

MELIT MTS PD DAY 2025 PROGRAM



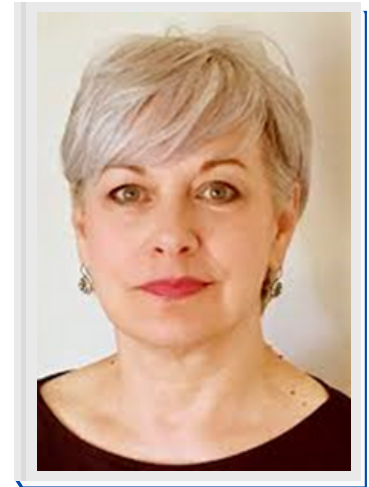
CAPTURING CHILDREN'S HEARTS FOR LITERACY LEARNING

When we capture children's hearts, we create the conditions for limitless possibilities in learning. Keynote speaker, Debra Crouch, will begin and end the day exploring the foundational Conditions of Learning which make it possible for us to capture children's hearts and make powerful teaching decisions that will positively impact each child's journey to becoming literate.

DATE: OCTOBER 24, 2025

**LOCATION: THE LEAF AT
ASSINIBOINE PARK & ONLINE**

Breakout sessions will provide teachers with practical examples of how Manitoba educators are capturing children's hearts and ensuring they become independent readers, writers, speakers, and thinkers.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

**DEBRA
CROUCH**

**REGISTRATION OPENS
WEEK OF AUGUST 25**





Keynote Sessions: in-person & online

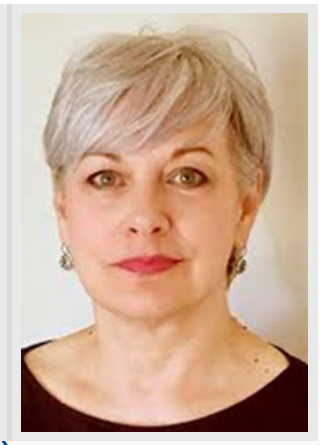
OPENING KEYNOTE: AM I DOING THIS RIGHT? ”:

HOW LEARNING HAPPENS AND THE TEACHER’S ROLE IN SUPPORTING IT

In a quest to make the best teaching decisions possible for children, teachers often ponder the efficacy of their decisions. This keynote will focus on how learning happens and offer teachers ideas on using the Conditions of Learning as a framework for making responsive teaching decisions.

CLOSING KEYNOTE: FROM THE LEARNER’S PERSPECTIVE

This keynote will support participants to reflect on their own learning throughout the day, note how the interactions across the day supported the Conditions of Learning, and consider how the same kinds of actions and language might occur within their own teaching practices.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
DEBRA CROUCH

Debra Crouch is an educator, author, and literacy consultant with over 30 years of experience teaching and coaching across the U.S. and Mexico. She supports educators in making thoughtful, research-informed instructional decisions. Debra co-authored *Made for Learning: How the Conditions of Learning Guide Teaching Decisions*, which integrates decades of educational theory with practical classroom insights. Her professional learning approach emphasizes collaborative reflection on teaching practices and their impact on children’s literacy development.



MTS PD DAY 2025- IN-PERSON PROGRAM
CAPTURING CHILDREN'S HEARTS FOR
LITERACY LEARNING

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY
10.24.2025
8:00 - 3:30
THE LEAF

8:00 AM	REGISTRATION & LIGHT REFRESHMENTS	Leaf Entrance and Mezzanine
9:00 AM	WELCOME & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	Event Hall A & B
9:15 AM	OPENING KEYNOTE	Event Hall A & B
10:25 AM	BREAK	Hot Drinks & Snacks, Mezzanine
10:45 AM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1	Locations as posted
11:45 AM	LUNCH	Buffet on Mezzanine, Seating in Event Hall A & B
1:00 PM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2	Locations as posted
2:00 PM	BREAK	Cold drinks and cookies, Mezzanine
2:15 PM	CLOSING KEYNOTE	Event Hall A & B
3:15 PM	CLOSING REMARKS & DOOR PRIZES	Event Hall A & B





MTS PD DAY 2025- IN-PERSON PROGRAM

CAPTURING CHILDREN'S HEARTS FOR LITERACY LEARNING

BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS 1 -10:45-11:45

AM 1

TEACHING CHILDREN HOW WE LEARN, *Debra Crouch*

In this session, teachers will explore a unit crafted to help children understand themselves as learners. Within the unit, children will investigate big ideas about learning and increase their awareness of themselves as learners.

AM 2

WHAT COUNTS IN TEACHING LITERACY? HOW DO WE FIT IT ALL IN? Integrating Manitoba's ELA Curriculum, Global Competencies, and Indigenous Perspectives, *Kathy Glenesk*

Educators will explore how to design integrated literacy experiences that reflect students' diverse backgrounds. Using mentor texts and practical tools, participants will learn strategies to support literacy across the curriculum while fostering identity, belonging, and voice in every learner.

AM 3

CAPTURING YOUNG WRITER'S HEARTS: Integrating Curriculum to Support Power and Agency *Jeff Kosowan, Alysha Warren, Jackie Borgfjord*

How can we support all writers while honouring student voice, fostering power and agency, and planning with intention? Learn how presenters use Manitoba Education documents to design responsive 5-day writing plans and meaningful intervention. Grounded in Regie Routman's philosophy of teaching with purpose and joy, we'll explore how writing instruction may be differentiated through technology, enriched through community resources, and build rich relationships. Leave with practical strategies, classroom examples, and adaptable planning tools.

AM 4

THE ROOTS OF LEARNING: An early-learning, literacy focused tour of The Leaf's Biomes, *Kim Crockett*

Kim Crockett, experienced early childhood educator and Forest School practitioner, will help uncover hidden stories and learning/literacy opportunities growing among and in the plants of The Leaf's Biomes. Come with curiosity, leave with new ideas for students and the sense of calm time with plants can bring. (\$10.00 fee, includes admission to Leaf Biomes)

AM 5

TRACKING FOR TEACHERS: LANDSCAPE LITERACY *Barrett Miller*

The science and art of animal tracking, and the way we learn this skill, has some strong parallels with how we learn to read. This outdoor session will deepen your understanding and appreciation for local wildlife, help answer student questions on your next nature walk, and give you new perspective on your work with language literacy as you learn to read the stories written on the landscape. Please dress for the weather. (\$5.00 fee)





MTS PD DAY 2025- IN-PERSON PROGRAM

CAPTURING CHILDREN'S HEARTS FOR LITERACY LEARNING

BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS 2 -1:00-2:00

PM 1

MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT & AUTONOMY FROM AN INDIGENOUS LENS, *Gloria Sinclair*

This session explores how meaningful literacy engagement and learner autonomy can be nurtured through an Indigenous lens, guided by the principles of knowing, being, and doing. Learn how to honor each child's individuality, cultural identity, and developmental stage, while fostering independence in early literacy learning. Emphasis will be placed on responsive instruction that builds on young learners' strengths, interests, and ways of knowing—empowering them to take ownership of their literacy journey in playful, purposeful, and culturally respectful ways.

PM 2

TINY WORLDS, BIG WORDS! *Jessica Laluk & Jenna Wynnyk*

Discover how small-world play can spark rich oral language and support emergent literacy in young learners. This hands-on session equips K-2 educators with practical strategies for facilitating interactive dialogue, scaffolding storytelling, and integrating sensory exploration and student-led narratives. Leave with ready-to-use tools to foster reading and writing readiness through joyful, responsive instruction.

PM 3

STUDENTS AS LITERACY MENTORS: **Quick writes, quick reads & conversation to support every child to be a reader and a writer,** *Holly Cumming*

The more children read and write, the better they become at it! While it sounds simple, teachers know that many factors limit the meaningful practice needed to build strong literacy skills.

This session explores a mentoring initiative where older students support younger peers in becoming confident, capable readers and writers

PM 4

THE ROOTS OF LEARNING: AN EARLY-LEARNING, LITERACY FOCUSED TOUR OF THE LEAF'S BIOMES, *Kim Crockett*

Kim Crockett, experienced early childhood educator and Forest School practitioner, will help uncover hidden stories and learning/literacy opportunities growing among and in the plants of The Leaf's Biomes. Come with curiosity, leave with new ideas for students and the sense of calm time with plants can bring. (\$10.00 fee, includes admission to Leaf Biomes)

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Presenter Biographies- In-Person Program

Presenter: Kathy Glenesk AM02 - What Counts in Teaching Literacy? How do We Fit it All in?	Kathy Glenesk is a seasoned educator with over 35 years of experience in early years teaching, including 13 years as a Reading Recovery teacher. Now in her 20th year as a team lead with Curriculum Support Teachers in Red River Valley School Division, she also supports literacy instruction through the Manitoba Rural Learning Consortium (MRLC), working with K-2 teachers across rural Manitoba and K-8 educators in Thompson. Her focus includes aligning literacy practices with the ELA curriculum, global competencies, and the Framework for Learning
Presenters: Jeff Kosowan, Alysha Warren, Jackie Borgfjord, AM03 - Capturing Young Writers' Hearts	Jeff Kosowan, a veteran Grades 3–4 teacher and Literacy Lessons instructor at Centennial School in Lord Selkirk School Division, who integrates technology and project-based learning into reading and writing. He is joined by Alysha Warren, a Grades 4–6 teacher in her third year of teaching in Lord Selkirk School Division. She is passionate about engaging students in authentic literacy experiences connected to their community. Jackie Borgfjord, Early Literacy Coordinator and Reading Recovery Teacher Leader in Lord Selkirk School Division, brings over 20 years of experience supporting students and teachers in building joyful, purposeful literacy practices. All three have been active participants in the <i>Transforming Our Teaching</i> Regie Routman Residency, hosting teachers and leading student-driven literacy projects.
Presenter: Kim Crockett AM04 & PM04 - The Roots Of Learning	Kim has 34 years in the Early Childhood Education sector. In the last decade, her career moved outdoors as a Forest School Canada certified Practitioner/Facilitator. Most recently, she has developed and facilitates family outdoor programming at Assiniboine Park Conservancy. Kim developed a foundation for lifelong learning and environmental stewardship by building an early connection to nature while promoting critical thinking, safe risk taking opportunities, and knowledge for the natural world through outdoor exploration. She has seen first hand how time spent outdoors provides irreplaceable benefits in our lives, from emotional and physical well-being to a positive mindset. Kim appreciates how capable and resilient young children are when given the opportunity. Seeing the world through their eyes keeps her in awe of all there is to learn and be grateful for.



Presenter Biographies- In-Person Program (Cont'd)

Presenter:
Barrett Miller
AM05 & PM05 -
The Roots Of
Learning

Growing up in the forest town of Pinawa, Manitoba, Barret Miller has always felt a strong connection to the natural world. He was lucky to have great role models in the school system, and his post-secondary journeys to the U of Winnipeg and summer camp fostered his inquiry and passion for the outdoors.

He's channeled this passion into a career in facilitating outdoor learning. After 18 years in education at FortWhyte Alive, he migrated north to the Assiniboine Park Conservancy in April 2024, where he is Manager Of Education And Programming.

From the youngest child full of wonder to those with vast life experience, he believes we can all teach one another- and all of us benefit from direct interaction with nature and the inquiry that grows.

Presenter:
Gloria Sinclair
PM01 - Meaningful
Engagement &
Autonomy from an
Indigenous Lens

Gloria D. Sinclair is from the Peguis First Nation and carries her indigeneity with pride, along with the belief of responsibility to acknowledge and share indigenous ways of being. Gloria has more than 30 years of experience teaching, facilitating and training in various capacities. A trained Reading Recovery Teacher Leader (Emerita) and literacy project writer for several projects. Gloria is known to be a valuable resource to classroom teachers in various Manitoba First Nation Schools and in training teachers in Reading Recovery. facilitation.

Presenters:
Jessica Laluk & Jenna
Wynnyk
PM02 - Tiny Worlds,
Big Words!

Jessica Laluk and Jenna Wynnyk bring extensive expertise in literacy leadership, instructional practice, and oral language development to their work with teachers. Jessica is a kindergarten teacher with over 20 years of experience, including roles as an Early Literacy consultant, Reading Recovery teacher, and resource teacher. Jenna is a Grade 1 teacher and Reading Recovery teacher with five years of classroom experience and recognized expertise in literacy instruction. Together, they empower K–2 educators with research-informed, play-based strategies that ignite storytelling, foster dialogue, and build strong foundations for literacy growth.

Presenters:
Holly Cumming
PM03 - Students as
Literacy Mentors

Holly combines a Masters in Education, with 30+ years of teaching experiences in early /primary literacy. First as a primary classroom teacher, then as a school literacy support teacher, then lastly as a Divisional Reading Recovery Teacher Leader. She currently subs and volunteers in supporting primary literacy/Reading Recovery in River East Transcona School Division.



MTS PD DAY 2025- ONLINE PROGRAM
CAPTURING CHILDREN'S HEARTS FOR
LITERACY LEARNING

FRIDAY
10.24.2025
8:45 - 3:30
ONLINE

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:45 AM	SIGN IN TO ZOOM
9:00 AM	WELCOME & MELIT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
9:15 AM	OPENING KEYNOTE
10:25 AM	BREAK
10:45 AM	FEATURED ONLINE SESSION 1
11:45 AM	LUNCH
1:00 PM	FEATURED ONLINE SESSION 2
2:00 PM	BREAK
2:15 PM	CLOSING KEYNOTE
3:15 PM	CLOSING REMARKS & DOOR PRIZES





MTS PD DAY 2025- **ONLINE PROGRAM**

CAPTURING CHILDREN'S HEARTS FOR LITERACY LEARNING

FEATURED SESSIONS FOR ONLINE PARTICIPANTS

AM

**10:45-
11:45**

CREATING THE GARDEN: OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN TO GROW AS READERS AND WRITERS

Teachers are the most important influence on children's learning. The environment they create to allow children to flourish as beginning readers and writers is critical to the growth of strong spirit, maximum engagement, and positive attitudes towards literacy. We will explore the "what" and the "how" and get a sense of the characteristics of children's progress in the first years of school.

PRESENTER: DR. ALLYSON MATCZUK

Dr. Matczuk recently retired as an Early Literacy Consultant for Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning. She has worked at all grade levels and in special education across multiple school divisions in the Manitoba public school system. Dr. Matczuk studied to become a Reading Recovery Trainer at the University of Auckland and earned her PhD at the University of Manitoba, where she studied Language and Literacy. Dr. Matczuk continues to work as a private literacy consultant in Manitoba and presents at literacy conferences across the world.

PM

**1:00-
2:00**

WHAT COUNTS IN TEACHING LITERACY? HOW DO WE FIT IT ALL IN? Integrating Manitoba's ELA Curriculum, Global Competencies, and Indigenous Perspectives

Educators will explore how to design integrated literacy experiences that reflect students' diverse backgrounds. Using mentor texts and practical tools, participants will learn strategies to support literacy across the curriculum while fostering identity, belonging, and voice in every learner.

PRESENTER: KATHY GLENESK

Kathy Glenesk is a seasoned educator with over 35 years of experience in early years teaching, including 13 years as a Reading Recovery teacher. Now in her 20th year as a team lead with Curriculum Support Teachers in Red River Valley School Division, she also supports literacy instruction through the Manitoba Rural Learning Consortium (MRLC), working with K-2 teachers across rural Manitoba and K-8 educators in Thompson. Her focus includes aligning literacy practices with the ELA curriculum, global competencies, and the Framework for Learning

CONFERENCE SPECIALS



**LEAF BIODOME
ENTRY FEE
15% OFF**

12:30 OR 3:30

**CONFERENCE
DAY**

Are you interested in touring the Leaf's Biodomes? MELIT members receive 15% off regular admission if they choose to tour the biodomes during lunch at 12:30 or after the conference at 3:30. Please note, that tickets have been reserved for these two time slots on October 24, 2025 and that the discount is not available for any other time slot on the conference day. Participants who wish to take advantage of this offer must purchase their tickets during the registration process.

PUBLISHER TABLES

Are you looking for literacy resources for your classroom? You're in luck! There will be several publishers present with books and other literacy resource items available to purchase on conference day.

BIRCHWOOD INN

Guests are responsible for booking their own rooms by the cut off date of **October 3, 2025**. Rate is \$127.00 + taxes per night for standard accommodations.

Reservations can be made one of the following ways:

Email: res@birchwoodinn.ca
Direct phone: 204-885-4478
Toll Free: 1-800-665-0352
Fax: 204-831-5734
Group Code: M65

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