

Dear Parents:

I am writing to share an initiative that I am launching at First Ave. called **"Adding Colours to the Crayon Box"**. I will be leading a group of junior students to help develop a creative computing culture, using as a catalyst this lovely colourful book - "[Invent to Learn - Guide to the MicroBit](https://microbit.inventtolearn.com/)". <https://microbit.inventtolearn.com/>



As it says on the back, this book “combines coding, craft, and creativity to teach physical computing, engineering, computer science, and electronics to young people”. By adding computing and sensors and motors and lights to their projects, students will be able to add new levels of complexity to their creative designs.

Each student will receive a couple of micro:bit kits, and a copy of the book for the duration of the project. They will use them at home, as well as at school. Materials required for various projects will be supplied at school, or found or supplied from home. Many projects use recycled materials, as sustainability will be a focus for designs. Student projects can include family members and community members, and some will engage their classmates and lower grade level "buddies".

A planned first goal will be to collectively complete all of the projects in the book at least once (there are around 30 or so, starting with *Warm Ups* and ending with *Super Duper*), as well as adding many new ones. Students will choose only projects they are interested in, and some

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students will take on leading roles in documentation, communications, and materials coordination. Projects will be celebrated while in progress, as well as being on display throughout the school and demonstrated and communicated on a regular basis. Parents and other family members will be encouraged to be active participants as well.

This initiative is about developing a creative computing culture that welcomes and includes things like micro:bits. This culture will exist over all time and beyond the walls of the school. Students and their families will begin to develop a fluency with new materials to let them express themselves in new creative ways.

My current plan is to come to the school on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Students will bring their projects to school those days and spend some time on them as needed, as well as be able to meet with others for advice and support and sharing.

You are receiving this because your child was selected by their teachers as someone who might be interested in this initiative. If you and your child support this initiative and would like to be involved, please indicate below and send this note back.

I'd be happy to fill in more details and answer any questions you may have (see email address below).

Thanks

Glenn Boustead
Occasional Teacher OCDSB
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- ☐ YES we would like to participate, and we will do our best to responsibly care for the materials we are provided
- ☐ NO we are not interested

Parent _____

Student _____