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Truth and reconciliation Heart Garden opens at Palliser Heights

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It's a small, but important step towards reconciliation.



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Kayleigh Olson performs an honour dance in dedication to the residential school survivors at the opening ceremony of the truth and reconciliation Heart Garden at Palliser Heights Elementary.

Besides the 600 students of Palliser Heights, students from Empire Community School and William Grayson Elementary were present at Palliser Friday for the unveiling of the school's first, and the second in Moose Jaw, school garden.

The project is the brainchild of Grade 3 teacher Claire Kreuger. The idea behind it wasn't just the beautification of the schoolyard or the creation of an educational garden.

"I was ruminating on what we could do as a gesture of reconciliation as a first step," explained Kreuger. "I knew about the Heart Garden, and that seemed like a really great idea. We didn't have a garden space to do that in, so we decided to create a permanent space that we could use as a step towards reconciliation. It all just kind of came together."

The students each coloured a paper heart, which were then glued to thin stakes and placed in two parallel rows creating a winding path across the front lawn from the school doors to the garden. As the students proceeded through the heart-guided path, the Empire School World Drummers performed several traditional Indigenous drum songs.