

## Adding Colours to the Crayon Box

I plan to volunteer to lead a group of grade 4,5,6 students to help develop a creative computing culture, using as a catalyst this lovely colourful book - "[Invent to Learn - Guide to the MicroBit](#)".



I'll spare you all of the details here, but a key one is to give each student a couple of micro:bits and a copy of the book for the duration of the project (February to May). They would use them in school as well as equally importantly at home, including family members and community members, and would also engage their classmates and lower grade level "buddies" in various projects. A planned first goal will be to collectively complete all of the projects (or variations and extensions of them) in the book at least once (there are around 30 or so), as well as add many new ones (some of which could include robotic elements). Students will choose only projects they are interested in, and there will be a key group that will take on leading tasks (documentation, communications, materials coordination). Projects will be celebrated (not evaluated) during Education Week (first week of May) - as well as being on display throughout the school and demonstrated and communicated on a regular basis. Parents will be encouraged to be active participants as well.

If this were a club, it would be called the "Adding Colours to the Crayon Box" club. But it is not a club, and it is not about the micro:bit - it's about developing a culture that welcomes and includes things like micro:bits. This creative computing culture will exist over all time (i.e. throughout the day and beyond) and beyond the walls of the school (i.e. at home and in the community). Students and their families will begin to develop a fluency with new materials to let them express themselves in new creative ways.

I will supply the micro:bits, as well as other materials, and I have received 20 copies of the books directly from the publisher. My plan is to come in Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12 - 3PM, but I am flexible on

timing. My thought is to have students work on their projects some of the time while I am there, certainly over recess, but also during some class time if they can be spared.

I am looking for a total of 20 students. For this first round, I would like the students to be independent, reliable, collaborative and keen to try new things. They also need to have a home environment that is likely to support them using a computer to make things with - both having a computer available and time to play.

I'd be happy to fill in more details and answer any questions you may have.

Glenn