

Elementary Professional Activity Day

School Improvement Planning (Morning)

Facilitator: Principal

- The session will focus on key aspects of each school's Math Achievement Action Plan. It will include opportunities for the development of content knowledge for teaching mathematics, connecting to the curriculum expectations and high-impact instructional practices and actionable ways to support students' mathematical thinking.

Going Beyond Words – Virtual Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Session (Morning)

Facilitator: Leela MadhavaRau, LMR Human Rights & Equity Consulting

Session Focus

- Cultural shifts focusing on equity, human rights, and Indigenous rights for addressing structural inequities in schools and boards.
- Ways to confront discrimination that negatively affects student learning, achievement, and well-being, with the goal of improving outcomes for all students.
- Equitable learning opportunities for students with disabilities and special education.
- Equity and inclusive education policies, with areas of focus supported by [PPM No. 119, "Developing and Implementing Equity and Inclusive Education Policies in Ontario Schools", April 22, 2013.](#)

Student Violence Prevention & Reporting (Afternoon)

Facilitator: Principal

Session Focus

- Strategies and supports for educators to help students develop social skills, including conflict resolution skills.
- Non-stigmatizing ways for educators to proactively identify students in-risk and providing additional supports.
- Developing practices that promote and sustain safe, healthy, and caring school environments that support every student to feel like an integral and contributing member of the school community.
- Approaches for promoting positive mental health and reducing stigma associated with mental health issues.
- Reviewing [PPM 145: Progressive discipline and promoting positive student behaviour](#) along with the school board's own progressive discipline policy and consider best practices for using progressive discipline that support positive student behavior.

Direct, Explicit Systematic Instruction in Spelling (Afternoon)

Facilitator: Board Literacy Consultant

- This learning session will focus on how to implement evidence-based teaching strategies in spelling through direct, explicit, systematic instruction. Grade 1-8 educators will build capacity in studying the alphabetic code and then applying this knowledge to plan for spelling instruction. The relationship between the letters or combination of letters (graphemes) that represent sounds (phonemes) will be investigated. Professional development on how to use UFLI Foundations Reading and Spelling Practice Guides and the HD Word spelling lists will be provided.

Kindergarten Teachers, Early Childhood Educators, EarlyON Centre (All Day)

Workshops:

- Moving Beyond Biases to Belonging – Natalie Royer (Saroy Group Inc.)
- Play-Based Approaches to Learning that Center on Black Brilliance and Joy – Kenisha Bynoe and Angelique Thompson (EY Coaches Corner)
- Loose Parts, Provocations, Invitations for Learning with the ECCDC

Teaching the Holocaust in Elementary Classrooms (Full Day – Grades 5/6, 6, 6/7 Teachers at Denis Morris Catholic High School)

Facilitator: Melissa Mikel (The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal for Holocaust Studies)

Melissa Mikel is the Senior Director of Education at FSWC. Her professional training is in education. Melissa has been involved with FSWC in a variety of capacities for the past 15 years, creating and implementing programming with the education team for students from elementary school through to university, including Freedom Day, Speaker's Idol and Equity & Diversity workshops. She has also created programming to teach law enforcement personnel and educators about the Holocaust, genocide, antisemitism and racism. Melissa has participated in training through the Tools for Tolerance® program at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles and the International Summer Academy through Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in Poland which has helped to shape FSWC's Compassion to Action journeys for Canadian leaders to sites of the Holocaust. She wrote Harper Collins' Educator's Guide for the Canada Reads 2019 winner, *By Chance Alone*, a memoir written by Holocaust survivor Max Eisen. Melissa's first MA in the field of education was from the University of Toronto; her second MA, in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, was completed through Gratz College where she is currently pursuing her PhD.

Secondary Professional Activity Day

School Improvement Planning (Morning)

Facilitator: Principal

- The session will focus on key aspects of each school's Math Achievement Action Plan and overall school improvement. It will include opportunities to plan for actionable ways to support students' thinking.

Substance Use and Supporting Students in the Classroom (Morning) (Health & Physical Education Teachers)

Facilitators:

- Helen Risteen, Niagara Region Public Health
- Alison Haggerty, Niagara Region Public Health

Helen Risteen is a Public Health Nurse with Niagara Region Public Health's School Health program. Helen first worked in tobacco cessation way back in the late 1990's when Health Units were trying to get the first Smoke Free Ontario Act passed into law. Helen currently works with many secondary school-age students who are trying to reduce or quit their cigarette and/or vaping and/or cannabis and/or other substances use.

Alison Haggerty works as a Health Promoter on the Substance Use Health team within Niagara Region Public Health's Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention division. Alison's current portfolio focuses on alcohol and cannabis prevention and harm reduction and has past experience working in tobacco prevention and youth engagement.

Going Beyond Words – Virtual Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Session (Morning)

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Student Violence Prevention & Reporting (Afternoon)

Facilitator: Principal

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- Non-stigmatizing ways for educators to proactively identify students in-risk and providing additional supports.
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