



A.R.E.S. NEWS LETTER

What's New?

John-John the Leprechaun visits A.R.E.S



Mrs. Vigna's Kindergarten class had a visit from John-John the Leprechaun during the last week of March. This little leprechaun played a lot of tricks and the students were involved in some serious problem solving. Mrs. Vigna incorporated the Applied Design & Technology curriculum into this much-loved experience. The students, along with their buddy class, followed the design process to construct leprechaun traps, which involved brainstorming, asking questions, designing, creating, testing, and improving, until they had completed successful traps.

- Summer in March
- Bowling for Inclusion
- John-John the Leprechaun
- Ted Harrison Art
- Descriptive Writing
- New Playground Update
- Pokémon Club
- Chess Tournament
- SEY2KT
- Swimming
- Circle of Courage



Each day the students arrived at school to discover chaos in their classroom. The mischievous leprechaun loved playing tricks throughout the night! The antics of this little person soon spread throughout the school, as John-John found his way into Mrs. Miller's kindergarten room, Mrs. Cote's grade one/two class, as well as into Mrs. Feragotti's grade one room. Everyone was making traps and John-John even left trails of shamrocks throughout the playground, which kept all of the primary students eagerly searching. Fortunately, we all wore green on March 11th and little John-John moved on to new adventures. Our school regained some normalcy before Spring Break.



Bowling for Inclusion

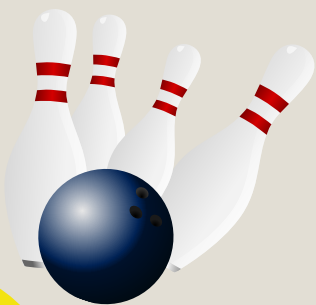


Sometimes student learning evolves in unexpected ways. Mr. Blick was working on a novel study with his grade 4/5 class and together they were reading, *Because of Mr. Terrupt*. As part of the unit, they discussed students with neurodiversity. The insightful discussions that arose led to questions regarding Autism and Down syndrome. Students began to share their experiences and learn from one another. Ms. Takeda, our Social Emotional Learning Support teacher, became involved because two students wanted to take their learning to a higher level. With Ms. Takeda's support and guidance, the students each prepared a slide show - one on Autism and the other on Down syndrome. Both students have very personal experiences with these topics, which they generously shared with their peers.

Shaela Meszarosi has an uncle with Down syndrome, which is why she connected with this topic. After creating a heart-warming and educational slideshow, with an underlying message to treat her uncle (and all people with Down syndrome) with kindness, she talked about her uncle's love for bowling.

Mason Reid shared his first-hand knowledge of Autism with his peers through his slideshow. His underlying message taught his classmates that people with Autism are just like everyone else. The students also learned that Mason loves to bowl.

To culminate the activity, Mr. Blick decided to take the class to Romano's Runaway Lanes, along with a special guest – Shaela's uncle. The experience of this class enjoying bowling together, with someone who had not had the opportunity to bowl for two years due to COVID, was enlightening. The students recognized his joy, interacted warmly, and supported him throughout the game. They could feel his appreciation and excitement. His caregiver was so moved by the invitation to have him join the class for this activity, she treated each student to a drink and snack, which Shaela's uncle handed out personally. Celebrating inclusion was a fine end to a novel study that engaged students in unforeseen and unpredictable ways.



Ted Harrison **Children of the Yukon**



Ted Harrison Art

By Mrs. Delcaro's Grade 4/5 Class

Turning Learning into Art

The students in Mrs. Delcaro's grade 4/5 class were reading books from every province in Canada and learning to ask questions. Following their read of Ted Harrison's, *Children of the Yukon*, they created their own pieces of Ted Harrison artwork.



Chess Tournament

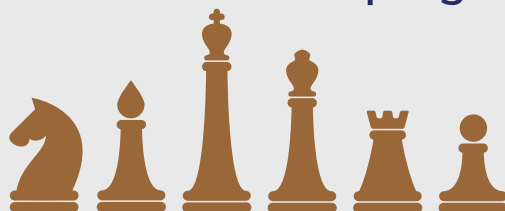
Grade 4 Winner

Justin Xu

Grade 5 Winner

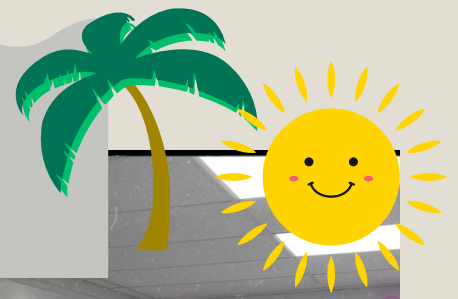
Ben Catherall

Grade 6 & 7 still in progress

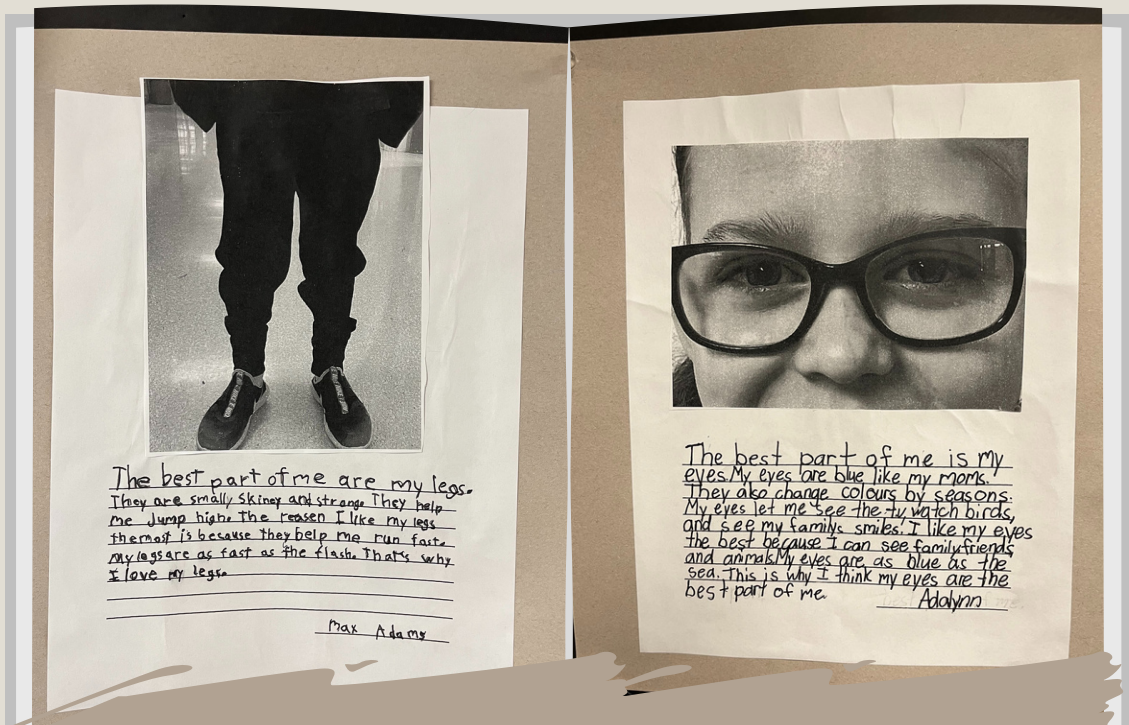




Summer in March Spirit Day



Ms. Sonntag's grade seven students organized a "Summer in March" Tropical Spirit Day on March 10th. Aside from the whole school dressing in tropical attire, her class was treated to a morning of adventure. Once the students received their plane ticket boarding passes, they entered a Luau. They enjoyed Scavenger hunts, hula hoop contests, the Limbo, and many tropical snacks – a true Hawaiian experience in March.



Descriptive writing in Mrs. Page's grade 3/4 class.
By Max Adams and Adalynn Johnson

ARQ Mountain Centre Field Trip



Pokémon Club

On March 8th, Mrs. Hamm and Ms. Sonntag took their grade seven students to Kimberly for a day of climbing at the Arq Mountain Centre. We were very proud to hear that these students were model ambassadors for our school.

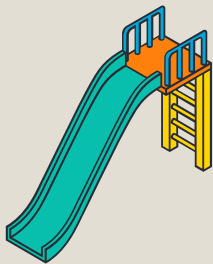


Grades 5 - 7
Every Friday at 12:15
in the Library

Thanks to Max Trent
& Ms. Ellert for
organizing

New Playground - The votes are in!

The Playground committee started with SEVEN designs and narrowed the selection down to THREE. Parents were given the opportunity to vote and the top TWO were then shared with students to make the final vote. The top choice won by 36 votes. With help from parents and community members, we hope to have a new playground at ARES ready before September 2022.





Adam Robertson
Elementary

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED
AUG 3 - 6**



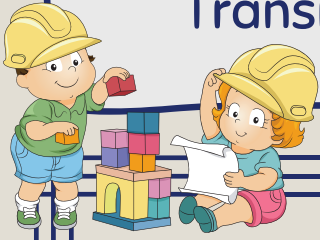
**HELP HAVE OUR
PLAYGROUND
READY FOR
SEPTEMBER
2022**

- Aug 3 – 6: We need 30 parent and community volunteers each day
- Mid-July: We need help with ground preparation & concrete work



CONTACT: ARESPLAYGROUND2022@GMAIL.COM

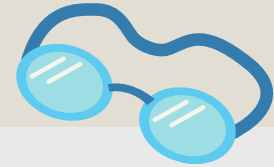
Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten Transition (SEY2KT) ~ Story Time



SEY2KT is a community and school district partnership that works collaboratively to support families. Their focus is to provide experiences and information to strengthen early years to Kindergarten transitions.

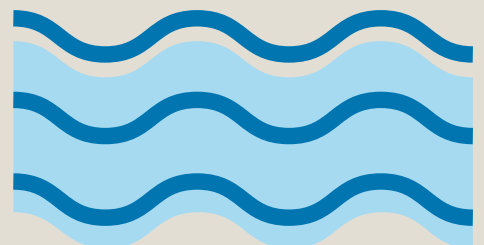
On March 4, ARES hosted the first session in the Story Time Series. With 18 participants aged 2 - 6, Simone Stanley led the children and their families through a series of stations, such as circle time, stories, centers and snacks. Our two kindergarten classes were the hosts for this special event, which was very exciting for them. What a great way to create connections and positive school experiences.

Please email strongstart@valley.services for more information on future events.



We Can Swim Again!

The classes of Ms. Ellert, Mr. Percival, Mr. Palmer, Mrs. Page, Mrs. Delcaro, and Mr. Blick all enjoyed swimming at the Creston & District Community Complex throughout the last week of school. It was refreshing to see such a large number of participants in an activity they have patiently waited for throughout the pandemic.



The Circle of Courage



At ARES we are learning how to incorporate the Circle of Courage into our teaching and learning. It is a model of youth empowerment and resiliency, which recognizes that in order for youth to be emotionally healthy, they need to feel a sense of belonging, mastery, independence and generosity.

The model originated in a book called, *Reclaiming Youth at Risk*, by Brendtro, Brokenleg and Van Bockern (1990) and is based on the First Nation's philosophy of child rearing.

The central theme of this model is that a set of shared values must exist in our school community to create an environment that will ultimately benefit all.

We continue to use ideas from the Caring School Community, a social and emotional learning (SEL) program that builds school-wide community, develops students' social skills as well as SEL competencies. This program aligns well with the Circle of Courage, so we try and incorporate ideas from both. Our schoolwide buddies and daily morning meetings in many classes, are examples of this implementation. And hopefully SOON...we can bring back our schoolwide community building activities.



ARES Vision

To support the development of **RESILIENT** children who can thrive in any community



Dates to Remember

Tuesday, April 5 – PAC Popcorn Sale
Wednesday, April 6 – PAC Meeting @ 9:00
Friday, April 8 – Hot Lunch – Real Food Cafe
Thursday, April 14 – Hot Lunch – Hot Dogs
Friday, April 15 – Good Friday – No School
Monday, April 18 – Easter Monday Stat – No School
Friday, April 22 – Hot Lunch – Pasta
Friday, April 29 – Hot Lunch – Pizza
Friday, April 22 – Earth Day
Monday, April 25 – District Pro-D Day
Wednesday, April 27 – Early Dismissal (1- hour before scheduled bell)
Thursday, April 28 – Early Dismissal (1- hour before scheduled bell)

Check out our ARES website:

www.ares.sd8.bc.ca

Please contact us if you have any concerns, thoughts, suggestions, or ideas. If you are interested in becoming part of our Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), we would love to hear from you.

NEXT PAC MEETING: Wednesday, April 6 @ 9:00 – EVERYONE WELCOME!!



Darryl Adams | Principal

Email: darryl.adams@sd8.bc.ca



Adam Robertson
Elementary



Tanya Christenson | Vice Principal

Email: tanya.christenson@sd8.bc.ca

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