



Adam Robertson
Elementary

MAY
NEWS

A.R.E.S. NEWS LETTER

Guess who the staff are?



The main entrance of ARES was filled with Staff Self-Portraits, all created using a variety of techniques and supplies. Part of the Circle of Courage philosophy involves taking risks and modeling bravery, which the staff definitely did. Students were challenged to guess which portrait belonged to who, and for several weeks, the main entrance was occupied by students determined to identify the mystery pictures and enter their guesses in the daily draw.

Of course, this staff activity had a purpose and was the beginning of a much larger event. Although most of us do not view ourselves as artists, we wanted to emphasize the importance of courage, taking risks, and effort in learning, regardless of ability. On May 10th, in a large schoolwide activity, it was our hope that students would participate with the same type of determination.

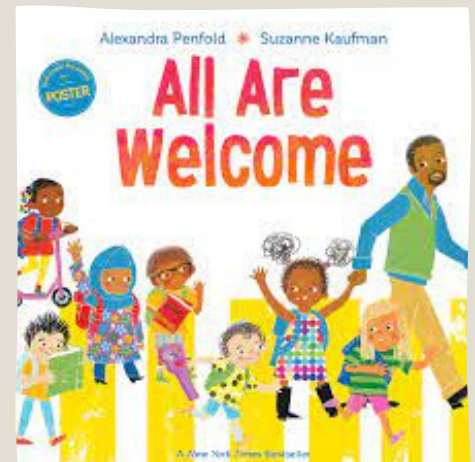
We began the day with the primary classes attending their FIRST assembly in the gym. Mr. Adams read the book, All Are Welcome, by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman, a story centered around the acceptance of all people, and then the younger students met their older buddies to begin the activities.

Continued on Page 2



What's New?

- All Are Welcome
- Learning Fair
- Grade 7 Transition
- Museum Reconciliation Project
- ARES Art
- Baby Chicks in Kindergarten
- Shrek the Musical Jr.
- SEY2KT
- Kindergarten Registration
- Circle of Courage



Scavenger Hunt



Continued from Page 1

Outside, they worked together on a People Search Scavenger Hunt, which was a chance to mingle with other students, while searching for specific characteristics in people they may not have engaged with before. As they handed in their completed sheets, PAC parents generously provided Freezies, before they headed inside for an afternoon of art, an opportunity to create their own self-portraits.

These large-scale activities help to connect the staff and students and are intended to inspire imagination and leadership. The event also aligned well with the Circle of Courage model, which we try to incorporate into all that we do at ARES.



All Are Welcome



MASTERY: A positive school climate is created when there is a belief that everyone is capable of success. The most natural way to work on mastery is through mentorship. When children observe the adults around them taking risks, they strive to do the same. When success is achieved, the desire to achieve more is strengthened.



Portraits of A.R.E.S.

Black Out Poetry

Mr. Palmer's Grade 6/7 Class



To end Mr. Palmer's poetry unit, his grade 6/7 students were given pages from an old book. They were challenged to use what they had learned to create either an abstract or concrete poem from the words that already existed on the page. The words not being used were "blacked out" or transformed into a colourful design. (See Above)





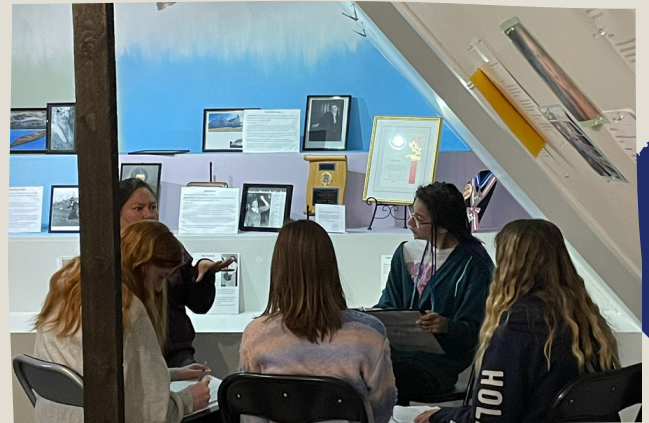
Ms. Sonntag's Grade 7's

Reconciliation Project at the Creston Valley Museum

Over the past year, the students have learned about Colonialism and Reconciliation. During a visit to the Creston Museum in February, Ms. Sonntag's class had a chance to explore how these concepts manifest themselves in the context of a community museum.

Now, the students are taking that learning even further. They have been invited to select exhibits at the Museum, work with Ktunaxa Elders and knowledge-keepers to identify ways in which the exhibits can better reflect the Ktunaxa perspective, alongside settler perspectives, and prepare presentations to illustrate their recommendations.

What started as a simple program to help students understand two different perspectives of land use in the Creston Valley (traditional Ktunaxa uses and settler-economic uses) has evolved into a large-scale project. As the Museum strives to decolonize its exhibits, the students are now incorporating their learning of these perspectives directly into the museum displays. Over the summer of 2022, take a look at the museum exhibits as they begin to transform as a result of our student recommendations.



Thanks for your
dedication to this
project Ms.
Sonntag





A.R.E.S. Performs!

What a success! On May 6th and 7th 63 students performed in Shrek the Musical Jr. We were all amazed with the talented ARES students who braved the stage to sing and dance for a full audience both nights. Thanks to Kyla Hamm, a grade 7 teacher at ARES, for having such energy and vision and to both the parents and staff who took the lead in transforming this idea into reality. Our students are so fortunate to have such commitment and dedication from the adults around them.



Check out the May 12th
Creston Valley Advance



All-star Creston students present Shrek the Musical

The cast and crew of 63 kids from Adam Robertson Elementary School performed in front of a full

<https://www.crestonvalleyadvance.ca/news/all-star-creston-students-present-shrek-the-musical/>

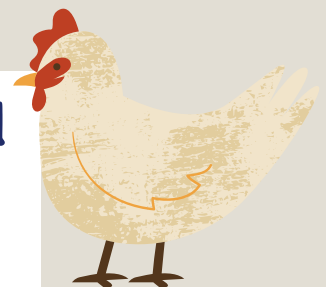
Grade 7 Transition to KRSS



As the year comes to an end, we work closely with the Kootenay River Secondary School (KRSS) staff to plan transition activities for our grade 7 students. Although many are excited for this significant change, it is normal for students to experience some anxiety as they anticipate this life transition. The students have already had an opportunity to visit the high school. The KRSS counsellors will also come to ARES to answer questions, explain the secondary program, and ease some fears by guiding the grade 7's on what to expect in September. All the grade seven students in our Creston Family of schools have also been invited to attend a Transition Program Activity at Canyon Park on June 10th. During this event, KRSS will be hosting outside games for all of the Creston grade 7's. Students will be placed in their grade eight pods and enjoy large group games and a BBQ lunch. During this event, students will receive their 2022/2023 school schedules and learn more about their Pod groups. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns regarding the transition process and we will do our best to support you and your child.



Live Baby Chicks Hatch in Kindergarten

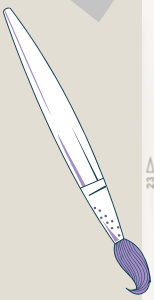


Our kindergarten students learned about the life cycle of a chicken and hatched 5 baby chicks to end their unit. How exciting!





Visual Arts at A.R.E.S.



WE DO NOT NEED MAGIC TO CHANGE THE WORLD, WE CARRY ALL THE POWER WE NEED INSIDE OURSELVES ALREADY: WE HAVE THE POWER TO IMAGINE BETTER.
J.K. Rowling

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



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

SY2KT 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 May 19th ARES hosted the GYM TIME SERIES, Play your way to Kindergarten for children aged 3 - 6. The preschoolers participated in circle time, outside play, snack, and of course had time in the gym.

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



Kindergarten
Registration
opened in January

If your child turns 5
by December 31,
2022, he or she
can start school
this September.
Pre-registration is
required so please
visit the ARES
office.



Welcome to Kindergarten Open House



On May 25th, the students who will attend Kindergarten in September, were invited to ARES for a Welcome to Kindergarten Open House. Students and their families toured the school, met the ARES staff, and participated in various stations with our current kindergarten teachers and some district support staff. Parents were given information on what to expect in the fall and received the gradual entry schedule. The pre-Kindergarten students were also given a special tote bag, filled with supplies to encourage school readiness. The purpose of this event was to begin the development of a strong home-school relationship and to set our future students up for success.

If you know a child who turns five before December 31, 2022, remind their families to stop by ARES, as soon as possible, and register them for Kindergarten.



The Circle of Courage and the Development of Resilience

The Circle of Courage is centered around four universal needs of all children: Belonging, Mastery, Independence, and Generosity. Children grow and thrive when all four of these needs are met. However, when one or more of these four components are missing, challenges arise.

The Circle of Courage philosophy is important at ARES, because it focuses on building strengths, believing that all children have the potential to succeed, and that adults can support this growth. Strengths help people cope with life's challenges, which is an essential component of resilience. Rather than worrying about limitations and deficits, the goal is to create experiences that lead to positive outcomes in our students. The long-term result are adults who can better cope with life's challenges. Our long-term vision at ARES is to support the development of **RESILIENT** children who can thrive in any community.



ARES Vision

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



The Learning Fair



The hallways of A.R.E.S. were filled with families on April 27th and 28th for our first annual Learning Fair. Many parents have not been inside our building due to COVID restrictions, so this event was a perfect chance for parents to share in the celebration of their children's success. The event was intended as an opportunity for A.R.E.S. students to have a voice in communicating their learning to parents. What are they proud of? What's going well? What engages them at school? Where do they spend their day? It was a chance to see very authentic evidence of student learning.

Students were invited to bring their parents on either of the two early-dismissal days to participate in a special challenge. They received a Punch Card at the door, and then toured their families to each of the destinations listed on the card. Once families completed the visits to each location, they entered the card in a draw for a student from each class to win a Dairy Queen lunch with Mr. Adams and Mrs. Christenson.

In the library, Mrs. Walker, our Teacher-Librarian, had many stations set up so that students could demonstrate their skills with technology, such as Bloxels, M-Bots, Bee Bots, Osmos, Code.org, Kodable, and Makey Makey/Scratch. In the gym, aside from viewing some large samples of student learning, PAC offered coffee and snacks for parents to enjoy throughout the tour. Visitors also viewed the plans for our NEW PLAYGROUND, which will be installed at the beginning of August. In our newly renovated Fine Arts space, Mrs. Vandenberghe had some student work displayed, a quick activity for families to complete, and SHREK the Musical Jr. tickets were sold by cast members who were dressed in costume. In our Aboriginal Education Classroom, Josie Fullarton shared some of the work she does, and students taught their families a Ktunaxa greeting. Finally, in each child's classroom, students had work ready to share. What a perfect way to reconnect with such an important component of our school – the ARES Families!



MASTERY: Adults can support student growth by focusing on building strengths and believing that all children have the potential to succeed. Strengths help people cope with life's challenges, which is an essential component of resilience.

Dates to Remember

Friday, May 27 – Intermediate Track & Field Day

Monday, May 30 – School Planning Day – No Students

Tuesday, May 31 – School Photo Day

Wednesday, June 1 – PAC Meeting @ 9:00

Monday, June 20 – Grade 7 & Staff Luncheon 12:15 – 12:55

Tuesday, June 21 – Wuqanqankimik Walk & Indigenous Day Activities Schoolwide Event

Wednesday, June 22 – Schoolwide Water Day 1:00 – 2:50

Thursday, June 23 – Last Day of School for Students (Dismissal @ 11:50)

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, June 1 @ 9:00 AM
EVERYONE WELCOME!!**



Darryl Adams | Principal

Email: darryl.adams@sd8.bc.ca



Adam Robertson
Elementary



Tanya Christenson | Vice Principal

Email: tanya.christenson@sd8.bc.ca

Adam Robertson Elementary School
421 9th Ave N.
Creston, BC
Office: 250-428-2051
Web: www.ares.sd8.bc.ca