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# Literacy through Making: Language & Learning in the MakerSpace

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# Welcome to The Making Learning Meaningful Conference



**Hello**  
你好

**Bonjour**  
**Hallo**  
**Ciao**

こんにちは  
**Hola**

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# What is Making?

An iterative process of thinking, tinkering, and creating that begins with a question or a problem and ends with something new emerging from the child's imagination.

# Making makes learning visible.

When students are engaged in making activities, their problem solving processes and thinking are apparent.



# Making is social!

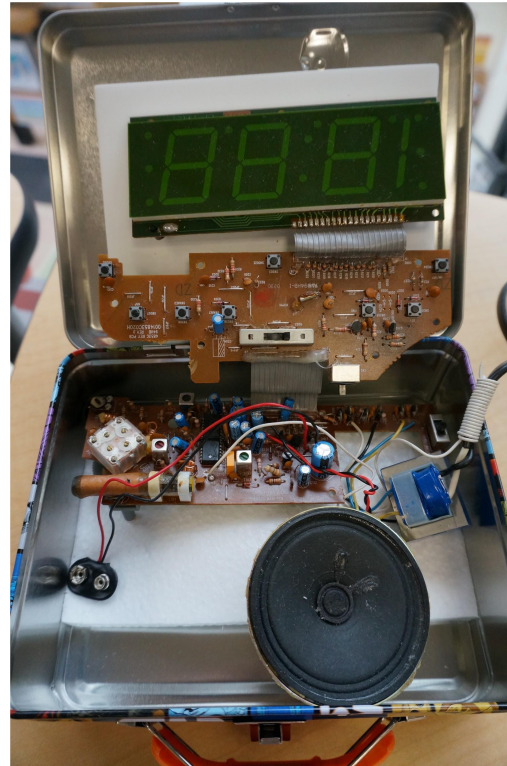
Through play,  
tinkering, creating,  
debugging, and  
remixing, we build  
community.





# Making is social - *and socially active.*

Making creates opportunities for students to ENGAGE with “powerful ideas” (Papert, 1980)!!




**ARE YOU A TINKERER TOO?**  
**STAND WITH AHMED**  
**AND BUILD YOUR OWN CLOCK!**

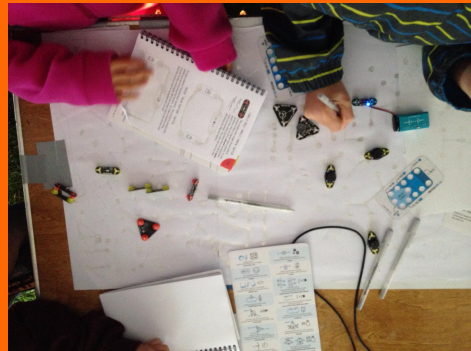
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24**  
**AT 1 & 3 • MAIN LIBRARY**  
**CURIOUS GEORGE ROOM**  
..... for ages 10–18 .....

Learn what's inside a clock, build a clock circuit, and engineer a housing!  
Registration opens October 5.  
To sign up, contact 857-235-9853  
or [lkirkland@cambridgema.gov](mailto:lkirkland@cambridgema.gov).

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*The role of the teacher is to create the conditions for invention rather than provide ready-made knowledge.*

Seymour Papert (1991)



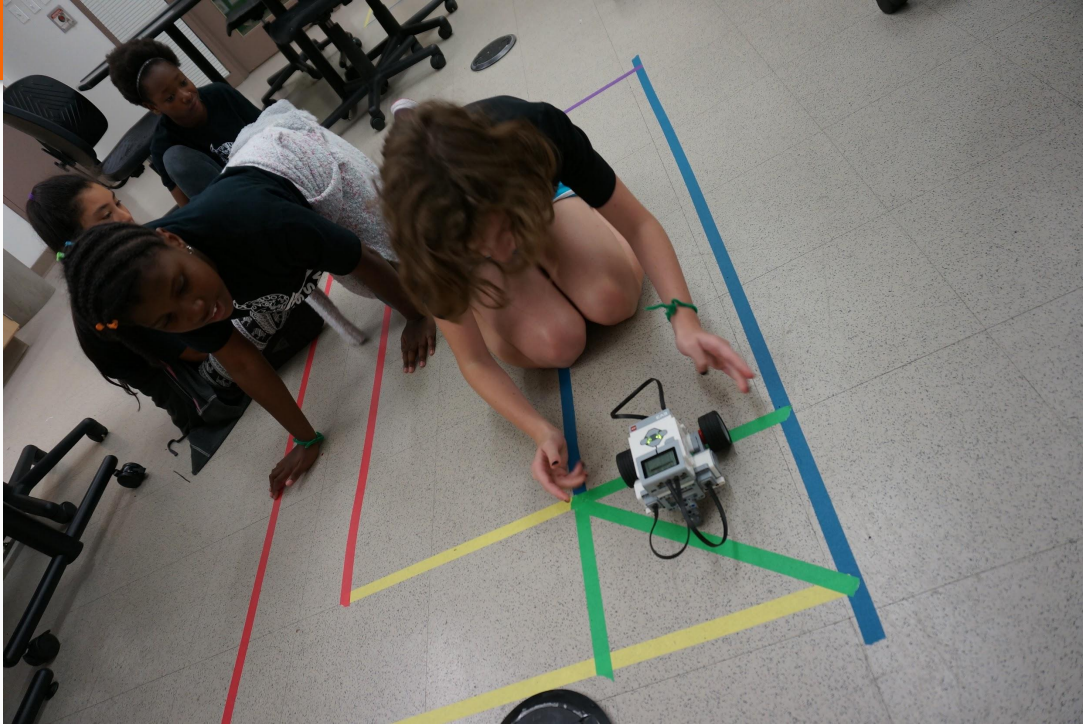
*Every time we teach a child something, we keep them from inventing it themselves. On the other hand, that which we allow them to discover for themselves will remain with them visible for the rest of their lives.*

Piaget (1955)



“Education is not an affair of telling and being told, but an active and constructive process.”

Dewey (1916)



# Making provides fertile ground for literacy!

“The languages needed to  
make meaning are  
radically changing...”

New London Group, 1996



# Meaning-making through inquiry & problem-solving



Making sense of stories  
through Novel Engineering\*

*The Three Little Pigs*

<http://www.novelengineering.org/>

# “Making” the literacy connection!



“At the heart of constructivism is a concern for lived experience, or the world as it is felt and understood by social actors.”

Au (1998)



# Literacy IS problem solving!!

“Although the acquisition of literacy skills is viewed as an important task....the salient feature is how people construct meaning through problem-solving processes.”

Freire (2005)





So let's  
PLAY!