

Upcoming Events

May 5 - Red Dress Day

May 14 - Moosehide Campaign

June - National Indigenous History Month and Pride Month

June 21 - National Indigenous Peoples Day

Returning Library Items



All library materials are due back to the IED Library on or before **June 12, 2026**. Please do not send things in the school mail after this date. Instead, please drop them off in person at the IED Library at Margaret Jenkins School. Thank you for helping to make our job easier by returning items by the due date. *Hy'ch ka Siem*

Pacific Northwest Plant Knowledge Cards

Local Plants



Yarrow



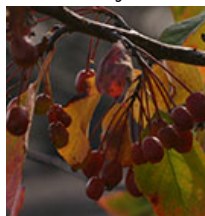
Woolly Sunflower



Wild Celery



Western Hemlock



Pacific Crabapple



Salmonberry



“Not everyone has the right to make, or use, a Kwakwaka’wakw button blanket.”

-Sally Williams

Can I make Button Blankets with my students?

It was an activity done in the past but now we have been asked not to do button blankets.

Here are the primary reasons why non-Indigenous people typically avoid making/wearing them:

Button blankets are not simply decorative. They are considered "living documents" that tell a family's story and are used in sacred contexts. The designs, often depicting animals like ravens, bears, or whales, represent specific crests that are owned by families.

The designs on these blankets are often passed down through generations or earned, marking a person's place in their culture. Non-Indigenous people do not have the cultural right to adopt these specific family histories. These blankets are typically reserved for special events, like potlatches or, in some cases, to mark major milestones like graduations, and are not worn in daily life.

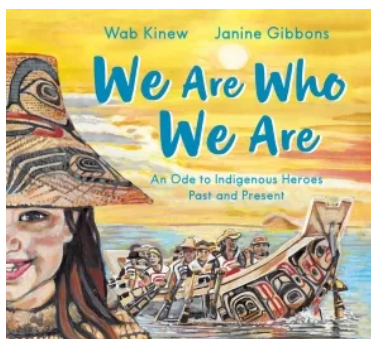
One of the kits available from the IED Library has a button blanket exercise that allows students to replicate but not keep as a “made” item to display. Button blankets hold significant cultural meaning. This activity is designed to introduce students to the process involved in their creation, allowing them to appreciate the button blankets cultural importance without producing a completed button blanket as a finished product to keep or display.

Cultural Appropriation vs. cultural appreciation

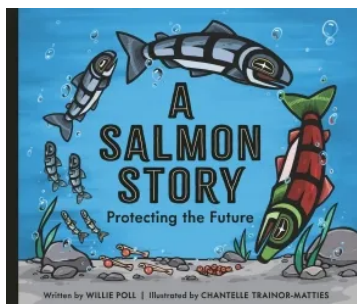
Indigenous artists call for apology after American reality TV star spotted in regalia

Indigenous culture needs to be appreciated, not stolen, says artist

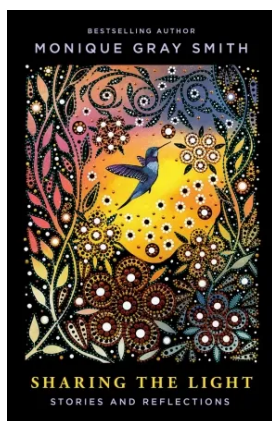
New Books



A companion book to the bestselling *Go Show the World*, this is another joyous picture book celebration of 13 Indigenous heroes from the past and present.



A lyrical informational picture book about how harmful fish farming practices impact wild salmon and their ecosystems



Sharing the Light is a powerful reminder that when we embrace our light and share it with the world, that energy not only transforms us but ripples out to uplift everyone around us.

Can I teach about the W̱SÁNEĆ Moons?

The School District is still in progress for allowing the W̱SÁNEĆ Moons to be taught. The department is following cultural protocols to reconcile that the moons were translated into French and distributed widely without permission. Please ask your staff not to use the moons yet. Although, the W̱SÁNEĆ moons are on the Live it Earth Website, we are still not using these moons in sd#61. Our department will direct all schools when the W̱SÁNEĆ moons can be used in our district again.

Thank you for allowing our department to do proper cultural safety and protocol practices. To do so will show respect and humility to the creators of the W̱SÁNEĆ moons. Proper steps are happening and this work does take time and patience.

Which names should I reference in land acknowledgements for SD61?

Songhees and Esquimalt prefer to be called the lək̓ʷəṇən, instead of the “lək̓ʷəṇən speaking peoples” because not all members actually speak the language right now, but they are still lək̓ʷəṇən. X̱w̱sepsəm is the word that Esquimalt uses on their website but for their own use.

lək̓ʷəṇən language Update

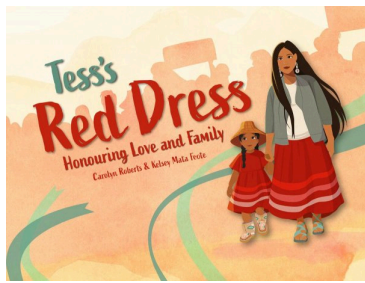
SD61 is working with the local nations on language use in schools. We are moving towards language visibility and language appreciation. Stay tuned for more information next year.

Can I make Totem Poles with my students?

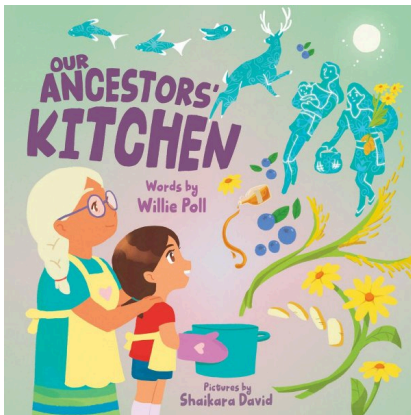
In the past we have made totem poles with our students, but we are shifting our focus moving forward. Instead of constructing totem poles, we will concentrate on learning about their cultural significance, including their purpose in Indigenous communities and the different types and features of poles.

To support this learning, we will use the shapes kit from the Indigenous Education Library, which includes Coast Salish and formline art shapes for design exploration. These designs are for educational purposes only and should not be displayed or used on bulletin boards, in order to respect cultural protocols and the significance of these art forms.

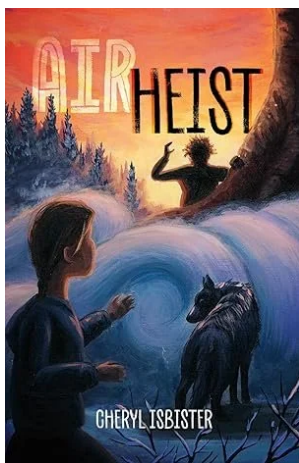
More new books



Using age-appropriate and empathetic language, Tess's Red Dress introduces young children to Red Dress Day and the importance of remembering the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2 Spirit People.



A poignant and poetic picture book celebrating traditional Indigenous harvesting, foods, and the connections that these build for all our relations.



Twelve-year-old siblings must uncover the truth behind their mysterious lineage to stop Alberta's air from becoming toxic within six months.

National Indigenous History Month

Celebrated every June, National Indigenous History Month is a time when Canadians honour the history, heritage and diversity of First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples, and recognize the strength of Indigenous communities. To learn more, visit the Canadian Government Website...



[Government of Canada / Indigenous History Month](#)

[BC Treaty Commission / Indigenous History Month](#)

[Indigenous Speakers Spotlight](#)

Spirit of Alliances

Wondering where to find The Spirit of Alliances Animals resources?

Use this QR code for the [*direct link*](#) to all that is offered through the IED Website:



Giant Floor Map

If you would like to book the Giant Indigenous Floor Map of Canada for your school, please email iedlibrary@sd61.bc.ca with your preferred dates.

For staff professional development you can request our own very SD 61 teacher, Frank Conibear, who is a BCTF workshop facilitator for the giant floor map. Email him directly at fconibear@sd61.bc.ca

Please book him through the BCTF Workshops Webpage and request him.

Indigenous Guest Speakers In Schools

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

iedlibrary@sd61.bc.ca

Indigenous Education Library Team

Metthea Maddern

mmaddern@sd61.bc.ca

*IED Teacher-Librarian
Friday PM*



Francine Spahan

fspahan@sd61.bc.ca

Elementary Teacher Consultant

Tanya Adams

tadams@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.

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.

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