

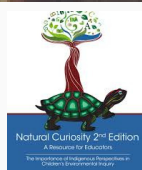
B OUTSIDE

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

Book Clubs: Year in Review

Natural Curiosity and Ntakmen Calendar

Our cross-district Community of Practice for both book clubs gathered four times throughout the year (during each season) to explore Indigenous perspectives and worldviews. We met at local parks and at various school communities to share our connections, questions and reflections, deepening our practice and ecological identity.



Outdoor Learning Project Grants: Teacher Reflections

Ten school communities applied and received \$300 to support their outdoor, place-based learning projects from B. Outside, thanks to our TD Friends of the Environment Grant. Here are the first five stories. Check out our fall newsletter for the next five.

Confederation Park - The Arts Outdoors

This year we challenged ourselves to find ways to get outside for as many of the curricular areas as possible. As an Education Through the Arts school, this meant taking the arts outside as well. A regular part of our routine has become story drama at the story stump in the Gold Forest. The B Outside project grant allowed us to enhance our story drama and story workshop activities with a collection of books, small animal figures, and finger puppets of local animals. The finger puppets have opened a new world of possibilities for children to create their own puppet stories. This type of play-based learning outside gives students a chance to engage in integrated units that use the outdoors and the arts to help them deepen their learning while also connecting to the land.



Professional Learning & Events 2022/23

(Registration will be available in September 2022)

B Outside Launch Party!

Sept. 26
4:00-5:30pm

The Big Book of Nature Activities: A Year-Round Guide to Outdoor Learning Book Club

Oct. 11
Dec. 6
Feb. 8
Apr. 25
4:00-5:30pm

Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants Book Club

Nov. 21
Feb. 16
Mar. 29
4:00-5:30pm

Join our B Outside Community!

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

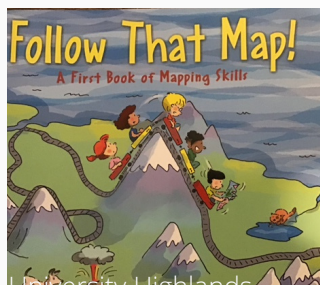
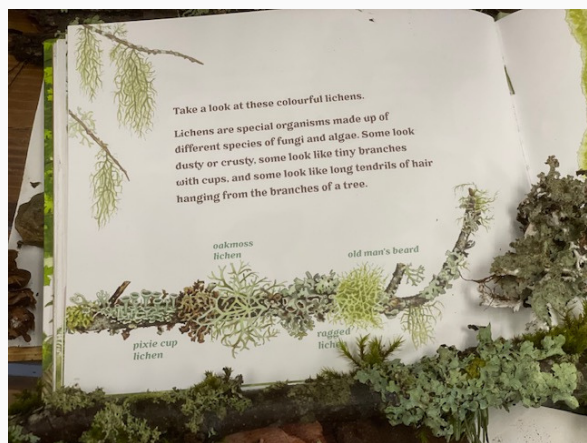
Project Reflections cont.

Forest Grove - Weaving Communities and Connections

“Integrating knowledge as a group in a shared learning environment need not be limited to a Eurocentric idea of nature. Many questions arise from any unifying invitation to consider who we are, where and how we belong, and more importantly, how we belong together through shared priorities. Hopefully our questions have an immediacy that unifies the diverse strengths and tendencies of the children into a common purpose.” (Pg 107 NC 2nd edition)

In our classroom space this year we have focused on the question “how do you position yourself in this place?” As educators we decided that in order to get our strong start and, K/1 students to come to understand the land acknowledgement we share daily, we needed continue to create and sustain time outside to learn the land. We partner with our strong start educator and together we have forged through the many places that the children are drawn to. We have come to name the place and embarked on a mapping inquiry of the place we love and share a reciprocal relationship with. This year we were able to purchase books and resources that have allowed us to dive deeper into our work about creating maps with children with intention and understanding that we are all responsible to the things around us. We purchased loose parts that supported our making of journey sticks, memory weaving, and student created maps.

These artifacts allowed us to share in each other’s journeys and see what each person felt connected to on the land. Common connections allowed us to connect with self, other and the land in a more authentic way. We have come to know and love so many spaces in our place that we were grateful to have funds to support our continued passion for getting to know the land.



B OUTSIDE LAUNCH PARTY! SEPT. 26, 2022

Project Reflections cont.

Marlborough - Together is Better Outside!



Marlborough participated in the HCTF (Habitat Conservation Trust Fund) Education's WILD Schools program a few years ago. Especially throughout the pandemic, we have placed a focus on outdoor and place-based learning. Thanks to the TD Friends of the Environment grant, we were able to purchase materials for a mud kitchen, garden supplies, horticultural professional resources, materials to support outdoor story workshop, indigenous plants and field guides. Our school is situated in a very urban area, but we make good use of our outdoor learning spaces such as our school garden and our courtyard, which contains 2 seating areas as well as a garden with indigenous plants. Our whole school of over 900 students have access to all of these outdoor learning spaces. Primary classes especially love to play in the mud kitchen while we work and learn in the school garden and the courtyard. We were excited to bring materials to do story workshop outside. At Marlborough, together is better, especially when we're outside!





TAKE ME OUTSIDE WEEK OCT. 18-22

Project Reflections cont.

Stoney Creek - Exploring Through Gardening

Many classes at Stoney Creek were interested in spring gardening. As a result, purchasing gardening supplies made sense. We bought a class set of shovels, gloves, little watering cans, and a variety of plants. Our students have finally begun to utilize and maintain three containers on school grounds. One bin belongs to a kindergarten class, another to a 2/3 and the last bin is a 4/5 class. Other classes have even bought our new materials into the community garden to help manage the garden beds there. Overall, we have had fun getting messy, finding worms and watching things grow.



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Project Reflections cont.

Parkcrest -Exploring Local Flora and Fauna

We have a park and creek close to our school that staff like to use for explorations. This year, with our grant money, we put together a teaching kit to facilitate and support our teaching community and students. Some of our items include a wagon, clipboards, sits spots, magnifying glasses and 3 books, 2 of which were written and illustrated by Indigenous authors. The books are Being a Good Ancestor, The Curious Kids Nature Guide, and From the Mountain to the Sea We Are a Community.

These materials are being used by our staff every week and our students are benefiting from access to these materials and are outside exploring local spaces. Our students ages range from Kindergarten to grade 7 and are engaging in critical thinking about their place and appreciating the connections and relationships that they have built with the local flora and fauna.

