LESSONS FOR WATER STEWARDSHIP

#1 ART

by Jim Elwood and Karen Nightengale. Submitted by Melissa Harris-Johnson

Materials
- natural charcoal / burnt willow
- sketching paper (die cut shapes) *
- natural surroundings of pond or waterway
- flat surface to sketch on
- blankets to sit on *
* optional

Students immersed in place based learning

Begin with Contemplation—Connecting to place

We invite you to connect to this moment in time with a short meditation: Adult reads aloud, pausing as you go: “Either sitting or standing, take a deep breath and relax your body. Open your hand and look at your five fingers. Bring your attention to your first finger and notice five sounds that you can hear. Move along to your second finger and notice five things you can smell. At your third finger notice five colours that see. At your fourth finger notice five textures that you can feel. At your final finger notice five shapes.

“This is how teaching and learning should be every day”

- Stewardship participant
Tree Meditation

We invite you to further connect to this unique space with this short meditation:

Adult reads aloud: “Close your eyes and take a deep breath. Think of your body as being a part of this place. Imagine roots growing down from your feet into the earth. Imagine these roots spreading out both towards and away from the creek bed. Imagine branches extending up from your arms and head into the sky touching branches and leaves. Take a deep breath and feel that you are part of this place.”

Activity—

Responding through drawing Using the materials provided on the picnic table, spend some time responding to this space through drawing:

- help yourself to a fish shaped paper - this is the shape of the kokanee found in Mission Creek
- the charcoal sticks are made from locally sourced wood - you can keep it
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#1 ART CONTINUED...

Working with Charcoal - some tips:

- Handmade charcoal has a short lifespan. Try turning the stick and using all sides of it to get the most out of this tool.
- Consider rubbing the charcoal on your board and using your finger to smudge on your paper - you will get a more even application this way.
- Try varying your pressure and the angle of the stick in order to get both thick and thin lines.
- Try layering the charcoal to get a deeper, richer look.
- Understand that charcoal is a messy material. Just go with it!

Ideas - consider the following when starting your drawing:

- Look at the trees around you. **What kinds of lines do you see?** ○ **What kinds of shapes do you see?**

- Look at the reflection of the sky on the water: **What images do you see in the pond?** ○ **How could you recreate reflection with charcoal?** ○ **What shapes do you see?**

- Consider picking a specific location and see if you can re-create it with your charcoal: ○ **How do the trees look against the sky?** ○ **What does a branch of leaves look like?** ●

- Take inspiration from the surroundings and consider creating an abstract image: ○ **How might line, shape and value (lights and darks) combine in an interesting way?**