



ADSB SUMMER SYMPOSIUM

*See the Possibilities
Shape the Future - 2025!*

*Learn alongside colleagues from across
the Algoma District School Board*

WHITE PINES C & VS

1007 Trunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

**TUE AUG 26th
& WED AUG 27th**



Kevin Lamoureux

*Indigenous Scholar, Educator,
and Public Speaker*

Keynote Speaker

Reconciliation in Education Supporting Relationships and Belonging for All Students

Co-author of the book, *Ensouling our Schools*, and past Education Lead for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, Kevin Lamoureux invites educators to explore the essential role of schools in Canada's journey toward truth and reconciliation. Drawing on his experience as a scholar, teacher, and advocate, Lamoureux will share stories, research, and practical strategies to help school staff create inclusive, trauma-informed learning environments that honour Indigenous voices and support all students.

Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of the historical and contemporary realities facing Indigenous communities, and a renewed sense of purpose in prioritizing relationships and building classrooms rooted in empathy, inclusion, and belonging.

**Tuesday, August 26
8:45-10:00**



Day 1

8:00 – 8:30	Registration and Coffee/Tea
8:30 – 8:45	Welcome and Opening Remarks
8:45 – 10:00	Keynote: Kevin Lamoureux
10:00 – 10:15	Break/Move to Sessions
10:15 – 11:30	Session 1
11:30 – 12:15	Lunch Provided
12:15 – 1:30	Session 2
1:30 – 1:45	Break/Move to Sessions
1:45 - 3:00	Session 3



Day 2

8:15 - 8:30	Coffee/Tea
8:30 – 9:45	Session A
9:45 – 10:00	Break/Move to Sessions
10:00 – 11:15	Session B
11:15 – 12:00	Lunch Provided
12:00 – 1:15	Session C
1:15 – 1:30	Break/Move to Sessions
1:30 – 2:45	Session D

Register by June 25th!



AUG 26th TUESDAY



8:30–8:45 **Welcome & Opening Remarks**
Director Lucia Reece

8:45–10:00 **Keynote Address – Kevin Lamoureux**

SESSION 1 • 10:15-11:30

Circle of Courage	Joe Maurice, <i>Superintendent & Guest Kevin Lamoureux</i>	Secondary	Indigenous perspectives and trauma-informed strategies to support positive well-being and student achievement in our secondary classrooms.
Supporting Every Child Through Intentional Play	Blythe Servant, <i>Superintendent of Early Years</i>	Kindergarten	Explore how intentional play-based practices can meet the needs of every child. This session will offer practical strategies to engage all learners in meaningful play and create a calm, inclusive Kindergarten classroom where everyone feels welcome, supported, and ready to learn.
Let's Get This Straight: Making Sense of the Explicit vs. Inquiry-Based Instruction Discourse and What it Means for Your Math Teaching	Jason To, <i>Program Coordinator, Toronto DSB</i>	Grades 1-9	The debate between explicit and inquiry-based instruction is reigniting. But does it have to be a debate? Join Jason for an interactive session to deepen your understanding of the issues and why certain math teaching practices work (or don't). You'll walk away more thoughtful about how you approach teaching mathematics.
Using myBlueprint Career Planner in your Classroom	Liza Honcharova, <i>myBlueprint</i>	Grades 7-12	The myBlueprint Education Planner is an online tool available to all ADSB students (Grades 7-12), teachers and parents to: investigate and research educational options for all pathways (apprenticeship, work, college and university), discover learning styles, explore career interest surveys, plan secondary school courses, set short-term and long-term goals, build resumes and much more. Learn how you can use this tool effectively in your classroom.
Portfolios with Purpose: Driving Growth Through Outcome-Based Assessment in FSL	Tracy Reid, <i>Superior Heights</i>	FSL	Explore how Language Portfolios using Outcome-Based Assessment can empower French students to track the progression of their skills in Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Through self-reflection, learners can pinpoint areas for growth and set inspiring goals for their language journey.

AUG 26th TUESDAY



DAY 1 learning continues!

SESSION 2 • 12:15-1:30

Needs, Supports, Resources & Strategies: Putting the Pieces Together	Brent Vallee, <i>Superintendent of Special Education</i>	Grades K-8	In special education, we often talk about “supports” for students, but the term is often misapplied. Building on the work of Dr. Shelley Moore, this session will focus on building an understanding of four key components (needs, supports, strategies, and resources) and how these fit together to implement needs-based programming that will enhance the achievement and well-being of all students - including those with special education needs.
Inclusion in a Kindergarten Classroom: A Case Study	Laura Austin & Carolyn Nadeau, <i>ASD Resource Facilitators</i>	Grades K-3	Participants will explore ways to support the inclusion of students with complex needs within the classroom. An ADSB case study will be used to examine environmental, sensory, communication, and behavioural strategies needed to promote successful participation.
Decoding Decodables	Lee-Ann Lear, <i>Author and Publisher of SyllaSense</i>	Grades K-2	This session explores the "ins and outs" of decodable books, including how they are crafted, their place in a structured literacy program, and how to determine where to start. Topics will include the use of scope and sequences, cumulative instruction, decodability percentages, and when to move to less controlled texts.
Lire, Écrire et Réussir : Literacy in the primary French Immersion classroom	Lauren Whitfield, <i>Boreal</i>	Grades K-2 F.I.	Join this Primary French Immersion workshop to explore structured literacy. Learn multi-sensory strategies to build phonemic awareness and support students' oral language, encoding and decoding skills—foundational to their success in immersion.
Tweak That: Transform Your Students' Learning with Minor Tweaks to Your Current Instructional Practices	Debbie Gibbs, <i>Program Team & Doris St. Jules, Echo Bay</i>	Grades K-6	This session is designed to help educators elevate student learning through simple yet impactful adjustments to their existing teaching practices. Discover strategies you can implement immediately to boost engagement, deepen understanding and transform your classroom without a complete overhaul.
Taking Learning Outside in the Junior/ Intermediate Years - It's not just for Primary!	Jennifer Elkin, <i>Parkland</i>	Grades 4-8	This session will empower Junior and Intermediate level teachers to integrate outdoor learning into their curriculum. This hands-on workshop offers practical strategies, curriculum-aligned activities, and nature-based routines to enhance student engagement, well-being, and environmental stewardship.
Destreaming: Understanding the "Why" and "How"	Jason To, <i>Program Coordinator, Toronto DSB</i>	Grades 9-12	This session will provide an in-depth exploration of the equity and anti-oppressive rationale for destreaming through data, history, and stories. Approaches to effective instruction and assessment in destreamed classes will also be shared, along with opportunities for participants to share promising practices collaboratively.

AUG 26th TUESDAY



DAY 1 learning continues!

SESSION 3 • 1:45-3:00

"Write" from the Start: The Power of the Sentence	Erin Corcoran, <i>Northern Heights</i> & Debbie Gibbs, <i>Program Team</i>	Grades K-4	Explore how sentence-level instruction lays the foundation for strong writing. Learn practical, hands-on strategies to help students move beyond writing the way they speak and craft sentences with structure, variety, and purpose—so they can write like writers.
Making STEM Accessible in the Elementary Classroom	Natasha Cole, <i>Greenwood</i>	Grades 2-6	This engaging session will support teachers in making STEM more accessible by offering creative STEM ideas, assessment methods and practical tips on classroom setup. The workshop will include a fun, hands-on activity to spark inspiration and student engagement.
Building Fluency with Repeated Reads	Ashley Brason, Kyle Dugas, & Amanda Pyykonen, <i>Anna McCrea</i>	Grades 3-8	This session will help participants better understand how to support the development of reading fluency in their students. We will share our journey of implementing a repeated read routine in two different grade 5/6 classes, and how we leveraged this routine to develop fluency, knowledge of syntax, text structure and vocabulary.
Tech Trailer: Navigating OCTE Resources for Hands-On Elementary Learning	Jonathan Widgett, <i>Program Team</i>	Grades 4-8	Explore Ontario Council for Technology Education (OCTE) to discover elementary tech resources, project ideas, and support for hands-on, inquiry-based learning. This session will help educators integrate engaging, curriculum-aligned tech activities into their classroom. Educators will participate in a project build.
Inclusion Beyond the Specialized Classroom	Drew Beaumont & Matthew Stickels, <i>Korah Intermediate</i>	Grades 4-12	This session will address the opportunities and challenges for classroom teachers when planning and programming for specialized students in their homeroom classes. Practical planning tools, programming examples, tips and experiences will be shared to support you in creating a successful, inclusive classroom.
Discover the Power of EDSBY for Outcome- Based Assessment Tracking	Tracy Reid, <i>Superior Heights</i>	Grades 7-12	Unlock the full potential of your Outcome-Based Assessment practices with EDSBY. Learn how to enter data aligned with curriculum expectations; document achievement through Conversations, Observations, and Products; and identify trends via the "Perspective" tool to support effective progress reporting.
From Day One-Fostering Student Voice and Risk Taking through Math Talk	Deborah Robinson, CASS with Carrie Rousselle, <i>Program Team</i>	Grades 7-10 teachers of Math	Spend time with experienced math teachers (grade 9 destreamed focus) to discuss effective ways to build a classroom where students feel comfortable, are willing to take risks, and start taking ownership of their learning from day one. In this session, teachers will explore how to create a welcoming environment that encourages students to share their thinking, develop strong "math talk" skills, and build confidence in their math abilities, no matter where they're starting from. Teachers will also have the opportunity to collaborate by swapping ideas, best practices, and questions with fellow teachers.

AUG 27th

WEDNESDAY



DAY 2 learning begins!

SESSION A • 8:30-9:45

The First 20 Days of MathUP	Steve Dixon & Mike Kelly, <i>Program Team</i>	Grades 1-8	We will use the First 20 Days of MathUP to help teachers build an inclusive learning environment, build collaboration, communication, independent work, and problem-solving skills, and gather diagnostic information, setting the stage for ALL students to be successful.
Monitoring Student Progress with Acadience Reading: Why, When and How	Kelly Tuomikoski, <i>Senior Research Scientist, Acadience Learning</i>	Grades K-2	The Acadience Reading measures help us figure out which students need more help to become successful readers. These same measures can be used to determine if that extra help is working or not. This session will focus on using Acadience Reading measures to monitor the progress of students receiving additional reading supports. Participants will learn why progress monitoring matters, when it's worth the extra time to do it, how to select the right measures, and, most important, how to set meaningful, ambitious yet attainable goals that help students catch up to their grade-level peers. Participants will practice setting goals and interpreting progress monitoring graphs, and they will leave the session with a plan to get started with progress monitoring in the fall.
Mapping the Journey to EQAO Readiness	Angela D'Amato & Sarah Duncan, <i>Central Avenue</i>	Grades 3 & 6	Discover a 35-week roadmap to EQAO success in Grades 3 and 6. Explore backward planning, daily strategies, and board-endorsed tools to build student readiness in writing and math while creating an EQAO-aligned, supportive classroom environment.
Using Assistive Technology to Support the Writing Process	Sarah Anich Mansfield, <i>LD Resource Facilitator & Amanda Naccarato, Special Education Assignment Teacher</i>	Grades 4-12	Explore how Read&Write's assistive technology tools can support students at every stage of the writing process, from brainstorming to final edits. Participants will have the chance to try out tools and strategies.
Reaching More Learners with Algebra Tiles	Jason Wenczler, <i>Superior Heights</i>	Grades 7-10	In this hands-on session, we will make clear connections between algebra tiles and symbolic algebra and explore how to use algebra tiles to simplify algebraic expressions and solve linear equations.
Trauma-Informed Teaching for Student Engagement & Achievement	Jodie McDonald, <i>CASS, Heidi MacDonald, Program Team</i>	Grades 7-12	Join us in a collaborative session to explore the power of Trauma-Informed teaching. Discover the Seven Principles that enhance student engagement and achievement, share successes, and leave with practical strategies to support safe, supportive, and responsive learning environments.

AUG 27th

WEDNESDAY



DAY 2 learning continues!

SESSION B • 10:00-11:15

Everyday Attendance Support: Building a Holistic and Responsive Approach	Terri Finlayson, <i>System Attendance Lead & Darryl Fillmore, Mental Health Lead</i>	Grades K-12	Consistent attendance is a cornerstone of student success, yet many families face complex barriers that disrupt regular school engagement. This session will explore everyday tools and strategies to support a holistic, system-wide approach to attendance, grounded in care, collaboration, and accountability.
Classroom Management	Allison Vecchio, <i>System Administrator</i>	Grades K-8	Participants will explore strategies to establish consistent routines, proactively address behaviours, and cultivate a classroom where students feel respected and empowered to learn. They will uncover tools to create a nurturing, structured, and engaging learning environment.
Data-Driven Literacy: Turning Insights into Impact	Melissa Monette Smith, <i>ONlit Team</i>	Grades K-2	Join classroom teacher Melissa Monette Smith as she leads teachers through using screening, diagnostic, and progress monitoring data to tailor primary literacy instruction. Discover practical strategies and ready-to-use activities that transform data into immediate classroom success, helping every student reach their reading potential.
Milk & Cookies: The Partner Reading Protocol	Emily Abbott & Trina Spina, <i>River View</i>	Grades 2-8	Participants will learn the research behind the partner reading protocol and how to easily implement it in their classrooms in order to develop reading fluency, retelling, and summarizing.
Morphemes Matter	Lee-Ann Lear, <i>Author and Publisher of SyllaSense</i>	Grades 4-6	In this session, we will cover key definitions, “big ideas”, and practical teaching suggestions appropriate for Junior classrooms. Topics include the relationship between spelling and morphology, suffixing conventions, and concrete ideas for representing morphemes in spoken and written words.
Future Fluent: Building Student AI Literacy in the Classroom	Heather Coulter, <i>Technology Enabled Learning/Teaching Contact</i> , James Agnew, <i>Technology Special Assignment Teacher</i>	Grades 5-12	This workshop will equip teachers with strategies to foster AI literacy by promoting transparency, responsible use, and critical thinking. Rather than banning AI tools, we'll explore how to help students understand what AI is, how it works, and how to use it ethically in learning and life.
Book Discussion: Teaching Skills for Complex Text	Debbie Gibbs & Kaila O'Callaghan, <i>Program Team</i>	Grades 5-12	Spend some time exploring lessons from the book Teaching Skills for Complex Text by Heidi Mesmer. We will discuss and consolidate our learning and share ideas for implementation. The session will not be an overview of the book. Teachers will receive the book in advance to read prior to the session.

AUG 27th

WEDNESDAY



DAY 2 learning continues!

SESSION C • 12:00-1:15

Jumpstart Your Year with Wellness First: Crafting Your Personal Plan for a Thriving School Year	Darryl Fillmore, <i>Mental Health Lead</i>	Grades K-12	Get ready to kick off the 2025-2026 school year with energy, balance, and a smile! Designed specifically for education staff who want to prioritize their well-being and bring their best selves to the classroom. This engaging, hands-on session dives into the latest research on wellness, offering practical insights to help you set personal health priorities that stick. Through interactive activities, expert guidance, and collaborative discussions, you'll create a tailored wellness plan to keep you energized, focused, and resilient all year long. From stress management to physical vitality and mental clarity, we've got you covered!
Using a Trauma-informed Lens in the Classroom	Lori Lambert, <i>Early Years Resource Facilitator</i> & Kristen Viita, <i>System Administrator</i>	Grades K-6	This presentation will review the most common causes of childhood trauma and discuss the general and educational impacts. We will explore strategies that can be used in the classroom to support these students.
Read, Think, Connect: Using Rich Texts to Boost Science, Social Studies & Language	Melissa Monette Smith, <i>ONlit Team</i>	Grades K-6	This session empowers educators to use rich, interactive read-alouds to enhance learning in Grades K-6 Social Studies and Science while strengthening Strands C and D in Language. Discover how to engage students through strategic questioning, explicit vocabulary teaching, and purposeful discussions across multi-day read-alouds. Gain practical strategies and resources to deepen comprehension, build fluency, and foster critical thinking, making read-alouds a powerful tool for meaningful content and language development.
Empowering Educators: Canva - Tools for Equity, Engagement and Creativity	Victoria Burzese & James Agnew, <i>Technology Special Assignment Teachers</i>	Grades 3-12	This hands-on workshop will explore the essential tools of Canva and demonstrate how Canva can make learning more accessible, engaging, and creative for every student. Discover Canva's voice recording capabilities to support differentiated instruction and amplify student voice. Teachers are encouraged to bring their instructional laptops to this session in order to participate in the hands-on learning.
Movement Matters: Active Minds, Healthy Bodies	Taylor Eustis, <i>Well-Being Team</i>	Grades 4-8	Explore practical daily physical activity strategies and discover how movement supports student well-being and learning. This session also introduces the Rethinking Recess leadership program—empowering students to lead inclusive, active play. Walk away with ready-to-use ideas to energize your classroom and playground.
Start with the Sentence!	Kaila O'Callaghan, <i>System Administrator</i>	Grades 7-10 Language and English	In our well-intended desire to support students in writing substantive texts, we sometimes overlook the importance of instruction at the sentence level, not just to support composition but also to support comprehension. In this session, teachers will explore useful and engaging sentence level strategies that will grow your students as readers and writers.

AUG 27th

WEDNESDAY



DAY 2 learning continues!

SESSION D • 1:30-2:45

Introduction to Experiential Place Based Learning	Julia Rowe, <i>Michipicoten</i>	K-12	This workshop introduces teachers to Experiential Place Based Learning, allowing participants to actively engage with its core principles. We will participate in some active learning to demonstrate how EPBL can enhance student engagement. Participants will leave with practical applications they can try.
Explicit Instruction Meets Differentiation in a Play-Based Kindergarten Program	Paulina Dunseath & Kaitlin Bessell, <i>Echo Bay</i>	Kindergarten	This session explores balancing play-based learning with explicit language instruction, offering strategies for multiple entry points, developing comprehension and fluency. The hands-on activities presented in various contexts allow for documenting student learning and using assessment to plan next steps.
Creating a Culture of Belonging: The Power of Intentional Practice	Dana Ariss, <i>Well-Being Team</i>	Grades K-8	Belonging is built through intentional, collective action. This session explores how all educators can foster equity and belonging by reflecting on identity, applying practical strategies, and making school-wide shifts that help every student feel seen, heard, and valued.
Time for Vocabulary Fun!	Trina Spina, <i>River View</i>	Grades 1-8	In this session, participants will explore explicit, multi-modal strategies for teaching vocabulary across all subject areas. These engaging methods help students look forward to learning new words. By embedding orthographic and morphological knowledge into low-prep, time-efficient routines, this approach becomes a lasting part of classroom practice. Participants will also learn a variety of teacher moves designed to strengthen core instruction for all learners.
Developing a Class Profile to Support Learning for All	Amanda Naccarato, <i>Special Education Assignment Teacher</i>	Grades 4-12	We will focus on building a profile of the individual student strengths/needs and find patterns to help support instruction that will be beneficial for all students. For this session, teachers will need to have access to their class list, IEPs and transition profiles.
Explore ELAN Resources to Support the Teaching of Language/English in the Intermediate Grades	Brian Weishar, <i>English Language Arts Network of Ontario (ELAN)</i>	Grades 6-10	This session will explore the latest resources from ELAN to support the teaching of English in intermediate classrooms. The resources provide support for teaching a variety of topics from metacognition to fluency and dynamic morphology and include a number of monographs and specific lesson plans that align with the new Language/English curricula.



If you are a district participant qualifying for accommodations, please indicate this in the registration form as a block of ADSB rooms at the Delta Waterfront has been booked at a special rate for this symposium.



We value your time in the summer and your commitment to learning. For compensation purposes, teachers/ECEs will be paid **\$100 per day** for engaging in the full day(s) of learning, which includes the keynote and all breakout sessions. Recognizing the unique role of Early Childhood Educators, ECEs' compensation will be reflected in September 2025.

District participant expenses will be reimbursed (mileage, accommodations @ Delta, food) if engaging both days in-person as per ADSB Policy 6.31: Travel, Meals and Hospitality (QR code below).



Register by June 25th!



Looking forward to seeing the possibilities and shaping the future with you at the 2025 symposium - register today!



For further information

Contact



705.945.7235



brecker@adsb.on.ca

Register here!

