

STRONGSTART BC Early Learning Centers

StrongStart Closures

Oct 14- Thanksgiving Day

Oct 16- CP4YC

Oct 25- NI Day

Oct 31- Admin Day

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION SESSION

Monday, October 21

New Westminster Secondary School Theater

820 Sixth Street New Westminster

- Doors open at **6:30 p.m.**
- Presentation begins at **7 p.m.**

New Westminster Schools cordially invites parents/guardians of children entering kindergarten in September 2025 to attend our Kindergarten Information Session.

WELCOME TO OUR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

At the heart of our classroom is intentionality and care. When we create learning spaces for children to thrive, it's not just about the physical setup or the availability of resources; it's about fostering a culture that encourages questioning, belonging and creativity. It means designing environments that celebrate diversity, encourage collaboration, and respect each child's unique way of understanding the world.



Play is the platform for learning from birth into adulthood and it is the main vehicle for inspired learning

Ileana Neilson, Manager Early Learning and Child Care, New Westminster Schools

Happening

THIS MONTH

Connaught Heights StrongStart

Oct 1 Dental information session

Oct 2 Kinsight consultant

Oct 8 CCRR consultant

Oct 24 BCAA car seat information session

Oct 28 Librarian visit

Queensborough StrongStart

Oct 3 Dental information session

Oct 7 SFU Language Lab Child

Oct 9 Library

Oct 11 Kinsight

Oct 17 CCRR consultant

Oct 22 Dental Hygiene Practitioner

Skwo: wech StrongStart

Oct 2 Kinsight consultant

Oct 4 Flouride Varnish Clinic

Oct 7 CCRR consultant

Oct 23 SFU Language Lab

Oct 29 Librarian

Reading Together

October is a great month to introduce seasonal books to your child. Reading stories about fall, seasons, family gatherings and celebrations can enhance their language skills while sparking their imagination. Make it a habit to read together daily, even for just a few minutes.

September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

is an opportunity to listen, open discussions, honour survivors, and engage in acts of reconciliation, Adding the following books to your collection to read with your child is a great way to invite conversations with young children about truth and reconciliation as well as to celebrate the rich histories and cultures of Indigenous peoples in Canada. Enjoy this list of books, compiled by Barbara Johnston, managing editor of the Early Childhood Educator, also featured in the most recent Journal publication, summer 2024.

Uplifting quote + song that illuminates:

"This we know: the earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself." ~ Chief Seattle



Inspiring song: "Pour que tu m'aimes encore" Celine Dion



Kindergarten Information Session

Monday, October 21

New Westminster Secondary School Theatre

820 Sixth Street
New Westminister

- Doors open at **6:30 p.m.**
- Presentation begins at **7 p.m.**

Kindergarten registration

- Opens – Monday,
November 4, 2024
- Closes – Friday, January
31, 2025

New Westminster Schools cordially invites parents/guardians of children entering kindergarten in September 2025 to attend our Kindergarten Information Session.

To join this **in-person, adult-only** event, please submit your RSVP no later than **Friday, October 11** at:

<https://newwestschools.ca/kindergarten2025>

Visit our booths and speak to school representatives to learn more about our programs. We will also share information on how to register for kindergarten and what to expect.

If you cannot attend our session, you can watch the event at <https://www.youtube.com/@NewWestminsterSchools> when we post the recording.

We hope to see you there.

Kindergarten Information Session
Monday, October 21 7pm New
West Secondary School Theater



NEWESTSCHOOLS.CA

School Board Office, School District No 40
811 Ontario Street, New Westminister, BC
T 604 517 6240 | E info@sd40.bc.ca

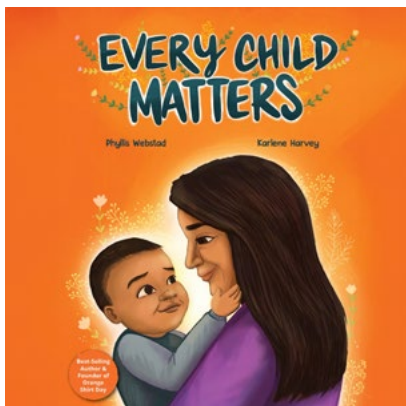
 @NewWestSchools
 @NewWestSchools

 New
Westminister
Schools

Children's Books on Truth and Reconciliation

With the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation coming up on September 30, we wanted to share some of our favourite picture books about residential schools and reconciliation. These books help introduce young children to the meaning behind Orange Shirt Day and residential schools, reconciliation, and the importance of remembering and honouring the experiences of Indigenous people in Canada. All books are by Indigenous authors and have been recommended by librarians and Indigenous educators.

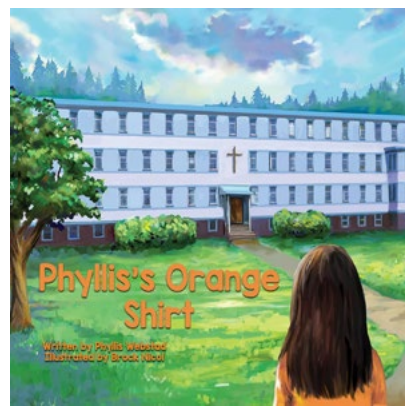
Barbara Johnston



Every Child Matters
by Phyllis Webstad, illustrated by
Karlene Harvey

This beautiful and empowering picture book shares the meaning behind the phrase “Every Child Matters.” Phyllis Webstad, the founder of Orange Shirt Day, has an important message: “If you’re a Residential School Survivor or an Intergenerational Survivor—you matter. For the children who didn’t make it home—you matter. The child inside every one of us matters. Every Child Matters.”

Recommended for ages 4 and up



Phyllis's Orange Shirt
by Phyllis Webstad, illustrated by
Brock Nicol

This book tells the story of Phyllis Webstad, who, as a young girl, wore a brand new orange shirt from her grandmother on her first day at a residential school, only to have it taken away from her. Her story is the inspiration behind Orange Shirt Day, which honours the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada. This book was adapted from Phyllis's book *The Orange Shirt Story*, which was written for older children.

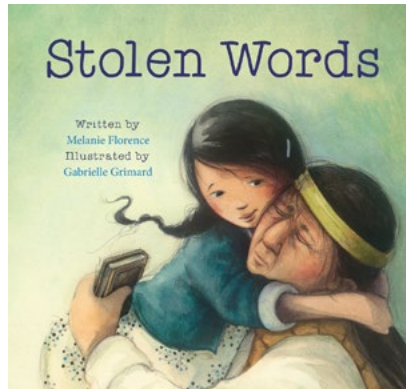
Recommended ages: 3–6 years



When We Were Alone
by David A. Robertson, illustrated
by Julie Flett

Through the eyes of a young girl and her grandmother, this book delicately explains the history and impact of residential schools. The grandmother shares stories with her granddaughter about her past, highlighting how Indigenous children were taken away and how they found ways to hold on to their identity. The story is both sensitively told and beautifully illustrated. This book is also available in a bilingual Swampy Cree/English edition.

Recommended ages: 4–8 years



Stolen Words

by Melanie Florence, illustrated by Gabrielle Grimard

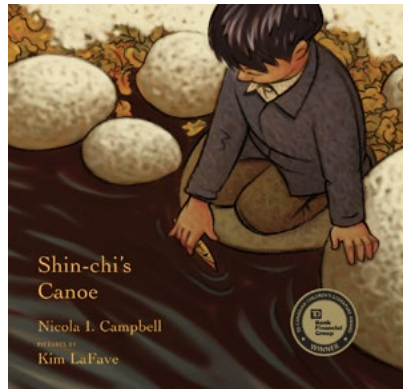
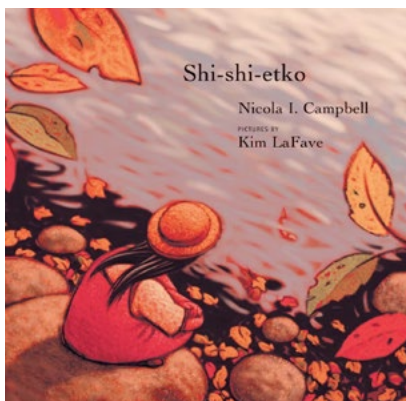
This book tells the story of a little girl who helps her grandfather regain his lost Cree language, which was taken from him during his time at a residential school. It's a gentle introduction to the impact of residential schools and the importance of language and cultural preservation.

Recommended ages: 5–7 years

Shi-shi-etko

by Nicola Campbell, illustrated by Kim LaFave

Shi-shi-etko is a young girl who has four days before she leaves home for residential school. Her family has many teachings to share with her, about her culture and the land. The story follows Shi-shi-etko as she absorbs the world around her and collects a “bag of memories” at



the instruction of her grandmother. But she doesn't take the memories with her. Instead she buries them under a tree, for safekeeping while she is gone.

Also by Nicola Campbell is the follow-up book *Shi-chi's Canoe*.

Recommended ages: 4–8 years

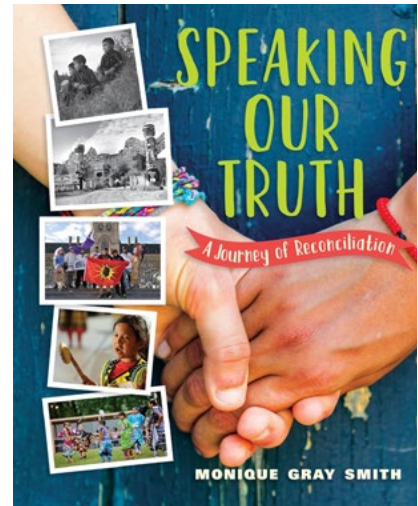
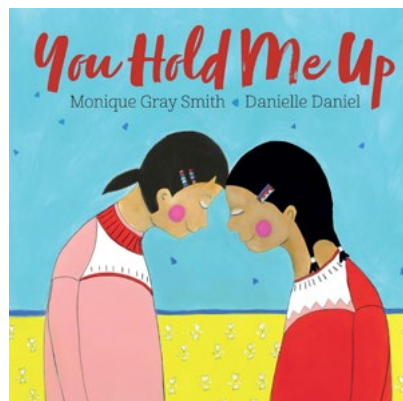
You Hold Me Up

by Monique Gray Smith, illustrated by Danielle Daniel

This book focuses on themes of reconciliation, building relationships, and supporting one another. It encourages children to show love and support for each other and consider each other's well-being in their every day actions.

Recommended ages: 3–5

Barbara Johnston is the managing editor of The Early Childhood Educator and a partner with West Coast Editorial Associates.



Speaking Our Truth: A Journey of Reconciliation by Monique Gray Smith

While this non-fiction book by Monique Gray Smith is recommended for ages 9 to 12, I think it's also a great resource for educators. The book examines the residential school system and explains their traumatic and lasting impact on Indigenous people. It gives the topic a human face with stories of adults and children who have been affected by the residential school system in a variety of ways. Written in a very engaging way, the book has many photos and illustrations, along with text boxes that explain complex terms and ideas. The book also explores paths to allyship and reconciliation, and it addresses themes of healing, resilience, and the importance of understanding and acknowledging historical injustices. It ultimately emphasizes the need for empathy, respect, and dialogue in the journey toward reconciliation.

Ages 9 and up.



National Day of Truth and Reconciliation and Teaching Pow Wow

September 30 2024

“Healing Through Understanding”

**Location Change
Queens Park**

New Westminster 12:00 - 4:00 pm

Food trucks and vendors

Please bring your own water bottle and chairs

Please wear an orange shirt!

newwestcity.ca/truth-and-reconciliation

<https://sotcs.ca>

