

# *Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Laboratory School Connections*

## *2022-2023 Year in Review*

### *Multi-month/Ongoing Memberships and Commitments*

- Chriss Bogert is a member of the board for the International Association of Laboratory Schools (IALS).
- In 2021-2022, Chriss chaired an IALS Research Collaboration, which culminated in a publication of IALS member schools' research on pandemic learning, in a Special Edition of the IALS Journal, published in December 2022.
- Chriss Bogert and Elizabeth Morley, JICS Principal Emerita, co-chaired the IALS 2023 Annual Conference, which will take place at JICS in April 2023.
- Krista Spence and Norah L'Esperance are involved for the third year in a research project titled "Designing and implementing environmental inquiry strategies in urban early years programs in Canada to support healthy development and environmental awareness." (April 1, 2020 – April 28, 2023) This project is a collaboration between educators and researchers from George Brown College, The Learning Enrichment Foundation, and Natural Curiosity who are conducting the research project, Designing and Implementing Environmental Inquiry Strategies in Early Years Programs. The project is focused on nature-based learning, including Indigenous perspectives on learning with and from the land, for children aged 2-6 years in childcare and kindergarten classrooms in the Greater Toronto Area.
- Suzanne Schwenger is volunteers on Saturday mornings with the Early Childhood Smart Start program for young children, age 0-6 years. (September – June, Weekly)
- Suzanne Schwenger rejoined the Orff Professional Learning Community which meets monthly in-person and online with music teachers from the GTA and beyond who share teaching strategies and explore broad themes, such as equity and diversity. (October – May, Monthly)
- Tara Rousseau is a board member of the Ontario Art Education Association's (OAEA)
- Tara Rousseau is co-president of the LGBTQ+ Interest Group in the National Art Education Association (NAEA)

### *Research in the Lab School for 2022-2023*

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:**

- ***“Literacy and self-regulation development in play-based kindergarten classrooms: A comparison of pedagogical approaches”***. This research is being conducted by Dr. Angela Pyle who was the Interim Director of JICS for 2022-2023, a Professor in the MACSE program, and a former Kindergarten teacher herself. The objective of this research study is to describe the enactment of play-based learning in full day kindergarten classrooms and the connection between play and the acquisition of literacy and self-regulation skills. This is responding to the need to support teachers in finding the optimal balance between play, development, and academic learning in today’s classrooms despite pressures to increase academic standards while also fostering social emotional wellbeing. This study addresses these concerns by focusing on the implementation of curriculum in Ontario classrooms and how it contributes to children’s growth in a key academic skill (literacy) as well as in self-regulation. Specifically, this study seeks to explore variations in the implementation of play-based pedagogies in kindergarten classrooms; determine the impact of varying implementations on the development of academic (i.e., literacy) and developmental (i.e., self-regulation) skills; and provide an empirical foundation for bridging the academic-developmental rift in the literature. This year was a post-pandemic continuation of the study in the Lab School that began in 2018, which has involved students and teachers in the kindergarten classrooms at the Lab School.
- ***“Blended Assessment of Literacy and Numeracy in Computerized Environments with Artificial Intelligence (BALANCE AI)”***. This federally funded, SSHRC grant research study is being led by Dr. Eunice Jang who is a Professor at OISE, and a colleague of JICS. We began working with Dr. Jang and her team in 2019-2020. Dr. Jang’s research focuses on improving assessment practices and student learning by examining ways to integrate assessment into teaching and learning in formative ways. This research will further the development of dynamic systems that provide interactive digital interfaces for students, parents, and teachers to support students’ cognitive, metacognitive, and affective growth. Balance AI has been used by over 2,600 students in schools across Toronto, and it is now registered as an invention at the University of Toronto. Students and teachers in Grades 3-6 participated in this

study.

- ***“Designing and Implementing Environmental Inquiry Strategies in Early Years Programs”***. This research is being led by Dr. Monica McGlynn Stewart, a Professor and colleague at the George Brown School of Early Childhood, in collaboration with the Lab School, and also in partnership with the Learning Enrichment Foundation and Toronto Early Learning and Child Care Services. The objectives of the study are to examine educators’ perspectives and practices with respect to nature-based learning with young children; identify how children learn with and from nature; analyze the impact of environmental inquiry on young children’s overall well-being and holistic development; to develop a framework and resources to support early years educators in Canada as they create environmental inquiry programs in early years settings; and to disseminate the knowledge gained through workshops, presentations, and publications. We are in our third year of collaborating on this research study. Each year, students in the Nursery along with teachers Norah L’Esperance and Krista Spence, as well as Haley Higdon, Director of Natural Curiosity (currently on maternity leave) have participated in this project. They also participate in regular research meetings and workshops with educators from across the 12 George Brown College Lab Schools.
- ***“Teacher’s Accounts of Using Indigenous Children’s Literatures in Land-based Inquiry”***. This study is part of the doctoral work of Lab School teacher David Osorio. David is completing the Doctor of Education program in Child Study and Education. He is conducting research that explores educators’ approaches to using Indigenous stories in land-based learning. Land-based inquiry is a pedagogical approach which supports reconciliation by empowering students to develop their own connections with Indigenous cultures, to establish deep relationships within the natural world, and to gain the tools they need to protect the land they are on (CCUNESCO, 2022.) The purpose of this project is to gather accounts from Laboratory School educators about their pedagogical approaches to using Indigenous children’s literature in land-based inquiry, with the aim is to explore why they use Indigenous children’s literature and how it has influenced their land-based inquiry pedagogy. The study initially involves individually interviewing participants about their beliefs and approaches associated with using Indigenous children’s literature when teaching about the natural world. Followed by a discussion after several months to follow up on themes identified in the interviews. this research has potential to add significantly to our knowledge of how-to best support teachers in bringing Indigenous perspectives into Land-based Learning, in accordance with key recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2015).
- ***“Biingooshname Shkode Temgoog (We are coming to the Fire)”***. This research study is the PhD work of Doug Anderson, a student at York University and Indigenous scholar who has been working with the Lab School students and staff for many years, the author of the Indigenous Lens of natural Curiosity, and a former Lab School parent. The ultimate purpose of this research is to add to information for

Indigenous communities and decision makers on how Canadian schools may reciprocally enter into more meaningful relationships with Indigenous people in ways that are of benefit to Indigenous communities while also meeting the systemic responsibilities of schools. The research will explore experiences, perceptions, possibilities and challenges involved in centering Anishinaabe and other Indigenous principles and aspects of culture in the learning process at an elementary lab school. The research is being conducted with the Lab School staff, inviting them to participate in an introductory talking circle, voluntary individual interviews, followed by a debriefing circle at the conclusion of the study. The Lab School has been on a path following an emergent exploration of learning in non-Indigenous schools, in ways that ethically and more deeply engage with Indigenous people and perspectives. Supporting this research honours the school's ongoing commitment to the TRC's Calls to Action for education.

- ***“Digitally-Mediated Group Knowledge Processes to Enhance Individual Achievement in Literacy and Numeracy”***. This SSHRC funded research led by Drs. Marlene Scardamalia and Carl Bereiter, esteemed OISE professors and long-standing Lab School colleagues, is about a “Knowledge Building” (KB) approach which is deeply embedded into our innovative practice of inquiry-based teaching and learning and emerges from a collaboration between our teachers and the KB researchers. Over the years, the researchers have often been in the classrooms observing, documenting, and helping the teachers and students, attending the bi-weekly KB meetings with the teachers on Thursdays after school, and adding great value to everyone’s learning. All Lab School students participate in knowledge building and inquiry work in the classroom and everyone benefits from this collaboration with the Knowledge Building researchers. With consent, children’s written contributions to the groups learning in the Knowledge Forum database and in classroom discussions are analyzed by the research team. Scardamalia, Bereiter, and their research team work closely in collaboration with the Ontario Ministry of Education, the Ontario principals’ associations, and the Education Quality and Accountability Office to explore how knowledge creating pedagogy that engages students in collaborative efforts to advance community knowledge can enhance student literacy and numeracy and how Knowledge Forum technology and analytic tools can help support and sustain knowledge creation in classrooms. The goal of this research is to develop improved teaching practices that will not only boost student learning but also increase capacity to innovate, advance knowledge, and solve complex societal problems.
- ***“Understanding the Pandemic Learning Experiences of Parents and Teachers at the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Laboratory School: A Case of Unique Philosophies.”*** The results from a survey conducted at the University of Toronto’s Dr. Eric Jackman institute of Child Study Lab School, a Nursery to Grade 6 elementary school illustrate how their principles helped sustain the community through the extraordinary and stressful first year and a half of pandemic learning with *organizational compassion*. In addition, their findings reveal that not all

learners encountered difficulties in the online learning environment. This study is now published in a special edition of the IALS Journal and underscores the importance of prioritizing security and attachment needs during any future complex and challenging learning circumstances. The principal investigator was OISE PhD student Melissa Kang collaborating with researchers Dr. Anne-Claude Bedard, Christine Bogert, Richard Messina, Elizabeth Morley, and Dr. Rhonda Martinussen.

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 2 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/>

Or contact Chriss Bogert, Vice Principal and Chair of Child Research Committee

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## *Summer 2022*

### **Dissemination:**

- Tara Rousseau was a conference planner and presenter at the National Art Education Association's National Leadership Conference in Park City, Utah (July 2022). Tara was part of a conference planning committee led by NAEA Chief Learning Officer Dennis Inhulsen and presented with Ray Yang (NAEA's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Director) on the topic of difficult conversations that are necessary for educators in this polarized world.
- Natural Curiosity Workshop for The Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI).
- Natural Curiosity Guest Lecture for OISE Environmental Education Part I Additional Qualification
- Natural Curiosity lead a 2-day in-person professional learning on the land in partnership with ENAGB. "Aki Kinomaagewinan: Engaging Educators and Youth in Indigenous Land-Based Learning through Natural Curiosity." Co-facilitated by Joe Pitawanakwat (Founder of Creators Garden and Indigenous Plant Medicine Educator), Doug Anderson (Author of the Indigenous Lens on Natural Curiosity, 2nd Edition), Haley Higdon, (Program Director (MA, OCT) for Natural Curiosity), and Junaid Khan (Research Ecologist and Pollinator Stewardship Coordinator).
- Natural Curiosity Virtual Summer Institute. A professional learning offering for educators who wish to deepen their own inquiry into the ecology of natural curiosity. The educators explored the four-branch framework of environmental inquiry and the associated Indigenous lenses that present tangible entry points towards a reciprocal relationship with the Land participating as a co-teacher.
- Natural Curiosity and Richard Messina present at "Leading Forward Together" – Ontario Principals' Council's Annual Conference.
- Natural Curiosity Workshop for Ottawa Catholic School Board, K-12 educators.

### **Professional Development:**

- Krista Spence attends “Aki Kinomaagewinan: Engaging Educators and Youth in Indigenous Land-Based Learning” through Natural Curiosity and in partnership with ENAGB. This program is for educators who wish to deepen their own inquiry into the ecology of Natural Curiosity – growing a learning environment where educators and students experience themselves in relationship with the Land and each other in community. This fully outdoors offering took place at the Humber River teaching lodge with a group of Indigenous youth from ENAGB.
- Suzanne Schwenger attends a two-day workshop called '*What's in a Song: Unpacking the Songs that We Teach*', offered through Oscar Peterson School of Music, by Kim Friesen-Wiens. The workshop explored how we can decolonize our music classes and bring music from different cultures in a respectful way that honours its traditions.

### *Late-August/September 2022*

### **Dissemination:**

- Richard Messina is a panel member at the LabSchoolsEurope Conference in Bielefeld University, Germany with the focus “Researching Schools: Building research and practice at laboratory and university schools.” The panel discussion was on “Bridging Research and Practice in Laboratory and University Schools.” At a separate session, Richard presented about the exemplary work and research of the JICS Lab School to European educators and researchers from 15 countries.
- Rosa Na, Natural Curiosity's past Program Manager, is awarded the North American Association for Environmental Education's (NAAEE) 30 Under 30 Award. Since 2016, the NAAEE program has recognized 210 individuals from 42 countries who are making a difference through environmental education.
- Rosa Na represents the JICS Lab School and Natural Curiosity at the NAAEE Annual Research Symposium and Conference in Tucson, Arizona.
- Natural Curiosity Program Director, Haley Higdon is featured as Mind Your Plastic's September Local Hero.
- Natural Curiosity Webinar; “Classrooms to Communities Educator Book Bundle.” Led by Doug Anderson on behalf of Natural Curiosity for the Outdoor Learning Stores.
- Natural Curiosity Guest Lecture for MA-CSE 2201Y (OISE: UofT) “Truth & Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day Workshop.”
- Natural Curiosity Workshop in partnership with Tiiu Strutt for Word on the Street Community Pop-Up. (Toronto, ON)
- Natural Curiosity Workshop for High Park Alternative School, TDSB.
- International volunteer Matilde Guerrini from Italy participates in a three-week placement at JICS.
- Steve Truch (founder of The Reading Foundation) and Karen Steele visit JICS.

### **Professional Development:**

- Guest speaker: Rabia Khokhar “exploring how the concept of HEROS can be a springboard for a school-wide equity exploration.” The JICS teachers are piloting the concept of “Heroes” as a springboard for a school-wide equity exploration. Rabia

Khokhar (award-winning TDSB teacher and equity consultant) analyzes this concept in the context of thinking about local/global positionalities, critically considering how we 'frame' stories, looking for opportunities of collaboration, and cross curriculum mapping.

- JICS staff visit Humber River with Doug Anderson. 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 outside in the land.
- *Natural Curiosity* attends the University of Regina's "Rethinking our science: Whisperings of the Land Series"

### **Parent Education:**

- Meeting and Advocacy Space for Parents of JICS BIPOC Children. JICS Parents have created a safe space for parents of BIPOC children to discuss the issues impacting our children, and as a means to collect and convey our observations, our needs as racialised families, and any advice to the school around equity and inclusion. Ongoing throughout the year.

## *October 2022*

### **Dissemination:**

- Tara Rousseau presents at The Emergence Conference, hosted by CSEA (Canadian Society for Education through Art) and OAEA (Ontario Art Education Association) in Ottawa, Ontario. The theme of the conference was "Reshaping the Future of the World through Art" (October 2022). The title of Tara's presentation was "The Transformative Power of GSAs in the Elementary Art Room."
- David Osorio and Chriss Bogert present in the MACSE (OISE: UofT) program on "Child Study, Problems of Practice, and the EdD-CSE Program."
- Ben Peebles and Carol Stephenson present to the MACSE (OISE: UofT) program on Classroom Management.
- Ben Peebles and Marcia Bumbury present to the MACSE (OISE: UofT) program on Play.
- *Natural Curiosity* workshop for the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Conference. Workshop title; "Re-Storying, Gamifying, and Reconciling Environmental Education for a Regenerative Future."
- *Natural Curiosity* facilitates three workshops for Take Me Outside Week hosted by Take Me Outside. Workshop title; "Incorporating Indigenous Perspectives in Education with David Robertson and *Natural Curiosity*" with Indigenous Author David Robertson. Workshop title; "The Importance of Plant Knowledge" with Joe Pitawanakwat. Workshop title; "I Wish You Were Here" with authors Erica and James Reid.
- *Natural Curiosity* Collaborative Webinar "Coming into Relation: Land-based Learning with First Story and *Natural Curiosity*"
- *Natural Curiosity* led a booth at the Beyond Cop 21 Symposium.
- *Natural Curiosity* organized two Walking Tours for OISE and TDSB community titled "Coming into Relation: Remembering Buried Waters, Story-ing Stolen Earth."

- Natural Curiosity Guest Lecture for MA-CSE (OISE: UofT) Childhood Education Seminar.

### **Professional Development:**

- Ellie Lathrop participates in Roots of Empathy training.
- Krista Spence attends the Center for Leadership and Diversity third-annual School International Conference
- Krista Spence participates in a Twitter 'space' broadcast by Ontario School Libraries Association, called “The Learning Library Commons, Digital Skills and Tech Titans.”
- Krista Spence attends a virtual workshop hosted by David A Robertson and Natural Curiosity. The workshop explored outdoor learning, Indigenous perspectives and building a relationship with the land you are learning on.
- Tara Rousseau attends and presents at The Emergence Conference, hosted by CSEA (Canadian Society for Education through Art) and OAEA (Ontario Art Education Association) in Ottawa, Ontario.
- Tania Debss attends a virtual workshop organised by AFO (l'Assemblée de la Francophonie de l'Ontario) - Causerie au sujet des peuples et des communautés autochtones"- in partnership with ACFO SDG (L'Association des Communautés Francophones de l'Ontario, de Stormont, Dundas et Glengarry)

### **Parent Education:**

- "Lunch and Learn” with Ellie Lathrop titled “Helping Kids Manage Disappointment and Sadness”
- Grade 5 & Grade 6 Parent Info Night: Transition to Grade 7.
- “All Parent” Parents’ Association Meeting. Doug Anderson explains the work he is doing at JICS. Doug is an alumni parent, co-author of Natural Curiosity 2nd Edition, and an Indigenous scholar and educator who has been teaching the JICS students outside in the land over the last few years, in the school’s courtyard, on the UofT campus, and by the Humber River.
- Parent group of BIPOC children at JICS meeting in-person at JICS.

## ***November 2022***

### **Dissemination:**

- Krista Spence contributes to an article for the Robertson Program, “7 Ways to Observe Snow & Ice with your Students” by Zachary Pedersen. (November 3, 2022).
- Krista Spence and Ben Peebles participate in an interview with Dr. Jennifer Wemigwans (Assistant Professor Adult Education and Community Development program, OISE/UofT) researching the development and use of Thanksgiving Address and Land Acknowledgements at the JICS Lab School.
- Natural Curiosity are the Keynote Speakers at the Environmental Education Association of Indiana’s annual conference. Presentation title; “Past/Present/Future through the Lense of Indigenous Sustainability.”
- Natural Curiosity delivers Guest Lecture at Environmental and Sustainability Education in Teacher Education – National E-course.



- Natural Curiosity delivers workshop in collaboration with York Region District School Board (YRDSB) titled “Ethical Leadership through the Arts and Environmental Justice.”
- Natural Curiosity presents at “Connecting with Communities: Educating for Climate Justice in School Communities,” TDSB/OISE’s annual Conference in Environmental & Sustainability Education.

**Visitors:**

- Lian Novak from Waldorf School visits JICS.
- Julia Murray (Head of Royal Oak School) visits JICS.
- Dr. Huang Yao and Dr. Wu Ying-Tien (National Chengchi University, Taiwan) visit JICS.

**Professional Development:**

- Ben Peebles and Krista Spence attend the National Council of Teachers of English Conference (NCTE) in Anaheim, California. A conference by literacy educators, for literacy educators.
- JICS staff participated in a Forest Therapy Workshop with Ben Porchuk in the JICS courtyard. Ben Porchuk has over two decades of experience in wildlife biology and ecology, non-profit management, environmental consulting, and sustainable living.
- JICS staff take part in a tour with Ken Montague of “As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic” at the University College Art Centre (UofT).
- Natural Curiosity attends UofT Workshop “Reflecting on Indigenous Land Acknowledgements.”
- JICS AT THE MOVIES (Fundraiser for tuition support fund) screening “Women Talking” followed by Q&A with Director and Writer Sarah Polley. Innis College Theatre.
- JICS AT THE MOVIES (Fundraiser for tuition support fund) screening “Brother” followed by Q&A with Producer Damon D’Oliveira, Author David Chariandy, and Actor Lamar Johnson. Innis College Theatre.

**Parent Education:**

- JICS Parent Education: Connected Parenting and Anxiety Workshop. “The Importance of Connection, How to Build a Meaningful Relationship with your Child, and How to Help them Manage Feelings of Anxiety.” Presented by Ulrica Jobe (Parent Coach, Child & Family Counsellor, Connected Parenting Therapist, Founder of True Compass)
- "Lunch and Learn" with Ellie Lathrop and Christel Durand titled “A Deficit of Rest – The mental health benefits of creating space for calm and rest.”

*December 2022*

**Dissemination:**

- David Osorio featured in a blog post for the *Robertson Inquiry-Based Teaching in Math and Science* website: “Selecting and Exceptional Book to Support Mathematical Learning.”
- Natural Curiosity speak at the Ontario Association of Deans of Ed - EE&S Round Table.

- Natural Curiosity workshop in collaboration with York Region District School Board (YRDSB) – Secondary Professional Learning Community with Geography and Science educators

**Professional Development:**

- APHD Research Gala.

**Parent Education:**

- Parent group of BIPOC children at JICS Zoom meeting.

## January 2023

**Dissemination:**

- Chriss Bogert and Richard Messina present on Knowledge Building at JICS to Eureka-UTS.
- Natural Curiosity interviewed for “Choose to be Curious” – Radio Station WERA 96.7 FM
- Natural Curiosity facilitates workshops at The Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario’s Winter Conference, *Make Peace With Winter*.

**Professional Development:**

- Suzanne Schwenger completes training program to become a mentor for Smart Start teachers. Suzannes will be as a co-mentor for a cohort of teachers starting in June.
- Natural Curiosity attends The Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario’s conference, *Allyship, Relationship, Humilty and Moving Forward*.

**Parent Education:**

- "Lunch and Learn" with Ellie Lathrop titled “The Pursuit of Perfect – When Perfectionism Has a Hold on Your Child.”
- PA “All Parents” Meeting

## February 2023

**Dissemination:**

- Krista Spence and Norah L’Esperance present at the IALS Collaborative Conversation “Environmental Literacy: building Capacity for a Sustainable Future.”
- Norah L’Esperance, Krista Spence, and Ben Peebles present webinar for Ontario Education Collaborative Marketplace (OECM). Webinar titled “Literature in Action: How Books that Centre Indigenous Voices Can Enact Change in the Classroom and Beyond.”
- Natural Curiosity facilitates workshop at the Ontario Tech Environmental Education Conference.

- Natural Curiosity facilitates workshop at IALS Collaborative Conversation, *Environmental Literacy: Building Capacity for a Sustainable Future*.
- Natural Curiosity facilitates Workshops at EECOM Conference, *Taking Action through Enviro Learning*.
- Natural Curiosity hosts webinar for the Nature for All Love Fest.
- Natural Curiosity facilitates workshop for a University of Ottawa Professional Learning Community.
- Natural Curiosity facilitates workshop for an MA-CSE Course at OISE.
- Nigel Barriff (Vice President of the Elementary Teachers of Toronto) visits JICS courtyard with Ben Porchuk.

### **Visitors:**

- New OISE Dean Erica Walker tours JICS.
- Kobe Shinwa visitors at JICS for one week. Kobe Shinwa visitors had multiple classroom tours and visits. In addition, JICS staff presented to Kobe Shinwa visitors which included:
  - Judith Kimmel and Nick Song on Special Education
  - Krista Spence on place-based education and importance of Indigenous perspectives
  - Nick Song on Empower reading
  - Norah L'Esperance on early years education
  - Ellie Lathrop on social work at JICS.
- Julia Murray and Royal Oak School.
- Alessia Albanese YCDSB Kindergarten teacher.
- CPL and MISK Foundation Visit

### **Professional Development:**

- Richard Messina attends National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) Conference with the theme of Cultivating Community (Las Vegas, NV).
- Nadia Dharsee attends “Docs for Schools 2023 Teacher Conference” at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema (Toronto, ON).
- Krista Spence and Tara Rousseau attend presentation of “Gender: Your Guide” by Prof. Lee Airton at Montcrest School.

### **Parent Education:**

- Parent2Parent Conference 2023 presented by The Mabin School, UTS, and the JICS Lab School. The keynote speaker was Jan Stewart with the title “Hold on Tight: One Mother’s Journey Parenting Two Exceptional Children.”

## *March 2023*

### **Dissemination:**

- Tara Rousseau co-presented a professional learning webinar for the National Art Education Association (NAEA) titled “Building Inclusive Classroom Communities.”
- Natural Curiosity hosts webinar for the 2023 EcoSchools EcoSummit.
- Natural Curiosity facilitates workshop for an undergraduate course at the Toronto Metropolitan University.

### Visitors:

- Beverly Pav & others from As-Sidiq Islamic School.

### Professional Development:

- JICS Lesson Study: “Number and Narrative: Making Sense of Equity Issues” JICS teachers collectively design two lessons and invite members of the educational community to observe and critique in order to improve our practice.
  - *What Makes a Good City?: Analyzing Data to Explore Equity Issues*  
**Lesson Study Group:** Chriss Bogert, Zoe Donoahue, Walker Kitchens, Norah L’Espérance, Mike Martins, Ben Peebles, Tara Rousseau, Nick Song, Carol Stephenson  
**Discussant:** Dr Larisa Lam
  - *Going Beyond the Narrative: Engaging in Critical Conversations with Children Through Media Literacy*  
**Lesson Study Group:** Marcia Bumbury, Tania Debbs, Nadia Dharsee, Christel Durand, Judith Kimel, Raadiyah Nazeem, David Osorio, Robin Shaw, Krista Spence  
**Discussant:** Dr Julie Comay
- Stress Buster Program leads workshop for the Grade 6 class for one week in March. Pamela Sariyannis, Anne Lovegrove, and Claire Barron from Stress Busters facilitated the experience. Christel Durand and Nadia Dharsee co-facilitated the workshops.
- Paul Dietz (researcher, UofT) presents animatronics workshop to JICS Staff.
- Nick Song, Judith Kimmel, and David Osorio visit The Reading Foundation.

### Parent Education:

- JICS Lab School Research Night Research with Dr. Eunice Jang and the BalanceAI Team. The title of the lecture was “Unlocking the Black Box: Promoting Your Child’s Self-Organized Learning and Development.”

## April 2023

### Dissemination:

- JICS hosts International Associations of Laboratory Schools (IALS) Conference. The conference theme is “Designing Cultures of Learning: The Essential Purpose of Lab Schools.” The conference brings together almost 200 educators, administrators, and researchers from 36 Lab Schools in 8 countries who toured JICS. JICS Lab School teachers and staff presented the following at the conference:
  - “Artist/Scientist-Scientist/Artist: art as a tool to explore scientific inquiry” by Carol Stephenson:
  - “Deficit of rest: Responding to Children’s Needs at School” by Ellie Lathrop & Christel Durand
  - “Pursuing Equity: from Courageous Conversations to Cultural Change” by Ben Peebles, Raadiyah Nazeem, Robin Shaw & Krista Spence
  - “The Transformative Power of a GSA in an Elementary School Art Studio” by Tara Rousseau
  - “A Daily Math Discussion in the Junior Grades” by Zoe Donoahue
  - “Re-Kindling Schoolwide Social Connection after COVID: Designing “student clubs” to form social skills and so much more” by Richard Messina, Nick Song, Walker Kitchens
  - “Land-based Indigenous Education at the Lab School” by Krista Spence, David Osorio, Norah L’Espérance & Tara Rousseau
  - “Grounding Indigenous Learning in the Library and on the Land through Relationship and Reciprocity” by Krista Spence

- Tara Rousseau presents at the National Art Education Association annual conference and delegates' assembly (NAEA 2023) in San Antonio, Texas.
- The Robertson Program featured in *OISE News and Stories* in article titled "Robertson Program's Online Playful Math program grows as teacher candidates support children and youth from underserved communities" (April 21, 2023).
- JICS Lab School featured in *OISE News and Stories* in article titled "Global Lab Schools leadership converges to JICS for highly awaited IALS conference" (April 28, 2023).
- Zoe Donoahue writes blog post for the *Robertson Inquiry-Based Teaching in Math and Science* website: "The Junior Daily Math Discussion: Using the number of days in school to explore math concepts"
- Natural Curiosity facilitates workshop for the CS Viamonde School Board.
- Natural Curiosity facilitates Workshop at the 2023 IALS Conference.

#### **Visitors:**

- Heather McCollam and five teachers from Elm Drive PS, DSB.

#### **Professional Development:**

- Richard Messina attends American Education Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting. The theme for 2023 Annual Meeting is "Interrogating Consequential Education Research in Pursuit of Truth" (Chicago, IL).
- JICS Staff attend IALS Conference Keynote Address by Dr. Pam Baer titled "Inviting Vulnerability: Equity and the Arts Classroom."
- JICS Staff attend IALS Conference Keynote Address by Dr. Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair titled "Ten Ways Indigenous Education Informs Lab Schools."

#### **Parent Education:**

- "Lunch and Learn" with Ellie Lathrop titled "Supporting Your Child through Transitions – Strategies to avoid meltdowns"
- Parent group of BIPOC children at JICS Zoom meeting.

### *May 2023*

#### **Dissemination:**

- Krista Spence is awarded the inaugural *Frances Lincoln Children's Librarian Prize* (FLCLP) which is presented annually to a children's or teen librarian who champions diversity and inclusion in their collection and community. Award presented to Krista at American Library Association (ALA) Conference and Exhibition (June, Chicago, IL).
- Krista Spence and David Osorio present at 2023 Outdoor Learning Conference. The theme for the conference was "Place and Pedagogy: Where Learning Happens." Krista and David' presentation was titled "Transforming Students' Perspectives of the Natural World Through Land-based Inquiry" (Banff, AB).
- Norah L'Espérance presents an online presentation for Early Childhood Educators in Chile entitled "Exploring Learning Outdoors With Young Children" by Norah

L'Espérance and Robin Bennett (Junta Nacional de Jardines Infantiles, Ministry of Education in Chile).

- Chriss Bogert, Richard Messina, and Dr Eunice Jang present research at Canadian Association of Applied Linguistics (CAAL/ACLA) Conference (York University, Toronto) (May 27-29, 2023)
- Walker Kitchens is featured in *OISE News and Stories* in article titled "Teacher Appreciation Week 2023" (May 8, 2023).
- Natural Curiosity facilitates Workshop at the Take Me Outside (TMO) Conference in Banff, AB.
- Natural Curiosity facilitates Children's Workshop for the 2023 WOTS Festival.

#### **Visitors:**

- Gigi Yu (University of New Mexico), Lillian Lewis (Virginia Commonwealth University), and Jason Cox (University of Ohio) from CSSE Conference (Canadian Society for the Study of Education) visit the Art Classroom and school.

#### **Professional Development:**

- JICS staff partake in a multiple week reflection on the pilot year of their shared equity focus of 'Heroes' and plan for the 2023-2024 school wide equity focus.
- JICS staff visit Askaagamigokwewigamig with Doug Anderson (co-author of Natural Curiosity 2nd Edition) to reflect on the history of integrating Indigenous perspectives at JICS and to learn about Doug's PhD Research Project (Teaching Lodge, New College UofT).
- Natural Curiosity attended the *Nature and Climate Expo* (City of Toronto).

#### **Parent Education:**

- "Lunch and Learn" with Ellie Lathrop, Richard Messina, and Chriss Bogert titled "JICS Approach to Supporting Children's Behaviour."
- PA "All Parent" Meeting
- Parent group of BIPOC children at JICS meeting in-person at JICS.

## **June 2023**

#### **Dissemination:**

- Tara Rousseau writes a profile on artist kimura byol lemoine for the *National Art Education Association's* (NAEA) Spring/Summer Newsletter.
- Natural Curiosity hosts webinar for Scholars Choice.
- Natural Curiosity hosts Instagram Live for OPHEA.
- Natural Curiosity hosts webinar for the Natural Start Alliance.
- Natural Curiosity facilitates workshop for educators at the Bishop Strachan School.

#### **Professional Development:**

- Raadiyah Nazeem and Krista Spence attend the American Library Association (ALA) Conference and Exhibition in Chicago, IL.

- Walker Kitchens completes AQ Course: *Special Education Part 1 – Elementary Focus* (PK12–SPEC1E, OISE, UofT).
- JICS staff partake in “Intentionally Designing the School Year” workshop to plan, map, and imagine the 2023-2024 school year’s important school wide observations and celebrations.
- JICS Staff are lead by Krista Spence and David Osorio in a workshop that looks back and reflects on place-based education at JICS during the 2022-2023 school year. This workshop was based on the workshop if Krista and David at the Outdoor Learning Conference.

## *July 2023*

### Professional Development:

- Zoe Donoahue attends workshop “The Lanscape of Division” with Cathy Fosnot and Patty Tedford (New London, CT).