

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 8th!** 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



Adam Robertson
Elementary

AUGUST NEWS



What's New at ARES?

- Welcome to our ARES Community
- Kindergarten Gradual Entry
- School Supplies
- ARES 2026-2027 Staff
- Bus Registration
- Bell Schedule
- ARES Vision & the Circle of Courage
- Breakfast Program & PAC
- Who is New at ARES?
- Terry Fox Run
- Courage Cards
- Expectations at ARES
- Community Courage Teams
- Family Welcome Picnic
- Volunteering at ARES
- Cell Phone Policy Reminder
- Important Dates

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Tuesday, September 8th

8:45 - 11:45



Kindergarten Schedule

 September 2026 Adam Robertson Elementary 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
Aug. 30 th	August 31 st	September 1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Summer Vacation						
6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
	Labour Day	First Day of School for Grade 1-6 *No school for Kindergarten	First full Day of School for Grade 1-6 *No school for Kindergarten	Drop in for a quick visit sometime between 1:00 - 2:45	First AM of School for Kindergarten! 9:00 - 12:00 *Bring a snack & water bottle, extra clothes bag, and inside shoes	
13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th
	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 water bottle	Stay for Lunch 8:45 - 1:00 *Bring 2 snacks, a lunch, and water bottle	Stay for Lunch 8:45 - 1:00 *Bring 2 snacks, a lunch, and water bottle	
20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th
		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	
27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	October 1 st	October 2 nd	Oct. 3 rd
	Full Days! *Bring 2 snacks, lunch & a 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 **Thursday, September 10th**, please drop in to the classroom for a visit between 1:00 - 2:45

All kindergarten students will officially start on Friday, September 11th: 9:00 - 12:00.

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

School Supplies



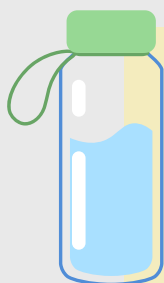
Litter-less Lunches

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 2026–2027 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
Aboriginal Education Success Teacher – Danielle Sonntag
Aboriginal Youth & Family Liaison – Josie Fullarton
Fine Arts Teacher – Reanna Bala
Teacher Librarian – Carey Klassen
Custodian – Aaron Bennett
Custodian – Victoria Buckley

Kindergarten – Lindsay Miller
Friday Kindergarten Teacher – Tina Harms
Kindergarten/Grade 1 – Amanda Smith
Grade 1/2 – Jen Gardner
Grade 2 – Linda Cote
Grade 2/3 – Caroline Vandenberghe
Grade 3/4 – Melissa Feragotti
Grade 3/4 – Lisa Page
Grade 4 – Candace Ivanco
Grade 4/5 – Matt Blick
Grade 5 – Max Percival
Grade 6 – Kate Wood
Grade 6/7 – Heather Vigna
Grade 7 – Danielle Sonntag
Inclusion Support Teacher – Tracy Walker
Inclusion Support Teacher – Darci Bysouth
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 10:45 – 11:00
LUNCH Eating Time 12:00 – 12:15
Lunch Recess 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



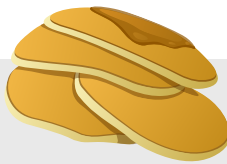
GENEROSITY: Children instinctively learn the meaning of kindness by observing the selfless actions of those they look up to and respect



ARES Breakfast Program



- We have a dedicated PAC (Parent Advisory Council) who makes breakfast in the gym each morning, beginning at 8:25. 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, breakfast sandwiches, 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:

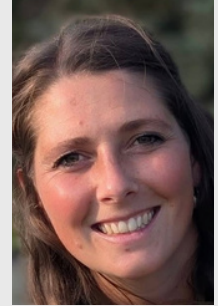
Wednesday, September 16th @ 9:00 AM



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.

Who is New at ARES?

Reanna Bala is joining our ARES team as our new Fine Arts Teacher! Mrs. Bala brings a wealth of experience in visual arts, music, and drama, along with a passion for creativity and storytelling. As a Métis educator, she also brings a strong appreciation for the role of culture and the arts in building connection and belonging. We know she will be a wonderful addition to our school community!



We are excited to welcome our new Teacher Librarian, **Carey Klassen**! Mrs. Klassen brings over 20 years of teaching experience and a strong background in literacy, inquiry, and educational technology. She is passionate about reading and creating a welcoming space where students can learn, explore, and feel a sense of belonging. We're excited to have Carey joining the ARES community!

Welcome to our new Office Administrative Assistant, **Liane Studer**! Ms. Liane brings valuable experience as both an Educational Assistant and Administrative Assistant with School District 8, most recently at Rosemont Elementary in Nelson. She has made the move to Creston and is looking forward to joining the ARES community. We're very happy to have her on our team!



Introducing Mrs. Wood



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.

Terry Fox Run



On Friday, September 11 at 2:00 p.m., ARES students will take part in the **Terry Fox Run/Walk**, around the perimeter of our school. In the days leading up to the event, teachers will talk with students about Terry Fox and his incredible Marathon of Hope. Terry was a young Canadian who lost his leg to cancer and, in 1980, set out to run across Canada to raise money for cancer research. Although he was unable to finish his run, his determination and the impact of his journey continue to inspire people across Canada and around the world.

For our older students, the run can be a chance to think about someone they know who has been affected by cancer. For our younger students, it is an opportunity to learn about Terry, participate in an important Canadian tradition, and simply be part of something together as a school. **Students are welcome to bring a loonie or toonie to donate to the Terry Fox Foundation.**



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! Student also win Courage Points for their Courage team when they are recognized.

Courage Cards

COURAGE CARD	
BELONGING	☐
GENEROSITY	☐
INDEPENDENCE	☐
MASTERY	☐
NAME	
 Adam Robertson Elementary	



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



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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

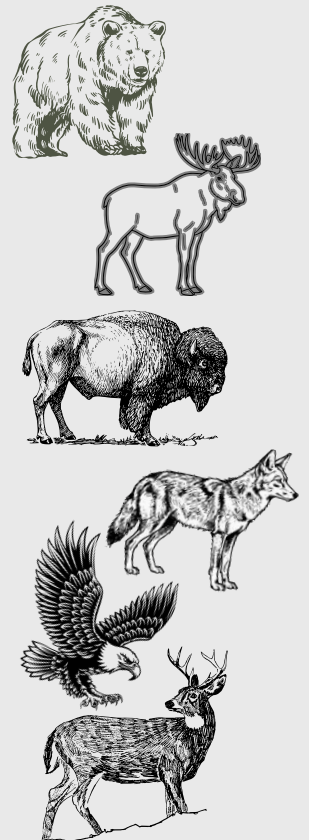
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One Heart



Community Courage Teams

As part of our ARES community, every student belongs to a Courage Team—a multi-aged group that brings students from different grades together throughout the year. Our Courage Teams participate in activities and challenges where they can earn points for teamwork, participation, and demonstrating courage. Students can also earn Courage Points when they receive a Courage Card for demonstrating one of our four Circle of Courage values: **Belonging, Mastery, Independence, and Generosity**. At the end of the school year, the team with the most points earns a pizza party! Our six Courage Teams are Grizzly Bear (k̓aw̓a), Buffalo (kamqu̓ukuᑦ ?iyamu), Bald Eagle (?a-knuq̓tu̓aᑦ), Deer (çupqa), Moose (niçnapku), and Coyote (skinkuç). These teams are an important part of how we build connection, belonging, and community across our school.





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

Family Welcome Picnic

Hosted by our ARES PAC, please come and enjoy fresh corn on the cob and hotdogs on our Family Welcome Picnic:

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th
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 – **CRC Link:**
<https://justice.gov.bc.ca/screening/crrpa/org-access>. **Access Code:** PXJW4LNUR8
- 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**.

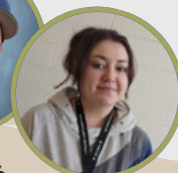
Please do not send students to school before this time, so that we can ensure their safety.



Monday, August 31st
to
Friday, September 4th
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 8th** – School Starts (Dismissal at 11:45)
- **Friday, September 11th** – Terry Fox Run @ 2:00
- **Monday, September 14th** – Welcome Back Assembly @ 11:15
- **Wednesday, September 16th** – Pac Meeting @ 9:00
- **Wednesday, September 16th** – Family Welcome Picnic 5:00 – 6:30
- **Friday, September 18th** – Individual & Class Photo Day
- **Friday, September 25th** – School Planning Day – No School for Students
- **Tuesday, September 29th** – Orange Shirt Day Assembly @ 9:00
- **Wednesday, September 30th** – National Day for Truth & Reconciliation – No School



Adam Robertson
Elementary

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Elementary School
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Creston, BC**

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Tanya Christenson | Principal
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William Klassen | Vice Principal
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