



# OZHAAWASHKWAA ANIMIKII-BINESHI

Aki Onji Kinimaagae' Inun

September 2024

## WELCOME BACK!

In this newsletter

1. What's new from July and August
2. Interpretive/Storytelling Signage
3. NEW resources at YOUR school
4. Aki Centre Lending Library
5. Merchandise
6. Pumpkin Smash 2024
7. Social Media
8. Partner acknowledgements



## WHAT'S NEW: TREE PLANTING

Each year we plant trees and shrubs in areas outside of the 35-acres of grassland restoration. This year we planted 26 large trees (Oak, Willow, Spruce, Cedar, Alder) with the help of the youth in the Mino Bimaadiziwin for Indigenous Youth program. They planted the trees and continued to water them each week through the summer, incredible dedication! Staff added 20 Saskatoons nearby the Centre and 20 Red Willow and 10 Acute Willow to the former tree nursery, now becoming a permanent stand of trees and shrubs that thrive in our soil conditions.

## WHAT'S NEW: INDIGENOUS PLANT DIVERSITY

Each year we harvest seeds from the Indigenous grasses and flowers growing in the remnant prairie, restored areas, and our model grassland gardens. We sow these seeds, grow them in the greenhouse, and distribute some to schools in June, and plant at the Aki Centre in July-August. This summer, we added ~3000 plants to 3 path intersections. These islands of diversity will send seeds out to the surrounding restoration, enhancing biodiversity.



# WHAT'S NEW: STORYTELLING SIGNAGE

For the past 3 years, we have working on a collaborative and intergenerational project involving many voices and contributors to create storytelling and interpretive signage at the Aki Centre. These 8 signs centre Indigenous voices and share worldviews, stories and teachings that come from the place we live. These signs combine audio recordings (QR codes) of Elder Mary Courhcene and Elder Dan.



We are currently installing the signs with the help of students from Career Ready Building Trades. We will feature this project in an upcoming newsletter on this project alone. The Aki Centre has an iPad and portable speaker for classes to interact with these signs when they are visiting the Centre. These can be enjoyed after hours, on your own, as well!

## SCHOOL-BASED RESOURCES

Last school year, we had the honour of receiving a grant from the Teacher's Idea Fund, Province of Manitoba. With these funds we supplied each school with some of the most requested books at the Aki Centre. Some are educator resources, and some are learner resources. We hope they will nurture Learners and Educators in their ways of learning and knowing founded upon the knowledge of and respect for the Earth, and rooted in Indigenous cultural values, teachings, and practices which demonstrate gentle and holistic ways of teaching and learning. Find these in your school library, and a list of the books at the bottom of [this portal page](#).



## Aki Centre's Lending Library & Seed Library

To assist schools in engaging in land-based learning, we have started a lending library to share tools and resources with you for a lending period. If you require these items regularly, please consider buying them for your school. If you need them for a day or a week, borrow from us!

Find the complete list [here](#). Items include Gardening tools, Fireside items like roasting sticks and cast iron pans/pots, books, snow saws and more. Check it out!



# MERCHANDISE

We have merchandise for sale!

Hats \$25

Adult size t-shirts (Black and Grey) \$25

Youth t-shirts (Black) \$25

Please find the order form for staff [here](#).



## Pumpkin Smash 2024

Mark your calendars for November 2nd, 11am-2pm at the Aki Centre for the annual Pumpkin Smash! Keep your pumpkins out of the landfill, compost them in style here!

Stay posted for upcoming posters and emails.

Light lunch, beverages, and fun will be served.

### Social Media Update

Our Instagram handle is @akicentre (no longer @7oaksgrows)



Our YouTube channel is back up and running under a new handle @AkiCentre



**We are grateful to our partners and funders:**

