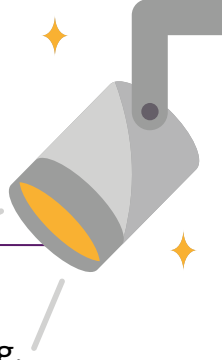


# CENTRE NEWS



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

After a lot of snow here in Southern Ontario, we seem to be coming nicely in to Spring. I am looking forward to our meeting at CSSE and seeing many of you in person. Our preconference is going to be very exciting. Please remember to sign up by **the deadline, April 10<sup>th</sup>**, if you want to attend. It is important that we know numbers for food. More information can be found within the letter.

Keep using the link found at the end of the newsletter to report Centre activities and other interesting research and practice opportunities that you want us to share with the larger community.

## INTERNATIONAL WORK

A SSHRC Connection Grant awarded to Steve Sider, Angel Caglin, Dale St. Juste and Jacqueline Specht enabled us to host “Building research and professional networks to support inclusive education for students with disabilities in the eastern Caribbean.”

From February 26-28, 2025, in Rodney Bay, St Lucia, we met with people responsible for their country’s special education system to discuss their current work and hopeful futures for students with disabilities. It was a great opportunity to learn what is happening in other countries and to broaden my understanding of inclusive education in the Caribbean context. I am always amazed at how similar the issues are for all of us regardless of where we call home. Steve Sider wrote a blog on his thoughts for the conference which you can find [here](#).



Watch video from the  
Ministry of Education  
[here](#)!

## REGISTER FOR CSSE PRECONFERENCE!

# Canada's Connection to the World – The Role of Mental Health in Creating Inclusion for All



Join us for an engaging pre-conference day exploring the critical role of mental health in fostering inclusive education and communities. Our event will feature leading scholars in the field, Dr. Jace Pillay and Dr. Bephyer Parey, who will share their expertise on mental health, inclusion, and global perspectives on achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) – ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

Dr. Jace Pillay – South African Research Chair in Education and Care in Childhood, University of Johannesburg. Dr. Pillay is a renowned expert in child and youth mental health, focusing on psychosocial support in schools. As a registered educational and counseling psychologist, he has contributed extensively to research on vulnerable children, education policy, and mental health interventions. He also serves as the Chairperson of the Education, Training, and Registration Committee for the Professional Board of Psychology in South Africa.



Dr. Bephyer Parey – Junior Research Fellow, Chair of the Disability Studies Research Cluster, University of the West Indies (UWI). Dr. Parey's research focuses on disability inclusion, social policy, and the role of educators in fostering belonging and well-being. Her PhD research examined disability inclusion in Trinidad, addressing topics such as teachers' attitudes, accessibility in education and employment, and the well-being of individuals with disabilities. She is currently investigating teaching and learning dynamics during the pandemic and the lived experiences of people with disabilities in various sectors.

**When?** May 31st, 2025

**What time?** 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Where?** George Brown College, Toronto, ON

**REGISTER HERE!**

Spots are limited! Register by April 10th!

## BABY NEWS!

On February 24, 2025, Abigail Kathryn Leachman entered the world. Kishi let us know that everyone is doing well! Congratulations to Kishi and family!



## AWARDS CIRCLE

Kimberly Maich's PhD student, Dr. Tayebah Sohrabi, successfully defended her PhD dissertation entitled "A Study of Social Skills Development in Newcomer, Bilingual Kindergarten Students." Congratulations Tayebah!

Congratulations to Jess Whitley who was recently awarded a 5-year University Research Chair on Inclusion, Mental Health and School Attendance in partnership with Crossroads Children's Mental Health Centre. Read about it [here](#).



John Freer was awarded Teacher Educator of the Year (PJ Division) from the Faculty of Education at the University of Windsor. Congratulations, John!



## CURRENTLY READING...

Schnellert, L., Davidson, S.F., & Donovan, B.L. (2025). Educational transformation and relational accountability in educational change. *Curriculum Inquiry* 54(3), 231-252. Read [here](#).

Sider, S. (December 2024). PrincipalBot: AI supporting special needs education. *Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario Principal Connections* magazine, pp. 52-53. Read [here](#).

**Check out our Linktree for all links related to the Centre!**

[Click HERE](#)

