

CISPG LEARNING

Catholic Independent Schools Diocese of Prince George

"ALL learners thriving in inspired, innovative Catholic Learning Communities"



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.



Prayer for Pope Leo XIV

Faithful God,
You guide us on the path of life
and your goodness is our constant
companion.

Be with our new Shepherd, Pope Leo XIV,
in his service of the Church.
Fill him with the power of your Spirit,
the peace of your presence
and the compassion of Christ.

May he walk with you,
in wisdom and humility,
and lead us, together with all God's
people,
to embody your love for the world.
Amen.

Catholic Agency for Overseas
Development



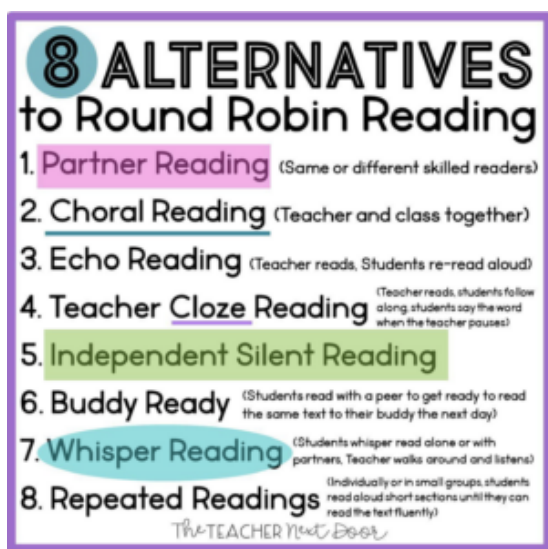
RESOURCES

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>

LITERACY



- From TCEA @TCEA - Oral reading doesn't have to feel awkward—for you or your students. There is better, more confidence-boosting ways to build fluency—and they're actually fun. These alternatives to traditional oral reading are easy to implement and help students find their voice. Think poetry, performances, partner reads, and more—no pressure, just progress <https://buff.ly/FTYtzeE> via The Teacher Next Door.
- From Susan Neuman@SusanBneuman - We're thrilled to share our article (open access) on "**Knowledge-Building Through Categorization: Boosting Children's Vocabulary and Content Knowledge in a Shared Book Reading Program**": <https://tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.10>

- 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>

- Shared by **ONlit.org @ONlit_social** - Get started with **@thinkSRSD**! This resource provides an overview of thinkSRSD, an approach to provide structured writing instruction. Find the resource <https://onlit.org/resource/writing-with-thinksrds/>
- Shared by **Jan & Kari** - If you're looking for practical ways to incorporate decodable texts and other evidence-based shifts in reading instruction, we invite you to explore *Shifting the Balance*. Our books and online courses offer research-aligned, easy-to-implement strategies designed to support both teachers and students on their literacy journey. **This is an excellent MUST USE Website:** <https://thesixshifts.com/2022/05/decodable-texts/>
- Also, by **Jan & Kari** janandkari@thesixshifts.com - **This is an excellent article - Unlock the Power of Fluency: 5 Powerful Strategies for Your Classroom:** https://thesixshifts.com/2025/05/what-is-reading-fluency/?utm_source=convertkit&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Unlock+the+Magic+of+Fluency%3A+5+Powerful+Strategies+for+Your+Classroom+-+17652277

- From **Melissa & Lori Love Literacy Podcast** @literacypodcast - When second grade students in a study were asked if they thought readers' theater could improve their reading, they said no - because it was TOO MUCH FUN! Learn more: <https://ow.ly/2up150VxK2L>



- Also, from **Melissa & Lori Love Literacy Podcast** @literacypodcast - Check out our new episode, fourth-grade teacher Aaron Grossman shares how his **fluency routine using Readers' Theater** helps students become more fluent readers but also builds their **content knowledge**. Listen: <https://ow.ly/JQSH50VPuf>
- Aaron Grossman talks about how he uses this rubric in this episode. <https://ow.ly/wreM50Vz4sN>: **Tim Rasinski's Multi-Dimensional Fluency Rubric**



NAME _____

FLUENCY RUBRIC

	1	2	3	4
Expression and Volume	Reads in a quiet voice as if to get words out. The reading does not sound natural like talking to a friend.	Reads in a quiet voice. The reading sounds natural in part of the text, but the reader does not always sound like they are talking to a friend.	Reads with volume and expression. However, sometimes the reader slips into expressionless reading and does not sound like they are talking to a friend.	Reads with varied volume and expression. The reader sounds like they are talking to a friend with their voice matching the interpretation of the passage.
Phrasing	Reads word-by-word in a monotone voice.	Reads in two or three word phrases, not adhering to punctuation, stress and intonation.	Reads with a mixture of run-ons, mid sentence pauses for breath, and some choppy. There is reasonable stress and intonation.	Reads with good phrasing; adhering to punctuation, stress and intonation.
Smoothness	Frequently hesitates while reading, sounds out words, and repeats words or phrases. The reader makes multiple attempts to read the same passage.	Reads with extended pauses or hesitations. The reader has many "rough spots."	Reads with occasional breaks in rhythm. The reader has difficulty with specific words and/or sentence structures.	Reads smoothly with some breaks, but self-corrects with difficult words and/or sentence structures.
Pace	Reads slowly and laboriously.	Reads moderately slowly.	Reads fast and slow throughout reading.	Reads at a conversational pace throughout the reading.

Scores of 10 or more indicate that the student is making good progress in fluency.

Score _____

Scores below 10 indicate that the student needs additional instruction in fluency.

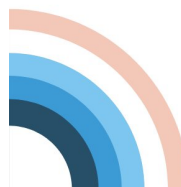
Rubric modified from Tim Rasinski - Creating Fluent Readers

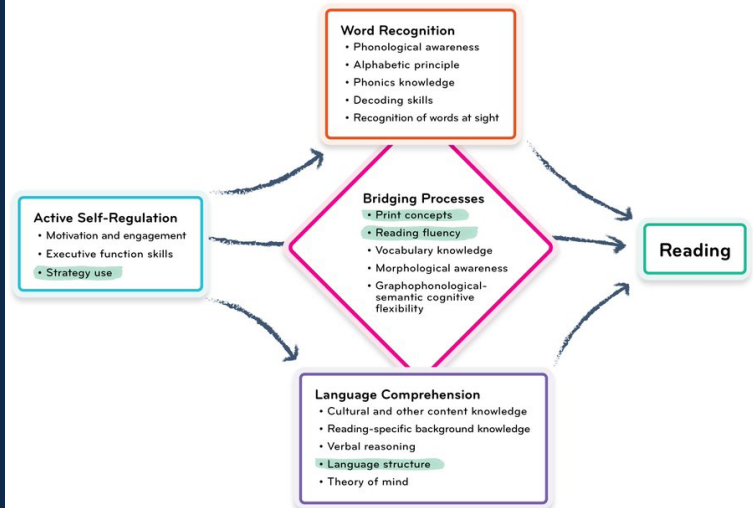
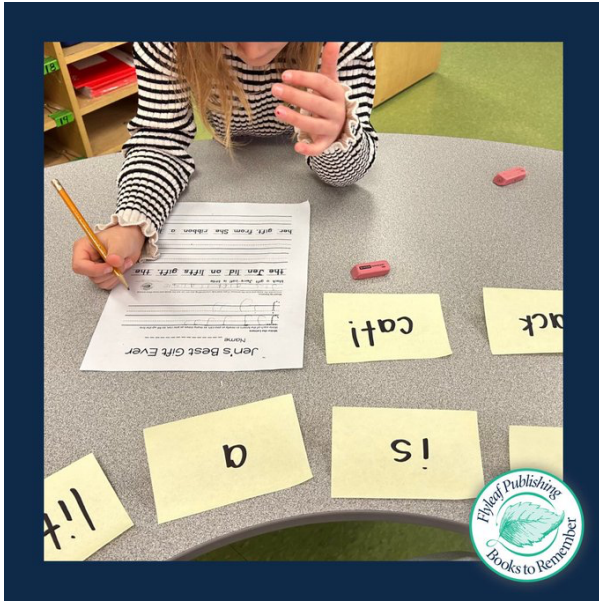
- And again, From **Melissa & Lori Love Literacy Podcast** - One of our most-downloaded episodes ever! Maryanne Wolf and Melissa Orkin discuss: the **POSSUM approach to building word knowledge that can help students read fluently**. Listen now <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/melissa-lori-love-literacy/id1463219123>

- Shared by Florida Center for Reading Research @TheFCRR** - The **National Center on Improving Literacy** has a brand-new website! Explore evidence-based resources, tools, and research to support literacy for all learners. Check it out <https://improvingliteracy.org>. **This website is excellent!**
- Shared by **Flyleaf Publishing** @FlyleafLiteracy - Flyleaf's **Cut-Up Sentences instructional routine** engages students in authentic problem-solving at the sentence level. As students construct and reconstruct sentences, they develop understanding of: Print Conventions, Syntax and Sentence Structure, Decoding Strategy Use, Reading Fluency through Rhythm and Phrasing, Language Comprehension at the Sentence Level.

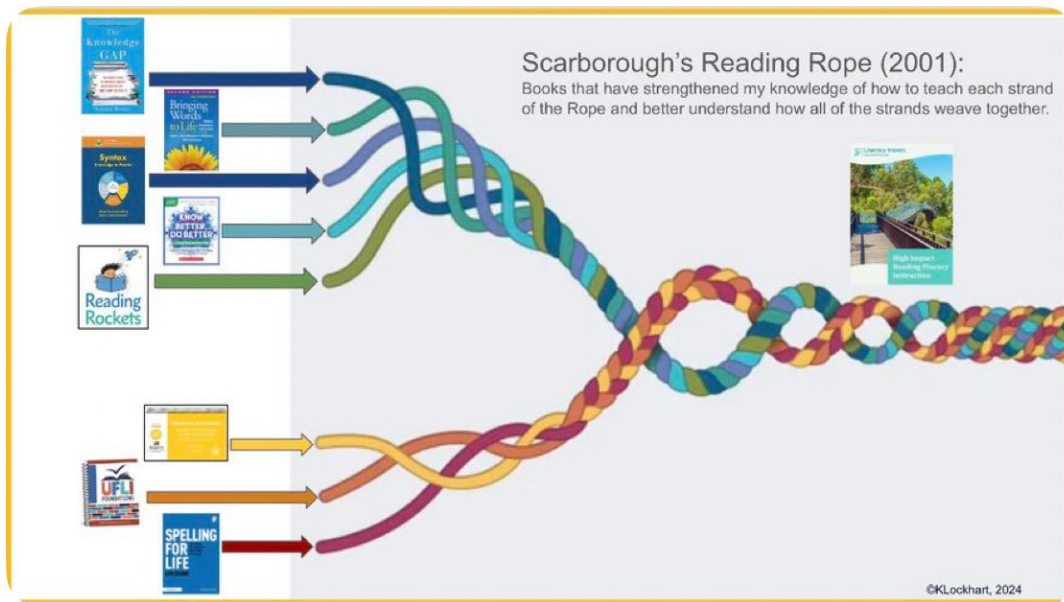


Books That Will Change How You Teach Fluency





- Shared by Mme LockhartLDSB - **While UFLI is an outstanding program**, it is important to remember that there isn't one single program that contains all of the elements needed for reading and writing proficiency. Instead of relying on one program, I've read various books to grow my knowledge of the various elements that are necessary for reading and writing proficiency and matched them to the strands of **Scarborough's Reading Rope**.

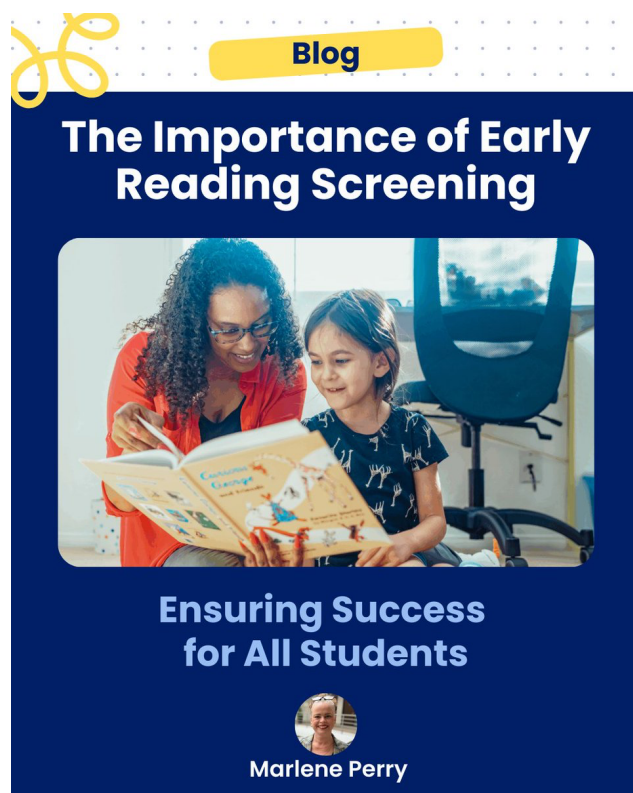
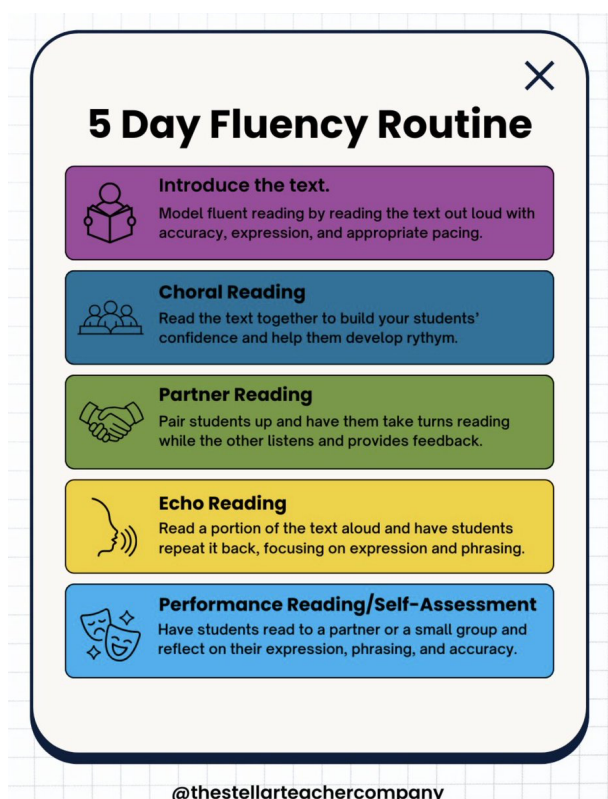


- Shared by **ONlit.org @ONlit_social** - Join us on May 28 as Melissa takes participants through her **progress monitoring, end-of-year data, and everything in between!** Missed part 1 and 2? Find the videos and slides.

Register: <https://onlit.org/event/grade-1-planning-from-data-to-instruction-part-3/>



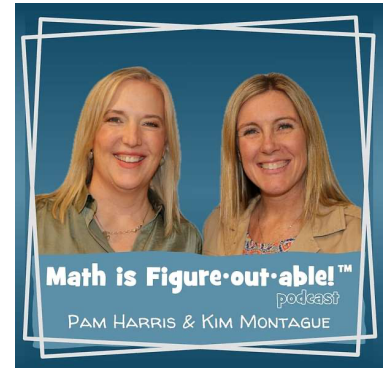
- Shared by **ONlit.org @ONlit_social** - **Please note that these resources correspond to the Ontario ELA curriculum. However, they provide many specific examples of practice and current resources that can be adapted to the BC curriculum at the teacher's discretion ☺**
 - Grade 1 Guide** is packed with key learning goals and a peek into what students will explore this year! Find the resource - <https://onlit.org/grade-guides/grade-1/introduction-to-grade-1/>
 - Grade 2 Guide** – packed with high-quality, standards-aligned literacy resources, lesson plans, and support for diverse learners. Perfect for boosting reading skills! Bookmark for later! <https://onlit.org/grade-guides/grade-2/grade-2-introduction/>
 - Grade 3 Guide** - <https://onlit.org/grade-guides/grade-3/introduction-to-grade-3/>
- From ONlit as well - **A Universal Reading Screener** helps identify students at risk for reading difficulties—so educators can intervene early and effectively. Learn more on our blog - <https://onlit.org/the-importance-of-early-reading-screening-ensuring-success-for-all-students/>



- From **ReadWorks** www.readworks.org - **ReadWorks** provides free, high-quality texts and resources for students and teachers to improve reading skills and knowledge. Learn about their mission, content, features, partners, and impact. **Highly recommended!** Check out this month's **Top 10 May Reading Passages**—carefully selected to build comprehension and align with common May topics! https://www.readworks.org/teacher-guide/top10.html?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=toptenpassages25&utm_content=email&campaignId=toptenpassages25&source=email&category=email&utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=May%20s%20Top%2010%20Reading%20Recommendations%20Are%20Here%21&utm_campaign=May%20Top%2010&vgo_ee=Eej8bPBuX0oVRPNkdITvN5rMKhIYfjvO8QWx%2BD DXxi9gZsZj7w%3D%3A8cbSndh2L8Ws7ruDaVmKz4AHHcgKv40g

NUMERACY

- From Cathy Marks Krpan @CathyMarksKrpan - "Word problems are not problems. They are texts that describe the context of problems. **Reading for meaning is key.** Once we understand the text, can paraphrase the text, visualize the text...Then, only then, can we begin to actually solve the problem that the text describes.
- From Pam Harris @pwharris - **What is an anchor chart?** How should we make them? <https://bit.ly/mathpcast255>
- Shared by **Robin Kubasiak @KubasiakRobin** - I've been thinking about this question for a while so I thought I would share: **Is Math Better on a Whiteboard?** <https://robinkubasiak.substack.com/p/is-math-better-on-a-whiteboard?r=2pbp15>
- From Mathigon@MathigonOrg - **Deck 4 of Addition and Subtraction by Heart** uses numbers cards and focuses on subtraction problems within 20 in which decomposing is not necessary. At times, students can click on a card greater than 10 to split it into two parts. Learn more at <http://fluency.amplify.com>
- Shared by **Iowa Reading Research Center @IAResearch** - Word problems can be a challenge for students, and common strategies for teaching word problems may be ineffective and misleading. Learn why solving word problems requires the integration of literacy skills with mathematical processes in our latest blog post: <https://irrc.education.uiowa.edu/blog/2025/05/>
- From **Brainingcamp@brainingcamp** - These Linking Cube puzzles provide an excellent opportunity to understand related facts, build flexible thinking, and develop algebraic reasoning skills. Check out <https://bit.ly/AddSubPuzzles> or enter Share Code: W5GXTJFA

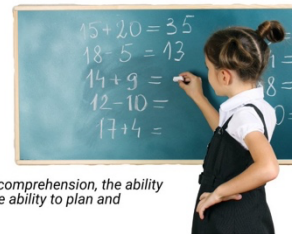


BLOG POST

Literacy Is Every Subject—Math and Word Problems

Every subject brings specialized vocabulary that students must master on their way to proficiency. Math is no exception. One of the clearest examples of math's literacy demands—and one of the biggest stumbling blocks for students—is the word problem.

Solving word problems involves reading comprehension, the ability to filter out irrelevant information, and the ability to plan and execute a solution strategy.



The number is between 0 and 20 and a multiple of 1		Your number of the day is 20.		Questions: 16
New Number		Print Sheet		Difficulty: Medium
Show Answers		Background:		
1. Next even number is	2. The first 4 multiples are	3. Double it	4. Find $\frac{3}{20}$	
5. Times by 10	6. Halve it	7. Its reciprocal is	8. Sum of integers 1 to 20	
9. Square root is between	10. Divide by 100	11. Next square number is	12. Cube it	
13. Multiply by 6	14. Its factors are	15. Round to nearest 20	16. Subtract 3	

- From Jonathan Hall @StudyMaths - **Number of the Day.** It's been around for a few years now, but still one of the most popular starters on the site. <https://mathsbot.com/starters/NumberOfTheDay>

EXPLORATIONS

- From TCEA @TCEA - Thinking about **starting a makerspace** but don't know where to begin? This free manual from the Institute for Arts Integration and STEAM breaks it all down—no 3D printer required (yet). From funding to furniture to mindset, it's got you covered. <https://buff.ly/YrWB2if> via **Institute for Arts Integration and STEAM** (see image above)

114 TIPS TO CREATE A STEAM MAKERSPACE

GET STARTED

These are the least expensive items that you'll need to get started. Ask for as many of these items to be donated as possible. Purchase the rest as base consumables.

- ☐ Yarn
- ☐ Embroidery String
- ☐ Cardboard
- ☐ Fabrics/textile swatches
- ☐ Old telephone wire
- ☐ Balloons
- ☐ Popsicle sticks
- ☐ Pipe cleaners
- ☐ Wire cutters
- ☐ Tennis balls
- ☐ Nuts and bolts
- ☐ Paint
- ☐ Model magic
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Wood blocks
- ☐ Mod Podge
- ☐ Ink
- ☐ Embroidery hoops
- ☐ Old instruments
- ☐ Rubber bands
- ☐ Toothpicks
- ☐ Straws
- ☐ Magnets
- ☐ Duct Tape
- ☐ Scotch tape
- ☐ Felt
- ☐ Dental floss
- ☐ Foam board
- ☐ Poster board
- ☐ Telephone wire
- ☐ Paper: origami, construction, plain

DIG DEEPER

These are items you'll most likely need to purchase and which can take your STEAM lessons to the next level with students. Try crowdfunding/grants for these.

- ☐ Legos
- ☐ Snap Circuits
- ☐ Hole Punches
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Copper tape with conductive adhesive
- ☐ LEDs
- ☐ Batteries (AAA, AA, CR2032, C, D)
- ☐ Green screen paper
- ☐ Zoomy handheld microscope
- ☐ Microphone/
- ☐ Microphone stand
- ☐ Chibitronics
- ☐ Qubits
- ☐ Keva Structures
- ☐ Spirograph
- ☐ 3Doodler
- ☐ 3D Printer
- ☐ iPads/Tablets
- ☐ Sewing machine
- ☐ HUE Animation Studio
- ☐ K'Nex
- ☐ Makey Makeys
- ☐ Sphere Ball

WEB RESOURCES

These are websites that your students can access which will help them find ideas, create with web tools and share their work online.

- GET IDEAS:**
 - ☐ Instructables.com
 - ☐ CantataLearning.com
 - ☐ Makerspace.com
- CREATING:**
 - ☐ edu.buncee.com
 - ☐ picmonkey.com
 - ☐ canva.com
 - ☐ piktochart.com
 - ☐ education.minecraft.net
- SHARING:**
 - ☐ creatubbles.com
 - ☐ web.seesaw.me

APPS FOR STEAM

This mix of free and paid apps are a good starting place for working in a STEAM-inspired makerspace.

- ☐ DoInk
- ☐ Animation Creator
- ☐ MyStop Action
- ☐ Flipbook
- ☐ StopMotion Recorder
- ☐ Garageband
- ☐ iMovie
- ☐ Drawing Desk
- ☐ EduCreations
- ☐ Shot Designer
- ☐ Storehouse - Visual Storytelling
- ☐ Adobe Voice
- ☐ Echograph
- ☐ Vydome - Film Together
- ☐ Amaziograph
- ☐ Morphi
- ☐ Cardboard
- ☐ NYTVR

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Be sure to think about how you'll store, charge and provide room for students to explore, create and share their work.

- CARTS/STORAGE:**
 - ☐ Clear view bins
 - ☐ Labels
 - ☐ Cubbies
 - ☐ Shelving
 - ☐ Rolling carts
 - ☐ Checkout system
- POWER/CHARGING:**
 - ☐ Charging stations
 - ☐ Laptop/tablet bins
 - ☐ Cord wrappers
 - ☐ Power strips
 - ☐ Label system
- WORKSPACES:**
 - ☐ Collapsible tables
 - ☐ Long workbenches
 - ☐ Desk groupings
 - ☐ Creating area
 - ☐ Lab tables
 - ☐ Presentation space

STEAM UNITS OF STUDY

Here are some sample ideas for STEAM-driven units of study that you can use for your new makerspace.

- ☐ Study/create string art with linear equations
- ☐ Design a musical instrument
- ☐ Create a new set design
- ☐ Animate a story
- ☐ Robotic movement
- ☐ Explore sound and light waves
- ☐ Microscopy study
- ☐ Art forgery/chemistry
- ☐ Architecture unit
- ☐ Lego Pixelation Wall
- ☐ Coded Grid Art
- ☐ Sound Effect Lab
- ☐ Energy and space through movement
- ☐ Models, structures and sculptures
- ☐ Costume design and wearable art

PHE/SEL

- **Assessment in Physical and Health Education Teacher Resource Book** by Josh Ogilvie via Chilliwack SD #33: <https://learningservices.sd33.bc.ca/sites/learningservices.sd33.bc.ca/files/2022-11/Assessment%20in%20PHE%20Teacher%20Resource%20Handbook.pdf>

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.

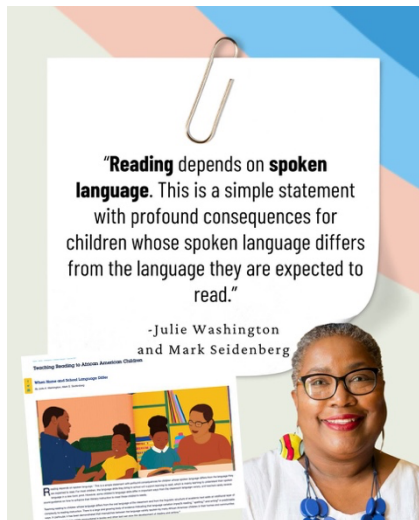
A colorful poster titled "New Indigenous Learning Resources for the Elementary Years". It features three circular portraits of authors: Leona Price, Leah Marie Dorion, and Myah Birrell. A red speech bubble in the top right corner says "4 PM PT / 7 PM ET / June 3". Below the portraits, it says "With Authors, Artists & Educators". The bottom half of the poster shows a collection of Indigenous-themed books and a group of children in a field. A pink banner across the middle reads "2025 Spring Outdoor Learning Virtual Workshops". At the bottom, it says "REGISTER AT OUTDOORLEARNING.COM". Logos for "OUTDOOR LEARNING SCHOOL & STORE" and "TAKE ME OUTSIDE" are also present.

From 4 Seasons of Indigenous Learning - **Upcoming Indigenous Learning Opportunities**

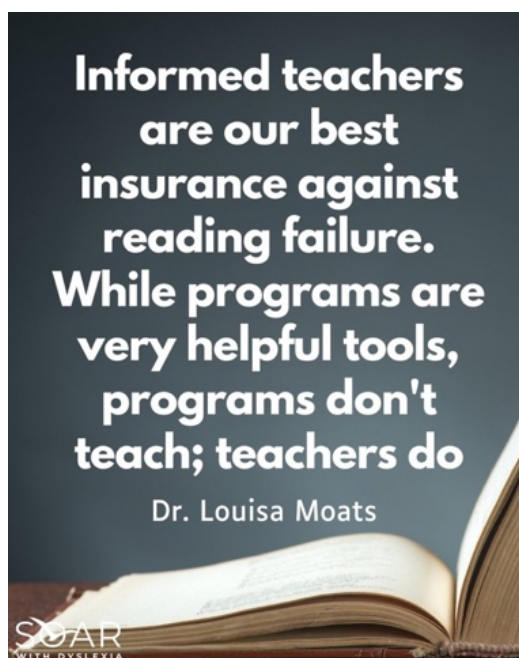
- On **May 27**: Indigenous Resources for Outdoor Learning with Styawat / Dr. Leigh Joseph
- On **June 3**: New Indigenous Learning Resources with Leona Prince, Leah Marie Dorion and Myah Birrell
- Starts **July 2**: Connecting Children to Nature through Indigenous Teachings Course
- Starts **Aug 6**: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

- Shared by **Carolyn Roberts @mcarolynroberts** - Thinking about this land and how you acknowledge it matters. Here are some questions to think about when you are preparing your **land acknowledgement**. Check out our website for more information, lesson plans, books, and so much more. <http://carolynroberts.net>
- From **Strong Nations @strong_nations** - New! From bestselling author David A. Robertson, this is the essential guide for all Canadians to understand how small and attainable acts towards reconciliation can make an enormous difference in our collective efforts to build a reconciled country. <https://strongnations.com/store/11767/52>: **52 Ways to Reconcile**

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



- From **ColorinColorado @ColorinColorado** - Have you seen our free slide deck on using visuals with ELL's? You are welcome to use it! <https://www.colorincolorado.org/teaching-ells/ell-classroom-strategy-library/using-visuals>



ASSESSMENT/INSTRUCTION

- From **Assess THAT with Tom & Nat** - @TomSchimmer and @natabasso - introduce their new book: "Rehumanizing Assessment: Gathering Evidence of Student Learning through Storytelling."
 - Apple <https://apple.co/4iOyReP> Spotify <https://tinyurl.com/cef4rv84>
 - Book out May 16 - Order here: <https://tinyurl.com/4hzt94sd>



Chalk Dust

Chalk Dust is the podcast that gives you a front-row seat to some of the best classrooms in the world.

Subscribe

- From **Dr. Nathaniel Swain @NathanielRSwain** - It's finally here!!! Listen to the very first episode of **#ChalkDust** now!

<https://open.substack.com/pub/chalkdustp>. Each episode @NathanielRSwain and @msrebeccabirch dissect & analyze real classroom footage, unpacking the teaching moves that make a difference, & connecting them to what we know about how students learn best.

- Shared by **Book Creator Team @BookCreatorTeam** - Our May Newsletter is Here! Don't miss out – check it out today for the latest updates, tips, and resources! https://bookcreator.com/resources/newsletter/may-25/?utm_source=social&utm_medium=post&utm_campaign=may-newsletter&utm_term=webinar
- From Jennifer Lynn Teaches @jenniferlmoroz - **FREE link to Grade 1 and 2 ELA and Math End -of -Year Proficiency Targets** <https://youtube.com/shorts/Sw9d3GTcPBg?si=7P9qw4w-cVHxaA0t> via [@YouTube](#)
- Shared by **TCEA @TCEA** - Wait... how is it already May?! If the countdown to summer has begun but your students' attention spans have officially clocked out, it's time to bring in the fun (and still sneak in some learning). This list of **7 end-of-year activities** includes creative, low-prep ways to reflect, celebrate, and connect—without losing your mind: <https://blog.tcea.org/activities-end-of-school-year/>

