



British Columbia Primary Teachers' Association  
of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation

Create

Imagine

Explore

Play

Wonder



SPRING 2015  
Volume 53 No. 2



British Columbia  
Teachers' Federation

The BCPTA is A Provincial Specialist Association of the BC Teacher's Federation

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We hope you enjoy reading this Spring 2015 issue of our newsletter. If you would like to see it in colour, please check out our website at [www.bcpta.ca](http://www.bcpta.ca) and click on "newsletters". We thank the many Primary Teachers who contributed articles to this issue and look forward to hearing more about the fantastic learning that is occurring in your classrooms. As always, here at the BCPTA we are interested in publishing more of our Primary Teacher's ideas. Please send any article idea, suggestion, or comment to us at [mcavin@sd52.bc.ca](mailto:mcavin@sd52.bc.ca).

# President's Message

## by Janine Fraser



Words indeed have power, and as teachers we can use them with our students to move them from fixed mindsets to growth mindsets. We can alter thought with the dialogue we promote in our classrooms. Giving students time to talk to each other helps them share and solidify their learning and it multiplies the learning in the classroom. The same principal applies to when teachers get together to learn. Time to dialogue is a vital part of professional learning. This was all embodied in our recent Spring Event titled "Empowering Learners". On April 25, local chapter representatives and interested delegates from districts around the Province met to learn from Peter Johnston, author of "Choice words" and "Opening Minds" We then spent the afternoon talking about what chapters have been doing and we discussed other important issues to primary teachers. Indeed, the power of getting teachers together to learn and dialogue has always been important to us at the BCPTA. Please stay tuned to our website to see updates about our Fall Conference also titled "Empowering Learners" I know I will find it hard to choose the sessions I will go to, as there are many inspiring speakers and sessions to select from.

Until then, have a fantastic spring and a positive end to the school year! May the words in this newsletter serve to inspire you!



Report from the Courageous Conversations Forum:  
Change in the Early Years  
March 25-27, 2015

By Janine Fraser (who was invited as the BCPTA President)

The forum began on Wednesday evening with a moving welcome from Musqueam Squamish elder Shane Point who spoke of change requiring courage, courage being the displacement of fear, fear being a mind-killer, and that dialogue requires equity. A very fitting opening for this conference, where the focus was on coming together to re-think early learning in BC. It was noted that in the room of 250 people were people in the field of early learning, school district reps like superintendants, local government reps, and health authority reps, and other interested individuals (like myself).

The keynote, Al Etmanski followed (author of "Impact: Six Patterns to Spread your Social Innovation" see [www.aletmanski.com](http://www.aletmanski.com)). He talked about social innovation and featured Adelaide Hoodless and the Women's Institute as an example of "the sacred waters" of social change that has created a large and lasting legacy in BC. He said that if one wants to make change in your community and in your society for the early years, you should look at this movement for inspiration.

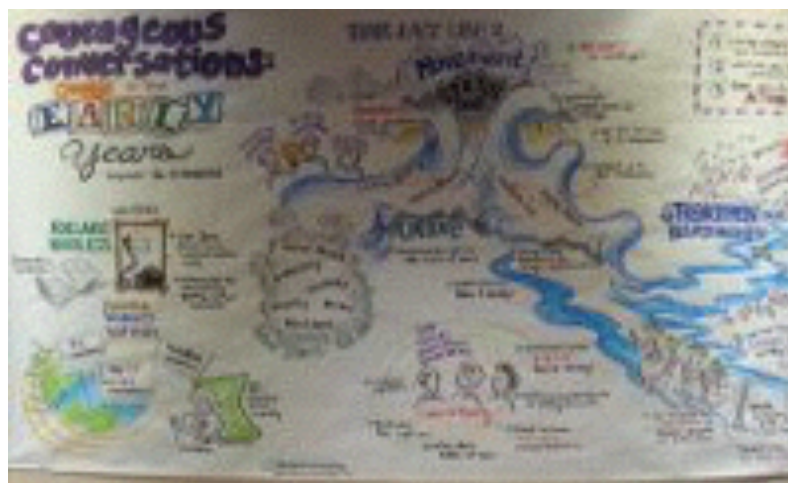
The following day was spent with Joanne Schroeder as a facilitator (formerly with UBC's Help Program) highlighting things they have learned from the EDI: that research says early learning and family support, especially during the first three years of life makes a big difference. She shared the staggering fact that 33% of BC Kindergarten children are vulnerable and this number is not improving (and most likely getting worse). She said that we should not be ok with the fact that 1/3 of our kids are coming to school with a boulder on their backs. We have the capacity to change this by strengthening and changing the way we support children and families in the early years. The rest of that day was spent in smaller groups talking about best practices and what's working in communities right now that foster early learning and working together (health, MCFD, education, local governments etc). It was interesting to hear how some local governments create policies that foster and support early learning (tax breaks, reduced rents, parking fees going towards early learning, etc).

The last day ended with an address by Minister Stephanie Cadieux. The focus was on sharing the results so far of 12 early learning pilot projects that have run since 2012 in BC. Twelve communities were chosen where shared integrated service delivery happened to enhance early learning in those

communities. In other words, health, education and MCFD worked together to support families and children. It was announced that 14 more communities would have these integrated early year centres starting this spring and summer. "We will continue building on the success of these centres by further expanding the network – as budget allows- in order to reach more families throughout the province."

I am thankful I was at the forum, able to listen to the thoughtful and inspiring conversations and feel hopeful about the direction of early learning in the province. I truly understood when it was reported by Joanne Schroder, that the hardest transition in our education system was from the early years to Kindergarten, and I would love to see that improve.

If you want to see more about this forum: go to [www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/early\\_years/](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/early_years/)



# Good Bye Winter, Hello Spring!

Submitted by Rhonda Stoik

The poem "Good bye Winter, Hello Spring", provides a great starting point and frame for poetry. I read this and then I created my own way of doing it. To start with, I read "Tap the Magic Tree" by Christie Matheson. The kids loved this book but any book about spring would work really as long as it is visual. Then we brainstorm all the signs of spring and of course things that remind us of winter. I asked them what they see, smell, hear, taste etc in these seasons. After brainstorming with the class, we wrote some of the poem together. This could be on chart paper or the smartboard. For my lower students, I allowed them to copy what we wrote as a class and they were then asked to come up with 1-2 ideas on their own. The stronger students had to come up with at least 4 lines on their own or, if they liked, they could write their own version entirely. I had a couple girls who did! This way it is differentiated for all learners.



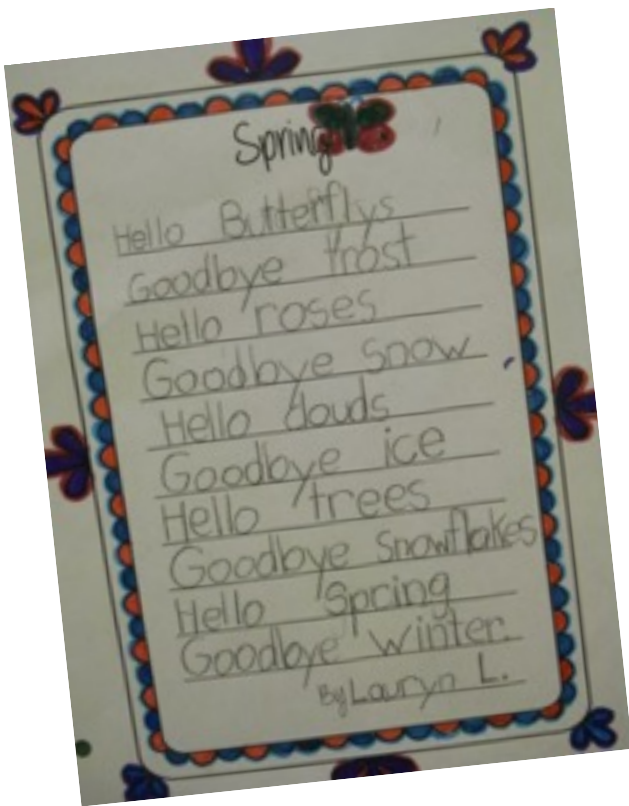
## **Good bye Winter, Hello Spring**

Good-bye, white fluffy snow.  
Good-bye, ripped old boots.  
Good-bye, winter.  
Spring's ahead!

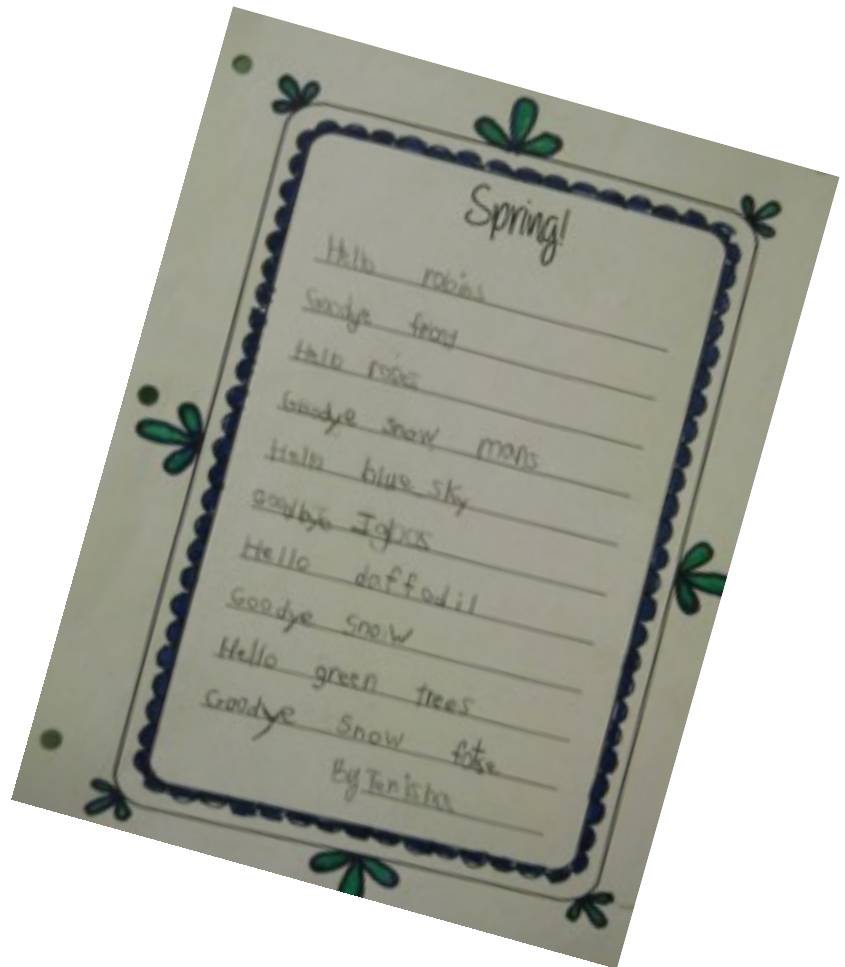
Good-bye, shaggy, smelly coat.  
Good-bye, you mean frostbite.  
Good-bye, winter.  
Spring, hello!

Hello, small, soft buds on trees.  
Hello, green, tall grass.  
Good-bye, winter.  
Spring's in sight!

Hello, short sleeve shirts.  
Hello, shaggy shorts.  
Good-bye, winter!  
Hello, spring!



Finally, we finger painted a tree for Spring to go with our poems. This could also be done with pastels.



# Poetry!! Poetry!!

## *Flower Garden*

I work in my garden,  
Plant seeds in a row,  
The rain and the sunshine  
Will help them to grow.  
Sometimes when the weather  
Is too dry and hot  
I sprinkle the Earth  
With my watering pot.  
The roots pushing downwards,  
The stems pushing up.  
My blossoms have opened,  
Rose, pink buttercup.





## *Little Seeds*


Little seeds we sow in Spring  
Growing while the robins sing,  
Give us carrots, peas and  
beans,  
Tomatoes, pumpkins, squash  
and greens.  
And we pick them,  
One and all,  
Through the Summer,  
Through the Fall.  
Winter come, then Spring and  
then,  
Little seeds we sow again.





# 10 Ways I Can Help the EARTH


1.  Turn off the lights

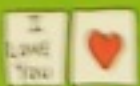
2.  RECYCLE!


3.  Save my leftovers


4.  Be nice to the worms


5.  Share a book

6.  Plant a tree

7.  Use both sides of the paper

8.  Save water

9.  Clean up trash

10.  Put my underwear in the freezer when it's hot

# SANDRA HUGGETT IS IMPORTANT

LOVE FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT THE BCPTA



The important thing about Sandra is she loves teaching with all her heart.

She figured out the magic recipe of how kids learn best and she has spent her career helping other teachers learn that secret.

She is caring and she is dedicated.

But the important thing about Sandra is that she is loved very dearly by her friends in the BCPTA who appreciate the legacy of her work for Primary teachers in this province. Thank you Sandra!

abcde



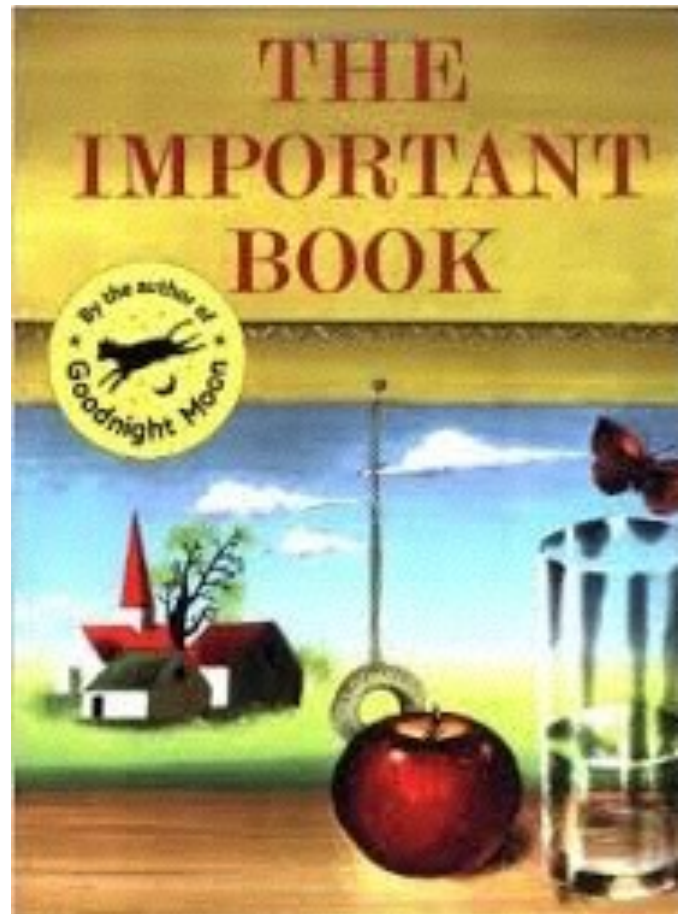
This page was created to honour Sandra Huggett from Prince George at her retirement celebration. Sandra has been a longtime member of the BCPTA and served on the executive for many years.

This would be a great way to honour teachers in your district that have made a huge impact throughout their career in the lives of children.

# The Important Book

by Margaret Wise Brown

This is a great book to use with primary students especially. It helps them to think about the world around them in a new way including the key attributes of things in their world.



One way to use this book with your class is to make class books:

- The important thing about Easter is.....
- The important thing about Spring is....
- The important thing about Me is.....
- The important thing about \_\_\_\_\_ (insert name of special person of the week, student teacher, etc.)

Check out [scholastic.com](http://scholastic.com) for lesson ideas using this book!

# A Recipe: Pretzel Flower Cookies!!



All you need is:

- pretzel twists
- icing
- spring coloured smarties

They're sweet **and** salty!

You can even put them together  
to make a big flower!

Ta Da!



# A Program to Try: TAGXEDO

Submitted by Jennifer Barker

Are you looking for a different and creative way for you students to show you what they know? Have you ever thought of having them use a FREE program called Tagxedo? Similar to Wordle, Tagxedo allows users to type in various words to create a visual image. Some of the unique options are choice of colour, shape, and orientation of the text. This user-friendly program allows users to save and share the image.

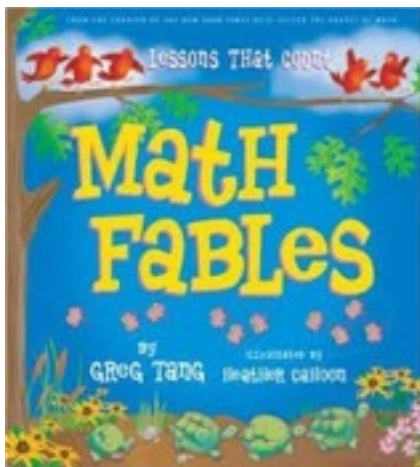
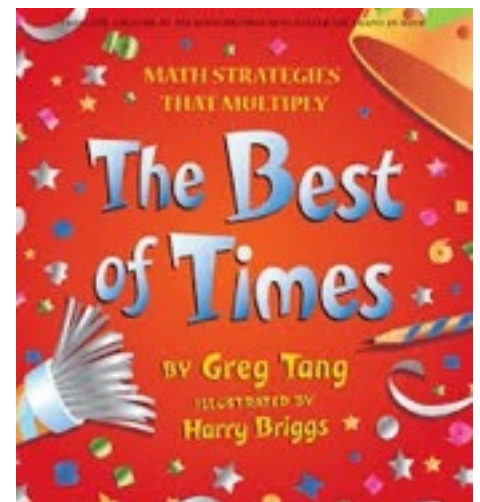
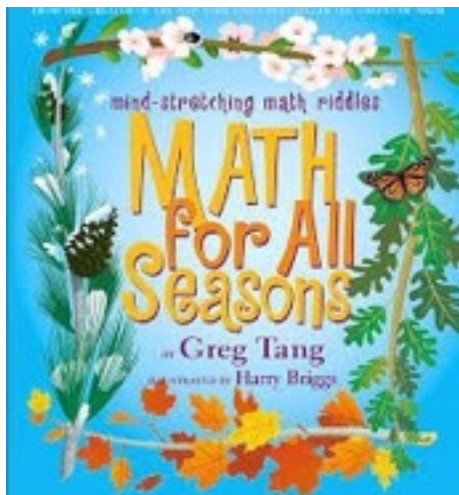
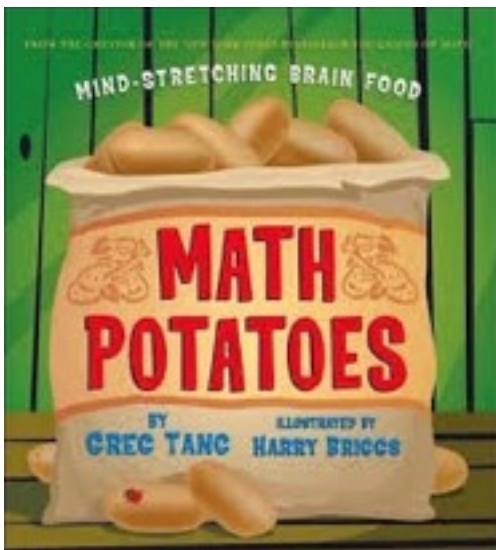
Some fun way to use this program in the classroom include:

- Special Theme Days - Brainstorm a list of theme words and type them into a shape related to a special day (e.g., A Heart for Anti-bullying Day, an Earth for Earth Day)
- Class Community - Provide your students with a class list and have them type in all of their names into a shape decided by the class. You can keep one copy in the classroom and each student can print a copy and take it home.
- Character Analysis - Have the students write a list of adjectives describing a favourite character in a book and choose a shape that represents the character
- All About Me - Have students brainstorm adjectives describing themselves and choose a shape that represents themselves Make a gift - Students can brainstorm a list of reasons why they love their Mom or Dad and type these into a special shape such as a heart. These can be framed and given as Mother's Day or Father's Day gifts.
- Predictions - At the beginning of a unit or before reading a book, share a teacher-created Tagxedo with your students. Have them predict what the book or unit will be about.
- Math Application - Use a Tagxedo to represent data. As you survey the class (e.g, What is your favourite type of pizza?), type each choice into Tagxedo. The more often one word is typed, the larger it will appear. This will create a visual representation of the data.



# LITERATURE IN MATH: BOOKS BY GREG TANG

These books fit nicely into the Math curriculum and kids love them. Kids love riddles and these books are full of them. It's fun to use one riddle to start off your Math lesson each day. You may find your students asking for "one more" and "one more"! These books may already be in your school - they're worth digging out! Below are a few examples, but there are more.



# Clouds

As part of a weather unit, one fun idea is to have students make their own diagrams of cloud types using cotton balls. First have them draw the ground with possibly their house and then glue on:

Cirrus Clouds: thin and wispy, easily see the sun, highest clouds

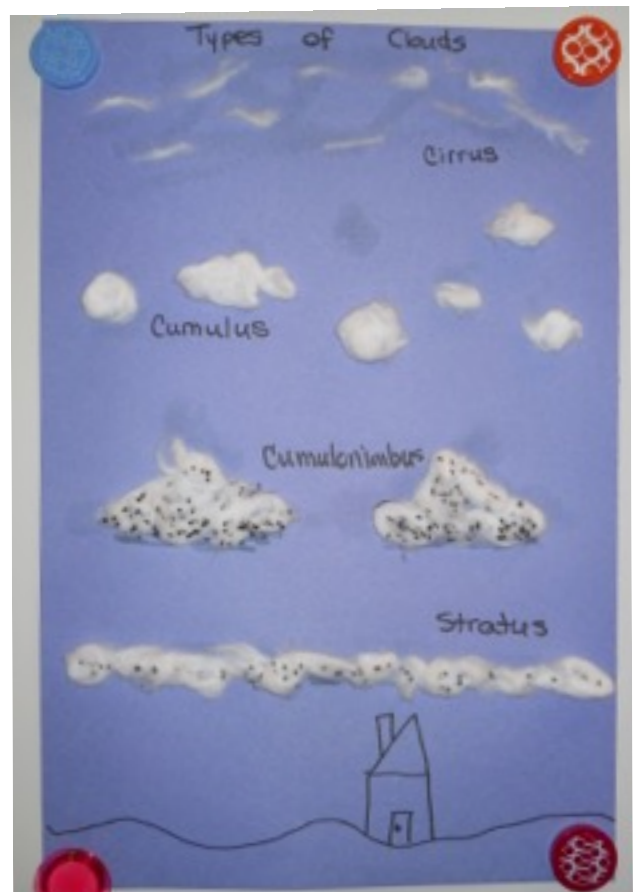
Cumulus Clouds: round, white and thick

Cumulonimbus Clouds: thunderstorms, tall, thick, grey (use a marker)

Stratus Clouds: expect a light drizzle, thick, grey and in layers (closest to the ground)



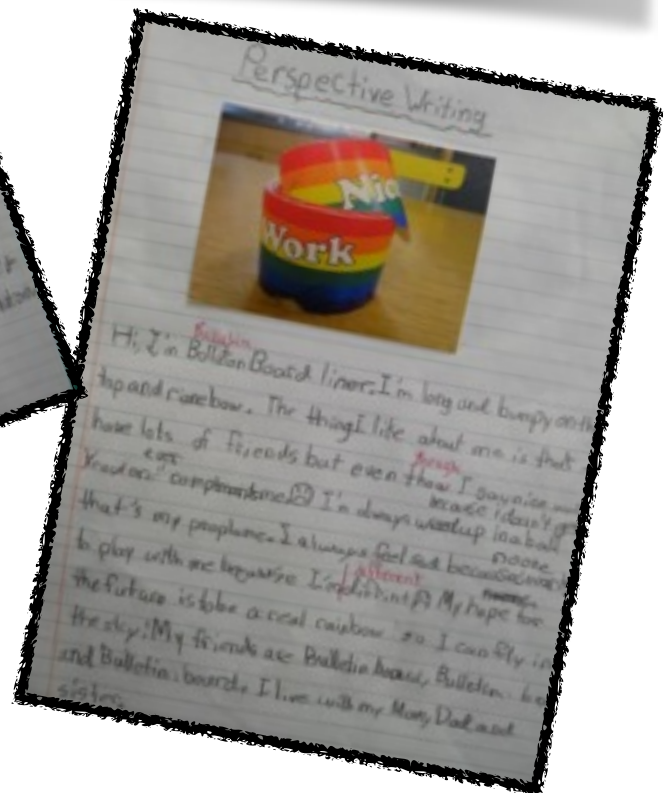
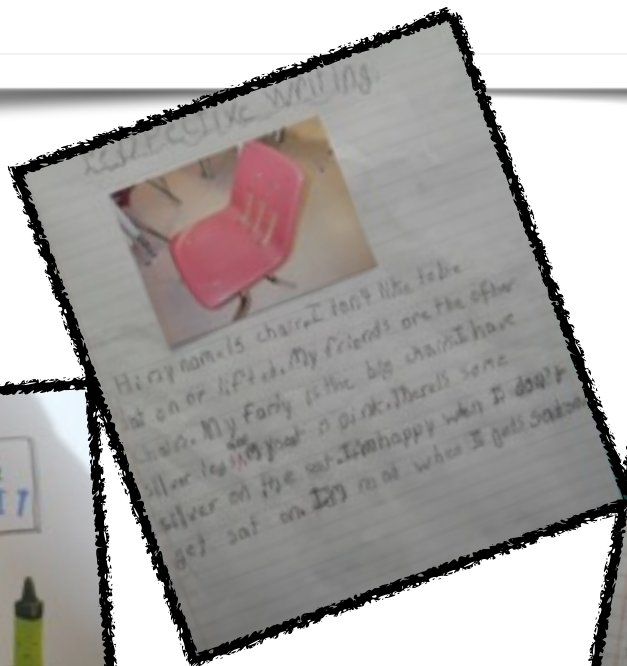
This is a great book to use with your class to accompany this activity.  
Published by the Saunders Book Company



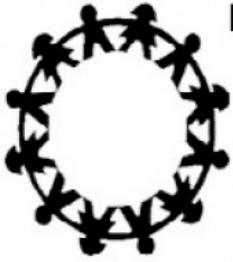
# Photography in the Classroom: Perspective Writing

Writing from another perspective than their own, is not always an easy task for young students. Here is an idea to try:

1. Ask your students if they have ever considered how various objects in the classroom feel. A chair? A keyboard? A whiteboard marker? What would they say if they could talk? This should get a very interesting conversation started!
2. Read "The Day the Crayons Quit" by Drew Daywalt to help students get inside the head (perspective) of various colours of crayons.
3. Take a picture of an object in the classroom for each student to write from the perspective of. My students were very excited to choose!
4. Students glue the picture to the top of their page and then write below.







## Primary Leadership Conference

October 23, 2015

Pinnacle Hotel Vancouver Harbourfront -1113 West Hastings Street in Vancouver BC

### Musical Opening by Charlotte Diamond

*"The Joy of Singing Leads to Creativity and a Love of Language"*

### Keynote Address by Maureen Dockendorf

*"Empowered Learning"*

### **Breakout Sessions: Presenters and Topics - Some Sessions will be Repeated**

\*Charlotte Diamond: *"Singing Across The Curriculum"*

\*Linda Kaser & Judy Halburt: *"Spiral of Learning"*

\*Karen Lirenman: *"Authentic, Innovative Literacy Learning Utilizing Technology"*,

\*Colleen Politano: *"Possibilities for Helping Students Manage Stress Independently So They Can Do and Be Their Best"*

and *"Teacher Talk to Help Students Develop Independent Self Regulation"*

\*Lisa Watson & Sasha Wassick: *"On Struggling Readers, Response to Intervention and Prevention"*

\*Lisa Schwartz: *"Explicit Teaching, Joyful Reading for All Learners"*

and *"The Possibilities of Story Workshop"*

\*Sandy Colclough: *"The Power of Observation Using Science Experiments"*,

\*Heather Dean & Sayward Wikinson Blanc: *"Exploring Colour: Arts Immersion in Science and Language Arts"*

and *"Wire Investigations"*

\*Lisa Scherr & Penny Hasell: *"We are Going on a Forest Hunt-Weaving In the First People's Principles of Learning"* \*Adreanne

Gear: *Nonfiction Writing Power - Linking Writing to the Content areas Gr. 2-3"*

and *"Making Connections Through Reading and Writing"*,

\*Dena Doolan: *"Cooperative Games for The Primary Grades"*

\*Trevor Calkins: (Math) *"Making Connections for Early Learners"* and *"Valuing Diversity and Creativity"*

\*Anne Davies: *"Engaging All Students: Using Assessment for Learning in K-3"*

\*Sharon Jeroski: *"Competencies"*

### **Registration Fee**

Includes a One Year BCPTA Membership or Subscription or a One Year Extension / Catering / Exhibits

<b>Membership Type &amp; Fee:</b>	<b>BCTF Member</b>	<b>\$165</b>
	<b>Education Student / TTOC / Retiree</b>	<b>\$135</b>
	<b>Subscriber &amp; Other</b>	<b>\$195</b>

**BCPTA Conference Hotel: Pinnacle Hotel Vancouver Harbourfront: Call 604 - 689 - 9211**

**Rates: \$149 plus taxes - Sgl or Dbl / Get BCPTA Rates / Make Reservations Before September 22 Cut Off Date**

**For All Program Details & Preregistration for Sessions • Check the BCPTA Website: [www.bcpta.ca](http://www.bcpta.ca)**

# Spring Event Recap

We held our Chapter Assembly Spring Event titled "Empowering Learners" on April 25, 2015 in Richmond BC

Thank you...

to Peter Johnston for "Opening Minds" and inspiring us with his "Choice Words"

to Kidsbooks for being our exhibitor and donating a door prize

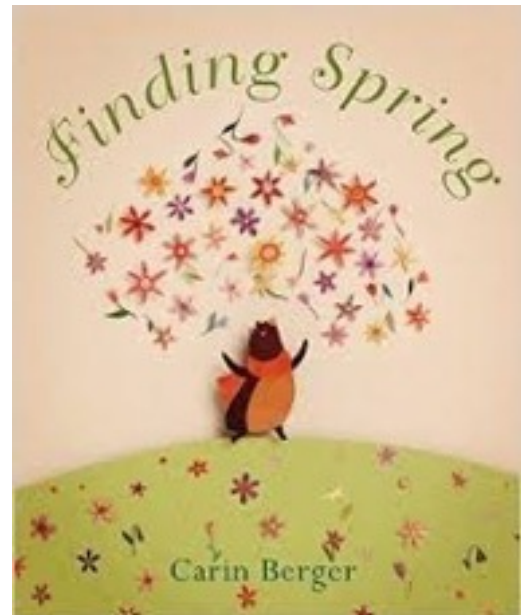
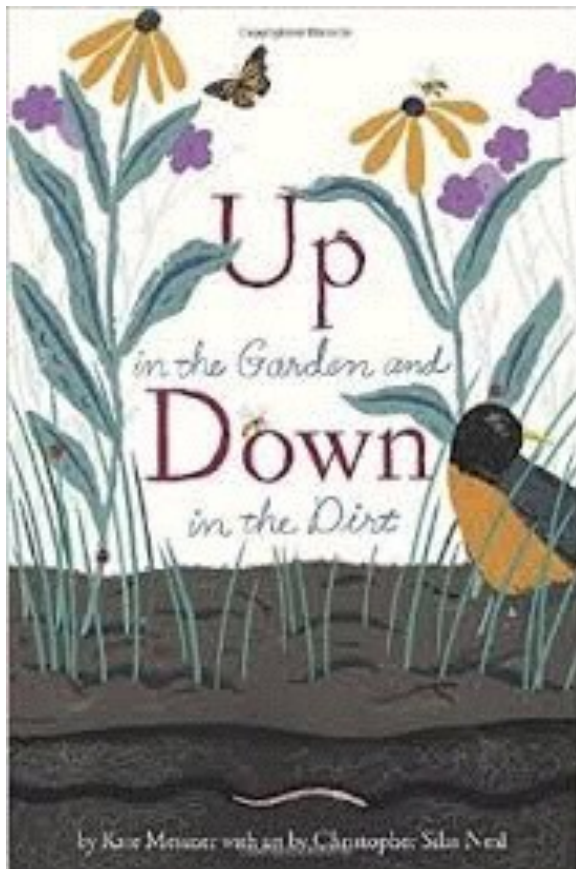
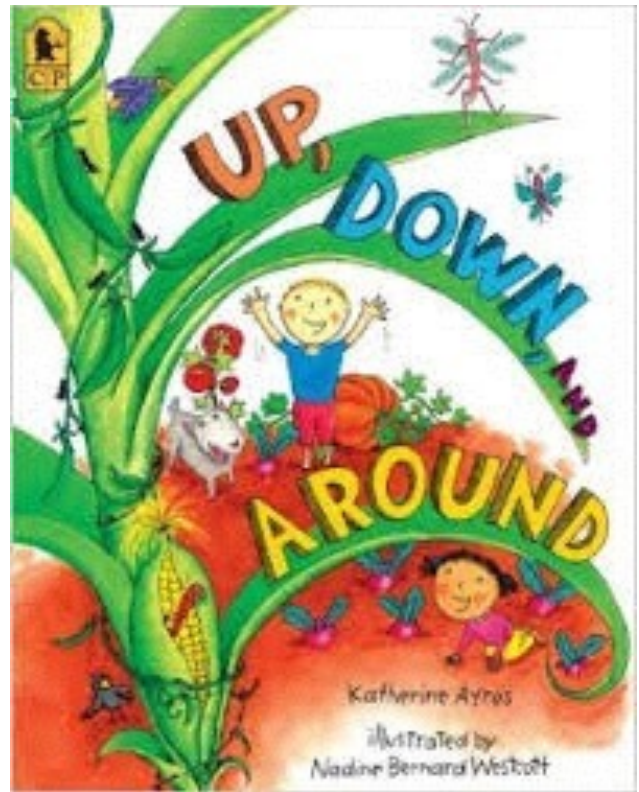
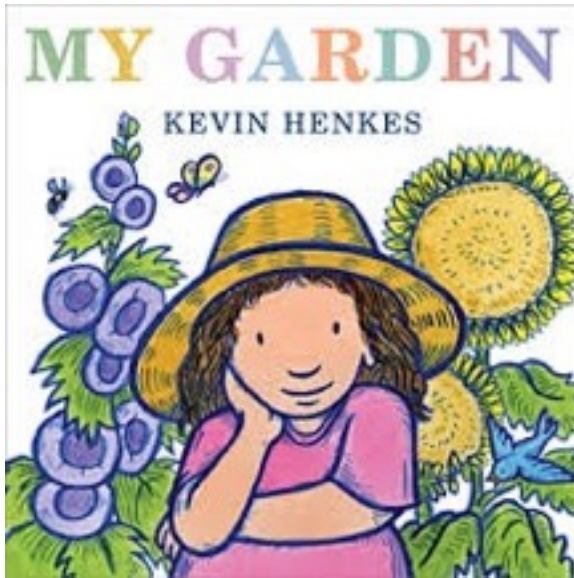
to hotel staff who catered to our needs and wishes with care

to BCPTA executive members who helped plan and prepare for the day

to BCPTA Chapter delegates and other interested district representatives who came to share and learn



# Great Read Alouds for Spring!!





# WOULD YOU LIKE A FREE BOOK?

The BCPTA would like to offer to purchase you any Teacher's Resource book or Children's Literature book in return for a written book review and/or lesson ideas and photos of something you tried inspired by the book you ordered.

Book purchased are limited to \$40 If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please email Margaret Cavin at [mcavin@sd52.bc.ca](mailto:mcavin@sd52.bc.ca) with:

- The book you would like to have ordered
- A brief description of your intent
- The grade(s) you teach and your school
- Your name and address



# Mr. McGregor's Garden!

Submitted by Debby Stewart

We read the story "The Tale of Peter Rabbit" and talked about the problems Peter Rabbit had in the garden. The students made the rabbits from construction paper and painted the vegetables for the garden. This was a great lead into our units on Spring and Seeds. The website for these great ideas and more is:

[mrsleeskinderkids.blogspot.ca/2011/03/spring](http://mrsleeskinderkids.blogspot.ca/2011/03/spring)

## THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT



By BEATRIX POTTER

Carrots!

Beets!

Potatos!





What are we looking for?

book ideas  
a story you love a story your  
students love a book  
you are reading in a  
professional book club  
or on your own

curriculum ideas  
math \* science\* language  
arts \* fine arts  
\*technology\* physical  
education \* social  
responsibility \* health  
and career \* social  
studies

strategies  
reading \* writing \* math  
\*oral language \*  
beginning of the year \*  
end of the year

technology  
favorite website \* favorite  
programs \* Smart  
Board \* Mimio \* I pads  
\*

classroom management  
organizational ideas \*  
classroom set up \*  
math stations \* literacy  
centers\* strategies \*  
beginning of the year \*



## A \$25 Gift to You!



## A \$25 Gift to You!

How would you like to win a \$25 Chapters/Indigo gift card?  
All you have to do is send us an idea for an article for the next  
newsletter and your name will be entered into a random draw to  
win an \$25 gift card.

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### What do we need?

It is very simple, just send us a written description of a lesson,  
favorite book/author, strategy, professional reading, website ...  
something you are excited about! Pictures help too!

---

What will we do? We'll format it for you (so don't worry  
about making it fancy, unless you want to!). Then we'll send the  
page back to you for your approval.

---

What do you get? A chance to win a \$25 gift card from  
Chapters/Indigo and your idea published in our next newsletter.

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### Where do you send it?

[mcavin@sd52.bc.ca](mailto:mcavin@sd52.bc.ca)

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We look forward to hearing from you!

# It Pays to Be a Member of the British Columbia Primary Teachers' Association



## What are the benefits of being a member of the BCPTA?

- \* 3 informative newsletters per year and an updated website
- \* the opportunity to attend catered BCPTA conferences with exhibitors, promotional giveaways, and door prizes. Next year our conferences so far are:

**Primary Leadership Conference - October 2014 - location TBA**  
**Primary Spring Chapter Event - April 2015 - location TBA**

## How much does it cost to become a member?

- \* the fee is \$45.00

## What else does my fee support?

- \* advocacy work the BCPTA does on your behalf for issues that matter to primary teachers in order to support best practices for kids. We communicate with the Ministry of Education and the BCTF and have been actively involved in creating policies and workshops to support Primary teachers in BC. We will be looking at curriculum changes in relation to the Primary Program when new curriculums are introduced.

Informational support for Chapters plus support to put on mini-conferences. There was an event in the Spring that registered chapters had support for. We also passed a motion that for this year, registered chapters get a mini-grant to help them with their work.

## How do I become a member?

register for one of our conferences or go online to sign up for a PSA at:

<https://bctf.ca/psa/join.aspx>

For more information about the BCPTA  
go to [www.bcpta.ca](http://www.bcpta.ca) or email [info@bcpta.ca](mailto:info@bcpta.ca)



# THINKING OF STARTING A LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE BC PRIMARY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION?

Are you interested in belonging to a local chapter of the BCPTA?

Have you considered the benefits of belonging to a local BCPTA chapter?

If you are interested in forming a local chapter in your district, the following information will be useful.

## **This is all it takes:**

- A start up committee of five or six teachers
- A meeting time and place to elect an executive
- A membership open to all interested primary educators
- Contact with the BCPTA Membership and Chapter Coordinator
- All committee members must be BCPTA members

## **Local Chapters are provided with:**

- Financial support for two of your local's delegates to attend our Annual Chapter Assembly
- The ability to apply for a support grant
- Communication and support with the members of the BCPTA Executive
- Newsletter
- Opportunity to communicate with other BCPTA chapters in the province as well as other PSA's, the BCTF and government ministries

Let us help you start a local Chapter!  
If you require further information please contact one of us below,  
or visit our website Chapter Information area at:

<http://www.bcpta.ca/bcpta-events-info.php>

Contact:

Trish Hands

Chapter Coordinator

[trish-hands@hotmail.com](mailto:trish-hands@hotmail.com)



# Annual BCPTA Chapter Registration Form

**District Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Local Primary Association** \_\_\_\_\_

**President or contact person** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Election** \_\_\_\_\_ **for the term/year 2014 - 2015**

## President/Contact Person:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

HOME MAILING ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ P. C. \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_ (SCHOOL)

FAX \_\_\_\_\_ (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_ (SCHOOL)

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Return annually and correct any changes to contacts' names and addresses

## Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer or Second Contact

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

HOME \_\_\_\_\_

HOME MAILING ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ P.C. \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_ (SCHOOL)

FAX \_\_\_\_\_ (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_ (SCHOOL)

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this information sheet to:  
Trish Hands  
[trish-hands@hotmail.com](mailto:trish-hands@hotmail.com)



## BCPTA Executive 2015 Contact List

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### Member-at-large

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# IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

Coming to you in the  
FALL 2015 issue!

Our next issue will be coming to you in September and it will contain some great ideas for the the Fall. Look for it online at [www.bcpta.ca](http://www.bcpta.ca) and in your mailbox.

We encourage you to send us your ideas, suggestions, or articles you wish to share. Email ideas to [mcavin@sd52.bc.ca](mailto:mcavin@sd52.bc.ca).

*Book  
Review*

*Great read  
alouds for  
Fall*

*P.E. Ideas*

*Technology*