

## Superintendent's Report - June 2024

We recognize that we learn, teach and work on the ancestral, traditional territories of the Ntē?kepmx and Syilx people and we acknowledge our Metis communities and their contributions to the Aboriginal ways of being and knowing.



### June is PRIDE MONTH



Recognizing and supporting Pride Month is connected directly to our Strategic Plan. Showing support for 2SLGBTQIA+ communities (Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual and additional sexual orientations, and gender identifies) helps to ensure that everyone feels safe and thrives personally in their schools. As a district, we are committed to equity and the goal of ensuring all students, staff and families are physically, mentally, and emotionally safe in schools and community. This means we create learning environments and experiences that are free of racism, sexism, harassment, and discrimination of any kind. During Pride Season (June to September) we encourage everyone to learn more about 2SLGBTQIA+ and how we can support human rights for all.

### District Track Meet—First Time in 5 Years!





# MERRITT CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



## Merritt Central Elementary School

~ Home of the Central Hawks ~



### **EmpowHER Program Returns**

Students from MSS reignited the EmpowHER program at Central. This program was created to empower and encourage younger girls to participate in sports. Girls from DVE and MBE attended as well. This was a great opportunity to get active, learn new skills, build confidence, and connect with peers from other schools.



### **Battle of the Books**

Battle of the Books is a reading incentive and motivation program to encourage and recognize students who enjoy reading. This year Central sent two teams to the district event at MSS: The Book Slayers and The Book Hawks. Both teams were quite knowledgeable of the nine books and The Book Slayers made it to the semi-final round! It was a memorable day and we are excited about Jennifer Nielsen's visit next fall.



### **District Track Meet**

On June 7, elementary students competed with the wind, sun, and of course, each other. MCE is proud of all participants. A huge shout out to Chloe F and Rylie B for their outstanding performance, and the Grade 6 Boys and Grade 7 Girls for placing first in relay!



## John Allison Elementary

### June 2024 – Enhancing Learning Plan

#### **Meaning and Purpose**

**Goal:** Engage our learning community through a common understanding and commitment to the purpose and pursuit of student success.

#### **Objectives:**

Students will continuously improve their literacy and numeracy skills as they develop the skills and competencies for future success.

Students will continuously learn about themselves and about their world.



#### **Appreciation and Respect**

**Goal:** To create a culture of care based on respect and appreciation.

#### **Objectives:**

Students, staff and community will have a high degree of engagement in learning and school activities.

Students and staff will report feeling physically and emotionally safe at school.

John Allison will actively engage in anti-racism work to ensure everyone in the school community feels valued and respected.



#### **Meaningful Connections**

**Goal:** To build capacity by connecting students, families, staff and the greater community to learning.

#### **Objectives:**

Students, families and staff will report open and respectful communication.

Students and families will confirm they feel welcome and supported in our school.





# Early Learning and Child Care



**Nicola-Canford —After School Program!**



## Early Years Gathering at Shackan Indian Band:

a time to connect and gather, play, craft and get to know each other.



**Early Years Gathering at Nooaitch Indian Band: children had the chance to go on a bus ride, do some crafts, have some snacks and we provided families and children and the HeadStart Center with gifts.**





### Merritt Bench Got Talent Show!



### District Track Meet



### Grade 5's Visit NVIT



## Vermilion Forks Elementary



Carolyn Blank from Wildsafe BC came to visit our students with a new presentation on deer safety and awareness



The grade 7's go on their annual camping trip to Sunnybrae

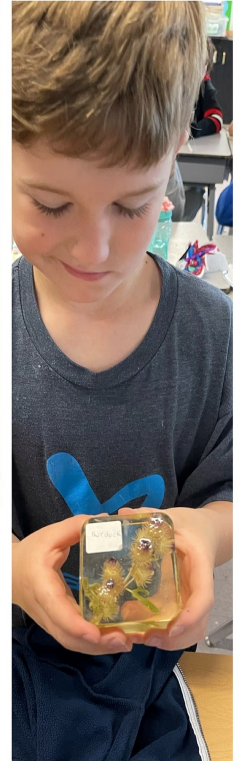
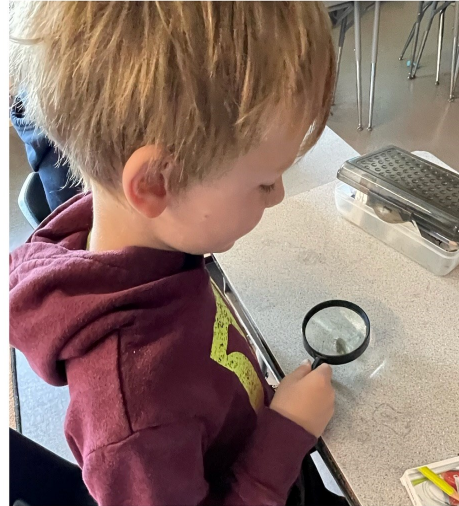






When first proposed by our student leadership team, Sunglasses & Donut Day didn't make much sense. Having experienced it, I now realize it didn't need to. It was a vibe, not an event.

Our primary classes received a visit from the Thompson Nicola Invasive Plant Management Committee presentation team today. There was lots of fun, hands on learning.



## Indigenous Graduates 2024





## MSS has much to be proud of this month.

In our Athletic program we had 3 different sports represent Merritt Secondary on the provincial stage. Our Ultimate team earned a top 10 finish, making it to the provincial championships for the 3<sup>rd</sup> straight row. MSS also sent athletes in Track & Field and in Mountain Biking.

The Edison Go-kart Challenge which had MSS students building two electric go-karts over the last number of month race at the rodeo grounds. The event was an overwhelming success and one that brought our school community together in a way we have never seen.

Two Grade 12 students took on the EmpowerHer Day that brought together all of the female students in Grades 6 & 7 together for a day of sport. The hope being to build confidence in these young women to carry on with pursuing their athletic talents.

Our Indigenous Student Advocates took some Grade 11 students on a tour of college and university campuses while the Jill of all Trades event at Okanagan College brought together female students from MSS and PSS to allow them the day to try out a variety of Trades.



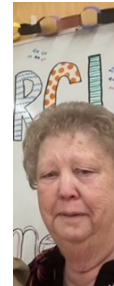




School Track Meet Day



Mrs. Shu's Retirement Tea



## Diamond Vale Elementary

May has been seen lots of excitement and activity. Our Family Picnic on May 24<sup>th</sup> had an excellent turnout. We hosted Diamond Vale's Got Talent that same afternoon and were able to enjoy a range of talents from both staff and students, including singing, dancing, and playing musical instruments.

On May 31<sup>st</sup> we held our school track meet and had over 30 students who moved forward to the District event on Friday.



### THE SEVEN GRANDFATHER TEACHINGS



"We want to take back our education and teach our history, our language and our culture. We have begun to tell our story - our history - and we want to tell it in our own words to the world, so that this will never happen to any of the other nations in the world."

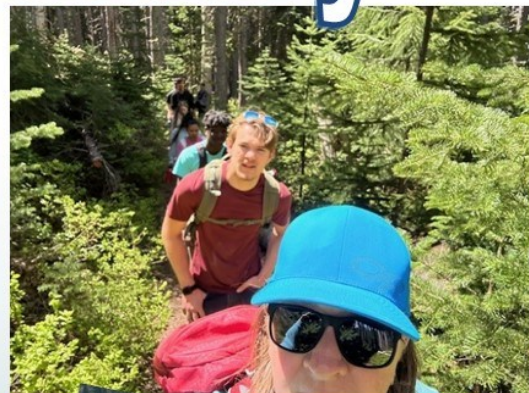
- Shirley Williams, Residential School Survivor





# Annual Paint Run! Princeton Secondary

**Storm The Wall! -Osyoos**



Grade 10s at Manning Park

Congratulations to all of our Indigenous graduates! We wish you all great success.



## Community Learning Centre



As things wind down for the year at the Community Learning Center, our Grade 12 graduates are busy filling out applications to post-secondary education.

Over the month students have also benefited each week from some programs offered by Scw'exmx Children & Families. These sessions are always well attended and very well received by our students. Students are also starting to share their knowledge with one another, as seen in the photos, a student leading a session on bannock making.

### Upcoming Calendar Reminders

June 27, 2024	Thursday	<b>Last day of classes.</b>
June 28, 2024	Friday	<b>ADMINISTRATION DAY - SCHOOLS CLOSED.</b>

### 2024-2025 First Day of School

September 3, 2024	Tuesday	<b>SCHOOL OPENING.</b> School hours 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. (Bus schedule to be adjusted for the first day of school.)
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**Success for ALL Learners ~ Today and Tomorrow**