

Welcome

INDEPENDENCE: The start of a new school year combines nervousness and excitement, offering many opportunities for personal growth

Welcome to our ARES Community

We're excited to welcome over 300 students to ARES on **Tuesday, September 2nd!**

This will be a half day from 8:45 to 11:45 a.m.

- **Returning students** should line up outside at their last year's spot when the bell rings.
- **New students** should meet at the front middle doors, where staff will guide them.

As new students register and others move away, we will adjust class lists during the first week to ensure the best placements for everyone. We'll share updates once class lists are finalized. Thank you for your patience!

Monthly Newsletter



At the end of each month we will email you our ARES newsletter, which is filled with school news and upcoming events

Also, don't forget to check our website regularly for new information.

ares.sd8.bc.ca

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
Tuesday, September 2nd
8:45 – 11:45



Adam Robertson
Elementary

AUGUST NEWS



What's New at ARES?

- Welcome to our ARES Community
- Kindergarten Gradual Entry
- School Supplies
- ARES 2025-2026 Staff
- Bus Registration
- Bell Schedule
- ARES Vision & the Circle of Courage
- Breakfast Program & PAC
- What's New at ARES?
- Courage Cards
- Expectations at ARES
- Family Welcome Night
- Volunteering
- Cell Phone Policy Reminder
- Important Dates



Kindergarten Schedule



September 2025 Adam Robertson Elementary School
Kindergarten Gradual Entry Schedule



Gradual entry helps children build their stamina and resilience so their transition into Kindergarten and school is successful and positive.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Labour Day	First Day of School for Grade 1-7 *No school for Kindergarten	Individual Parent-Child -Teacher Conferences Drop in for A visit 1:00 - 2:45 Parents complete CHEQ Survey today	Individual Parent-Child -Teacher Conferences Drop in for A visit 1:00 - 2:45 Parents complete CHEQ Survey today	First AM of School for Kindergarten *Bring a snack & water bottle, extra clothes bag, and inside shoes 8:45 - 12:00	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Half Day 8:45 - 12:00 *Bring 2 snacks and a water bottle	Half Day 8:45 - 12:00 *Bring 2 snacks and a water bottle	Stay for Lunch 8:45 - 1:00 *Bring 2 snacks, a lunch, and a water bottle	Stay for Lunch 8:45 - 1:00 *Bring 2 snacks, a lunch, and a water bottle	Stay for Lunch 8:45 - 1:00 *Bring 2 snacks, a lunch, and a water bottle	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Full Days From Now On! 8:45 - 2:45 *Bring 2 snacks, a lunch, and a water bottle each day				No School School Planning Day	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Full Days! *Bring 2 snacks, lunch & a water bottle each day					
28	29	30	October 1	2	3	4
	Full Days! *Bring 2 snacks, a lunch & water bottle each day	No School National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	Full Days! *Bring 2 snacks, a lunch & a water bottle each day			

Kindergarten Families

Meet the Teacher

On **Wednesday, September 3rd** or **Thursday, September 4th**, please choose a time to drop in to the classroom for a visit and to complete CHEQ

Drop-in Time

1:00 - 2:45

All kindergarten students will officially start on Friday, September 5th: 8:45 - 12:00.

We will meet students outside on the North Tarmac on their first day.



School Supplies



Litter-less Lunches

We strive for Litter-free lunches at ARES.

Please use reusable containers and reduce packaging as much as possible. Choose a re-fillable water bottle instead of a juice box.



- Supplies will be provided by the school for **\$45.00**. This fee can be paid online through our website, at the office, or to classroom teachers. (Cheques payable to ARES)
- In addition, all students will require: In-door running shoes, a water bottle, and gym strip (intermediate students).



BELONGING: A community that comes together to support its children forms a powerful team

Our 2025–2026 Staff

It takes a village to raise a child



Principal – Tanya Christenson
Vice Principal – William Klassen
Office Clerical – Mary Scott
Educational Assistant – Rhonda Sloss
Educational Assistant – Karen Mottl
Educational Assistant – Cindy Healey
Educational Assistant – Colleen Kuny
Educational Assistant – Dora O'Brien
Educational Assistant – Jacqui Miller
Library Clerical – Lillian Leslie
Aboriginal Education Success Teacher – Danielle Sonntag
Aboriginal Youth & Family Liaison – Josie Fullarton
Fine Arts Teacher – Blakeny Delcaro
Teacher Librarian – Tracy Walker
Custodian – Aaron Bennett
Custodian – Victoria Buckley

Kindergarten – Lindsay Miller
Kindergarten/Grade 1 – Amanda Smith
Grade 1 – Jen Gardner
Grade 2 – Linda Cote
Grade 2/3 – Caroline Vandenberghe
Grade 3 – Melissa Feragotti
Grade 3/4 – Lisa Page
Grade 4 – Heather Vigna
Grade 4/5 – Matt Blick
Grade 5/6 – Max Percival
Grade 6/7 – Tesse Poznikoff
Grade 6/7 – Danielle Sonntag
Grade 6/7 – Kyla Hamm
Inclusion Support Teacher – Tracy Walker
Inclusion Support Teacher – Darci Bysouth
Inclusion Support Teacher – Candace Ivanco
Early Literacy Support Teacher – Tina Harms
Social-Emotional Support Teacher – Darci Bysouth



Bus Registration

Don't forget to register if your child will be riding the bus

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

ARES Bell Schedule



Welcome Bell – 8:45
RECESS – All students: 10:45 – 11:00
LUNCH – 12:00 – 12:45
(Gr. 4-7 Outside 12:00 – 12:30 / Gr. K-3 Outside 12:15 – 12:45)
End of Day – 2:45





Strength and resilience in children comes from belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity ~ helping them grow into confident and compassionate individuals.



Adam Robertson
Elementary

The Circle of Courage

At ARES, we work hard to weave the Circle of Courage into our schoolwide culture. This model of youth empowerment and resiliency reminds us that for children to be emotionally healthy, they need to experience Belonging, Mastery, Independence, and Generosity.

The Circle of Courage, first described in *Reclaiming Youth at Risk* by Brendtro, Brokenleg, and Van Bockern (1990), is rooted in Indigenous philosophies of child-rearing that emphasize raising children within a caring, respectful, and value-centered community.

Throughout the year, you will see many activities designed to help students, staff, and families feel connected. When adults themselves experience Belonging, they are better able to nurture that same sense of safety and security in children. From this foundation, Generosity grows, as kindness and support flow naturally throughout the community. With this care in place, children are able to thrive on their journeys toward Mastery and Independence.



School 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.



ARES Vision

To support the development of RESILIENT children who can thrive in any community



GENEROSITY: Children instinctively learn the meaning of kindness by observing the selfless actions of those they look up to and respect



ARES Breakfast Program



- We have a dedicated PAC (Parent Advisory Council) who makes breakfast in the gym each morning, beginning at 8:20. ALL students are welcome to have a snack or meal and then return outside to visit or play with friends until the bell at 8:45.
- PAC would love to have more volunteers. Please let us know if you would like to be involved in this rewarding opportunity.
- Each day the menu changes. Students enjoy smoothies, fruit, muffins, milk, scrambled eggs, cereal, oatmeal, grilled Cheese, or pancakes.
- This program is a peaceful way for students to start their day, visiting with new friends before venturing outside.



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



Looking for Sponsorship

Our Breakfast Program is funded through grants, sponsorship, and donations. If you or your business are willing to donate or sponsor a portion of this worthwhile endeavour, please reach out to PAC at:

AdamRobertson.PAC@gmail.com



PAC meets monthly and all parents are welcome to attend.
The first PAC meeting is on:

Wednesday, September 10th @ 9:00 AM



MASTERY represents the development of skills and competence through learning and experience. Children gain valuable insights and grow their abilities as they interact with new adults who bring fresh perspectives and expertise.

What's New at ARES?

We are excited to welcome **Ms. Poznikoff** to our team as a new Grade 6/7 Teacher! A Creston local, she began her career teaching elementary students in Rossland and most recently taught Grade 8 and 9 Humanities and English at Kootenay River Secondary School (KRSS).



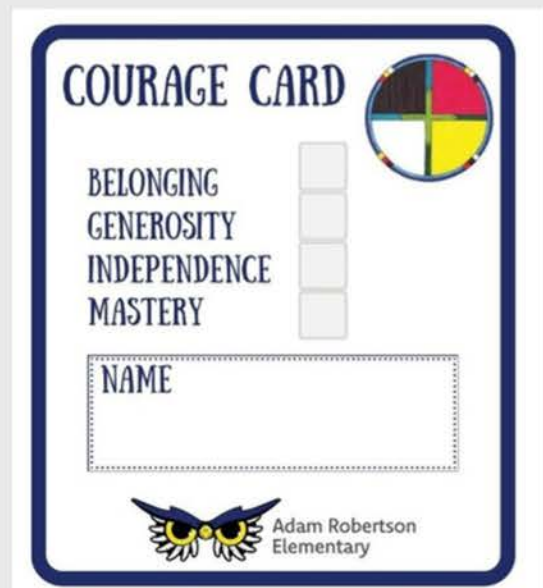
Courage Cards

Something new this year are Courage Cards—a special way to celebrate our students.

When staff see someone showing one of the Circle of Courage values, they can give out a Courage Card.:

- **Belonging** - helping others feel welcome
- **Mastery** - trying your best and learning new things
- **Independence** - making good choices
- **Generosity** - being kind and giving to others

These cards recognize students who are modeling our Expected Behaviours at ARES and encourage everyone to help make our school a caring, safe, and welcoming place to be!



*Courage
Fuels
Growth*



Children learn and grow best when the behaviours we hope to see are taught, guided, and modeled by the caring adults and peers they look up to



Adam Robertson
Elementary

*What do we expect at
ARES?*

Expected Behaviour at ARES

Circle of Courage Framework

K-7 School Community Expectations



BELONGING

I AM RESPECTFUL AND CARING
WITH OTHERS

PERSONAL & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- I INCLUDE OTHERS AND HELP THEM FEEL WELCOME.
- I LISTEN AND SHARE IDEAS RESPECTFULLY.
- I SHOW KINDNESS AND UNDERSTANDING TO EVERYONE.
- I CARE FOR OUR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SPACES.
- I RESPECT AND APPRECIATE HELPERS LIKE TEACHERS, EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS (EAS), PARENT VOLUNTEERS, CUSTODIANS, BUS DRIVERS, AND OFFICE STAFF.
- I USE RESPECTFUL WORDS AND ACTIONS EVERYWHERE – CLASSROOM, BATHROOM, PLAYGROUND, BUS, HALLWAY, GYM, AND LIBRARY.

GENEROSITY

I HELP OTHERS AND MAKE OUR
SCHOOL COMMUNITY BETTER

PERSONAL & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- I USE KIND WORDS AND ACTIONS TO SUPPORT OTHERS.
- I HELP CLASSMATES, YOUNGER STUDENTS, AND STAFF WHEN I CAN.
- I TELL AN ADULT IF SOMEONE IS HURT OR UNSAFE.
- I SHARE MATERIALS AND TAKE TURNS.
- I CARE FOR OUR SCHOOL BY CLEANING UP AND BEING THOUGHTFUL.
- I THANK OTHERS FOR THEIR HELP AND KINDNESS.
- I SHOW RESPECT ON THE BUS AND LISTEN TO DRIVERS AND SUPERVISORS.

INDEPENDENCE

I MAKE GOOD CHOICES AND
TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

THINKING & PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- I COME TO SCHOOL READY AND PREPARED TO LEARN.
- I TAKE CARE OF MY BELONGINGS AND SCHOOL MATERIALS.
- I KEEP MY CUBBY OR LOCKER TIDY.
- I REMOVE WET OR MUDDY SHOES WHEN ENTERING THE SCHOOL.
- I FOLLOW RULES AND ROUTINES INDEPENDENTLY.
- I THINK BEFORE I ACT AND SOLVE PROBLEMS CALMLY.
- I USE RESPECTFUL LANGUAGE AT ALL TIMES.
- I RETURN BORROWED SPORTS EQUIPMENT TO THE OFFICE.

MASTERY

I WORK HARD, KEEP LEARNING,
AND SHARE WHAT I KNOW

THINKING & COMMUNICATION

- I TRY MY BEST EVEN WHEN IT'S HARD.
- I FINISH WHAT I START AND LEARN FROM MISTAKES.
- I ASK FOR HELP AND HELP OTHERS LEARN.
- I SET GOALS AND WORK TOWARDS THEM.
- I TAKE PART IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND SHOW LEADERSHIP.
- I SHARE WHAT I LEARN WITH MY CLASSMATES.
- I KEEP A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND KEEP TRYING.



Adam Robertson
Elementary

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One Heart



Community Courage Days

During the first week of school, while students spend time in their previous classrooms, we are excited to make the week more meaningful by launching our new Community Courage Groups.

These groups will introduce students to the Circle of Courage and its four core domains—**Belonging, Independence, Mastery,** and **Generosity**—through six fun and engaging learning stations.

This approach will strengthen cross-grade connections, encourage leadership from older students, and create more opportunities for staff-student relationships across the school.

Each child will also receive a Courage Tracker to complete throughout the week, helping them learn and practice the expected behaviours at ARES in a positive and supportive way.

COURAGE TRACKER

NAME: _____



Adam Robertson
Elementary



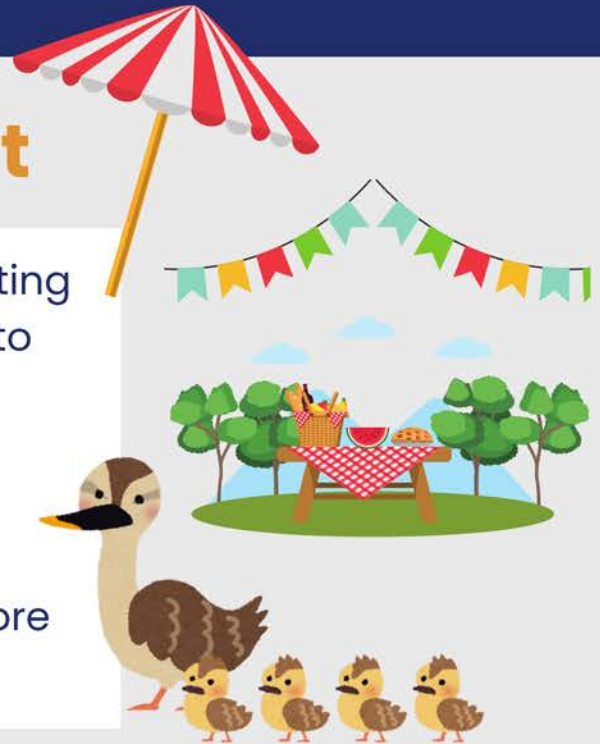
BELONGING to a larger community enriches our lives by offering support, shared experiences, and opportunities for collective growth

Family Welcome Night

Along with our ARES PAC, we will be hosting a special evening to welcome families to the ARES community on:

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th
5:00 – 6:30

Please save the date and watch for more information to come!



Volunteering or Visiting the School?



- Please sign in at the office when you arrive
- To volunteer in any capacity, you must complete **TWO** forms every September (**Both must be redone each school year**):
 - A Criminal Record Check – See Mrs. Scott for the Criminal Record Check link or our school website)
 - A Volunteer Application (at the office)

There are many ways to get involved—through PAC or in your child's classroom. Let your child's teacher know if you're interested!



BELONGING: For students to excel academically, they need a strong sense of connection to their classroom and school community. Developing relationships through positive human interaction is crucial



Cellphone Policy Reminder



As a reminder, students are not permitted to bring or use personal electronic devices, such as smartphones, smart watches, or Bluetooth earphones, at school. This policy aligns with other Creston elementary schools and has been in place for the past year.

Our goal is to maintain a learning environment that encourages social interaction, relationship building, and spontaneous creativity. Personal electronic devices can interfere with these experiences, so we ask that students keep them at home.

Any cell phones that do come to school will be stored in the office and can be picked up by a parent at your convenience.

BACK TO
SCHOOL



Morning Supervision

Morning Supervision starts at **8:20**.

Please do not send students to school before this time, so that we can ensure their safety.

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



Thanks to Aaron & Victoria, our custodians, for shining up our school this summer!



Hope is a fundamental human need—having something to look forward to each day helps both staff and students feel excited about coming to school

IMPORTANT DATES

- Tuesday, September 2nd – First Day of School – Dismissal @ 11:45
- Friday, September 5th – Terry Fox Run – 2:00 – 2:45
- Monday, September 8th – Welcome Back Assembly @ 11:15
- Wednesday, September 10th – PAC Meeting @ 9:00
- Wednesday, September 17th – Family Welcome Event – 5:00 – 6:30
- Friday, September 19th – School Planning Day – No School for Students
- Monday, September 29th – Orange Shirt Day – Assembly @ 9:00
- Tuesday, September 30th – National Day for Truth & Reconciliation – No School
- Wednesday, October 1st – Individual & Class Picture Day



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William Klassen | Vice Principal
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