

Upcoming Events

March 8 - International Women's Day

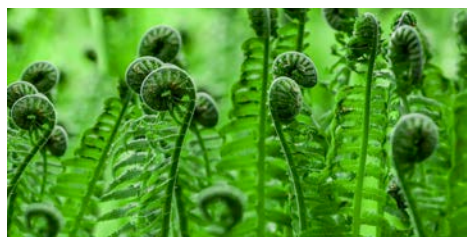
March 20 - Spring Equinox

March 31 - Indigenous Languages Day

April 22 - Earth Day

Pacific Northwest Plant Knowledge Cards

Local Plants



Spring Fern



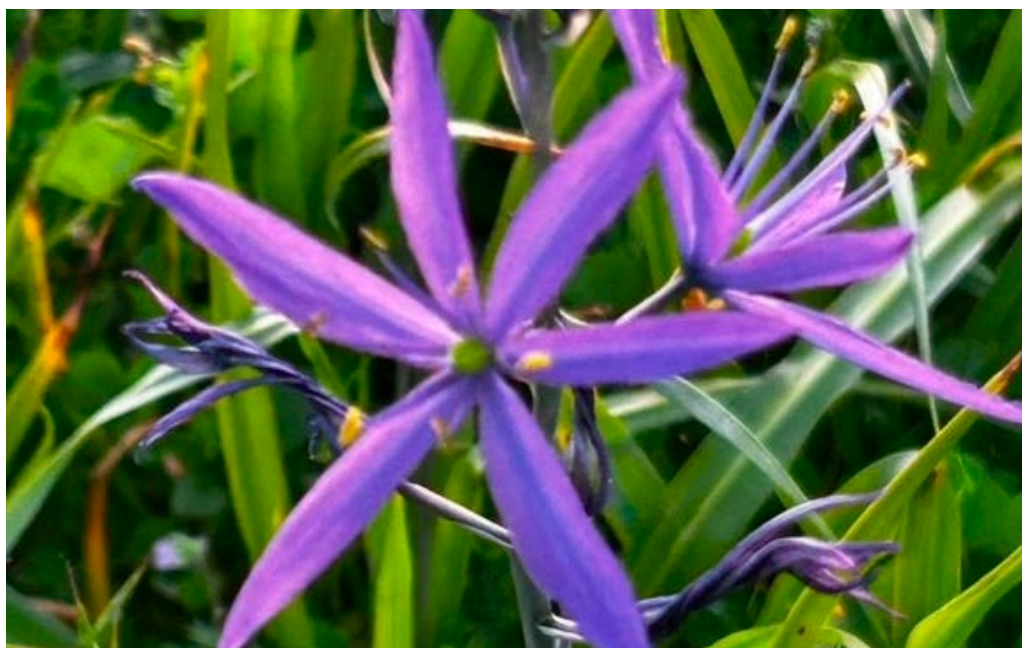
Big Leaf Maple



Thimble Berry

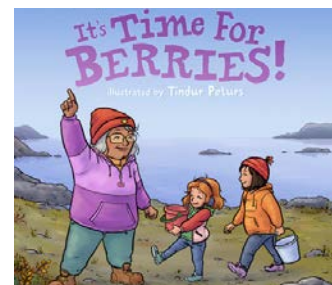
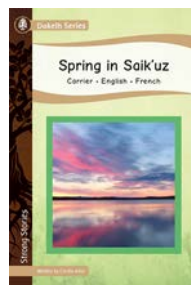
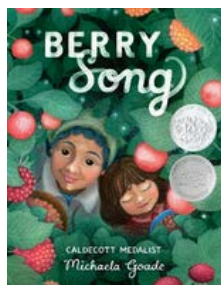


Arbutus tree



Spring Equinox

The Spring Equinox, falling on March 20 this year, marks equal daylight and darkness. For many Indigenous communities, it is a ceremonial time of new beginnings and rebirth—a season of awakening, renewal, and the arrival of life after the long winter. This renewal happens not only in nature but also in our lives. Spring is a time to clear away the old, refresh, and celebrate new beginnings.



Elderbeary Day - March 20

Elderbeary day is an initiative from the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society. The Caring Society works to ensure the safety and well-being of First Nations youth and their families through education initiatives, public policy campaigns and providing quality resources to support communities.

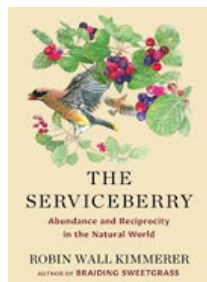
Elderbeary Day honors and celebrates the contributions of our Elders, who do so much to teach and raise our little ones. Celebrate by thanking your Elders for all that they do for you and for your community in ways that you believe best represents how much you care.

If you'd like to share your Elderbeary Day celebrations on social media, use the hashtags #ElderbearyDay or #JournéeOursonAîné.

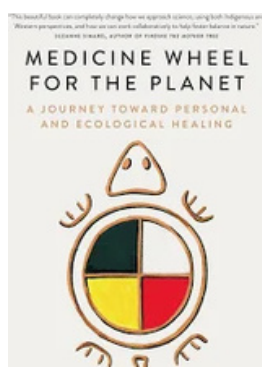
Here are some ways to celebrate: I plan to thank my Elders on Elderbeary Day by making them thank you cards, drawing them pictures, or baking them cookies to show I care. I'm beary thankful for what they do for all of us!

Elderbeary Day
Spirit Bear Activity Book

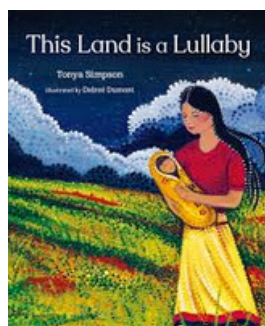
Recommended Indigenous Earth Day Resources



As Kimmerer explains, "Serviceberries show us another model, one based upon reciprocity, where wealth comes from the quality of your relationships, not from the illusion of self-sufficiency."



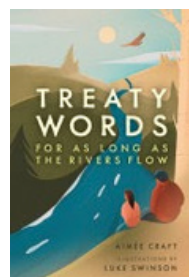
"This beautiful book can completely change how we approach science, using both Indigenous and Western perspectives, and how we can work collaboratively to help foster balance in nature." —Suzanne Simard, bestselling author of *Finding the Mother Tree*



"This lush lullaby of the land honors the beauty of the Prairies and the Plains and the spiritual connection between Indigenous children."

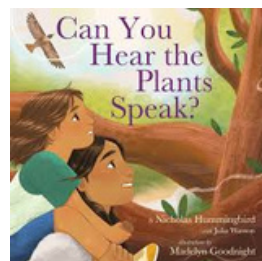
Earth Day is Everyday

For Indigenous people, Earth Day is everyday. Many of our Indigenous books are centered around relationship and interconnectedness with the natural world. Many of our Indigenous resources in the IED Library involve our plant and animal relatives, the sky world, the water world and the spirit world. Everything is connected, and it is not a coincidence that Indigenous stories reflect this. Since Indigenous communities have been revitalizing their language and culture, it is becoming very apparent how connected language is to the land, and how connected culture is to the land. For thousands and thousands of years, Indigenous people have lived harmoniously with the earth, creating sustainable food systems and developing ceremony that acknowledges the gift and spirit of the land, water, plants and animals. It is with this sentiment that for Indigenous people, Earth Day is everyday.



Treaty Words

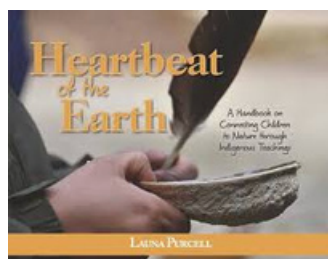
This is a simple and beautiful story about the first treaty that was created. It is the treaty between creation and humans. Humans have a contract with creation, that they will safe guard all living things. In turn, earth and all of its creations will provide for humans. This book outlines the importance of taking care of Mother Earth.



Can You Hear The Plants Speak?

Our people believe spirit lives in everything. Mountain, river, wind, tree. Come, take a walk with me.

This story reminds us to listen to the plants and to nature, when the rain falls, when the seeds sprout, when the plants grow. This book reconnects us to the beauty of nature in the hopes that we will become stewards of the plants and nature.



Heartbeat of the Earth

This resource leads readers on a rich learning journey as they deepen their connections to nature and culture. The activities inside instill traditional teachings of respect, honour, resourcefulness, and humility in children. This handbook is intended to inspire parents, caregivers, and educators to provide children with meaningful outdoor experiences interwoven with traditional indigenous knowledge.

Chief Seattle's Speech 1854

"This we know: the earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. All things are connected. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself."



The Official Site

Visit the official Earth Day site to learn about the world's largest environmental movement and what you can do to make every day Earth Day.

 Earth Day /

Who are the Resource Support Reps for Indigenous Curriculum?

Braefoot - E. John
 C View - S. Day
 Cloverdale - L. Dilasser/M Kheari
 Craigflower - J. Beaupre
 Doncaster - B. Coons
 George Jay - M. Scott
 James Bay - M. Bottineau
 Lake Hill - L. Belanger
 Macaulay - L. Ferris
 M. Jenkins - J. Lake
 Marigold - L. de la Salle
 McKenzie - N. Macilmoyle
 Northridge - T. Buckham
 Oaklands - A. Mueller
 Tillicum - B. Lyonard
 Torquay - M. Garat
 Vic West - J. Thompson
 View Royal - A. Bjork

Arbutus - J. Hill/G. Petrini
 Cedar Hill - T. Henry
 Central - N. Williams
 Colquitz - J. Spies/H. James
 Glanford - L. Porter
 Gordon Head - J. Hoyt
 Lansdowne - L. Powell
 Monterey - B. Carradine
 Shoreline - S. Welby

Esquimalt - C. Peppin
 Mt. Doug - V. Fahr
 Oak Bay - Kane Mercer
 Reynolds - B. Cunningham
 SJ Burnside - L. Rotkin
 Vic High - H. Brooke/G. Hope
 Spectrum - M. Newman-
 Bennett/N. Havelaar

Resource Support Reps for Indigenous Curriculum

This year, The Indigenous Education Committee of the GVTA has recently created a new position that is available at every school. The title is "Resource Support Rep for Indigenous Curriculum".

This position is to support the implementation of Indigenous ways of knowing and being in the school and classroom. By working in collaboration with IED, resources and information are shared with Reps who in turn share with their staff. See left margin for who the reps are. If you are interested in becoming a Resource Support Rep for Indigenous Curriculum, please contact Kolette Cristante at:

kcristante@sd61.bc.ca

The role of the Resource Support Rep for Indigenous Curriculum is to be the conduit between the GVTA, IED and their respective school. They are not the expert on Indigenous Education.



March/April 2025

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

What is happening with the IED Website?

Last newsletter stated:
The IED Website is waiting for an overhaul.

This process is happening.



Please check out our newly updated website, with the understanding that it is work in progress.

Please connect with any member of our team, listed on the right, if there is information that you need help locating.

Indigenous Education Library Team

Metthea Maddern

mmaddern@sd61.bc.ca

IED Teacher-Librarian

Friday PM



Francine Spahan

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Elementary Teacher Consultant

Kolette Cristante

kcristante@sd61.bc.ca

Middle School Teacher Consultant

Emma Milliken

emilliken@sd61.bc.ca

Secondary School Teacher Consultant

The role of Indigenous Teacher Consultants is to work with SD61 staff to help build capacity of Indigenous knowledge, resources and Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

Indigenous Guest Speakers In Schools

If you plan on inviting Indigenous guests into your school, please be sure to go through the IED Department First.
Hay'sxw'qa

To view and browse the IED library collection online, please visit destiny.sd61.bc.ca and select *Indigenous Education Library* from the bottom right.

To borrow items from the IED Library please email iedlibrary@sd61.b.ca and allow a day or two for reply.

iedlibrary@sd61.bc.ca

Browse the online library catalog at: destiny.sd61.bc.ca