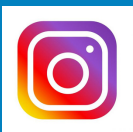




BLUE THUNDERBIRD LAND-BASED TEACHINGS LEARNING CENTRE

Fall 2020

Newsletter



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Crisp autumn morning at Aki



MEDICINE HARVESTING

Students from Maples, Garden City, and West Kildonan in the Cultural Education class harvested Sage and Sweetgrass during their visit. The Sweetgrass was braided and both were hung to dry. These medicines are available to anyone in need! They also spent time learning with Elder Dan and enjoyed bannock.



PD DAY : THE LAND-BASED EDUCATOR

Teachers from 16 schools came together at the Aki Centre on Saturday, September 26th to learn from the Land. Fort Whyte facilitators Barret Millar and Katrina Froese kicked off the morning with their Outdoor Educator Training. In the afternoon we heard teachings and history from Elder Dan Thomas, Knowledge Keeper Derek Courchene, and Dr. Kyle Bobiwash. We are planning more days like this! Subscribe on page one to get our news!

INDIGENOUS PLANT SHARING...IT'S A MOVEMENT NOW!

Remember those 2,000 Indigenous plants we were growing in spring & summer? They found homes at 16 of our schools! In September, students prepped gardens, measured, planted, and watered in their new friends. These plants will create diversity on schoolyards from which we can learn from the land, about traditional knowledge, and they will create habitat for insects, and birds. May these plants help cultivate ecological and cultural connection and enliven curriculum!



MAPLES MET SEED COLLECTING

Grade 9 students at Maples MET came twice in October. To give back and learn, they collected Big Bluestem and Goldenrod seeds from the Remnant Prairie and transplanted sage and sweetgrass to advance our restoration efforts. They listened to teachings shared by Elder Dan, and learned about plant reproduction through discussion and by interacting with plants on site. To cap the amazing day, they gathered fireside! Come again!



ECO-BUFFER PLANTING

An ecological buffer was planted in late October. It is designed to increase biodiversity and to create shelter. 338 mostly Indigenous trees and shrubs were planted in a mixed pattern to create a naturalized stand of fast and slow growing trees with an understory of tall shrubs. Species include: saskatoons, highbush cranberry, buffaloberry, pussy willow, oak, and more! Thanks to East Interlake Watershed District for influencing a stellar design & supporting our stewardship!



THE GREENHOUSE GROWS

The greenhouse has quickly come together this fall. Jason Camphuis and CVE Building Trades learners have been working away through wind, snow, and rain to put up siding, poly, trim, and interior beds and shelving. Enjoy more photos [here!](#) This winter, the greenhouse will provide us with an additional warm up space where we can distance safely and learn about composting and passive solar design! We can't wait to start growing here with you!



Special Thanks to:

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- [Feeder Watch](#) - citizen science
- [Beetles Project](#) - watch lesson video
- [Puttin' Down Roots](#) - email us for password



THE
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A Manitoba Climate and Green Plan Initiative
delivered by The Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation

