Playful Storytelling Project

Ten Richmond elementary schools are participating in a Playful Storytelling Project examining ways that primary students engage in oral storytelling experiences that are connected to place and the First Peoples Principles of Learning.

Learning experiences for this project include students using local animals (puppets, toys, drawings, clay creations, photographs) and natural materials (student-collected shells, pinecones, twigs, stones) to retell stories as well as create and tell their own stories.

The students use materials to create their settings, choose characters and develop stories often inspired by a story they have been read or told or inspired by an issue or big idea discussed in the class. Many picture books created by Aboriginal authors and illustrators have been shared with students in this project, emphasizing the big idea of the story of place. Teachers and students have used iPads to document and share their stories using apps such as Book Creator and Soda Snap or the video camera.

Core Competencies: Communication, Creative Thinking, Positive Personal & Cultural Identity
Big Ideas: drawn from Science, Social Studies, English Language Arts
Inquiry Questions: *What stories live in this place? What stories do we have to tell? How do stories help us understand our selves and each other?*
Curricular Competencies: experience and interpret the local environment, express and reflect on personal experiences of place (Science); explain the significance of personal or local events, objects, people, and places (Social Studies); show awareness of how story in First Peoples' cultures connects people to family and community, create stories to deepen awareness of self, family, and community (English Language Arts)
Curricular Content: living things and their relationship to the local environment, daily and seasonal changes, weather, water, landforms (Science); personal and family history and traditions, people, places and events in the local community, relationship between people and the environment in different communities (Social Studies); structure and elements of story, oral language strategies (English Language Arts)

Many blog posts about this project can be found at:
http://blogs.sd38.bc.ca/sd38mathandscience/
(search using the category tag QTL in the right sidebar)