

NORTH VANCOUVER TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

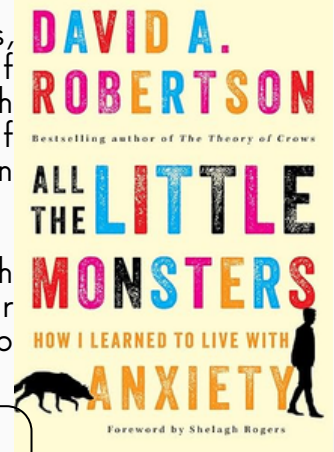
Distict-Wide ProD Day

MAY 4, 2026 CARSON GRAHAM SECONDARY SCHOOL

SPECIAL GUEST: AUTHOR, DAVID A. ROBERTSON

Through various stages of work over almost two decades, storytelling has become a clear path to healing. This is true of Indigenous representation, but it has proven true with mental health conditions. The journey towards this realization, and the journey of mental health itself, has not only helped the healing process but, in openness through lived experience, has helped others to heal.

This presentation is a discussion of one person's mental health experience, from living with it to sharing it, focussing on a memoir that documents that journey but also reflects the experience of so many others.



REGISTER ON BOOKING CENTRAL BY APRIL 24, 2026



SCHEDULE

8:30	Coffee/Tea
9:00-10:15	Special Guest: David A. Roberston
10:15-10:45	Refreshment break
10:45-12:15	Workshops

David A. Robertson is a two-time Governor General's Literary Award winner and has won the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award and the Writers' Union of Canada Freedom to Read Award. He has received several other accolades for his work as a writer for children and adults, podcaster, public speaker, and social advocate. He was honoured with a Doctor of Letters from the University of Manitoba in 2023 and a Doctor of Laws from the University of Lethbridge in 2025. He is a member of Norway House Cree Nation and lives in Winnipeg.

NORTH VANCOUVER TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

District-Wide ProD Day

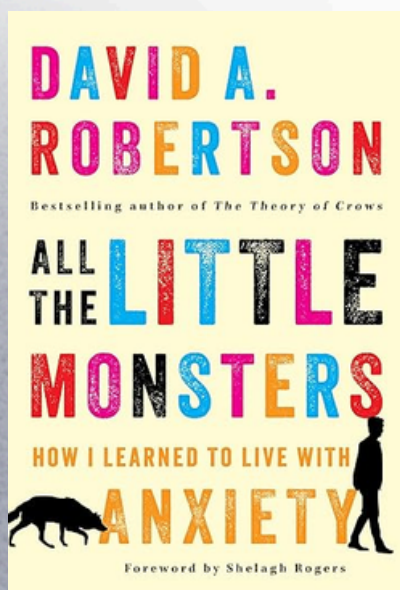
MAY 4, 2026 CARSON GRAHAM SECONDARY SCHOOL

REGISTER ON BOOKING CENTRAL BY APRIL 24, 2026

9:00-10:15 AM SPECIAL GUEST: DAVID A. ROBERTSON

Through various stages of work over almost two decades, storytelling has become a clear path to healing. This is true of Indigenous representation, but it has proven true with mental health conditions. The journey towards this realization, and the journey of mental health itself, has not only helped the healing process but, in openness through lived experience, has helped others to heal.

This presentation is a discussion of one person's mental health experience, from living with it to sharing it, focussing on a memoir that documents that journey but also reflects the experience of so many others.



David A. Robertson is a two-time Governor General's Literary Award winner and has won the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award and the Writers' Union of Canada Freedom to Read Award. He has received several other accolades for his work as a writer for children and adults, podcaster, public speaker, and social advocate. He is a member of Norway House Cree Nation and lives in Winnipeg.

10:45-12:15

MORNING SESSION @ CARSON

POWER OF GRAPHIC NOVELS IN THE CLASSROOM

PRESENTER: DAVID A. ROBERTSON

Intended Audience: 4-7; 8-12

Workshop Description: Graphic novels are an increasingly popular and effective tool for the classroom. Students love them because they're visual, engaging, and simply "cool." Teachers love them because they exercise critical thinking skills, communicate complex ideas and issues, and can engage even the most reluctant of readers. Join David Robertson, author of the bestselling books *The Life of Helen Betty Osborne*, *Sugar Falls: A Residential School Story*, and the *7 Generations* series, as he discusses how his graphic novels are being used in schools across Canada and bringing Aboriginal history to new audiences.

STORYTELLING X WORKSHOP ON AFROFUTURISM AND INNOVATION

PRESENTER: ETHOS LAB

Intended Audience: 4-7; 8-12

Workshop Description: This session includes a brief presentation on how Ethos Lab embeds inclusion and leverages Afrofuturistic storytelling to foster youth innovation, followed by an interactive workshop exploring strategies for integrating STEAM into the classroom. We will also showcase our Atlanthos Box Platform, a tool we deliver in schools to enhance STEAM learning experiences. Ethos Lab Educational Society recently published its *Cultural Canon*, which serves as the foundation of our organizational culture and fuels speculative innovation and world-building, creating greater accessibility to STEAM.

MANAGING CONFLICT

**PRESENTER: AMANDA FORSTBAUER-BOURRIE,
TAMI NICHOLSON**

Intended Audience: General NVTA

Workshop Description: Conflict is inevitable in groups, but it does not need to cause division and animosity if it is managed effectively. This workshop gives participants an insight into their own conflict management styles, and gives some practice in effective conflict management and communication skills. The workshop also provides information about the mediation services available from the BCTF. This workshop is not conflict resolution, but conflict management, focusing on skills to ensure that conflicts do not escalate.

FROM CHAOS TO CALM: ROUTINES THAT BUILD REGULATION AND ENGAGEMENT IN SECONDARY CLASSROOMS

PRESENTER: EMILY MCWILLIAM

Intended Audience: 8-12

Workshop Description: The secondary classroom is growing increasingly complex, leaving teachers to navigate challenging student needs while trying to maintain rigorous academic learning. This workshop explores how strong classroom relationships, supportive routines, and a positive classroom climate can make teaching easier and learning more effective. Drawing on research from CASEL (Collective for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning) we will look at practical ways to integrate social skill building and regulation directly into academic instruction—without adding more to your plate. Teachers will leave with concrete routines and approaches that strengthen everyday teaching practices so classrooms become calmer and more focused learning spaces.

PUBERTY, CRUSHES, AND SURVIVING HEALTH EDUCATION IN ELEMENTARY

PRESENTER: JESSY WOLLEN

Intended Audience: 4-7; 8-12

Workshop Description: Teaching health education in the elementary years can feel daunting, especially as topics like puberty, crushes, body image, and media influence emerge earlier than many educators expect. This practical workshop supports teachers and administrators by modeling easy to teach lessons using engaging tools to help guide students through these pivotal years. Participants will explore ways to respond to common questions about changing bodies, friendships, crushes and big feelings while fostering a respectful and inclusive classroom environment.

Participants will leave feeling more comfortable to speak about puberty and support students in navigating the drama that can consume the classroom at these ages and stages.

RE-IMAGINING MASCULINITIES IN SCHOOLS

PRESENTER: BRIAN DEAN WILLIAMS

Intended Audience: 4-7; 8-12

Workshop Description:

This 3-hour workshop runs from 10:45-12:15 and 1:15-2:45

Dominant forms of masculinity harm boys by training them to follow unspoken but often strict guidelines on what it means to be a boy and a man. These involve a limited range of permissible emotional expression, rewards for violence, and punishments for not adhering to gender norms. Some of these tendencies have been amplified in recent years online by the so-called "Manosphere."

In this interactive workshop, we will explore how boys are being impacted by this messaging, how this influences behaviors in classrooms, and how we can support boys in decolonizing masculinity by teaching critical thinking skills, and supporting more flexible forms of masculinity. How can we support more authentic, prosocial, and uplifting expressions of self, in support of healthier schools and communities? Let's explore these themes together.

TEACHING AND ASSESSING FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY SKILLS IN GRADE 1

PRESENTER: ASHLEY PULICE

Intended Audience: K-3

Workshop Description: Teaching a comprehensive literacy block can be overwhelming. Come explore the literacy skills presented in the Foundational Learning Progressions, K-4, that are included in a comprehensive literacy program. We will describe each skills presented in the Learning Progressions, discuss how we can teach and assess them, and explore useful resources to support all learners in your Grade 1 classroom.

TEACHING AND ASSESSING FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY SKILLS IN GRADE 2

PRESENTER: SAMANTHA BALL

Intended Audience: K-3

Workshop Description: Teaching a comprehensive literacy block can be overwhelming. Come explore the literacy skills presented in the Foundational Learning Progressions, K-4, that are included in a comprehensive literacy program. We will describe each skills presented in the Learning Progressions, discuss how we can teach and assess them, and explore useful resources to support all learners in your Grade 2 classroom.

TEACHING AND ASSESSING FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY SKILLS IN GRADE 3

PRESENTER: SOPHIE ROBITAILLE

Intended Audience: K-3

Workshop Description: Teaching a comprehensive literacy block can be overwhelming. Come explore the literacy skills presented in the Foundational Learning Progressions, K-4, that are included in a comprehensive literacy program. We will describe each skills presented in the Learning Progressions, discuss how we can teach and assess them, and explore useful resources to support all learners in your Grade 2 classroom.

NUMERACY INSTRUCTION: CONSIDERATIONS FOR PLANNING

PRESENTER: KELLY BLAKER

Intended Audience: K-3; 4-7

Workshop Description: This session is designed for teachers who are interested in strengthening their numeracy instruction and learning more about current work happening across the district. Participants will explore approaches to annual instructional planning and consider effective structures for mathematics lessons that support student thinking and engagement. There will also be time to become familiar with the new BC Numeracy Progressions and explore resources available through the Coast Metro Numeracy website. Teachers will have opportunities to collaborate with colleagues, discuss emerging ideas, and provide feedback on the scope and sequence documents currently being developed.

"FIRM GOALS WITH FLEXIBLE MEANS": IDENTIFYING BARRIERS AND SOLUTIONS

**PRESENTER: DIANA MORRIS
& SIMON WORLEY**

Intended Audience: 4-7; 8-12

Workshop Description: This workshop will focus on the UDL core idea of "firm goals, with flexible means." We will identify barriers through the UDL principles: engagement, representation and action/expression, and explore practical tools, strategies and resources to support all learners. This workshop will include technology based tools, so please bring your district device.

DRAWING STRATEGIES FOR THE CLASSROOM: CHARCOAL, OBSERVATION, AND PROCESS

**PRESENTER: SARA-JEANNE BOURGER
& RYANNE BERGLER**

Intended Audience: 4-7; 8-12

EXTERNAL REGISTRATION: [CLICK HERE](#)

<https://my44.sd44.ca/group/6z32ggb/Pages/Drawing-Strategies-for-the-Classroom.aspx#/=>

Workshop Description: This hands-on workshop for intermediate and secondary teachers explores expanded approaches to drawing with a focus on charcoal. Artist Sara-Jeanne Bourget will share her practice through an artist talk and demonstrations of observational, gestural, and textural drawing. Participants will experiment with techniques including shading, contrast and layering with charcoal, transfer and masking methods, and eraser drawing. Sara-Jeanne Bourget and art teacher Ryanne Bergler will also present a secondary lesson sequence in which students create a series of works responding to their natural surroundings, moving from observation to imagination.

A HANDS-ON APPROACH TO CAREER CONVERSATIONS WITH LEGO AND METAPHORS)

PRESENTER: ANDREA FRUHLING

Intended Audience: 8-12; General

Workshop Description: Join this hands-on learning experience with Andrea Fruhling and discover the power of metaphors in career conversations through LEGO® Serious Play®. This interactive session offers an innovative approach to career conversations, using LEGO to build tactile metaphors and deepen awareness at all stages of the career development process. You will leave with easy-to-implement strategies that can be adapted to suit a range of career development processes. Learn to work with LEGO Serious Play methodologies to help students think about who they are in a new, easy-to-talk-about way, develop a plan of action and put insights into action in meaningful ways. This workshop will give you tangible strategies to boost engagement, improve communication, and incorporate meaningful play into the work you're already doing, regardless of the ages and stages of the students you support. Speaker will address ways to incorporate these methods for those who teach career education online.

READ ALOUDS FOR FRENCH IMMERSION LEARNERS (FRENCH)

PRESENTER: KIM LOCKHART

Intended Audience: K-3

Workshop Description: Through an equity and inclusion lens, Kim will share practical, evidence-based strategies to improve French Immersion students' Language Comprehension- including vocabulary, syntax, and listening comprehension- through the intentional use of Read Alouds. Kim will explain how to select the just-right book, how to engage students in Dialogic reading, and ensure students have a deep understanding of the texts they read. As a bonus, Kim will provide all participants with a specially designed Read Aloud template in French to help them plan their next Read Aloud!

SOUTENONS TOUS·TES NOS ÉLÈVES DANS UNE CONCEPTION UNIVERSELLE DE L'APPRENTISSAGE!

PRESENTER: SHAUNA NERO

Intended Audience: 4-7; 8-12

Workshop Description: Cet atelier commence par une brève introduction au cadre de la conception universelle de l'apprentissage (CUA/UDL) pour mieux le comprendre. Ensuite en utilisant les lignes directrices de la CUA, les participant·e·s quitteront l'atelier avec des questions de réflexions ainsi que des stratégies pratiques à utiliser dans leur salle de classe afin de soutenir chacun·e de nos élèves dans le développement de leurs compétences dans le but de les retenir dans le programme d'immersion française et pour que chaque élève ait une expérience inestimable et épanouissante. En s'appuyant sur le principe que chaque enfant est capable, nous y arriverons !

1:15-2:45

AFTERNOON SESSION

SCIENCE OF WRITING

PRESENTER: KIM LOCKHART

Intended Audience: K-3; 4-7

Workshop Description: The teaching of spelling is intimately linked with the teaching of reading. There is evidence that spelling interventions are more effective at supporting struggling readers than interventions focused on reading." (Shanahan, 1984, as cited in Such, 2021) This 90-minute presentation will focus on the science of writing and the research on handwriting, spelling and writing instruction. Teachers will learn practical, evidence-based, classroom strategies to develop students' foundational writing skills and leave this workshop feeling more confident in their ability to ensure all students' "right to write"

TEACHING SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION IN HIGH SCHOOL, THE SEX EDUCATION CIRCUIT

PRESENTER: JESSY WOLLEN

Intended Audience: 8-12; Supprt Staff

Workshop Description: Teachers will actively experience The Sex Education Circuit, a dynamic, inclusive game-based program created for Physical Health Education teachers. This session demonstrates how to implement 11 interactive stations that engage students in learning about sexual health, relationships, and safety.

Attendees will leave with practical strategies to confidently teach sexual health and meet provincial Physical Health Education outcomes, no expertise required.