

The 2014-2015 Year in Review

September 2014

Awards:

- Elizabeth Morley and Richard Messina attend to Arbor Awards presentation to represent Jackman ICS. The awardees are: *Diane Pitblado*, past President of the Parents Association, Patrick Harvie Arts Committee Co-Chair, and a current member of the Tuition Support Committee. And *Ed Burtynsky*, a past parent and one of Canada's leading photographers. He inspired and supported Environmental Education through one of the founding gifts to the Natural Curiosity Program. Our award to teachers of excellence in Environmental Education is named for and supported by him. He serves on the Natural Curiosity Advisory Board.

Jackman ICS in the News:

- Elizabeth Morley is interviewed by the Toronto Star about the Lab School's approach to homework.
http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/ics/Laboratory_School/Lab_School_In_The_News/index.html

Dissemination:

- Andrea Russell and Cindy Halewood are invited to visit Aroland First Nation to spend a few days working with the teachers at Johnny Therriault Memorial School on Inquiry Based Environmental Education. During their time in Aroland, they take part in the Fall Harvest, the first in many years for this community.

Outreach:

- Each year, Jackman ICS Grade Three students organize a Terry Fox Run. A guest from Terry Fox Foundation speaks at the assembly.
- Each year, Jackman ICS Grade Four students organize a UNICEF campaign. They educate the school about UNICEF's work and plan the fundraising campaign.

Professional Development:

- Jackman ICS Lab School teachers tour the AGO exhibit "*Before and after the Horizon: Anishnabe Artists of the Great Lakes*" with Bonnie Devine, an OCADU professor and artist featured in the show.

Research:

- OISE researcher, Cresencia Fong, defends her PhD thesis which included data collected in the Grade Five/Six classes.
- Multiple approved research studies by the Dr. Patricia Ganea OISE lab are conducted in the Early Years classrooms. The focus of the research is Nursery and Kindergarten children's acquisition and generalization of knowledge from picture book interactions. Picture books are an important source of information and one consideration for teachers has to do with what type of age-appropriate books should be used in the classrooms to teach children facts about the real world. The research investigates the effect of different features of books on learning and generalization of simple factual information.

Supporting Pre-Service Teacher Training:

- Jackman ICS teachers Justine Grosman and Norah L'Esperance speak to MA CSE First Year Seminar class. The topic of the discussion is building community in the Early Years and late Primary grades, focusing on developing relationships and nurturing a sense of belonging through the learning environment.
- Presentations to the MA CSE Second Year students by Jackman ICS teachers: Environment Studies by Andrea Russell and Social Studies by Cindy Halewood.

Visitors:

- Faculty of Education, Kobe Shinwa Women's University
- Hamilton Wentworth District School Board
- Kindergarten teachers from Clinton, Ontario working in the "Teacher Learning and Leadership Program" (Ministry of Education)
- Seoul Foreign School, South Korea

October 2014

Dissemination and Professional Development:

- Judith Kimel gives a talk to the students of University of Toronto Faculty of Occupational Therapy. In *Enabling Occupation with Children* course, she focuses on working with families and setting up a family-centered practice.
- The Math for Young Children (M4YC) research team along with Zoe Donoahue and Elizabeth Morley travel to Fort Frances to work with teachers in the Rainy River DSB and the First Nations communities.
- Elizabeth Morley travels to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg for a one-day gathering to discuss Children's Rights in Canada and the formation of a program to advocate for and observe the progress towards fuller access to these rights for all children in Canada.
- Andrea Russell and Christel Durand continue into the second year of working with the French Ministry and French teachers using the Jackman ICS resource *Natural Curiosity*. Approximately 30 educators visit the Lab School to observe Inquiry "in action" and to participate in professional development. This release of the French translation of *Natural Curiosity* is anticipated early in the new school year.
- Andrea Russell offers Professional Development to educators from Sibbald Point Outdoor Education Centre. This particular centre works closely with the York Region DSB to provide students with outdoor learning experiences through an Inquiry lens. It is one of a few outdoor education centres in the GTA who focus on bringing this approach into the work that they do.

Invited Guests:

- Amanda Kreidié-Akazaki, a storyteller and a friend of Jackman ICS, joins us to celebrate Halloween at our assembly.
- Meredith Temple, a Trainer and Mentor for the Empower Reading Program from Sick Kids, observes the Empower Reading Program taught by Lisa Sherman.

Parent Education:

- *Navigating Stress, Promoting Well-Being* is a panel discussion with experts in the field of psychology, mindfulness, and holistic living. The evening provides tools and tips to help parents, staff, and children learn how to manage stress and anxiety, increase mindfulness and attunement, and promote happiness.

Professional Development:

- Elizabeth Morley attends a two-day workshop entitled “The Pedagogy of Leadership” at Klingenstein Center, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York.
- Elizabeth Morley attends a leadership opportunity at Gardner Carney Leadership Institute in New York. (see EM’s email from Dec 10)

Supporting Pre-service Teacher Training:

- Observation Week: First Year MA CSE students observe in each classroom of the Lab School.
- Presentations to the MA CSE Second Year students by Jackman ICS teachers: Visual Arts by Tara Rousseau and Julie Company; Drama by Sarah Murray.
- Jackman ICS teachers Zoe Donoahue and Ben Peebles speak to MA CSE First Year Seminar class. The topic of the discussion is “Creating Learning Environment (including Classroom Management)” in Primary and Junior grades.

Visitors:

- Hijiyama University, Hiroshima, Japan
- Hamilton Wentworth DSB
- Huron Perth Catholic DSB and Halton DSB
- The Northwest Catholic DSB in Atikokan, Ontario
- Rainy River DSB (M4YC research project)

November 2014

Conferences:

- Elizabeth Morley attends the Trudeau Foundation Conference in Toronto. This year’s theme is related to our Environmental Education work, and to our public purpose: “Weathering Change: Pathways to Sustainability in Canada”.

Dissemination and Professional Development:

- Natural Curiosity, in partnership with the Toronto Catholic DSB's Early Learning Team, is working together as part of the teacher collaborative entitled “Theory into Action: A Professional Series (TAPS)”. This professional opportunity invites K – 2 educator teams to participate in classroom-based inquiry about teaching and learning. It is an opportunity for educators to gather, dialogue, question and implement instructional practices in an effort to improve student achievement while building continuity from K – 2. This is a year-long collaborative.

Outreach:

- Jackman ICS Book Night is held at Indigo Bookstore. Staff and families gather to support the Lab School Library.

Professional Development:

- Anne Marie Lopez, Carol Stephenson., Lisa Sherman, Richard Messina, and Elizabeth Morley attend The Psychology Foundation of Canada Breakfast held at the Arcadian Court. The keynote speaker is Sharon Johnston, Vice Regal Consort of Canada, speaking on Mental Health.
- Justine Grosman takes a 7-week online course, Exploring Play, offered by University of Sheffield.

Research:

- Crescensica Fong’s paper entitled “Common Knowledge: Iterative Design, Scripting, and Orchestration of Inquiry Discourse in Elementary Science” (co-authors Richard Messina,

- Julia Murray, Ben Peebles, and Jim Slotta) was accepted to AERA 2015.
- Richard Messina and Carol Stephenson with The Robertson Program team visit Roseneath Public School (Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB) to work with educators, children, and school board First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) instructional leaders in the newest phase of the Math for Young Children research and professional development project.

Supporting Pre-service Teacher Training:

- Presentations to the MA CSE Second Year students by Jackman ICS teachers: Music by Russell Hersen and Shakespeare by Richard Messina and Michael Martins.

Visitors:

- OISE doctoral candidate
- Educators from Dufferin Peel Catholic DSB
- Educators from Hamilton Wentworth DSB
- Educators from St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School
- Researchers from Teacher Training Department at Katholieke Pabo Zwolle, Netherlands
- Educators from Denmark on Educational Study Tour through Ontario Principals' Association
- Principals from Chile attending OISE Professional Development Program

December 2014

Dissemination:

- Elizabeth Morley is invited to Rideau Hall to attend a ceremony honouring Nigel Fisher, who has worked for Children's Rights in Haiti, Syria, Rwanda, and Afghanistan.

Outreach:

- The Book Club organizes a book drive to support the Toronto Children's Book Bank. The Children's Book Bank is a charitable organization designed to support children's literacy by providing books and reading support to children in lower income families all around Toronto.
- The Social Justice Club organizes a Food Drive for the Walmer Road Baptist Church Food Bank.

Professional Development:

- Elizabeth Morley connects with Klingenstein Center, Teachers College, Columbia University to work on Klingbrief. (see EM's email from Dec 10)

Visitors:

- Student Achievement Officer, Ministry of Education LNS
- Principal and teachers from Westvale Public School, Waterloo Region DSB
- Hamilton Wentworth DSB
- Toronto Catholic DSB
- The Mabin School
- Teacher-Librarian from West Vancouver School District 45
- Marlene Power, Executive Director of Forest School Canada

January 2015

Dissemination:

- Andrea Russell and the *Natural Curiosity* team host the members of the Advisory Board to get advice on the format and the authorship of the Second Edition of *Natural Curiosity*.
- Richard Messina and Andrea Russell attend the Ministry of Education Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat (LNS) Focus Group Meeting to review and share ideas to improve LearnTeachLead.ca. This Ministry website for teachers showcases some of the exemplary classroom practices and research of the Lab School.

Research & Dissemination

- Carol Stephenson and Richard Messina join The Robertson Program team to work with educators and school board First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) instructional leaders from Roseneath Centennial Public School and Northshore Public School at the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board Head Office in the newest phase of the Math for Young Children research and professional development project.

International Leadership:

- Elizabeth Morley travels to Hangzhou, China with Kang Lee to review and reinforce the partnerships with the Lab Schools, particularly with the leading connection with Zhejiang Normal University.

Parent Education:

- Jackman ICS Research Night for Parents: Dr. Jianwei Zhang from The State University of New York (SUNY) speaks along with a panel of teachers who describe the school-wide involvement in constructing knowledge, using technology, and the collaborative learning approaches within the context of Knowledge Building (KB).

Professional Development:

- Christel Durand attends a workshop entitled “Help Children Understand and Manage Anxiety” at the Hincks-Dellcrest Centre.
- Raadiyah Nazeem attends a conference entitled “Ontario Library Association Super Conference” at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

Visitors:

- Dufferin Peel Catholic DSB
- Seven Generations Education Institute, Fort Frances, ON

February 2015

Events:

- Under Cindy Halewood’s leadership and hosted by the Patrick Harvie Arts Committee, Patrick Harvie Dance takes place at UTS. The Committee arranges for Hip Hop dancers to host an afternoon of dancing for all children.

Invited Guests:

- Grade 7/8 graduates of Jackman ICS are invited back to inform our Grade 5/6 students of the transition to middle school.
- Read-a-thon Guests: storyteller Dan Yashinsky; cartoonist Jonathan Mahood; authors Frieda Washinsky, Sarah Tsiang and Jennifer Dance

Parent Education:

- Parent Education Morning: “Math Morning – an opportunity for parents to find out more about how Jackman ICS teaches math and why”. Panel of teachers and tours into classrooms.

Professional Development:

- Lesson Study: On two different days teachers present lessons following the Japanese Lesson Study Professional Development Model used at Jackman ICS. Visitors from the Ministry of Education, OISE, the MA CSE program, independent and public schools join us for these PD days.
 - **Day 1:** Zoe Donoahue teaches a lesson on spatial thinking and reasoning to a group of Grade 2 students. The lesson is researched and designed by teachers Zoe, Justine, Ben, Carol, Norah, Raadiyah, Judith, and Renée. following the Japanese Lesson Study Professional Development Model used at Jackman ICS. Visitors from the Ministry of Education, OISE, the MA CSE program, independent and public schools join us for the PD day.
 - **Day 2:** Lisa Sherman and Julia Murray teach a lesson on geometry and spatial thinking to a group of Grade 4 and Grade 5 students. The lesson is researched and designed by teachers Lisa, Julia, Pamela, Christel, Cindy, Anne Marie, Michael, Tara, and Robin.
- Michael Martins and Richard Messina attend the 2015 National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) Annual Conference in Boston, MA.
- Elizabeth Morley attends the Editorial Meetings for Klingenstein during the NAIS Conference in Boston, MA.
- Raadiyah Nazeem and Justine Grosman attend a conference entitled “Essentials for Educators: Integrative Thinking” at the Rotman School of Management.

Publications:

- Pamela Beach, JICS JK teacher and Dr. Yiola Cleovoulou, OISE are the authors of "An Inquiry-Based Approach to Critical Literacy: Pedagogical Nuances of a Second Grade Classroom" Alberta Journal of Educational Research, Vol. 60, No. 1, Spring 2014, 161-181. This case study explores the pedagogy and practices of Grade 2 teacher, Cindy Halewood who combines inquiry pedagogy and critical literacy. The authors gathered data for this analysis by conducting two interviews and observing classroom practices over a 6 month period. Through a general inductive approach to analysis, trends emerged that showed the classroom teacher used practices that combined traditional inquiry pedagogy for critical literacy development. This research provides insight into how this elementary teacher negotiated and connected inquiry to critical literacy. Furthermore, the findings can inform scholars and teacher educators of successful teaching strategies as they prepare future generations of elementary teachers.

Supporting Pre-service Teacher Training:

- Julia Murray, Judith Kimel, Justine Grosman, Pamela Beach, and Richard Messina take part in a “Technology Day” to share their tech knowledge with the MA CSE students.

Research:

- Elizabeth Morley and Ben Peebles visit Onigaming First Nation Community with the Robertson Research Team. They share and co-design spatial reasoning and geometry workshops and activities with K-9 teachers and students at the Mikinaak Onigaming School near Nestor Falls, Ontario. They co-plan a Family Math Night at the school for the Onigaming First Nation Community. This work coincides with the University of Toronto’s Indigenous Education Week (February 2 – 6, 2015).
- Carol Stephenson and Zoe Donoahue Skype into Rainy River DSB classrooms with the Robertson Research Team.

Visitors:

- Concurrent B Ed students, OISE/UT
- Rosedale Day School
- 60 GTA Catholic Option (P/J/I) B Ed students, OISE/UT
- Student Achievement Officer, Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat, Thunder Bay Regional Office (Ministry of Education)
- Keewatin-Patricia DSB
- Hamilton Wentworth DSB
- Seoul Foreign School

March 2015

Awards:

- Raadiyah Nazeem receives the Distinguished Alumnus Award at University of Guelph-Humber. In 2012, the Distinguished Alumnus Award was established to recognize and thank alumni who have demonstrated loyalty and commitment to their alma mater by supporting the University of Guelph-Humber through significant volunteer leadership. This award recognizes those who have given selflessly of their time and energy through volunteer work with students, faculty, or alumni of the University. Nominator should demonstrate how the nominee has made a difference to the University by identifying the length of their volunteer involvement, areas of concentration and examples of the nominee's loyalty and commitment.

Dissemination:

- Richard Messina is an invited guest expert in "How Students Learn" - an international webinar panel discussion for Singapore school leaders organized by the Learning Partnership in Educational Technology Branch of the Singapore Ministry of Education. Richard speaks about the understandings of how children learn that informs the Lab School's unique approach to designing learning experiences for students. He is joined by Dr. Aaron Doering, Associate Professor, University of Minnesota and Prof. David Hung, Associate Dean, Education Research, National Institute of Education, Singapore.

Publications:

- Jackman ICS researchers: PhD Candidate Diane Tepylo, Professor Joan Moss, and Lab School SK teacher Carol Stephenson describe the benefits of block play for preschool children in the March 2015 journal issue of *Young Children* by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The article is entitled "A Developmental Look at a Rigorous Block Play Program".
<http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/ics/UserFiles/File/OYCFinal.pdf>

Visitors:

- *Natural Curiosity*, with the help and support of French teachers Christel Durand and Renee Smith, worked with the Ministère de l'Éducation and their teachers from different school boards across the province on implementing Inquiry-Based Environmental Education using the newly translated version of *Natural Curiosity*. *Natural Curiosity* hopes to continue this partnership next year by expanding their reach within the Ministère de l'Éducation and working with more teachers.
- MT teacher-candidates, OISE/UT
- Toronto Catholic DSB
- Toronto DSB

Conferences:

- Elizabeth Morley and Richard Messina attend International Association of Lab Schools (IALS) Conference in Chicago, Illinois.
 - Richard Messina is part of presentations of research with the Lab School teachers and students and also speaks on the panel to discuss John Dewey and his 21st Century impact.
 - Elizabeth Morley gives leadership to IALS International Tour of Lab Schools for 14 International participants from China, Japan, Korea, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and Canada, touring 3 lab schools in New York, 2 in Pittsburgh, and the Chicago Lab Schools.
- Pamela Beach and Richard Messina attend the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference in Chicago, Illinois.
 - Pamela Beach presents at the American Education Research Association (AERA)'s annual conference in Chicago, Illinois. Her presentation is entitled “*Understanding teachers' cognitive processes as they use an online professional development website: A methodological comparison*”.
 - Other AERA presentations representing research conducted at the Lab School:
 - “*Common Knowledge: Iterative Design, Scripting, and Orchestration of Inquiry Discourse in Elementary Science*” in 52.062 - Science and Technology Learning and Teaching and the Understanding of Complex Systems and Social Networking Systems. Crescencia Fong, Rebecca Cober, Richard Messina, Tom Moher, Julia Murray, Ben Peebles, and James Slotta. The combination of tablets, shared displays, and an interactive whiteboard (IWB) can be used to support productive astronomy inquiry across a classroom's social planes. This paper reports on the design and classroom trials of CK – a pedagogical and technological innovation that supports agile teacher orchestration of blended inquiry discourse, and scaffolds the community through phases of inquiry and interest groupings. Using tablets, students in the Grade 5/6 classes contribute to a community knowledge base that is publicly visible from the IWB. The IWB visualizes the community's idea flow and enables members to sort their ideas along socially negotiated categories. Iterative technological design analysis culminating in this third iteration is presented and the 3R (Reflect, Refocus, Release) teacher orchestration cycle that emerged is discussed.
 - “*Working as a Scientific Community: Collecting and Sharing Evidence From Camera Trap Photos of Our Schoolyard*” in 26.024 - Collaborative Engagement and Science Learning via Technology. Rebecca Cober, Tom Moher, and James Slotta. The Grade 5/6 students were engaged in a six-week field study of schoolyard wildlife, with “camera trap” photos at the center of student inquiry. The analysis concerns the students' use of photos as data within a scaffolded technology-mediated environment called Common Knowledge. The researchers compared patterns of note-taking activity against their curriculum design and identified five photo types that students attached to notes and perform a thematic analysis to understand the kind of information they convey. They analyzed the congruency of photos and notes to understand the extent to which photos empirically supported notes. The findings show that students were supported through a carefully structured inquiry sequence, note structure, and scaffold prompts.

Dissemination:

- *Honouring Cultural Contributions in Math* is presented by the Robertson Program For Inquiry-Based Teaching in Math and Science: Bev Caswell, Joan Moss, and MA graduates of Jackman ICS present about how to infuse culture and math in Math classrooms.
- Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB PD Day: visiting teachers observe a math lesson taught by Carol Stephenson in SK classroom and toured through the school. They work with the Robertson Program, M4YC Researchers, and Lab School teachers worked together to design spatial reasoning activities and lessons for children.
- Lisa Sherman is invited as a guest teacher at the I-Think Teacher Sharing Evening, hosted by I-Think Initiative of the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto. This event allows idea-sharing and peer-to-peer learning, focusing on *Getting Practical: Applying the Theory to Practice*, to explore different ways of bringing the concepts into the classroom.

Professional Development:

- Carol Stephenson and Zoe Donoahue along with the Robertson Program team co-facilitate teacher professional development via Skype with Sharla MacKinnon and Rainy River DSB teachers. They Skype into Rainy River DSB classrooms to observe math lessons being taught by the teaching partners.
- Tara Rousseau attends a Concussion Workshop at Toronto Newsgirls Boxing Club, presented by Colleen Dockstader, a Research Associate at Sick Kids Hospital: <http://www.sickkids.ca/Research/mabbott-lab/Lab-Members/Colleen-Dockstader/Index.html>
- Tara Rousseau takes a ten-week online course, Modern and Contemporary Art 1945-1989, and a five-week course, Art and Inquiry: Museum Strategies for your Classroom, offered by Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York.
- Tara Rousseau attends Traditional Teachings including Four Sacred Medicine workshops by Elders Cat Cringer and Jacqui Lavalley at OISE-UT: Tobacco Teaching, Cedar Teaching, Sage Teaching, and Sweetgrass Teaching.

Visitors:

- Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh, Scotland
- Winnipeg School Board (*Natural Curiosity*). Every year, *Natural Curiosity* and the Laboratory School hosts Cheryl Zubrack and a team of selected teachers from the Winnipeg School District for an intensive 3-day study of inquiry. The teachers visit and observe Laboratory School teachers in action, and participate in deep, impactful conversation around their own practices and how they can further inquiry within their own classrooms and throughout their school board.
- Embu University, Kenya
- Dr. Stephen Lye, Fraser Mustard Institute for Human Development
- Conseil scolaire public du Nord-Est
- Halifax Independent School
- Educators from Waterloo Region DSB, Dufferin-Peel Catholic DSB, Peel DSB, Limestone DSB, Toronto Catholic DSB, and Grand Erie District School Board.

Conferences:

- Zoe Donoahue presents at the Ontario Association of Math Educators conference in Toronto. The topic of her presentation is "Helping Children to Think Strategically About Addition and Subtraction".

Events:

- Groundbreaking Ceremony takes place at Jackman ICS to break ground for the new building. It celebrates the huge success of the Capital Campaign and our vision for extending the reach of the Institute. Special guests include University of Toronto President, Dr. Meric Gertler, OISE-UT Dean, Julia O'Sullivan, Dr. Eric Jackman, Jackman ICS Director, Joan Peskin, Jackman ICS Laboratory School Principal, Elizabeth Morley, Chair of the Business Board at University of Toronto, John Switzer, Chancellor Michael Wilson, and Honourable Margaret McCain. The Lab School children, sitting on picnic blankets in the playground, sing some of their favourite songs as many friends and supporters of the Lab School arrive and then enjoy watching the special guests and student-helpers ceremoniously dig in our playground sandbox!
- Celebration of Elizabeth Morley
 - Current and alumni parents, graduates, teachers past and present, academics, and friends of the Lab School gathered at Hart House, University of Toronto, to celebrate the extraordinary career of Elizabeth Morley on the announcement of her retirement after 22 years as Principal. Speakers at the event were:
 - Professor Janette Pelletier who served as Jackman ICS Director from 2010 to 2013.
 - Alumni parent, Gillian Graham, who was a former President of the Parents' Association; and a co-founder of the Alumni Association.
 - Alumni parent Brigitte Shim who was a visionary guide during the capital campaign.
 - Current Parents' Association President Tracy Pryce Salamon who along with SK teacher, Carol Stephenson, presented a beautiful quilt and a song (written by Russell Hersen and all the Lab School students) to Elizabeth from the Parents' Association and announced the naming of "Elizabeth's Room", the long awaited lunchroom in the new building which will house artwork made by children next year with the direction of artist-in-residence, Christi Belcourt. The event raised over \$50,000 in Elizabeth's name to the Diana Rankin Muncaster Family Tuition Support Fund, which offers financial assistance to over 12% of the students in the school.

Dissemination:

- Dr. Beverly Caswell and Richard Messina from Jackman ICS along with Dr. Cathy Bruce (Trent University) and Dr. Mary McAsteer (Edge Hill University, UK) host the CARN (Collaborative Action Research Network) Study Day of the ARNA (Action Research Network of the Americas) 2015 Conference in Toronto. Participants learn about the Jackman ICS approach to professional development called Lesson Study and observe lessons taught by Carol Stephenson and Cindy Halewood.

Parent Education:

- Dr. Aileen Burford-Mason presents "What Kids Need to Eat: A scientific approach to optimizing children's mental and physical health through diet".

Professional Development:

- Lisa Sherman attends the Universal Design for Learning: Canadian Perspective, conference hosted by the Office for Students with Disabilities at the University of McGill. She hears from representatives from across the country as they share their personal experiences of their UDL implementation journey. A highlight of the conference is the keynote address by Dr. David Rose, a developmental neuropsychologist and educator whose primary focus is on the development of new technologies for learning. Dr. Rose is the co-founder of the not-for-profit organization, CAST, whose mission is to improve education for all learners.

Visitors:

- Peel DSB, Dufferin-Peel Catholic DSB
- Conseil scolaire public du Nord-Est
- Leikskólinn Kópasteinn, a kindergarten in Kopavogur, Iceland
- Educators from Instituto de Co-Responsabilidade pela Educação (ICE), Brazil
- Leaders in Education Programme at the National Institute of Education (NIE), Singapore

June 2015

Dissemination:

- Richard Messina teaches a cohort of international early-career elementary school teachers in the Klingenstein Summer Program at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York.

Achievements:

- Pamela Beach, JK teacher, successfully defends her PhD thesis: *Professional Learning in Informal Online Environments: Examining Elementary Teachers' Cognitive Processes and Learning Experiences as They Navigate a Professional Development Website*.
 - This dissertation includes two studies. The first is a mixed methods study comparing three types of think aloud methods for examining elementary teachers' cognitive processes as they use a multimedia professional development literacy website. The findings of study 1 reveal that participants from one of the think aloud conditions produced extensive complex verbalizations reflecting higher cognitive thought processes. Therefore, a second study is conducted using qualitative methods. Based on the findings of study 2, a theoretical model is developed depicting perceptions of professional learning, navigational strategies, and potential learning outcomes. Overall, the findings of the dissertation provide insights into the benefits and limitations of three types of think aloud methods, and into elementary teachers' cognitive processes and learning experiences during informal online professional learning. The results also highlight the need for further investigations of teacher cognition and online learning.