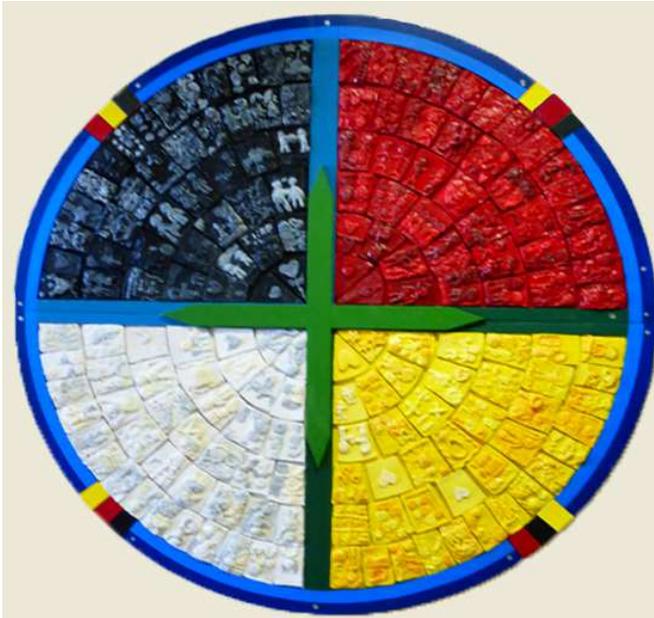


The Circle of Courage Mural at Keeler Elementary School



Many schools are embracing the Circle of Courage program as it provides a philosophy that encourages a culture of responsibility, respect and expectations amongst students and staff. The Circle of Courage model is a powerful symbol that is based on the Native American medicine wheel. The circle, the four colours and the four pillars all have significant meaning for the native culture.

Keeler Elementary School in Calgary received a grant in 2014 under the Artist-in-Residence program from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts for the creation of a wall tile mural to support its Circle of Courage initiative. Our artists at Clay for Kids worked with the school staff to design the wall mural so that could be constructed by the students and staff and would be a permanent visual symbol of the program. The circle is comprised of the four quadrants and there are 41 unique shaped tiles in each quadrant. The students had to carefully follow instructions to ensure that the tiles were constructed properly so that they would all fit into the quadrant even after expansion during kiln firing. Each tile was decorated by the student to support the pillar theme of the quadrant. Upon completion, each individual tile is unique but is connected to 40 other unique tiles to form the quadrant and the four quadrants are designed to form the circle. This mural is truly a work of art and will be a permanent reminder of each student's commitment to the program.

Also as part of this AIR project, each student had the opportunity to create a small bowl on our pottery wheels and apply slip glaze while the bowl was spinning. The bowls have a bright, shiny finish after firing and are a permanent keepsake for the students.

If you are interested in creating a Circle of Courage or other mural for your school, please contact us and one of our artists will meet with you to bring your vision to reality.

Tel: 403.281.4882 or Email: Calgary@clayforkids.com
Visit www.clayforkids.com to see more murals.

Clay for Kids
Bringing the curriculum to life