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BC Reggio-Inspired Mathematics Project

June 2021 Newsletter

**Welcome to the sixth of our monthly newsletters,
new for 2021!**

(for best viewing of images, open in your browser)

As we continue to nurture and grow this professional inquiry project, we welcome educators from across the world to join in our dialogue, our proposals and our collaboration.

[link to our blog](#)

In each newsletter, we intend to share an encounter with mathematics, introduce you to educators in our project and share recommended resources. We would love your suggestions as to what this newsletter can offer you.

Encounters with Symmetry

Although symmetry is not formally introduced in the BC mathematics curriculum until grade 4, younger students engage in thinking about shape, size, balance and patterns and develop spatial reasoning as they engage in thinking about symmetry. There are two types of symmetry: reflective or line symmetry and rotational symmetry. Where do you notice symmetry in the world around you? Invite students to investigate symmetry with the following questions:

- *Where can you find symmetry in plants, trees and flowers? Can you find examples of symmetry that involve shape and those that involve quantity?*
- *Many animals have bilateral symmetry. What animals can you observe that have symmetry? How does this affect how they move?*
- *How could you record or keep track of the different examples of symmetry you find?*

- *Can you create something symmetrical using loose parts and natural or art materials?*
- *Where do you notice symmetry in art or structures? Study some art from a local Indigenous artist - where can you find symmetry?*
- *What do you wonder? What might you investigate next to help you understand the world around you?*



Assessment questions to consider: Are students able to identify items that have symmetry and describe them with mathematics language? Are students able to create symmetrical designs or constructions? How do students "check" to see if something is symmetrical - compare shapes, pattern or quantity? Do students make connections and ask questions about symmetry? What connections are your students making that might inspire further investigation and inquiry?



Spatial Reasoning Spark

This month on Twitter, the spatial reasoning “spark” we share for students is looking for shapes outdoors and then considering how the shapes and forms they find are the same and different as geometric shapes.

An extension to this spark is to look at the shape and forms in art created by local Indigenous artists. Different cultures use different shapes and forms. What connections are you making? What do you think inspires the shapes found in art? Can you find these shapes outdoors? What can you find out about some common shapes found in art by local Indigenous artists?

Spatial reasoning is an essential area of mathematics that is embedded in the big ideas and curricular content and competencies in our BC mathematics curriculum.



Educator Profile

This month we feature Annie Simard. Annie is currently an intermediate French Immersion teacher in the Vancouver School District. She tweets at @annieteaches and her Instagram account is

@annietheteacher



Annie's thoughts on the impact of our professional collaborative inquiry project: *Being part of this Reggio-inspired project has encouraged me to shift to a more student-centered approach. The educators I have met over the past few years are so creative, real and inspiring. I am learning to slow down, to go deeper, and to wonder and learn with the kids. My teaching is more emergent as a result. I've also started giving kids more space so that they can take on initiatives of their own and feel that their voice matters.*

Recommended Resources

In honour of National Indigenous History Month and Indigenous Peoples' Day on June 21, we share three resources that connect mathematics with Indigenous perspectives, worldviews, knowledge and teachings.

- One Eagle Soaring by Roy Henry Vickers and Robert Budd
- Animals of the Salish Sea by Garfinkel Publications
- FNEESC Math First Peoples Teacher Resource Guide (updated 2020 version) available to download as a free pdf [HERE](#).

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