



Wild Schools

Action Project

Breaking Ground

On April 16th, 2023 ground broke on a new Native Plant garden for the Gulf Islands school district 64. Despite a rainy start to the day, volunteers arrived and took shelter under a giant red tent that had been set up. After introducing themselves and sharing some facts about a few native plant species, a land acknowledgment was given and the work began.



Just as the team was stepping out from beneath the tent, bracing themselves for the rain, it stopped. With a second swell of energy the team got to work, clearing weeds, removing non-native plants and spreading wood chips to get the garden ready for planting. After hours of hard work the garden was ready for to be planted. The sun was shining and volunteers were proud of the hard work they had accomplished.



Earth Day



Work resumed on Earth day (April 20th), a very fitting day for planting a garden. Eight classes arrived eager to learn and work on the new Native Plant Garden. Classes took turns planting various native saplings and seedlings. After each class completed a 20 minute planting session they were rewarded with some delicious fresh french fries from Als Falafels.



Though the morning's planting session went smoothly, the rain crept in, in the afternoon. Though the conditions in the afternoon were less than ideal, classes and volunteers kept their spirits high. The team worked through the afternoon to create a protective fence around the garden to keep the native plants in the garden from being trampled on.



Indigenous Peoples Day

On June 21st (National Indigenous Peoples Day) about 300 students arrived at the centre to listen and learn from various indigenous leaders. After listening to the speakers, classes met by the welcome figure and plant garden. Once everyone had arrived at the plant garden students began their next project; creating native plant signs for the garden.



Students were given a plank of cedar wood that would become their sign. They then cut and sanded the planks to get them ready for decoration. Once their planks were ready, each student was given a card from the Strong Nations Native plant ID Card deck. After studying the details of the plant on their card students got to work painting their planks with a picture and name of the plant.



Once completed the signs were weatherproofed and attached to the chain link fence for all to see. Students were then taught the name of their plant in the SENCOTEN language and were treated to some strawberry tea with drumming and songs in the background.



The Native Plant Garden is an amazing place for people of all ages to come together and learn about some of the amazing native plants here in BC!