



Mastery is found in the quiet pursuit of excellence—when effort, focus, and persistence come together to meet a challenge with confidence



Chess Champions

Each year, students have the opportunity to take part in two chess tournaments. The first is a double knockout tournament, which this year saw 80 participants from grades 4 to 7. The top four players from that event advanced to the final tournament, known as the Checkmate Tournament. In this round, each player faced the other three once, and the player with the most points was awarded the trophy. This year, the four winners achieved a perfect record by winning every game in the final tournament.

Justin Xu (Grade 7), Corben Starr (Grade 6), Jingyao Lo (Grade 5), and Ellise Valdal (Grade 4) get to take home the trophies in 2025.

Thanks, Mr. Blick, for initiating this opportunity.



Adam Robertson
Elementary

JUNE NEWS



What's New at ARES?

- Chess Champions
- ARES Student Choice Award
- Grade 7 Farewell Assembly
- Kindergarten Graduation
- National Indigenous Peoples Day
- PAC Appreciation Tea
- Are you moving?
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- What to Expect in September
- ARES Staff Wins District Wellness Challenge
- Summer Office Hours
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- Important Dates



MASTERY: *There is always a person who stands out, not seeking recognition or appreciation, but driven by genuine care for others and a desire to improve the world.*

ARES Student Choice Award

Each year our grade 7 students anonymously vote for a peer who meets THREE criteria: Someone who demonstrates...

- Kindness to all people
- Strong academic effort
- Care for our school community

For the 2025-2026 school year, we had a tie for the first time. Anden Webb and Chensi Lo are the well-deserving recipients, chosen by their classmates.

As Chensi and Anden move on to KRSS, we are grateful for their contribution to our school community.

Thank you, Chensi and Anden, for being positive role models to all!



**Chensi Lo &
Anden Webb**



Grade 7 Farewell Assembly



Good luck at KRSS, Grade 7s.



**Kootenay River
Secondary**

On June 23rd, parents gathered in the gym with our grade 7 students to bid farewell. Students received their diplomas and shared words of appreciation. We also enjoyed a slide show, which highlighted our elementary graduates. Following the short ceremony, staff returned to classes and grade 7 students enjoyed their final elementary school dance before heading to high school.



INDEPENDENCE: When young children are given opportunities to shine in front of a supportive audience, their confidence grows, and they learn to feel comfortable presenting to others

Kindergarten Graduation 2025



Classes and families gathered in the gym to watch our youngest ARES students celebrate the ending to their first year of school. Thanks to our three kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Vigna, Mrs. Gardner, and Mrs. Miller, these five-year-olds enjoyed being the stars for this momentous occasion, as they accepted their diplomas and tossed their hats.





MASTERY: When children learn about another culture from adults they admire, they develop a profound appreciation for that culture.

National Indigenous Peoples Day



On the summer solstice – June 20th – we honoured National Indigenous Peoples Day through a special schoolwide event.

We all gathered in the gym and enjoyed a presentation by Ms. Josie and Ms. Sonntag, before embarking on the many activities scattered throughout the school.



The students learned some indigenous games, participated in a Ktunaxa language scavenger hunt, joined a pow wow sweat, and played Ktunaxa Bingo. The Town of Creston also invited us to paint 300 wooden birds that will be displayed at the ʔakuʔni, Market Garden near Pealow's.



We are grateful to PAC for supplying popcorn, which is – believe it or not – a traditional food of the indigenous people. Thank you to Danielle Sonntag, our Aboriginal Support Teacher, for organizing this special day.



Thanks for organizing this special day, Ms. Sonntag



GENEROSITY: When adults volunteer, they exemplify generosity to students. As children witness these role models dedicating their time to others, they naturally adopt this mindset and begin practicing it in their own lives.



PAC Appreciation Tea



In appreciation of our PAC members who volunteer to support many activities, our busy breakfast program, and numerous field trips, a special tea was held in their honor. With Mrs. Hamm's grade 7 students dressed for the occasion, they served our guests tea and goodies. Our Kindergarten and K/1 students also performed a special song of gratitude.

We are so fortunate to have this devoted group who care so much for our staff and students.



Thanks to Mrs. Hamm and her Grade 7's for organizing

Thank you ARES PAC, for all you do to support us!



Are you moving away this summer or do you know people who are moving here?

If your children will **NOT** be attending ARES in September, please let us know before the end of the school year.

If you know a family who will be moving to Creston with children who will be attending ARES, please encourage them to register as soon as possible.



Thank
you!

INDEPENDENCE: Moving on is not an end, but a beginning—the chance to grow, explore new paths, and meet the next challenge with courage and confidence

Staff Goodbyes



Ms Ellert: has worked at ARES for five years. Although she will remain close by, she is taking on a different challenge. Ms. Ellert will be the new K-5 Elev8 teacher working in the Homelinks building.

Mr. Bieri has only been with us for one year but became an important part of our school community. A gentle giant, Mr. Bieri is known for his colorful shirts and cheerful smile. Teaching in India is his next venture!



What to Expect in September



During the first week of September, we typically welcome many new student registrations. Because of this, we are unable to finalize class placements until we have an accurate count of students during that week.

To minimize disruption and reduce the need for class changes, all returning students will begin the school year in their current (this year's) class. New students will meet in the library.

If your child will not be returning to ARES in the fall, please inform us as soon as possible. This helps us plan more effectively.

Thank you for your understanding!



thank you

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*Thanks for your dedication
to ARES*



***BELONGING:** Caring for our health is not just personal—it strengthens our connection to others. When we care for ourselves, we show up fully for our community*



ARES Staff Wins District Wellness Challenge

Our school district recently held its first-ever Wellness Challenge, with the goal of collectively walking the distance across British Columbia. Each work site was encouraged to log their daily steps to see which team could walk the farthest. Together, we far surpassed the goal—logging a total of 4,923 kilometers as a district! That's about the same distance as walking from Vancouver to Quebec City by road.

The best part? ARES won the entire challenge! Our energetic staff logged 3,131 kilometers..

Not only did we have fun, but we're also feeling healthier because of it. A big thank you to the school district for promoting staff wellness!



Summer Office Hours

Monday, August 25th
to



Friday, August 29th

8:00 – 3:00

If you have questions or concerns, contact:

tanya.christenson@sd8.bc.ca



**BACK TO
School**



Summer can be challenging for students who rely on daily school connections. However, it also provides families with opportunities to participate in activities that enhance their bonds. What outdoor activities can you engage in together to strengthen your family's connection and enjoy nature?

Kindergarten Registration

If you have a child who will be starting Kindergarten in September, registration is open. Please spread the word to families who do not have older siblings at ARES. See Mrs. Scott, our Office Clerical, to begin the registration process.



IMPORTANT DATES

- **Wednesday, June 25th** – Assembly at 10:45 – Families Welcome
- **Wednesday, June 25th** – Last Day of School. Dismissal at 11:45
- **Monday, August 25th to Friday, August 29th** – Office Open
8:00 – 3:00
- **Tuesday, September 2nd** – First Day of School – 8:45 – 11:45



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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.