

SD 63 Indigenous Education March Bulletin

Saanich Moons (Updated)



WEXES - Moon of the Frog

February 27 - March 28, 2025

WEXES - Moon of the Frog

This moon in particular is significant because the frog acts as both a witness and a messenger to the Saanich people. He announces the Sacred Season of Plenty and SXE ANEW (frog) interprets "Sacred Season." Because the frog is honoured as the keeper of the sacred seasons, it is often present on totem poles and in artwork to show that an important event has occurred.

Once again the wonders of nature repeat an amazing process. Mother Earth warms up and the hibernating frogs wake up from their Winter sleep. The frogs announce to the world the coming of Spring.



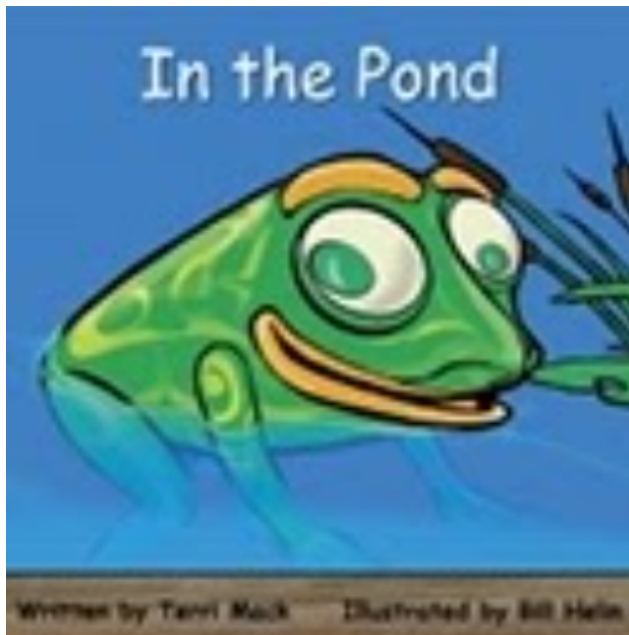
Learn more about the [WSÁNEĆ year](#) here.

Indigenous Ed Resource Kits

A reminder to explore the many [Indigenous Ed Resource Kits](#) available for K-12 learning.

During the Moon of the Frog, share this [WEXES](#) learning kit with your students. It includes 28 Salish Shapes, puppets, books and a WEXES Moon card.

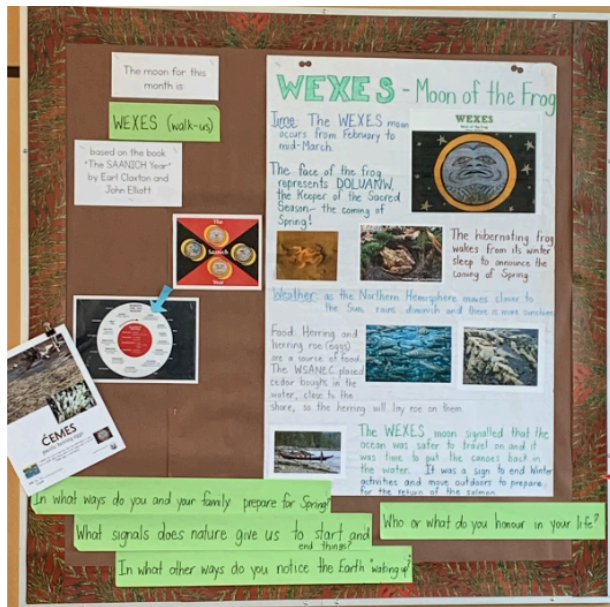
Contact Sherry Burton to order.



Additional WEXES Resources

Thank you to Jolene Bales, of Cordova Bay Elementary and SIDES, for updating and sharing this terrific [WEXES lesson](#).





This [WEXES colouring book](#) from Artists Sarah Jim and Natassia Davies includes wonderful images of frogs and other spring plants and animals.

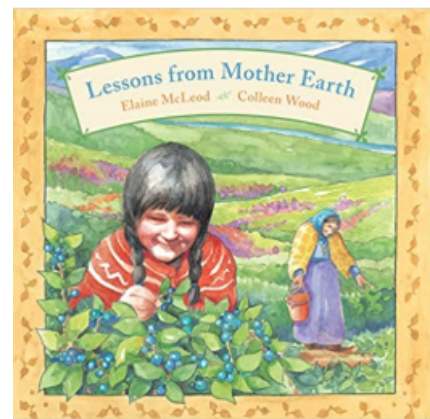
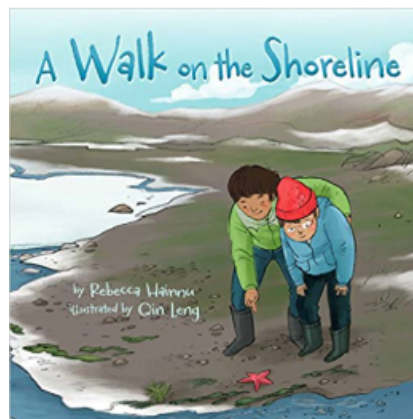
Produced by the Tah'Lum Indigenous Artist Collective, "the purpose of this colouring book project is to create a new way to engage children and adults alike with Indigenous languages; namely, the SENĆOŦEN language spoken by W̱SÁNEĆ peoples..."

Indigenous Ed Resource Kits

A reminder to explore the many [Indigenous Ed Learning Kits](#) available for K-12 learning.

Here are some of the resources available in the [Unit 3 Book Bag](#) (Seasons) kit. This collection is suitable for K-1.

Contact Sherry Burton to order.





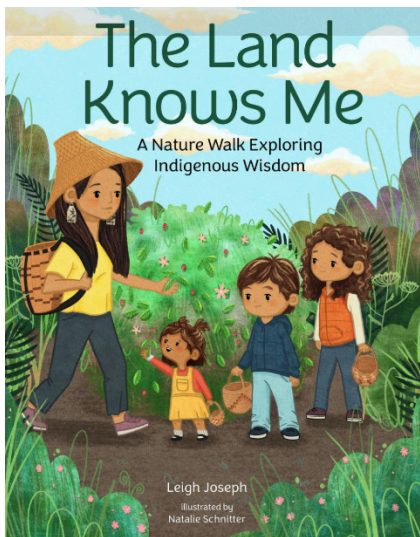
Around the District

Claremont Indigenous Leadership students had the opportunity to gather together in February for a Beading and Bannock session, creating personalized lanyards. They are looking forward to a few more sessions, including a cooking class, in March and April. HÍSWŪKE Eric Slade for sharing these pictures!





March Recommended Reading



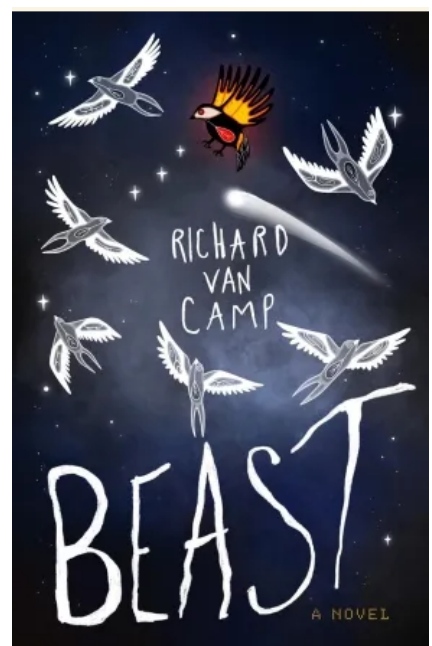
[The Land Knows Me](#) by Leigh Joseph

The best way to learn about plants is through observing and interacting with



[A Snake Falls to Earth](#) by Darcie Little Badger

"This is a delightful and imaginative novel with alternating protagonists.



[Beast](#) by Richard Van Camp

"This latest feat of storytelling magic by celebrated author Richard Van Camp blends sharply observed

living examples. Join *Held by the Land* author Leigh Joseph and her children in *The Land Knows Me*, an educational, hands-on journey to discover all the wonderful uses and gifts of the plants around us. Through the Indigenous traditions of Squamish culture you'll learn how to ground yourself on the land, how to introduce yourself in the Squamish language to your plant relatives, and the many teachings about plants, cultural stories, and learnings related to the flora seen on your walk.

One is Nina, a teenager trying to translate a story told by her great-great-grandmother in her native Athabaskan language, Lipan. The other is Oli, a cottonmouth snake with the ability to shapeshift, who is learning to find his way after being pushed from the nest. Climate change features, informed by the author's geoscience degree and PhD in oceanography. Another theme is linguistic diversity and the crucial role of storytelling in keeping cultures alive."

realism and hair-raising horror as it plays out against a 1980s-era backdrop replete with Platinum Blonde songs and episodes of *Degrassi Junior High*. Unfolding in the fictional town of Fort Simmer—the setting of previous Van Camp stories—*Beast* delivers a gripping, spirited tale that pits the powers of tradition against the pull of a vengeful past"

Professional Growth

Transformative Territory Acknowledgement Guide

Read this five-page guide on how to present a [transformative territorial acknowledgement](#).

PROGRESSIVE TRANSFORMATIVE TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SCALE

Standard Acknowledgement	Reflective Acknowledgement	Transformative Acknowledgement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginner • Institutionally approved script • Read until memorized/ comfortable • Example: I would like to acknowledge the unceded and traditional homelands of the Coast Salish People and Nlaka'pamux Nations on which Fraser Health provides services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate • Can be personally scripted • Use 'I' statements to demonstrate your learning and commitment to decolonization, reconciliation, and Indigenous Cultural Safety • Example: I would like to recognize I am participating today from Katzie First Nation Territory in what is known colonially as Pitt Meadows. I have learned that the word 'Katzie' means land of moss and has been called so since time immemorial. I am an uninvited settler on these territories. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced • Encouraged to speak from the heart • Acknowledge concepts like colonialism, anti-racism, reconciliation, and settler power/ privilege and institutional oppression • Example: Before I acknowledge the territories on which I am participating today, I would first like to recognize the on-going colonialism and racism against Indigenous peoples that is not mentioned in the tv, news or media, as a third-generation settler I feel it is all our responsibility to shed light on these aspects when we do the territory acknowledgement...





Dr. Shelley Moore and Jo Chrona team up to offer this fantastic learning series: [Anchoring Inclusive Practices in Indigenous Pedagogies: Designing for Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity](#).

You can sign up for for one or more of the sessions that runs into early June.



The Outdoor Learning School and Store is offering a professional learning series with Monique Gray Smith, [The Medicine of Stories](#).

You can sign up for individual sessions in March, April and May.

Contact Us

Sherry Burton - Resource kits, General Inquiries

Sally Morgan - Indigenous Grad Credit courses and Indigenous Ed Bulletin

Landon Underwood and Melissa Rickson - Cultural Competencies, Community Connections

Tina Savea - Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada, Blanket Exercise

We'd love for you to share photos, student art work, book recommendations and community opportunities! Please email smorgan@saanichschools.ca

