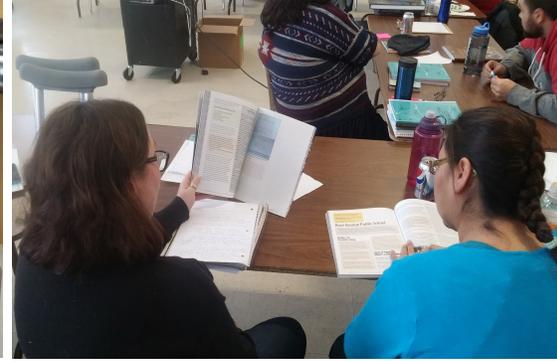




Professional Inquiry with Natural Curiosity at Christian Island Elementary School



Charity Caluori (Grade 7/8 Teacher):

"The Professional Development with Haley & Natural Curiosity was inspirational as her objective to "get students outside for the sake of going outside" was so motivating, I was immediately thinking of ways to take advantage of our environment here on Christian Island. Within weeks after the PD, my students and I engaged in a day-long hike where many opportunities stemming around environmental inquiry have piqued my students interest in protecting and exploring the habitat that surrounds them. I also found the Natural Curiosity text a helpful resource as it has many exemplars ranging across all grade levels and plenty of visuals. Miigewech, Haley!"

Sara Jamieson (SERT):

Thoughts on the Environmental Inquiry:

"As a classroom teacher last year, the first PD session we had on environmental inquiry had many ideas going through my head and taking part in the visit to the Lab School was certainly more food for thought on how we could transform our classroom practices. I enjoyed the opportunity to hear from Haley first hand about environmental inquiry and particularly liked the knowledge building circle that our staff took part in. As can often be expected, I suppose, it brought up many ideas from staff on ways that we could use the inquiry process and what it might help us achieve as a school. We, at Christian Island Elementary School, have an abundance of opportunities and nature to use as our platforms for launching this type of learning and I have seen it work with a number of students. It proves to me that allowing our students to have more opportunities to get outside is beneficial but also that we as teachers need to rethink our practice and to use the inquiry process to support our student learning - in particular using the environment as a starting point. Being a First Nations school, the environment is also an important part of our culture to take into consideration when informing our teaching practice and I think environmental inquiry is a perfect way to engage students in their learning."

Natasha Noganosh (EA):

"I felt inspired by the Environmental Inquiry PD. As an EA I work to support students one on one, or in small groups on a daily basis, and keeping the students engaged can be a challenge, at times. The framework and strategies Haley shared helped me to see how we could start an inquiry project, guided by student curiosity and questions. The week after our PD workshop with Natural Curiosity I started an independent environmental inquiry with one of the students I support each day. He was excited for the opportunity to choose the topic and he was really engaged in the learning as we found answers to the questions he came up with. This student stayed engaged for longer than his usual routine, he was very proud of his work, and showcased what he had learned at the end of his independent environmental inquiry project. It was wonderful to see his interested peaked through the environment around us."

