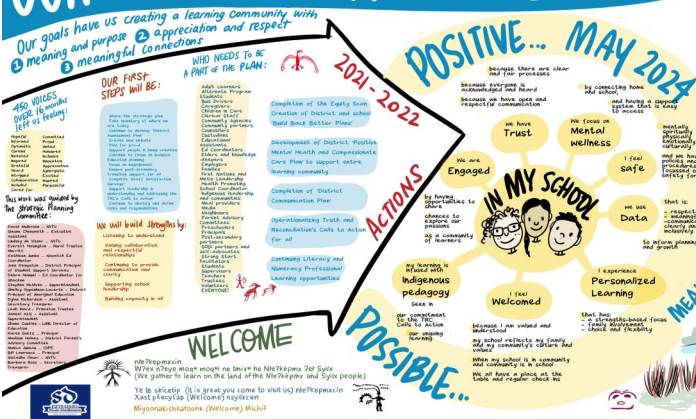


NICOLA -
SIMILKAMEEN



Young people can
SPEAK up and
democratically
Second district
can LEAD
in developing
SUPPORTS
CHILD & YOUTH

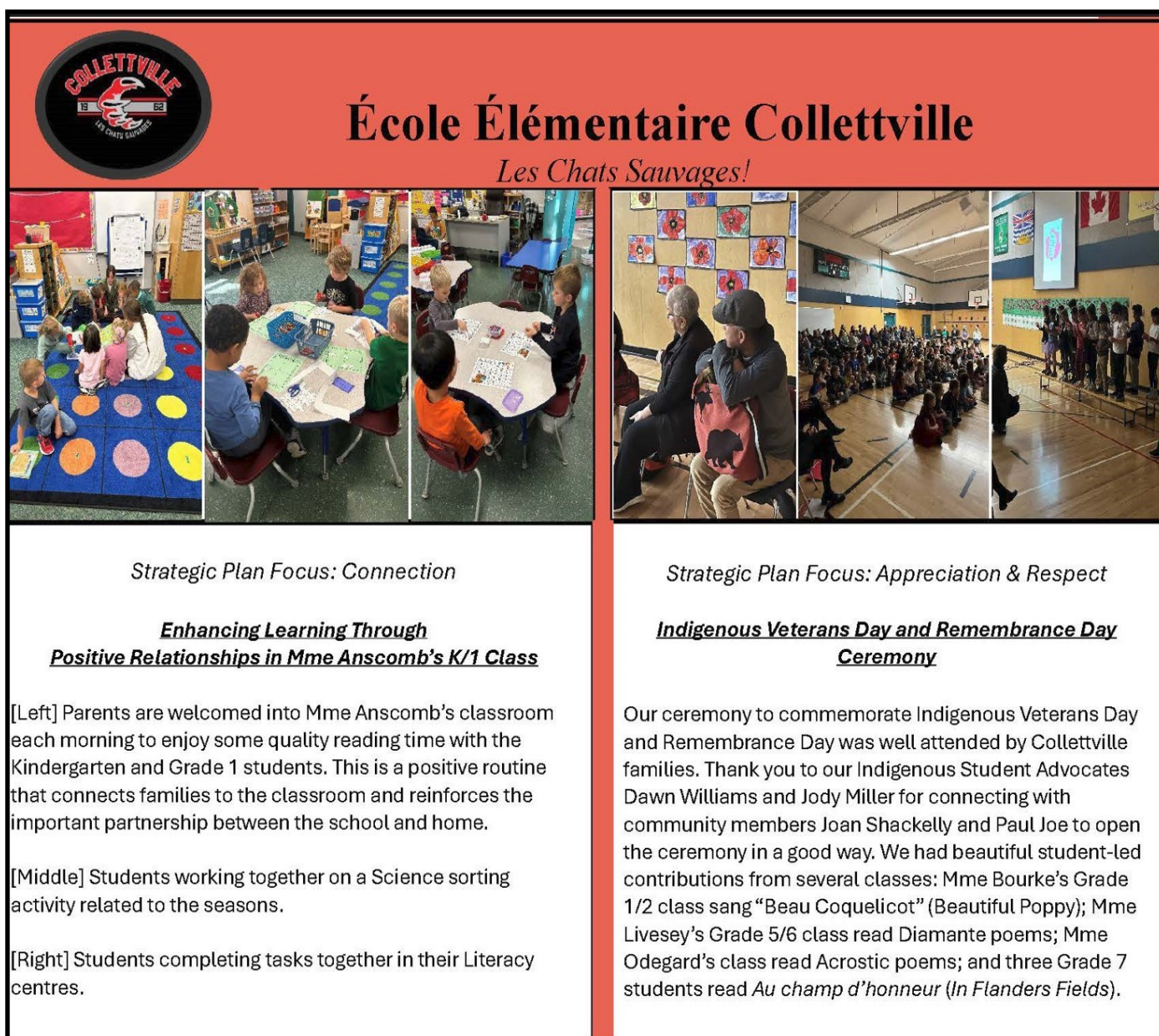
We maintain and establish
new partnerships with
institutions, agencies,
organizations, and businesses

based on
trust

and



Superintendent's Report - November 2024





Our students had an opportunity to engage in #handsonlearning thanks to #ubc and JAE PAC.



#STEM ... STEM is an acronym for the fields of

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. **#handsonlearning** WWEST (Westcoast Women in Engineering, Science and Technology) and iSTAND (integrative STEM Teams Advancing Networks of Diversity) visited Princeton to deliver their STEM curriculum program to each of our classes. Our Kindergarten students explored magnets with Bob, while our grade 1s learned about animal adaptations, colour diffusion, and the salmon life cycle. Our grade 2s and 3s explored states of matter, coded robot mice, and made borax bouncy balls.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- ⇒ October 17: Posse visit
- ⇒ October 23, 24: STEM days
- ⇒ October 24: School Dance
- ⇒ October 31: Halloween Spirit



Our JAE PAC secured a United Way Love Grant and hosted a family dance in our gym. The Princeton Posse players came out to support us.

SAFETY

3 Fire Drills down and 3 to go!
Students and staff practiced fire drills and participated in the Great BC Shakeout (Earthquake drill).
Note: We are out in 3 minutes flat.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Yes, ZOOM Still comes in handy!
John Allison teachers engaged in Four Seasons of Indigenous Learning and joined Collettville Elementary for Open Parachute Training.



October saw students in Division 2 & 3 learning about the significance of Diwali, with both classes having the opportunity to participate in art activities led by Mrs. Yadav and Mrs. Kaur.



Our primary classes made their annual trips to the Pumpkin Patch and had fun celebrating the traditions of fall.



*We have received a grant of **\$195 000** to update and improve accessibility for our intermediate playground. All classes have had the opportunity to look at the potential playground designs and provide feedback on features they like or would change.*

Diamond Vale Elementary School

To line up with Remembrance Day, our Grandfather teaching for November is courage. We will be helping students to understand that it is important to do the right thing, even when it's hard.

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

Students in Division 2 also had a visit from the Invasive Species Council of BC and learned about the difference and significance of native and invasive species.





There are lots of fun stories coming out of Merritt Secondary this month!

Our volleyball teams are wrapping up a successful season with both senior boys' and girls' team earning a berth at the Okanagan Championships and our cross-country team had one athlete earn a berth at the provincial championships!

The school-wide Battloween was a huge success. It saw all the students come together and compete in multi-age groups against one another. The smiles and laughter were contagious.

Twenty-four science students took to Vancouver Island and the Bamfield Science Center for a week long educational experience. Seeing whales, sealions and other marine life was definitely the highlight.

The Grade 12 students all had the opportunity to take part in the first sitting of the Literacy 12 Assessment which is a graduation requirement. The students showed perseverance through the lengthy exam.

Merritt Secondary was well represented at the British Columbia Leadership Conference in late October. The event brought together hundreds of students from around the province for a 4-day event. The student participated in some community service activities and spent time learning about building a positive school culture and how they can lead that work.

Finally, our leadership classes in conjunction with the band class lead a very meaningful Remembrance Day Assembly. It included participation by our own Colour Guard, a poetry reading, some music played by the band and then a student performing the **Last Post** and **Reveille** on the tuba. Witnessing the ceremony organized and led by our students sent a powerful message to our school community.



CANADIAN PASTIME



SASH RUN



HALLOWEEN



BANNOCK

MAKING



PUMPKIN PATCH





Merritt Central Elementary School



Bannock and Chili Night Open House

Teachers and staff worked tirelessly to create a memorable family night filled with laughter, learning, and connection. Students and families came together to enjoy delicious chili and Bannock, with the kids pitching in to cook alongside Mrs. Martindale and Mrs. Smith. The evening also featured a fun-filled scavenger hunt, expertly organized by Miss Morrison, and a vibrant book fair, made possible by the hard work of Mrs. Cleaveley, who spent countless hours setting up and training student helpers. It was a night of joy, teamwork, and community spirit, with everyone leaving with full hearts and happy memories.



Special Days: Diwali

In a heartwarming display of cultural appreciation, Mrs. Preet and Mrs. Ferris introduced their students to the vibrant traditions of Diwali. As part of our ongoing commitment to antiracism and celebrating diversity, teachers at MCES are making a conscious effort to honor and respect the cultures and customs of all our students. By learning about Diwali, students not only explored the significance of this beautiful festival, but also felt valued and seen. This celebration fosters inclusivity, making every student's culture visible and important to our school community.



Literacy

At MCES, our collaborative team including Mrs. Cleaveley, the ELT, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Martindale, the SSTs, Mrs. Selman, the Literacy & Numeracy Support Teacher, and our dedicated classroom teachers, are working together to provide targeted literacy interventions and support for our primary students. We are using a combination of the Science of Reading and Balanced Literacy strategies to ensure every student thrives. With the help of the EAs, we are delivering fun and engaging literacy activities tailored to meet each student's needs, building strong foundations for future success.



Breakfast Club

At MCES, our Breakfast Club is truly a special part of the school day. Every morning, staff volunteers come together to prepare and serve a variety of healthy and delicious breakfast options—ranging from favourite healthy cereals, hashbrowns with scrambled eggs, homemade muffins and pancakes. But Breakfast Club is more than just a meal; it's a chance for staff and students to connect, share a moment of warmth, and learn about each other in a welcoming environment. It's a beautiful way to start the day, setting the tone for a positive, supportive school community.



Halloween

The excitement leading up to Halloween at MCES was filled with creative activities and community connections. Mrs. Meadows and Mrs. Ferris took classes on a fun-filled trip to 3 Bar Farms, where students enjoyed tractor rides, navigated a corn maze, and picked their own pumpkins. Back at school, Mrs. Morrison brought the pumpkin patch to MCES with a surprise pumpkin activity,



Jennifer Nielsen Author Visit

We were honoured to have acclaimed author Jennifer Nielsen visit MCES, where she spent time with our intermediate students in an engaging assembly. During her talk, she shared insights into her novels and discussed her writing process, including how she uses "stupid facts" as a creative springboard for storytelling. Afterward, she hosted a writer's workshop, sparking excitement and inspiration in our



Student Shout Outs

At MCES, we believe it's our responsibility to teach and model the values that help shape students into strong, positive community role models. This month, we proudly recognized several students who have exemplified key character traits, including Friendliness, Tolerance and Acceptance, Compassion, Courage, and Good Manners. These students demonstrate the qualities that make our school a kind and inclusive place, and we are proud to celebrate their efforts in creating a supportive environment for everyone.





culminating in a fun pumpkin painting session. Mr. Gandy's students got into the Halloween spirit by creating impressive large-scale ADST decorations. On October 31st, the Halloween fun peaked with two exciting dances—one for the primary students and another for the intermediates—and a thrilling Halloween parade in the gym where the entire school showcased their creative costumes. It was a day of laughter, creativity, and community spirit!

students. Her visit had a profound impact, with many students now more excited to explore writing and taking greater creative risks. The library has seen a boost in sign-outs, as students eagerly search for "stupid facts" to fuel their own stories. Jennifer Nielsen's visit has truly inspired a new generation of writers at MCES!

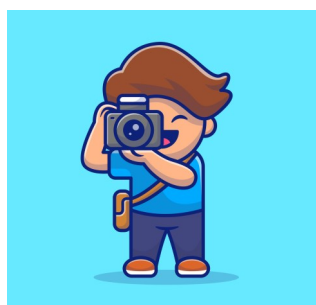




Rock Ridge trip—Photography



China Ridge Hike—Outdoor Ed



Junior Grade 9 girls Volleyball



Senior girls Volleyball



Jennifer Nielsen author visit





From making borax bouncy balls, straw rockets, and balloon powered cars, to exploring the rock cycle through experimentation, students had a blast with our guest Science Bob!



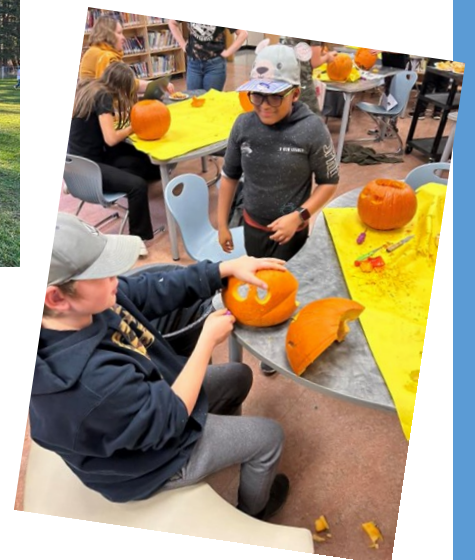
Jennifer A. Nielsen, an author of historical fiction for young adults, came and shared her advice to young aspiring writers during a school wide presentation, and led a workshop for a small group of keen writers. Her books have been checked out of our school library by many students since this highly engaging presentation.



Members of the Princeton Posse have spent time with grade 4 and 5 students at VFE practicing their reading, and stick handling skills during group reading and class wide floor hockey times. Thank you to the Posse for being positive role models to our young learners.



Halloween was celebrated at VFE during a spirit week including crazy hair or hat day, Halloween colour day, jersey day, pajama day, and costume dress up day. Students in the after-school Homework Club also had the opportunity to carve a pumpkin.



Primary students attending bowling for their after school program!



Early Learning and Child Care



Central StrongStart





Annual Halloween
Costume Parade



The Annual Pumpkin Roll



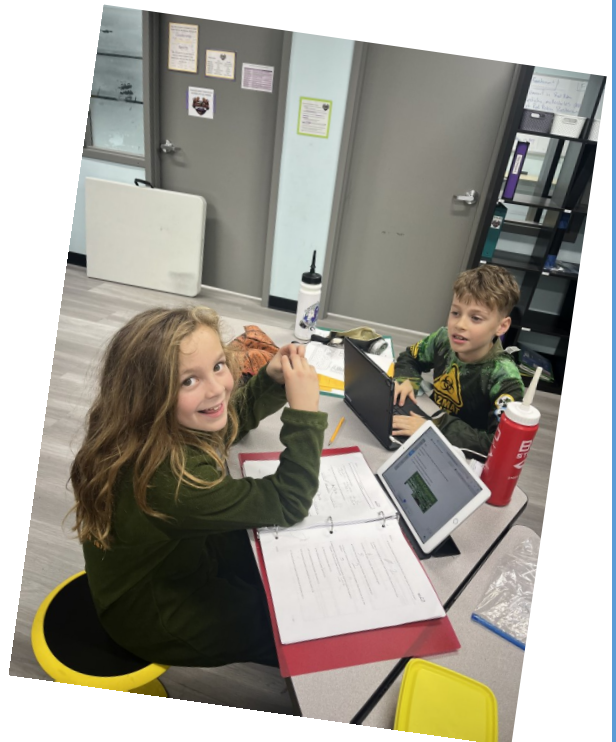
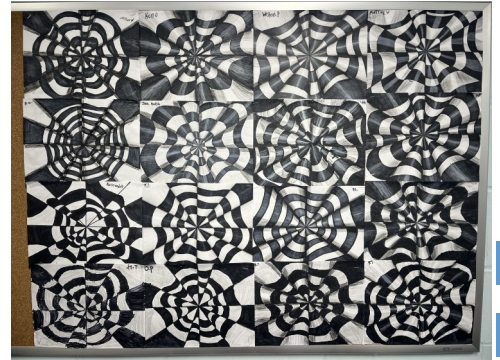
Remembrance Day Assembly—Students read: In Flanders Fields,
Mr. Norris is the Bagpiper.





October & November @ SCIDES

- SCIDES held a virtual Remembrance Day assembly on Friday
- Artwork and picture of the students from the Principal visit to Lions Peak Hockey Academy
- Grade 3-5 and also gr 6-7 group Halloween pics from Lions Peak.
- Pizza slice student is local SCIDES student and he responded to our request for a costume picture





Community Learning Centre (CLC)

Over the last month at CLC students have had some wonderful learning opportunities. During one of their “out-days” they worked with our Indigenous Student Advocate to harvest traditional plants. Upon returning to the school they sorted, prepared, and started the drying process. These finds will become teas and medicines for future use. Students also had the opportunity to visit the Desert Farm Pumpkin Patch in Ashcroft. It was a beautiful, autumn day filled with fun activities and collecting pumpkins. Finally, on Halloween day, Scw’emx Child & Family brought over some inflatable games and set up a themed Lunch and Learn. We are hopeful the beautiful fall weather to continue.



Important Dates:

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------|---|
| 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. |
| December 20, 2024 | Friday | Last day of school before Winter Break. |
| Dec. 23, 2024 – Jan. 3, 2025 | | Winter Break. |
| January 6, 2025 | Monday | Schools reopen after the break. |

