



INDEPENDENCE: Our scarecrow challenge fosters independence as students collaborate to design and create one classroom scarecrow, encouraging them to share ideas and make collective decisions.



Scarecrow Challenge



Adam Robertson
Elementary

SEPTEMBER NEWS



Each of our 13 rooms were challenged to build a scarecrow to represent their class. Students were encouraged to bring clothing and supplies to add to the stick and straw that were provided. This challenge was a schoolwide activity intended to foster a sense of belonging amongst our students. Having a focal point of conversation, a shared goal, and an opportunity to informally create and imagine together, provides students with a chance to relax and be themselves. It was wonderful to see our new students engage with others and become a part of our school community.



What's New at ARES?



- Scarecrow Challenge
- Family Corn Feed
- School Planning Day
- National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
- Breakfast & Lunch Program
- School Supply Reminder
- Terry Fox Run
- September at ARES
- Spring Musical Revealed
- National Forest Week
- Scholastic Book Orders
- Important Dates





BELONGING: The ARES Corn Feed brings families together to celebrate and connect, fostering a sense of community and inclusion.

Family Corn Feed



Thanks to all the families who attended our Corn Feed on Wednesday, September 16th. Riehl's Farm provided us with 250 cobs and they were gone by the end of the night. We also went through 300 hotdogs, which our PAC generously prepared. The grassy areas of ARES were scattered with picnic blankets while our school community mingled, chatted, and enjoyed volleyball, bean bags, our giant sandbox, and playground. It was also rewarding to watch our students proudly show off their classroom scarecrows, which were displayed along the fence line for the evening celebration.





MASTERY: When staff collaborate and learn together, we strengthen our team, benefiting our students as we build cohesion to support their success

School Planning Day

What were the ARES Staff doing?



On September 20th, ARES staff were busy working on our School Learning Plan. Using the Circle of Courage, we participated in an activity to help identify actions that will continue to build staff and student engagement.

Staff also looked at current data, shared in conversation, and strategized how to improve proficiency in Literacy and Numeracy.

A day to collaborate, build greater cohesion across the grades and strengthen our school learning plan, is a day we greatly value.

Staff Engagement & the Circle of Courage



ARES Vision

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



"Great teams learn together, grow together, and achieve together."



BELONGING: Orange Shirt Day is about belonging and honoring Indigenous children, reminding us to be kind, accept all people, and include everyone in our community.

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation



On September 27th we honoured National Day for Truth & Reconciliation at a special assembly. ARES students sat in a circle around Eagle Spirit Bear Drum group, led by Sandra Luke and Rudy Luke Jr. We were also joined by Lower Kootenay Band Councilors ~ Robin Louie and Cherie Luke, Town Councilors ~ Hawton and Dumas, as well as School District 8 Trustees ~ Gribbin, and Etheridge. Josie Fullarton, our Aboriginal Education Youth Worker and Family Liaison, and Danielle Sonntag, our Aboriginal Education Support Teacher, led this important gathering. Our ARES students sat respectfully throughout this occasion.



To the sound of healing drums, staff and students had time to contemplate the significance of this day before moving in a circle-chain outside

Following the assembly, students walked through our Reconciliation archway and Indigenous garden and into the greater community. This year, we visited ʔakuᑦni, the Market Garden and tipi near Pealow's, and students signed their names on an "Every Child Matters" banner.



The rows of orange shirts worn by students, as well as the paper shirts they waved in their hands, was a deeply moving visual reminder to keep the "All Children Matter" conversation alive.



Thanks for organizing this special day, Ms. Josie, Ms. Sonntag & our Reconciliation Committee





BELONGING: Our breakfast program offers a chance for connection each morning before school starts, helping to build a sense of belonging.



Breakfast Program at ARES



Each day we have parent or grandparent volunteers helping to prepare breakfast for our students. They arrive early so that a meal is ready as buses begin to arrive.

All students are invited to put their backpack in their outside line-up, head to the gym, and sit down at a table with friends to enjoy the daily special.

Thanks to these amazing volunteers who look after our students.



Daily MENU

Monday – French Toast, fruit & milk

Tuesday – Scrambled eggs, toast, fruit, & milk

Wednesday – Oatmeal, smoothie parfait, fruit & milk

Thursday – Grilled cheese, yogurt tubes, fruit, & milk

Friday – Pancakes, fruit, & milk



Student Lunches

If you are struggling to provide a healthy lunch for your child due to financial hardship, please let Mrs. Christenson know. We can supply a paper bag lunch each day, if you reach out.

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School Supply Reminder

A gentle reminder to please pay the **\$40** school supply fee on our website, in person at the office, or send a cheque to ARES. Please email Mrs. Christenson if you are unable to pay these fees.

\$40



GENEROSITY: Students learn about generosity by participating in the Terry Fox Run. They start to see the bigger picture and understand how even one small action can contribute to a greater cause.



Terry Fox Run

Classes gathered together on the afternoon of September 6th to run our own Marathon of Hope in honor of Terry Fox and cancer research. We were impressed by the efforts of many students, who worked exceptionally hard, running MANY laps around ARES.

Each student received a sticker to wear and older students could choose to write the name of someone in their own life who may have been impacted by cancer.

More than 650 communities participate in this Fall tradition, fundraising for cancer research. ARES was happy to donate **\$291.55** from the toonies and loonies brought in by our students.

Thanks Mrs. Page for organizing!



Cross Country Running

Mr. Percival is leading Cross Country Running for students in Grades 4-7.

Upcoming Runs:

- **Canyon Park ~Tuesday, October 1st**
- **Wildlife Center - Monday, October 7th**



Volleyball

Grade 6/7 Boys

Coaches:

Mrs. Vigna & Mike Vigna

Practices:

Thursday 3-4

Friday @ lunch

Grade 6/7 Girls

Coaches:

Mrs. Hamm & Mrs. Miller

Practices:

Tuesday @ lunch

Wednesday 3-4

Grade 4/5 Girls & Boys

Coach:

Mr. Blick

Coming Soon!





A bustling school reflects the energy of engaged minds

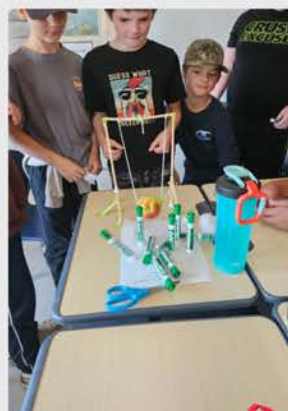


September at ARES

Mrs. Vandenberghe's Grade 3 Scarecrow creation



Intermediate STEM Challenges



Mrs. Gardner's K/1 class planning their scarecrow



Recess Sandbox Fun



Ms. Ellert's Grade 5/6 Class



After reading the story *Every Child Matters*, by Phyllis Webstad, students created a large orange shirt and added meaningful symbols



Belonging is fostered through collaboration, mastery is achieved through artistic expression, independence is cultivated through creative decision-making, and generosity is shown by sharing talents with the community.



Spring Musical revealed....



Over 100 students have signed up for the Spring Musical. Practices will start October 8th and will take place on Tuesdays after school.

Thanks for this giant undertaking, Mrs. Hamm & Mrs. Delcaro



National Forest Week

The students in Mr. Blick's class joined Creston Community Forests in a special field to honour National Forest Week. Students ventured to Russell Creek Road in Kitchener to enjoy a day learning about forestry in Creston



Scholastic Book Order



Book orders are due by October 25th

Students will be bringing home book orders. A portion of the proceeds support our ARES library and classroom book collections.





Looking forward to something helps build resilience by giving students hope and motivation

Hope

IMPORTANT DATES

- Monday, September 30th – National Day for Truth & Reconciliation – No School
- Wednesday, October 2nd – Individual & Class Photos
- Wednesday, October 9th – PAC Lunch – Pasta
- Monday, October 7th – PAC Meeting @ 9:00
- Monday, October 14th – Thanksgiving Day – No School
- Wednesday, October 16th – PAC Lunch – DQ
- Wednesday, October 16th – Early Dismissal @ 1:45
- Thursday, October 17th – Early Dismissal @ 1:45
- Wednesday, October 23rd – PAC Lunch – Pizza
- Friday, October 25th – Provincial Pro-D Day – No School for Students
- Monday, October 28th – Assembly @ 9:00 & Schoolwide Pumpkin Patch Activity
- Wednesday, October 30th – PAC Lunch – Wraps
- Thursday, October 31st – Costume Parade @ 9:00



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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.