



# Online 2025

**BETTER, TOGETHER:**  
**COLLABORATE.**  
**INNOVATE.**  
**INSPIRE.**



**Keynote:**  
**Barbara Coloroso**

**Online via Zoom**  
From your home or school



**FEBRUARY 14, 2025**

# AISCA Teachers' Convention 2025 AGENDA - Virtual

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 9:00-9:15   | Opening & Welcome  |
| 9:15-10:30  | KEYNOTE: <b>Barbara Coloroso</b> <i>Teaching With Wit &amp; Wisdom</i> |
| 10:30-11:00 | Wellness Break   |
| 11:00-12:00 | Concurrent Sessions A  |
| 12:00-1:15  | Lunch Break  |
| 1:15-2:15   | Concurrent Sessions B  |
| 2:15-2:30   | Transition   |
| 2:30-3:30   | Concurrent Sessions C  |

| 11:00 - 12:00 Concurrent Breakout Sessions A   |  |   |   |  |   |  |   |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| <b>AI for Educators: Supercharge Your Teaching with Google Gemini</b><br>All levels<br><b>George Varkey</b>    | <b>Just Because It's Not Wrong Doesn't Make It Right Teaching Children to think and Act Ethically</b><br>All levels<br><b>Barbara Coloroso</b> | <b>Common Fine Motor Challenges and Strategies for the Classroom</b><br>Elementary<br><b>Teija Flatla</b><br><b>Heather Huynh</b>               | <b>Cultivating Success: Implementing Positive Behavioural Supports in the Classroom</b><br>All levels<br><b>Ocean Matyjanka</b> | <b>Success with Basic Addition and Subtraction Facts</b><br>Elementary<br><b>Roni Kraut</b>        | <b>Bringing Hope and Education to Students in Conflict Zones</b><br>All levels<br><b>David Falconer</b>               | <b>What's a Gestalt? An Introduction to Gestalt Language Processing</b><br>All levels<br><b>Jon Delamont</b><br><b>Emily Brett</b>             | <b>All Behaviour has Meaning</b><br>All levels<br><b>Shannon Fraser</b> |
| 1:15 - 2:15 Concurrent Breakout Sessions B   |  |   |   |  |   |  |   |
| <b>Understanding and Supporting Children on the Autism Spectrum</b><br>Elementary<br><b>Jessica Clarke</b>     | <b>The Bully, the Bullied, and the Not-So-Innocent Bystanders</b><br>All levels<br><b>Barbara Coloroso</b>                                     | <b>Creating a Safe and Supportive Classroom: Effective Behaviour Strategies for Student Success</b><br>All levels<br><b>Jackie Anderson-Lea</b> | <b>No Wand Necessary: MagicSchool AI</b><br>Middle/High<br><b>Charity Helman</b>  | <b>Top 10 Numeracy Activities for Preschool/ Kindergarten</b><br><b>Roni Kraut</b>                 | <b>Designing to the Edges of Your Math Class</b><br>All levels<br><b>Liz Thompson</b><br><b>Sheryl Walters</b>        | <b>Technology in the Classroom</b><br>All levels<br><b>Jenna Galloway</b><br><b>Brett Klassen</b>  |   |
| 2:30 - 3:30 Concurrent Breakout Sessions C   |  |   |   |  |   |  |   |
| <b>How Trauma's Effects Can Pass from Generation to Generation</b><br>All levels<br><b>Dr. Aldo Bruccoleri</b> | <b>Become an AI Whiz: How to Use AI as the Best Teaching Assistant Ever!</b><br>All levels<br><b>Jessilyn Swanson</b>                          | <b>Getting the Most out of Your ELAL Block</b><br>K-6<br><b>Angela DesBarres</b>  | <b>An Introduction to Mental Health Literacy</b><br>All levels<br><b>Kathy King</b>   | <b>Basic Fact Mastery for Junior High Without a Calculator</b><br>Junior High<br><b>Roni Kraut</b> | <b>Building Learning Communities Through Connection</b><br>All levels<br><b>Liz Thompson</b><br><b>Sheryl Walters</b> | <b>The Habitually Regulated Classroom: Fostering Self-Regulation for a Thriving Learning Environment</b><br>All levels<br><b>Corinne Vesey</b> | <b>Career Education</b><br>All levels<br><b>Christy Filgate</b>         |

**KEYNOTE: Barbara Coloroso**  
**Teaching With Wit & Wisdom**

**All levels**

Solid practical advice for educators on how to create a school climate in which students can become self-disciplined, compassionate, responsible, resourceful, resilient human beings who can act in their own best interest, stand up for themselves, and exercise their own rights while respecting the rights and legitimate needs of others. Barbara will discuss the keys to good teaching; treating students with respect; giving them a sense of positive power in their own lives; giving them opportunities to make decisions, take responsibility for their own actions, and learn from their successes and mistakes.

**George Varkey**

**AI for Educators: Supercharge Your Teaching with Google Gemini**

**All levels**

Discover how Artificial Intelligence can revolutionize your teaching practices. This session will introduce you to Google Gemini, a powerful AI tool designed to streamline your workload and enhance student learning. Learn how to leverage Gemini to:

- Create content
- Teach students how to use Google Gemini ethically
- Generate engaging assignments for students
- Brainstorm questions and answer keys
- Create weekly newsletters

**Barbara Coloroso**

**Just Because It's Not Wrong Doesn't Make It Right Teaching Children to think and Act Ethically**

**All levels**

A workshop packed with solid practical advice on how to use the stuff of everyday life to teach children to act with integrity, civility, and compassion. Beginning with the idea that it is in us to care, that we are born with an innate capacity for compassion, Barbara Coloroso shows professionals, educators, and parents how to nurture and guide children's ethical lives from toddlerhood through the teen years using everyday situations at home, at school, in social settings, and in the world at large.

**Teija Flatla & Heather Huynh**

**Common Fine Motor Challenges and Strategies for the Classroom**

**Elementary**

This presentation will provide information on the common fine motor challenges often found in elementary classrooms including hand strength, pencil grasp, scissors skills, letter formation, pencil pressure, letter reversal, spacing and organization of written work. It provides background information on fine motor skills and developmental norms/milestones. We will also be sharing simple and practical strategies, tools and activities to help support fine motor development for the classrooms.

**Ocean Matyjanka**

**Cultivating Success: Implementing Positive Behavioural Supports in the Classroom**

**All levels**

This session is designed to empower educators with the tools and strategies of Positive Behavioural Supports (PBS). This session will explore how PBS can transform classroom environments by promoting respectful and supportive interactions that enhance student dignity and well-being. Participants will learn about the foundational principles of PBS, which aim to help students effectively manage their behaviours at home, in school, and within the community.

Through interactive discussions and practical activities, we will delve into how these strategies can be universally applied across entire schools as a preventative measure, significantly reducing the occurrence of negative behaviours. We will focus on structuring classroom environments and establishing clear expectations that foster positive behaviour.

**Roni Kraut**

**Success with Basic Addition & Subtraction Facts**

**Elementary**

It might seem these facts are easy to teach, but is this actually the case? This interactive session will first explore the number relationships that are the basis of building an understanding of these facts and then cover our Thinking Strategies series approach: "chunking" facts into groups, developing efficient thinking strategies for each chunk, and the importance of drill/practice. You will leave this session with important insights on how best to teach basic addition and subtraction facts and we will provide activities from The MathImagine Foundation resources.

**David Falconer**

**Bringing Hope and Education to Students in Conflict Zones**

**All levels**

Join David Falconer, Founder of Classrooms Without Walls (CWW), in this powerful session as he shares the remarkable story of bringing education and hope to students in some of the world's most vulnerable conflict zones. CWW provides free online education to students in Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Myanmar, where war, instability, and displacement have shattered access to learning. Described by its students as "reminding them that humanity still exists," CWW's work offers more than just education—it offers hope, connection, and a chance for a better future.

**Jon Delamont & Emily Brett**

**What's a Gestalt? An Introduction to Gestalt Language Processing**

**All levels**

If you've ever asked a question like "Why does he keep repeating back questions instead of answering them?" or "How do I get her to stop scripting from YouTube videos?", we think you'll really benefit from learning more about Gestalt Language Processing. We'll address common signs of GLPs, how this model of language learning works, and practical strategies for how to support GLP students.

**Shannon Fraser**

**All Behaviour has Meaning**

**All levels**

All behaviour has meaning, the behaviours we see are a result of things we may not know or understand. This session looks at Behaviours resulting from skills deficits or unmet needs. Let's take a look at what is below the surface behaviours of our students!

### Jessica Clarke

#### Understanding and Supporting Children on the Autism Spectrum

##### Elementary

This presentation offers an in-depth understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and evidence-based strategies to support young learners in preschool through early elementary.

We'll begin with an overview of ASD, using video examples to highlight the range of presentations across children on the spectrum. Key characteristics—such as differences in social communication and repetitive behaviors—will be examined. Attendees will learn practical methods for supporting language development and social interaction, including an introduction to aided language stimulation for children with complex communication needs.

Additionally, we'll cover approaches to support daily living activities, sensory processing, and fine motor skills. Educators will gain strategies to support participation and emotional regulation, such as using structured routines, visual schedules, first/then strategies, and visual timers, equipping them to create an inclusive, supportive learning environment for students on the autism spectrum.

### Barbara Coloroso

#### The Bully, the Bullied, and the Not-So-Innocent Bystanders

##### All levels

It takes much more than slogans, posters, and anti-bullying programs to break the cycle of violence and to create more deeply caring communities. Brave-hearted kids willing to step up and step in to stop these attacks can't do it alone; we all need to pitch in to make a difference. In this session, we will discuss verbal, physical, relational, and cyber bullying violence and its effect on the bully, the bullied, the not-so-innocent bystanders and the entire school community. Participants will receive tips, tools, strategies, and handouts to bring back to their home and educational communities to help enact positive change.

### Jackie Anderson – Lea

#### Creating a Safe and Supportive Classroom: Effective Behaviour Strategies for Student Success

##### All levels

This workshop is designed for educators who are committed to creating a safe, respectful, and productive learning environment. Participants will explore practical and evidence-based strategies. The session will cover foundational principles of classroom safety, proactive techniques and approaches to build strong relationships that encourage cooperation and respect. The presentation will include strategies for addressing challenging behaviours with empathy, fostering emotional regulation, and creating inclusive classrooms where all students feel valued and supported.

### Charity Helman

#### No Wand Necessary: MagicSchool AI

##### Middle/High

MagicSchool AI is quickly becoming a huge hit in schools across North America. With over 60 tools for teachers and 40 more for students, this tool allows teachers and students to work with AI in a safe guarded environment. Every learner can benefit from using the tools in MagicSchool AI and every teacher can benefit from the time saving tools they have access to (think WELLNESS!). In this session, we will dive into the teacher tools and the student tools to demonstrate how your life at school and the learning your students do can be enriched and empowered by AI.

### Roni Kraut

#### Top 10 Numeracy Activities for Preschool/Kindergarten

Join our interactive session of our top 10 numeracy activities for the preschool and kindergarten classroom. These activities are easy to implement, cross-curricular, low-cost, and fun! And you will be able to use them in the classroom the next day.

### Liz Thompson & Sheryl Walters

#### Designing to the Edges of Your Math Class

##### All levels

Instructional design is a powerful tool for creating accessible and engaging lessons in our mathematics classrooms. Intentional, universal design embeds high-impact strategies and accessible activities with a low floor and high ceiling. In this session, we will discuss the importance of intentional instructional design in mathematics, and the power accessible tasks can have in engaging students and building their understanding. Participants will leave with a better understanding of how to design to the edges of their classrooms, as well as a number of resources and strategies that they can embed into their lessons right away.

### Jenna Galloway & Brett Klassen

#### Technology in the Classroom: Setting Students Up for Success in the Digital Age

##### All levels

Join us for a dynamic session designed to equip educators with the tools and strategies needed to prepare students for our rapidly evolving world. We'll explore the latest research on technology use, recognizing both its challenges and benefits. Learn how to balance digital tools with face-to-face interactions, enhancing student engagement and real-world socialization. Discover ethically-informed strategies to integrate technology, AI, and machine learning effectively in the classroom, ensuring students thrive academically and socially.

### Dr. Aldo Bruccoleri

#### How Trauma's Effects Can Pass from Generation to Generation

##### All levels

The emerging field of epigenetics is revolutionizing the study of mental health – and challenging the belief that DNA is your destiny. Life experiences and environmental factors can shape not only us, but also our descendants. Childhood trauma through epigenetic mechanisms may alter the way your genes work. Environmental factors including social interactions play a significant role in influencing the genes that control our stress response.

Research evidence will be presented concerning the intergenerational transmission of trauma effects and the possible role of epigenetic mechanisms in both its transmission and mitigation.



**Jessilyn Swanson****Become an AI Whiz: How to Use AI as the Best Teaching Assistant Ever!****All levels**

Have you ever thought, “I know AI is supposed to make my life easier as a teacher but I can’t get it to make what I’m looking for! Help!” Well, this is the session for you! During our time together, you will learn how to engineer AI prompts to make AI work efficiently for you. We will spend time playing with tools and learning how to make AI work for us, regardless of what we teach! You will leave the session with the skills to make what you need for your classroom using AI and resources to continue upping your AI game.

**Angela DesBarres****Getting the Most out of Your ELAL Block****Kindergarten – Grade 6**

How do I cover all of the ELAL curriculum in my week, month, year?

Designing a structure, routine, schedule for your ELAL block will provide you the framework for covering the ELAL curriculum. Join Angela DesBarres in examining how this can be done. We will look at some exemplar schedules from around the province and you will have time to tweak your current schedule or completely build a new one.

**Kathy King****An Introduction to Mental Health Literacy****All levels**

In this session you will be able to gain an understanding of mental health literacy and how it can support you in your work with students, staff and families. You will be introduced to mental health states and recognize that our use of language is important to understanding disorders, obtaining and maintaining good mental health and reducing stigma that can be a barrier to seeking help. Just like our physical health, we need to take care of our mental health as the mind and body are connected. There is a good reason why this Alberta Health Services through Recovery Alberta approach is used in schools in over 22 countries. Join me and be prepared to get excited about the classroom ready resources you can easily implement and share with your school community.

**Roni Kraut****Basic Fact Mastery for Junior High Without a Calculator****Junior High**

Are your junior high students still struggling with basic facts? This session will show you our simple yet effective Thinking Strategies approach to help your students develop fluency including “chunking” facts into groups for ease of learning, developing efficient thinking strategies for each chunk, and the importance of practice. You will leave this session with a tried-and-true approach for achieving basic fact mastery and ways to incorporate this into your classroom practices.

**Liz Thompson & Sheryl Walters****Building Learning Communities Through Connection****All levels**

This session provides strategies for creating supportive and inclusive educational environments by connecting with students and their communities. Educators will learn to build classroom and school cultures that foster inclusivity and trust, engage parents and community members as partners, and initiate proactive positive communication with students and families. The session emphasizes the importance of addressing students’ emotional and social needs through proactive communication, blending theory with practical tools that can be implemented immediately at both the classroom and school levels. Participants will leave with a toolkit to strengthen connections and promote a nurturing, dynamic learning environment.

**Corinne Vesey****The Habitually Regulated Classroom: Fostering Self-Regulation for a Thriving Learning Environment****All levels**

This session offers educators tangible tools, routines, and practices that can help bring rhythm, predictability, and regulation to your classroom. Learn practical and simple ways to create a learning environment that facilitates regulation so that students are in their parasympathetic nervous systems, allowing the prefrontal cortex to be online for learning! Explore daily, weekly, and monthly activities and concepts to develop each student’s capacity for their own emotional-regulation and self-monitoring skills. Participants will leave with adaptable strategies to build mindfulness, movement, and regulation practices into any class for student wellbeing and enhanced classroom functioning.

**Christy Filgate****Career Education****All levels**

This session will discuss the many opportunities for students through trade internships such as Registered Apprenticeship (RAP), and other non-trade internships such as Information & Communication Technology, Forestry, Health, Energy, and Agriculture. Did you know students can even explore 11 different areas of specializations within the Green Certificate programming like becoming a Bee Keeper or Greenhouse Technician?

Resources such as the Careers: The Next Generation, WorkWild, and ALIS websites will be explored to showcase how to find information such as different occupation descriptions, salary and job forecasts. Collaboration between schools can even open up Dual credit options for students where they can earn high school and post-secondary credits at the same time! Come and learn as we look at many career paths for students!