

APRIL 2021

THE WAVE

Salish Sea Environmental Educators
Provincial Specialist Association



SALISH SEA EEPSA

WELCOME!

Thank you for being a part of our growing movement of educators in SD 61, 62, 63 and 64 working to connect students to place. We are the local South Vancouver Island chapter of EEPSA (Environmental Educators Provincial Specialist Association). Thank you to all who entered our Share Your Story Challenge! Congrats to Patrick Gale, educator from SD 62 Edward Milne Community School.

Here is how Patrick engages students with the outdoors....

I love getting all of my classes outside! Our three main places for nature based learning; our school gardens, exploring nearby (walking distance) environments, and further (bus trip) unique ecosystems.

We garden year round, at times having Secondary students in Foods, Sustainability, Sciences, and other courses co-mentor our nearby Nature K. Growing what we harvest, prepare, eat, and share positively impacts physical and mental health while growing community and collaboration. We grow unique heirloom varieties and extend our seasons with our greenhouse and small orchard. We just finished harvesting citrus and have started planting trays for transplants in early Spring. We explore topics like Pollinators, seed saving, soils, nutrient cycles, composting, and others. Roughly 300 students are involved in our garden based learning annually.

Nearby, we are lucky to take foraging walks (we make tea and salves and such) and learn about local First Nations ethnobotany along the Galloping Goose and Sooke River. We remove invasives from local parks, explore intertidal life at the beach, and visit the salmon run and local small sustainable farms to discuss the connections between food systems and ecosystems.

Further abroad, we visit French Beach, Goldstream, and other parks to learn from local Elders, cook fish and seafood over fires with help from chefs, help to clean up beaches, and sometimes drum together and learn Coast Salish songs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April-May Canada's
Outdoor Learning Spring
Virtual Workshop Series
www.outdoorlearningstore.ca
a

Starting May 3rd The3 0
Day Walking Curriculum
Challenge
[Sign up Here](#)

May 6th:30pm-5pm
SSEEPSA Monthly Meeting-
all welcome

June SSEEPSA AGM Date
TBD

Ongoing- Sierra Club BC
Nature Drawing Webinars

SSEEPSA Exec
Committee
Chloe Faught- President
Kiersten Brookes- Vice
President
Joanna Linger- Treasurer
Lisa Lockerbie- Exec
Member/ Communications
Dayna Christ-Rowling-
Exec Member/ Pro-D
Lara Kremler- Exec
Member
Gillian Petrini- Secretary



EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT: Chloe Faught

Tell us about yourself:

*I am a 5th generation islander with a Geography and Biology degree along with my M.Ed in Secondary Education. I am also M.A candidate doing my Master's in Environmental Education and Communication and will be defending my thesis *Calling the Circle: A Personal Journey to Establish A Collaborative Professional Community of Environmental Educators Across Four Public School Districts in British Columbia*. This work follows my journey and desire to start the Salish Sea EEPsA Chapter and the key learnings that have emerged from the first year. I am so happy to have tapped into the network of similarly minded educators in Victoria and beyond through the work of EEPsA.*

What is one of your favourite days outside with students?

I have had some amazing field trip days at SNIDCELT/Tod Inlet. Led by Nikki Wright, SeaChange Marine Conservation Society has done some amazing restoration work of the inlet and surrounding lands and work is now continued by the WSANEC PEPÁKEN HÁUTW Foundation. I have been blessed to do a couple of walks with Nikki and elders where students learn the history of this amazing place, the indigenous practices surrounding some of the different trees and plants and how humans are now working to restore this sacred land (which was heavily polluted by the cement factory that was there). These experiences also provide a chance to be part of the restoration process.

Top tip/ game/ activity to do with students

Meeting A Tree Sensory activity (all ages, most comical and profound with middle to highschool students)

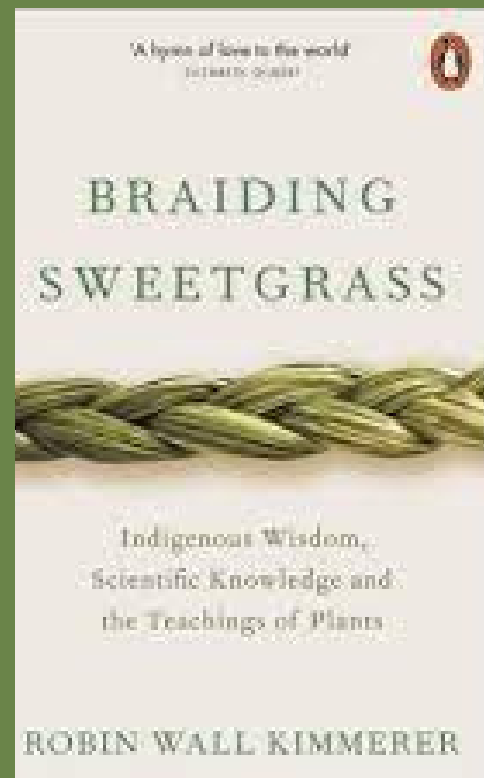
Favourite place (Vancouver Island and beyond...

Royal Roads Forest

Being a recent Royal Roads University graduate student I have re-discovered this beautiful forest.

BOOKS FROM THE FIELDS

Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer is a beautifully woven conversation about life, connection to the natural world and honouring ones identity and truths.



EEPSA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- Join BC's hub of environmental educators
- Green Teacher subscription (4x annually)
- Regular Pro-D Events
- Connected network of educators
- Annual Conference

JOIN US!



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