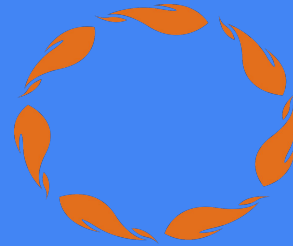


“Ka Miigwechwe’aanaa Nibi”
Let us Give our Thanks to the
Water

2021 Water Assembly/Festival

Truth and Reconciliation



Truth and
Reconciliation
Commission of Canada

The Rainbow District School Board has adopted A Commitment to Action for Truth and Reconciliation which involves a responsibility to learn and cherish the stories and knowledge of Indigenous Nations throughout Canada for the benefit of all students.

Excerpt from Kairos Canada (2021):

The implementation of the *UN Declaration (September 13)* is important for achieving climate justice as it affirms Indigenous peoples right to conservation and environmental protection. It also recognizes Indigenous peoples right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditional lands, territories, and waters and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations as part of that relationship. Recognition of this relationship is important for all peoples as we work to repair our relationships with people and with the Earth.

“Niizhwaaswi Mishoomsinaanig Kinoomaaadwinan”

Medicine Wheel Teachings

Within the Indigenous *“Anishinaabe”* perspective the teachings of the Medicine Wheel help us to understand the importance of sacred law and giving thanks to all of Creation and all our relations bounded by the four elements of life ... the fire, the land, the water and the air.

The elements of life help all living beings including the birds, the animals, the fish life, the trees and the plants to realize our existence and to value our life experience on the planet Mother Earth *“Shkagamikwe”*.

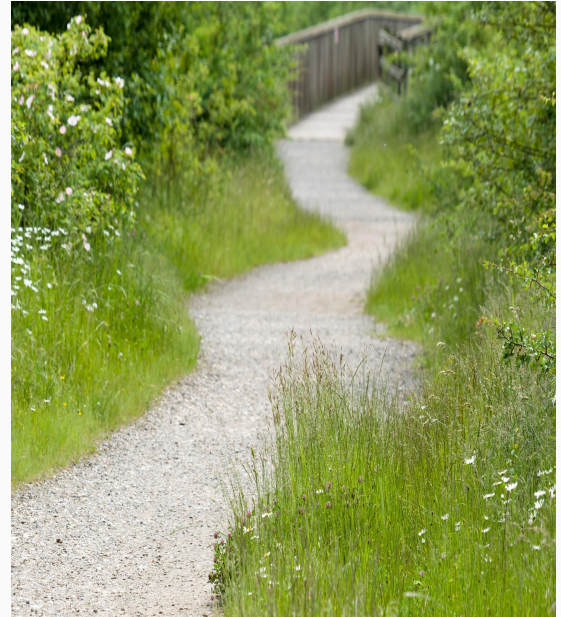


“Mino Bimaadiziwin” Living a Good Life

During our life journey on this Earth walk or when walking our life path in this world, it is encouraged through a creative and meaningful way to offer an expression of gratitude and/or acknowledgement to the element of water “*nibi*” for its life giving purpose.

You are also encouraged to consider participating in a Water Walk to demonstrate a choice to begin or to strengthen your relationship with the water.

In doing so, we can have the mind and the heart to protect the water from the harm of pollution and degradation. We can also advocate for the inherent right of fresh water for the First Nation communities that are living with Boil Water advisories/alerts in Canada.



All People as Keepers of the Water

Within the Indigneous “Anishinaabe” community, traditionally women are given the responsibility to protect the water which is anticipated because of the woman’s natural ability to carry life in the water/fluid of her womb.

With this responsibility women provide teachings about the sacredness of all water such as the sap of a maple tree and the water in a strawberry and most importantly the precious resource we drink to sustain life.

During this Water Assembly/Festival all Sudburians especially Rainbow families are encouraged to take a moment both at sunrise and sunset on one given day this week to surrender to the reality that we need clean water for all people throughout the world. The following “Nibi” Song was created through the thoughtfulness of Nookomis Doreen Day at the kind request of her grandson Mashkoonce to highly regard the water with the utmost respect.”

<https://perpich.mn.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/7.Nibi-Song-Elementary-.pdf>

In honour of “Nibi” the Water

The “Nibi” song is also sung by Liz Osawamick, President, Anishinaabemowin Teg o help further underpin the spiritual relationship that Indigenous “Anishinaabe” people have with the water everyday of precious life.

G’chi Miigwech!

Developed by HFR 09-14-2021