

POWER *of* PLACE

LEARNING COMMUNITIES



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

‘Tis the season for gathering. From Thanksgiving through New Year’s Day, most of us will be hosting and attending parties to celebrate with friends, family, and colleagues, and to fill our cups - and our bellies - with joy, hope for the new year, and some delicious food and drink.

This feels like the first year in a while that in person gatherings are the norm once more. COVID forced us apart, and instead we met online or outside, or we didn’t meet at all. Despite some impressive creativity (remember Zoom happy hours?) for the past several years we have been more isolated, and lacking in connection to one another. One thing we’ve learned is that no matter the technology, there is no substitution for being face to face.

In her book *The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters* (2018), Priya Parker reminds us that *how* we gather matters. Too often we focus on the logistics: How many people can we fit into a room? What should we serve? Do we have enough chairs? But Parker says this singular focus is “both shortsighted and a misunderstanding about what actually makes a group connect and a gathering matter.”

This reminds me of the differences between technical and adaptive challenges. Technical challenges are low-hanging fruit that can be easily checked off. Adaptive challenges are more complex, and necessitate changes in values and beliefs, roles, and relationships. They require us to dig deeper, to discover the less visible, but critically important, dimensions of our daily lives.

We take seriously the adaptive challenge of creating meaningful gatherings and learning experiences. We aim to provide a comfortable location, nourishing and tasty food, a clear purpose that also communicates our high regard and deep respect for educators at every level of the system. We strive to create a warm and welcoming space, a place where you can relax, get to know one another, experiment, and share your wisdom.

And speaking of wisdom...We want to tap into yours at the February 6 Winter Gathering! We know that many of you have offered PD to your colleagues or have areas of expertise but no outlet for sharing. We want to change that: Submit your proposal to offer a 75-minute workshop at Winter Gathering! It doesn't need to be fancy; it need only be a session that invites full participation, shares content that will connect with others, and brings you joy to share. We can't wait to hear and see your ideas for engaging your colleagues in meaningful learning. All presenters will be given a \$750 stipend for their time and expertise, so **submit your proposal today!**

Enjoy this season of gathering!

With appreciation,

Jane

Upcoming
EVENTS

12/9/24

ECLC Book Club
"Normal Sucks"
on Zoom

2/6/25

Winter Gathering
*Wylie Inn and
Conference Center*

2/26/25

SEED for
Administrators
*Wylie Inn and
Conference Center*

VIEW OUR COMPLETE
2024-25 LEARNING AGENDA [HERE](#)

Call for Proposals:
ECLC 2025 Winter Gathering

ECLC WINTER GATHERING:

SHARE YOUR WISDOM

Do you want to lead a professional development workshop for your peers across Essex County? **Tell us more.**



All educators are invited to submit a proposal to lead an engaging, memorable, 75-minute session on February 6. Selected presenters will receive a **\$750 stipend**.

Learn more and submit your proposal **here** by December 16



Join the ECLC Book Club

Join the ECLC Book Club

Normal Sucks

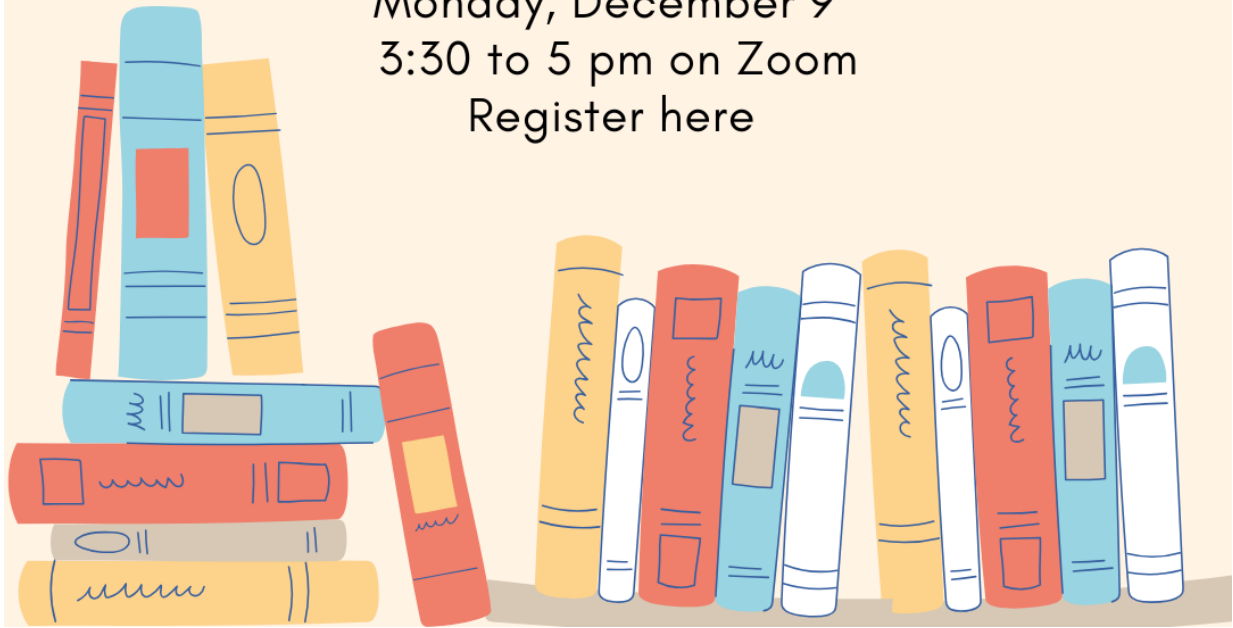
by Jonathan Mooney

Session 2

Monday, December 9

3:30 to 5 pm on Zoom

[Register here](#)



Register Now: SEED for Administrators



SEED FOR ADMINISTRATORS



Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity (SEED) is a peer-led model for administrators only. This is a space for exploration, reflection, connection and deep learning for school and district leaders.

February 26 | March 5 | March 12 from 8 am to 3 pm
Wylie Inn & Conference Center in Beverly

Register today!



Upcoming Opportunities



PLEASE JOIN THE CURRICULUM AND STAFF
DEVELOPMENT NETWORK & ECLC FOR

The Human Side of Changing Education

FEATURING RESEARCHER
JULIE JUNGALALWALA



FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 11 AM TO 2 PM

ESSEX NORTH SHORE AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL
A wonderful lunch will be served and books will be provided for all

**FOR ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS, CURRICULUM DIRECTORS AND OTHERS
LEADING DISTRICT CHANGE. (MAXIMUM THREE PARTICIPANTS PER DISTRICT)**



REGISTER TODAY!





Democracy in Dialogue

An ECLC Exploratory
Mini-Grant Experience

As the nation nears its 250th anniversary it is vital for young people to break down barriers and build bridges to better understand the people around them. Join us for a new PD series designed to:

- **Empower and prepare educators** to facilitate conversations between students within their classrooms, schools, and communities.
- **Leverage the power of objects and place in learning**, and help educators learn to build partnerships between local community organizations and their classrooms.
- **Partner and utilize resources and materials** from Essex National Heritage and the Smithsonian to provide a dynamic and meaningful professional development with tangible takeaways and resources.
- **Prompt meaningful dialogue** amongst young people across our communities.

*This series will be led by **Brian Sheehy**,
History Department Coordinator at
North Andover High School*

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Follow Power of Place on Social Media

**Power of Place is on
[LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#)!**

Follow us for photos, links to resources, upcoming opportunities, and more.



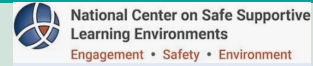
Resources



How to Set Up Collaborative Learning to Boost Intrinsic Motivation

Picture this: Your students are working on a group assignment where students compete against other groups in a classroom game, and the reward for success is a collective team prize. What do we usually see happen in this situation? This scene often ends with one or two students dominating the work in each group, completing most or all of the tasks, while others contribute little. The **resulting conflicts** within the team can erode motivation and lead to frustration and resentment, ultimately crushing students' collaborative spirits, leaving some students disengaged and others feeling overwhelmed.

Read the full article [here](#).



A Researcher's Perspective on Staff Well-Being with Patricia Jennings

The Working Well podcast series from the National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments focuses on well-being practices currently being implemented in schools. On this episode, Dr. Patricia Jennings talks with NCSSLE Training Specialist Melanie Goodman about improving the profession of teaching, and how implementing changes at a systems level can have a profound impact on the well-being of educators. They also discuss how teacher autonomy and self-determination connect to well-being and evolve to create conditions where students and educators can thrive.

Listen to the podcast [here](#).



Five Ways to Be More Vulnerable and Authentic

In today's digital age, where much of our lives are spent online, living authentically—being true to who we really are—is both challenging and important. It's challenging because in order to be authentic, we have to be vulnerable—willing to take a risk to share personal information. And it's important because, according to research, being vulnerable and authentic helps us believe in ourselves, build better relationships, boost our self-confidence, and improve our physical and mental health. It can feel



Increase Teacher Efficacy with UDL: How to Inspire, Motivate and Get Results

In this podcast series from Novak Education, discover how to elevate your school's instructional practices by empowering your teachers with Universal Design for Learning (UDL). In this episode, Katie Novak explores the impact of teacher efficacy - not only on students but on staff as well. Novak shares how to cultivate a culture of belief and competence among your staff while providing insights into effective professional development and support systems. She also shares links to

risky to share our true selves with others, but it can also bring us more connection, success, and happiness in life.

Read the full article [here](#).

resources referenced during the episode.

Listen to the podcast [here](#).

Just for Fun

The Earworm Eraser

This year the holiday music began even before the Thanksgiving leftovers were packed away. Now it's everywhere - in the car, on the phone, television, and over the loudspeaker in every store. Some songs spark joy and excitement for the season; others can plant themselves in your head and are hard to shake. ("Jingle Bell Rock" anyone?) Luckily, this year there's a new answer to the endless musical loop: check out the [Earworm Eraser](#) - a 40-second audio track designed to knock musical earworms like "All I Want for Christmas Is You" out of your head and replace them with the welcome sound of silence ... or something else entirely.



*Do you have something to share with your fellow educators?
Send it to us at info@powerofplacec.org.*



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