



John Allison Elementary



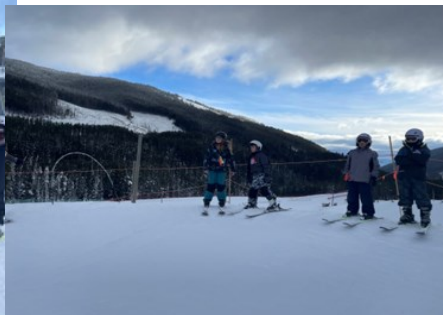
This term is part of the year when we focus on learning. We are excited to see significant progress among our students in their reading, writing, numeracy, social-emotional awareness, and interpersonal skills. However, our assessments and observations tell us we still have lots of work but several structures to help with that work. And we also had some fun, such as skating with the Princeton Posse team. Thank you to the JA PAC for purchasing skates and helmets and their many volunteer hours organizing and fitting equipment. Several classes also engaged in virtual events with Indigenous authors and artists put on by Canada's Joyful Learning, learning from and with people such as award-winning author David. A. Robertson.



Vermilion Forks Elementary



As a follow-up to our Ministry-Focused Aboriginal Professional Development Day, staff gathered for breakfast and painted the Metis spoons Ed Vermette of the Vermilion Forks Metis Society gave them. The spoons were painted in the pointillism style of Christie Belcourt.



Our FNSW Krista Szymczak spends her lunches working with students on weekly projects such as making dreamcatchers and shadow painting.



Approximately 90 students and 30 staff and parents gathered on January 25th for a day of sliding lessons and fun at Apex Mountain Resort.



École Élémentaire Colletville • Colletville Elementary

Students of Colletville Elementary School celebrated Carnaval last week with excitement and joy. The activities included opening ceremonies, skating, curling, tobogganing, a pancake luncheon with maple syrup, a tacot competition and a masked parade. Thanks to their devoted teachers and parents, students had so much fun and could enjoy Carnaval. It was a week rich in culture and great spirit. Please enjoy the photos of some of the special mo-



Diamond Vale Elementary School



Basketball season has been up and running, and our intermediate students have enjoyed play dates at CMS over the past few weeks. A highlight for January was the Division 2 & 3 trip to Stake Lake, where students got to try out cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. In addition, each month, we have been focusing weekly assemblies on different virtues/grandfather teachings. In January, we focused on wisdom, and in February, we focused on love and acceptance.

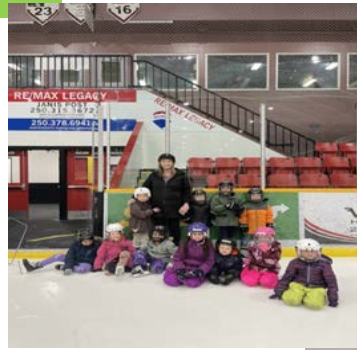


Here is some exciting news for January:

- Merritt Bench Grade 6/7 students have been busy playing on our school basketball team.
- Our primary students have been participating in skating.
- Our grade 7 students continue helping our grade 1 and 2 students through the "big buddy" reading program.

Mrs. Muik has been offering a breakfast program to all students and will be starting an afterschool snack program for all students on February 1st. Thanks to Mrs. Muik for all of her effort.

Mrs. Ottens has prepared parent surveys and staff surveys as part of her efforts to achieve our Healthy Schools Certification.



As January drew close, we wrapped up our first semester of learning. Anatomy & Physiology 12 students completed the classic fetal pig dissection while the shop students made and raced CO2 cars. Students ventured outside for snowshoeing, and we headed to Apex for our annual ski trip.





HARPER MOUNTAIN SKI TRIP



Nicola-Canford went Skiing on February 3. It was great to get back to some of these regular activities. We are currently working towards Science Fair and our Battlebot/Robot Maze competition. Having our elders and cultural support people in the building has been great.



Over the past month, MSS has played host to many wonderful events. The MSS Music Department and the Grade 7 Band performed in front of a gymnasium-packed audience.

Our Learning Common hosted Dave Robertson, a 2-time Governor General's Literary Award winner. The themes he spoke to included: Indigenous literature, creative writing, residential schools, careers in the arts, and finding one's talent.

We recently concluded our Eagles Perch Invitational basketball tournament season. MSS, with the support of NVIT played host to 48 basketball teams throughout the 6 tournaments. We could not be prouder of our MSS students and staff, who volunteer endless hours to ensure these tournaments run.



MERRITT CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Our primary students showed concern for the environment by voluntarily cleaning up garbage on the playing field. Their clever problem-solving and unique thinking helped them to do so without putting risk to themselves as they used play tools (rakes, shovels, and a sled) to gather the garbage.

Reading and literacy remain essential areas of focus for our primary classes. Literacy blitzes, word work and phonics practice, and comprehension and fluency activities are regular parts of their day.



Our Grade 6/7 class participated in deer hide scrapping and storytelling at Douglas Lake. They learned how to be prepared for their environment through cultural lessons and had an opportunity to visit the N'kwala School. They ended their visit with a hotdog lunch in the Pit



Truth & Reconciliation



Please see today's Deputy Minister's Bulletin Special Update for information on the Feb. 6 Throne Speech and the newly declared provincial statutory holiday for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Today's update is available at:

<https://blog.gov.bc.ca/ecc-dm-bulletin/districts-bulletin-mw032/>.

