

# DisCourse



*The District Teacher Coordinators  
Monthly Newsletter*

January, 2021

Vol. 3



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New Online Resources

Digital Wellness Modules

*"District Teacher Coordinators -  
we're here to serve and support"*

**~ Visit our website . . . ~**

# OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

By: Jeff Lontayao

[jeff.lontayao@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:jeff.lontayao@sd72.bc.ca)

## Industrial Sewing Program at Robron Centre

Never heard of it? Well, neither have most people in the district. It is a partnership between SD 72 and Vertical Madness, an industrial sewing company. The program provides an opportunity for students to design, template, and then manufacture their own projects from scratch. The sewing facility has over 50 sewing machines capable of sewing any fabric. The only limitation is the students' own imaginations. Over the last few years, students from grade 4 and up have manufactured everything from dog beds to backpacks, wallets to handbags. The program is staffed by a combination of experienced staff members and work experience students who are looking at going into the industrial sewing industry. The program also provides a work experience program where students can come and learn the trade of industrial sewing. During the work experience program students are taught the use of a variety of industrial sewing machines with the ultimate goal of working with Vertical Madness staff to design and manufacture projects for customers.

If you would like more information or would like to bring your class for a visit, contact Program Instructor Rob MacNeill 250-202-1391.



Industrial Sewing Program at Robron Centre



## TEACHER LIBRARIAN

By: Cathy Fowler

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### Ed-Centre Staff Hours

Michelle M-F 8:00-4:00,

Ingrid M,W,F 8:30-4:30

Cathy (Dist. T-L) M,T,Th,F 8:30-4:30.

Feel free to contact us by email  
[education.centre@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:education.centre@sd72.bc.ca) or call 250-830-2313

We were very pleased to welcome Michelle Humphrey to our team in December. Please contact her for your colour copying, laminating and book binding needs.

[michelle.humphrey@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:michelle.humphrey@sd72.bc.ca)

When sending her files for printing please send them as a PDF.

Keep an eye out for new resources coming soon!

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

By: Kim Stix - ELL Department

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Happy New Year! With a new year comes new skills, information, and activities for ELL students to learn. To support this learning, I have attached two English language tools you may find useful in your classroom. The first is a [Sentence Builder](#) with a helpful vocabulary section. The second is a tool to support [Vocabulary Learning](#) and make content connections in the classroom. Both tools can be used for all English levels in all grades.

Click on the images to access the downloaded version.

Learning Content, Learning Language	
ic Organizer for Building Vocabulary in the Content Class	
ce(s): _____	
Connections, or Guesses:	
_____	
Definition (own language or English)	Visual support diagram
_____	_____

Sentence Review	
ce(s): _____	
s (in English or own language): _____	
ITY:	
Definition/Related Words	Picture
Word (English or own language)	
Sentence (from the book)	Sentence (by me)
Definition/Related Words	Picture
Word (English or own language)	
Sentence (from the book)	Sentence (by me)
Definition/Related Words	Picture
Word (English or own language)	
Sentence (from the book)	Sentence (by me)

## ELEMENTARY LITERACY

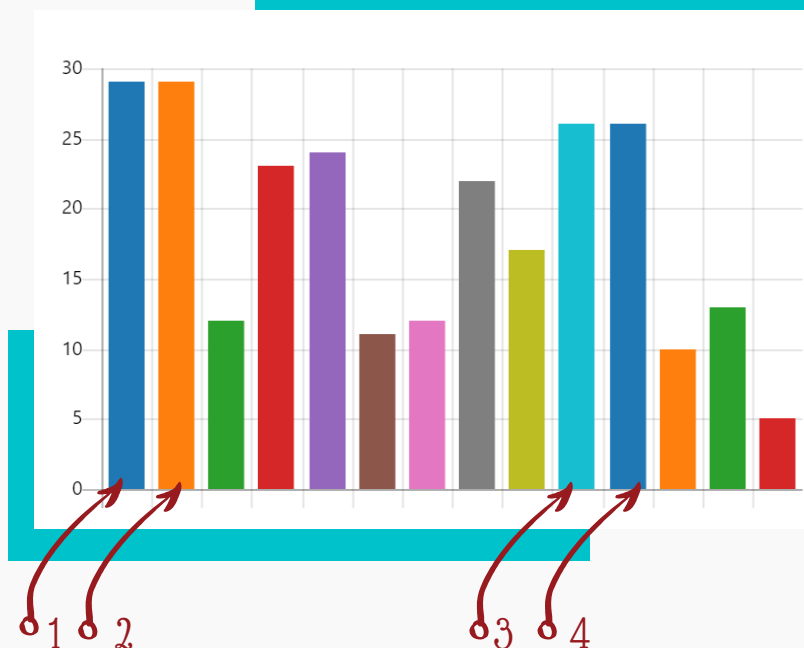
By: Christine Fraser and Audra Schroeder

christine.fraser@sd72.bc.ca audra.schroeder@sd72.bc.ca

### Literacy After Hours with Christine & Audra

Christine and I appreciate the great response to the Elementary Literacy Survey. Thank you!

We are so excited about SD 72 literacy and working with educators, that the information provided has energized our focus: Guided reading books are being ordered, and Pro D plans are underway to meet specific teacher learning needs and school interests, goals and needs.



### TOP TEACHER LITERACY GOALS

The Literacy Survey responses indicate that **aspects of reading** (1), **aspects of writing** (2), **intervention** (3), and **providing accommodations for memory, language and attention** (4) have been identified as the most desired learning opportunities.

## EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

By: Shannon Hagen

shannon.hagen@sd72.bc.ca

A few resources I've been working on in collaboration with others the past few months are completed now and ready to be checked out. These are all a work in progress so if you have any suggestions for additions, please let me know.

[Assessment Instructional Resources](#)

[Student/Parent Tech Resources](#)

[Digital Instructional Resources](#)

[Digital Wellness Modules-See Wellness section below](#)

Welcome back !!! Hopefully everyone is well rested and ready to be back at it again. I've been busy over the break creating some frameworks for district initiatives and will be asking for some input from user groups in our district. Please watch for these communications.

## REMINDER

Files in the H: Drives are now **READ ONLY**. Need help accessing them and moving to OneDrive? Click [HERE](#) to watch a video on it.



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

By: Erin Pickering

[erin.pickering@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:erin.pickering@sd72.bc.ca)

The [Professional Development portal page](#) is undergoing some changes, if you cannot find something while I work on the site please email me. There are lots of exciting learning opportunities coming up in 2021 - be sure to check out the "[Current Pro-D Opportunities](#)" document for a list of in and out of district opportunities.



[January Pro-D Opportunities](#)

*Looking for "One Hundred Day" Activities. Please email your ideas, activities, and sharable resources to [pred@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:pred@sd72.bc.ca)*



## MENTORSHIP

Starting in 2021, SD72 (in conjunction with the CRDTA) will begin a teacher mentorship program. January through June will act as a trial phase, with full enrollment for September 2021. The trial phase will involve a small group of mentors and mentees. This year is about developing and assessing program structures on how to support and serve new teachers.

For more information and to get involved visit the [Teacher Mentorship page](#).

### Monday January 25th New Teacher Virtual Gathering 3-4pm

Join Erin Pickering and fellow new teachers for an opportunity to hear more about teacher mentorship, ask questions, and reflect on how the year is going and what the next steps are.

**Click HERE to**  
**Join the Meeting**

RVSP to [erin.pickering@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:erin.pickering@sd72.bc.ca) by Thursday, January 20th to ensure you receive any activity supplies before the meeting. This is open to all teachers including those teaching on call. Especially for those who have less than 5 years' experience in our profession or district, or who has made a significant change in assignment/role.

*Click on the Join the Meeting image for the Teams meeting link*

## CANADIAN PARENTS for French



## FRENCH

By: Desiree Dallaire

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[Canadian Parents for French](#) is an organization that highlights bilingualism. French Immersion stakeholders can find useful research-based articles, pamphlets, fact sheets, and posters that cover language acquisition topics:

- [Advantages of learning a second language](#)
- [Linguistic Security](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#) about French Immersion for parents

*Click on the thumbnail image on the left to view it full size.*



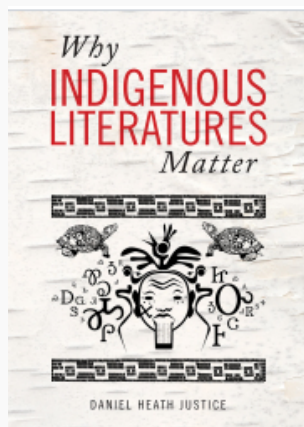
A new year sometimes brings with it new intentions, goals, and aspirations. What goals do educators in SD 72 have for their learning in 2021? If there are any goals the Indigenous Education Department can support, be sure to reach out. Check out the [blog](#) for upcoming learning opportunities.

**February 12, 2021 is SD 72's Indigenous Day of Learning.** Information will be sent out very soon about how to sign up and who will be presenting.

There are a few book clubs occurring in the district in the coming months - including 21 Things you May not Know about the Indian Act (Joseph, 2018) and Braiding Sweetgrass (Kimmerer, 2015). If you have a book in mind that you are looking to explore and dig deeper into, we love to read and facilitate conversations!

## learning with SYEYUTSUS

SD 68 Upcoming online learning opportunities. Click the image for details



## INDIGENOUS RESOURCES

By: Gillian Kirke - Indigenous Education Department  
[gillian.kirke@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:gillian.kirke@sd72.bc.ca)

## Why Indigenous Literatures Matter

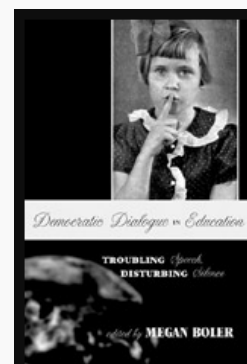
By: Daniel Heath Justice

"This provocative volume challenges readers to critically consider and rethink their assumptions about Indigenous literature, history, and politics while never forgetting the emotional connections of our shared humanity and the power of story to effect personal and social change."

[Listen here on CBC](#)

## Democratic Dialogue in Education (Boler, 2004)

"Drawing from disciplines of philosophy, political theory, critical race theory, sociology, and feminist and post-structural studies, the essays in *Democratic Dialogue in Education* examine issues arising from the conceptualizing of hate speech, freedom of expression, speech codes and political correctness, and voice and agency. What are the limits of speech in classrooms, and how are classrooms distinct from other kinds of public space? How do we understand silence as well as speech within the field of cultural differences at play in educational spaces? Questions of social justice, equity, racial identities and sexual differences are central to the pedagogical philosophies and practices addressed by these diverse scholars."



## ADOLESCENT LITERACY

By: Rachel Friederich  
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Research on student achievement has consistently shown that most things we do in the school and classroom work. But the difference between what a student can achieve when we teach using these means and what a student can achieve without them is negligible.

- So, what really works?
- And how do we know?

Join us, Rachel, Adolescent Literacy Coordinator, and Erin, Mentorship & Professional Development Coordinator, to explore these questions.

## EVALUATING OUR IMPACT

ASSESSMENT TO INFORM PRACTICE

- #1 What does it mean to Evaluate our Impact?
- #2 The Continuous Learning Cycle
- #3 Formative Assessment: Process
- #4 What does student work reveal about what you need to learn next?

"ASSESSMENT IS TODAY'S MEANS OF MODIFYING TOMORROW'S INSTRUCTION." - CAROL ANN TOMLINSON

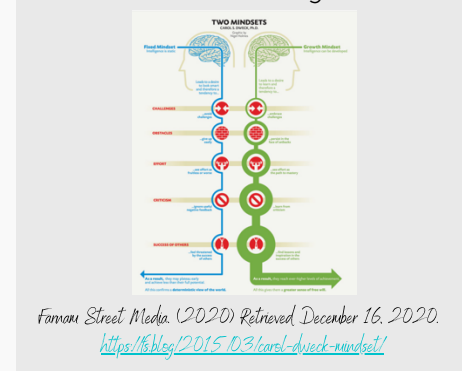
*Each of the four workshops will be grounded in research and will provide a takeaway for your tool kit.  
For more information contact [rachel.friederich@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:rachel.friederich@sd72.bc.ca) or [erin.pickering@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:erin.pickering@sd72.bc.ca)  
Please sign up for this workshop series in Employee Connect, under the Workshops tab.  
Dates will be announced soon - please stay tuned.*

We all make mistakes. In this moment in time, though, we realize that to **F.A.I.L.** is to make a **First Attempt In Learning**. Growth mindset is key, as [Carol Dweck's research](#) has shown us. To teach students the importance of mindset and how to increase growth mindset, have them write about their favourite mistake after listening to and analyzing Sheryl Crow's song, "[My Favourite Mistake](#)." Questions to ask about the song and answer in their own writing might be:

- What does the mistake mean today?
- What lasting impressions or lessons does the writer take from the experience?

In both the lyrics and their first written draft, students can highlight in yellow where the author recalls the incident and in green where they reflect on what it means today.

(from KellyGallagher's, Write Like This, 2011, p.29)



## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

By: Drew Williams

drew.williams@sd72.bc.ca



We now have an SD72 Mindfulness group in Teams. This is a place for educators to share resources and experiences in using a Mindfulness approach in schools. If you would like to join this Team, please contact [drew.williams@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:drew.williams@sd72.bc.ca) or join yourself using the join code: **vx04ie5**

### Teaching About Sexuality



Each school will be receiving a Teaching About Healthy Sexuality kit this month. We are reviewing Scope and Sequence for teaching about Healthy Sexuality and Relationships K-12 and will also be sharing that along with District approved and recommended resources. Please contact Drew Williams with any questions or suggestions.



Access from any computer  
URL [sdbc.lifespeak.com](http://sdbc.lifespeak.com)  
Client password lifespeak

Have you checked . . .

**LIFESPEAK**





### Digital Wellness

We are in the process of creating modules promoting Digital Wellness in the elementary and middle grades. Our goal is to have these completed by spring break and will include five 1-hour, activity-filled sessions. The focus will be on the healthy use of technology and how to decrease stress and anxiety due to the use of technology. This will include four main



components:

- Well Being
- Citizenship
- Etiquette
- Safety



*The goal is to develop modules for grades K-9 by the end of this school year.*