

Indigenous Education

North Vancouver School District

Double Issue: October 15-18

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Ecole Braemar's Professional Development Day September 23, 2019

Ecole Braemar's Professional Development Day was held on Monday September 23rd. This day was about exploring our role as educators in sharing Indigenous culture and story. We started our day with Sonja Oliver expressing the Territorial

Land Acknowledgement, followed by the singing of The Coast Salish Anthem. Henry Schooner (Q'puts) led the song with his drum. It was amazing to sing alongside Henry, Gord Dick (Tchilaqs7tchila), and Sydney Doucet, all Indigenous cultural workers who were facilitating our drum making workshop. We learned about the drum as a heartbeat, a way to connect to Mother Earth, as we used tools to punch tiny holes in our drums, and weave sinew to tie the hide to its rim. The heartbeat that connects us to the hide on our drum. As we were making our drums we learned the importance of pouring energy and love into our drum to create its spirit. It felt amazing to be together as a staff, learning and connecting as one big family. We learned how to respect and look after our drum. And about the importance of acknowledging where drum songs and dances came from and who taught them. Some songs are a gift and some are not. We started making connections as to how we could use our drum in the classroom as a sensory tool to self regulate. Or as a way to build community by passing the drum around to each student in a circle. We came up with a plan for our first assembly with our drums for Orange Shirt Day. We enjoyed a lunch in the library together with our guests, and later in the day Lisa Pedersen (Gr. 2 Teacher) led a discussion on place based education in our curriculum. It was a powerful way to connect to the First Peoples Principles of Learning and to be reminded that an Indigenous person's sense of self is not separate from the land. This was my favourite Pro-D Day of all time. I will remember to think about the story of the drum I made and to let my drum speak to me as I continue on my journey of exploring indigenous culture and story. Thank you to Gord, Henry, Sydney, the Indigenous Educational Resource Team, and Lisa Pedersen for making this day possible.

Elizabeth McFarlane

We would like to thank the Coast Salish people, specifically the Skwxwú7mesh Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation, whose unceded traditional territory the North Vancouver School District resides on. We value the opportunity to learn, share and grow on this traditional territory.

Drum Making Workshop



The NVSD Indigenous Education team led a drum making workshop on October 8, 2019 at Westview Elementary. The group came together as a community to learn the teaching of the drum. Watch for future opportunities to make a drum

We're In This Together

Have you had the opportunity to see District Principal of Indigenous Education, Tsonomot, Brad Baker, discuss the importance of Indigenous Education for all.

Here is the [link](#) to the video created by the BC Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association with the support of BC's Ministry of Education.

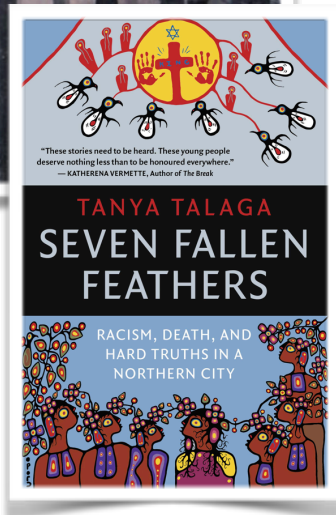
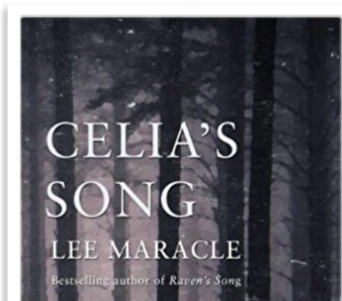


Carson FOS Bookclub

On Thursday October 10th, the Carson FOS bookclub met at Xwemélch'stn Norgate to participate in an Edcamp style discussion of the books *Celia's Song* by Lee Maracle and *Seven Fallen Feathers* by Tanya Talaga.

The bookclub was opened with Xwemélch'stn Norgate students sharing the Coast Salish Anthem and welcoming everyone to Xwemélch'stn Norgate. The Carson FOS bookclub will meet again in December.

Is your school or FOS interested in starting a book club with an Indigenous perspective? The NVSD Indigenous Education is available to assist in ensuring the Indigenous voice is represented and in the selection of books. Please email abed@sd44.ca to collaborate.



What is in the News...Developing Understandings *Jordan's Principle*

Have you heard of Cindy Blackstock? Have you heard of Jordan's Principle?

Cindy Blackstock, Gitxsan, is the executive director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada. The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, along with the Assembly of First Nations filed human rights complaints against the Federal Government in 2007 “alleging the federal Aboriginal Affairs department discriminates against First Nations children on the basis of race and national ethnic origin by underfunding child welfare services on reserves.” [reference](#)



In 2016 the Human Rights Tribunal decision agreed with complaint and stated the “federal government's funding model and management of its First Nations child and family services..resulted in denials of services and created various adverse impacts for many First Nations children and families living on reserves.” [reference](#) . To learn more about the process watch [We Can't Make the Same Mistake Twice](#) by Alanis Obomsawin, Abenaki.

Here is a book written about the process for children. In addition there are education resources available from First Nations Child and Family Caring Society [link](#) and [here](#). You can also download a poster of the timeline from [here](#).



[Jordan's Principle](#) is a child first principle named in memory of Jordan River Anderson, a First Nations child from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba. Jordan's Principle is a policy that children receive care and access to services when needed. Learn more about [Jordan's Principle Info](#).

In September 2019, the Human Rights Tribunal ruled that the Federal Government must provide compensation to First Nations children. The ruling stated “Canada must provide compensation of up to \$40,000 to First Nations children who were unnecessarily taken into care on or after Jan. 1, 2006, the tribunal said, adding its orders also cover parents or grandparents and children denied essential services” [reference](#) . On October 4, 2019, the Liberal Government of Canada filed an application for a judicial review and for a stay of the ruling. Read more about this [here](#).

NVSD Indigenous Education Bookclub 2019-2020



The focus this year will be on the podcast *Missing & Murdered: Finding Cleo* hosted by Connie Walker. To listen to the podcast and find out more about this award winning series click [here](#).

Are you interested in participating in the NVSD Indigenous Education Bookclub this year? Meetings will begin in November. If you are interested in joining please email Stephanie Maki at smaki@sd44.ca

Downie Wenjack Legacy Schools Project

Who wants to join Windsor Secondary, Xwemélch'stn Norgate, Ns7e'yxnitm la Tel:'wet Westview, Carisbrooke, Ridgeway, Sherwood Park and Carson Graham? Look for Legacy School applications coming soon. Downie Wenjack Legacy Schools Projects officially start on October 17, 2019. Want to learn more about the Downie Wenjack Legacy Schools Project? Find out more [here](#).



Upcoming Workshops/Learning Opportunities



Reconciliation Through Indigenous Education

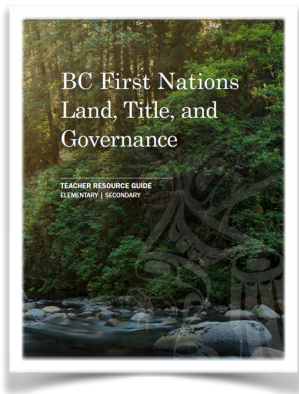
Have you been wanting to take the Online course Reconciliation Through Indigenous Education?

It is currently being offered again through UBC with Jan Hare. It is free and open to everyone. To register or find out more click [here](#). The course will run from October 15-November 19, 2019.

Writers Fest

Are you looking for something for the Provincial Pro D Day in October. Check out the line up of Indigenous authors featured at this years Writers Festival. Click on the link to learn more. [Writers Festival Indigenous Voice](#)





FNESC: BC First Nations Land, Title and Governance November 4, 2019

FNESC is hosting a workshop on the new resource: *BC First Nations Land, Title and Governance*. To learn more or register click [here](#).

The National Gathering

Did you know Indspire hosts an educational conference on annual basis called the National Gathering for Indigenous Education. This year the conference is November 20-22nd, 2019 in Toronto. Want to learn more? Check out the [conference](#) or learn more about Indspire's Peer Support Program for educators [here](#).



NVSD Indigenous Education Team Profile Meet a member of the NVSD Indigenous Education Team....

Henry Schooner, Q'puts, Nuxalk/Tsleil-Waututh

Henry is a First Nations Cultural worker who is mainly at Sherwood Park and Cove Cliff. Henry loves sports! He coaches basketball and soccer.