

# Inspiring Oxford with Literacy

2016 EARLY LITERACY FORUM  
#earlyliteracyforum



**Monday, October 24, 2016**

**5:30—9:30 pm**



**College Avenue Secondary School**  
700 College Avenue, Woodstock, ON  
(parking and entrance on east side of  
school off Fyfe Avenue)

**Registration Fee \$20.00**  
(non-refundable)

## Seeing What Children See: A Democratic Approach

**Keynote Speaker: Martin Liberio**



While children engage in self-initiated play, we may not always recognize the learning possibilities unfolding or understand how to facilitate play for deeper learning to occur. When educators work with curious and questioning minds and see themselves not only as disciplinarians or mere transmitters of information but more as early childhood researchers learning alongside the children in their care, then new knowledge is always under construction. This keynote demonstrates how to use play as a viable source for creating child-centered curriculum.

Participants will learn how to use an educational intervention process to plan curriculum with focus on children's inherent competencies, ideas, and questions, and thus, foster each child's expression of his or her unique developmental journey.

Discovering an innovative way of being with children, this inspiring keynote helps participants become skilled at truly seeing the children in their care, and learn to see what they see.

Thank you to the County of Oxford for their support!



If you have any questions, please contact Cara vanKlaveren, Early Literacy Specialist at (519) 539-4419.



## 13TH ANNUAL EARLY LITERACY FORUM

Doors open at 5:30 pm

Refreshments and Vendors\*

Opening Remarks 6:15 pm

Keynote Speaker 6:30-7:30 pm

First Workshop begins at 7:45 pm

\*vendors will be on site to offer early learning resources for you to purchase

### Books for Children

As in the past, we will be collecting NEW children's books to support the Salvation Army in their Christmas Hamper campaign to ensure that every child receives a new book in their Christmas package this year.

### Early Bird Draw

Registrations received before October 1 will be entered to win!

### Registration

Register at <https://oxfordearlyliteracy.wordpress.com> and click on 2016 Early Literacy Forum!

## Workshops 1.5 hours\*

(Filled on a first-come, first-served basis)

### Des lieux bien à eux: Créer des espaces où des expériences étonnantes se déroulent

#### **Martin Liberio, Facilitateur professionnel d'ateliers**

Les milieux de vie influencent notre perception et nos pensées, façonnent notre comportement, et affectent énormément la qualité de nos vies. L'environnement travaille soit pour nous ou contre nous et conditionne notre fonctionnement dans notre vie de tous les jours. Les environnements visuels monotones et stériles, aléatoires et chaotiques, ou qui contiennent des murales animées ou des images ambiguës qui interpellent plus les adultes, engendrent des environnements d'apprentissage négatifs pour les besoins d'attachement et pour le développement sain de l'identité de l'enfant. L'apparence et l'esthétique ont trop souvent cédé la place à un environnement conçu pour offrir des images que les adultes associent fréquemment aux enfants ou bien des personnages de dessins animés avec des couleurs primaires vives. Il n'est nullement nécessaire de continuer dans cette direction. La conférence *Des lieux bien à eux* proposent des méthodes pour utiliser l'environnement de façon créative, imaginative et chaleureuse, afin que les expériences de jeu des jeunes enfants soient enrichissantes et significatives.

### Making it Meaningful

#### **Sue Jackson, National Literacy Consultant, Scholastic Education Canada**

Although there are many individual skills that children must learn within literacy, the most powerful strategies that they use are those developed independently. This workshop will highlight how to support literacy development in an inquiry-inspired environment where children's natural curiosities provoke project work, research, and ideas. Sue will showcase projects led by students, talk about how literacy development was supported in meaningful ways, and share artful, playful, and hands-on ways to engage in literacy opportunities.

### Highlighting new available tool: Zorbit's Math Adventure

#### **Diane Stang, Math Consultant, Scholastic Education Canada**

Zorbit's Math Adventure is a set of online games based on the math concepts in provincial curriculum for each grade, K to 3. Using games to teach math has two key benefits: it makes practising math fun and it encourages students to keep going through to the end of each game to solve the 'big problem.' During this session we will be highlighting this new teaching tool, and providing information on how to implement its use in your classroom.



# Workshops 45 minutes\*

(Filled on a first-come, first-served basis)



## Traditions in Storytelling

**Tanya Leary, OCT, Teacher at Hamilton Wentworth District School Board**

Interested in infusing First Nation, Métis, and Inuit content into your learning programs?

Join Tanya C. Leary, an Ojibwe First Nation author and artist for this fast paced, fun filled, hands on workshop that will be sure to spark your creativity. Learn how to use storytelling and crafts to engage your children in play based learning. Tanya is an award winning kindergarten teacher who is currently working for the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, and Pearson Canada.

## Building Blocks of Early Math

**Daniel Ansari, Professor of Psychology and**

**Canada Research Chair in Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience, Western University**

Numerical and mathematical skills are of fundamental importance to a successful career and a healthy life. Indeed low numeracy skills have not only been associated with poorer educational progress and career trajectories but are also linked to increased rates of unemployment, physical illness, clinical depression, and even incarceration. During this presentation, we will be discussing recent research on the importance of early math experiences, early predictors of later math competence, the importance of number symbols in early math development, and early screening tools and instructional strategies that help young children grow their numerical and mathematical understanding.

## Making Connections: Mandalas to Mindfulness

**Shelley Secrett, Early Childhood Educator and Special Event Planner**

Mandalas, which simply mean “circles” in ancient Sanskrit, are timeless and cross-cultural tools for peacefulness, self-awareness and belonging. You will learn the origins of mandalas, and their benefits, along with creative ideas about how to incorporate their beauty and meaning into your early learning environment and curriculum. Many educators have found them to be a valuable curriculum tool for creating calming rituals and moments of peacefulness for children, increasing focus and promoting mental health and wellness. Through small group discussions, videos and hands-on activities, you will actively be engaged in a way that will open your mind to new ideas and you will leave the workshop able to transfer this new knowledge, meaningfully and directly, into your professional and personal lives.

## Music and Language

**Jess Dickie, BMT, MT-BC, MTA, NMT, Grad. Cert. Autism and Behavioural Science  
Connections Music Therapy**

"Music therapy is the skillful use of music and musical elements by an accredited music therapist to promote, maintain, and restore mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health. Music has nonverbal, creative, structural, and emotional qualities." (Canadian Association for Music Therapy) During this workshop we will explore the connection between music and language. This will include what parts of the brain are activated during both of these activities, using music to elicit speech in non-verbal children, techniques that are used for developing/improving speech and articulation, and how you can use music as motivation for literacy and language 'homework' children may have.

**Registration opens Friday, September 9, 2016!**

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<https://oxfordearlyliteracy.wordpress.com/>

Thank you to our community partners:



London District  
Catholic School  
Board



Woodstock  
Public  
Library

...and many volunteers!

**Want to get involved?**

Email Cara vanKlaveren, Early Literacy Specialist at [cvanklaveren@oxfordccc.ca](mailto:cvanklaveren@oxfordccc.ca)