



Garden Valley Teachers' Association

The Apple Core

Oct 2022

Upcoming Events

Oct. 19- Early Dismissal
Oct. 19- GVTA Pres visits PRS
Oct. 20- GVTA Pres visits ECS
Oct. 20- GVSD Trustee Candidates Forum- ECS @ 7pm
Oct. 21- MTS PD Day
Oct. 22- Presidents' Council
Oct. 24- GVTA Pres visits PDS
Oct. 25- Regional Presidents' Meeting
Oct. 26- GVTA Pres visits JRW
Oct. 26- GVSD Trustee and Municipal Election Day
Oct. 27- GVTA Pres visits PLS
Oct. 28- GVTA Pres visits HES and SWD
Oct. 31- GVTA Pres visits WES
Nov. 1- GVTA Executive Meeting
Nov. 2- ESJ Book Club
Nov. 4/5- PD Chair Seminar
Nov. 5- WS&H Seminar
Nov. 11- Remembrance Day
Nov. 15- PD Committee Meeting
Nov. 18- K-8 Admin Day/9-12 PD Day
Nov. 18- CBSC
Nov. 18/19- Indigenous Education Seminar
Nov. 25/26- Equity and Social Justice Seminar
Nov. 26- Holodomor Memorial Day
Nov. 29- Regional Presidents' Meeting
Nov. 30- Final day for resignations and retirements for January

Hello GVTA Members,

I believe in civic engagement and that with reliable information and varied choices, our democratic society can meet the needs of our community. While many decisions that impact education in Manitoba are made provincially, there are still a number of decisions on policy and its application made by our local school board. Nine of the candidates running for GVSD school board trustee will impact the rules, policies, and hiring decisions for the division. I encourage all of you eligible to vote on October 26 to inform your vote by visiting [GVSD Trustee Election 2022 – GVteach.org](https://gvteach.org), by attending the public forum on October 20 at 7:00pm at Emerado Centennial School, and then to vote on election day.

After a full throttle September, I have greatly appreciated being able to visit some schools and connect with members in October. While there are certainly some growing pains that come with a doubling of class sizes, wider ranges of differentiated instruction, and the introduction of over 300 students since June, I have been encouraged by seeing the strong connections between staff and the general comradery in the schools and sites that I have visited. One way of reflecting this sentiment is that I am thankful for the growth in our division. I am thankful that our substitutes now have divisional emails and logins (a long-time point of advocacy from GVTA) and that we will soon be shifting to a sub scheduling system that does not create an undue amount of workload for principals and resource teachers trying to use the system. I am thankful for GVTA policy changes that have allowed for more meaningful interactions with new teachers. I am thankful for teachers willing to stand up for safe and caring school environments by supporting all their students. I am thankful the board recently updated their Code of Conduct policy to ensure our education system in Garden Valley must be held to a higher ethical standard including the explicit commitment to advance reconciliation through concrete and constructive partnerships with Indigenous peoples.

As we head into MTS PD Day this Friday, I hope that all of you have a great day of learning and connecting with one another.

In Solidarity,

Mike Urichuk

204-573-6214

GVTApres@mbteach.org

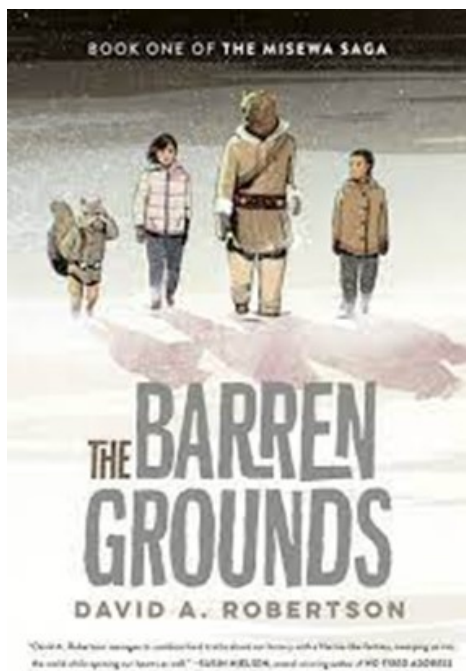
Book Club: Equity and Social Justice

By: Val Harder

Our first book for the 2022-2023 ESJ book club.

The Barren Grounds by David A. Robertson

From Amazon.ca:



Narnia meets traditional Indigenous stories of the sky and constellations in an epic middle grade fantasy series from award-winning author David Robertson.

Morgan and Eli, two Indigenous children forced away from their families and communities, are brought together in a foster home in Winnipeg, Manitoba. They each feel disconnected, from their culture and each other, and struggle to fit in at school and at their new home -- until they find a secret place, walled off in an unfinished attic bedroom. A portal opens to another reality, Askí, bringing them onto frozen, barren grounds, where they meet Ochek (Fisher). The only hunter supporting his starving community, Misewa, Ochek welcomes the human children, teaching them traditional ways to survive. But as the need for food becomes desperate, they embark on a dangerous mission. Accompanied by Arik, a sassy Squirrel they catch stealing from the trapline, they try to save Misewa before the icy grip of winter freezes everything -- including them.

We are reading the first half of this middle grade novel for our upcoming

book club – November 2.

There is still room available If you would like to join! Email Val (Valerie.harder@gvsvd.ca) or Melanie (melanie.urichuk@gvsvd.ca) so we can send you your copy of the book!

Indigenous Reads for Your Classroom

By: Karla Rootsaert

Early Years:



Coyote Tales by Thomas King

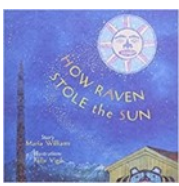
This beginning chapter book includes two trickster tales about Coyote - Coyote Sings to the Moon and Coyote's New Suit. Both stories are humorous and told with poetic language.

Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox by Danielle Daniel

In this introduction to the Anishinaabe tradition of totem animals, young children explain why they identify with different creatures such as a deer, beaver or moose.



Garden Valley Teachers' Association members work on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, and the homeland of the Métis nation. GVTA respects the Treaties that were made on this territory.



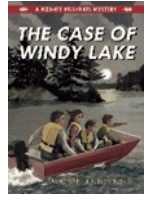
How Raven Stole the Sun by Maria Williams

This picture book tells a traditional Tlingit story about Raven, why he stole the sun, and why his feathers are black. The illustrations intend to convey a sense of the traditional life of the North-west Coast peoples.

Middle Years:

Mighty Muskrats Mystery Series by Michael Hutchinson

This series follows the adventures of four cousins from the fictional Windy Lake First Nation. In addition to solving mysteries, they learn more about themselves and their Indigenous community.



The Misewa Saga by David A. Robertson

A fantasy series about two indigenous children who discover a portal at their foster home to another world with talking animal beings who connect them to traditional ways. Misewa is Cree for “all that is”. The first book in the series is *The Barren Grounds*.

Forever Birchwood by Daniella Daniel

Set in a northern mining town, *Forever Birchwood* follows four girls who set out to protect the town’s trees and environment. Can the girls save the forest from developers?



Young Adult:

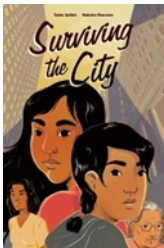
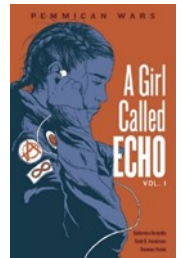


The Marrow Thieves by Cherie Dimaline

A dystopian science fiction novel where humanity has lost the ability to dream. The key to recovering it lies in the bone marrow of Indigenous people of North America.

A Girl Called Echo series by Katherena Vermette

This four-book series tells the story of Metis teenager Echo Desjardins, as she struggles to adjust to a new school, and a new home in foster care. Echo is able to discover her Metis heritage firsthand as she slips back and forth through time to the Red River Resistance, the Pemmican Wars, and more.



Surviving The City series by Tasha Spillett

Miikwan and Dez are best friends, trying their best to navigate the challenges of growing up in an urban landscape. These graphic novels are set in Winnipeg and cover contemporary Indigenous issues, including missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Social & Teacher Wellness

By: Brenda Richer & Brandy Springer



Fall is in the air! Most of us are settled back into our routines and starting to make great progress with our students (or so we hope!). We hope you have the chance to get out and explore some pumpkin patches, corn mazes and local hiking trails that the region has to offer before the dreaded snow decides to grace us with its presence. As always if you have an idea or suggestion for our committee, please feel free to reach out at any time.

Pumpkin Soup



Ingredients

- Pumpkin or Butternut Squash (2lb)
- 1 yellow onion, sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled
- 3 cups vegetable or chicken broth
- 1 cup water
- Salt & pepper (to taste)
- ½ to ¾ cup cream (half and half or milk)

Instructions

1. Cut the pumpkin into 3cm slices. Cut the skin off and scrape seeds out. Cut into 4cm chunks.
2. Place the pumpkin, onion, garlic, broth and water in a pot - liquid won't quite cover all the pumpkin. Bring to a boil, uncovered, then reduce heat and let simmer rapidly until pumpkin is tender (check with butter knife) - about 10 minutes.
3. Remove from heat and use a stick blender to blend until smooth.
4. Season to taste with salt and pepper, stir through cream (never boil soup after adding soup, cream will split).
5. Ladle soup into bowls, drizzle over a bit of cream, sprinkle with pepper and parsley if desired. Serve with crusty bread!

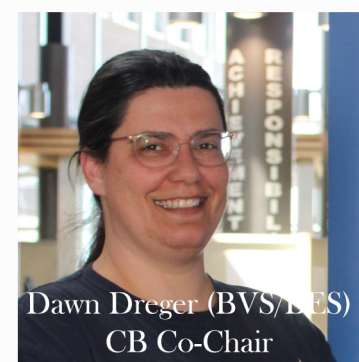
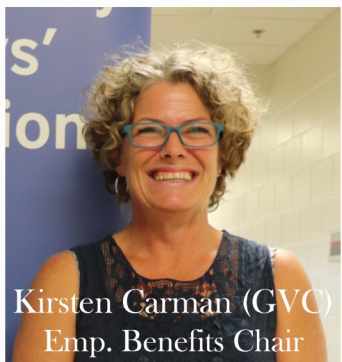
Notice of Policy Change

At the next GVTA executive meeting the following policy changes will be discussed and are expected to pass. If you would like to speak to any of the policy listed below, please contact gvtapres@mbteach.org.

Proposed policy changes are as follows:

Policy Title	Description
President Mileage Reimbursement (Codifying existing practice)	<p>The roundtrip from the President's home to their normal work location is not reimbursable mileage. Mileage in excess of one roundtrip between the employee's home and the normal work location will be reimbursed at the Canada Revenue Agency's current reasonable per-kilometre allowance rate.</p> <p>In the case where the President's normal work location is their home, their normal work location for determining mileage is the work location that they were assigned prior to becoming President. In the case where the President was not previously assigned to a set location, the GVSD Division Office will be the normal work location used for determining mileage. To determine the not reimbursable roundtrip for a President with more than one normal work location, the not reimbursable roundtrip mileage shall be calculated from the first work location attended that day. When the President must temporarily utilize a different normal work location, mileage will be reimbursed in excess of the normal mileage between the employee's home and the regular work location.</p>

2022-2023 GVTA EXECUTIVE



Please feel free to contact local executive members
using their divisional email address
<firstname.lastname@gvtd.ca>
or contact the GVTA President
at gvtapres@mbteach.org

