



GENEROSITY

"Kids are always kind to me" - Matteo

"Kids in my class pick up garbage" - Graham



Dig Dirt Day



Adam Robertson
Elementary

MAY NEWS



On Friday, May 23rd, local Kindergarten and future Kindergarten students (ages 3-4) took part in Dig Dirt Day at the Town of Creston Public Works Site, hosted by Strengthening Early Years Transition to Kindergarten (SEY2KT).

The event featured six hands-on stations:

- Watching a dump truck in action
- Observing a fire hydrant spray
- Seeing a backhoe move dirt
- Watching a Vac Truck suction debris
- Digging in a giant sand pile
- Enjoying a fun "Worms & Dirt" snack

Each child received a safety vest, toy hard hat, bucket, and shovel, and was guided through the stations by a KRSS student leader. To end the day, each child took home a special book.

Many thanks to SD8 for their generous support, to Pealow's & DQ for the tasty treats, and to Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) for their donation toward the books.



What's New at ARES?

- Dig Dirt Day
- Family Dance
- Mother's Day Tea
- Learning to Fish
- Welcome to Kindergarten
- DQ Winners
- Staff Professional Development
- Grade 7 Transition to KRSS
- Chess Tournament
- Pow wow
- Quinn Beasley Performs
- Courage at ARES
- Important Dates





MASTERY

"Kids in class are great artists" – Sam

"People in my class are working hard with writing" – Eva

"I like to do in school writing and Friday letters" – Ken

MOANA

Family Dance



The PAC-organized Moana-themed Family Dance brought a summery feel to ARES with festive Hawaiian décor and tropical vibes. Upon entry, students received a glow stick and a colorful lei, setting the tone for a fun-filled evening.



Families enjoyed music, dancing, hula hooping, coloring activities, and tasty treats from the concession. Despite the busy spring season filled with sports and other commitments, the turnout was fantastic. A big thank-you to our amazing PAC volunteers for creating such a fun event!



Thank you,
PAC, for your
time and
effort!



Focus on Youth



Many classes performed in the KRSS Auditorium during the week of Focus on Youth. Others enjoyed contributing to the Art Show.

Pictured to the left, is Mrs. Vandenberghe's Grade 3 Class performing.





BELONGING

"I was made to feel welcome by staff and students in my first year at ARES" – Mr. Klassen



Mother's Day Tea



Our Kindergarten and K/1 students recently hosted an afternoon tea to celebrate the special women in their lives. The classrooms were beautifully transformed with tablecloths, centerpieces, and fancy tea cups, creating a charming setting for the event.

The young hosts proudly served their guests and shared delicious cupcakes. They also presented hand-made cards and hand-painted flower pots, each containing a flower they had planted themselves.

A big thank you to the guests who joined us, and to Mrs. Gardner, Mrs. Miller, and Mrs. Vigna for organizing such a special celebration!



Annual General PAC Meeting

TUESDAY
June 3rd, 2025



9:00 in the ARES ART Space

Everyone Welcome!





GENEROSITY

"They play with me when I'm sad" – Olivia

"People help other people when someone is bullying them" – Logan



Learning to Fish



Each year, the Rod and Gun Club partners with the Freshwater Fisheries Society to offer the "Learn to Fish" program for youth in Creston. This year, several classes spent a day at Mawson Lake, where they enjoyed hands-on instruction from dedicated volunteers.

For many students, it was their first time fishing, making the experience both exciting and memorable. A big thank-you to the Rod and Gun Club and all the volunteers who made this valuable outdoor learning opportunity possible!



Is Your Child Leaving ARES?

As we begin to plan for the 2025 – 2026 school year, it helps us to know if there will be any changes. If you are planning to relocate this summer and your child **WILL NOT** be returning to ARES in September, please email Mrs. Christenson at tanya.christenson@sd8.bc.ca





INDEPENDENCE

"For the first time in many years, students have become responsible for borrowing and returning Sports Equipment at lunch and recess" – Mrs. C.

Welcome to Kindergarten

On May 28th, the students who will attend Kindergarten in September, were invited to ARES for a Welcome to Kindergarten Open House. Students and their families toured the school, met the ARES staff, and participated in activities with our current Kindergarten students. Parents were given information on what to expect in the fall and received the gradual entry schedule. The pre-Kindergarten students were also given a special bag, filled with supplies to encourage school readiness. The purpose of this event was to begin the development of a strong home-school relationship and to set our future students up for success



Learning Fair Winners hit DQ



We entered the names of all students who attended the April Learning Fair and selected one student from each of the 13 classrooms. These students walked to Dairy Queen for lunch and a treat with Mrs. C. The older students help and encourage the younger ones on this outing, creating a family-like atmosphere.



BELONGING

"Odin Plays with me" – Job
"Bree always helps me" – Madyson



What Did the ARES Staff do on the Professional Development Day?



For our recent Professional Development Day, the ARES staff stepped outside the classroom and into nature for a local outdoor learning experience. We took advantage of a community resource—the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area. This educational site offers a variety of programs for students and is a great destination for class field trips. To better understand what it has to offer, we climbed into two canoes and experienced the tour ourselves! After our time on the water, we explored the Balancing Rock Trail—another ideal location for outdoor education.

Beyond the learning opportunities, this day was also about connection. Spending time together in a different setting helped us strengthen our relationships as colleagues. A strong, connected staff builds a sense of belonging for students, and we believe that when staff feel unified, that positive energy carries into the classroom.

We're grateful for our supportive and collaborative team—and for the chance to learn and grow together in such an amazing local setting.





BELONGING

"Each week when our community helpers joined our class for reading in the library, the students welcomed and included them." - Mrs. Page

Grade 7 Transition to KRSS

As the school year winds down, we are working closely with Kootenay River Secondary School (KRSS) staff to support a smooth transition for our Grade 7 students. While many are excited for this next step, it's completely normal for some to feel a bit anxious about the change.

Students have already had the chance to visit the high school twice, and in June, all Grade 7 students in the Creston Family of Schools are invited to a Transition Activity Day at Canyon Park. KRSS will lead outdoor games and host a BBQ lunch, providing a fun and welcoming experience for all.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's transition, please don't hesitate to reach out.



Adam Robertson
Elementary



Kootenay River
Secondary



Chess Tournament



Each year our students have the opportunity to participate in a Chess tournament. This year's winners are: Grade 6 - Corbin Starr and Grade 7 - Justin Xu. Finals for Grades 4 - 7 coming soon!





BELONGING

"A girls invited us to join her" – Ada

"When people in class include me in games" – Jovi

SD8's 12th Annual Youth Pow Wow



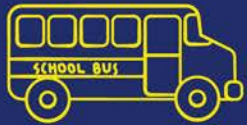
On May 16, 2025, our students attended the 12th annual SD8 Pow Wow at the Creston & District Community Complex. The day began with a Grand Entry and Indigenous graduate recognition, followed by traditional dances, intertribals for all grade levels, and fun events like the Potato Dance and Staff Freeze Dance Competition. Hosted by Young Spirit with MC Ruben Little Head and Arena Director Sonny Little Head, the event was a celebration of Indigenous culture, community, and student achievement.

Josie Fullarton, our Aboriginal Support Worker and Family Liaison, as well as Danielle Sonntag, our Aboriginal Success Teacher, were both instrumental in preparing our ARES students for this special occasion. Together they sewed regalia and moccasins, as well as supported students with drumming and dance lessons.



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.



GENEROSITY

"This year I noticed Danny is always willing to help out with anything and is a very very nice person" - Jeremy

The Mighty Quinn Show

Our students were treated to a performance by Quinn Beasley, a world-renowned entertainer known for his one-of-a-kind "Mighty Quinn Show." With a mix of circus skills, comedy, and storytelling, Quinn inspired students with his message about perseverance, mental health, and overcoming challenges. Having performed in over 25 countries and appeared with Cirque du Soleil, Quinn's show combined impressive stunts, including a 10-foot unicycle, with a powerful message for our school community.



Bus Registration for 2025 - 2026

**Deadline to Register is
June 13**

<https://www.sd8.bc.ca/busregistration>





GENEROSITY

"I noticed Kenya because she is very kind to others and is a great friend. She always helps out people in need" – Selene

Courage at ARES

The Circle of Courage is based on four essential needs for all children: **Belonging, Mastery, Independence, and Generosity**. When these needs are met, children grow and thrive; when they are lacking, challenges can emerge. At ARES, this philosophy guides our focus on building strengths and recognizing every child's potential to succeed. By supporting their growth, we help students develop the resilience needed to navigate life's challenges. Instead of focusing on limitations, we aim to create meaningful experiences that lead to positive outcomes. Our long-term vision is to nurture resilient children who can thrive in any community.



To reflect on the year, staff were invited to share moments when they witnessed one of the four Circle of Courage values in action: **Belonging, Mastery, Independence, and Generosity**. These thoughtful reflections are displayed on our Entrance Bulletin Board.

Following this exercise, teachers led students in a similar reflection activity, supporting them to identify and describe moments they noticed in others, that demonstrated these values.

This school-wide exercise encouraged everyone to look beyond themselves and recognize the positive actions of others.

Independence – Taking responsibility and making good choices

Generosity – Showing kindness and care for others

Belonging – Making others feel welcome and included

Mastery – Putting in effort to achieve a goal



BELONGING

"This year I noticed Anden. He welcomed me and made sure I had someone to hang out with" – Shane

IMPORTANT DATES

- Tuesday, June 3rd – PAC AGM Meeting @ 9:00
- Tuesday, June 3rd – School Learning Tour at ARES 10:00 – 12:00
- Friday, June 6th – Intermediate Track Meet
- Wednesday, June 18th – PAC Appreciation Tea
- Friday, June 20th – Assembly @ 9:00 – National Indigenous Peoples Day – Schoolwide Activities
- Monday, June 23rd – Kindergarten Graduation @ 11:00
- 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
- Wednesday, June 25th – Last Day of School – Final Summary of Learning goes Home / Dismissal @ 11:45



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



Adam Robertson
Elementary

**Adam Robertson
Elementary School**
421 9th Ave N.
Creston, BC
Office: 250-428-2051
Web: www.ares.sd8.bc.ca



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

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