



What does BELONGING mean?

"When people let you play wall ball with them." - Corbin G. - Kindergarten

Honoring Ms. Josie



On May 15, 2026, our students attended the 13th Annual SD8 Pow Wow at the Creston & District Community Complex. The day began with a Grand Entry and continued with traditional dances, intertribals for all grade levels, and fun community events such as the Potato Dance and the Staff Freeze Dance Competition. The Pow Wow is a celebration of Indigenous culture, bringing our School District community together.

This year's gathering was especially meaningful, as it marked Ms. Josie Fullarton's final Pow Wow after 15 years of leadership and dedication. Since starting the event in 2010, Josie has helped it grow into a special tradition within SD8, including guiding the community through two virtual Pow Wows during the COVID years when in-person gatherings were not possible.

An important teaching within Indigenous cultures is learning from Elders and ensuring knowledge is passed on to the next generation. In that spirit, Josie has spent years mentoring others to carry this work forward. Next year will mark the first Pow Wow led by the team she has prepared and supported along the way.



Adam Robertson
Elementary

MAY NEWS



What's New at ARES?

- Honoring Ms. Josie
- Mini-Golf Fun
- Focus on Youth
- Learning to Fish
- Welcome to Kindergarten
- DQ Winners
- Staff Professional Development Day
- Grade 7 Transition to KRSS
- Kokanee Salmon Release
- The Egg Drop
- Lost & Found
- Iron Soul Experience
- Important Dates





What does BELONGING mean?
"It feels happy to stay at school." - Mehramat K. - Kindergarten



Mini-Golf Fun



ARES students participated in something new this year. Thanks to funding from our PAC, classes walked the Rotary Trail to go mini-golfing. Chad Wobshall generously helped make this opportunity possible so that any class interested could attend. For many students, it was their first time walking the trail that connects Schikurski Park to Helen Street, helping minimize the amount of walking along the highway



Thank you, PAC,
 for making this
 outing possible!



Focus on Youth



Many classes performed in the KRSS Auditorium during the week of Focus on Youth. Others enjoyed contributing to the Art Show.

Pictured to the left, is Mrs. Gardner's Grade 1 class and Mrs. Cote's Grade 2 class displaying their joint art project. The students also reflected on how the process helped them grow in each of the Circle of Courage domains.





What does BELONGING mean?

"I think it's the place that we should be because it's happy." - Sam A. - Grade 1

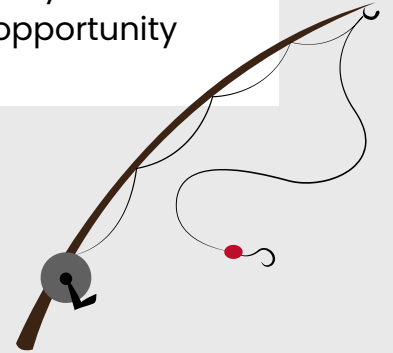
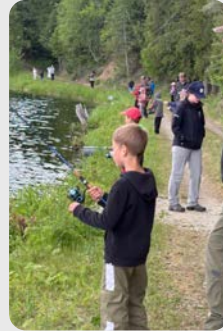


Learning to Fish



Each year, the Rod and Gun Club partners with the Freshwater Fisheries Society to offer the "Learn to Fish" program for youth in Creston. This year, several classes spent a day at Mawson Lake, where they enjoyed hands-on instruction from kind volunteers.

For many ARES students, it was their first time fishing. A big thank-you to the Rod and Gun Club and the volunteers who made this learning opportunity possible!



Is Your Child Leaving ARES?

As we begin to plan for the 2026- 2027 school year, it helps us to know if there will be any changes. If you are planning to relocate this summer and your child **WILL NOT** be returning to ARES in September, please email Mrs. Christenson at tanya.christenson@sd8.bc.ca





What does BELONGING mean?

"I help other friends when they get hurt" - Alaia H. - Grade 1



Welcome to Kindergarten

On May 27th, the students who will attend Kindergarten in September 2026, were invited to ARES for a *Welcome to Kindergarten* Open House. Parents toured the school, met with Mrs. Christenson, and learned how to support their children as they begin school. Our future K's got their first taste of school and spent the morning in the classroom with their next year's teachers, Mrs. Miller and Ms. Smith. The pre-Kindergarten students were also given a special bag, filled with supplies to encourage school readiness. The purpose of this event is to begin the development of a strong home-school relationship and to set our future students up for success.



Learning Fair Winners hit DQ



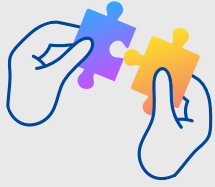
We entered the names of all students who attended the April Learning Fair and selected one student from each of the 13 classrooms. These students walked to Dairy Queen for lunch and a treat with Mrs. C. They represented ARES well with perfect manners, gratitude, and leadership. This multi-aged group was so kind to one another and a pleasure to treat!





What does BELONGING mean?

"It feels like a lot of people are nice to you." - Ben G. - Grade 2

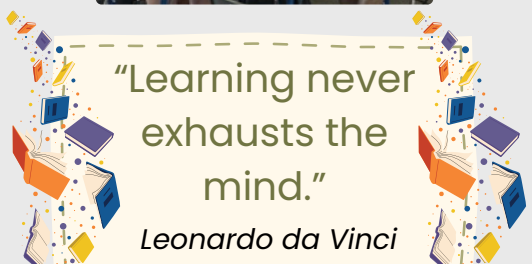


What Did the ARES Staff do on the Professional Development Day?



In the morning session, teachers explored the important connection between writing and reading within a balanced literacy approach. Staff reviewed current research highlighting how regular handwriting and "pen-to-paper" writing support literacy development by improving letter recognition, spelling, memory, comprehension, and overall reading fluency. Teachers shared successful classroom writing routines, instructional strategies, and resources while using *The Writing Rope* as a guide for discussion. Conversations focused on how strong writing instruction helps students organize their thinking, build vocabulary, deepen comprehension, and become more confident readers and communicators.

In the afternoon, staff shifted their focus to problem solving in math, using the ideas from Peter Liljedahl's *Thinking Classroom*. Teachers collaborated around strategies and classroom structures that promote critical thinking, student engagement, and perseverance. Staff thought about possible problem-solving routines and explored ways to create learning environments where students actively think and collaborate. In our busy days, staff rarely get the opportunity to work and plan together, so we greatly valued this time as a team.



"Learning never exhausts the mind."

Leonardo da Vinci



What does BELONGING mean?

"If you are somewhere where you feel happy and you feel comfortable and you have friends." - Haylie R. - Grade 2

Grade 7 Transition to KRSS

As the school year winds down, we are working closely with Kootenay River Secondary School (KRSS) staff to support a smooth transition for our Grade 7 students. While many are excited for this next step, it's completely normal for some to feel a bit anxious about the change.

Students have already had the chance to visit the high school several times. During one visit, they joined a Foods class alongside KRSS students, where they enjoyed making mac and cheese, pizza and brownies together. It was a fun opportunity to connect with some of the senior students while also enjoying the results of their cooking.

In June, all Grade 7 students in the Creston Family of Schools are invited to a Transition Activity Day at Canyon Park. KRSS staff will lead outdoor games and host a BBQ lunch.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's transition, please don't hesitate to reach out.



Adam Robertson
Elementary



Kootenay River
Secondary



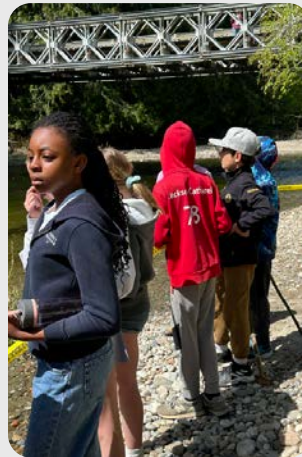


What does BELONGING mean?
 "You enjoy people - you feel together." - George L. - Grade 3

Kokanee Salmon Release



As part of our ongoing partnership with the Creston Valley Rod & Gun Club through the *Return of the Kokanee Salmon* program, students in Mr. Blick and Mrs. Page's classes recently completed the final stage of their salmon project. After months of observing the salmon's growth and development in the classroom, students had the opportunity to release the young kokanee into local waters. This experience helped students deepen their understanding of the salmon life cycle, environmental stewardship, and the importance of caring for our local ecosystems.





What does BELONGING mean?
"You feel special." - Thea D. - Grade 3

The Annual Egg Drop



Three classes put their engineering skills to the test during the Egg Drop Challenge! After a week of research and planning, teams in Mr. Blick, Mrs. Vigna, and Mrs. Page's classes built creative contraptions designed to protect a raw egg from a high-flying drop off the Fortis Truck Bucket. Using self-supplied materials, students did what they could to soften the impact. The rest of the school came to cheer the teams on. This learning experience, incorporating physics, design, and teamwork, was organized by Mr. Blick. A special thanks to Alex Winsor from Fortis, who generously donated his time and the Fortis truck.



Lost & Found



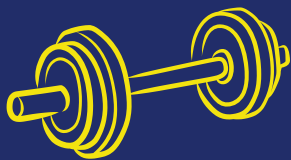
We have a large collection of Lost & Found items and we are running out of space! Please stop in at the office to sign in and then go and check out our nook at the top of the ramp.

At the end of the year, unclaimed items will be donated to Gleaners.

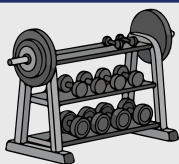


Our ARES Vision

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



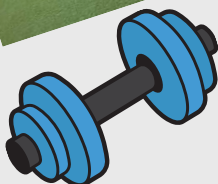
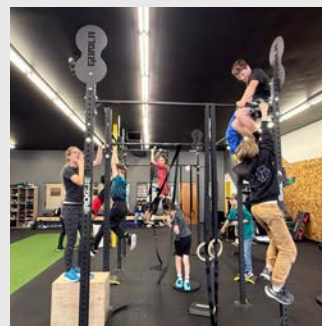
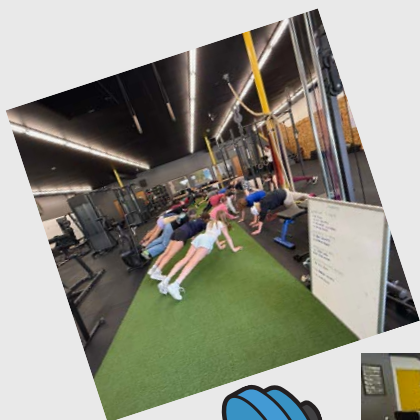
What does BELONGING mean?
"People include you." - Abby R. - Grade 4



Iron Soul Experience



Ms. Sonntag's Grade 6/7 students recently had the opportunity to visit Iron Soul. Owners Jordana and Brent guided the students through a functional fitness circuit focused on bodyweight movements and introduced them to healthy, accessible ways to stay active at all fitness levels. It was a fun outing for the students and an opportunity to discover a new place in our community.



Bus Registration
for
2026 - 2027

**Deadline to Register
is June 12th**

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

**Annual General
PAC Meeting**

**TUESDAY
June 17th, 2026**

**9:00 in the ARES
ART Space**

Everyone Welcome!





What does BELONGING mean?

"You feel comfortable and you don't feel left out." – Kinley B. – Grade 4

IMPORTANT DATES

- Tuesday, June 2nd – PAC Lunch – Tacos in a Bag
- Friday, June 5th – Intermediate Track Meet
- Friday, June 12th – Ice Cream Truck (More info to come)
- Tuesday, June 16th – PAC Lunch – Pizza
- Wednesday, June 17th – PAC Annual General Meeting @ 9:00
- Wednesday, June 17th – PAC Appreciation Tea @ 10:00
- Friday, June 19th – National Indigenous Peoples Day Activities
- Monday, June 22nd – Kindergarten Graduation @ 11:00
- Monday, June 22nd – Grade 7 Farewell Assembly & Dance @ 1:00
- Tuesday, June 23rd – Water Day in PM
- Wednesday, June 24th – Year-End Assembly @ 10:45



Adam Robertson
Elementary

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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.