



ISSUE 1 · MAY 2021

B OUTSIDE

Newsletter of the Burnaby chapter of EEP
(Environmental Educators Provincial Specialist Association)

Outdoor Educator Spotlight

Roz Duchesneau, Forest Grove StrongStart

This year Roz has continued to offer her StrongStart program within an outdoor framework. She invites families to share in the joy and wonder of outdoor spaces within the community. Roz continues to work on developing relationships with self, other and nature through a hands on, play based approach. She connects to the surroundings using stories and songs which supports children's awareness of the place they live. As Roz ventures out into the forest each day she opens the door for discovery for families entrusted to her care. She allows children the opportunity to become more interested and engaged with the world around them by providing daily activities that are rooted in joy and wonder. Roz has a strong pedagogy of her image of the child and this is seen daily throughout her work. On Wednesdays she meets up with the Kindergarten class to continue the 5-year program known as Wednesday Wander which Roz is co-founder along with K teacher Dawn Robinson-Howey.



Professional Learning & Events:

Earthly Chats Podcast
Cross-pollinating Enviro Ed
ideas -Listen in [here](#)

"Beautiful Stuff From Nature"
May 26, 5-6:30pm -webinar
Register [here](#)

"Take Me Outside"
Book Launch
More info [here](#)

June 15, 4-4:30pm

Classrooms to Communities
(C2C) Summer Solstice
Celebration
More info [here](#)

June 17, 4:30-6:30pm

C2C Fall Conference
"Listening to the Land,
Giving Voice to the Sea:
Stories to Nourish Hope
and Resiliency"
More info [here](#)

Oct.22-23, PSA Day

Join our B Outside team!

Connect to resources, events, and a network of Burnaby educators [here](#).

Seasonal Rounds

Resources for "living in harmony with the land"

The Ntakmen Calendar by Stl'atl'imx knowledge-keeper Holly Bikadi, does a seasonal round of indigenous plants and their picking and preservation. The Ntakmen Calendar is available [here](#). B-Outside will be running a book club with this resource next year —so stay tuned.

About the dandelion, Bikadi suggests that greens can be harvested all summer long, by using your fingertips or scissors to remove the leaves. Wash the greens very well before eating, and pick well off the trail or path to avoid contamination.

Dandelions, although not Indigenous to North America, travelled across the continent faster than the colonizers. The plant is amazing for its ability to grow in marginal soil and regenerate the breathability and calcium levels. Dandelion roots and flowers are also nutritious...although leave the early spring flowers as they are one of the first sources of both nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinators.



Exploring Our Environments

Outdoor Places, Learning Spaces Photo Contest

Congratulations to Christine Yee, Cheryl Spracklin, Matt Pickering, Jenny Lee, Kate Evans, Shelby Corwin, Roz Duchesneau, Elizabeth Jung-Liu, Susan Orologio and Jenny Lai! Their names were drawn from many entries submitted from Burnaby schools who shared photos of their outdoor learning environments. Each educator received an outdoor resource for their classroom.





CROSS-CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS

ADST Collaborations

How can we use tools to enhance our outdoor learning spaces? B-Outside members had the opportunity to create a variety of outdoor learning materials in the ADST Studio with Alex McKillop, our district ADST Helping Teacher. Learning through doing is powerful pedagogy. Experiential learning has been shown to have significant impacts as we engage hands, hearts, and minds.

As we created, we considered how these tools could help our cross-curricular place-based learning, and how we could bring elements of ADST into our classrooms. We examined our own learning process as we engaged in developing these new skills, using our hands and practicing patience and humility.

Making boats is one way to enhance playing and learning in the streams near Burnaby schools. Nesting blocks can be brought outside to spark ideas for story workshop. Fairy doors can lead us to whole new worlds inside a garden or forest. Creating a bird house with specific measurements for local species helps us to understand what they need and how we can support our animal communities. Mud kitchens inspire wonder and imagination, while providing rich opportunities for language development and social skills through play.

Let us know if you are interested in learning more about building for your outdoor classroom spaces or undertaking a project that helps your students understand their local places next year by connecting with us [here](#).

“Teachings come from everywhere when you open yourself to them. That’s the trick of it really, to open yourself to everything and everything opens itself to you.”

Richard Wagamese,
Embers: One Ojibway's Meditations

