

Upcoming Events

January 4 - National Ribbon Skirt Day

February 19 - SD 61 Annual Lahal Tournament @ Spectrum Community School

Local Plants

Red Flowering Currant



Nodding onion



Pacific Dogwood



Camas

**The Spirit of Alliances: Support and Wellness Framework****Spirit of Alliance Animals Highlight: Bear**

Since 2015, our school district has been using the Spirit of Alliance animals, that were created in consultation with community, as part of an Education Enhancement Agreement. These animals and teachings are widely used in our schools., and are now part of the [Spirit of Alliances Support and Wellness Framework \(2022\)](#).

Winter is a time for slowing down, reflection, and hibernation. In the Spirit of Alliances Wellness framework Bear represents Self - Awareness; Belonging, Engagement and Location. This is a time to do work that helps us learn who we are, how we fit into our world, and how we can walk through our lives in a good and healthy way. A principle of the Bear's gift of internal learning is the exploration of one's identity, which provides the foundation for students to make meaning of their place in family, school, and community. Students showing these skills and doing this work could be acknowledged in various ways.

[Certificates for Bear](#) can be found on the IED website (scroll down to the bottom of the page under "Bear"; also check out all of the SOA resources).



Resource Highlight: *Moon Song* by Michaela Goade

This beautiful new book by the author of *Berry Song* explores the beauty of family, land, and winter's light.

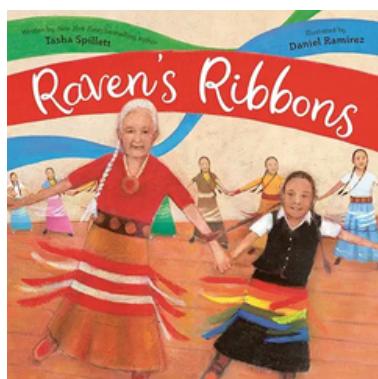
National Ribbon Skirt Day

National Ribbon Skirt day was first recognized on January 4, 2023, after Isabella Kulak, an Anishinaabe girl from Cote First Nation in Saskatchewan, was shamed for wearing a ribbon skirt to a formal event at her school.

See link to video with more info below.

The Ribbon Skirt Evolution

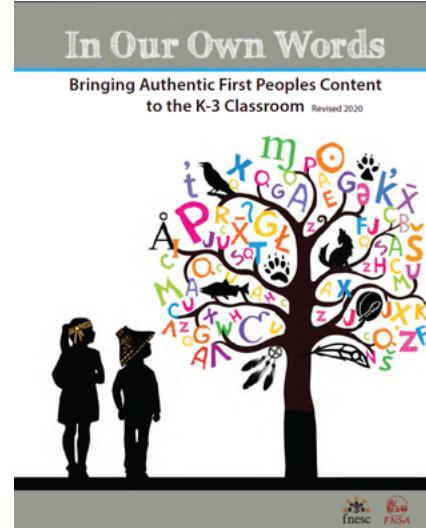
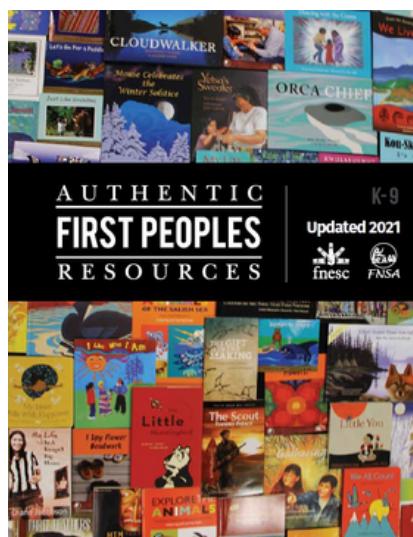
Ribbon skirts are worn as a sign of womanhood, strength, and connection to Mother Earth. They evolved in the early 1800s, as traditional clothing from animal hides transitioned to materials like wool and cotton resulting from European trade. As a result, ribbon work was incorporated to decorate these skirts. The materials and ribbons often tell a story about the wearer.



Authentic Authorship: Resource Choice Considerations

Consider:

- The individual and/or community harms that could occur based on the images, language or terminology used within the learning resource.
- The relational harms that can be caused by not acting on what has been asked of us if we leave unsafe learning resources within collections.
- Is this the only learning resource a student is going to use that addresses this topic?
- Does the learning resource give a true and full representation of Indigenous people?
- Does the learning resource use outdated and disrespectful language or terminology to refer to Indigenous peoples, or their history, culture or language?
- Does the learning resource use outdated or solely black and white pictures that present stereotypes of Indigenous people?
- Quality, not quantity. Are better learning resources available? If the answer is yes, discard the old learning resource, even if this will reduce a collection by a dozen books and only replace them with a few.



Lahal Tournament

February 19, 2026 @ Spectrum

The IED Department is hosting their 3rd Annual Tri-District Lahal Tournament at Spectrum Community School.

Middle and High Schools are welcome to register teams. Please stay tuned for the official registration poster to come out.

Elementary Schools are welcome to visit and see Lahal in action.



Please email ied@sd61.bc.ca for questions.

January/ February 2026

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

BCTF provides trained facilitators to come to your school for *free*.

Sample of some of the workshops available:

- Indigenous Perspectives
- Project of Heart
- Canadian Geographic Indigenous Peoples Floor Map of Canada

How to book a facilitator:

1. Go to [BCTF website](#)

2. Click [Services & Information](#)

3. Scroll down and click [Aboriginal Education](#)

4. Click [workshops](#)



Order this poster [here](#)

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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.

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

[Click here to browse the Library Collection on Destiny](#)

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

[Browse the online library catalog at: destiny.sd61.bc.ca](#)