

CISPG LEARNING

Catholic Independent Schools Diocese of Prince George

"ALL learners thriving in inspired Catholic Learning Communities"

Let us journey together in hope

MESSAGE OF
POPE FRANCIS
FOR LENT 2025



DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING
INTEGRAL
HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT



Living,
CELEBRATING,
and Proclaiming
OUR FAITH

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I respectfully acknowledge the unceded ancestral lands of the Indigenous nations in which I live, work, and learn. The Lheidli T'enneh Nation in Prince George. The Tsimshian Nation in Prince Rupert and Terrace. The Haisla Nation in Kitimat. The Wet'suwe'ten in Smithers. The Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta in Dawson Creek.



Hello everyone!

Pope Francis's [Message for Lent 2025](#) has as its theme, "**Let us journey together in hope**". This year's Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5) and ends on Holy Thursday (April 17). The Holy Father's Message is inspired by the **Jubilee 2025 theme "Pilgrims of Hope"**. Pope Francis writes, "This Lent, as we share in the grace of the Jubilee Year, I would like to propose a few reflections on what it means to *journey together in hope*, and on the summons to conversion that God in his mercy addresses to all of us, as individuals and as a community". In his Message, the Holy Father underlines that **to journey** "evokes the lengthy journey of the people of Israel to the Promised Land" and adds that "a first call to conversion thus comes from the realization that all of us are pilgrims in this life". Secondly, the Pope underlines that this journey is made **together** and explains that "Christians are called to walk at the side of others ... It is necessary "to walk together, to be synodal" because "**this is the vocation of the Church**". In conclusion, the Holy Father affirms the central message of the Jubilee, "a call to hope, to trust in God and his great promise of eternal life".

We also pray for the health of Pope Francis.

RESOURCES

All resources mentioned in this newsletter have been collected from school districts and educators across the province. Please be advised that the links embedded within this document are meant to provide examples of "strong practice" across BC. They are not meant to overwhelm, but rather to support CISPg educators with a repository of rich resources. I am grateful to school districts and educators across BC who so generously share their learning with us.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Melodie Van Der Meer, our amazing **Christian Education Consultant**, can be reached at the following email: mvandermeer@cispg.ca. Check out her padlet at: <https://padlet.com/melodievandermeer/cispg-christian-education-resources-cug8dsv8m0alnyu0>

Please check out this link for Classroom Prayers for Lent:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAF8DfFijg4/sZY04t9CbqNRRjTHygD8_w/edit?utm_content=DAF8DfFijg4&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton

LITERACY



Shared by **ONlit.org** @ONlit_social - **Book Study on Harnessing the Science of Learning - Starts Thursday, February 6** - Will we see you there? <https://onlit.org/series/harnessing-the-science-of-learning-book-study/> **You can also catch up with the recordings from the 6-part book study here:**

<https://onlit.org/?s=Harnessing+the+Science+of+Learning&lang=en>

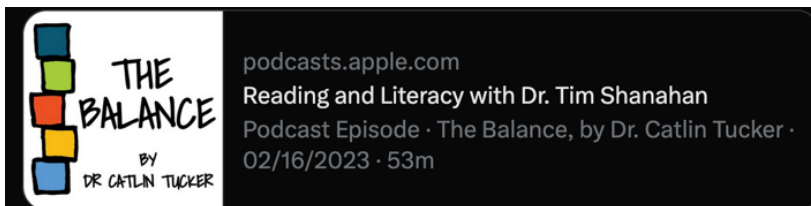
- From **Team ONlit** - Thanks so much to Melissa Monette-Smith for leading two wonderful webinars on Grade One Planning and instruction. The recordings are now **posted in the Resource Library:** <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqwcjkh-WS8bZygesgm3pJbW8hqqlrbT> **Learn how Melissa uses screening & diagnostic data to plan her Gr1 literacy block**—building small groups, guiding instruction with a scope & sequence, and setting long-range plans!
- **POPEY Play and Early Learning Workshop Series** - Register here for all 3 sessions: <https://www.popey.ca/workshop-resources/play-and-early-learning-workshop-series-session-1>

Session Three: March 3, 2025

Learning in the Primary Years

Learning in the Primary Years is a companion document specifically for K-3 teachers offering pedagogical foundations for learning alongside relational teaching practices. This session will highlight the importance of pedagogical choices and how these dynamic decisions influence the ways in which children experience curricular learning along a continuum of play.

- From **Dr. Catlin Tucker** @Catlin_Tucker - Broaden your understanding of #literacy across all subjects & the role of student agency in learning. Tune into my chat with



@ReadingShanahan on **The Balance podcast** <https://bit.ly/4bgiSnC>

- From Jenni vanRees @jennivanrees - **Heart Words** 1 page explanation for parents (or educators new to Heart Words):
- Shared by **Melissa & Lori Love Literacy Podcast** @literacy podcast - 3 things you can do RIGHT NOW to strengthen students' oral language skills Inspired by our conversation with researcher and professor, Sonia Cabell, here are 3 steps you can take:

3 Steps to Strengthen Oral Language Skills

- 1 Build content knowledge and vocabulary through read-alouds or reading complex texts
- 2 Ask open-ended questions, listen to what students say, and build on their ideas.
- 3 Facilitate content-rich conversations.

www.literacypodcast.com

MELISSA & LORI LOVE LITERACY

writing instruction! <https://ow.ly/euyM50UR1hg>

Six Shifts Snapshot

February

Resources at your fingertips

Jan Burkins and Kari Yates

@TheSixShifts.com

- **NEW Blog Post:** [Kindergarten Sight Words: Are We Trying to Teach Too Many?](#)
- **NEW Blog Post:** [The Text Structure Box: The 5 Basic Text Structures Are a Bit Too Basic](#)
- **NEW Blog Post:** [Cracking the Code on CVC Words \(and Beyond!\)](#)
- **NEW Tool for Teachers:** *Blending Magic*

UFLI Heart Words

What are Heart Words?

Heart Words is a teaching approach designed to help students learn high-frequency words that are critical for reading fluency. The "heart" in **Heart Words** refers to the idea that students need to learn these words "by heart" because they often contain irregular spellings or patterns that cannot be easily sounded out using typical phonics rules.

How Do Students Learn Heart Words?

1. **Sound-Out Parts:** Students learn which parts of the word can be sounded out using familiar phonics rules
2. **Tricky Parts (Heart Parts):** For the parts of the word that don't follow typical rules (like the "ai" in "said"), students are taught to remember them by heart.
3. **Practice & Review:** Use various strategies (such as repeating the word, analyzing its spelling patterns, and focusing on specific parts of the word) to help students master it.

Why Are Heart Words Important?

- They help students read fluently and with confidence.
- Knowing these words "by heart" reduces the cognitive load while reading, allowing students to focus on comprehension.
- Many of these words are foundational for more advanced reading and writing.

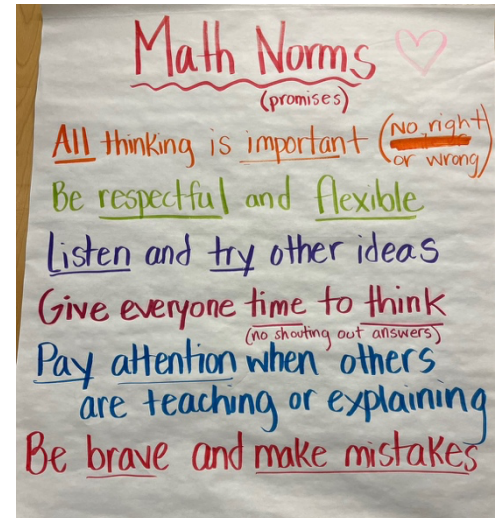
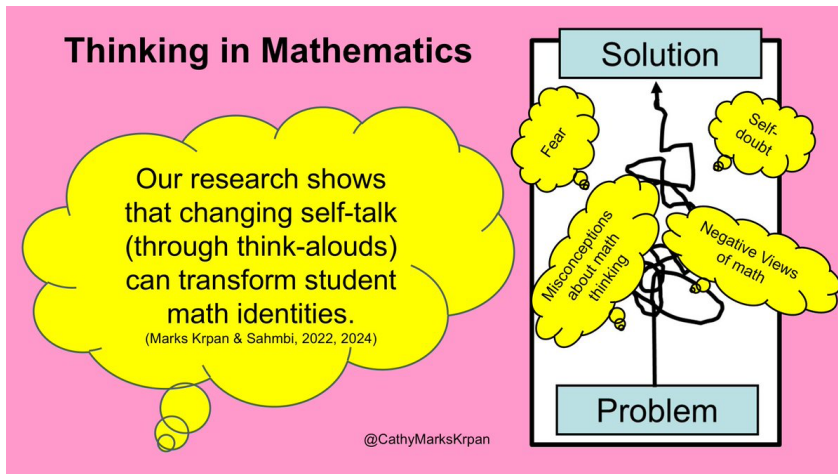
How Can Families/Caregivers Support at Home?

- **Games:** Use memory games or word hunts in books to reinforce recognition.
- **Flashcards:** Practice Heart Words regularly in short, fun sessions.
- **Praise Progress:** Celebrate when your child masters a new word!

From **Melissa & Lori Love Literacy Podcast** @literacypodcast - Join 5th-grade teacher Elise Frank as she shares practical strategies to tackle **challenges with teaching writing**. Tune in now and transform your

Episode 216
Research-Backed Writing Strategies from a 5th Grade Classroom
with Elise Frank





- Shared by Jenna Gilbertson (Notre Dame School): From **Make Math Moments** (the organization that does the wonderful free math virtual conferences). Check out the many free webinars available for Math professional learning on this website: <https://learn.makemathmoments.com/professional-development-trainings-for-math-teaching-and-learning/>
- From the **Edith Lando Virtual Learning Centre @EdithLandoVLC** - The recording of the first session of our returning webinar series: **Centering Indigenous Pedagogies in Mathematics Education: Assessment** is now available here: <http://mvnt.us/m2434813>
- Shared by Janice Novakowski - The **BC Reggio-Inspired Mathematics Project** has created a blog: https://janicenovkam.typepad.com/reggioinspired_mathematic/ with many valuable resources. Please consider **subscribing to the newsletter** on the blog. For example, the winter edition of the newsletter focuses on "mathematizing" and connecting math to ourselves and to the world around us. The newsletter recommends the following resources for supporting the development of mathematizing:
- **Mathematizing the World Routine from the Advancing Equity and Strengthening Teaching through Elementary Mathematical Modeling project** - click [HERE](https://eqstemm.org/routines/mwr/): <https://eqstemm.org/routines/mwr/>
- **Young Mathematics at Work** book series by Catherine Fosnot et al - click [HERE](https://www.heinemann.com/products/e00353.aspx): <https://www.heinemann.com/products/e00353.aspx>
- **Notice and Wonder from Annie Fetter** - a short video [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-Fth6sOaRA): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-Fth6sOaRA> - and her website [HERE](https://annie.mathematicalthinking.org/): <https://annie.mathematicalthinking.org/>
- **Notice and Wonder resources from NCTM** - click [HERE](https://www.nctm.org/noticeandwonder/): <https://www.nctm.org/noticeandwonder/>
- **See, Think, Wonder thinking routine from Project Zero**, Harvard Graduate School of Education click [HERE](https://pz.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/See%20Think%20Wonder.pdf): <https://pz.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/See%20Think%20Wonder.pdf>



Shared by Box Cars and One-Eyed Jacks - Our **Open Webinars** start March 3, 2025!

We are offering **10 different elementary topics in March and April**. Each topic will be presented back-to-back right after school, SO NO SUBSTITUTE TEACHER REQUIRED! We will have options to accommodate time zones as well.

Click on this link to go to the Webinar sign-up page:

<https://boxcarsandoneeyedjacks.com/product-category/game-type/webinar-game-type/>

EXPLORATIONS

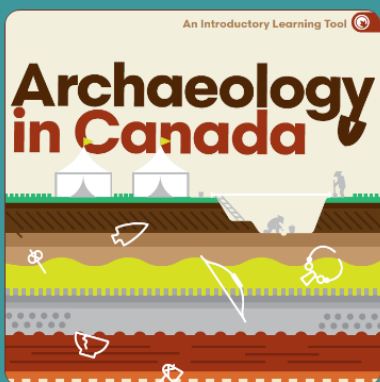
Dig into Canadian history with new resources from the Citizenship Challenge!

Learn how archaeological work impacts our understanding of history with two new resources below:



Many people think the story of Europeans coming to Canada began with the British and French, but that is a common myth. Watch oral traditions and archaeological findings come together to reveal the history of the first European presence in Canada with our new *Vikings* video.

[WATCH THE VIDEO HERE](#)



Introduce the dynamic practice of archaeology in Canada and how it impacts our historical understanding with our new *Archaeology in Canada* introductory learning tool, which offers lesson plans and critical thinking activities to bring the subject to life in the classroom!

[DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE HERE](#)

For more Citizenship Challenge resources, check out our collection on *The Canadian Encyclopedia!*



A Wish for the Week Ahead
May you embrace new beginnings and big hopes. May joy sneak up on you when you're least expecting it, and may peace find you in the pauses. May you remember that the things that matter are not actual things and that sometimes the only way to deal with an excruciatingly difficult situation is with humor. May your patience and kindness help you overcome every obstacle. May your heart be full, may your spirit be discerning, and may your coffee be fresh and plentiful.



Nanea Hoffman

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Vikings Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IR56NRzKJY8>

Archaeology in Canada Guide: <https://hc-education.cld.bz/Archaeology-in-Canada>

PHE/SEL

- Shared by Josh Ogilvie @joshogilvie4 - **Assessment in PE** doesn't have to be overwhelming. Discover 4 simple strategies to make it easier, more efficient, and impactful for you & your students.

Download your FREE guide today: <https://bit.ly/4qNER7C>

LOOKING TO *SIMPLIFY* ASSESSMENT IN PE?

DOWNLOAD THIS FREE RESOURCE!



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

- From 4 Seasons of Indigenous Learning - **Upcoming Indigenous Learning Opportunities**
 - On **May 27**: Indigenous Resources for Outdoor Learning with Styawat / Dr. Leigh Joseph
 - On **June 3**: New Indigenous Learning Resources with Leona Prince, Leah Marie Dorion and Myah Birrell
 - Starts **July 2**: Connecting Children to Nature through Indigenous Teachings Course
 - Starts **Aug 6**: Summer Creativity Workshops with Richard Van Camp

- **We are excited to share these new Indigenous Learning Resources!**

- Whispers of the Earth: A Journey through Indigenous Wisdom with **new** Indigenous artwork by Carla Joseph!
- The Land Knows Me: A Nature Walk Exploring Indigenous Wisdom by Styawat / Dr. Leigh Joseph
- Can You Hear the Plants Speak? by Nicholas Hummingbird
- A Dance Through the Seasons by Leona Prince
- Teacher Set: Speaking Our Truth - A Journey of Reconciliation
- Podcast Episode: Truth and Reconciliation – where to start?

New Indigenous Learning Resources
for the Elementary Years
With Authors, Artists & Educators
Leona Price
Leah Marie Dorion
& Myah Birrell

4 PM PT
7 PM ET
June 3

2025 Spring Outdoor Learning Virtual Workshops

REGISTER AT OUTDOORLEARNING.COM

OUTDOOR LEARNING
SCHOOL & STORE

TAKE ME
OUTSIDE

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

DON'T WAIT!

Without intervention, more than 88 percent of children who have difficulty reading at the end of first grade (age 6) display similar difficulties at the end of fourth grade (Juel, 1988).

- Tiffany James



When we design with flexibility & high-impact strategies, we lift every learner.

lead inclusion.

Be the teacher in the IEP meeting who tells a parent what their child is doing well.

They just showed up to a meeting expecting to hear all the ways their child isn't measuring up.

WE ARE
TEACHERS

- For all Inclusive Education educators, this is a **MUST DO** – **Sign up for Shelley Moore’s newsletter on Outside Pin Consulting:**

Anchoring Inclusive Practices in Indigenous Pedagogies: Designing for Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity

A live, virtual learning series with Jo Chrona & Dr. Shelley Moore

- January 23, 2025 Session 1: Situating Ourselves and Overview of Learning Series
- February 4, 2025 Session 2: Knowing Learners from a Strength-Based Perspective
- March 3, 2025 Session 3: Needs Based Support Planning
- April 1, 2025 Session 4: Curricular Design Strategies – Part 1: Backwards Design
- May 6, 2025 Session 5: Curricular Design Strategies – Part 2: Learning Continuums
- June 3, 2025 Session 6: Universally Designed Lesson Strategies
- June 10, 2025 Session 7: Inclusive Assessment For, As, and Of, Learning

<https://www.drshelleymoore.com/outside-pin>
 Outside Pin Consulting is the parent company that encompasses Dr. Shelley Moore and Five Moore Minutes. Established in 2023 by Dr. Shelley Moore, the company aims to educate, inspire, and transform inclusive education. The Outside Pin team is currently expanding to include other incredible speakers and professional development facilitators who are committed to inclusion, are aligned with Shelley's philosophies and approach, and who bring their unique perspectives to this work.

Register here for courses (left graphic)
<https://fivemooreminutes.teachable.com/courses/>

- PEOPLE ARE NOT SUPPORTS:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rOIUnnCspA&t=43s>

- INCLUSION IS NOT ASSIMILATION:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IOGOE_qOfM



This month’s 5MM episode is igniting some conversation about a big misunderstanding about what inclusion means. Watch this month’s video to find out more and check out the supplemental resources including: the episode script, episode discussion questions, an article highlighting supporting evidence and research, a supporting podcast featuring a member of the Outside Pin team. Supplemental resources for this video: <https://www.drshelleymoore.com/post/inclusion-is-not-assimilation-understanding-communities-of-identity-and-diversity?referral=business-feed>

Click here to see Shelley’s new website: <https://www.drshelleymoore.com/>

ASSESSMENT/INSTRUCTION

- Shared by **NOIE @noie_bc** - Our next learning burst is on April 8 & features 2 #NOIE **Self-regulated Learning teams**. We are excited to share that Emily Magyar SD68 & Jen Eddie from SD74, will be sharing their self-regulated learning experiences and strategies. <https://noie.ca/learning-burst-rsvp-form/>

NOIE 30 Minute Learning Burst
 Apr. 8 | Register today!
 FIND OUT MORE

Interactive Webinar Series

Engaging all Learners in the Middle Years

Session Schedule (3:30 - 5:00 pm PT)

- Oct 29 Shelley Moore with Belinda Chi & MJ Medenwaldt
- Dec 3 Brad Baker & Leona Prince with Katie Marren & Sarah Elson-Haugan
- Feb 20 Shane Safir with Ashley Watson/Leyton Schnellert & Kendra Jacobs
- April 29 Denise Augustine with Nikki Lineham & Christi Livingstone



Learn More & Register Now: elvlc.educ.ubc.ca/middle-years-series



We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Education



For those of you who are interested, the **session 1, 2, and 3 recordings** are now available on the [series webpage](https://elvlc.educ.ubc.ca/2024/10/15/engaging-all-learners-in-the-middle-years-2025/): <https://elvlc.educ.ubc.ca/2024/10/15/engaging-all-learners-in-the-middle-years-2025/>

"A KEY TO GROWING AS A TEACHER IS TO KEEP COMPANY MAINLY WITH TEACHERS WHO UPLIFT YOU, WHOSE PRESENCE INSPIRE YOU AND WHOSE DEDICATION DRIVES YOU." - ROBERT JOHN MEEHAN

https://aac.ab.ca/events/details/?event_date_id=123