



*Schoolwide community events foster opportunities for older students to nurture younger peers and develop leadership skills, promoting **INDEPENDENCE***

# Our ARES Pumpkin Patch



On Monday, October 27th, ARES students kicked off the day with a schoolwide assembly before heading outside to explore our giant PAC-created pumpkin patch! Thanks to Wloka Farms for donating 320 unique gourds, every student got to choose their own mini pumpkin from the yard. Older buddies helped their younger buddies find the perfect pumpkin—often making sure the little ones had theirs before picking their own. Back in classrooms, students brought their gourds to life as characters or used them as inspiration for writing and art. Each student was encouraged to care for their little gourd until Halloween, creating a fun and hands-on lesson in empathy and creativity.



Adam Robertson  
Elementary

## OCTOBER NEWS



## What's New at ARES?

- Pumpkin Patch Schoolwide Activity
- Cross Country & Volleyball
- Communicating Student Learning
- Parent Literacy Workshop
- Exploring our Valley
- Wildsight Program
- Halloween Fun Night
- Grade One Growing Scientists
- Pumpkin Tradition
- Spring Musical Rehearsals
- School Supply Reminder
- October at ARES
- Important Dates





*Participating in sports fosters a sense of belonging through teamwork and builds mastery as students set goals, practice, and celebrate their progress.*

# Cross Country Run



Twenty ARES students from Grades 4–7 took part in the annual cross-country run at Canyon Park, joining runners from all Creston elementary schools. It was a great opportunity for students to challenge themselves, show school spirit, and enjoy the outdoors. A big thank-you to Ms. Read for volunteering her time to coach and cheer on our ARES team!



**Thanks, Ms. Read,  
for organizing!**

# Volleyball



Volleyball for our Grade 4–7 students is in full swing! With inter-school games underway and a tournament in Cranbrook coming up for our Grade 6/7 players, both coaches and athletes have busy schedules ahead.





When parents and the school community stay connected, it enhances collaboration, leading to improved student success and a stronger sense of **BELONGING** for everyone involved.

## Early Dismissal Days

### Our First Informal Learning Update

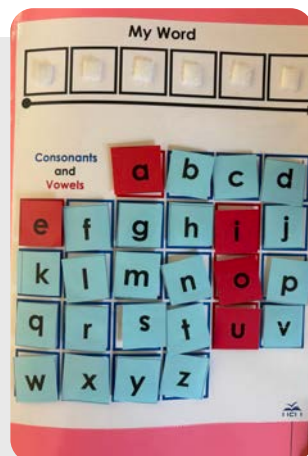
On October 15th and 16th, during Early Dismissal Days, we welcomed families into ARES to share in student learning. Thanks for the amazing attendance!



Throughout the school year, parents and guardians will receive at least **five** updates on student progress:

1. **October 15th & 16<sup>th</sup>** – An opportunity for Parent-Teacher Conferences on Early Dismissal Days and/or an Interim Report.
2. **December 5<sup>th</sup>** – First Written Learning Update.
3. **March 13<sup>th</sup>** – Second Written Learning Update:
4. **April 22nd & 23<sup>rd</sup>** – ARES Learning Fair on Early Dismissal Days.
5. **June 24<sup>th</sup>** – Final Summary of Learning.

These communications will help keep you informed about your child's progress and learning journey.



## Parent Primary Literacy Workshop

Families of Kindergarten to Grade 3 students are invited to join Mrs. Cote and Mrs. Vandenberghe for a fun and engaging session on creating UFLI Word Work Mats — a powerful tool grounded in the *Science of Reading*.

*Developed by the University of Florida Literacy Institute, the UFLI program helps students build strong reading foundations through interactive, hands-on learning.*

During this session, parents will:

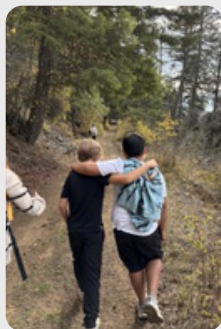
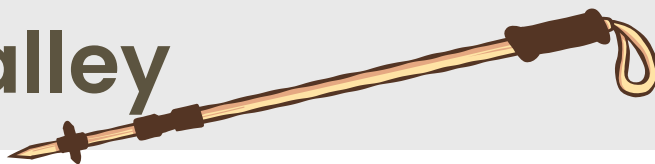
- Learn how to use word work mats to build and read words through a word chain activity
- Create their own take-home mats with letter tiles
- See demonstrations on using the mats for practicing letters, reading, spelling, and word building

This one-hour session will take place on **Monday, November 3rd, from 3:30 – 4:30 PM** in the ARES Library



Outdoor activities in school promote **INDEPENDENCE** by encouraging students to explore, take risks, and make decisions in an engaging environment, which helps build confidence and self-reliance.

## Exploring our Valley



Mr. Percival's Grade 5/6 class enjoyed an outdoor adventure. They explored Billy Goat's Bluff Trail, where they had lunch among the trees.

Taking learning outside sparks new creativity and conversation, fostering connections and a sense of belonging in the classroom.



## Wildsight Program

Through Wildsight's EcoStewards program, Mr. Blick's Grade 4/5 class explored local ecosystems through a field visit to Sullivan Creek. Students studied tree habitats and learned about ecosystem interconnections, relationship, and reciprocity—how we depend on nature and how we can care for it in return.



Help support ARES activities, our Breakfast Program, and classroom field trips, by purchasing a poinsettia to brighten the holidays.

**Orders due by – November 17th**

**PAC Poinsettia Fundraiser**  
Order Forms Coming Home  
Soon!



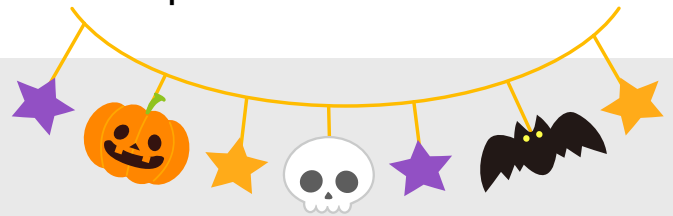


*By designing and building activities for younger students and donating their time for the special night, the Grade 6/7s experienced the satisfaction that **GENEROSITY** brings as they watched others enjoy their creations.*

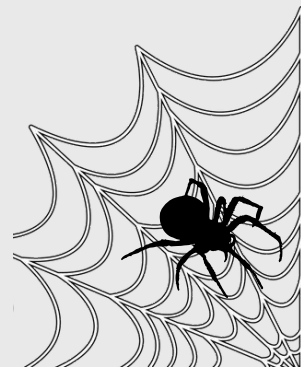
# Halloween Fun Night



ARES families enjoyed a Halloween Fun Night hosted by Ms. Sonntag's Grade 6/7 class. Students designed their own Halloween games for families to enjoy, as they moved through the decorated gym from station to station. With hotdogs, baked goods, and popcorn available for purchase, this fundraiser was a great success. All ages participated in activities created by these imaginative students. Proceeds will go toward their end-of-year field trips.



*Thanks for organizing this fun evening for our school, Ms. Sonntag! And thanks to all the parents who helped too.*



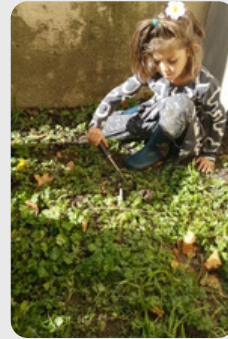


*By taking responsibility for their garden, making decisions about care, and seeing the results of their efforts, students develop a sense of mastery and independence, reflecting the Circle of Courage*



# Growing Scientists

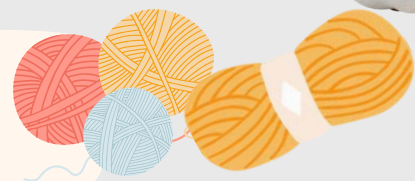
## Grade One Green Thumbs



In Mrs. Gardner's Grade One class, students have been diving into science, exploring how plants grow and survive as part of the BC Grade 1 Science curriculum. They've been observing plant growth, learning about what plants need, and noticing how living things interact with their environment. Their learning came alive on a field trip to Wloka Farms for a "Harvest Hunt," where each student proudly carried home a giant pumpkin. Back at school, they've been busy in their top-secret garden, disappearing with spades, watering cans, and bulbs in hand—working hard on a spring surprise that we can't wait to see!



Thank you to the kind person who generously donated piles of yarn. Our students will use this giant bundle for many creative pursuits.







*One person's act of kindness has the power to impact many, as giving to others generously can bring joy and support to an entire community.*

## Pumpkin Tradition Continues



We're grateful to have Wloka Farms as part of our Creston community. Each year, Barb welcomes classes to her fruit stand, giving students a hands-on look at how local produce is grown. In October, this experience extends to the farm's pumpkin patch, where every child selects a pumpkin to bring home for Halloween. This thoughtful tradition is always a highlight of the season, and both Ms. Smith's K/1 and Mrs. Miller's Kindergarten classes loved their visit.



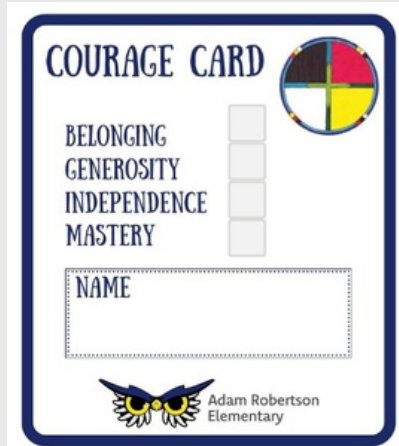
*Building community is at the heart of the Circle of Courage, as it takes a caring and united group working toward a shared goal to help students grow, build resilience, and reach their full potential.*

# Building Community

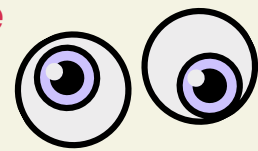


## Eyes of ARES

*Every smile, every stare,  
Tells the story of how we care.  
We're ARES staff—one big crew,  
Can you guess who's smiling at you?*



Our new staff board is up and students are busily studying the display to see if they recognize the many eyes of our staff.



At ARES, we take pride in recognizing students who naturally demonstrate the values of the Circle of Courage—**Belonging, Generosity, Independence, and Mastery**. When staff notice a student modeling one of these important qualities, they present them with a Courage Card. Each card earns points for the student's Community Courage Team, celebrating both individual character and team spirit.

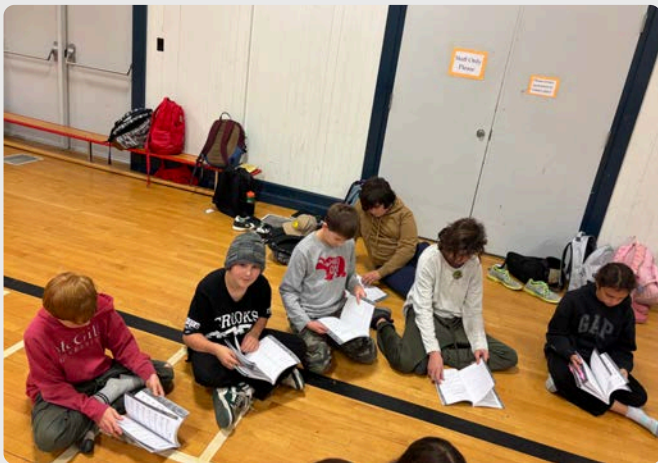
Through this recognition, we honour the positive choices and actions that strengthen our school community and reflect the core values we strive to live by every day.





Opportunities to perform in school, help students develop **MASTERY** by allowing them to practice their skills, build confidence, and learn to manage challenges in a supportive environment.

## Spring Musical Rehearsals....



## February 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>

Each Monday between 3-4, and during many lunch hours, over 100 students rehearse for our Musical – **Frozen Jr.** This giant undertaking is directed by Kyla Hamm and her dedicated team: Blakeny Delcaro, Danielle Sonntag, and Max Percival.

Thank you, ARES Staff, for providing this unique opportunity for our students



A gentle reminder to please pay the **\$45** school supply fee on our website, in person at the office, or send a cheque to ARES.

**<https://ares.sd8.bc.ca/pay>**

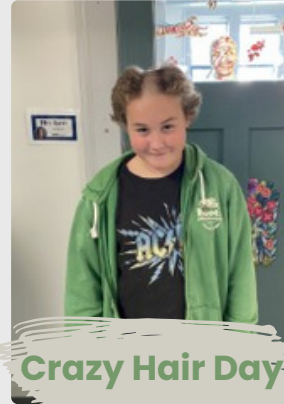
*School Supplies*





*GENEROSITY: Thank you to our ARES staff for their hard work behind the scenes to provide our students with numerous opportunities.*

## October at ARES







*We are grateful for our supportive ARES families. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for being an important part of our school community.*

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup> – **Costume Parade @ 9:00**
- Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Photo Retake Day**
- Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Parent Literacy Workshop – 3:30 – 4:30**
- Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> – **JJ Guy Fiddle Performance @ 11:00**
- Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> – **Remembrance Day Assembly @ 11:00**
- Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> – **Remembrance Day – No School**
- Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> – **PAC Meeting @ 9:00**
- Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> – **Term One Learning Updates go Home**
- Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – **PAC Meeting @ 9:00**
- Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – **Grades K-5 Holiday Concert @ 6:30**
- Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> – **Grades 5-7 Maker's Studio Showcase 2:45 – 4:00**
- Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> – **ARES Holiday Celebration (Ho-Ho-Ho) @ 9:30**
- Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> – **Last Day of School before Winter Break**
- Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> – **First Day Back to School**



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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.*