

Critical Infographic

Interconnectedness of Knowledge, Schooling, & Society

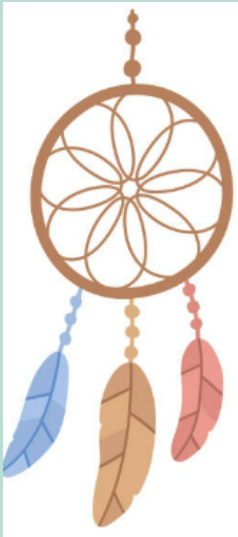
01 Introduction

For my field experience I had the honour of attending an assortment of Wilfred Hunt School’s classes on Tuesday mornings. I was paired with grades one to six and got to experience a sense of what teaching each grade would encompass. My experience at this school was incredibly educational and inspiring, increasing my determination to pursue my education degree.



Truth & Reconciliation 02

Truth and Reconciliation in the classroom is an important aspect of Canadian education because it teaches students about the history and ongoing effects of colonization on Indigenous people. It is vital to teach students how to embrace Indigenous culture and bring awareness to the past and current hardships many Indigenous people face. I believe teaching students about our history will help them embrace Truth and Reconciliation and aid in the efforts of healing our connections to Indigenous peoples and culture. Wilfred Hunt embraces Truth and Reconciliation in many ways. The school had many posters and artwork displayed in the classrooms and hallways and had a large section of the library dedicated to student artwork and books. My favourite aspects I noticed was how they implemented a daily treaty acknowledgement, had Cree translations of O Canada next to the flags, and would use the Cree greeting “tanisi” for guests and student attendance.



03 Invitation & Hospitality

Invitation and hospitality in the classroom is where teachers create a space where everyone feels welcomed and allows the students to thrive and achieve in a supportive environment. I believe it is a teacher's responsibility to make their classroom a place where students feel comforted, heard, and respected, and can do so by taking account of how each student operates. Understanding the students’ different cultures and languages, preferred learning environments, and providing any needed extra support is vital. At Wilfred Hunt, the teachers did a phenomenal job in making their classrooms an inviting and hospitable environment by putting posters and decorations around the room, including things like “family walls” and “affirmation stations.” They also made sure to include different cultures in their lessons, such as teaching about Ramadan. The school also had a quiet room, decorated with plants and soft lighting and chairs for students to go to when they needed extra help or a quiet place to do their work. My favourite observation was how students will often help each other. An example would be when one of the students was having trouble reading a prompt and her desk buddy immediately helped the student sound out the words.



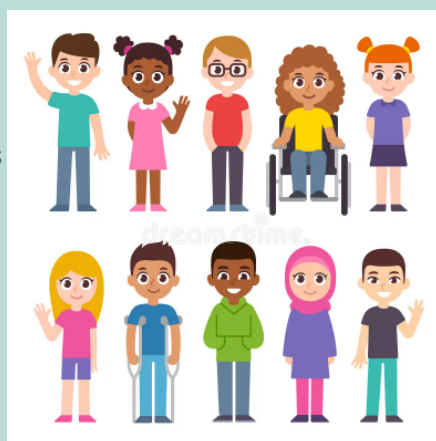
Space, Place & Boundaries 04

Space, place, and boundaries in a classroom setting shows a balance of power between the students and the teacher. In a classroom, the students' identities, in relation to family, gender, religion, etc., are recognized and accepted rather than ignored in favour of colonial teaching. Having acceptance and decolonial systems in the classroom setting are important for students to feel safe and like they belong in the classroom. Within the classroom, the way it is set up is extremely important. Having it set up in colonial standard with rows of desks closes the students off from each other and the teacher. If the desks are set up in clusters with space in between them, it allows the students to form connections with each other and opens them up to the teacher. In Wilfred Hunt, the teachers did an excellent job of ensuring everyone felt a sense of community in their classrooms. Not only were the students' identities acknowledged and celebrated, but the classrooms were also set up so that students had many options to connect with their classmates. The teacher's desks also had a curved shape and had chairs in front of them, allowing students to approach and gain help from the teacher.



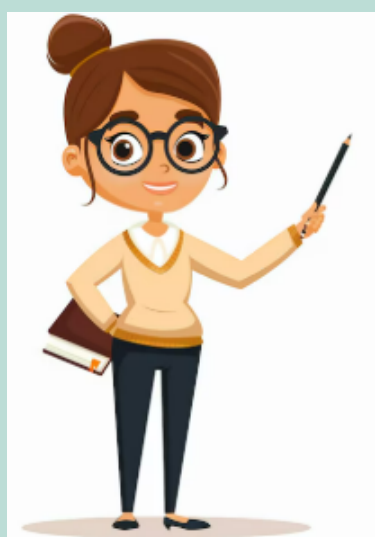
05 Inclusion & Diversity

As someone who is constantly working with inclusive youth, I believe inclusion and diversity is one of the most important things to include in the classroom. Diversity involves differences in lived experiences, social and ethnic backgrounds, abilities, etc. Inclusion recognizes diversity and ensures that all peoples are welcomed and treated with equity. In the classroom, it is extremely important to acknowledge diversity and practice inclusion so that each student feels like they belong and gets the education that they deserve. At Wilfred Hunt, I saw many examples of inclusion, such as having areas for students who need extra help, accessibility in all areas, and posters and pictures showing all kinds of diverse peoples. One poster in the school hallway said, “diversity is our strength.” This is extremely important for the students to see so that they have a constant reminder that they are all welcome.



Takeaway Moment 06

While at Wilfred Hunt there were many moments that stuck out to me; students helping each other read, one student insisting that I colour half her colouring page with her, and getting asked to come back the next day. However, one moment I keep going back to was during my time in the grade 5/6 room. The teacher was busy with the 5's and had the 6's doing textbook work, leaving my classmate and I in charge. During that hour I went around and helped several students who were struggling with the problems and showed them how to understand the problems they were having. At the end of the class, many of the students came and thanked me, and several tried to hug me. This moment made me remember why I wanted to become a teacher; to help kids learn and understand how to tackle the obstacles they'll come across.



07 Overall Experience

My overall experience at Wilfred Hunt was incredible and I am so honoured to have had the privilege to do my field experience there. Being able to observe and help out in a range of classrooms has helped me gain a deeper understanding of what becoming a teacher is. At the start of the year, I wanted to become a teacher because I loved working with kids. Now, I still hold that same passion, but my goal going into the classroom is to teach children to love learning and to feel accepted in my classroom. One of the most important things a teacher can do in their classroom is ensure that every student feels welcomed. By attaining inclusive practices and demonstrating equity, I hope to show any student who comes into my care that they are loved, valued, and are incredibly smart and capable of pursuing whatever their heart and mind wants.



Going Forward 08

After everything I've learned in the field, it is obvious that I have a long way to go before I am ready to become a teacher, but I am excited to learn over the next few years and look forward to continue exploring and mapping out the kind of teacher I want to be. Creating lesson plans, laying out my classroom, and shaping myself into the best person for the students who will come into my care is something I am ready to put time into so that I can be the best teacher I could possibly be. The day I can write “Ms. Mo” on the board and get the attention of a group of students will be the day I've officially “made it” in my career.