the social, emotional and economic consequences this crisis presents."

OISE Education Commons Team Rapidly Shift All Efforts to Support OISE @ Home



Education Commons (EC) director Julia Duncan never imagined when she started at OISE six months ago that she would be dealing with the full force of a pandemic crisis, necessitating an all-online OISE community. But Julia says her team is ready!

The new **Digital Contingency Preparedness website** explains all of the ways the community can stay connected and continue their work, with

some best practices for working remotely as well as digital wellness tips. Using these less familiar platforms may present some challenges. "The EC team is preparing virtual drop-in sessions for Zoom, Microsoft Teams and SharePoint where you can test the technology, ask questions and practice using the functionality with an EC expert at your side," says Julia.

Education Commons opens their virtual doors

Connect for EC helpdesk support on Zoom:

- Mondays to Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Fridays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Starting Friday, Mar. 27, Julia will hold a **Virtual EC Coffee Hour**. Drop in to offer suggestions and discuss your ideas for online support:

- Fridays from 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

If you are unsure about how to do something remotely, **contact Education Commons**. They will do their "virtual" best to walk you through the solution.

OISE Free Webinar: Happy and Resilient

On April 27 from 11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., join OISE alum Dr.



Rumeet Billan and health promoter Dr. Gillian Mandich as they discuss ways to boost your happiness, build resilience and thrive both personally and professionally.

Register for this popular online webinar while spots last!



OISE Wellness – We’ve gone online!

We want to continue to provide the OISE community with resources to help foster your well-being. If you’re facing any of the challenges that comes with social distancing, completing this session, managing online formats or simply want a place to connect through meditation, visit both the **OISE Wellness website** and follow [@OISEWellness](#) on Twitter for online opportunities to practice and learn. We will continue to offer Mindful Moments sessions virtually during the Spring and Summer. Links to the sessions and additional resources are available on our website.

OISE Community Responds to COVID-19

Teachers at JICS Give Up March Break for the Kids

Richard Messina, Lab School Principal at JICS, tells us teachers were able to quickly start providing online platforms and learning experiences for students beginning Monday morning on March 23. This was only possible because every teacher gave up their March Break holiday to research and design new material and new formats of communication. The teachers met using Microsoft Teams to plan and they have been in constant communication with the children's parents. Social isolation is very challenging to a school with a vibrant “social constructivist” learning culture, says Richard, but the school is quickly adapting.

Stay tuned for more news about our JICS teachers' amazing efforts to develop resources in support of their young learners, or follow [@JackmanICS](#) on Twitter.

OISE Psychology Clinic Puts Together Coping Resources

Judy Silver, Director of the OISE Psychology Clinic and APHD professor, has shared a number of resources that she has put together and would like to share OISE-wide for anyone looking for coping mechanisms and resources during this difficult time.

Please find COVID-19 coping resources for the OISE Community here.

LHAE Student Organizes Virtual Coffee Fridays

Emma Sabzalieva, LHAE student, is organizing a weekly OISE Virtual Coffee every Friday from 11 a.m. - 11:40 a.m. Anyone with a connection to OISE is welcome to drop in/out during that time. The first coffee happened last week and about 30 faculty, staff and students participated. "It was great to see so many people last week but even better to extend the invite to the rest of the community," said Emma.

Come kick back and chat virtually with your community on Fridays! Connect via Zoom at <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/480249072>; meeting ID 480-249-072.

OISE Caremongering on Facebook

Looking for a space to share resources and find or offer support? OISE Caremongering on Facebook is a student-led initiative started by **Diana Burchell** for the whole OISE community – from online writing sessions and tips for self-care to Netflix parties. Join the community group: <https://facebook.com/groups/2504140066514923/>

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Inside OISE @ Home? Share it with us!**

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