



GENEROSITY

Empathy in action becomes generosity. When kids learn to care for others, they see how their actions can make the world better.

EGGstravaganza



Students gathered together for a short assembly on April 14th to learn about an exciting schoolwide adventure.

Older buddies then supported younger students and together they explored the ARES school grounds to find their very own egg containing a little, fluffy chick. The fact that these small chickens were not real, did not hinder the enthusiasm of our 308 students, who assumed ownership of their new pets.

Thanks to the crafting supplies and recyclables brought in by families, buddy pairs worked creatively to construct homes for their small friends. Students cared for these pets until the long weekend when they were able to take them home.

This activity aligns with our Circle of Courage goal. Our students learn **GENEROSITY**, as they care for and support one another, as well as have an experience in empathy.



Adam Robertson
Elementary

APRIL NEWS



What's New at ARES?

- EGGstravaganza
- Learning Fair
- Pickleball
- Swimming Lessons
- Gymnastics
- Welcome to Kindergarten
- Egg Drop
- Chess Tournament
- Pow wow Preparations
- Raine Hamilton Trio Concert
- Family Dance
- Earth Day Bake Sale
- Spring is in the Air
- Important Dates





MASTERY

Success looks different for every child—what matters is their belief that effort leads to growth.

Our Learning Fair



We were excited to welcome families into ARES to share in the celebration of your children's success. Our Learning Fair is an opportunity for A.R.E.S. students to have a voice in communicating their learning to you. What are they proud of? What's going well? What engages them at school? Where do they spend their day? It's your chance to see very authentic evidence of their learning. Students enjoyed touring their families around the building, exploring our many different learning spaces.

Thanks to everyone who attended and for entering your punch cards in our box at the end of the tour. We drew a name from each of our 13 classes and these winners will soon enjoy a lunch at Dairy Queen with Mrs. C. and Mr. Klassen.

Special thanks to our very busy PAC who made time to serve refreshments in the gym.





BELONGING

Children thrive when they feel connected. A sense of belonging builds confidence, reduces anxiety, and helps kids feel safe to learn and grow.

Pickleball



Students in grades 2 through 7 each received two lessons in Pickleball this April. We are fortunate to be within walking distance to the Pickleball courts at the Creston & District Community Complex, where students were coached by a community instructor, Kerri Roberts.



Thanks for
organizing
Pickleball, Mr. Bick!

Swimming Lessons



Four primary classes are participating in the Swim for Life Program at the Creston & District Community Complex.

**Mrs. Vandenberghe Grade 3, Ms. Smith Grade 2/3,
Mrs. Cote Grade 1/2, and Mrs. Feragotti Grade 1.**





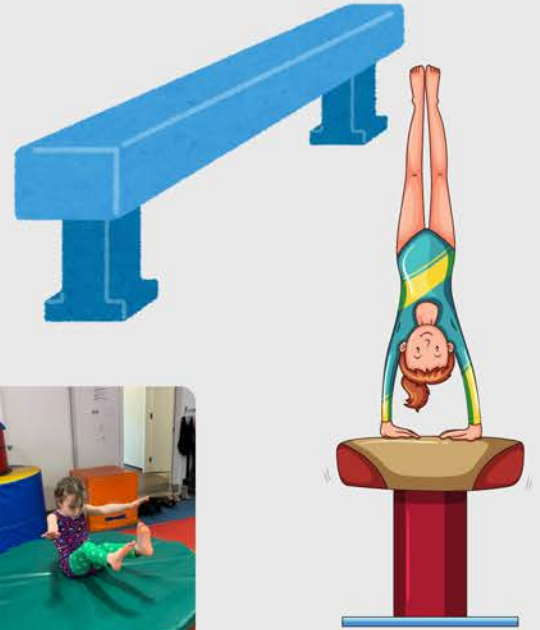
MASTERY

Celebrating small wins helps kids see challenges as opportunities, not obstacles.



Gymnastics in K and 1

Our Kindergarten and Grade One students visited the Creston Valley Gymnastics Club for two fun sessions of activity. Thanks to Mrs. Vigna, who coached the excited crew, many students explored this amazing venue for the first time.



Welcome to Kindergarten



May 28th ~ 9:00 - 11:00

If your child is registered and starting Kindergarten at ARES in September, please join us for this orientation.





INDEPENDENCE

Children build independence not by doing everything alone, but by knowing when to ask for help and when to try on their own.



The Egg Drop

Four classes at ARES put their engineering skills to the test during the Egg Drop Challenge! After a week of research and planning, teams built creative contraptions designed to protect a raw egg from a high-flying drop off the Fortis Truck Bucket. Using only self-supplied materials—and with parachutes strictly off-limits (for the older grades)—students relied on cushioning, crumple zones, and clever design to soften the impact. The rest of the school came to cheer the teams on. This hands-on learning experience, incorporating physics, design, and teamwork, was organized by Mr. Blick. A special thanks to James from Fortis, who generously donated his time and the Fortis truck.





INDEPENDENCE

Independence grows through trust. Giving children responsibility helps them develop self-worth.



K/1 Choir Shines on Stage

Many of our K/1 students enjoyed participating in this year's extra-curricular choir, directed by Mrs. Gardner. This enthusiastic group of young performers had the exciting opportunity to be special guests at the Blossom Valley Singers' SHINE concert. They delighted the audience with an animated rendition of *This Little Light of Mine*, truly lighting up the stage with their energy and glow sticks.



The K/1 students
rehearsing in the ARES
gym for their concert in
the KRSS Auditorium



Chess Tournament



Each year our students have the opportunity to participate in a Chess tournament. This year's winners are: Grade 4 - Ellise Valdal, Grade 5 - Jingyao Lo, Grade 6 - TBD and Grade 7 - TBD.





BELONGING

Belonging starts with feeling seen and heard—when a child knows they matter, their whole world opens up.

Pow Wow Preparations



In our Aboriginal Education room, students are learning traditional skills like making regalia and moccasins, as they prepare for the upcoming Pow Wow on May 16th. Many students are also participating in drumming and dancing lessons. These meaningful experiences reflect the Circle of Courage model, which guides our schoolwide goal. As students engage in cultural learning, they build Mastery through hands-on skill development, express Independence by connecting with their identity, and demonstrate Generosity by sharing songs, dances, and language with the school community. With support from our Aboriginal Education teacher, who brings Ktunaxa language and teachings into classrooms, all students are invited into a deeper sense of Belonging, which strengthens our connection as a learning community.

All classes will attend the pow wow at the Creston & District Community Complex on May 16th. We are grateful to Ms. Josie, our Aboriginal Support Worker & Family Liaison, who plays a big role in organizing this important cultural event and helping students prepare for their special day.



Our 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.



INDEPENDENCE

*When children make choices and take responsibility, they learn they are capable—
and capable kids grow into resilient adults.*

Raine Hamilton Trio

ARES Intermediate students were treated to a performance by Raine Hamilton. Blending singing with violin, cello, and bass, Raine calls their music chamber-folk — a mix of classical and folk sounds. Each song tells a story, shared with kindness, humor, and heart. With a background in classical music and a big love for nature, Raine's songs are about mountains, stars, and the world around us. Her performance included American Sign Language (ASL), which was a new experience for many of our students.



Family Dance



Thursday, May 15th

5:30 – 7:30



MOANA





GENEROSITY

When children help others, they begin to understand their own power to make a positive impact.



Earth Day Bake Sale



To celebrate Earth Day on April 22, Ms. Ellert's Grade 5/6 class hosted a delicious bake sale to raise funds for their end-of-year field trips. The students and their families prepared homemade treats, which they sold to the long line of students. It was a sweet way to support their upcoming adventures!

Earth Day is all about showing care for our planet and making choices that help protect the environment.



Can you pack a lunch with zero trash? That means no plastic wrap, no juice boxes, and no throwaway bags. Use containers, water bottles, and cloth napkins instead!

CHALLENGE



Spring is in the Air at ARES



BELONGING

Every child needs a place to feel welcome. Belonging lays the foundation for learning and friendship.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Tuesday, May 6th – PAC Meeting @ 9:00
- Thursday, May 15th – Family Dance – 5:30 – 7:30
- Friday, May 16th – Pow wow
- Monday, May 19th – Victoria Day – No School
- Monday, May 26th – School Based Pro-D Day – No School for Students
- Wednesday, May 28th – Welcome to Kindergarten – 9:00 – 11:00
- Tuesday, June 3rd – PAC Meeting @ 9:00
- Friday, June 6th – Intermediate Track Meet
- Friday, June 20th – Assembly @ 9:00 – National Indigenous Peoples Day – Schoolwide Activities
- Monday, June 23rd – Kindergarten Graduation
- Monday, June 23rd – Grade 7 Farewell Assembly @ 1:00
- Tuesday, June 24th – Water Day 12:45 – 2:30 – Schoolwide Activity
- Wednesday, June 25th – Year-End-Assembly @ 10:45



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