

In a multicultural society, teaching children to be inclusive begins with teaching them to respect and understand diversity in every form

## **Pink Shirt Day**





In celebration of Pink Shirt Day, our school has been exploring our diversity. We began by learning about the heritage of our staff and families, with students discovering the global origins of their peers through a giant world map and over 200 flags displayed throughout the building. Students were excited to find their flags and connect with others, discussing their countries. As part of the celebration, students worked with their families to complete a sheet titled, "Where in the world is our ARES family from?" On Pink Shirt Day, they teamed up with buddies to create Friendship Flags, identifying both commonalities and differences to design original flags for display.

Pink Shirt Day, founded in 2007 in Canada to combat bullying, promotes kindness, inclusion, and respect, and serves as a reminder for students to stand up for others and create a welcoming environment for all.



#### FEBRUARY NEWS



#### What's New at ARES?

- Pink Shirt Day
- The Lion King Jr. Spring Musical
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Literacy Week Winners
- Grade 6/7 Ski Trip
- Kindergarten Registration
- Just Dance
- ARES Basketball
- Open Parachute
- Where in the World is our ARES Family From?
- Important Dates





#### The Lion King Jr. - Spring Musical



Friday, March 7th
Saturday, March 8th
6:00 PM
KRSS Auditorium
\$10 Per Person

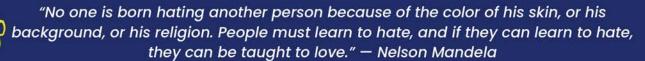
Since October, over 80 students in grades 3-7 have been working hard on the spring musical, *The Lion King Jr.*, with just one week left until the performances. Parents have been busy organizing costumes and sets in preparation for the shows, which will take place on **March 7th and**8th in the KRSS auditorium. Tickets will be available for \$10 each starting on March 3rd at the ARES office. On March 5th, our ARES students will have a chance to watch the dress rehearsal. We will have an early lunch and then all walk to the KRSS auditorium for a 12:30 show.

A big thank you to Kyla Hamm, the director, and her team, Blakeny Delcaro, and Danielle Sonntag, for their dedication and countless hours in providing this opportunity for our students.













#### Scholastic Book Fair

Each year, Mrs. Leslie, our Library Clerical organizes a Scholastic Book Fair. Students have the chance to visit the fair with their classrooms to browse a variety of new books, posters, small toys, and accessories like diaries, pens, and journals.

All proceeds from the event support both classroom libraries and the school library, helping us restock with updated books. We are grateful for the support of family volunteers and our grade seven students who assisted during the fair.

This year ARES sold \$5400 in books, which will give our school approximately \$2500 for new resources.





#### **Family Literacy Challenge Winners**

The following names were drawn to win a FREE book from the Scholastic Book Fair:

Kaysen Jellis Alyssa Bullock Logan Kilback Weston Dodge

Hayden Clarke Aubrey Gigliotti Athen Lillyman

Olek Pearson Ellie Beaton **Ouinn Fries** Sam Amas Scarlet Webster













## Inclusion starts at home. Parents are the first teachers of kindness, empathy, and respect for diversity.

In February, our Grade 6 and 7 students had the opportunity to go skiing in Kimberley, thanks to Mrs. Hamm and Mr. Percival, who organized the trips. For those who chose to stay behind, there were alternate activities to enjoy with Ms. Sonntag, including swimming and bowling.

In just two days, students who had never skied before were able to master the skill, with the help of many parent volunteers and a lesson at the ski hill. It was a memorable experience for everyone!









### **Kindergarten Registration**

If your child turns 5 in 2025, it's time to register for kindergarten!

#### **Apply by FEBRUARY 28th**

Please see Mary Scott, our Office Clerical





When children are encouraged to engage with different cultures, perspectives, and ideas, we are showing them that diversity is something to be celebrated.





## **Just Dance**

To keep ARES students active as spring approaches, Ms. Ellert organized a *Just Dance* club during lunch. A schedule has been set up to gauge interest, with different classes participating on different days. So far, the activity has been a hit, with students heading back to class tired but happy after each session. Thanks, Ms. Ellert, for organizing this fun initiative!





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## BASKETBALL

#### **Basketball Schedule**

Grade 6/7 Boys Thursday @ 2:45 Friday @ Lunch

Grade 6/7 Girls Monday @ Lunch Wednesday @ 2:45

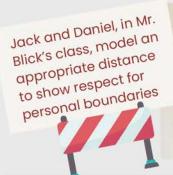


Grade 4/5 Boys Thursday @ Lunch

Grade 4/5 Girls
Tuesday @ Lunch



## What is Open Parachute?







At ARES, we are using the *Open Parachute* program, a new initiative designed to support students' social and emotional development. This program focuses on promoting mental well-being, healthy relationships, and positive communication skills, giving teachers the tools they need to tackle important topics like setting boundaries, building healthy friendships, and managing bullying.

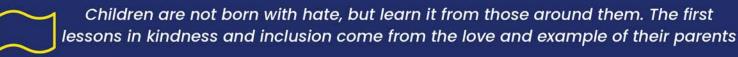
During our Professional Development session on February 14th, our staff explored how to bring these lessons into the classroom to help students build emotional intelligence, resilience, and respect for one another. The program includes engaging documentary films and offers flexibility to address any emerging issues in the classroom, making it easy to respond to the unique needs of our school community.

On Pink Shirt Day, teachers focused on kindness and respect, and emphasized the importance of creating a supportive, inclusive environment. Some classes had conversations about personal boundaries—how to set them and how to communicate them to friends in a calm and kind way. Students learned how to approach situations where their boundaries are crossed, emphasizing the importance of personal space and healthy relationships.

We strive to support *belonging* at ARES, and the Open Parachute program is helping us take this Circle of Courage domain to a new level.









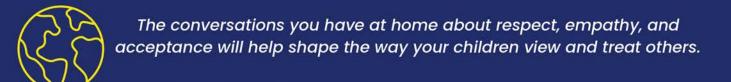
## erase EXPECT RESPECT & A SAFE EDUCATION

erase = expect respect & a safe education

erase helps students, adults, and school staff build safe, caring and inclusive school communities.

The <u>erase|Report It</u> tool lets you send a secure, anonymous and confidential message to your school or school district's safe school coordinator, who will follow up on it right away. You do not have to provide your name unless you want to.

https://erasereportit.gov.bc.ca/































## Before they learn hate, children learn love—often from the simple, powerful example set by their families

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- Monday, March 6th Lion King Musical Tickets go on sale
- Tuesday, March 4th PAC Meeting @ 9:00
- Wednesday, March 5th Matinee Rehearsal Performance for ARES
   Students at KRSS
- Friday, March 7th The Lion King Musical @ KRSS 6:00 PM
- Saturday, March 8th The Lion King Musical @ KRSS 6:00 PM
- Friday, March 14th Learning Updates go Home
- Friday, March 14th Last Day of School before Spring Break
- Monday, March 31st School Starts



Don't forget to buy your Lion King Jr. tickets, beginning on March 3rd





Adam Robertson
Elementary School
421 9th Ave N.
Creston, BC
Office: 250-428-2051

Web: www.ares.sd8.bc.ca



Tanya Christenson | Principal tanya.christenson@sd8.bc.ca

William Klassen | Vice Principal william.klassen@sd8.bc.ca

#### **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.