



*Literacy is Reading Aloud Together*  
*Reading books aloud to children, discussing the story, and asking questions to encourage comprehension.*



## Harry Potter Read-a-thon



On January 7th, our Harry Potter Read-a-thon, organized by Mrs. Walker, the Teacher Librarian, kicked off with an exciting event in the gym. Students watched the first video and learned about the reading challenge ahead. Following the introduction, 308 students received their Reading Calendars and eagerly awaited the Hogwarts bell. When it rang, they flipped over their booklets to discover their Hogwarts House teams. The cheering began as students found out if they were in Ravenclaw, Slytherin, Hufflepuff, or Gryffindor.



Thanks, Mrs. Walker, for  
your creativity & effort!



Adam Robertson  
Elementary

## JANUARY NEWS



### What's New at ARES?

- Harry Potter Read-a-thon
- Family Literacy Week
- Whodunnits?
- Wampum Belts
- Kindergarten Registration
- Play Your Way to K
- Numeracy in K/1
- Naktasuk - January
- Basketball
- ARES turns 115
- Curling
- Circle of Courage in Grade 2
- Ks Learn about Hibernation
- Literacy at ARES
- Important Dates





Literacy is Shared Writing Activities

Writing letters, stories, journaling together, creating greeting cards, writing family recipes and shopping lists



# Family Literacy Week



To build momentum during the last week of our Read-a-thon, ARES participated in Family Literacy Week. We started the week with a Schoolwide Harry Potter Scavenger Hunt. Older students helped their younger buddies follow the Hogwarts Owl Post System to crack a special code. Once the mystery was solved, each student earned a pair of Harry Potter glasses. Families were also encouraged to join in by completing at-home literacy activities to help the Nimbus 2000 Broom reach the Quidditch Cup, as well as attend our Family Read on Tuesday.

Throughout the week, we will continue to celebrate literacy with a variety of fun activities, including a Harry Potter-themed dress-up day, a Teacher Reading Exchange, and the Great Big Buddy Read, organized by the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL).

To wrap up the month of reading, we will gather in the gym on Friday, January 31st, to announce which Hogwarts team logged the most reading minutes and to find out if we reached our overall reading goal.

Thanks to our ARES community (students, staff and families) for a very successful month of reading.

**ARES Family Literacy Week Challenge**  
**The Nimbus 2000 Race**

**HOW TO PLAY**  
This challenge is designed for students to complete at home. It is a fun way to practice reading skills and to help the Nimbus 2000 Broom reach the Quidditch Cup. Complete the challenge by Friday, January 31st. Bring your completed sheet to the office.

**Don't forget to Hand in your Nimbus 2000 Race sheet on Friday!**



**FAMILY LITERACY WEEK AT ARES**  
**JANUARY 26 - 31**

|                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 26</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read the Family Literacy Challenge and try to complete it by Friday, January 31st.</li> </ul>   | <b>MONDAY, JANUARY 27</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read the Family Literacy Challenge and try to complete it by Friday, January 31st.</li> </ul> | <b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 28</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read the Family Literacy Challenge and try to complete it by Friday, January 31st.</li> </ul>  | <b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read the Family Literacy Challenge and try to complete it by Friday, January 31st.</li> </ul> |
| <b>THURSDAY, JANUARY 30</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read the Family Literacy Challenge and try to complete it by Friday, January 31st.</li> </ul> | <b>FRIDAY, JANUARY 31</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read the Family Literacy Challenge and try to complete it by Friday, January 31st.</li> </ul> | <b>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read the Family Literacy Challenge and try to complete it by Friday, January 31st.</li> </ul> | <b>NOTES</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read the Family Literacy Challenge and try to complete it by Friday, January 31st.</li> </ul>                 |

Adrian Robertson  
Elementary



## Literacy is Storytelling

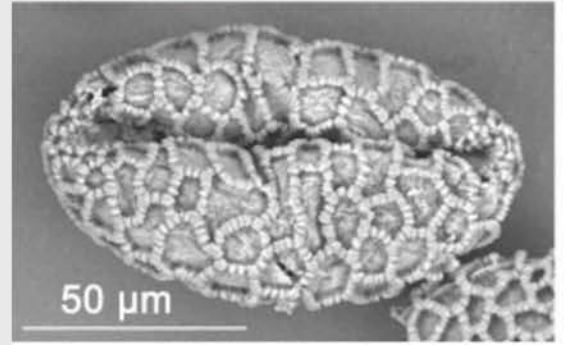
Sharing personal stories, family history, or cultural tales. Children can be encouraged to create and tell their own stories too.

# Whodunits?

Mr. Blick's Grade 4/5 class recently took part in an exciting activity called "Whodunnit," led by Dr. Elaine Humphrey from the University of Victoria. Dr. Humphrey, who is a laboratory manager and STEHM technologist at the Advanced Microscopy Facility, used a scanning electron microscope (SEM) to capture high-detail images of various types of pollen. The class worked together to analyze the images, draw outlines, and determine which type of pollen was the "suspect" in the mystery.

This activity was part of the Scientists and Innovators in Schools (SIS) program, which brings STEM professionals into schools to engage students through interactive and hands-on learning experiences. Through the program, ARES was able to connect with Dr. Humphrey, who used a tabletop SEM generously donated by Hitachi. Thanks to a special Zoom site license, students were able to control the microscope remotely, view the same screen as Dr. Humphrey, and even take their own photos of specimens—making the experience both educational and fun.

xNW Up Close Puzzle 119



Call for help: Grade 4 in 3-Min. (Shutterstock.com/Elaine\_Humphrey) as part of a K-12 STEAM and Innovation





"It is a symbol of trust and promises." Poppy  
 "My wampum belt mean kindness and every child matters." Raelynn  
 "It's a symbol of love and that you can trust them." Charlotte  
 "It is a belt that has promises you can trust." Matthew  
 "My Wampum Belt means love, freedom and nature." Aubrey

As part of their study on early treaties, Mr. Bieri's Grade 4 class had the opportunity to create wampum belts, a traditional way of marking agreements. These belts, historically used by Indigenous peoples like the Haudenosaunee, symbolize promises made in good faith between people, families, and nations. The first treaty between Europeans (the Dutch) and the Haudenosaunee was recorded on the Two Row Wampum, highlighting the importance of mutual respect and peace.

The class worked on individual belts, as well as a large collaborative belt with 500 beads, symbolizing the relationship and trust between the school (purple) and students (orange) as they share their journey of growth and learning.

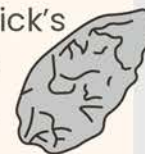
This hands-on project, guided by our Aboriginal Support Worker and Family Liaison, Josie Fullarton, provided a meaningful and creative way for students to connect with an important part of history.

## Wampum Belt Creation in Social Studies



Two students in Ms. Sonntag's Grade 6/7 class volunteered to add a new display to our Aboriginal Education cabinet, housed at the entrance of ARES.

Max Adams and Kaysen Jellis are show-casing a group project they completed last year in Mr. Blick's class. As part of a study on different indigenous nations, their group chose to focus on Ktunaxa.





Literacy is creating a Home Literacy Environment.  
Having books, magazines, newspapers, and other reading materials  
accessible around the house.

Do you have a quiet and comfortable space for reading or writing?

## Kindergarten Registration

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



**Apply before FEBRUARY 28th**

Please see Mary Scott, our Office Clerical



## Play Your Way to Kindergarten

We are excited to have a new group of 3- and 4-year-olds who will visit ARES for the first **PLAY YOUR WAY TO KINDERGARTEN** event on Friday, February 7th. Participants will enjoy circle time, a school tour, and the chance to play with our current kindergarten students. Thanks to Simone with Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten Transition (SEY2KT) for organizing.

There will be four different sessions at ARES, as well as **Dig Dirt Day** on May 23 to help connect future ARES students and their families with our school community.



Mrs. Gardner's Kindergarten and Grade One students share their *Counting Collections*.



### Numeracy in Kindergarten & Grade One

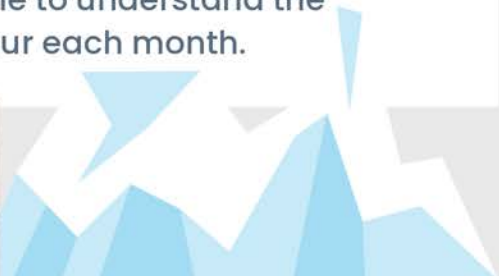
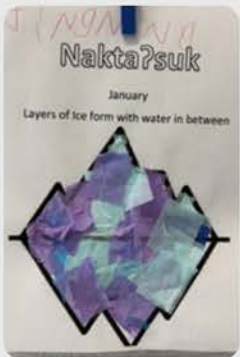
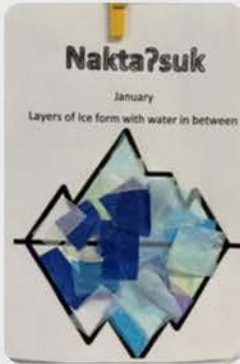




*Literacy is Engaging in Interactive Activities*  
 Playing literacy-based games, such as word puzzles, crossword puzzles, or alphabet games, that involve reading or spelling.

# Naktasuk ~ January

Our Aboriginal Support Teacher, Ms. Sonntag, has been supporting students to learn some Ktunaxa words. Recently, Mrs. Miller's kindergarten students and Mrs. Gardner's K/1s learned "January" ~ Naktasuk ~ which translates to "layers of ice form with water in between." The Ktunaxa people have been around for many years, and over time, they've come to understand the patterns in nature that occur each month.



## Healthy Bag Lunches Available



If you are struggling to provide lunch for your child, please let us know and we will ensure they have a healthy bag lunch to eat each day.

We also have a daily breakfast program open to ALL students!



# BASKETBALL

## Basketball Schedule

**Grade 6/7 Boys**

Thursday @ 2:45

Friday @ Lunch

**Grade 6/7 Girls**

Monday @ Lunch

Wednesday @ 2:45



Thanks to Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Vigna, Jessica Wobshall, and Kevin Miller, for coaching

## Basketball Season Begins...



Literacy is Discussing Everyday Activities as we go About our Life.  
Encourage children to read labels on grocery items, menus at restaurants, or road signs, and talk about what they see.

# ARES is 115 in 2025



Did you know that ARES is 115 years old this year? As we find ways to honour the heritage of our very old school and celebrate it's history, we continue to think about steps toward reconciliation. We have chosen the Ktunaxa phrase, hawiçkinin kçmak kyam ç çinakininse, which means *Hold the Truth and Move Forward*, to remind us of our important journey.

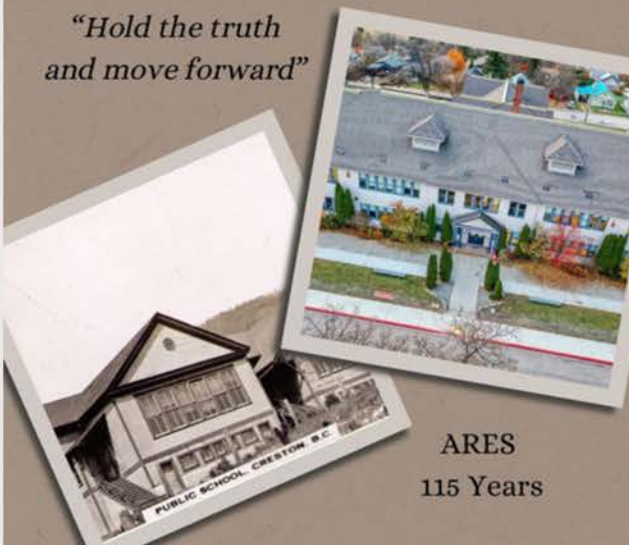
Photos courtesy of Jeff Banman Photography



*hawiçkinin kçmak kyam ç çinakinin*

**hawiçkinin kçmak kyam ç çinakinin**

*"Hold the truth and move forward"*



ARES  
115 Years

The Ktunaxa phrase "hawiçkinin kçmak kyam ç çinakinin," meaning "hold the truth and go forward," reminds us to acknowledge the past while moving ahead in a positive direction. As our school celebrates 115 years, we can see progress toward an inclusive and welcoming environment. Thanks to the hard work of ARES staff, we've made strides to make the school a safe place for all children. Together we will continue our journey of reconciliation and growth



Adam Robertson  
Elementary



Literacy is Educational Technology and Media Use. Using educational apps, websites, or watching educational videos together. This might include activities like interactive e-books, educational games, or listening to podcasts or audiobooks.



# It's Curling Time



Thanks to volunteers from the Creston Curling Club, we have two classes participating in a sport that is new to many of our students. Mr. Blick and Mr. Percival's students will each receive two lessons at the Creston & District Community Complex.

We are grateful for the support of our community for sharing their love of curling with the next generation.



Each day there are many special moments when you are surrounded by 308 students. Discovering a group of primary students, spontaneously playing Chess outside, was one of these moments that made me smile.

Mrs. C.



## Scholastic Book Fair Coming Soon... February 24th & 25th



We will be looking for parent volunteers to help with this event. Please reach out if you are interested





## Literacy is Setting Literacy Goals and Expectations

Families setting reading or writing challenges, such as reading a certain number of books each month, or having a family book club where everyone reads and discusses the same book.



## The Circle of Courage in Grade Two



Mrs. Cote's Grade 2 class has been using their classroom Circle of Courage in their learning. Ms. Josie read stories about **BELONGING** and **INDEPENDENCE** and the students responded with their thoughts.

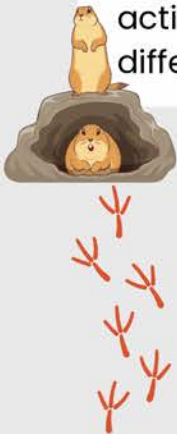
What will **MASTERY** and **GENEROSITY** look like in their learning?



## Kindergartens Learn About Hibernation



Mrs. Miller & Mrs. Vigna's Kindergarten class had a special guest from the Kootenay-Columbia Discovery Center in Creston. With her interesting collection of skulls and furs, Carla Ahern shared how different animals adapt to the winter season, from hibernation to migration to staying put. Our five-year-old students enjoyed the many visuals, hands-on activities and close up look at the different animal tracks.





Literacy is Listening and Responding to Music. Learning new songs, nursery rhymes, or listening to music and talking about the lyrics. Children often love to share new songs they have learned with their families.

# What did Family Literacy Look like at ARES?



Mrs. Page's 3/4 Class got into the Hogwarts Spirit and celebrated their House Teams with colour.





Literacy is communication through reading, writing and speaking. It could be visiting libraries or watching movies with the subtitles on so that children are exposed to what the words look like.

Literacy is everywhere!

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Wednesday, January 29th – Teacher Reading Exchange #1 @ 1:15
- Thursday, January 30th – Great Big Buddy Read & Activities @ 9:30
- Friday, January 31st – Family Literacy Nimbus 2000 Challenge Sheets Due
- Friday, January 31st – Dress in a Harry Potter Theme
- Friday, January 31st – Teacher Reading Exchange #2 @ 9:15
- Friday, January 31st – Final Read-a-thon Assembly @ 2:00
- Tuesday, February 4th – PAC Meeting @ 9:00
- Wednesday, February 5th – Full Day Practice for all students in Spring Musical
- Friday, February 9th – Play Your Way to K – 9:00 – 11:00
- Friday, February 14th – School Based Pro-D Day – No School for Students
- Monday, February 17th – Family Day – No School
- Wednesday, February 19th – Lion King Family Movie Night – 6:00 – 8:00
- Monday, February 24th – Scholastic Book Fair
- Tuesday, February 25th – Scholastic Book Fair
- Wednesday, February 26th – Pink Shirt Day – Schoolwide Activity



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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.*