



Pink Shirt Day is about promoting kindness, inclusion, and respectful relationships in our schools and communities.



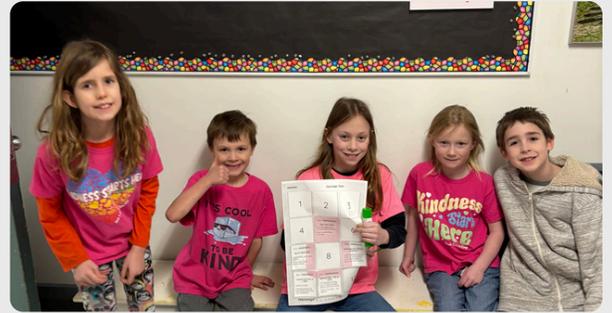
Pink Shirt Day

1st



Adam Robertson
Elementary

FEBRUARY NEWS



On February 25, in celebration of Pink Shirt Day, students were divided into our six Ktunaxa animal Community Courage Teams to take part in a schoolwide challenge focused on kindness, inclusion, and standing up for one another. In small groups, students moved through the school, to locate posters that explored bullying, its impact on others, and the importance of being an upstander. Students learned what bullying is and what it is not, helping to build a shared understanding of respectful behaviour. As part of the challenge, each team worked together to locate 12 puzzle pieces hidden around the school, which were needed to reveal a hidden message. Leading up to Pink Shirt Day, classrooms also engaged in age-appropriate lessons and conversations about kindness and inclusion. Ongoing education plays an important role in creating a safe and welcoming school community.

What's New at ARES?

- Pink Shirt Day
- Frozen Jr. -February Musical
- Kokanee Salmon Update
- Ballet Jörgen Workshop
- Grade 6/7 Ski Trip
- Kindergarten Registration
- Growing Skills for a Safe & Caring School
- Geometry in Action
- ARES Basketball
- Valentine's Day in K & 1
- Important Dates





Bullying is behaviour that is repeated, intended to cause harm, and involves a real or perceived imbalance of power.

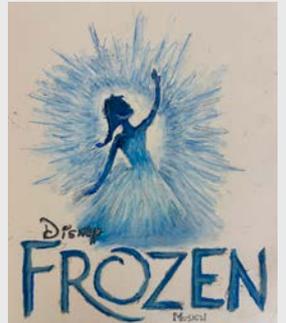
FROZEN Jr. – February Musical



Seventy-six students in Grades 3–7 took part in this year’s production of Frozen Jr., with performances on February 6 and 7 at the KRSS Auditorium. Both shows were sold out, with a packed auditorium.

A big thank you to our staff and the many parent volunteers who helped make it happen – from organizing costumes and building sets to supporting students through weeks of rehearsals. It takes a lot of work behind the scenes to put on a production like this, and we’re grateful for the time and care that went into creating this opportunity for our students.

**Thank you, Mrs. Hamm,
Ms. Sonntag, Mrs.
Delcaro, Mrs. Vigna, and
Mr. Percival**



The musical explored themes of love, belonging, and being true to yourself, and our students did a great job bringing these messages to life on stage.



Not every disagreement, conflict, or unkind moment between students meets the definition of bullying.

Kokanee Salmon Update...

As part of our ongoing participation in the Return of the Kokanee Salmon program in partnership with the Creston Valley Rod & Gun Club, students in Mr. Blick and Mrs. Page's classes are now observing a new phase in the salmon life cycle. The kokanee have moved into the late alevin stage. Most have hatched and can be seen resting along the bottom of the tank, still carrying visible yolk sacs. At this stage, they are not actively feeding and show only minimal movement as they continue to develop.

Students are carefully watching for signs of change — shrinking yolk sacs, more frequent vertical movement in the tank, and the first few fish beginning to lift off the bottom.

These small milestones are helping students better understand the patience and close observation required in both science and environmental stewardship, while continuing to build their connection to the health of our local waterways.





Children naturally experience social challenges as they learn how to navigate friendships and solve problems.



Ballet Jörgen Workshop

On February 23, our school welcomed Ballet Jörgen, a Canadian touring company recognized for its commitment to community outreach and arts education. Ballet Jörgen delivered an interactive performance and workshop for students in Kindergarten to Grade 7, providing a clear and engaging introduction to ballet for all ages.

Students watched short ballet excerpts and then took part in hands-on activities, including repeating movements and learning basic ballet positions. The interactive format allowed students to take part and learn if they felt comfortable





While all hurtful behaviour deserves attention and guidance, one-time incidents are addressed differently than patterns of repeated harm.

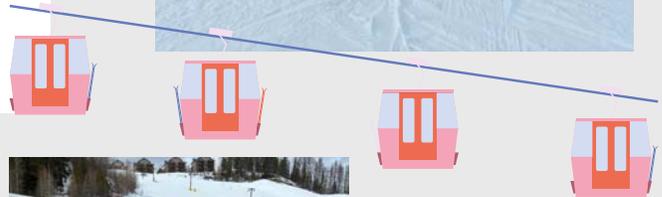
In February and March, our Grade 6 and 7 students have the chance to go skiing in Kimberley.

For students who stay behind, there are alternative activities with Ms. Sonntag, including swimming and skating.

Over the two days, students who have never skied before will have the chance to learn the basics with the help of parent volunteers and a lesson at the hill. Thanks, Mrs. Hamm for organizing and to Ms. Read for helping on these days.



Grade 6 & 7 Ski Trip



Kindergarten Registration

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

Apply by FEBRUARY 28th

Please visit our Front Office





Understanding the difference between conflict and bullying helps families and schools respond in consistent, fair, and supportive ways.

Growing Skills for a Safe & Caring School

Students participated in an assembly where they reflected on how they personally follow each school guideline. It was a chance to think about their choices and how they contribute to a positive school community



At ARES, teachers use the Open Parachute program to support students' social and emotional development and to create a common language from Kindergarten through Grade 7. Students begin exploring topics such as kindness, empathy, and speaking up at an age-appropriate level in the early years, and then build on those skills as they move through the grades. Lessons progress from understanding unkind behaviour and choosing kindness in Kindergarten and Grade 1, to communicating hurt feelings, showing empathy, and being an upstander in the middle grades, and on to digital citizenship, healthy relationships, boundary setting, resilience, and accountability in the upper grades.

At ARES, we know that creating a safe, caring, and orderly school community doesn't happen through one lesson or one day—it comes from consistent, ongoing learning and shared expectations. By revisiting these important topics each year, students develop the skills and confidence to build positive relationships and contribute to a culture of belonging.

We also know that strong home-school communication is essential. If you ever have concerns about your child or a situation at school, please reach out directly to your child's teacher or to Mrs. Christenson. We need to know about issues in order to respond thoughtfully and work together toward the best possible resolution.

erase | EXPECT RESPECT & A SAFE EDUCATION

erase = expect respect & a safe education

erase helps students, adults, and school staff build safe, caring and inclusive school communities.

The [erase|Report It](https://erasereportit.gov.bc.ca/) tool lets you send a secure, anonymous and confidential message to your school or school district's safe school coordinator, who will follow up on it right away. You do not have to provide your name unless you want to.

<https://erasereportit.gov.bc.ca/>





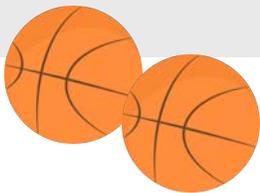
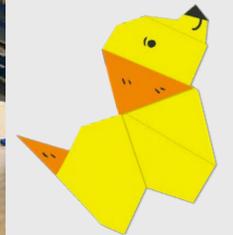
When concerns are shared early, we can work together to determine the most appropriate next steps.

Geometry in Action



Mrs. Cote's Grade 2 students explored origami as part of their geometry unit, creating paper dogs, cats, foxes, and badgers while learning about 2D shapes, symmetry, halves, and how shapes can be folded to make new forms.

This hands-on activity connects to the Grade 2 Mathematics curriculum, supporting spatial reasoning and shape understanding. Mrs. Cote was proud of her students for carefully following directions and stepping up to help classmates who were away learn the project too.



BASKETBALL



Basketball season is underway for our Grade 4–7 students, and we have an exciting few weeks planned. We're welcoming Grade 4/5 boys and girls from Erickson to ARES on **Wednesday, March 4** and **Thursday, March 5, 2026**, with games running from **2:30–3:30 pm**. We're also excited to host Salmo Elementary on **February 27th** for an afternoon round-robin tournament for Grade 4/5/6 students. The games will follow a friendly tournament-style format, with our Grade 7 students stepping into leadership roles by refereeing the matches. Thanks to Ms. Candace, Mrs. Vigna, Mrs. Miller, and Mr. Blick for coaching



At school, we focus on teaching respectful communication, empathy, problem-solving, inclusion, and personal responsibility.



Valentine's Day in Kindergarten & Grade One



Even though Valentine's Day fell on a weekend, it didn't stop our Kindergarten and Grade One classes from celebrating a little early! Students enjoyed creating special envelopes to collect their Valentine cards, and they spent time carefully writing the names of each classmate—a task that took time, patience. Teachers also used this day as an opportunity to help students learn about kindness, including everyone, and the importance of thanking others when they receive a card.



When concerns arise, it is important to connect with your child's teacher or the school principal so we have the opportunity to manage the situation appropriately and support all students involved.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Friday, February 27th – Spirit Day – 80's Day
- Friday, March 6th – Spirit Day – Jersey Day
- Wednesday, March 11th – PAC Meeting @ 9:00
- Friday, March 13th – Beach Day
- Friday, March 13th – Term Two Learning Updates go Home
- Friday, March 13th – Last Day of School before Spring Break
- Monday, March 30th – First Day Back to School after Spring Break



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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.