



ARES LEARNING FAIR

ARES was a busy place on April 25th and 26th, the two early dismissal days, as students toured their families around for our Learning Fair. Upon entry, each student was given a special ticket, with the goal to take their caregivers to FIVE locations: The gym, our Fine Arts room, the STEM space, Library, and their own classroom. At each destination, there were activities to partake in and their tickets were stamped. Once they gathered all five stamps, they could enter their ticket in a draw to win lunch at DQ with Mr. Adams and Mrs. C.

Families enjoyed coffee, tea, and snacks in the gym (Thank you PAC) as they perused information about our school culture. Students shared their own learning in their classrooms, where they showcased the work they were proud of. Mrs. Walker, our Teacher Librarian created opportunities for parents to learn about some of the technology their children use each day, and Mrs. Vandenberghe, our Fine Arts Teacher, had a giant Scrabble game for families to play.



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APRIL NEWS

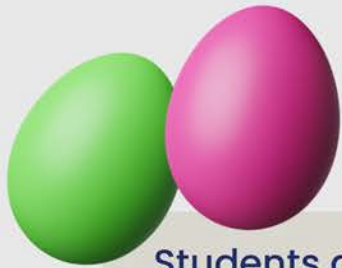


What's New at ARES?



- ARES Learning Fair
- EGGstravaganza
- Willy Wonka Jr. Musical
- Sturgeon Education
- Drummers from Yaqaan Nukiy
- OWL Dissection at KRSS
- Staff Bulletin Board
- The Connection Between Hope & Resilience
- Math Problem-Solving
- Newsletter Challenge
- Important Dates





EGGSTRAVAGANZA



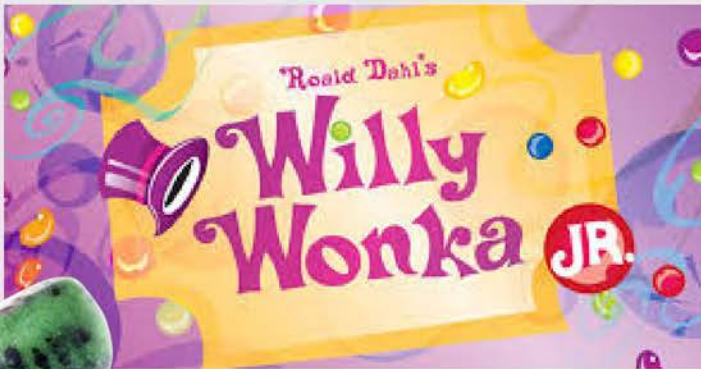
Students gathered together for a short assembly on April 4th to learn about an exciting schoolwide adventure.

Older buddies then supported younger students and together they explored the ARES school grounds to find their very own egg containing a little, fluffy chick. The fact that these small chickens were not real, did not hinder the enthusiasm of our 300 students, who assumed ownership of their new pets.

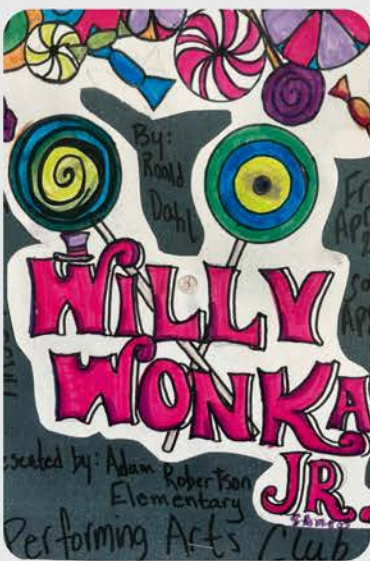
Thanks to the crafting supplies and recyclables brought in by families, buddy pairs worked creatively to construct homes for their small friends. Students cared for these pets until the long weekend when they were able to take them home.

This activity aligns with our Circle of Courage goal. Our students learn **GENEROSITY**, as they care for and support one another, as well as have an experience in empathy.





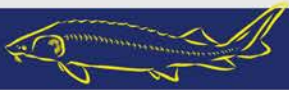
ARES is fortunate to have the very talented Mrs. Hamm, who took the lead in directing our spring musical, Willy Wonka Jr. With 57 students in grades 3-7, a lot of parent support, and some dedicated staff who devoted numerous hours to get the performance off the ground, the final result was spectacular. On April 21st and 22nd, the Creston community enjoyed two high quality shows at Kootenay River Secondary School Auditorium. Thanks to the teachers who supported this incredible undertaking: Mrs. Delcaro, Ms. Ellert, Mr. Percival, Mrs. Doeleman, Mrs. Vandenberghe, and our student teacher, Mr. Gonzalez. Way to go ARES students!



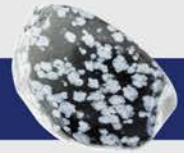
Thank you Santo Morse for designing the poster



Learning involves recognizing that some knowledge is sacred and only shared with permission and/or in certain situations



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KOOTENAY WHITE STURGEON EDUCATION & RELEASE PROGRAM



Mr. Blick, Ms. Smith, Mrs. Doeleman, and Mrs. Page's class all participated in the Kootenay White Sturgeon Education and Release Program on April 19th. The goal of these hour-long sessions is to familiarize students with the hatchery program, history, anatomy, habitat, and life cycle of the white sturgeon. Students enjoyed a presentation followed by an interactive game in which they experienced the obstacles a sturgeon encounters in its journey to adult spawning age.



Eagle Bear Spirit Drum Group Shares with ARES



A special thank you to Rudy Luke Jr. and Sandra Luke, from Yaqan Nukiy's Eagle Bear Spirit Drum Group, who were given the responsibility and permission to share drum songs with four of our ARES classes. In preparation for the annual District Powwow on May 19th, Mrs. Hamm, Ms. Ellert, Ms. Smith, & Mrs. Doeleman's classes were generously taught to drum a song.



Don't forget to come to the Powwow on May 19th at the Creston & District Community Complex





DISSECTING OWL PELLETS AT KOOTENAY RIVER SECONDARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Page's grade 2/3 class celebrated an end to their unit on Owls by visiting Kootenay River Secondary School. Our elementary students were paired with Ms. Nicholson's grade 11 class, who guided them through the dissection of owl pellets. It was exciting for the students to classify the various parts as bone, fur, or feathers. This visit was a perfect community building experience and an educational culmination to their science unit.



Our Staff Bulletin Board

"What do the 33 ARES staff look forward to each day?"



Hope



Learning is embedded in memory, history, and story

Ask your child: "What does your stone represent?"



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THE CONNECTION BETWEEN HOPE AND RESILIENCE



In order to support the development of resiliency in our students ~ *the focus of our ARES vision* ~ we must cultivate HOPEFUL mindsets.

Resiliency is the ability to recover and move forward following a setback or difficult experience. Using the Circle of Courage framework, which incorporates four key areas necessary to developing stability and functioning within children ~ **Belonging, Generosity, Independence and Mastery** ~ is our means to help students navigate change effectively as they move forward in life. To become resilient, children first need to believe in their ability to excel. If they are hope-filled, they will have the strength needed to achieve their goals and to bounce back from setbacks or disappointments. The Circle of Courage is our roadmap to guide our students in this positive life-direction.

Our journey began with the staff modeling HOPE. On our central bulletin board, we each wrote about one small thing we look forward to each day and shared a picture. We then gathered our 300 students together and talked about the importance of having HOPE and how it helps us feel happier. It also gives us the inner strength needed to solve challenging problems.

Our students reflected on one small thing they look forward to each day (*since this thought process is where HOPE begins*) and they wrote about their ideas. Finally, they each traded Mr. Adams and Mrs. C. their paper for a special polished stone. The rocks are intended as a reminder to have HOPE each day. With HOPE, we can propel ourselves forward in life, despite obstacles.

"The three grand essentials of happiness are: Something to do, someone to love, and something to hope for."

~ Alexander Chalmers ~



hope

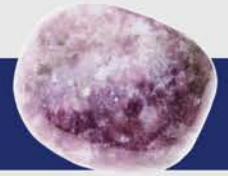


ARES Vision

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

Humans have an innate drive to become competent and solve problems. With success in surmounting challenges, the desire to achieve is strengthened.

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Each week, Mrs. Walker posts a new Math Problem for our students to solve using whatever strategy they choose. Some students solve the questions independently. Others work together, brainstorming possible solutions, and share their creative ideas with others. It's great for students to see that, regardless of the challenge, a solution is always possible and that there are many unique ways to get there.

Sid is experimenting with new hot chocolate recipes.

RECIPE A: 2 parts hot chocolate powder to 3 parts milk

RECIPE B: 3 parts hot chocolate powder to 4 parts milk

Which of these recipes will be sweeter? Can you demonstrate your solution with numbers and an illustration?



Newsletter Challenge

Throughout the newsletter, you will find many polished stones. Just like the special stone each student chose, they remind us to have **HOPE** ~ We must always look forward to something each day.

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

- 1) How many stones are in the newsletter?
- 2) What is ONE thing your family looks forward to?



Working through these math challenges helps develop problem-solving skills that transfer to other aspects of life. This skillset reduces anxiety and guides individuals through adversity.



IMPORTANT DATES

- Thursday, May 4th – Spirit Day – Star Wars Theme
- Friday, May 5th – PAC Pizza Lunch
- Thursday, May 11th – PAC Meeting @ 1:00
- Friday, May 12th – PAC Hotdog Lunch
- Friday, May 19th – District Powwow
- Friday, May 19th – PAC Pasta Lunch
- Monday, May 22nd – Victoria Day – No School
- Wednesday, May 24th – Spirit Day – Character Theme
- Thursday, May 25th – Intermediate Track Meet
- Monday, May 29th – Pro-D Day – No School
- Friday, June 9th – Spirit Day – Silly/Bizarre Hat Day
- Wednesday, June 21st – National Indigenous People’s Day & wuqanqankimik Reconciliation Walk/Run – Schoolwide Activity
- Wednesday, June 28th – Water Day in PM
- Thursday, June 29th – Assembly @ 11:00
- Thursday, June 29th – Last Day of School – Dismissal @ 11:45



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ARES Goal

To actively incorporate the Circle of Courage philosophy and the four universal needs of all children (Belonging, Independence, Generosity, & Mastery) into our school-wide culture.