

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN: SD 58 NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN

Our goals have us creating a learning community with
1 meaning and purpose 2 appreciation and respect
3 meaningful connections

450 VOICES
Diverse in thought
Different in feeling

OUR FIRST
STEPS will be:

2021-2022
A PART OF THE PLAN:

Completion of the Early Learning and Child Development Plan
Completion of District Vision
Completion of District Strategic Plan
Completion of District Communication Plan
Completion of District Learning Plan
Completion of District Professional Learning Plan
Completion of District Student Learning Plan
Completion of District Family Engagement Plan
Completion of District Indigenous Pedagogy Plan
Completion of District Data Plan
Completion of District Personalized Learning Plan
Completion of District Wellbeing Plan
Completion of District Safety Plan
Completion of District Accessibility Plan
Completion of District Environmental Plan
Completion of District Financial Plan
Completion of District Human Resources Plan
Completion of District Information Technology Plan
Completion of District Legal Plan
Completion of District Risk Management Plan
Completion of District Sustainability Plan
Completion of District Governance Plan
Completion of District Policy Plan
Completion of District Procedure Plan
Completion of District Form Plan
Completion of District Record Plan
Completion of District Report Plan
Completion of District Review Plan
Completion of District Improvement Plan
Completion of District Innovation Plan
Completion of District Research Plan
Completion of District Evaluation Plan
Completion of District Assessment Plan
Completion of District Measurement Plan
Completion of District Monitoring Plan
Completion of District Accountability Plan
Completion of District Transparency Plan
Completion of District Openness Plan
Completion of District Honesty Plan
Completion of District Integrity Plan
Completion of District Ethics Plan
Completion of District Values Plan
Completion of District Principles Plan
Completion of District Standards Plan
Completion of District Practices Plan
Completion of District Processes Plan
Completion of District Systems Plan
Completion of District Structures Plan
Completion of District Mechanisms Plan
Completion of District Methods Plan
Completion of District Techniques Plan
Completion of District Tools Plan
Completion of District Equipment Plan
Completion of District Materials Plan
Completion of District Supplies Plan
Completion of District Resources Plan
Completion of District Assets Plan
Completion of District Liabilities Plan
Completion of District Equity Plan
Completion of District Fairness Plan
Completion of District Justice Plan
Completion of District Rights Plan
Completion of District Responsibilities Plan
Completion of District Roles Plan
Completion of District Functions Plan
Completion of District Duties Plan
Completion of District Powers Plan
Completion of District Privileges Plan
Completion of District Immunities Plan
Completion of District Exemptions Plan
Completion of District Exceptions Plan
Completion of District Variations Plan
Completion of District Modifications Plan
Completion of District Alterations Plan
Completion of District Amendments Plan
Completion of District Revisions Plan
Completion of District Updates Plan
Completion of District Changes Plan
Completion of District Adjustments Plan
Completion of District Corrections Plan
Completion of District Improvements Plan
Completion of District Enhancements Plan
Completion of District Upgrades Plan
Completion of District Renovations Plan
Completion of District Repairs Plan
Completion of District Maintenance Plan
Completion of District Care Plan
Completion of District Protection Plan
Completion of District Preservation Plan
Completion of District Conservation Plan
Completion of District Stewardship Plan
Completion of District Guardianship Plan
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WELCOME
POSSIBLE..

POSITIVE... MAY 2024

IN MY SCHOOL

CONNECTION
MEANING
PURPOSE
APPRECIATION
RESPECT

WE HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE
education and support
process for mental wellness

WE HAVE A STRONG
organizational culture, with
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Superintendent's Report - October 2024



École Élémentaire Collettville

Les Chats Sauvages!



School Solidarity March - National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

In the days leading up to the march, Indigenous Student Advocates Jody Miller and Dawn Williams spoke with each class to help kids better understand the meaning behind the march. Students chanted "Every Child Matters" and "We Matter" as they walked - very heartwarming to witness!



Collettville "Welcome Back" BBQ

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all those who attended our first family gathering of the year. Staff served free burgers, hot dogs, veggie dogs, and drinks, while our PAC ran a Bake Sale/Popcorn Sale. Families toured the school, visited classrooms, and participated in Mme Mackay-Smith's Scavenger Hunt. Two lucky students were awarded, by draw, an entire Treatza Pizza from Dairy Queen! In the Library, we streamed *Atelier de Cirque* by CPF (Canadian Parents for French) where kids learned some new magic/circus tricks. We hope to see an even greater turnout next time! Thank you to our Collettville staff and community for all your support.



Our students were in awe as they witnessed the Hoop Dancer perform a traditional hoop dance complete with 13 hoops!



Our school was enveloped in a sea of orange on Orange Shirt Day, and the weather cooperated as our students ran around the field for the Terry Fox Run.



John Allison Elementary

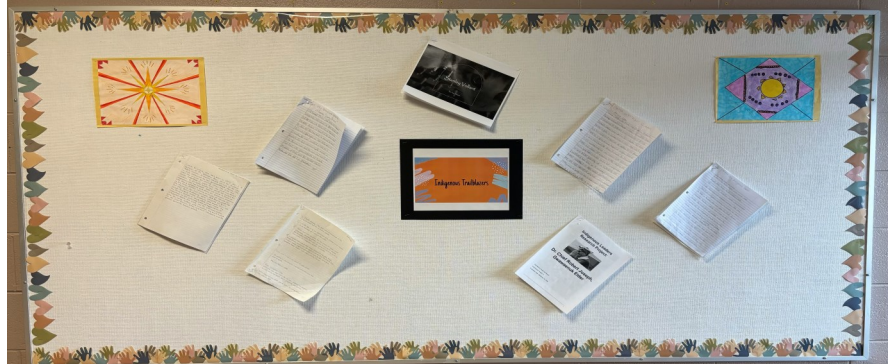


The Harvest Festival allowed the students to celebrate fall. Last spring they planted seeds, and this fall they were able to pick their carrots from our garden. Vermillion Fork Elementary grade 4 students (last year's grade 3s) joined us for the event, and a few Princeton Secondary School students volunteered to provide and serve harvest soup making this a true school community event. A live community band came to play for us, and we spent the afternoon celebrating our garden harvest!





Here at CLC, based on student voices about what they wanted to learn, we spent the month researching Indigenous leaders throughout Canada. We defined a leader as someone who has demonstrated success in their chosen field and uses that success to uplift and celebrate Indigenous people and culture. The leaders the students chose to research and write about could be from any level—national, provincial, municipal, local communities, or even family members. In addition to the research, we viewed videos at the beginning of each lesson that highlighted various leaders, and we invited speakers to present to the students on topics of their choice, including our ISA and her experiences in a residential school, as well as Dr. John Chenoweth. The students enjoyed learning about their chosen leaders and hearing about the others selected by their classmates. It has been a wonderful month of learning!



Diamond Vale Elementary School



On September 27th, we recognized National Day for Truth & Reconciliation with students and staff wearing orange shirts and participating in a community walk.

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

Our weekly assemblies continue to follow the Seven Grandfather Teachings, with this month's focus being on Respect. Students are learning about the impact of their actions and words on their community, and that we should treat others as we want to be treated.





Merritt Central Elementary School



Terry Fox Run

Merritt Central School, in collaboration with Diamondvale, recently organized a heartfelt fun run to honor the legacy of Terry Fox. The event began with an inspiring assembly led by Miss Morrison, who shared her personal connection to the cause, recounting her father's battle with cancer. Her story resonated deeply with students, fostering a respectful and supportive atmosphere. Participants embraced the spirit of the run, showing their commitment to this important cause by running enthusiastically. This collaborative effort not only raised awareness but also strengthened the community's bond.



National Truth and Reconciliation Day

We are proud to honor National Truth and Reconciliation Day through meaningful, age-appropriate education about the history of residential schools and the resilience of survivors. Our teachers engaged students with powerful stories, reading books such as *Shi shi etko*, *Every Child Matters*, *I Am Not a Number*, and *When We Were Alone*. In collaboration with ISAs, students connected with traditional knowledge, fostering a deeper understanding of our shared history. The school community came together for a vibrant march through downtown, proudly displaying posters and signs to raise awareness. The event was profoundly impactful as a residential school survivor from N'kwala shared her personal experience, bridging the past with the present and helping students recognize the ongoing relevance of these stories. Together, we learned and proclaimed, "əts há stim i? scæcmala?!" emphasizing our commitment to understanding and reconciliation within the Merritt community.



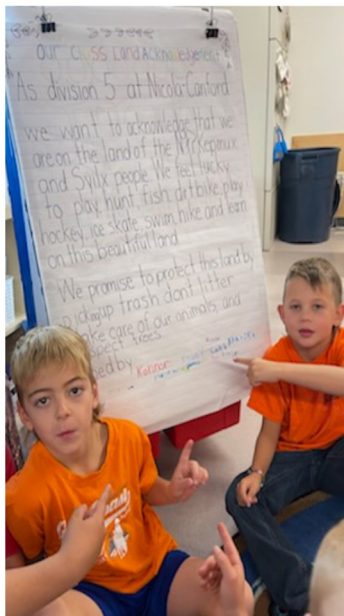
Lunch Clubs

Lunchtime transforms into a bustling hub of activity where students explore their interests and connect with peers. Our diverse range of clubs and activities—including soccer, puzzles, homework help, train club, cross country running, volleyball, and arts and crafts—encourages creativity and teamwork. Additionally, we prioritize emotional well-being with a calming station, offering a supportive space for students to manage their feelings, either independently or with guidance from an adult. Merritt Central is truly dedicated.

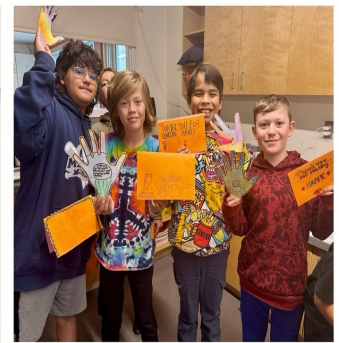
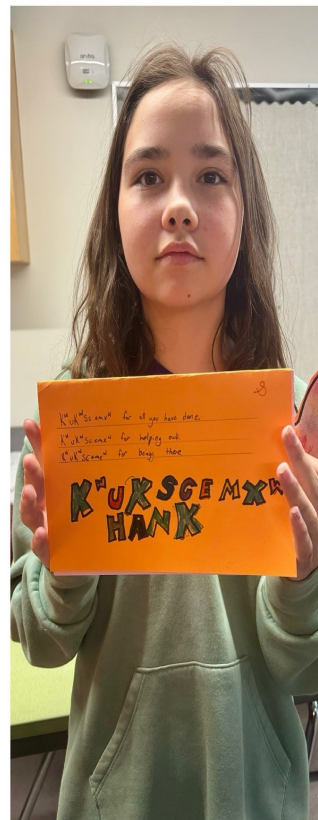


Cross Country Run

MCES is proudly showcasing its spirit and determination at the district cross country runs this season! With the generous sponsorship of Mr. Shea, Mrs. Martindale, and Mrs. Smith, our dedicated team has been training diligently every Tuesday and Thursday in preparation for the Wednesday district competitions. It's heartwarming to witness both primary and intermediate students not only engage in physical activity but also embrace the values of teamwork and sportsmanship. Our students demonstrate resilience and respectful relationships, demonstrating the true essence of school spirit while representing Merritt Central with pride!



PERSONAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



K'WIKSTEYP



X-COUNTRY RUN



At the Truth and Reconciliation Assembly on September 27th, we expressed our appreciation to our special guest dancers, who performed for the whole school.



**Terry Fox
Fundraiser
raised close to
\$1000.00**



Bench Bears Gaga Pit is a huge success



LOTS OF FUN AND EXCITING EVENTS HERE AT VFE THIS MONTH !



Dave Jonsson joined us for a morning of story sharing and skateboarding!



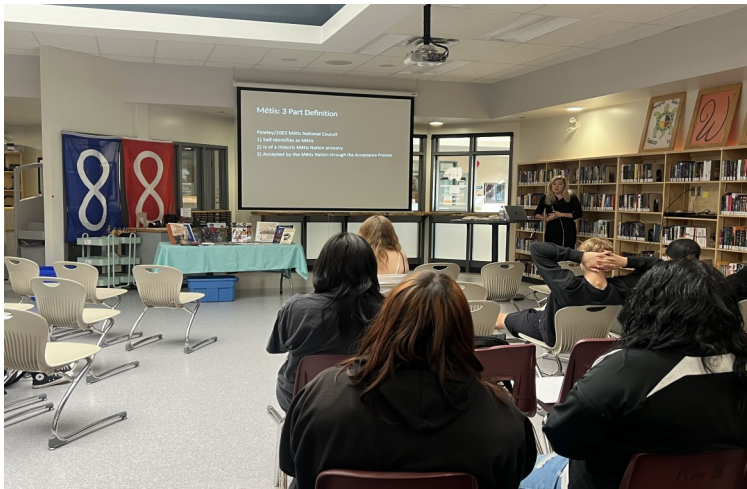
Spirit Week October 28—November 1

Meet the Teacher!

Author Visit!

STEM!

Orange Shirt Day and the Terry Fox Run crossed paths this year to honour Terry's Metis ancestry.



From September 23rd – 27th Merritt Secondary students and staff were treated to a week of learning opportunities centered around Truth & Reconciliation.

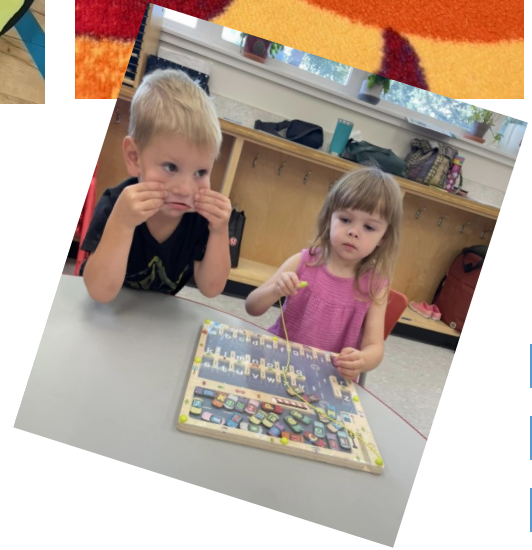
The activities included:

- A focus on healing and resiliency through a yoga session
- The Blanket Exercise
- Metis Cultural presentation in the Learning Commons
- Strengthening Connections with post-secondary opportunities
- School-wide Orange Shirt Day presentation, performance, and awareness walk





Diamond Vale
StrongStart



Early Learning and Child Care

StrongStart reopened in September, welcoming caregivers and children ages birth to 5 back into our centers! You can find StrongStart programs at Merritt Central, Diamond Vale, Nicola Canford, and John Allison. It's a fantastic environment for play and learning, guided by our wonderful Early Childhood Educators. For the StrongStart schedule, please visit our school district website under Programs & Services – Early Learning.

Merritt Central StrongStart





Science 10
students
enjoying
experimenting.



Grade 9 PHE class hit the Princeton Golf Course for a double block. The kids had so much fun learning to putt, chip and drive the ball.



Important Dates:

October 14, 2024	Monday	Thanksgiving Day.
October 25, 2024	Friday	Non-Instructional Day. (Professional Development Day.)
November 11, 2024	Monday	Remembrance Day Statutory Holiday.
November 15, 2024	Friday	MSS Grade 9 to 12 & PSS Report Cards go home.
November 20, 2024	Wed.	All Schools – Shortened day for Parent/Teacher interviews. (Schools close 2 hours early.)
November 29, 2024	Friday	Merritt, Princeton Elementary Schools and Merritt Secondary Grade 8 Report Cards go home.
November 29, 2024	Friday	Community Learning Centre Report Cards go home.

