



7 Oaks Wayfinders Circle Garden

Wawiyia'kiti'gahn

In the beginning...



There was Keefe...



And a bunch of others who helped
build the circle...



Didn't look like much at first...



But staff and Maples/Wayfinders kids
sweat buckets...



And then there was soil, the life blood of plants that makes growing possible..



And they all just kept working,
blistering their hands and bending
their backs...



And like a miracle, it all started coming together, the benches arrived, big ol Douglas Fir trees from British Columbia, a fire pit and plants starting to grow and instead of sweat, staff and kids sittin around and taking a load off...



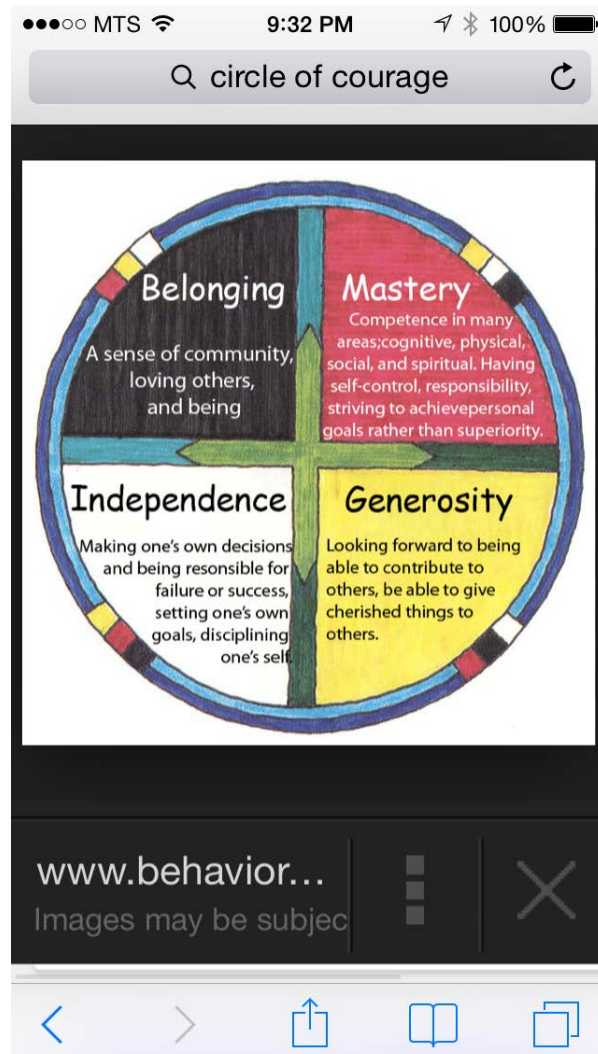
And then came more people and a tipi shelter and we realized why we call it...



Wawiyia'kiti'gahn... It is because this is a medicine wheel shaped garden and the word means “CIRCLE GARDEN” in Ojibwe, one of the Indigenous languages of our area.



The medicine wheel can be divided in many ways...4 directions, 4 parts of our being, 4 important values...



What's in our circle garden?

Our circle garden is divided into four history quadrants:

- 1. The natural plants of the prairies
- 2. The vegetables, berries and medicines of the First Nations, people who were here long before any of the newcomers
- 3. Vegetables introduced by Europeans
- 4. Herbs and spices from many of the new cultures that came to Canada later

But Wayfinders didn't stop with the circle garden... we built a clay oven.



Staff and students made clay from the earth and now we have...a pizza or bannock or biscuit oven: YUMMERS!



And we didn't stop with a clay oven either...we also built a raised bed garden on our patio to grow food for our kitchen...



And the kids and staff sweat, the soil came and once again, food started to grow right in the middle of a concrete jungle...



And the artists came out and our patio garden started to look funky and it was fun...



But we didn't stop there...no no no!!! We decided to re-purpose the parking lot and...



Peel off the grass and put in a first ever parking lot potato patch...



And the soil came and with soil food can grow, potatoes were planted...



And who'd a thunk that good work by kids and staff would result in...



Do I hear fries, baked, scalloped, hash browns, or smashed potatoes?



Hard work in June led to a fine crop in September. Where there was grass, now there is food...



The harvest is good...we call it Garden to Kitchen! Yum...



Home grown, organic, inexpensive and delicious food that high school students learned to grow...



And sometimes we celebrate like we did with these Maples/GC Wayfinders grads...



And then head out to the Circle Garden for some peace and quiet...



Wawiyia'kiti'gahn...

The 7 Oaks Wayfinders Circle Garden



Miigwech and thanks for watching!



Leading young people to a future of promise and possibility through mentorship and education.

