

“Igniting Your School Library with Maker and Spark Spaces”

Sara Furnival - Upper Grand District School Board



This is a modified version of a presentation by Sara Furnival shared at the OLA 2016.
Pictures where students faces are showing have been removed.

Social Media Contact Info:

- Pinterest: “Sparks Fly” (Spark Tables) by sfurnival1
- Twitter: @sarafurnival

Reggio Emilia-inspired Librarianship

1. View of the child as an active, engaged, protagonist in their own growth.
2. The role of the teacher (or librarian) as a listener, partner and “provocateur”
3. The environment as teacher.



Source: Day Nursery Clarion Center
<http://www.earlylearningin.org/2009/11/19/the-wonder-of-learning-exhibit-from-reggio-emilia-wraps-up-next-month/>

The View of the Child as Protagonist

"What children learn does not follow as an automatic result from what is taught. Rather, it is in large part due to the children's own doing as a consequence of their activities and our resources."

"So it is that in many situations, especially when one sets up challenges, children show us they know how to walk along the path of understanding. Once children are helped to perceive themselves as authors or inventors, once they are helped to discover the pleasure of inquiry, their motivation and interest explode."

(Loris Malaguzzi, Founder of the program of Reggio Emilia

The Hundred Languages of Children, 1998, p. 67)



The Role of the Teacher as Provocateur

“The teacher’s role centers on provoking occasions of discovery through a kind of alert, inspired listening and stimulation of children’s dialogue, co-action, and co-construction of knowledge.” (pg. 183)

“The teachers’ role is to help children discover their own problems and questions. ...Their goal is not as much to facilitate learning in the sense of making it smooth or easy, but rather to stimulate it by making problems more complex, involving and arousing.” (pg. 184)

(The Hundred Languages of Children, 1998, p. 267 -- Carolyn Edwards)

The Physical Environment as Teacher

The environment, meaning the physical space inside and outside the learning centres in Reggio Emilia, is valued as another teacher.

The process of creating the physical space is a very thoughtful and intentional process.

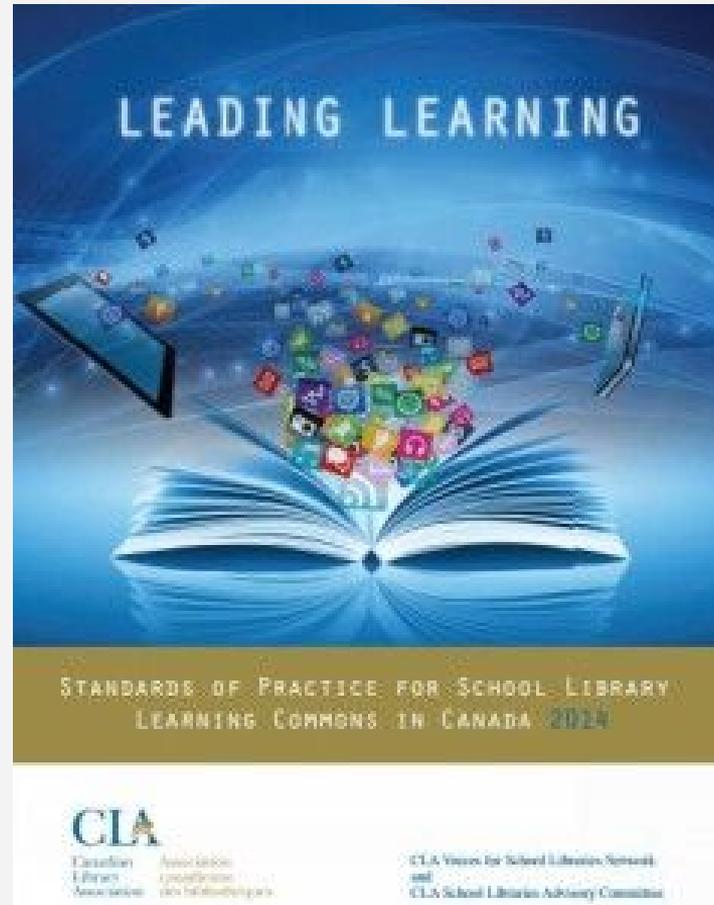
The materials and resources are also all valued as languages through which the children can express themselves and their understanding of the world around them.



Within a Library Learning Commons...

“inquiry, project/problem-based learning experiences are designed as catalyst for intellectual engagement with information, ideas, thinking, and dialogue. Reading thrives, learning literacies and technology competencies evolve, and critical thinking, creativity, innovation and playing to learn are nourished.”

Yahoo!!!



I asked myself...

- How can my library learning commons reflect my belief in children as co-creators of their own knowledge?
- How can I be an active “provocateur” in my school?
- How can I create an irresistible space that ignites wonder and curiosity?

Because, if I do that...



This week, in our

creation
station

AND

Makerspace...



LITERARY SPOTLIGHT
THIS WEEK,
ON OUR BOOK
BLOG....

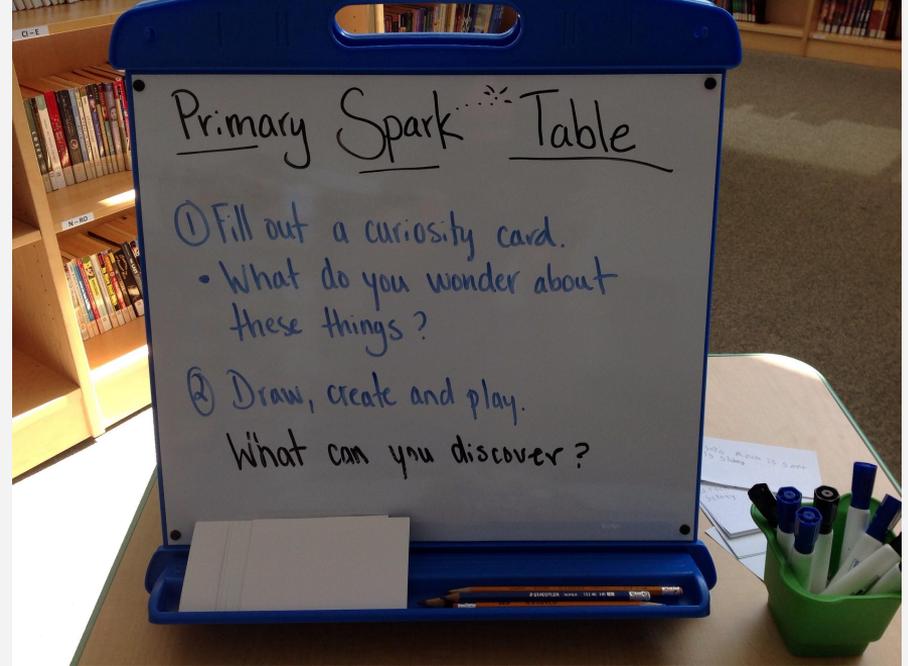


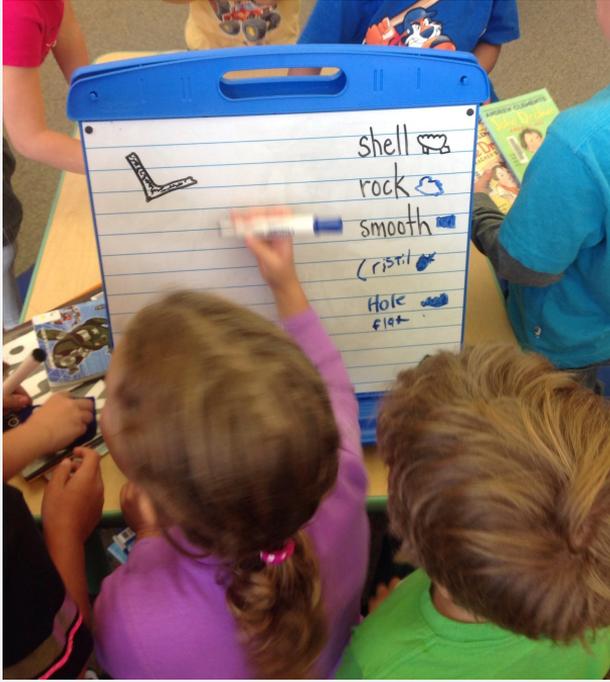
This week, at our...

Spark
Table

Westminster Woods Library Learning Commons (K-8)







Sparks are flying!!

HOW CAN YOU CREATE BALANCE?





kids
ROCKY ROAD
ADVENTURES
1
Moose and
Mabel
and
the
Great
Moose
Mystery

WASH STATE
ADVENTURES
1
Moose and
Mabel
and
the
Great
Moose
Mystery

MICHELE
RAP...
WALK...
ONWARD



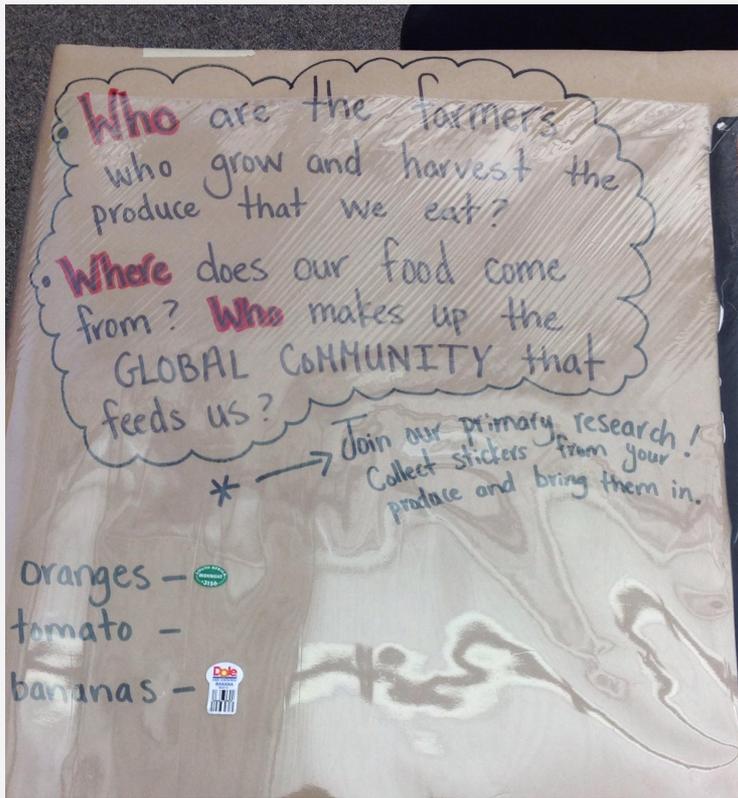
Spark: Exploring Rocks and Minerals

My role as teacher and librarian:

- **To listen** (Ask myself: What aspects of this spark are my students and staff connecting with? What is intriguing for them? Where could we go next?)
- **To honour their learning by capturing it** (documentation)
- **To question** (to help them dig deeper)
- **To connect** (relationships and resources - maps, books, etc.)



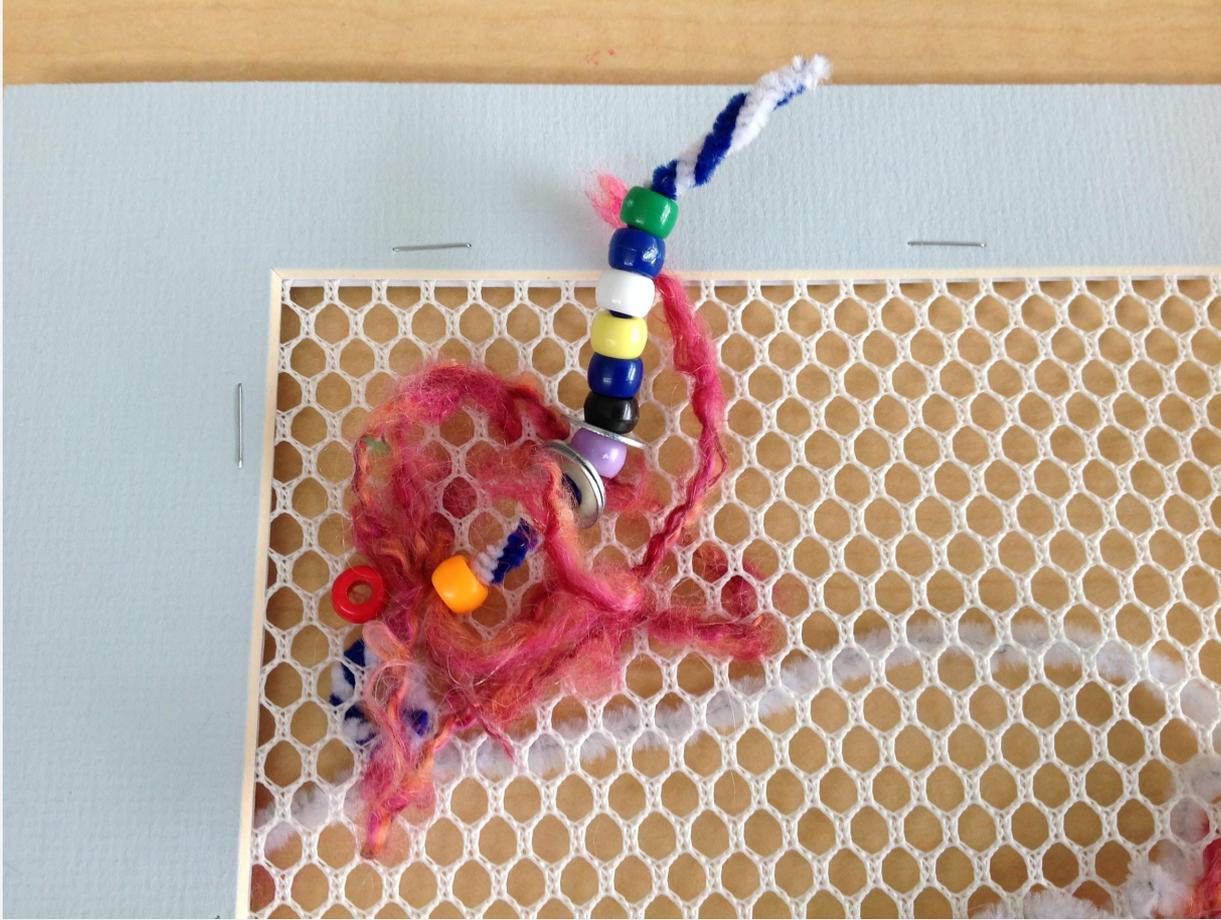
Spark: Hands-on “Tetris” (visual spatial challenge)



Where does food come from?



Building and engineering... It even took over the floor.



Collaborative art.





Write on our wall.

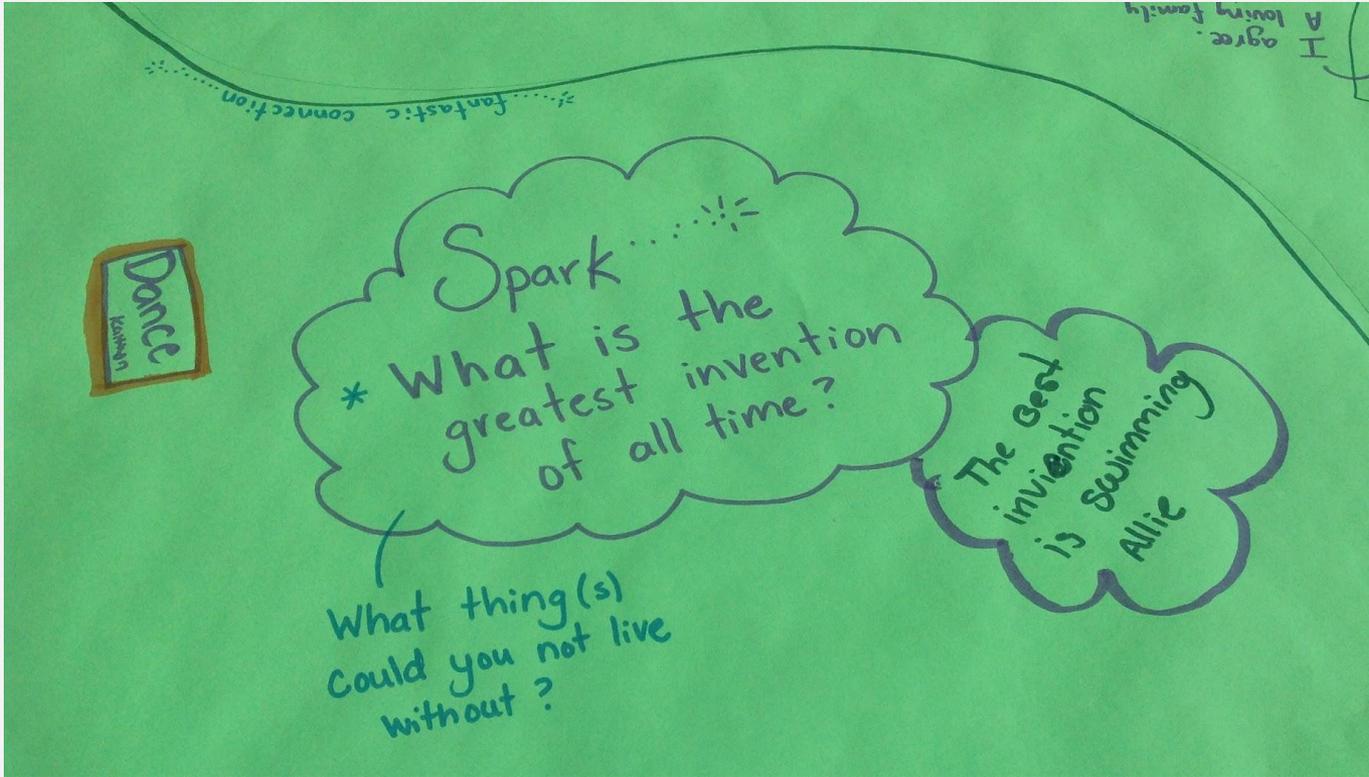
• Create a spark.
• Continue a spark.
• Add (thoughtfully) to
the conversation.

Spark

What is your
biggest dream?
(for yourself, your community
or our world)

I
HAVE
— A —
DREAM

Martin Luther King, Jr.



What is the greatest invention of all time?

Spark Table's role in my Journey?

“Spark Table” was my entry point to transforming one aspect of our library space. (Doable. Exciting. Creative.)

It became a magnetic part of our library for teachers and children.

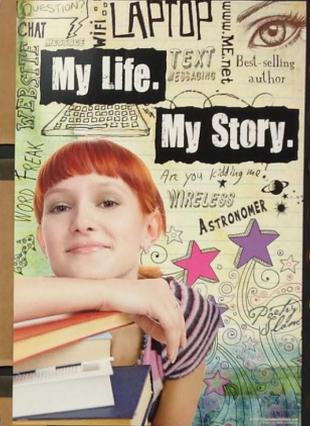
Created excitement and wonder before children even entered the space. “What’s at the spark table this week?”

Became a catalyst for change for me.

The Result...

- Parents are so happy. They tell me: “My child loves the library. Umm... What’s the spark table?”
- My administration is proud to share.
- Teachers have created “spark spaces” within their classrooms. They play, too.
- Students suggest ideas.
- Transition to multiple “Spark Spaces”.

LITERARY SPOTLIGHT
THIS WEEK,
ON OUR BOOK
BLOG....

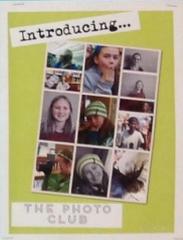


This week, in our
creation station
AND
Makerspace...

Make
Journal
Make



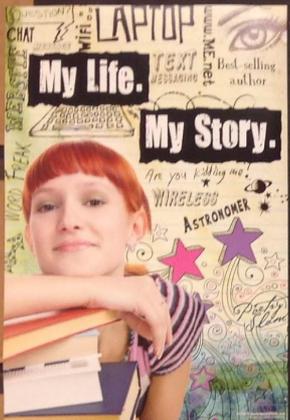
WELCOME
to Our
LIBRARY



3
10
17
24
31

Community





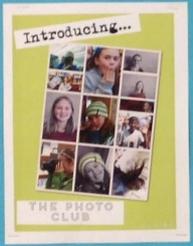
WELCOME
to Our
LIBRARY,

Tech
Hub AND

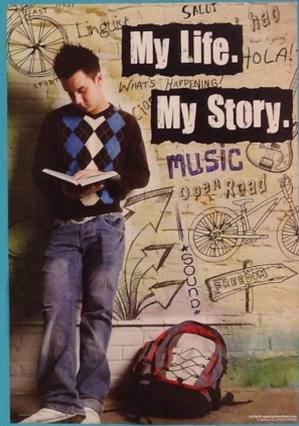
CREATION
Station

Library

Events



JANUARY JANVIER 2016											
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
			1 Read, Explore, Create, Build, Share, Make, Tinker, Design, Lead.	2 ... in Our Library							
3	4	5 PM New Library (Language)	6 PM Book Club	7 PM New Library (Language)	8 PM Book Club	9					
10	11	12	13 PM Book Club	14	15 PM Book Club	16					
17	18 PM Family Day	19	20 PM Family Day	21 PM Family Day	22 PM Family Day	23					
24	25 PM Family Day	26	27 PM Family Day	28 PM Family Day	29 PM Family Day	30					
31											



Community

Events

tinlids Forest of Reading

The Blue Spruce™ Award

The Silver Birch™ Explorer Award

The Silver Birch™ Fiction Award

The Silver Birch™ Non-Fiction Award

The Red Maple™ Award

Le Prix Fleuve

Le Prix Tamara

For more ideas:

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