



*Literacy is Reading Aloud Together*  
*Reading books aloud to children, discussing the story, and asking questions*  
*to encourage comprehension.*

# The Reader Games



This year's Readathon theme was revealed at our January 5th assembly — **The Reader Games**. Throughout the month, students followed weekly, video updates, created by Mrs. Walker, our Teacher Librarian. Her videos featured familiar scenes from animated movies that helped bring the Circle of Courage to life, showing students what belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity look like in action.

Students aimed to read at least 20 minutes each night, carefully tracking their minutes, as every minute read contributed to a larger team effort. Together, those minutes helped reveal the Courage Path on our bulletin board and reinforced the importance of reading, teamwork, and community.

Thank you to our families for supporting reading at home.

Thanks, Mrs. Walker, for your creativity & effort!



Adam Robertson  
Elementary

## JANUARY NEWS



## What's New at ARES?

- The Reader Games – Readathon
- Family Literacy Week
- Return of the Kokanee Salmon
- Digital Media Education Workshop
- Kindergarten Registration
- Play Your Way to K
- Money Math
- Basketball
- FROZEN Jr. Coming Soon
- Curling Time
- West Coast Seeds PAC Fundraiser
- Winter Wonder
- Important Dates





## Literacy is Shared Writing Activities

Writing letters, stories, journaling together, creating greeting cards, writing family recipes and shopping lists



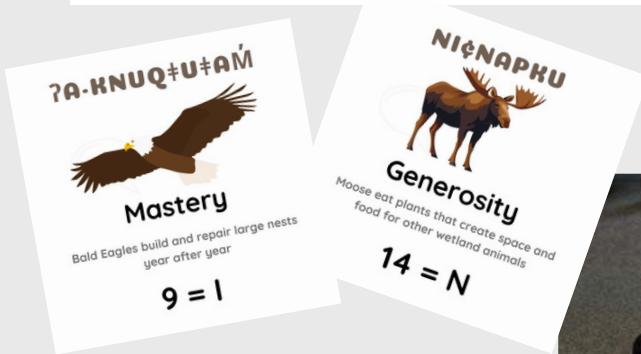
# Family Literacy Week

As part of Family Literacy Week, older students partnered with their younger buddies to take part in the Reader Games Scavenger Hunt. Working together, students searched throughout the school to crack a secret code and reveal a hidden message.

Along the way, students explored how each of our six Community Courage Team animals – Grizzly Bear (kławłta), Buffalo (kamququkut ?iyamu), Bald Eagle (?a·knuqtu·am), Deer (çupqa), Moose (niçnapku), and Coyote (skinkuç) – demonstrates the four domains of the Circle of Courage in the natural world. Through reading animal facts, students learned concrete examples of belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity in action.

Students who cracked the code and revealed the message earned extra Courage Points for their Community Courage Teams.

On January 30th, all students will gather in an assembly to see which team read the most minutes and celebrate their achievements.



Thank you for  
coming to our  
Family Read!

## Family Read





**Literacy is Storytelling**  
Sharing personal stories, family history, or cultural tales. Children can be encouraged to create and tell their own stories too.

# Return of the Kokanee Salmon Program



This year, our school is participating in the Return of the Kokanee Salmon program in partnership with the Creston Valley Rod & Gun Club. Through this hands-on conservation project, students are learning about the Kokanee salmon life cycle by caring for salmon eggs in a classroom aquarium and observing each stage of development as they hatch into alevins and grow into fry. The program connects science learning with local environmental stewardship and helps students understand the importance of healthy waterways in our region.

Mr. Blick's Grade 4/5 class and Mrs. Page's Grade 3/4 class are gaining a deeper appreciation for the patience, responsibility, and care involved in protecting local species





## *Literacy is Everyday Conversations*

*Talking together about what you see, do, and think throughout the day, and encouraging children to ask questions, share ideas, and explain their thinking.*

Snapchat this? Instagram that! Children today are growing up in a digital world and developing their online identities earlier than ever before. To help support them in this space, our school will be hosting a Digital Media Education Workshop focused on building strong digital citizenship skills.

On February 17 and 18, our three Grade 6/7 classes will participate in age-appropriate presentations that explore topics such as digital footprints, online decision-making, cyberbullying, privacy, anonymity, and the impact of video games and screen use. The sessions are designed to help students think critically about their online and offline choices and to reinforce that their digital actions reflect who they are.

In addition, an evening parent session will be offered for all ARES parents who are interested in learning more about supporting children in today's digital world. You do not need to have a child in Grade 6 or 7 to attend. This session will provide practical guidance, discussion, and tools to help families navigate social media, gaming, and online safety together.

# **Coming Soon! DIGITAL Media Education Workshop**



## **Presented by: Scott Rothermel**

Scott is the current Manager of Safe Schools & OHS for SD#8. This is a district leadership position working directly to support the safety for all students in our schools. Scott is also a provincial trainer with the ERASE BC program.

## **Parent Workshop**

**Tuesday, February 17  
at 6:30  
ARES Library**

**Open to all ARES Parents**





*Literacy is creating a Home Literacy Environment.  
Having books, magazines, newspapers, and other reading materials  
accessible around the house.  
Do you have a quiet and comfortable space for reading or writing?*

## Kindergarten Registration

If your child turns 5 in 2026, it's time to register for kindergarten!



**Apply before FEBRUARY 28th**

Please register at our ARES Office



## Play Your Way to Kindergarten

We were excited to have a new group of 3 and 4 year-olds visit ARES for the first **PLAY YOUR WAY TO KINDERGARTEN** event on Wednesday, January 28th. Participants enjoyed circle time, a school tour, and the chance to play with our current kindergarten students. Thanks to Simone with Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten Transition (SEY2KT) for organizing.

There will be four different sessions at ARES, as well as **Dig Dirt Day** in May to help connect future ARES students and their families with our school community.



**Mrs. Miller's  
Kindergarten students  
enjoying the Readathon**





*Literacy is Engaging in Interactive Activities*  
*Playing literacy-based games, such as word puzzles, crossword puzzles, or alphabet games, that involve reading or spelling.*



## Money Math



Mrs. Vandenberghe's Grade 2/3 class has been exploring money in math, learning to identify coins, understand their values, and add different combinations.

As part of this numeracy unit, students also created their own paper-mâché piggy banks, bringing hands-on learning into the classroom.



### Healthy Bag Lunches Available



If you are struggling to provide lunch for your child, please let us know and we will ensure they have a healthy bag lunch to eat each day.

We also have a daily breakfast program open to ALL students!



## BASKETBALL

### Grade 6/7 Boys

Thursday @ 2:45  
Friday @ Lunch

### Grade 6/7 Girls

Monday @ Lunch  
Tuesday @ 2:45



### Grade 4/5 Girls

Thursday @ Lunch

### Grade 4/5 Boys

Wednesday @ Lunch



Thanks to Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Vigna, Mr. Blick, and Ms. Candace, for coaching

**Basketball Season  
Begins...**



*Literacy is Discussing Everyday Activities as we go About our Life.  
Encourage children to read labels on grocery items, menus at restaurants, or road signs, and talk about what they see.*

# FROZEN Jr. Coming Soon!



*Thank you, Mrs. Hamm, Ms. Sonntag, Mrs. Delcaro, Mrs. Vigna, and Mr. Percival for your time and dedication to make this event possible!*



Seventy-six students and five staff members have been dedicating countless hours each week to bring the musical production of FROZEN Jr. to life, and opening night is just one week away. Tickets will be available to cast families next week, with sales opening to the public during the first week of February at the ARES Office. Tickets are \$10 per person, and performances will take place on **February 6th and 7th** in the KRSS Auditorium.

Amid the busyness of ARES, "Let It Go" can be heard each noon-hour, as the cast rehearses. The song reminds us to embrace who you are, let go of fear and expectations, and find the courage to be your true self.

This production would not be possible without the dedication of our parent volunteers, who have been working tirelessly to build sets, prepare food, and create costumes. Mrs. Hamm is the master behind the production and we are so grateful for her leadership and passion!



*Literacy is Educational Technology and Media Use. Using educational apps, websites, or watching educational videos together. This might include activities like interactive e-books, educational games, or listening to podcasts or audiobooks.*



# It's Curling Time



Thanks to volunteers from the Creston Curling Club, we have three classes participating in a sport that is new to many of our students. Mr. Blick, Ms. Sonntag, and Ms. Read's students each received lessons at the Creston & District Community Complex.

We are grateful for the support of our community for sharing their love of curling with the next generation.



**Scholastic Book Fair**  
**Has new dates this year!**  
**April 22nd & 23rd**



*We are combining the Scholastic Book Fair with  
our Learning Fair*



*Literacy is Setting Literacy Goals and Expectations  
Families setting reading or writing challenges, such as reading a certain number of books each month, or having a family book club where everyone reads and discusses the same book.*

## Support PAC's West Coast Seed Sale

Our PAC is excited to partner with West Coast Seeds for an upcoming fundraiser running from **February 1–22**. For every seed pack purchased, 40% of proceeds will go directly toward supporting PAC initiatives at our school.

West Coast Seeds offers Canada #1, untreated, non-GMO seeds, including a wide selection of vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Orders must be placed through the fundraising website to ensure our PAC receives credit.

Students will bring home a notice with more details, and Mrs. C will also include information and the order link in her weekly update. You can also order directly by visiting the link below.

<https://fundraising.westcoastseeds.com/pages/organizations/ares>



## Winter Wonder

Mrs. Miller's Kindergarten class recently spent a morning outside participating in a Winter Wonder program focused on winter ecology. Although there was no snow, students were engaged as they used their senses to observe the natural environment and learn how plants and animals are affected by seasonal changes. They compared different living things, shared their observations with classmates, and gained a better understanding of why winter is important to our local ecosystem.





*Literacy is communication through reading, writing and speaking. It could be visiting libraries or watching movies with the subtitles on so that children are exposed to what the words look like. Literacy is everywhere!*

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup> – Spirit Day – Dress as your Favourite Book Character
- Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup> – Final Readathon Assembly @ 2:30
- Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> – Frozen Performance @ 6:00
- Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> – Frozen Performance @ 6:00
- Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> – School-Based Pro-D Day – No School for Students
- Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> – Family Day – No School
- Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> – PAC Meeting @ 9:00
- Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> – Pink Shirt Day Schoolwide Activity
- Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> – PAC Meeting @ 9:00
- Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> – Term Two Learning Updates go Home
- Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> – Last Day of School before Spring Break
- Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> – First Day Back to School after Spring Break



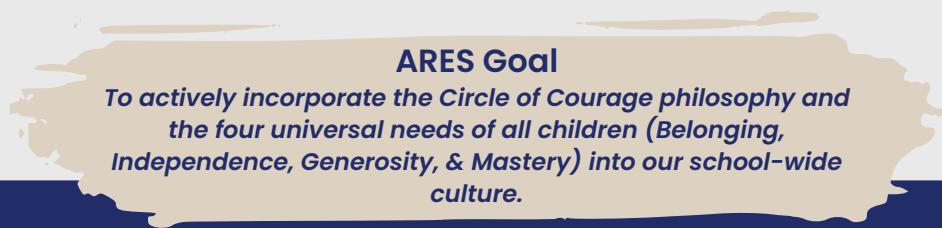
**Tanya Christenson | Principal**  
[tanya.christenson@sd8.bc.ca](mailto:tanya.christenson@sd8.bc.ca)



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



**William Klassen | Vice Principal**  
[william.klassen@sd8.bc.ca](mailto:william.klassen@sd8.bc.ca)



### 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.*