

Sample Grade 6 Brightwater Experience

Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action

Grade 6 students and their teachers from Vincent Massey School and Dr. John G. Egnatoff School spent a day at Brightwater demonstrating their TRC “Calls to Action”.

Pre-visit learning included:

- Research of the ethnobotany of several native prairie plants.
- Reviewing/learning a drum song and dance steps
- Preparing lunch following the Metis food guide
- Assembling materials for the Blanket Exercise

Brightwater Experience:

The morning began with a Welcome Circle with the Brightwater Project Leader followed by a smudge with TKK Linda Young. Each student acquired a pinch of tobacco and placed it on Mother Earth giving thanks and appreciation for all her gifts.

Students were selected as readers for the Blanket Exercise and their teachers helped them all experience the simulation. As some of the students ended their role in the exercise they joined the Brightwater Project Leader in baking cookies for the group using a solar oven and preparing the lunch for everyone.

After the exercise, the students and teachers conducted a Sharing Circle to demonstrate and discuss their understanding and feelings about the experience.

During lunch students were asked in pairs to pick a pair from the other school to dine with. The students collectively cleaned the space before beginning the afternoon activities.

In the afternoon, the students were divided into small groups of 10, 5 from each school. East side school students lead an Ethnobotany hike on the land for the west side students presented their information about the plants as they hikes to variety of plant locations.

The students ended their hike at the homestead area. The boys all went into the tipi and the West side boys taught the East side boys a drum rhythm for a round dance. The West side girls taught the East side girls an Indigenous dance and the steps for a round dance.

Their time at the Homestead site concluded with a Round Dance lead by the drumming of the boys. The students hiked back to the Eco-centre and departed for their schools.

Post-Learning: Debriefing of the day in the respective classrooms.