

Linking ELL to Learning Commons

Have you received the new B.C. Ministry of Education document ***Aboriginal Worldviews and Perspectives in the Classroom. Moving Forward ?*** The authors of this document were **Kaleb Child and Scott Benwell** from SD85. I had the opportunity to pilot programs and assist in accumulating resources related to this new FN direction.

- ELL in SD85 profiles approximately 90% FN students and 10% ESL students. In my role as Teacher-Librarian and ELL teacher, I have built up a substantial collection of FN picture books, non-fiction, and novels which **support the new B.C. curriculum goals tying FN content** to all subject areas.
- SD85 is a rural district that covers a wide geographical area with no school district support teachers—As a veteran teacher with 33 years of experience, I am the mentor teacher for ELL and teacher-librarians when teachers or A.O.'s have questions or require assistance.
- For practical ideas of projects which tie ELL to the Learning Commons, please check out our school website at Eagle View Elementary School and see student created activities from Literacy Nights to Prezis about the Hudson Bay Co. or Corrine Hunt's Olympic designs and Movies about the history of our school or Life in Kingcome. Most of these student projects are inquiries into FN topics) www.eves.sd85.bc.ca/library.html
- As part of the SD85 team piloting the new FNEC curriculum last year ***Indian Residential Schools and Reconciliation*** Social Studies 5, I am happy to share ideas and experiences, if you have questions.

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Here are some of my **favorite local resources**:

- 1) **My Elders Tell Me.** Marion (Roze) Wright RIP (A friend of mine). 1996. Tri-Bands Education Committee. (Fiction. The cultural life experiences of an Aboriginal family in our area through the four seasons).
 - 2) **The Living World.** Plants and Animals of the Kwakwaka'wakw. U'Mista Cultural Society, Juanita Pasco & Brian Compton. 1998. (Non-Fiction. NW Coastal area. Photos, explanations: What it looks like and What FN used it for).
 - 3) **Secret of the Dance.** Andrea Spalding & Alfred Scow. 2006. Orca Book Publishers. (Historical fiction in a picture book. Setting is Kingcome inlet. (Check out the movie my students created on our website "Life in Kingcome"). Historical look at defiance of government rules during Potlatch
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ban. This book is used in the Langley district High Interest Aboriginal theme book strategies teacher reference book SD 35 and as an assessment piece in the Aboriginal Reading Assessment tool by April Lowe & Leslie Drinovz. SD48).

Here are some of my **favorite Teacher Reference resources** to use when combining ELL and Library lessons:

- 1) **First Nations Full Day Kindergarten. From Our Treasure Box.** Austin and Clark. Aboriginal nations Education Division. SD61 Greater Victoria. (User friendly. Sequential. Easily adaptable to other grades. All curriculum areas). 2010.
- 2) **First Nations. Science & Ethnobotany Unit K—10. Shared Learnings in Action.** Donna Walker. SD72 Campbell River. Combined with 12 other districts. No date. (Non-Fiction. Binder filled with practical photos, ideas, lessons, suggestions, connections to FN culture, inquiry, experiments, crafts, graphic organizers, lessons applicable for Kindergarten—upper high school. Awesome outdoor education lessons/field trips around your area! I have 3 of these binders and they all get used!).
- 3) **High Interest Aboriginal theme book strategies.** Susan Cairns. SD35 Langley. 6 books. The Elders are Watching. How Raven Stole the Sun. A River Lost. Rough-Face Girl. Secret of the Dance. Soot Face. (Excellent lessons. Pre-reading. Post reading. Graphic organizers. Crafts. Writing activities. Very practical. Quick and easy to use. Transferable to other books).
- 4) **Little Bear's Vision Quest.** Book by: Diane Silvey SD61. Resource Guide by Ilona Weiss SD54. (Activities, vocab, art, craft, Reader's Theatre, etc. Puppets available too).

For favorite Picture books, novels, etc. please contact me and I will share more ideas and/or resources.

Happy teaching!

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