

EMBEDDING RESTORATIVE PRACTICES AND CIRCLES INTO TEACHER EDUCATION: A MISSING PIECE OF THE PUZZLE

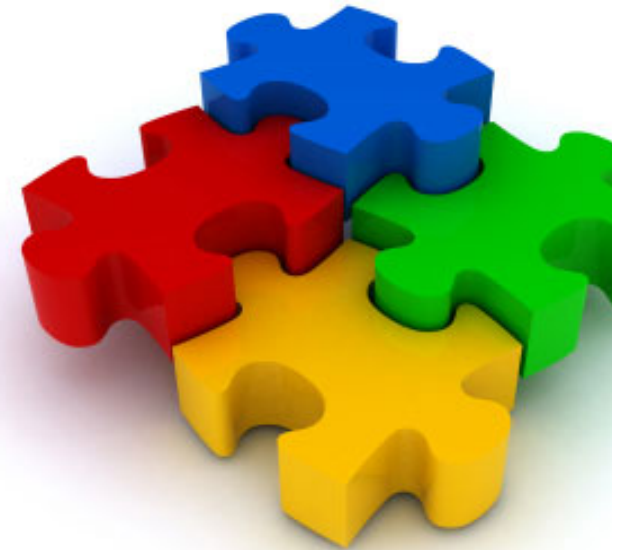
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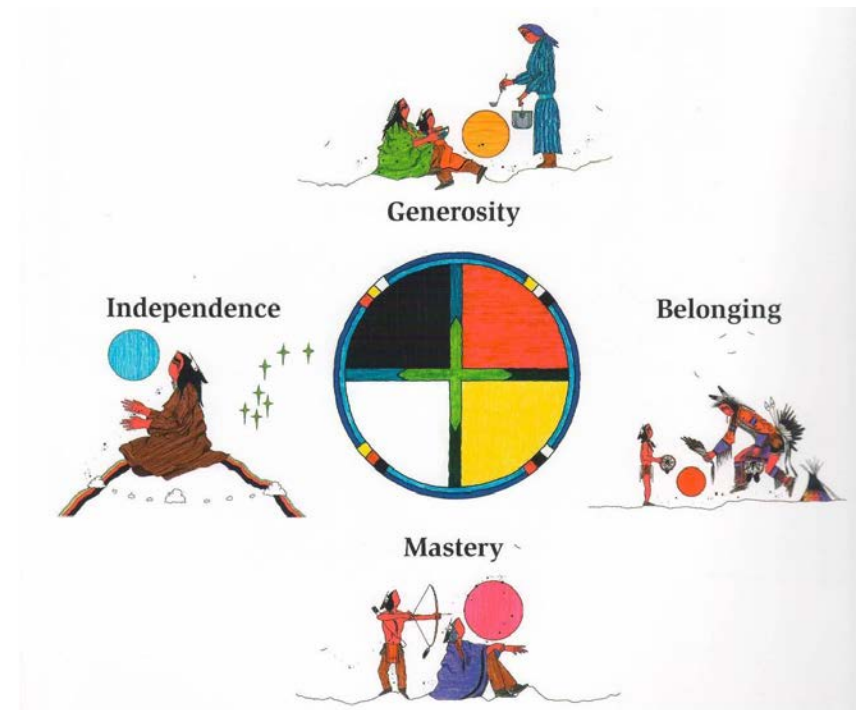
What we're planning to cover:

- Introductory Circle
- History of Course and Objectives of Course
- Evolution of Course
- Assignments
- Final Reflections
- Closing Circle

*At the end of each section,
we invite your comments and questions.*

Introductory circle

- When do we meet in a circle?
- How do you feel?
- Circle of courage- Positive Youth Development



To Declare Themselves Activity

- Who am I?
- What values/beliefs guide me?
- Who is the teacher I strive to be?
- What do I need from this course?

First Impressions of the class

- Elena



Creating Healthy, Safe and Supportive Learning Communities

- History of Course
- Objectives of Course
- Use of Circles
- Social & Emotional competencies (teacher and student)
- Experiential Nature
- Embracing Conflict and Controversy

Embracing conflict in the classroom continuum

- Why did you put yourself where you did?
- Have you always been there?
- What is one practical idea for you to make challenge more natural in the classroom?

Thoughts from students

- *I just wanted to say thanks for showing us the steps for having a restorative conversation yesterday. I used them today with one of my students and it really seemed to help him figure out how we could resolve the conflict that was occurring in class. Just wanted to say thanks!*

Learn by doing...

- *I liked how the professor taught so much about community in a tricky way. By that I mean, she had us do fun and engaging activities that taught us about community without us even realizing. Then... bam! Everything made sense!*

What was your experience with circles?



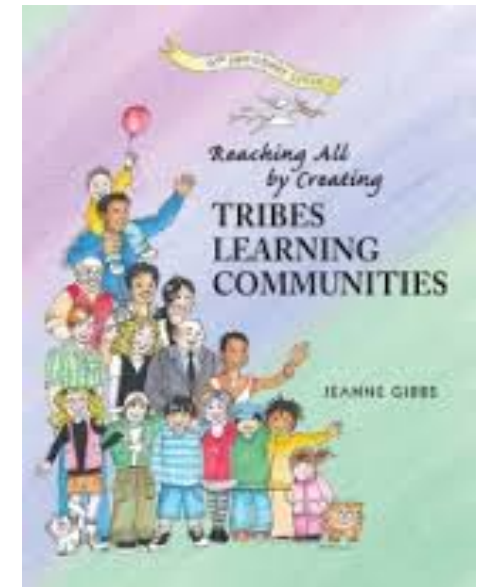


Importance of health break...

- Thanks Rita!

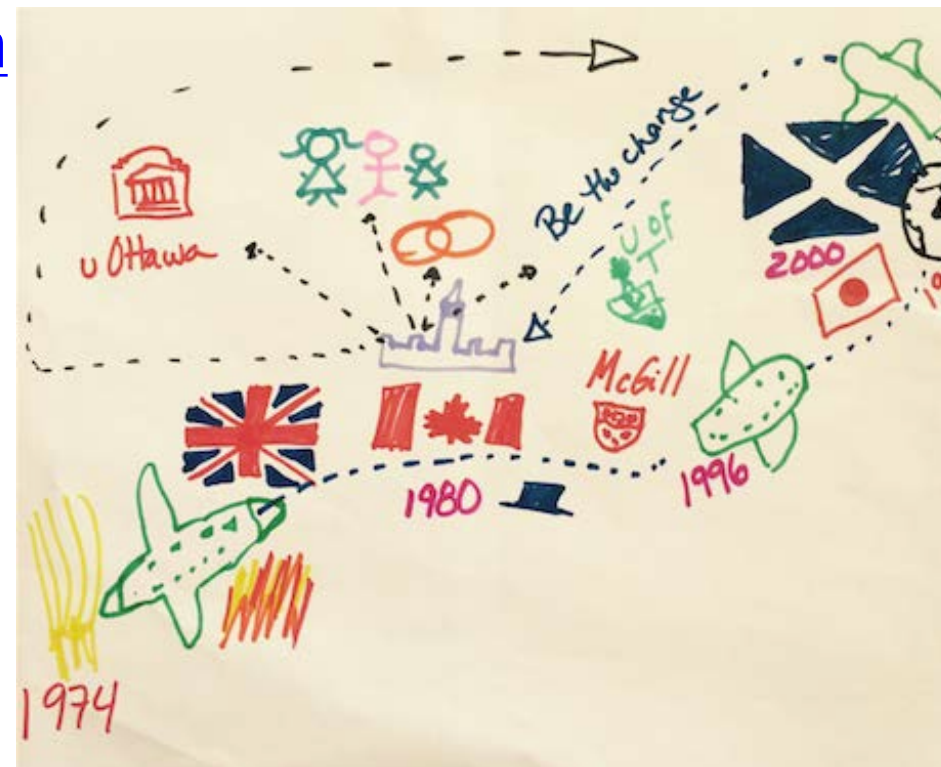
I like my neighbour....

- First class
- Community building
- Energizers



Evolution of Course

- Proactive community building
- Linking to content
- Guest presenters
- Inclusion strategies
- www.teachingwithteachers.com



Spider web- What is your hope?



Thoughts from students

- I used to think the circle set up was intimidating and slightly uncomfortable. I used to think it would be hard to tie community-building activities into lessons.
- Now I think the circle seating arrangement is worthwhile. It helps build inclusion and also increases engagement. There's no place to sit that is at the back of the class- it forces us to listen and be engaged. I also now think that there are convenient ways to incorporate community-building activities in the class.
- I will include more circles in my future classroom!



What actually happened in class?

Small group work:

- Community Co-Creators (circles, energizers, environment)
- Literature Circles (roles and responsibilities)

Assignments:

- Inquiry into the Familiar
- Field Trip
- Applying the Principles

Literature circles



Final Assignments







My Community Webs Connected

Thoughts from students

- *I loved the atmosphere of this class. It was so warm and welcoming. I appreciated that we had a hand in creating this with the community co-creators groups.*

Thoughts from students

- I used to think that it would be difficult to implement restorative practices and circle work into a classroom.
- Now I think that these strategies could be used in any class and I have already implemented it into some of my other Teacher ed classes.
- I will attempt to use community building strategies in my future classroom and seek help in the school community.

Final Reflections

- Likelihood of implementation in future classrooms?

Thoughts from students

- *This has really been my favourite class of the program. I've always believed in giving children a voice, acknowledging that behaviour, whether negative or positive, comes from somewhere real. I never realized that it was an actual practice, so it's been great to go into detail about how to implement it. So, thank you, truly, for a wonderful and uplifting semester.*

Thoughts from students

- I used to think circles were for outward-bound types and leadership and were kind of hokey-pokey.
- Now I think that circles are an indispensable tool for building community and for pro-active classroom management.
- I will try them in my class. I also want to continue my learning of restorative practices and first nations' contributions and practices.

Final thoughts...

- I used to think restorative practices were only for when harm had been done and to talk about serious issues. I also thought students would be opposed to sharing feelings and that using restorative practices would give up 'power' and 'authority'
- Now I think that restorative practices removes the authoritarian feeling that some students sense in school. I also think that students are looking for opportunities to connect and that these practices will be a key component in my future classroom.
- I will seek out school communities that prioritize safe and inclusive practices.

Closing circle

- What do **you** take away from this session?

Who takes a class photo?



