

Welcome

INDEPENDENCE: The start of a new school year combines nervousness and excitement, offering many opportunities for personal growth

Welcome to our ARES Community

We are excited to welcome over 300 students to ARES on **Tuesday, September 3rd!**

On this half day (8:45 - 11:45), returning students will meet outside at their last year's line up when the bell rings.

New students will meet at the front middle doors, and we will guide them from there.

As new students register, and some former students move away, we will juggle the class lists this first week to ensure we have the best placements possible for staff and students. Once we have lists finalized, we will communicate next steps. Thanks for your patience!

Monthly Newsletter



At the end of each month we will email you our ARES newsletter, which is filled with school news and upcoming events

Also, don't forget to check our website regularly for new information.

ares.sd8.bc.ca

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Tuesday, September 3rd

8:45 - 11:45



Adam Robertson
Elementary

AUGUST NEWS



What's New at ARES?

- First Day Plan
- Monthly Newsletter
- Kindergarten Gradual Entry
- School Supplies
- ARES 2024-2025 Staff
- Bus Registration
- Bell Schedule
- ARES Vision & the Circle of Courage
- Breakfast Program & PAC
- What's New at ARES?
- Family Corn Feed
- Cell Phone Policy
- Summer Office Hours
- Litterless Lunches
- Morning Supervision
- Important Dates



Kindergarten marks the beginning of a child's journey from home to the wider world of learning, discovery, and new connections

Kindergarten Schedule

Kindergarten Families



Meet the Teacher

On **Wednesday, September 4th** or **Thursday, September 5th**, please choose a time to drop in to the classroom for a visit and to complete CHEQ

Drop-in Times

9:15 - 10:45

11:00 - 12:00

1:00 - 2:30

All kindergarten students will officially start on Friday, September 6th: 8:45 - 11:30.

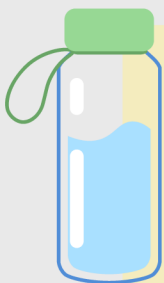
We will meet students outside on the North Tarmac on their first day.



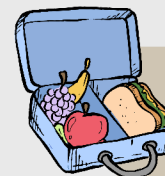
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Labour Day Statutory Holiday	3 No Kindergarten ½ day for grades 1-7	4 Individual Parent/Teacher Conferences Parent/Child/Teacher *Teachers to make contact for scheduling	5 Individual Parent/Teacher Conferences – Parent/Child/Teacher *Teachers to make contact for scheduling	6 Kindergarten Students attend from 8:45am - 11:30am. Please pack a healthy snack.
9 Kindergarten Students attend from 8:45am - 11:30am Please pack a healthy snack.	10 Kindergarten Students attend from 8:45am - 11:30am Please pack a healthy snack.	11 Kindergarten Students attend from 8:45am - 1:00pm Please pack a healthy snack and a lunch.	12 Kindergarten Students attend from 8:45am - 1:00pm Please pack a healthy snack and a lunch.	13 Kindergarten Students attend from 8:45am - 1:00pm Please pack a healthy snack and a lunch.
16 Kindergarten Students attend Full Day: 8:45 - 2:45	17 Kindergarten Students attend Full Day: 8:45 - 2:45	18 Kindergarten Students attend Full Day: 8:45 - 2:45	19 Kindergarten Students attend Full Day: 8:45 - 2:45	20 School Planning Day – no school for all students



School Supplies



- Supplies will be provided by the school for \$40.00. This fee can be paid online through our website, at the office, or to classroom teachers. (Cheques payable to ARES)
- In addition, all students will require: In-door running shoes, a water bottle, and gym strip (intermediate students).



Litter-less Lunches

We strive for Litter-free lunches at ARES.

Please use reusable containers and reduce packaging as much as possible. Choose a re-fillable water bottle instead of a juice box.



TEAM

BELONGING: A community that comes together to support its children forms a powerful team

It takes a village to raise a child



Our 2024–2025 Staff

Principal – Tanya Christenson
Vice Principal – William Klassen
Office Clerical – Mary Scott
EA – Rhonda Sloss
EA – Karen Mottl
EA – Cindy Healey
EA – Colleen Kuny
EA – Dora O'Brien
EA – Jacqui Miller
Library Clerical – Lillian Leslie
Aboriginal Education Success Teacher – Danielle Sonntag
Aboriginal Youth & Family Liaison – Josie Fullarton
Early Literacy Support Teacher – Tina Harms
Fine Arts Teacher – Blakeny Delcaro
Teacher Librarian – Tracy Walker
School Counsellor – Darci Bysouth
Custodian – Aaron Bennett
Custodian – Joyce Johnson

Kindergarten – Heather Vigna & Lindsay Miller
Kindergarten/Grade 1 – Jen Gardner
Grade 1 – Melissa Feragotti
Grade 2 – Linda Cote
Grade 2/3 – Amanda Smith
Grade 3 – Caroline Vandenberghe
Grade 3/4 – Lisa Page
Grade 4 – Marc Bieri
Grade 4/5 – Matt Blick
Grade 5/6 – Kelly Ellert & William Klassen
Grade 5/6 – Max Percival
Grade 6/7 – Danielle Sonntag & William Klassen
Grade 7 – Kyla Hamm
Inclusion Support Teacher – Darci Bysouth
Inclusion Support Teacher – Tracy Walker
Primary Literacy & Numeracy Inclusion Support Teacher – Candace Ivanco



Bus Registration

Don't forget to register if your child will be riding the bus

<https://www.sd8.bc.ca/departments/operations/bus-registration>

ARES Bell Schedule



Welcome Bell – 8:45
RECESS – All students: 10:45 – 11:00
LUNCH – 12:00 – 12:45
(Upstairs Outside 12:00 – 12:30 / Downstairs Outside 12:15 – 12:45)
End of Day – 2:45





Strength and resilience in children comes from belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity ~ helping them grow into confident and compassionate individuals.



Adam Robertson
Elementary

The Circle of Courage

At ARES we work hard to incorporate the Circle of Courage into our schoolwide culture. 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).

The Circle of Courage is centered around an indigenous philosophy of child-rearing, incorporating their sophisticated thoughts on child development, to nurture caring, respectful, and courageous children. The model emphasizes the importance of a community, with a shared set of values, raising children together.

Throughout the year, you will notice that we incorporate many activities to help our students, staff, and families feel connected. When adults feel a sense of BELONGING themselves, they can support children to feel equally safe and secure in their school environment and a feeling of GENEROSITY emerges and everyone kindly supports one another. When a person feels cared for and they BELONG, their journey toward MASTERY and INDEPENDENCE begins.



School 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.



ARES Vision

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



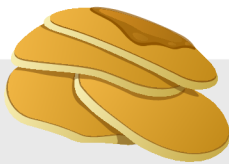
GENEROSITY: Children instinctively learn the meaning of kindness by observing the selfless actions of those they look up to and respect



ARES Breakfast Program



- We have a dedicated PAC (Parent Advisory Council) who makes breakfast in the gym each morning, beginning at 8:15. ALL students are welcome to have a snack or meal and then return outside to visit or play with friends until the bell at 8:45.
- PAC would love to have more volunteers. Please let us know if you would like to be involved in this rewarding opportunity.
- Each day the menu changes. Students enjoy smoothies, fruit, muffins, milk, scrambled eggs, cereal, oatmeal, grilled Cheese, or pancakes.
- This program is a peaceful way for students to start their day, visiting with new friends before venturing outside.



Thank you ARES PAC, for all you do to support us!



Looking for Sponsorship

Our Breakfast Program is funded through grants, sponsorship, and donations. To continue offering this free meal to ARES students, we require financial support. If you or your business are willing to donate or sponsor a portion of this worthwhile endeavour, please reach out to PAC at:



AdamRobertson.PAC@gmail.com



PAC meets monthly and all parents are welcome to attend.
The first PAC meeting is on:

Wednesday, September 9th @ 3:00 pm



MASTERY represents the development of skills and competence through learning and experience. Children gain valuable insights and grow their abilities as they interact with new adults who bring fresh perspectives and expertise.

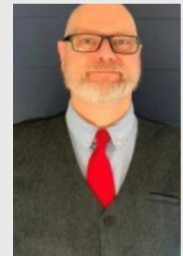
What's New at ARES

Ms. Candace will be back! She is our new Primary Literacy & Numeracy Inclusion Support Teacher. ARES is so lucky to have her on our team again.



Mr. Bieri will be moving from Homelinks to teach grade 4. He has taught in Nunavut, Korea, Abu Dhabi, Kazakhstan, Brunei Darussalam, India, and Surrey.

Mr. Klassen will be the Vice Principal at ARES, as well as teaching part time in grade 5/6 & grade 6/7. He was an Assistant principal in Camrose, Alberta.



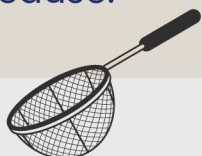
The Giant Sand Box

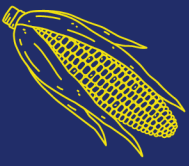
Our primary students can look forward to a whole lot of **digging** this year, so pack the MUD PANTS!!!

We also need to fill this huge sand box with interesting things to dig with. If you have small shovels, rakes buckets, pots, pans, spoons, dump trucks, sieves, jugs, bowls....etc..., please bring them to the office and donate to this worthy cause.



Thanks Andrew
Jellis & Aaron
Murphy for all your
hard work!!!





BELONGING to a larger community enriches our lives by offering support, shared experiences, and opportunities for collective growth



Family Picnic & Corn Feed

Along with our ARES PAC, we will be hosting a special evening to welcome families to the ARES community. Please bring re-usable cups for water, and enjoy corn on the cob and hot dogs.

We will also be hosting our annual classroom Scarecrow Contest.

More information to come!

ARES

FAMILY PICNIC & CORN FEED

BRING A PLASTIC CUP & ENJOY SOME FRESHLY COOKED CORN ON THE COB & A HOT DOG

A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW OUR CLASSROOM SCARECROWS

**WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 18TH
4:30 - 6:00**

THANK YOU PAC

ARES SCARECROW CHALLENGE

WHAT KIND OF SCARECROW REPRESENTS YOUR CLASS?

HELP TO BRING IN COOL SUPPLIES

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE CLASSROOM SCARECROWS YOU WILL BUILD

Please start saving some scarecrow supplies!

BELONGING: For students to excel academically, they need a strong sense of connection to their classroom and school community. Developing relationships through positive human interaction is crucial



New Cellphone Policy



In alignment with other Creston elementary schools, **beginning in September**, students will not be permitted to bring or use their own electronic devices, such as smartphones, smart watches, and Bluetooth earphones to school.

We strive to provide a learning environment free from the use of technology, outside of structured classroom learning activities, to foster a school culture rich with social interactions, relationship building, and spontaneous creativity. The presence of electronic devices, other than those provided by the school for educational purposes, detracts from the kind of play and interaction that we promote at school.

Cell phones that appear at school will be stored in the office, to be picked up by a parent, at your convenience.

BACK TO
SCHOOL!



Morning Supervision

Morning Supervision starts at **8:20**.

Please do not send students to school before this time, so that we can ensure their safety.

Summer Office Hours

Monday, August 26th
to

Friday, August 30th

8:00 – 3:00



If you have questions or concerns, contact:

tanya.christenson@sd8.bc.ca



Thanks to Aaron, our custodian, for shining up our school this summer!



Hope is a fundamental human need—having something to look forward to each day helps both staff and students feel excited about coming to school

IMPORTANT DATES

- Monday, August 26th to Friday, August 30th - Office Open 8:00 - 3:00
- Monday, September 2nd - Labour Day - No School
- Tuesday, September 3rd - First Day of School 8:45 - 11:45
- Friday, September 6th - First day of Kindergarten 8:45 - 11:45
- Monday, September 9th - First PAC Meeting @ 3:00 PM
- Monday, September 16th - Assembly @ 9:00 & Schoolwide Activity
- Wednesday, September 18th - Family Picnic & Corn Feed 4:30-6:00
- Monday, September 20th - School Planning Day - No School
- Friday, September 27th - Orange Shirt Day & Assembly @ 9:00
- Monday, September 30th - National Day for Truth & Reconciliation - No School
- Wednesday, October 2nd - Individual & Class Photos
- Monday, October 14th - Thanksgiving Day - No School
- Wednesday, October 16th - Early Dismissal @ 1:45
- Thursday, October 17th - Early Dismissal @ 1:45
- Friday, October 25th - Pro-D Day - No School
- Monday, October 28th - Assembly @ 9:00 & Schoolwide Activity
- Thursday, October 31st - Costume Parade @ 9:00



Adam Robertson
Elementary

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William Klassen | Vice Principal
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