



BLUE THUNDERBIRD LAND-BASED TEACHINGS LEARNING CENTRE

Summer 2020

Newsletter



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June in the Remnant Prairie - Lady's Slippers and False Solomon's Seal

WAYFINDERS SUMMER SCHOOL

What's the best way to complete grade 10 science, geography, and phys. ed in summer? By attending Wayfinders' summer school, of course! While it can be hard to feel excited to be in school in July, learners sure grew in their enthusiasm, learning, and relationships over the summer. Based on the natural and agricultural land surrounding the Aki Centre, the class observed and cared for the land, completing their course work over 5 weeks.



Wayfinders learners planting Indigenous trees and shrubs.

James and his garden harvest of peas and catnip

WAYFINDERS SUMMER SCHOOL CONT..

Students contributed to stewardship of the land by planting, watering, and mulching 181 Indigenous trees and shrubs next to the Tipi and Sweat Lodge. They made maps, picked vegetables, learned about the Three Sisters Garden and Indigenous worldviews, baked over a fire, explored soil, and learned about traditional medicines. Learners were a gift to the land, and we witnessed them experience the land as a gift to themselves.

Quote of the Summer: "This was the best school experience I have ever had, I was able to focus more and was interested in what I was learning, because it was all happening right in front of me." -James

BEEP

BEEP summer day program visited the Aki Centre throughout summer to play games on the hill, fly kites, and explore through scavenger hunts. They gardened and dug potatoes, and spent time creating art.

No indoor classroom due to Covid? No one noticed the indoors were off limits. The outdoors IS the classroom! We love having you here, BEEP!



INDIGENOUS STUDENT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Indigenous Student Mentorship Program stopped by a number of times over the summer. One of their main projects was setting up the Tipi. Guided by Elder Dan Thomas, the students worked and learned together.

Do you miss meeting in person with our Elders? We do, too. **Remember to connect with them through their teachings on Channel 70aks!**



PASSIVE SOLAR GREENHOUSE

Spring sprung, and so did the Greenhouse. Construction was led by Jason Camphuis (CVE Building Trades). June engaged students and SOSD staff in the build. Students were hired as Green Team staff over summer. And, when students return to classes in September, they will complete the project. See the Passive Solar Greenhouse build photos [Here!](#)



GREEN TEAM

This summer we had three skilled Green Team members join us, all with unique connections to 7 Oaks. Persevering a very hot summer, they watered, weeded, mowed, planted, and cared for the land. The results of their hard work will be seen for years in the prairie restoration, gardens, and remnant prairie. They added their stories and strengths to each day, they planned their futures, they reveled in the moments the land offered teachings, and made the summer one to remember. Thank you, team!



Special Thanks to:



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