# CISPG LEARNING

Catholic Independent Schools Diocese of Prince George

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



Hello everyone! It is quite fitting that the first issue of the CISPG Learning Update coincides somewhat with World Teachers' Day. Together with the Canadian Teachers' Federation, we celebrate all educators that play a crucial role in the lives of children, parents and caregivers, and community. Thank you for all you do!

And welcome back to another school year! Already, the pace of activities and events has quickened. In the month of September, you created welcoming, inclusive spaces for your children and families, celebrated a brilliant Co-Missioning Day across the Diocese with Melodie, our amazing Christian Education Consultant, and paused briefly to reflect, honour and contemplate ways to weave the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation into our work as Catholic Educators.

I wish you all the very best as we continue our learning in 2025-2026 ©

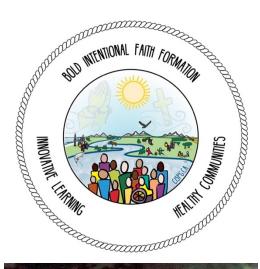


Living,
Celebrating, &
PROCLAIMING
OUR FAITH

# Frances Roch, Principal of Learning Services

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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 Ts'msyen Nation in Prince Rupert and Terrace. The Haisla Xa'islak'ala Nation in Kitimat. The Witsuwit'en in Smithers. The Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta in Dawson Creek.





"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." Rest in Peace, Jane Goodall



# **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: <a href="mailto:mvandermeer@cispg.ca">mvandermeer@cispg.ca</a>.

As you begin planning for this year, you can find all of the **Catholic Social Teaching/Core Competency Reflections** in one place here! Updates include **Indigenous and Faith-Based Book lists**:

https://padlet.com/melodievandermeer/breakout-room/ZNL0qanPLZpQvP1d-DI7yzEoZPrQvnAmK. As well, here is the link to the slidedeck from the **Co-Missioning Day** on Monday:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGQk8kVb7A/94VukrJrb0jNc5qGqmKjjg/edit?utm\_content=DAGQk8kVb7A&utm\_campaign=designshare&utm\_medium=link2&utm\_source=sharebutton

# LITERACY



Start with "Picking" and go to "Apples"

Teachers/Parents: Give students clues for each new word; or simply tell them the new word and talk about it after the student makes it.

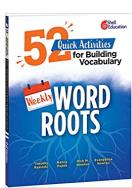


https://www.timrasinski.com/blog.html

• From Tim Rasinski @TimRasinki1 - WORD LADDER
WEDNESDAY! This week's Word Ladder (attached) celebrates
another fun autumn activity! Enjoy! Daily Word Ladders are an
effective, engaging, and inexpensive supplement to any classroom
phonics, spelling, or vocabulary program. CISPG schools are
encouraged to purchase the complete sets of Tim Rasinski's
Word Ladder books (as per Delta SD#37) to support vocabulary
instruction ©







Also shared by Tim Rasinski:

**MORPHOLOGY MONDAY!** Morphology/Word Root instruction is a science-based approach to build vocabulary and improve comprehension. Hope you find these helpful!

- From edWeb.net @edwebnet Using Decodables with Older Readers: Strategies to Build Confidence and Fluency: https://home.edweb.net/webinar/reader
- Shared by the Book Creator Team @BookCreatorApp Our new PD Guide 2025 is remixable + ready to go

   perfect for facilitators and tech leads. Find it in our Schools & Districts Toolkit:
   <a href="https://f.mtr.cool/hmykkxswvb">https://f.mtr.cool/hmykkxswvb</a>

• From **Jennifer Serravallo** @Jserravallo - Planning **meaningful vocabulary instruction** doesn't have to take hours. These online tools–featured in Teaching Reading Across the Day–can help you quickly find definitions, word histories, morphology connections, word webs, and more.

# Vocabulary Lessons

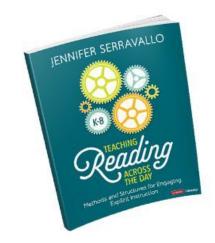


# Online Tools for Vocabulary Lesson Planning

There are many free online tools to speed up your planning:

- √ Etymonline.com: Look up any affix or word for a definition and history of the word. For longer words, you can view the history and meaning of each word part (for example, look up unsuspecting and get information about un-, sus, pect, and -ing).
- √ Vocabulary.com: More than a dictionary, this site offers a variety of different contexts for a word—some made up for the site and others pulled from literature. They also offer a list of morphologically related words in a word family graphic, synonyms, and parts of speech. Basically, the site provides everything you need for the Apply and Extend portions of the vocabulary lesson!
- √ **Visualthesaurus.com:** Enter a word on this site and it creates a word web, sorting the words and their definitions into parts of speech.
- √ Neilramsden.co.uk: Enter your own word sums (i.e., un+sus+pect+ing, sus+pect, sus+pect+ed) and this site will generate a word matrix for you.
- Textproject.org: Developed by researcher Elfreida Heibert, this site is a treasure trove of resources for teachers and includes complete texts, extensive word lists, and many word maps.
- Shared by The Writing Revolution @The WritingRevo "Too often we jump straight to essay writing and wonder why students struggle, especially in the secondary grades. The truth is that essays are only as strong as the sentences that make them up. When we invest time in teaching students, regardless of their grade level, how to construct, expand, and refine sentences, we give them the foundation to express complex ideas with clarity and confidence."





- From Corwin @CorwinPress Have you ever used the **stop-and-jot technique**? In the recent **Edutopia** article, Corwin author, Paul Emerich France, describes how to implement this method when mentoring your students in cognitive writing. Read more here: <a href="https://ow.lv/bagS50WbSHp">https://ow.lv/bagS50WbSHp</a>
- From **Keys to Literacy @KeystoLiteracy** Check out the latest blog post from Joan Sedita on **deconstructing and combining sentences to support comprehension and writing**. Learn how understanding sentence structure can help improve reading and writing skills for students who struggle in these areas: <a href="https://keystoliteracy.com/blog/deconstructing-and-combining-sentences-to-support-comprehension-and-writing/">https://keystoliteracy.com/blog/deconstructing-and-combining-sentences-to-support-comprehension-and-writing/</a>
- Also, from Keys to Literacy Check out the helpful explanation and infographic on Structured Literacy from the National Center on Improving Literacy. <a href="https://improvingliteracy.org/resource/features-of-structured-literacy-">https://improvingliteracy.org/resource/features-of-structured-literacy-</a>



• From **IDA Ontario** @IDA\_Ontario - Kate introduces the season with an all-star lineup of 9 expert guests, each sharing one powerful tip to set you up for your best school year yet. From data meetings to integrated instruction, parent communication to avoiding burnout, this podcast is packed with practical advice you can use right away. Join **Close Reading:** 

Uncovering

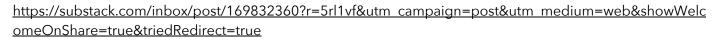
Deeper Meaning

us as we celebrate with insights from some of the most thoughtful voices in the field: <a href="https://reading-national.org/line">https://reading-national.org/line</a>

roadtrip.castos.com/episodes/s4-e10-expert-tips-for-

your-best-school-year-yet

 Shared by Teach Like a Champion @TeachLikeAChamp - Teaching students to master challenging texts is critical. Our latest Substack post explores how strategic close reading builds the habits and "cognitive patience" needed to persist and succeed:



- Shared by **ONlit.org @ONlit\_social Fluency resource for Grade 7** This collection of passages supports fluency while highlighting diverse, underrepresented voices and encouraging critical thinking–rooted in Canadian contexts. Learn more <a href="https://onlit.org/resource/fluency-in-perspective-grade-7/">https://onlit.org/resource/fluency-in-perspective-grade-7/</a>
- Also shared by ONlit.org @ONlit\_social Fluency resource for Grade 8 <a href="https://onlit.org/resource/fluency-in-perspective/">https://onlit.org/resource/fluency-in-perspective/</a>
- Check out ReadWorks: https://www.readworks.org/ ReadWorks is "built on the science of reading to ensure students can steadily expand their background knowledge, vocabularies, and reading comprehension".
   Although it has an American focus, it offers many suitable reading passages for students from K-12.
   ReadWorks provides content-rich decodables aligned with UFLI lessons, offering decoding practice and building knowledge, with Article-A-Day content
- Shared by **Zach Groshell** @MrZachG Two free recordings right here, for you to peruse: https://www.popey.ca/webinars/zach-groshell-series
  - Session One: Improving Cognitive Load
  - Session Two: Explicit Instruction is not Lecturing:

#### NUMERACY

- Check out **Steve Wyborney's blog**! Creator of splat!, Esti-Mysteries and Estimation Clipboards, Steve designs free resources and posts them on his blog: <a href="https://stevewyborney.com/">https://stevewyborney.com/</a> This is a must-see resource! Make sure to subscribe ©
- Box Cars and One-Eyed Jacks Check out this site for resources and professional development particularly math manipulatives. Their award-winning math and literacy resources help students in primary,
  upper elementary and middle years. Go to boxcarsandoneeyedjacks.com and subscribe to their
  newsletter.
- Number Talks <a href="https://ntimages.weebly.com/photos.html">https://ntimages.weebly.com/photos.html</a> via Graham Fletcher One of my favorite sites to visit at the beginning of the school year is Number Talk Images. It is a site curated by Pierre Tranchemontange that offers a beautifully organized gallery of thought-provoking images for launching Number Talks. It is visually engaging and prompts rich reasoning. Students notice, wonder, and share multiple ways to see the same image, which builds important number sense from day one.
- As well, visit **gfletchy's website**: gfletchy.com for math ideas and resources and subscribe to his newsletter.

### **EXPLORATIONS**

• **Historica Canada** @HistoricaCanada is an excellent site to support you with engaging classroom resources. Whether you're teaching history, social studies, civics, language arts, or beyond, they offer tools that bring Canadian stories to life.

Use <u>Heritage Minutes</u> to introduce key people, events, and moments in Canadian history in just 60 seconds. Looking for a veteran or currently serving Canadian Armed Forces member to share their stories of service? <u>Book a speaker</u> with the Memory Project. Hoping to spark critical thinking? Explore <u>quizzes</u> and <u>Education guides</u> from the Citizenship Challenge and <u>articles</u> and <u>timelines</u> from *The Canadian Encyclopedia* to enrich your students' understanding.

This year, they're excited to introduce new resources designed to enrich your lessons and provide fresh perspectives on Canadian history. For more information, visit the website at historicacanada.ca and subscribe to their newsletter.



- From **Historica Canada** @HistoricaCanada October is **Women's History Month!** We have lots of quizzes on women in Canadian history for you to explore! Take the Women in Canadian History quiz to get you started: <a href="https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/quiz/cc-quizwomen-in-canadian-history">https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/quiz/cc-quizwomen-in-canadian-history</a>
- From **TED-Ed** @TED\_ED 10 videos to help students understand the **science of climate change and its impact**:

https://ed.ted.com/blog/2021/02/01/10-videos-to-watch-to-discuss-climate-change-with-students

• Exploring By the Seat Of your Pants - Check out this amazing website and bring the world to your classroom. Since 2015 they've hosted 4,500+ live lessons, connecting over a million and a half students to scientists, explorers, and conservationists from 113 countries. Their live lessons and interactive resources will always be free to classrooms everywhere. Check out the website at: https://exploringbytheseat.com/ and sign up for the October live lessons ©

## PHE/SEL

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

# **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

• Go to **Strong Nations**: <a href="https://www.strongnations.com/">https://www.strongnations.com/</a> for outstanding, authentic indigenous resources. Subscribe to their newsletter!



• List of Fall Courses 2025 offered through the Outdoor Learning School & Store:

Starting Oct 8: A Walking Curriculum for the Early Years Course

Starting Oct 14: Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe) Introductory Language Course

Starting Oct 20: Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults: Course for Educators

Starting Nov 3: Social Emotional Learning (SEL) through Outdoor Learning

Starting Nov 5: The Medicine of Stories in Educating Hearts, Minds and Spirits

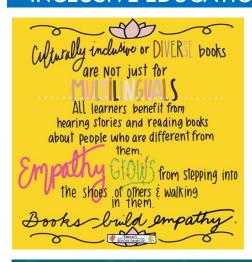
Starting Nov 5: Supporting Indigenous Children's Success through Nature-based Learning

Starting Nov 13: 4 Seasons of Indigenous Learning / 4 saisons de la réconciliation

For more information and excellent resources check out the website at: https://outdoorlearning.com/

Shared by Carolyn Roberts @mcarolynroberts - Check out our website for this meaningful discussion on ways you can include Indigenous education into your teaching practice.
 <a href="https://www.carolynroberts.net/single-post/how-to-transform-classroom-practices-for-meaningful-indigenous-inclusion">https://www.carolynroberts.net/single-post/how-to-transform-classroom-practices-for-meaningful-indigenous-inclusion</a>

# INCLUSIVE EDUCATION





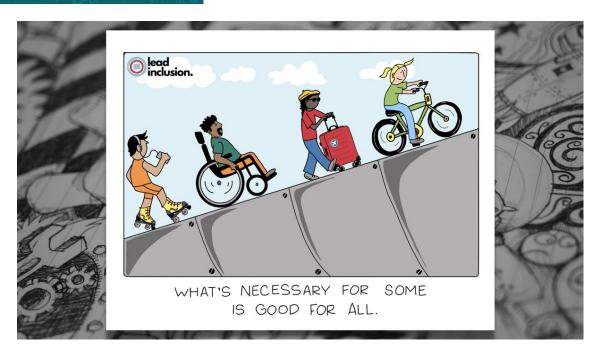
#### BITE-SIZED PD

"I ask families to share a goal they have for their student as part of my initial communication introducing myself. My chosen academic goals can come later, but I want to make sure I know what caregivers and students are hoping to get from their school experience."

TEACHER ZACH PAUL

**#T2T** 

- Must-use resource for inclusive education **Dr. Shelley Moore** <a href="https://www.drshelleymoore.com/">https://www.drshelleymoore.com/</a>. Check out the many excellent resources on this site, particularly **Five Moore Minutes** demand videos, courses, podcasts to help educators embrace inclusion.
- Shared by **Dr. Catlin Tucker** @Catlin\_Tucker **Tier 1 Insights to Guide Intervention and Enrichment** <a href="https://bit.ly/4c7U01Z">https://bit.ly/4c7U01Z</a>
- From Inclusive Education/Education inclusive Canada @InclusiveEdCan - @InclusionBC has put together a **great check** list for parents: <a href="https://inclusionbc.org/resource/septe">https://inclusionbc.org/resource/septe</a>
- From Colorin\_Colorado @ColorinColorado If you are looking for **#ELL back-to-school resources**, take a look at our new collection! <a href="https://www.colorincolorado.org/back-school-resources-ell-educators">https://www.colorincolorado.org/back-school-resources-ell-educators</a>



# ASSESSMENT/INSTRUCTION

- From TCEA @TCEA 9 Teacher-Tested Retrieval Strategies From mini-whiteboards to 'Question du Jour' and confidence ratings—here are 9 real-classroom tactics that make retrieval practice fast, fun, and formative. Worth every minute! https://buff.lv/SDvKWXk via @CultofPedagogy
- From TCEA @TCEA Reflection isn't a nice-to-have—it's essential for deeper learning. This list of 20+ classroom reflection strategies gives you practical ways to help students think critically about their work, mindset, and growth. Great for closing lessons or guiding metacognition all year. https://buff.ly/hgcRNnk via @TeachThought

#### 15 REFLECTION STRATEGIES

### TO HELP STUDENTS RETAIN WHAT YOU JUST TAUGHT THEM

- Pair-Share
- Stem-based
- Layered Text
- 3-2-1
- Write-Around
- Sketch

• Exit Slips

- Podcast
- Jigsawing
- Vlog

**Before Reading** 

8

Establish a purpose for reading · Previewing the text

Discuss text structure

#### teachthought

From Teacher2Teacher @teacher2teacher -Ts, how are you making sure you hear from all your Ss - even the quiet ones? This discussion routine, from educator @XpatEducator, can set them ALL up for success (see left image):



Jennifer Throndsen - Solution Tree blog

# THINK, PAIR, SHARE HOLDING STRUCTURED DEEP DISCUSSIONS

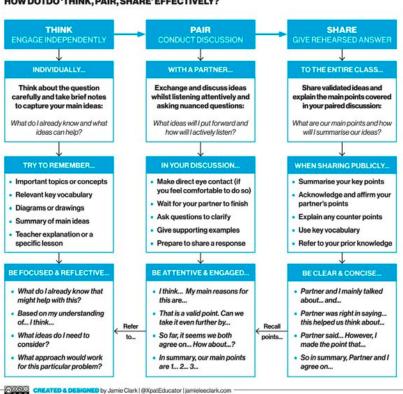
#### WHAT IS 'THINK, PAIR, SHARE'?

Think Pair Share (TPS) is a way for you and your peers to work together and learn from each other. Here's how it goes: first, you think about a question or problem on your own. Take your time to come up with your own ideas (you can even write this down if you wish). Then, you pair up with a shoulder partner. Share your thoughts and listen to theirs. It's all about learning from each other. Finally, you get to share your best ideas with the whole class.

#### WHY IS 'THINK, PAIR, SHARE' USEFUL?

TPS helps you get better at thinking things through by listening to what your peers have to say. Plus, when you share your own ideas, it makes you feel validated because your classmates are listening and respecting what you have to say. It's like a confidence boost! TPS also makes sure everyone gets involved and is able to express their ideas so nobody feels left out. It's all about making sure everyone is thinking and ready to share their ideas.

#### HOW DO I DO 'THINK, PAIR, SHARE' EFFECTIVELY?



October 3, 2025

# PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



- Shared by MyPITA @BCPITA Register for the Provincial Intermediate and Middle Years Teachers Association (myPITA) Fall 2025 Conference - see website for details. In-person in Mission on October 24-25 or online on October 24.
- There are many other excellent professional learning opportunities on Friday, October 24, 20225. Please check this link for the full list of sessions offered by the **Provincial Specialists Association**: <a href="https://www.psaday.ca/">https://www.psaday.ca/</a>.
- Check the POPEY flyer (attached to the CISPG Learning Update) regarding the BC POP Conference for a list of over 20 virtual sessions highlighting evidencebased practices to support the diverse

• From C2C-BC @C2C\_BC - It's Official! Monique Gray Smith is our featured guest for the **C2C 2025 Virtual Conference on October 24, 2025!** Join us as we explore Weaving Relationships, Growing Networks, and be inspired by her message: Love is Medicine <a href="https://c2c-bc.org/registration">https://c2c-bc.org/registration</a>



needs of your learners. Join the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care Provincial Outreach Programs to supercharge your practice.



# RECOMMENDED WEBSITES. PODCASTS

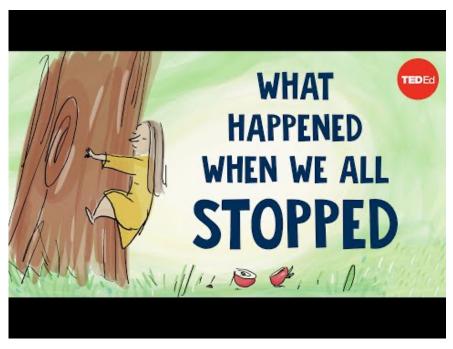
- Knowledge Matters Campaign @KnowledgeMatrs e.g.,
  - o If you care about how students really learn, don't miss Season 3 of the #KnowledgeMatters podcast "Literacy & the Science of Learning"! Featuring @DougLemov, @NatalieWexler, @dylanwiliam & others offering real, research-grounded insight: https://knowledgematterscampaign.org/podcast/



- Complex paragraph + sentence structure do not easily emerge from a simple idea. Another reason
  why content is such a crucial component of writing instruction! @serenavwhite + @natwexler talk
  about the role knowledge played in @MCSchoolsLa improvement! <a href="https://tinyurl.com/ynnhd8id">https://tinyurl.com/ynnhd8id</a>
- Melissa & Lori Love Literacy Podcast @literacypodcast https://literacypodcast.com/podcast, e.g.,
  - Want every podcast episode we've done on **fluency**—all in one place? Now you've got it. We pulled together 12 incredible episodes featuring leading fluency experts—plus a detailed blog post packed with classroom strategies. Tap to read now: <a href="https://literacypodcast.com/blog/everything-you-need-to-know-about-fluency-in-12-podcast-episodes">https://literacypodcast.com/blog/everything-you-need-to-know-about-fluency-in-12-podcast-episodes</a>
  - Tap the link for ALL of our **phonics and decoding book recommendations**!
     <a href="https://literacypodcast.com/blog/5-of-our-favorite-books-for-phonics-instruction">https://literacypodcast.com/blog/5-of-our-favorite-books-for-phonics-instruction</a>
  - Stephanie Stollar and Sarah Brown are breaking down what MTSS really is (and isn't), why Tier 1
    instruction is your best tool for change, and how to build systems that actually support you and your
    students. Listen Now! <a href="https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/mel">https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/mel</a>
- **The Six Shifts** janandkari@the sixshifts thesixshifts.com Supporting K-5 Literacy Instruction Through Professional Books, Online Courses, Workshops, Literacy Audits, and Consulting, e.g., Snapshot of New and Favourite Content at TheSixSfts.com:
  - o **New Gratitude Goodie** (Free Download Above): Read Alouds for Starting a New School Year
  - o **New** Resource Expansion: Explore the now fully expanded 3 libraries of Blending Magic to bring more meaning into your phonics instruction.
  - o **Popular** Resource Spotlight: <u>Short Vowels: Decodable Word Lists and Sentences</u>
  - o **Popular** Content Corner (Topic Page): <u>Literacy Leadership</u>
  - o **Popular** Professional Development Topics: <u>Jan and Kari's PD Menu</u>
- **Chalkdust** with Nathaniel Swain and Rebecca Birch Each episode, they slow things down and analyse real classroom footage, unpacking the teaching moves that make a difference, and connecting them to what they know about how students learn best. Podcasts can be accessed with:
  - Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and YouTube
- NOIIE Website (Network of Inquiry and Indigenous Education) Check this website to find out how
  educators are sharing and changing their practice to increase student learning and well-being. Attend the
  Learning bursts for inspiring sessions focused on advancing literacy in both elementary and secondary
  classrooms. Hear from expert educators as they share powerful strategies and practical insights to support
  deeper literacy learning. Go to <a href="https://noiie.ca/learning-bursts/">https://noiie.ca/learning-bursts/</a> for more information and to register for
  sessions on October 22nd, 2025, December 2nd, 2025, and February 26th, 2026. Don't forget
  to register today!

October 3, 2025

And finally, from TED-Ed: We're so grateful we were able to work with Dr. Jane Goodall, and we are deeply saddened to hear of her passing. The conservationist narrated this poem, which asks us to re-think how we live and how we can jumpstart the rebirth of our planet: <a href="https://ed.ted.com/lessons/what-happened-when-we-all-stopped-narrated-by-jane-goodall">https://ed.ted.com/lessons/what-happened-when-we-all-stopped-narrated-by-jane-goodall</a>





October 3, 2025