This week’s Inside OISE @ Home Edition puts the focus on our faculty and provides a reminder, during Mental Health Week, to take time out for OISE Wellness.

Check out what some of our faculty are doing to try and stay well!!

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

"I know from talking to my colleagues, and my own experiences, that sitting on a Zoom meeting for hours is not good for our attention spans"

Rhonda Martinussen, Director of the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study, discusses strategies to incorporate into online learning. "I am trying to create short videos that can be seen in a prescribed order with embedded questions for the discussion board. We shall see how that works," Rhonda explains. "I am fortunate to work with colleagues in APHD with much more experience with online instruction and have benefited from the workshops provided by some of our faculty."

"I just finished my first video 'lecture' and posted it online. It was not too hard to do – except finding a quiet place to tape required three attempts (dog barked, kids slammed, phone rang). I am finding Techsmith Snag very easy to use and I like the ability to simply save it and then send it to My Media to be able to share with my students via a link. I find the online discussions interesting and I like being able to hear (read) all students' comments.

"Children with executive function weaknesses often struggle to stay focused and inhibit distractions. Online learning could prove to be challenging for adult students as well given that stress negatively impacts executive functions. I am thinking about how to study the current context and the stress it likely is generating, and how that may affect students' wellbeing and self-regulation. Stress can have a negative impact on working memory which is key to our ability to hold and process information."

"At JICS, the lab school is emphasizing wellness over finishing every single task that the teachers suggest, and I am thinking how to promote a community in my class while also emphasizing and highlighting my learning goals and activities. I really appreciate having the lab school lead the way with some very innovative pedagogy that is in line with our strong foundation of child-centred learning."

"We can listen and acknowledge what our children are feeling"

Richard Messina, Principal of the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Laboratory School, shares advice for OISE Faculty that have children at home.

Richard feels that "... we are all getting tired. Each of us is navigating a tsunami of Zoom calls, emails, and information. All of us have lived through personal crisis and we know we are initially fuelled by a 'How can I help?' attitude. We are so focused on what needs to happen next, that we barely notice how normal life has changed."

"If you are a parent, the most important information you need to know is that your child will be fine. Even if your child completes none of the remote-learning activities on a particular day, they will not be harmed. There is no lesson more valuable than your child’s psychological well-being. The primary role of parents during COVID-19 is to monitor your child’s feelings so that they continue to feel confident, able, and valuable."

"We are fortunate to have the perspective to know that things will get better but the perspective of children is different. They can feel that their world is threatened because their world is smaller than ours. They are worried about missing graduation, a cherished trip, their teachers, their friends... but we can help. We can encourage them to express their feelings, and we can listen and acknowledge what our children are feeling. Children are very perceptive. We need to be brave and let them see us feel and navigate our feelings in ways that are kind to ourselves."
A Message from the OISE Library and OISE Equity Committee

The Equity Focused Digital Pedagogy and Learning Research Guide is a collaboration between the OISE Equity Committee and the OISE Library, with resources on anti-racism, accessibility and international students in Digital Pedagogy and Learning. In this guide, you will find materials focused on creating equitable, accessible and inclusive digital learning environments and a space for educators to gain insights into best practices in digital pedagogy. The resources contained in this guide vary in format, including Blog Posts, Toolkits, Journal Articles, Podcasts and much more! The intention of this Guide is to ensure that educators have access to updated, actionable, and high quality best practices as there is a continued move to online teaching and learning.

Visit our website

A Message from OISE Education Commons

Homespace File Storage Is Sunsetting, to Be Replaced by Office 365

OISE’s longtime data-storage solution, HomeSpace, is set to be retired beginning June 15th: a phased approach. We welcome you to OneDrive and SharePoint as your new, improved file storage solutions. We recommend that individuals begin transitioning files from HomeSpace to OneDrive ASAP, and that those who use HomeSpace to share departmental files begin to transition that data to SharePoint via your departmental champion. Please act as quickly as possible, as HomeSpace data is set to become unavailable after September 8th!

Education Commons is here to help you through this change. Please see the full announcement about OISE’s changing file-storage system, which contains links to further information and help.

Faculty @ Home

Prof. Jeffrey Ansloos, APHD and Indigenous Education Network

“This has been an interesting time to press pause a bit on projects, evaluate priorities and reflect on what is most important. During this time, I’ve been shifting my attention more on my graduate students’ learning and research progress. We’ve been doing weekly research meetings, writing sessions, and group mentoring. I’ve been taking the time that I would typically be busy with conferences and travel, to focus on my own learning, reading, and writing. In addition to stuff of work, I’ve been trying to attend more to my own health. I’ve been walking and cycling a fair bit and listening to podcasts.

“Also, I’ve succumbed to social media pressures, and have learned how to make sour dough bread, which brings me much joy. I am a little tired of the frequency of zoom meetings, but I am grateful for the creativity and commitment of my students and colleagues during this time.”

Prof. Lauren Bialystok, SJE

“Early in the pandemic, I made the switch from Skype to Zoom and have been using it to convene with my thesis writing group. My students are trying to stay on track in a variety of challenging circumstances. I try to provide emotional support first and foremost; all of us have had our schedules disrupted, and even when there’s time to work, there isn’t always headspace. We need to be forgiving of ourselves. When not remote-supervising, I’m pretending to home-school my kids, ages 5 and 9. They are both... opinionated... and won’t be cajoled into doing anything they don’t feel like doing.

“Education happens under the radar: we play Ticket to Ride and work on geography and arithmetic; we visit the cherry blossoms down the street and talk about seasons and cycles. Their leisure reading and Netflix picks prompt questions about history, science and ethics. Baking is one of the only things everyone can agree on, so my kitchen has been turning out brownies, cookies, cinnamon buns and an endless parade of treats. I’ve never gone through so much sugar. When the kids reflect on how the coronavirus has changed our routines, I slide in lessons on social responsibility, health and healthcare, and economic inequality (not in those exact words). I do believe they’re internalizing important messages through this experience – when they’re not busy screaming and throwing things at each other.”
Prof. Rubén Gaztambide-Fernández, CTL

“This period of isolation has made for a busy house for me, as my partner and I chose to bring our families together to isolate – that’s two teenagers, two twenty-somethings, two forty-somethings, and one dog under one roof! During this time, I have been holding weekly advisory meetings via Zoom with all 14 of my doctoral students (although its usually 10 to 12 that participate), and we created an online chat using WhatsApp, where we share weekly goals as well as more personal stories, challenges, and accomplishments – and a bit of activism, for good measure.

“We all love to cook, so a competition each night as we rotate the lead. I am using the time to invest more in doing healthier things. Biggest challenge for me is dealing with my hair. I am likely heading for an ageing hippy look with that pony tail thing.”

OISE In the News

OISE Stay At Home Club
Twitter series highlighted in NOW Magazine Online. Learn more about how OISE faculty and alumni are contributing to online learning by checking out the article below! Don’t forget to keep up-to-date with OISE’s Stay At Home Club on Twitter: @OISEUOFT

OISE News Highlights Prof. Enrica Piccardo
Check out OISE News article titled, "Extending the 'new normal': Enrica Piccardo shifts OISE graduate courses online to great effect.”

A COVID-19 Study led by OISE Faculty

A multi-divisional research team, led by OISE Associate Professors Roy Gillis and Abby Goldstein, have received funding to explore, document and analyze the stigma, fear, discrimination, and misinformation related to the spread of the novel coronavirus – notably on social media and directed towards Chinese and East Asian communities.

In this project, titled “Responding to the Stigma, Fear, Discrimination, and Misinformation Related to the COVID-19 Disease Outbreak: A Novel Analyses and Intervention for a Novel Coronavirus,” the team will speak with members of Chinese and East Asian communities and conduct a nationwide representative survey to assess their knowledge levels about the coronavirus. The team will contextualize the data and develop interventions to counteract the negative messaging about the pandemic. Congratulations to the team for their crucial undertaking!

Memoirs and Meetings

Chair of SJE, Journeys from Past to Present in Memoir

This week’s Inside OISE highlights the incredible work of Prof. Njoki Wane, Chair, Social Justice Education. Available now for pre-order, the book entitled, From My Mother’s Back: A Journey from Kenya to Canada, is a touching memoir that explores how the past shapes and influences the present. Detailing experiences from her upbringing in Kenya to becoming a professor at OISE, Prof. Wane illustrates how lessons learned in her early life have allowed her to achieve success within academia and as mentor and teacher to her students. Click here to learn more.
OISE Connects with International Partners

This week the International Network of Educational Institutes met online to discuss the importance and power of education in a post-pandemic world. Dean Glen Jones and Associate Dean Michele Peterson-Badali joined the meeting with eleven other institutes that were represented along with 24 members and participated in an engaging conversation.

Have a story you would like featured *Inside OISE @ Home? Share it with us!*

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