



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

Create

Imagine

Explore

Play

Wonder



FALL 2017

Volume 55 No. 3

BCPTA NEWSLETTER



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



British Columbia
Teachers' Federation

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We hope you enjoy reading this Fall 2017 issue of our newsletter. If you would like to see it in colour, please check out our website at 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 sheila.ogradey@sd5.bc.ca.

President's Message

by Janine Fraser



"The First Day of School – author unknown"

"I wonder what you're doing now, and if everyone's treating you kind.
I hope there's a special person, a nice friend you can find.
I wonder if the teacher knows, just how special you are to me.
And if the brightness of your heart, is something they can see.
I wonder if you understand how hard it is to let you grow.
On this first day, though my heart breaks, it's the first step in letting you
go"

As a mom and a teacher, this poem really puts into perspective the importance of my job as a teacher and where my focus is on helping the children who enter my classroom community: To help children feel understood and valued so they can develop increasing independence and a sense of competence, to help children navigate the tricky world of friendships, and to fuel that brightness in their hearts and that motivation to learn about the world around them. That is why I have been exploring and learning more about following an emergent child centered curriculum and exploring inquiry. As I think about our role in this process in the BCPTA, it is all about fostering this growth and supporting primary teachers in BC. It is rewarding to see teachers engaged at events like our recent Spring Event in Richmond. Meeting on a Saturday

to listen and learn from Michelle Hikida on Inquiry and having time to discuss the new curriculum speaks to the passion and professionalism of primary teachers in this province. Behind the scenes, these events wouldn't happen without a dedicated group of volunteers who make up our BCPTA executive. I am thankful to work with such an inspiring group of teachers and appreciate their continued work for Primary teachers in BC. We are excited for our Fall conference in Vancouver where we are a part of the Superconference with 24 other Provincial Specialist Associations of the BCTF. We look forward to seeing teachers from around BC as we continue to learn about the new curriculum and best practices in primary education today. At the end of the first day of the Superconference (October 20 at 3:45) we hold our AGM. This is a time to celebrate our history, pass a new budget, set new goals, and elect and welcome new executive members into the fold. We hope you will come to this event and consider working with us to continue to support primary teachers in BC.

Please enjoy this fall issue of our newsletter and have a wonderful, fulfilling year where you brighten hearts, help build friendships, ignite learning, and foster a sense of independence and competence in your classroom community of young learners.



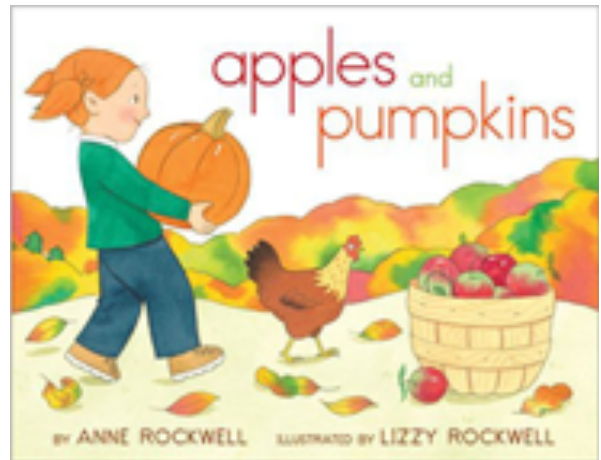
Back to School: Apple Ideas!

Explore using 5 senses

- What does my apple look like?
- What does my apple feel like?
- What does my apple smell like?
- What does my apple taste like?
- What does my apple sound like?

Buy as many different variety of apples for the class
(one per student)

Share observations (support students in coming up
with vocabulary that will help describe their apples and
record brainstorm)



Math Extension:

Collect seeds to compare shape and count how many each apple has.
Tape onto poster paper then record type of apple and amount of
seeds to compare and contrast.

Poetry! Poetry!

The Apple

Up in the apple tree,
 High off the ground.
I see an apple,
 So big and round.
I climb up the tree,
 And hold on tight.
I pick that apple,
 And take a big bite!
M-m-m good!



November

No sunshine, lots of rain,
No warm days, snow again!
No bugs or bees
No leaves on trees.
You must remember
This is November!

All About Me!!!

Self-Portrait Books

<p>This is where I go to school:</p> <h1>Meet</h1> <p>_____!</p>	<p>I am _____ years old.</p> <p>My birthday is on _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Here is my family.</p>	<p>I live in _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

<p>This is where I go to school:</p> <h1>Meet</h1> <p>_____!</p>	<p>My favorite food is _____</p> <p>My birthday is on _____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>My favorite game or toy is _____</p>	<p>I like to _____</p> <p>I live in _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

Nature Bodies

Taking your class outside??

Have students work in pairs to use natural materials to trace their outlines on the ground. Don't forget to take a picture! This works great if you are on sandy ground or on a beach.

Self-Portrait Provocation:

Place out picture book, white paper, black sharpies, and small mirrors for students to draw their own self-portraits.



Mini Me's:

Take a picture of your students, shrink them down and modge podge/glue/tape onto wooden blocks, toilet paper rolls, or even small yogurt pots (something that can stand on its own).

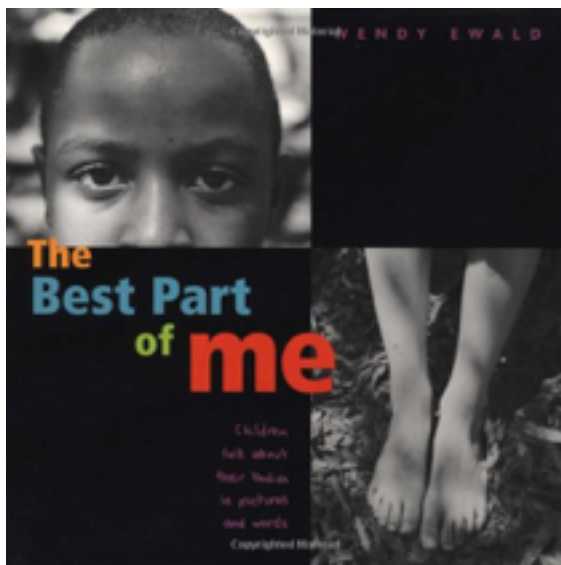
These can be used for:
block play
storytelling
students can read to them
grouping students
showing who goes to what
centre instead of name tags
retelling a story with the
student as a character
on a bulletin board to identify
school/art work

Handprint Writing:

Students paint their hand with a favourite colour of paint then create a handprint on card stock. They write about the things they like to do with their hands.



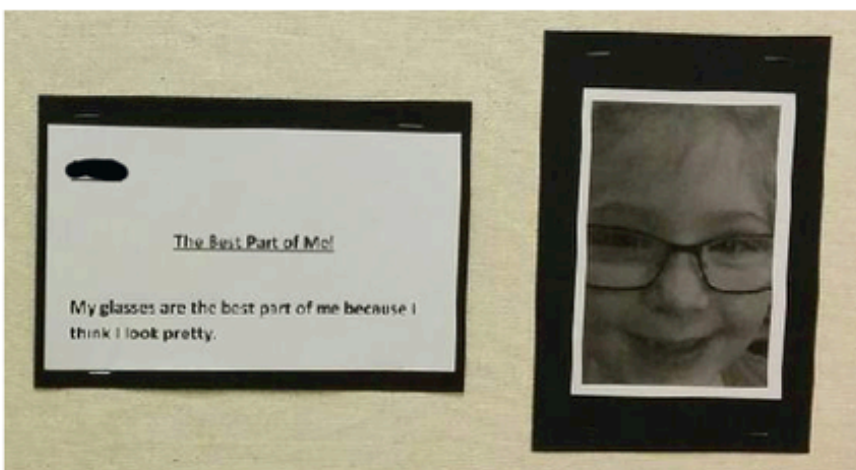
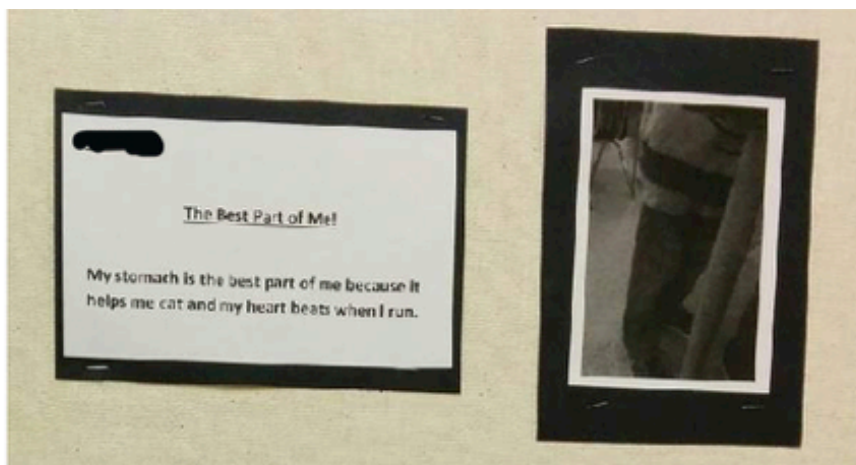
Another “Me” unit idea.....



The Best Part of Me

A book written and illustrated by
Wendy Ewald

Article submitted by Deanna Calder,
Grade One Teacher



Poetry and Writing:

Students choose which part of their body they like the best. Take a black and white photo to be combined with student write up about why they like that part of them the best. Mount their picture and their writing for a beautiful representation of the child.

mhikida@sd38.bc.ca

Inquiry-based learning is a dynamic and emergent process that builds on students' natural curiosity about the world in which they live. Inquiry places ideas at the center of the learning experience. Teachers using an inquiry-based approach encourage students to ask and genuinely investigate their own questions about the world. Teachers further facilitate students' learning by providing a variety of tools, resources, and experiences that enable learners to investigate, analyze, reflect, and rigorously discuss potential solutions to their own questions about a topic the class is studying.

(an excerpt from www.naturalcuriosity.ca)

Make lessons more student driven

-start with a question then explore the answers

-or use student generated questions to explore

Finishing a project-be sure to share the project as a group**Implementing Inquiry**

- Inquiry is an emergent process that builds on students' natural curiosity about the world in which they live.
- Inquiry places ideas at the center of the learning experience.
- Inquiry encourages students to ask and genuinely investigate their own questions about the world.
- Teachers facilitate students' learning by providing a variety of tools, resources, and experiences that enable learners to investigate, analyze, reflect, and rigorously discuss potential solutions to their own questions about a topic the class or they are studying. (www.naturalcuriosity.ca)

Types of inquiry**Structured Inquiry**

- The teacher determines the big ideas and part of what the students will come to understand.
- The teacher provides the guiding questions.
- The students will help create the plan and guide the inquiry with their questions, interests, ideas, analysis, reflections, and understandings.

Guided Inquiry

- The teacher comes up with the big idea or topic and the students and/or the teacher come up with the questions.
- The students are responsible for designing and following their own procedures to test the question and then communicate their results and findings.

Open Inquiry

- The students determine the purpose and formulate the questions.
- The students design the procedures, gather the materials and communicate their findings.
- The teacher facilitates supports, asks questions and redirects the investigation.

Creating a Place of Wonder

- Use objects to inspire wonder
- Find books that inspire wonder
- Use photos that inspire wonder
- Find websites that inspire wonder (e.g. *Wonderopolis* and *The Kids Should See This*)

Kinds of Wonder

- Wonders You Can Test (e.g. magnets)
- How to Wonders (I wonder how we do something?)
- Wonders from the Heart (not so much a science, but more poetic and heart oriented. e.g. How do I find a best friend?)
- Research Wonders (kid friendly websites for kids, search engine for kids-KidRex, QR codes)

Books to Inspire Wonders

I Wonder by Tana Toban

I Wonder by Annaka Harris

Questions, Questions by Marcus Pfister

Backyard by Donald Silver

Look Closely Through the Forest by Frank Serafini

Anna's Table by Eve Bunting

What Do You Do with an Idea? By Kobi Yamada

On a Beam of Light by Jennifer Berne

Question Boy Meets Little Miss Know-It-All by Peter Catalanotto

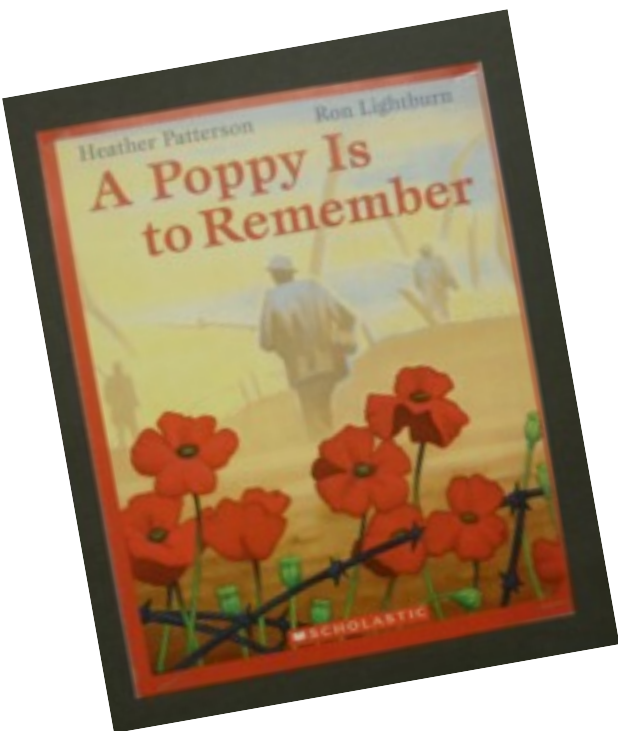
A Roomful of Questions by Tracy Gallup

Big Questions from Little People and Simple Answers from Great Minds compiled by Elwin Harris

Remembrance Day Art Projects



Students paint a blue and green wash for the background. Next, white paper crosses and poppies are added. Add black dots with a marker for the poppy centers.



These groups of poppies are made by finger printing with red paint for the petals and then using a finger and green paint to draw the stems. Again, use a black marker when dry to add the centers of the poppies.

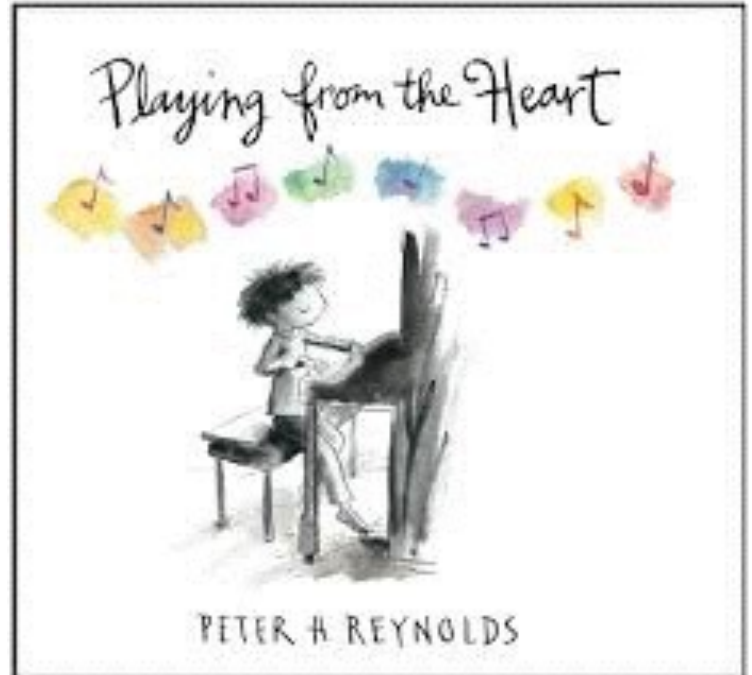


Submitted by Mike Cavin

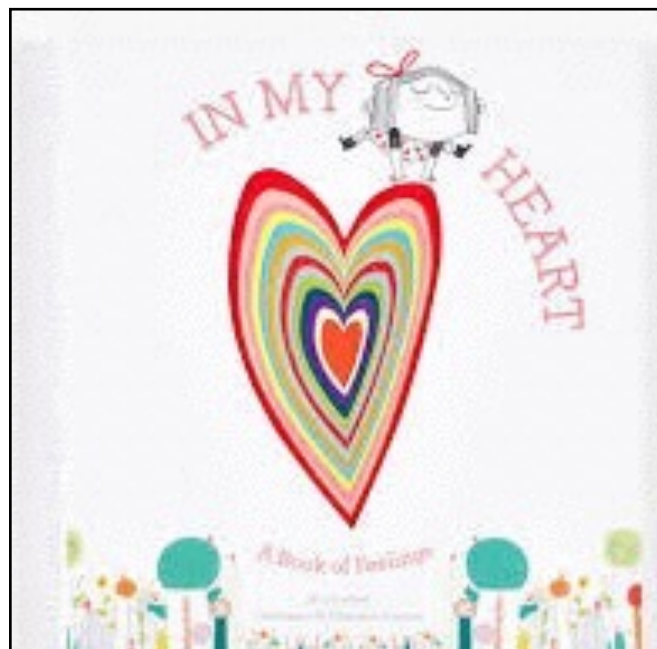
Great Books to Share about Feelings



By Justin Roberts



By Peter H. Reynolds



By Jo Witek

Recipe: Applesauce!

Save some of the apples from your apple activities or buy more to make applesauce. Discuss the irreversible change that occurred in the apples when heat was applied and compare to non-heated apples.

Easy applesauce recipe:

(cook in slow cooker if you have time or on stove for quicker cooking)

For every 2 apples add:

2 tbsp. lemon juice

2 tsp. sugar

2 pinches of cinnamon



2017 PSA Super Conference



With 25 Provincial Specialist Associations

Many Big Name Keynotes

300+ Breakout Sessions

Exhibits Hall

When: Friday, October 20, 2017
and

Saturday, October 21, 2017

Where: Vancouver Trade and
Convention Centre

See <https://www.psuperconference.ca/> for more information



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Educational Marketplace

- * Featuring Educational Resources and Services for Children of All Ages
- * Exhibits by Individuals, Groups, Organizations and Businesses
 - * Sponsored by the British Columbia Primary Teachers' Association

TRADEX - Abbotsford BC

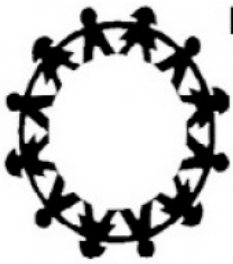
April 14, 2018

**Come and enjoy shopping and browsing
at a wide variety of booths**

Books, Toys, Publishers, Teaching Resources, Fine Arts,
Science, Physical Education, Health & Nutrition,
Community Opportunities and More

**Entrance Price: \$10.00 for ages 12 and up
Free for children under the age of 12**

If anyone is interested in being an Exhibitor, contact Trish at
trish-hands@hotmail.com for a Vendor's Application



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PLANNING THE BCPTA CONFERENCE

October 19, 2018

At the New Conference Facilities

Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond

Keynote Speaker: David Bouchard

David Bouchard believes Literacy is a basic human right!

*Moved by his Learnings he wrote "The Gift of Reading" and "For the Love of Reading"
For over 12 years David has been helping those who need direction or inspiration to become readers*

*He is well known for his motivational message on
"How to Teach Students to Love Reading" and "Become Lifelong Readers"*

The 2018 BCPTA Conference Program

Are you a new primary teacher?

Are you an experienced teacher new to teaching primary?

Are you an experienced Classroom Primary Teacher?

The 2018 BCPTA Conference is for you!

Find out "how to" put the new / revised curriculum into effect

Learn new easy to apply classroom ideas and strategies

The 2018 BCPTA Conference Program includes all this and more!

- Knowledgeable presenters will address the current curriculum
- Learn how to teach your students to love reading & become lifelong readers
- Take with you ways to enhance your work with ALL your students

Plan to attend the October 19, 2018 BCPTA Conference

Designed for All Educators in Primary Education!

Check the BCPTA Website for Announcements

Updated Information and Preregistration for the Conference Will Be Posted

www.bcpta.ca

Songs for Fall!!

I'm a Little Pumpkin

Tune of I'm a Little Teapot

I'm a little pumpkin
Orange and round.
Here is my stem,
I grew in the ground.
When I get all cut up,
Don't you shout!
Just open me up
And scoop me out!



5 Little Turkeys

5 little turkeys standing at the door.
I waddled off and then there were four.
4 little turkeys sitting near a tree.
I waddled off and then there were three.
3 little turkeys with nothing to do.
I waddled off and then there were two.
2 little turkeys in the morning sun.
I waddled off and then there were one.
1 little turkey better run away,
for soon it will be Thanksgiving Day!

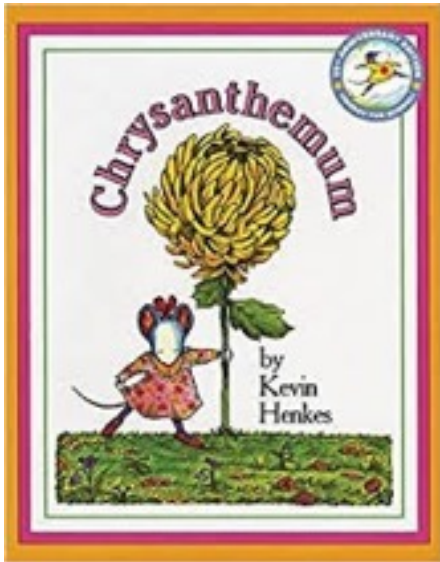
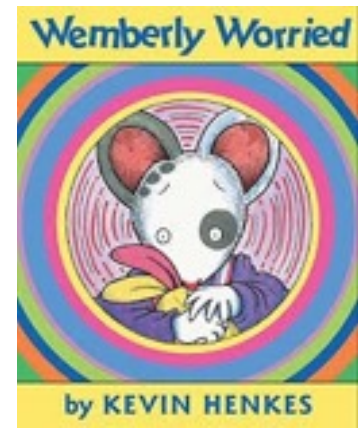
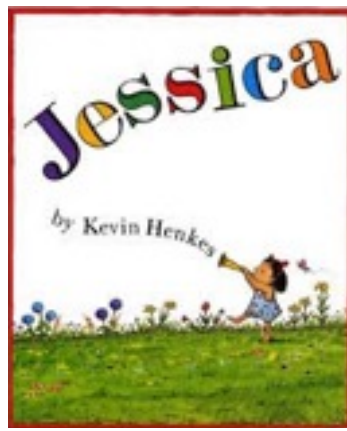


Cat Art!



These cats would be fun to do one afternoon when you need a quick Art idea. Students sponge painted the brick wall. While the paint dried, they completed a guided drawing of the cat on construction paper and then added buttons for eyes and pipe cleaners for whiskers. Once the cat was placed above the wall, they added background details with crayons.

Books By: Kevin Henkes



Years ago, a colleague of mine showed me these books and I've been sharing them with classes of all ages ever since. They deal with everyday issues kids face and incorporate humour that all ages can enjoy. He has several other titles that are wonderful too. Enjoy!

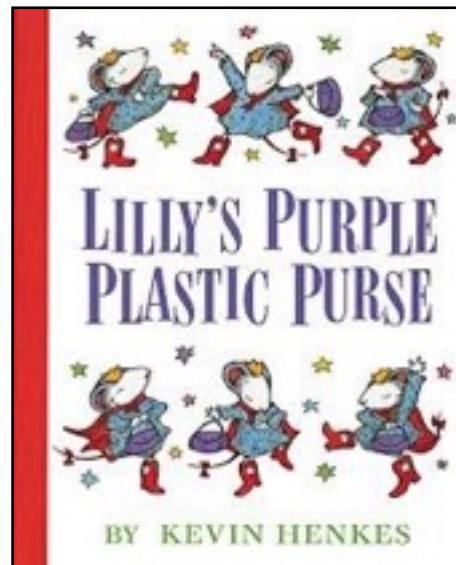
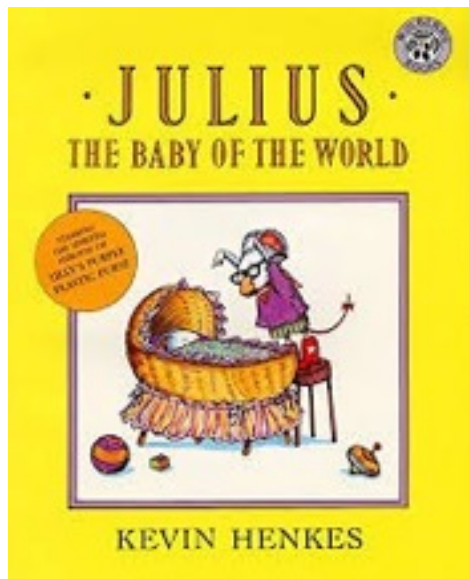
Chrysanthemum: about a girl who is teased about her name,

Jessica: about a girl with an imaginary friend and starting school.

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse: about what can happen when you bring toys to school.

Julius The Baby of the World: about dealing with a new sibling.

Wemberly Worried: about coping with anxiety.



WHY PLAY?

The BCPTA believes in the value of play in all learning. The following are highlights of a powerpoint presentation by Jennifer Yule at a Primary meeting in October 2016. This provides us with a good reminder of why we do what we do and a clear explanation for skeptics who ask.

What is Play, and *Why* is it Important?

- * Play-based learning is the inclusion of exploratory, and intentional play while participating in various learning activities.
- * It involves the active engagement between a child and their learning environment.
- * Research and evidence all point to the role of play in children's development and learning across cultures (Biermeier, 2015).
- * **The CMEC agrees with this position and believes that purposeful play-based learning sets the stage for future learning, health, and well-being.**

Benefits of Play

"Play is essential to development because it contributes to the cognitive, physical, social, and emotional well-being of children and youth"

(Ginsburg, 2013).

- * A **play based** program has many **benefits** for children as it facilitates the development of skills, dispositions and knowledge. As effective **play based** program can assist children to develop lifelong **learning** skills that will stay with them beyond the early **learning** environment (Cole, 2012).
- * Taking part in play based learning provides children with opportunities to interact with others, develop communication strategies and work in collaboration with peers and adults. It also enables children to use and develop thinking skills such as problem solving, reasoning and lateral thinking. It

The Teacher's Involvement

Despite what many think, following a play-based learning model does not limit or reduce the role of the adult in children's play.

- Teachers must actively seek out and chase the interests of the children. This kind of teaching environment demands a high degree of trust in the teacher's creative abilities, and envisions an image of the child as someone actively seeking knowledge (Biermeier, 2015).
- Flexible environments allow teachers to be responsive to the interests of the children, freeing them to construct knowledge together.

Teachers will:

- Interact with and observe children to gain insights into their interests, skills and knowledge
- Be responsive
- Seek information
- Create inviting play areas with open-ended materials
- Seek out resources
- Provide modeling and instruction when required (Cole, 2012)

Children's Involvement

Children learn from doing and experiencing, rather than rote memorization.

- * Children construct their own knowledge through a carefully planned curriculum that engages and builds upon the child's current knowledge, recognizing that knowledge cannot simply be provided for the child (Biermeier 2015).
- * When the teacher reflects on the children's interests and curiosities and incorporates them into the activities in the classroom, the learning environment is created via co-construction, and in turn meets the needs of the learners. Both the teacher and children are actively involved in the process.

Making Learning Visible

- * Documentation of student's learning plays an important role in play-based learning.
 - * Documentation methods can include scribing student's conversations, taking photos, or collecting artwork/writing pieces.
- * When students are actively engaged in play, the teacher is able to converse with them and promote high-level thinking by asking questions to further stimulate the learning that is taking place.

SUPPORTING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN MEANS THINKING **ABOUT THE WHOLE CHILD**

- **Society for Children and Youth of BC**

(These four categories can be found in a circle split into quadrants)

Emotional

- Encourage me.
- Help me accept others for who they are and to celebrate their differences.
- Let me try by myself, that's how I learn.
- Sometimes I need special help. Sometimes my family does too.
- I need at least 5 people in my life who are crazy about me. Are you one of those people?
- My feelings are real and matter.

Social

- Let me play. It's how I build social skills like sharing and problem solving.
- Ask me what I think when your choices affect me.
- Sometimes I like to play with dump trucks and sometimes I like to play with dolls, both are OK!
- Please treat me with dignity and respect. I understand these ideas and care about fairness and equality.

Intellectual

- Help me to think for myself.
- When you read with me it grows my mind for life.
- TV and video games can never give me the same language and social skills that you can.
- When my family is involved with my learning and education, it makes me a better learner.
- Help others make decisions that are in my best interest.
- We can teach each other new things.

Physical

- I need at least two hours of moving my body every day. Help me find times and places to run, jump, and go crazy! It's good for my body and brain.
- My body and mind need rest. Help me notice when I am ready for quiet time.
- Spending time in nature is good for me. IT heals me and makes me more creative.



WOULD YOU LIKE A FREE BOOK?

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

Book purchases are limited to \$40. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please email Sheila O'Grady at sheila.ogradey@sd5.bc.ca with:

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



Math Idea: Pumpkin Seed Math

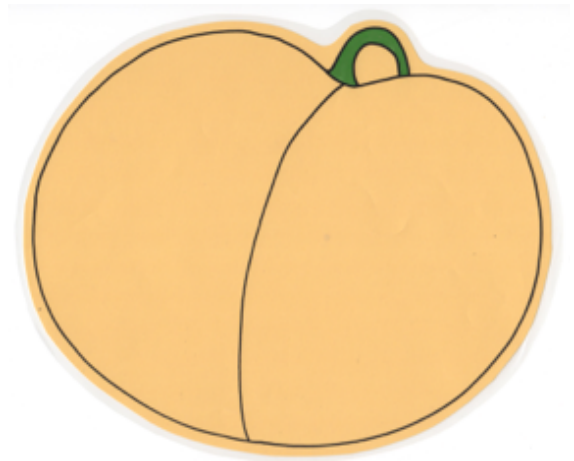
Materials

Pumpkin math mat (laminated bright orange paper)

Pumpkin seeds (dried seeds)

Math skill instructions

This mat can be used for developing math skills. Use number cards, dot cards, ten frame cards, or dice to determine what number of seeds should be placed on the sides of the mat. This can be a place value, addition/ subtraction, etc math activity. Make it what you want!



Math Idea: 100 Chart Games

Big Addition: The hundreds chart can be used to start kids adding numbers that would normally be too big for them to handle in normal calculations. Give a problem like $31 + 25$. Have kids put a counter on the first number. When adding a number bigger than 10, first add tens by moving the counter down that many places. From 31, kids would move down 2 rows, going from 31, to 41, to 51. Then look at the ones place (5) and move the counter to the right five times, counting: 52, 53, 54, 55, 56. $31 + 25 = 56$.

Big Subtraction: This is done just like Big Addition, but kids learn to start on the bigger number, move up by tens, and then move to the left by ones to solve subtraction problems.

TECHNOLOGY CORNER: BOOK CREATOR

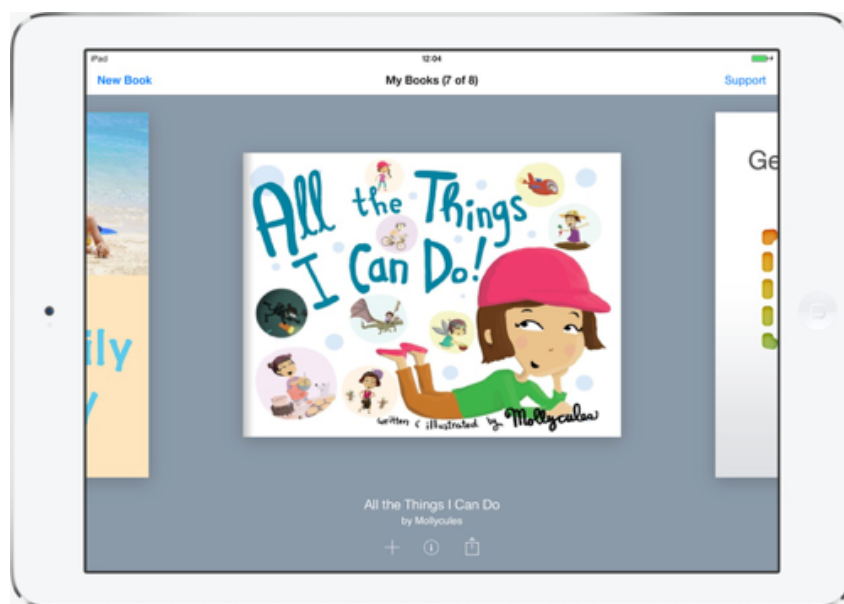


**Try it out for
FREE!!**

Create multimedia eBooks with *Book Creator*.

One of the best uses for the iPad in education is digital storytelling apps.

You can add text, images, video, audio and more. Choose from over 50 fonts, draw your own illustrations, and send your finished product to [iBooks](#), [Dropbox](#), or share by email.





Would You Like to Share a Teaching Idea?

We would love to hear from you! Tell us about an activity or lesson you have done with you students. It could be anything from a cool science experiment to a neat art project. Any subject area is fine! All you need to do is write it up as a word document and email it to us. If you would like to include a picture or two that would be great. We will do the formatting, so you don't have to worry about that! If you have any questions, just ask!

Submission Deadlines:

Spring Newsletter: Feb. 28th

Fall Newsletter: August 20th

Winter Newsletter: November 15th

Everyone who submits a teaching idea will automatically be entered to win a **\$25 Indigo Gift Card** each newsletter!!!

Winner from Spring 2017
Issue:
Lisa Scherr



Submit your ideas to Sheila O'Grady at:
sheila.ogradey@sd5.bc.ca

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



By becoming a member, you will be mailed 3 newsletters per year that are full of ideas you can use in your classroom immediately!

We also have a great up-to-date website for your convenience!

Upcoming events are:

2017 PSA Super Conference - October 2017 - Vancouver Convention Centre
Educational Marketplace - April 2018 - TRADEX Centre, Abbotsford, B.C.

BCPTA Primary Leadership Conference - October 2018 - Richmond, B.C.

How much does it cost to become a member?

The fee is \$45.00 annually

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.
- Looking at curriculum changes in relation to the Primary Program as new curriculums are introduced.
- Chapter support through annual grants for all registered chapters.
- Access to additional mini-grants for those chapters wishing to work on special projects and organize mini-conferences.
- Support in attending our Spring Event.

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 or email 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:

Marie Fanshaw



Annual BCPTA Chapter Registration Form

District Name _____

Name of Local Primary Association _____

President or contact person _____

Date of Election _____ for the term/year 2017-2018

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.

Registration forms must be received by Dec. 1st, 2017 in order to receive funding for this school year.

Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer or Second Contact

NAME _____

POSITION _____

HOME _____

HOME MAILING ADDRESS

_____ P.C. _____

TELEPHONE _____ (HOME) _____ (SCHOOL)

FAX _____ (HOME) _____ (SCHOOL)

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

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IN THE NEXT ISSUE.....

Coming to you in the
Winter 2018 issue!

Our next issue will be coming to you in January and it will contain some great ideas to use with your students. Look for it online at www.bcpta.ca and in your mailbox.

We encourage you to send us ideas, suggestions, or articles you wish to share. Email ideas to sheila.ogradey@sd5.bc.ca

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*Coding with
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