

## **Celebrating Diversity Throughout the Year Elementary Classroom Community**

“Books can make a difference in dispelling prejudice and building community: not with role models and recipes, not with noble messages, but with stories that make us imagine the lives of others.” ~Hazel Rochman, *Against Borders: Promoting Books for a Multicultural World*

**About Equity & Diversity within the Classroom Community:** We believe that the inclusion of multiple voices is multi-pronged. As we revise Shared Literacy, we seek to include titles within each unit that represent the myriad of voices that make up our global society. In addition, we believe that we can also celebrate diversity through the nationally designated months to shine a spotlight on the contributions that have often been left out.

As an educational institution, we value curiosity around cultures, celebrations, and traditions that make up the complexity of our global society. As a public education institution, we are mindful that we want learners to be well-rounded and aware of the complexity of our global society. Because of this, the equity team has designed the following principles to guide decision-making around activities within the learning environment and school community. We are also mindful that the celebration of any one tradition should not outweigh the traditions and celebrations of others. We want every person in the organization to feel welcomed, seen, and safe at school. All belong here; when we embrace the diversity of our community, we add to the collective experience, thus creating joyful learning opportunities for all.

In District 129, we are guided by the following principles when deciding on activities:

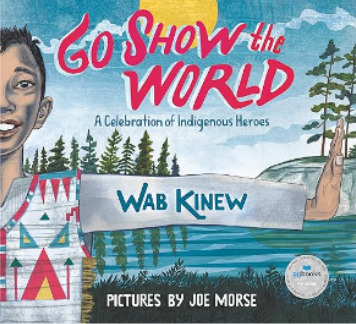
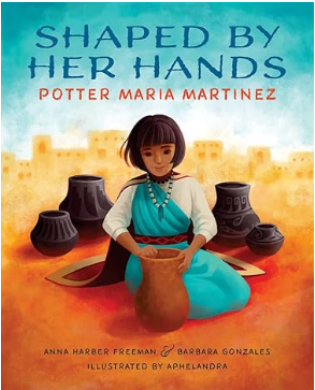

- We believe that all learners have the right to and deserve to be included, accepted, and to contribute unique perspectives and experiences.
- We value the creation of a school community where each individual is accepted and embraced for who and what they bring to the learning space.
- We believe that a sense of belonging involves the acceptance, care for the needs, and growth of all learners.
- We believe that every individual is shaped and influenced by multiple factors that add to an educational community's rich tapestry.

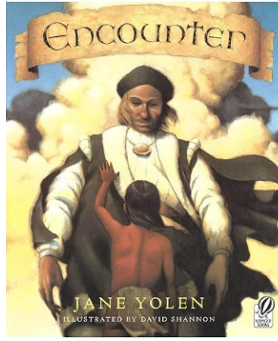
“Let's invite one another in. Maybe then we can begin to fear less, to make fewer wrong assumptions, to let go of the biases and stereotypes that unnecessarily divide us.”

~Michelle Obama, *Becoming*

"In diversity there is beauty and there is strength." ~Maya Angelou

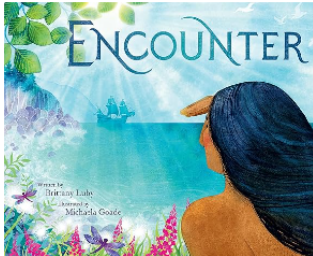
## Native American Heritage Month - November

<p><a href="#"><u>Go Show the World</u></a> By Wab Kinew 978-0735262928</p> 	<p>Celebrating the stories of Indigenous people throughout time, Wab Kinew has created a powerful rap song, the lyrics of which are the basis for the text in this beautiful picture book, illustrated by the acclaimed Joe Morse. Including figures such as Crazy Horse, Net-no-kwa, former NASA astronaut John Herrington and Canadian NHL goalie Carey Price, <i>Go Show the World</i> showcases a diverse group of Indigenous people in the US and Canada, both the more well known and the not- so-widely recognized. Individually, their stories, though briefly touched on, are inspiring; collectively, they empower the reader with this message: "We are people who matter, yes, it's true; now let's show the world what people who matter can do."</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Shaped by Her Hands</u></a> By Anna Harber Freeman 978-0807575994</p> 	<p>The untold story of a Native American Indian potter who changed her field.</p> <p>The most renowned Native American Indian potter of her time, Maria Povika Martinez learned pottery as a child under the guiding hands of her ko-ōo, her aunt. She grew up to discover a new firing technique that turned her pots black and shiny, and made them—and Maria—famous. This inspiring story of family and creativity illuminates how Maria's belief in sharing her love of clay brought success and joy from her New Mexico Pueblo to people all across the country.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>When the Shadbush Blooms</u></a> By Messinger 978-1643792019</p> 	<p>A young Lenape Indian girl observes and reflects on the small, important ways her family today, and her ancestors generations before, celebrate the cycle of seasons. Finally available in paperback:</p> <p>Today when a Lenape Indian girl ventures to the stream to fish for shad, she knows that another girl did the same generations before her. Through the cycle of the seasons, what is important has remained: being with family, knowing when berries are ripe for picking, listening to stories in a warm home. Told by Traditional Sister and Contemporary Sister, each from her own time, this is a book about tradition and about change. Then and now are not so very different when the shadbush blooms.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Encounter</u></a> (Voyager Books) By Jane Yolen 978-0152013899</p>	<p>When Christopher Columbus landed on the island of San Salvador in 1492, what he discovered were the Taino Indians. Told from a young Taino boy's point of view, this is a story of how the boy tried to warn his people against welcoming the strangers, who seemed more interested in golden ornaments than friendship. Years later the boy, now an old man, looks back at the destruction of his people and their culture by the colonizers.</p>



### Encounter

By Brittany Luby  
978-0275947842



Based on the real journal kept by French explorer Jacques Cartier in 1534, *Encounter* imagines a first meeting between a French sailor and a Stadaconan fisher. As they navigate their differences, the wise animals around them note their similarities, illuminating common ground.

This extraordinary imagining by Brittany Luby, Professor of Indigenous History, is paired with stunning art by Michaela Goade, winner of 2018 American Indian Youth Literature Best Picture Book Award. *Encounter* is a luminous telling from two Indigenous creators that invites readers to reckon with the past, and to welcome, together, a future that is yet uncharted.