



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

Our ARES Pumpkin Patch



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Elementary

OCTOBER NEWS



On Monday, October 26th, ARES students gathered for a quick assembly before heading outside to check out the pumpkin patch in the schoolyard! Thanks to a generous donation of 310 mini pumpkins and unique gourds from Wloka Farms, every student got to pick one to take home. It was especially nice to see our older students helping their younger buddies choose their pumpkins, often making sure the little ones found just the right one before choosing their own. Back in classrooms, students had fun turning their pumpkins into characters and using them for writing and art activities. Students were encouraged to look after their little pumpkins until Halloween. Thank you to our PAC volunteers for spreading the pumpkins.

What's New at ARES?

- Pumpkin Patch Schoolwide Activity
- Cross Country & Volleyball
- Communicating Student Learning
- Schoolwide Write
- Outdoor Education
- Halloween Fun Night
- Intergenerational Learning
- Pumpkin Tradition
- Our Library Safe Space
- Find Your Fit
- 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 Running

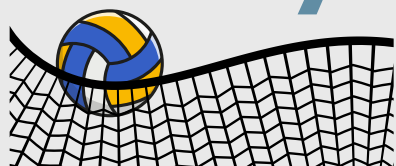


Our ARES cross-country runners had a great season, participating in three runs at Canyon Park, Erickson School, and the Creston & District Community Complex. Students also dedicated some of their lunch hours to practices throughout the season.

A big thank you to Mrs. Gardner, Mr. Percival and Alysha Lillyman for coaching and supporting our runners!



Volleyball



Our ARES extracurricular volleyball program is underway, with students from Grades 4–7 participating! On October 29, Mr. Blick organized a volleyball game day at ARES with Salmo Elementary. Our volleyball players enjoyed a mini tournament throughout the day, along with a pizza lunch and Dilly Bars! A big thank you to Pizza Pizza and Dairy Queen for their generous donations, to Mr. Blick for organizing the event, and to our coaches for their time and dedication to our players!



*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 14th and 15th, 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 14th & 15th** – An opportunity for Parent-Teacher Conferences on Early Dismissal Days and/or an Interim Report.
2. **December 4th** – First Written Learning Update.
3. **March 12th** – Second Written Learning Update:
4. **April 21st & 22nd** – ARES Learning Fair on Early Dismissal Days.
5. **June 29th** – Final Summary of Learning.

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



Schoolwide Write

Every student at ARES, from Kindergarten to Grade 7, recently participated in a schoolwide writing activity called “A Perfect Day.” Students imagined a day just the way they wanted—what they would do, where they would go, and who would be there. The topic gave everyone room to be creative without needing to draw on a particular holiday or family experience.

Using the same topic gave us a beginning-of-year baseline of students' writing skills. Teachers reviewed the samples together to identify strengths and determine what instruction will help students progress. We will repeat the activity with new topics in Terms Two and Three to track growth and guide teaching. This supports our School Learning Plan's focus on strengthening literacy through explicit writing instruction, recognizing that developing writing skills also supports reading development.



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.

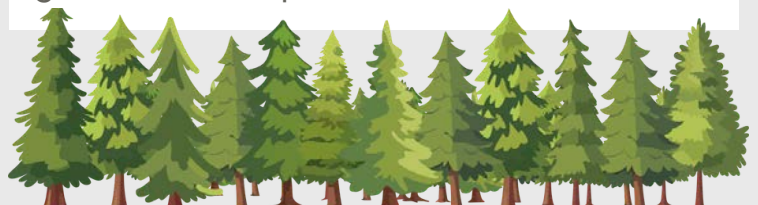
Outdoor Education



Several of our intermediate classes are making outdoor education a regular part of their learning this year. Mrs. Wood takes her class to Schikurski Park, Mr. Percival and his crew head to the base of Goat Mountain, and Ms. Sonntag's class ventures to Summit Creek Park.

While each class has its own activities and learning goals, the focus is on taking learning beyond the classroom. Students practice outdoor skills, build shelters, participate in games and team challenges, and explore the natural environment around them. These experiences connect to the BC curriculum in Science and Physical and Health Education, giving students opportunities to problem-solve, work together, develop leadership skills, and learn how to be safe and responsible outdoors.

Outdoor education also connects to the *First Peoples Principles of Learning*, which recognize the importance of hands-on experiences, relationships, and developing a connection to the land. Learning outdoors gives students opportunities to put these principles into practice while building confidence and learning new skills. We are fortunate to have so many great outdoor spaces close to our school!



Generosity: By creating activities for younger students and volunteering their time, our Grade 7 students experienced the satisfaction of giving back and seeing others enjoy their efforts.

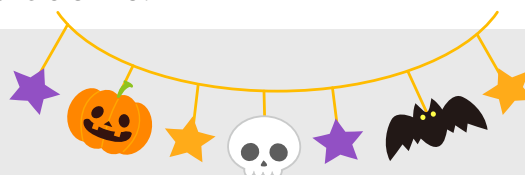
Halloween Fun Night



ARES families joined us for a Halloween Fun Night hosted by Ms. Sonntag's Grade 7 class. As part of their Applied Design, Skills and Technologies (ADST) learning, students used the design process to plan, create, test, and improve their own Halloween games for others to enjoy. This hands-on project gave students the opportunity to use their creativity, solve problems, and work together to turn their ideas into finished games.

Families moved through the decorated gym, trying out the different games and activities. Popcorn, hot dogs, and a bake sale were also available. All proceeds from the evening will support the class's end-of-year activities and field trips. Thank you to everyone who came out to support our Grade 7 students!

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





Generosity: Connecting with older generations teaches students the value of sharing their time, learning from others, and giving back to their community.

Intergenerational Learning



Mrs. Vandenberghe's Grade 2/3 class will be visiting Crestview Village regularly throughout the school year. Just a short walk down the hill, these visits are something both the students and residents enjoy. Students will share some of their classroom learning and spend time reading, making crafts, and playing games with the residents. These visits give students a chance to build relationships with another generation, develop their communication skills, and learn the value of giving their time to others. The residents, in turn, enjoy the company and enthusiasm of our students. We appreciate this ongoing connection with Crestview Village.

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.





Belonging grows when students have a safe, welcoming space where they can connect, build friendships, and know they are not alone.

Our Library Safe Space

Our library is open every day for students in Grades 4–7 who are looking for a place to take a break from the outdoors.

Supervised by Mrs. Christenson, the library offers a welcoming space where students can meet new people, make friends, and enjoy some quiet time.

Lunch in the library is technology-free, giving students a chance to unplug and enjoy activities like drawing, playing cards or board games, or trying other relaxing activities. Some students use this time to explore their hobbies, such as beading, collecting cards, working with clay, or sketching.

Right now, Mrs. Klassen, our Teacher Librarian, has a fun Halloween challenge for students: find the seven hidden eyeballs each day and earn Courage Points!





Independence: Exploring different careers encourages students to recognize their strengths and interests, consider future possibilities, and begin thinking about the choices ahead.

Find Your Fit



ARES was happy to welcome the **WorkBC Find Your Fit program** to our school! Our intermediate students had the chance to explore a variety of careers through fun, hands-on activities. From skilled trades and technology to health care and other professions, students got a glimpse of different jobs and the skills needed to do them. The program encourages students to think about their own interests and strengths while discovering career possibilities they may never have considered. It's never too early to start thinking about what you might like to do when you grow up!



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



October





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 30th – Halloween Costume Parade @ 9:00
- Tuesday, November 10th – Remembrance Day Assembly @ 11:00
- Wednesday, November 11th – Remembrance Day – No School
- Wednesday, November 18th – Volleyball Fun Night – 6:00 – 7:00
- Friday, December 4th – Term One Learning Updates go Home
- Wednesday, December 16th – K-4 Concert Daytime Performance @ 9:30
- Wednesday, December 16th – K-4 Concert Evening performance @ 6:30
- Friday, December 18th – Ho-Ho-Ho Assembly @ 1:45
- Friday, December 18th – Last Day of School before Winter Break
- Monday, January 4th – First Day Back to School after Winter 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.