



*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.



Adam Robertson  
Elementary

## 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










We can't always control the world around us, but we can control how we treat others. Pink Shirt Day is a chance to choose kindness.

## The Lion King Jr. – Spring Musical




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.

Friday, March 7th  
Saturday, March 8th  
6:00 PM



KRSS Auditorium  
\$10 Per Person



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.







*"No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love." — Nelson Mandela*



## 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	Hayden Clarke	Olek Pearson
Alyssa Bullock	Aubrey Gigliotti	Ellie Beaton
Logan Kilback	Athen Lillyman	Quinn Fries
Weston Dodge	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!



## Grade 6 & 7 Ski Trip



## 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!



# 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







The conversations you have at home about respect, empathy, and acceptance will help shape the way your children view and treat others.

## What is Open Parachute?

Jack and Daniel, in Mr. Blick's class, model an appropriate distance to show respect for personal boundaries



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.



# Belonging





Children are not born with hate, but learn it from those around them. The first lessons in kindness and inclusion come from the love and example of their parents



# Friendship Flags

What did Pink Shirt Day look like at ARES?



Buddies working together to make friendship flags.

Thanks for all the information about your family heritage. We learned so much about each other.

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





The conversations you have at home about respect, empathy, and acceptance will help shape the way your children view and treat others.



# Where in the World is our ARES Family From?

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS OUR ARES FAMILY FROM?

Student's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My family originally from: **Germany**

This is the flag that represents my family's country:

Some special traditions in my family are: **Christmas, Easter, Carnival**

A special food from my family's country is: **Bratwurst**

Some interesting things about my family's country are: **Germany is a very big country with many cities and people.**

The language spoken in my family's country is: **German**

I can speak in my family's language in my home: **Yes**

Fun fact: **Germany is a very big country with many cities and people.**

Our ARES family - Mrs. Miller

Our ARES family - Mrs. Cole

Our ARES family - Mrs. Wesley

Our ARES family - Mrs. Wambler

Our ARES family - Mrs. Lettice

Our ARES family - Mrs. Zaragatti

Our ARES family - Mrs. Sellers

Our ARES family - Mr. Synneth

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS OUR ARES FAMILY FROM?

Student's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My family originally from: **United Kingdom**

This is the flag that represents my family's country:

Some special traditions in my family are: **Christmas, Easter, Carnival**

A special food from my family's country is: **Roast Beef**

Some interesting things about my family's country are: **United Kingdom is a very big country with many cities and people.**

The language spoken in my family's country is: **English**

I can speak in my family's language in my home: **Yes**

Fun fact: **United Kingdom is a very big country with many cities and people.**

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS OUR ARES FAMILY FROM?

Student's Full Name: **Shaden Saadot Hageel**

My family originally from: **Lebanon**

This is the flag that represents my family's country:

Some special traditions in my family are: **Lebanese food, Lebanese music, Lebanese dance**

A special food from my family's country is: **Lebanese food**

Some interesting things about my family's country are: **Lebanon is a very big country with many cities and people.**

The language spoken in my family's country is: **Arabic**

I can speak in my family's language in my home: **Yes**

Fun fact: **Lebanon is a very big country with many cities and people.**

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS OUR ARES FAMILY FROM?

Student's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My family originally from: **Zambia**

This is the flag that represents my family's country:

Some special traditions in my family are: **Lebanese food, Lebanese music, Lebanese dance**

A special food from my family's country is: **Lebanese food**

Some interesting things about my family's country are: **Lebanon is a very big country with many cities and people.**

The language spoken in my family's country is: **Arabic**

I can speak in my family's language in my home: **Yes**

Fun fact: **Lebanon is a very big country with many cities and people.**

Our ARES family - Mrs. C.

Our ARES family - Mr. Sloss

Our ARES family - Mr. Biers

Our ARES family - Mr. Blich

Our ARES family - Mrs. Page

Our ARES family - Mrs. Egan

Our ARES family - Mr. Skiston

Our ARES family - Mrs. Lettice

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS OUR ARES FAMILY FROM?

Student's Full Name: **KOFFA BEMBA**

My family originally from: **CRISTIAN**

This is the flag that represents my family's country:

Some special traditions in my family are: **CRISTIAN, ROMANIAN**

A special food from my family's country is: **CRISTIAN**

Some interesting things about my family's country are: **CRISTIAN, ROMANIAN**

The language spoken in my family's country is: **CRISTIAN**

I can speak in my family's language in my home: **CRISTIAN**

Fun fact: **CRISTIAN**

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS OUR ARES FAMILY FROM?

Student's Full Name: **Demyr Adomenio**

My family originally from: **UKRAINE**

This is the flag that represents my family's country:

Some special traditions in my family are: **Ukrainian food, Ukrainian music, Ukrainian dance**

A special food from my family's country is: **Ukrainian food**

Some interesting things about my family's country are: **Ukraine is the largest country in Europe. The about 47 million people live in Ukraine and it is very big. Ukraine is a very big country with many cities and people.**

The language spoken in my family's country is: **UKRAINE**

I can speak in my family's language in my home: **UKRAINE**

Fun fact: **UKRAINE**

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS OUR ARES FAMILY FROM?

Student's Full Name: **JINGMAO LU**

My family originally from: **China**

This is the flag that represents my family's country:

Some special traditions in my family are: **Chinese food, Chinese music, Chinese dance**

A special food from my family's country is: **Chinese food**

Some interesting things about my family's country are: **China is a very big country with many cities and people.**

The language spoken in my family's country is: **Chinese**

I can speak in my family's language in my home: **Chinese**

Fun fact: **China is a very big country with many cities and people.**

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS OUR ARES FAMILY FROM?

Student's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My family originally from: **India**

This is the flag that represents my family's country:

Some special traditions in my family are: **Indian food, Indian music, Indian dance**

A special food from my family's country is: **Indian food**

Some interesting things about my family's country are: **India is a very big country with many cities and people.**

The language spoken in my family's country is: **Indian**

I can speak in my family's language in my home: **Indian**

Fun fact: **India is a very big country with many cities and people.**

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS OUR ARES FAMILY FROM?

Student's Full Name: **ZORNAKREWYLE**

My family originally from: **ENGLAND**

This is the flag that represents my family's country:

Some special traditions in my family are: **PANCAKE DAY, RUGBY, ST. GEORGE'S DAY, A FRY UP**

A special food from my family's country is: **ENGLISH**

Some interesting things about my family's country are: **ENGLAND is a very big country with many cities and people.**

The language spoken in my family's country is: **ENGLISH**

I can speak in my family's language in my home: **ENGLISH**

Fun fact: **ENGLAND is a very big country with many cities and people.**



Thank You, ARES Families, for your help with this task

Where My Family Is From

My Family From: **ENGLAND**

My Family From: **ENGLAND**

Traditions: **St. George's Day, Pancake Day, Rugby**

Interesting Facts: **St. George's Day is the national day of Wales. Pancake Day is a traditional English festival. Rugby is a popular sport in England.**





*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*



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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.*