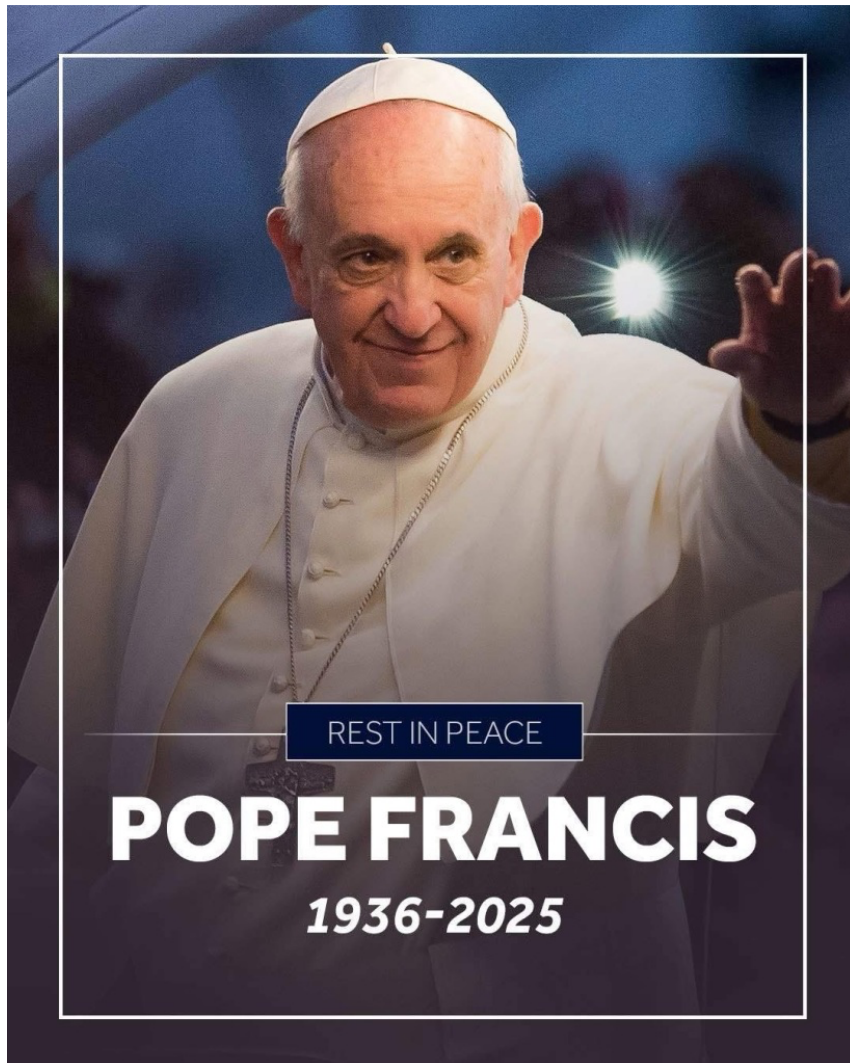


CISPG LEARNING

Catholic Independent Schools Diocese of Prince George

"ALL learners thriving in inspired Catholic Learning Communities"



Living,
CELEBRATING,
and Proclaiming
OUR FAITH

Frances Roch, Principal of Learning Services

Catholic Independent Schools Diocese of Prince George
6500 Southridge Avenue, Prince George, BC, V2N 5P9
T: 250.964.5642 E: frsch@cispag.ca X: @frances_roch

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.



Seven Lessons from Pope Francis (Franciscan Media):

- 1. Listen (Pray)** - "Let us always pray for one another.... Let us pray for the whole world."
- 2. Simplify** - Much like his namesake, Pope Francis chose a simple lifestyle.
- 3. Refocus** - Pope Francis invited us to hold our judgment in favor of sharing God's mercy.
- 4. Engage** - Pope Francis engaged the world with his genuine smile, humble spirit, and desire to rub elbows. While busy leading the Church, he made time for the people who make up the Church.
- 5. Embrace** - We will long remember the image of Pope Francis embracing the man with the disfigured face. His tweets were often prayers or invitations: "Lord, teach us to step outside ourselves." "Teach us to go out into the streets and manifest your love."
- 6. Challenge** - He always spoke out for matters of justice and challenged us to do the same.
- 7. Rejoice** - Pope Francis embraced the joys and surprises of life.

Pope Francis has left a legacy that will live on in the hearts of humanity. We will miss him profoundly.

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

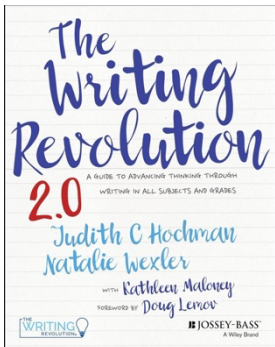
Melodie Van Der Meer, our amazing **Christian Education Consultant**, can be reached at the following email: mvandermeer@cispg.ca. Check out her padlet at: <https://padlet.com/melodievandermeer/cispg-christian-education-resources-cug8dsv8m0alnyu0>

As we mourn the death of Pope Francis, we encourage our students to learn about his **life and legacy**, and engage in exploring the process of the **Papal Conclave**- <https://padlet.com/melodievandermeer/breakout-room/6RDZ2yByBxjYqyej-DI7yzEoZPrQvnAmK>.

You and your class can join the Hallow community in **prayer for Pope Francis** here: <https://hallow.app.link/Yljzt8RKPSb>

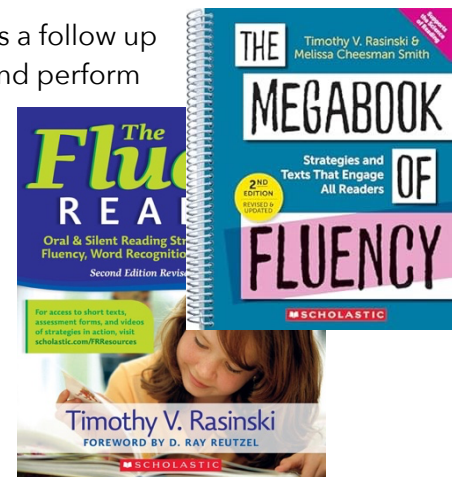
This Easter Season, younger students can reflect on how we encounter **God in Nature**: <https://hallow.app.link/W9nQ9t1KPSb>. Older students can join in this reflection, partnered with NET ministries, on a 30 Day Walk with Jesus: <https://hallow.app.link/E4VklF5KPSb>.

LITERACY

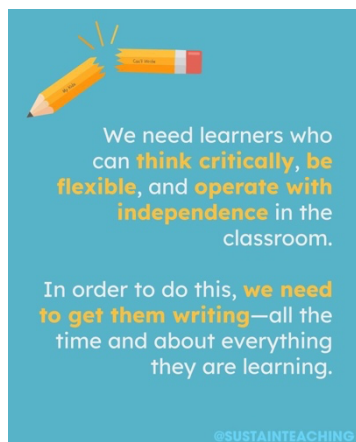


- Shared by edWeb.cet @edwebnet - **Go Beyond the Science of Reading with Explicit Writing Instruction**. Presented by Natalie Wexler, Education Writer and Author of *Beyond the Science of Reading*; Dr. Dina Zoleo, Co-CEO, The Writing Revolution; and Serena White, Director of State and District Partnerships, The Writing Revolution. Register here: <https://home.edweb.net/webinar/teach2read20250429/>
- From **Tim Rasinski** @TimRasinski1 - **MORPHOLOGY MONDAY!** Earth Day is April 22! Here is a vocabulary resource featuring the Greek word root GEO = EARTH. Enjoy! <https://x.com/TimRasinski1/status/1914101506770416035/photo/1>

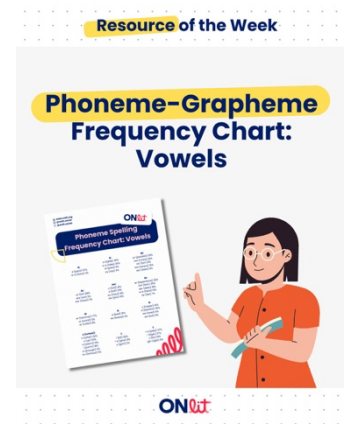
- Also from Tim Rasinski - **FLUENCY FRIDAY!** Friday April 25 is Arbor Day. As a follow up to **Wednesday's Word Ladder** here are 3 poems for students to rehearse and perform in order to celebrate this special day for trees (and develop reading fluency at the same time).
- From **Dr. Monica Burns** @ClassTechTips - Poetry isn't just for English class! This episode shares creative ways to weave poetry into any subject area. Get inspired and celebrate National Poetry Month: <https://classtechtips.com/2025/02/25/poetry-month-ideas-308/>
- From **Melissa & Lori Love Literacy Podcast** @literacypodcast Pro tips for teaching vocabulary so your students learn, use, and retain words - without breaking a sweat! These research-backed **Vocabulary Talk Moves** tell how we can use language to promote vocabulary learning. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/mel>



- Shared by **ONlit.org @ONlit_social** - Curious about how sounds are represented in print? Not sure about what the most common spelling is for a phoneme? This handout provides the most frequent spellings for the vowel phonemes in English. Find the resource:
<https://onlit.org/resource/phoneme-grapheme-frequency-chart-vowels/>



- Also from **ONlit.org @ONlit_social** - Check out #LiteracyLIFTER by @IAReading! This free tool supports **handwriting & early reading skills** for pre-K & elementary students, focusing on letter formation & printing. Learn more
<https://onlit.org/resource/literacy-lifter/>



- From Mrs. Morrow @Mrs.Morrow07 - **UFLI has just added more supplemental decodable passages!** Check it out at the UFLI Website
- From **Scholastic Teachers @ScholasticEDU** - Your class won't want to miss our last free read-alouds of the school year! Learn more at

<https://storyvoice.scholastic.com/landing?eml=SRE/smd/20250424/Twitter/feed/img/edu/event/>

- Shared by **The Writing Revolution @TheWritingRevol** - Honor educators who make a difference while using The Writing Revolution strategies with your students. #free activities for #teacher and #principal appreciation day come in two versions-- for grades K-2 and grades 3-12. <https://bit.ly/4cMekpY>

NUMERACY

MATH QUESTIONS FOR STUDENT REFLECTION:
@TEACHHEATH

Check for Accuracy (You KNOW the student understands the topic):

1. Explain your method or strategy you used- Why did you choose that method?
2. Would it work if you didn't use that method?
3. If you broke this down into parts, what would they be?
4. Can you create and solve a problem similar to this one?
5. Try doing this a different way to show your thinking.
6. Can you think of an anti-example?

Check for Understanding (You THINK a student understands the topic):

1. Why is your method and answer correct?
2. Can you convince us you are correct?
3. Have you thought about all parts of your answer? Are there places where you could be wrong?
4. Can you explain your thinking in simpler terms?
5. Can you make a model to show that?

Check for Clarity (You THINK the student may be confused):

1. What do you need to find out?
2. What strategies will you use?
3. How would you describe the problem in your own words?
4. Could you try this with simpler numbers? Fewer numbers?
5. What did other members of your group try?
6. What pieces of the problem make sense to you and which parts are confusing?

Giving Clarity (You KNOW the student is confused):

1. Which words are important?
2. Where do you think we should start?
3. Where are your issues with this problem? What confuses you?
4. Did you try a different method? Pictures or models?
5. Try explaining your thoughts. Start by saying "I know I have to dobecause..."
6. Where can you find the help you need?
7. How can your group members help you? Draw it? Talk about it?

- From **TCEA @TCEA** - Want to boost student engagement in math? Discover 8 effective strategies to pose better questions that encourage deeper thinking and understanding.
- Shared by **Greg Tang @gregtangmath** - **KAKOOMA** is a great way to develop fact fluency! In each set of 6 numbers, find the number that's the sum of 2 numbers. Write the sum in the middle. Now use all 6 sums to find another sum. What did you get? Did you do a lot of addition along the way?! <http://TangMath.com/kakooma>
- From **Complete Maths @LaSalleEd** - Using manipulatives is a powerful way of helping your pupils make new meaning. Every day, we will be sharing a task for the classroom, designed with a particular manipulative in mind. This evening, demystify algebraic thinking by helping pupils to gain a deeper understanding by manipulating algebra tiles. Why not have a go at this task yourself? We'd love to hear your thoughts. Download a printable version along with 165 others in our free task booklet here:
<https://completemaths.com/more/teaching-tools/free-resources>
- Shared by Innovamat @innovamat - You asked—we listened! CA #Math educators this one is for you. **FREE Webinar series starting May 1st. Learn from the experts @Gaussfunkel, @pgliljedahl, @salg274.** Register here: <https://lnkd.in/gbTV-xZb>

EXPLORATIONS

- From BC Ministry - **NEW teaching resource on climate change education for K-3:** lessons on waste, big weather, outdoor spaces, food, transportation, biodiversity, climate change and climate action: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/climate-change/climateracy/bc_climate_change_curriculum_k-3.pdf
- Shared by the **Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium** @erlcp - Spark interest, engagement & understanding in science using online simulations to model natural phenomena in this session with Karen Blumhagen. April 29: <http://bit.ly/ERLC25NC356> April 30: <http://bit.ly/ERLC25NC357>


Modeling Natural Phenomena with Gizmos


Online Simulations for the New Grade 3-6 Science Curriculum


with Karen Blumhagen

Dates 3:35 - 5:00pm MTN

April 29, 2025
or
April 30, 2025



 The Consortium
Alberta Professional Learning Consortium

 Gizmos

Outdoor Learning School and Store

Resources for Educators:

1. [A Walking Curriculum](#)
2. [The School Garden Curriculum](#)
3. [A Walking Curriculum for the Early Years](#)

Tools for Learners:

1. [Basic Outdoor Sit Pad](#)
2. [Handheld Field Magnifier](#)
3. [National Geographic Student Binoculars](#)

Class Kits:

1. [Patterns in Nature Class Kit](#)
2. [Soil Study and Inquiry Class Kit](#)
3. [Looking Closely Class Kit](#)

Courses for Educators

1. April 29: [STEAM Learning Outdoors](#)
2. Starting May 12: [Spring Braiding Sweetgrass for Educators Course](#)
3. Ongoing: [Outdoor Learning Certification Course](#)

[View all upcoming courses & workshops...](#)

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/4gNER7C>
- From PLT4M @ OLT4M - Calling all elementary PE teachers! Ready to energize your classes? Dive into our **FREE sample lesson plans** designed to ignite excitement and keep your students moving! Check it out now! https://plt4m.com/blog/elementary-pe-lesson-plans/?utm_content=329064842&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&hss_channel=tw-1022513719

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

- Shared by fnesc – **Learning First Peoples Summer Institute** – held in **Vancouver and Prince George**

Day 3 Applied Design, Skills and Technologies (ADST) First Peoples Teacher Resource Guide (K-12)

The *Applied Design, Skills and Technologies First Peoples Teacher Resource Guide (K-12)* is scheduled for release in the summer of 2025. The session explores how First Nations' knowledges and perspectives can be recognized and included in the diverse courses that fall under the ADST umbrella and the session will provide hands-on learning opportunities. The resource has the following thematic units: Oral Traditions and the Land; Digital Storytelling, Nature's Colour Wheel: Dyes and Paints of BC First Nations; Coast Salish Weaving and Coding; Clothing, Design and Identity; First Nations Textiles: The Art of Salmon Leather; First Nations Food Studies; First Nations Fishing Technologies; First Nations Technologies of Fire; First Nations Technologies in Wood; Conscious Housing; and Indigenous Entrepreneurship and Tourism. This session is designed for K-12 ADST teachers of K-12 but has applicability to other K-12 curricular content.



The poster features a yellow background with a pink banner at the bottom. It includes circular portraits of three women: Leona Price, Leah Marie Dorion, and Myah Birrell. A red speech bubble in the top right corner contains the text '4 PM PT 7 PM ET June 3'. The bottom section shows a collage of colorful Indigenous-themed books and a group of children in a field. Logos for 'OUTDOOR LEARNING SCHOOL & STONE' and 'TAKE ME OUTSIDE' are also present.

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

2025 Spring Outdoor Learning Virtual Workshops

REGISTER AT [OUTDOORLEARNING.COM](https://outdoorlearning.com)

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

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

- Watch the latest 5MM episode on **Reassessing the Rubric - Shifting To Strength Based Assessment Practices:**

<https://www.drshelleymoore.com/post/reassessing-the-rubric> In this month's video, Dr. Shelley Moore addresses issues with how rubrics are utilized, particularly after their evolution influenced by online resources, which have shifted their original intent. In this Podcast episode, Shelley talks to Outside Pin Laurie McIntosh, a Kindergarten teacher, who is using continuums to create accessibility and challenge for ALL her student. To watch the 5MM episode and access supplemental resources connected to this episode including the episode script, supporting articles, and discussion questions, head to the [Five Moore Minutes website](https://www.drshelleymoore.com/).

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



ASSESSMENT/INSTRUCTION

Students can find this voice through **self-reflection, self-evaluation, and self-reporting**, all of which have high effect sizes on student learning, meanwhile working toward equity goals by centering their voices, experiences, and ah-ha moments in the process of assessment.

Hattie, 2023

MTS

- Fainstein also talks about the importance of **teaching morphology directly:** <https://www.literacyimpact.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Morphology-Resource-kit-updated-20.02.23-MS.pdf>. **This is an excellent FREE resource. Please check it out.**
- **Partner Reading** is another powerful Instructional Strategy. More information can be found here: https://meadowscenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/PartnerReadingBrief_final1.pdf

**Learning is not
the product of teaching.
Learning is the product
of the activity of learners.**

John Holt

- In his series on **Early Literacy Screening and Foundational Instruction**, David Fainstein talked about the power of a comprehensive reading program that WORKS and top priority Instructional Strategies. With regard to Phonemic Awareness, he refers to the use of **Elkonin Boxes**. For further information, please see the University of **Florida Literacy Institute Handout:** <https://ufli.education.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Using-Elkonin-Boxes-Handout.pdf>

Partner Reading:
An Evidence-Based
Practice
Teacher's Guide



This version of Partner Reading is intended for Middle Grade classrooms

- Finally, Fainstein reiterated the quality and availability of POPEY resources, which are always FREE. For example, see POPEY's **Structured Literacy Block Checklist**. POPEY is an excellent resource for all Grade K-3 teachers and the website should be checked regularly: popey.ca



Structured Literacy Block Checklist (K-3)



Daily Components

I. Opening/Phonological Awareness (5-10 minutes)

- ☐ Rhyming, segmenting, blending, and manipulating sounds.
- ☐ Activities: songs, oral games, or quick activities.

2. Phonics Instruction (15-20 minutes)

- ☐ Explicit teaching of letter-sound relationships (alphabetic principle).
- ☐ Practice decoding real and nonsense words. Multi-sensory
- ☐ engagement (e.g., tiles, sand, air writing).

3. Word Study (10-15 minutes)

- ☐ Focus on spelling patterns, high-frequency words, and morphology.
- ☐ Activities: word sorts, building words, or dictation.

4. Vocabulary Development (5-10 minutes)

- ☐ Direct instruction of 1-2 tiered words daily.
- ☐ Use visuals, context sentences, and student-friendly definitions.

5. Small Group Instruction (20-30 minutes)

Differentiated small group sessions targeting specific needs:

- ☐ Decoding and word recognition.
- ☐ Comprehension strategies.
- ☐ Fluency practice.

6. *** Independent Reading (10-15 minutes)

- ☐ Book bags would include decodable books aligned with phonics skills already mastered, plus student selected high interest books.
- ☐ The teacher monitors and supports as needed.

7. Writing (20-30 minutes)

- ☐ Modeled, shared, and independent writing opportunities.
- ☐ Focus on encoding, sentence construction, and grammar.

8. Read-Aloud (10-15 minutes)

- ☐ High-quality, diverse texts.
- ☐ Discussion of comprehension strategies: predicting, summarizing, and connecting.

Weekly Components

9. Fluency Practice (2-3 times per week)

- ☐ Repeated reading, partner reading, or choral reading of decodable texts.
- ☐ Focus on accuracy, rate, and expression.

10. Assessment and Progress Monitoring

- ☐ Weekly or biweekly phonics, fluency, or comprehension checks.
- ☐ Adjust instruction based on data.

II. Enrichment/Intervention (As Needed)

- ☐ Additional time for targeted skill development.

Teacher Reflection

- ☐ Have I included all literacy components today?
- ☐ Were activities accessible and engaging for all learners? Did
- ☐ I differentiate for diverse abilities and needs?

NOTES:

- David Fainstein may be reached at: <https://www.teachingabilities.ca>

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

alberta assessment consortium MAY SESSIONS

Date	Topic	Format	Time
MAY 7	STORYTELLING IN FOCUS: USING ORAL LANGUAGE FOR MEANINGFUL ASSESSMENT AND RELAXATION	Virtual	11 - NOON
MAY 14	I'M WALKING ON SUNSHINE: BRINGING ASSESSMENT TO LIFE WITH THE WALKING CURRICULUM	Virtual	1:00-2:00
MAY 22	WALKING INTO LEARNING: PURPOSEFUL OUTDOOR BREAKS AND GUIDED RELAXATION	In person YCC	12:30-3:30
MAY 23	ROOTED IN LEARNING: ASSESSING THROUGH OUTDOOR EXPLORATION	In person YEG	12:30-3:30

Register: <https://aac.ab.ca/events/>

Be teachable.
You're not always
right.