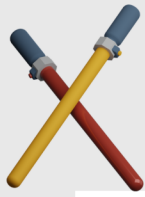


We acknowledge, respect and honour the First Nations in whose traditional territories the Kootenay Lake School District operates and all Aboriginal people residing within the boundaries of School District #8.



Star Wars Read-a-thon



Adam Robertson
Elementary

FEBRUARY NEWS

Will our ARES students defeat the *DARK SIDE* by gaining 120,000 reading minutes of knowledge? We have ONE more day to reach this goal!

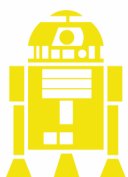
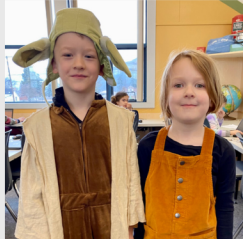
Students have enjoyed a Padawan Buddy Read, a Lightsaber Word Battle, and Dressing like a Star Wars Character, but tomorrow at 9:00 is the big day. ARES students will venture to gym for the Master Jedi Reader Recognition Ceremony to find out if we made it. Families are welcome to join in the excitement.

Mrs. Walker brilliantly created eight Star Wars videos throughout the month to encourage students in their journey to become Jedi Masters.



What's New at ARES?

- Star Wars Read-a-thon
- Telus Wise Footprint Workshops
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Basketball Season
- Kindergarten Registration
- Curling & Skating
- PAC Purdy's Fundraiser
- The Circle of Courage in Classrooms
- Kindness & the Code of Conduct
- ʔuki ʔakiʔwiʔis - Pink Shirt Day
- Staff Model Mastery



So far our ARES Students have read a total of **106,930** minutes during the month of February. Will they reach 120,000 and defeat the **DARK SIDE?**





Learning involves recognizing the consequences of one's actions

~ First Peoples Principles of Learning ~



Telus Wise Footprint Program

Our intermediate classes enjoyed a **TELUS Wise Footprint** presentation by Carly Jellis. The workshop is designed to help elementary school students learn how to be good digital citizens and keep their digital footprint clean. The hope is that students who participate will have a more positive online experience.

Students learned about protecting their security and privacy, rising above cyber bullying, and using technology responsibly.



Scholastic Book Fair



Thanks to all the students and families who purchased books and merchandise from our Scholastic Book Fair, we made \$5609.00, which means **\$2583.00** toward new books for our ARES library and 14 classrooms.



Team Sports instills **BELONGING** through teamwork - **MASTERY** through skill development - **INDEPENDENCE** through leadership opportunities - and **GENEROSITY** through sportsmanship - collectively nurturing well-rounded and resilient individuals



Basketball Season



Basketball is underway at ARES. Thanks to the coaches who have made this commitment, providing students with an extra-curricular activity to look forward to.

Grade 4/5 Boys

Thursday: 12:00 - 12:45
Mrs. Vigna & Mr. Adams

Grade 4/5 Girls

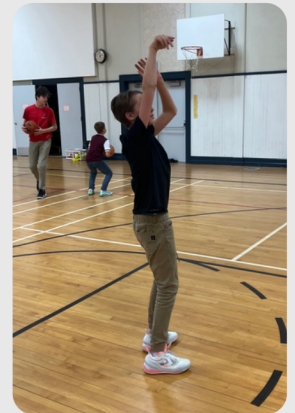
Monday: 12:00 - 12:45
Mr. Blick

Grade 6/7 Boys

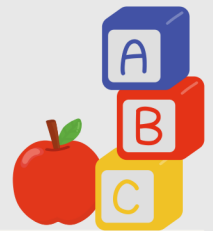
Thursdays: 3:00 - 4:15
Friday: 12:00 - 12:45
Craig Stanley & Mrs. Vigna

Grade 6/7 Girls

Monday: 3:00 - 4:00
Wednesday: 12:00 - 12:45
Ms. Smith, Mrs. Cote & Mrs. Gardner



Kindergarten Registration



If you have a child who will be starting Kindergarten in September, registration is now open. Please spread the word to families who do not have older siblings at ARES. See Mrs. Scott, our Office Clerical, to begin the registration process.





Learning involves patience and time

~ First Peoples Principles of Learning ~

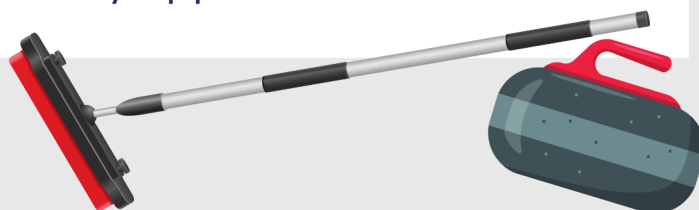


Curling & Skating



Thanks to many skilled community volunteers, our intermediate classes received several curling lessons. Some classes also enjoyed skating and swimming at the Creston & District Community Complex.

ARES students are fortunate to be within walking distance of many opportunities in Creston.



PURDY'S CHOCOLATES – Fundraiser

ARES PAC is fundraising!

By purchasing Purdy's Chocolates, you are supporting our 14 classrooms when they embark on field trips and outings away from the school.

Please complete your online orders by **MARCH 6th**. Orders will be available for pick up before Spring Break.

Watch for more details on the pick-up the time.

fundraising.purdys.com

Enter customer # **58997**



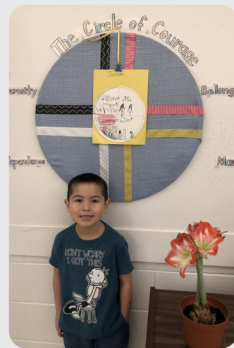


At ARES, we use the *Circle of Courage* model, aiming to create an inclusive, non-discriminatory, and respectful environment where all individuals, regardless of their background or characteristics, can feel a sense of belonging

The Circle of Courage in Classrooms

ARES teachers incorporate the **Circle of Courage** values into student learning wherever possible.

In Mrs. Cote's Grade 1/2 class, Jordan proudly shared how he models **Belonging, Generosity, Independence, and Mastery** in his daily life.



Ms. Sonntag, our Aboriginal Support teacher, engaged Ms. Smith's Grade 2 students with a legend of **Generosity** and kindness ~ Na#muqçi.

Thanks to Robert Louie Sr., Yaqaan Nuki Elder, for sharing this story



Kindness at ARES



When we are kind, we are respectful

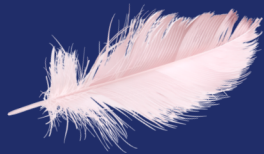
Embedded in our schoolwide activities and through the integration of the **Circle of Courage** philosophy into all that we do, ARES students gradually learn kindness and acceptance – two fundamental components in respecting the dignity and worth of every individual. We strive to strengthen the understanding of human rights, which is a focus in our Code of Conduct.

From our ARES Code of Conduct:

Adam Robertson Elementary School promotes the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code to ensure all students feel a sense of belonging, respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law – prohibiting discrimination based on **race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression** – in respect of discriminatory publication and discrimination in accommodation, service and facility in the school environment.

Learning ultimately supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors

~ First Peoples Principles of Learning ~



?uki ?aki?wiyis



One Heart

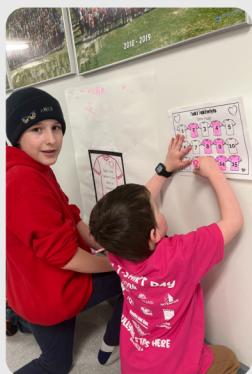
Pink Shirt Day



In the Ktunaxa language and culture, **?uki ?aki?wiyis** ~ *one heart* ~ represents unity, harmony, and the collective spirit of a community working together towards a common goal. It signifies the importance of cooperation, empathy, and shared values in achieving success and well-being.



This year, ARES decided to make this Ktunaxa expression our **PINK SHIRT DAY** focus, since it is a goal to have students demonstrate kindness and respect to all people.



Together with their buddies, students toured the school to find 15 pink shirts. At each stop, they completed a task, which helped them recognize that, regardless of similarities and differences, we have **ONE HEART** at ARES.



ARES Vision

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

In the Circle of Courage, adults are viewed as models for learning. Through observation and listening to those with greater experience, children will strive for mastery and personal growth.



Staff Model Mastery

Each of our 35 staff members graciously created their own heart, which we joined together into one. It is our individual experiences which form our school community, and together, we guide the 320 children who attend ARES.

Regardless of our artistic ability, we modeled this project before asking the students to do the same on Pink Shirt Day.

Staff ?uki ?akitwiyis Display

?uki ?akitwiyis One Heart



Many students stood at our Staff bulletin board admiring the hearts of the adults at ARES. When it came time for them to think of the *pieces of their own hearts*, they were prepared. They had observed and learned, realizing that striving for mastery doesn't mean perfection. However, with success in surmounting challenges, the desire to achieve is strengthened.

One Heart at ARES



Promoting a culture of kindness and acceptance fosters a positive and inclusive environment, contributing to the well-being of individuals and the community as a whole.

IMPORTANT

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Thursday, February 29th** – Assembly @ 9:00 – Master Jedi Reader Recognition Ceremony – Families Welcome!
- **Friday, March 1st** – Play Your Way to K – 9:00 – 11:30
- **Friday, March 8th** – Report Cards Out
- **Wednesday, March 13th** – PAC Meeting @ 9:00
- **Friday, March 15th** – Last Day of School Before Spring Break
- **Tuesday, April 2nd** – School Re-opens
- **Wednesday, April 10th** – PAC Meeting @ 9:00
- **Friday, April 19th** – Play Your Way to K – 9:00 – 11:30
- **Monday, April 22nd** – District Pro-D Day – No School for Students
- **Wednesday, April 24th** – Early Dismissal & Learning Fair @ 1:45
- **Thursday, April 25th** – Early Dismissal & Learning Fair @ 1:45



Adam Robertson
Elementary



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Tanya Christenson | Vice Principal
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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.