







# Collettville Elementary School

## *Les Chats Sauvages!*

### Division 3 Presents: *Chat Angora*



Division 3 students worked hard on their AIM play, *Chat Angora*, over the past few weeks.

AIM - Accelerative Integrated Method - is a language teaching methodology used in French Immersion schools.

Families and district staff were invited to watch - a great way to build connections and showcase the fantastic work going on at Collettville. Merci Mme Berthelet!

### The “Maple Man” Visits Collettville!



The “Maple Man”, René Turmel, visited Collettville - it was a sweet surprise! René has been touring Canada for the past 5 years, spreading his knowledge about traditional sugar shacks, or “cabanes à sucre”, and engaging students of all ages. The presentation fits well with our school value of Pride - pride in bilingualism and pride in French culture. Thank you Mme Mackay-Smith for organizing!



### Volleyball Season Comes to a Close



We are so appreciative of our community coaches who volunteer their time to ensure our kids continue to have opportunities to engage, connect, and stay active. Go Wild Cats!





- Over the past six weeks, our Student Support Team has been working with Grade 1 students towards one of our Enhancing Learning Plan goals: to raise reading standards. Students in Grade 1 have been working in small groups, to practice sight words, phonemic awareness, and guided reading.
- Winter concert preparations have been taking place, and the whole school is starting to feel a little bit 'Grinchy'. We are expecting a visit from The Grinch himself on the eve of 19<sup>th</sup> December. We had the first of our seasonal-themed spirit day on December 6th, with many students choosing to 'sparkle and glow' with their choice of outfits.
- The books for Battle of the Books have been released, creating a buzz around reading, with staff members and students eagerly signing out books. Each week, we promote a different book on our school's Facebook page.
- Grade 7 students proudly wear their signed Diamond Vale hoodies, supported by the PAC.





# VOLLEYBALL



# TRANSFORMER ROCKS

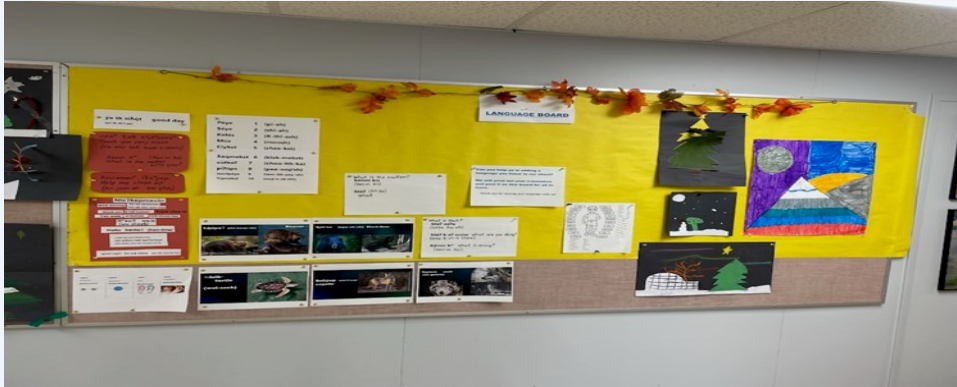


# SNOW GLOBES

## ELF ON A SHELF







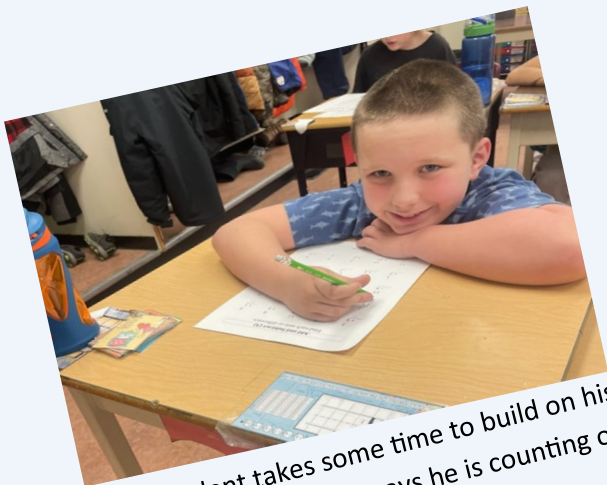
**Language Board**—found in the main hallway of our school. Students have been submitting translations for locally found items. A great place to stop on their way back to class and practice local language.



**A Little Mathtific Time** — students take some time with our Student Support Services teacher to log in to their Mathtific accounts. Notice the smiles on their faces while they learn together.



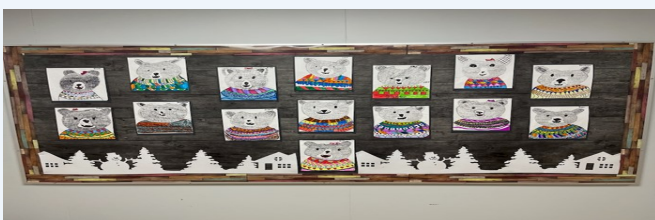
**Grade 1 Winter Art**—Mrs. Kanigan's students worked with colour, texture, and patterns to create winter scenes.



A grade 2 student takes some time to build on his numeracy skills. That smile says he is counting on the next learning opportunity.



**Intermediate Snow Fort Building** - Lunch hour play turns into a physics lesson. Mass per unit of volume varies with air temperature. Students faced a little resistance on this day.



**Grade 2 Winter Art**—Mr. Denton's students characterized and personalized their depiction of a locally found animal in our region. Some colourful sweaters were added to make each work of art





# John Allison Elementary School

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## UPDATES

November, 2024

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

- ⇒ **November 8:** Remembrance Day Assembly with VFE band
- ⇒ **November 13:** Community Building with Princeton Posse
- ⇒ **November 20:** Spirit: Fun Hat/Hair Day
- ⇒ **November 26:** Posse Read & Bake at PSS



Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!



### ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE

We gathered for Remembrance Day and Indigenous Veterans Day. Grade 2s read a poem, Grade 2/3 led "Flander's Fields." Thank you to Ms. Sheila Torgenson from the Legion, who spoke about the poppy. We send a special thank you to Myrna Coates and the VFE school band who led us in O' Canada and played other songs.



Thank you to our #kitchenkids volunteers who helped us bake #zucchini cake #chocolate cake We made enough for the whole school! #delicious #handson



Thank you to Dierra Maynard #princetonleadersforliteracy for leading the #comereadwithme workshop for #grade1 parents and students. #literacymatters



Thank you to our Indigenous Student Advocate, for supporting our students' learning #artclass #paintingpictographs with #ochre #handsonlearning #grade2





SCIDES Competitive Athlete Program includes several student athletes competing in a variety of sports across North America and Europe. Sports include hockey, tennis, soccer, taekwondo, rodeo, swimming, figure skating, football, mountain biking, and skiing. Competitive locations include British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Washington State, Texas, Germany, and Belgium! Here are some photos shared from families of student/athletes in action!

**Andrew Schultz:** [Andrew Schultz.jpeg](#)

“Local Merritt student Andrew Schultz analyzing the play in community hockey.”

**Colton Gerrior:** [Colton Gerrior Seattle Thunderbirds WHL.jpg](#)

“Colton Gerrior of the WHL’s Seattle Thunderbirds wants the puck on his stick.”

**Grady Veary:** [Gradey Veary Island Wild JPHL now Wenatchee Wild for future WHL4.jpeg](#)

“Grady Veary with his parents signing his WHL contract with the Wenatchee Wild. Congrats Grady!”

**Markus and Liam Ruck:** [Liam and Markus Ruck GOLD U17 Canada4.jpg](#)

“Twin brothers Liam and Markus Ruck celebrate World Under 17 gold with Team Canada White. Congrats gentlemen!”

**Nick Kovich:** [Nick Kovich Richmond Sockeyes Jr. A.jpg](#)

“Nick Kovich with the Richmond Sockeyes of the PJHL hunting the puck.”

**Ryan Cummings:** [Ryan Cummings Cho Dan Bo Black Belt.jpg](#)

“Ryan Cummings receives his Cho Dan Bo Black Belt. Well done, Ryan!”





Science 9



Swim Provincials



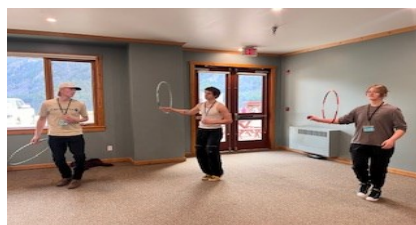
Weyerhaeuser Tour for Grade 10's



Science 10



Grade 1's from John Allison visited PSS to read and cook with the Posse



Grade 9 Indigenous Youth Conference at Rock Ridge







## Community Learning Centre

In November, CLC students ventured to Kamloops to explore the Wildlife Park to visit and learn about the diverse animals that call it home. They also took a trip to Harmon Lake for some team-building activities, where they had the chance to connect with our new Clinician, Sam, who will be partnering with us through Take A Hike. Additionally, Scw'exmx guided us in honouring our fallen soldiers with a beading workshop to create poppies. Back at school, we wrapped up our lessons on figurative language by writing various types of poetry, whipped up various delicious yet simple dishes in Foods class, and dressed up to participate in grad photos. What a great month!







## Early Learning and Child Care

Part of our work in **StrongStart Centers** is to foster community connections. This week in Merritt, we had Interior Health visit our Merritt StrongStart locations to inform parents about dental health for young children. Michael Leis, Dental Hygienist Supervisor with Interior Health, came from Kamloops to give the presentations. Michael visited Nicola Canford on November 18<sup>th</sup>, Merritt Central on November 21<sup>st</sup> and Diamond Vale on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are also in contact with the Princeton representative and are working on dates for her to come in. Here are some pictures from Diamond Vale's experience.







## Merriitt Central Elementary School

### Indigenous Veterans Day and Remembrance Day



MCES marked Indigenous Veterans Day and Remembrance Day with a heartfelt ceremony that honored both Indigenous and non-Indigenous veterans. We were privileged to have N'kwala and Coldwater Schools join us, with their students leading the Sylix and Nlaka'pamux prayers. In the weeks prior to the ceremony, our ISA, Martha, invited community members to teach a few students traditional drum songs, and the group performed beautifully for the service, including the powerful "Soldier Boy." Mr. Gandy's class recited *In Flanders Fields*, while each class contributed wreaths, collaboratively created, to pay tribute. Mr. Cowan shared the history behind Indigenous Veterans Day, and all students participated with thoughtfulness and respect throughout the ceremony.

### Girls Group



A group of MCES Grade 7 girls recently participated in the district's Girls Group program, designed to prepare them for high school and the transition to womanhood. The first session focused on Land-Based Learning, where the girls learned to gather medicines and engage in drumming, a valuable opportunity to build leadership skills while embracing traditional cultural practices. We are grateful for the chance for our girls to be part of this empowering project and appreciate everyone involved in bringing it to life. Special thanks to Dawn Williams for ensuring the safe transportation of our students to each event. After their first session, the girls returned excited and eager to share their experiences, proudly showing off the tea they had made.

### Middlesboro Bridge Opening Land Acknowledgement



On November 16, Ms. Morrison's Grade 1 class had the distinct honor of presenting the land acknowledgment at the Middlesboro Bridge opening. Over the past few months, the students have been learning about the land around us, how to care for it, and the significance of a meaningful land acknowledgment. As part of their learning, the students created their own land acknowledgment, and some had the opportunity to share it during the opening ceremony. A sincere thank you to our ISA's Jody John and Dawn Williams for their guidance and support throughout this meaningful journey. This event held special significance, as many of our students were directly impacted by the flooding and the loss of the bridge, which served as a daily reminder of that experience. For many, this may bring a sense of closure.

### Volleyball Champs



After years of hard work and dedication, Mr. Shea led MCES to a 1st place win at a team sporting tournament. But his success didn't stop there—MCES had two teams competing, and the second team secured an impressive 2nd place finish. Mr. Shea's commitment to this year's team was extraordinary, starting practices early in the school year and then increasing them from three to five days a week after cross-country season ended. In addition, he collaborated with MSS, bringing in the Grade 8 girls' team to work with our intermediate players, providing them with valuable skill development and extra practice time. The dedication to volleyball was truly remarkable, and the students matched their coach's effort and commitment. Their determination was evident in the outstanding results they achieved.



### ADST Cook Off Challenges



Gordon Ramsay and Bobby Flay have nothing on Mr. Shea's Grade 6/7 class! As part of Careers and ADST, the students have formed teams to compete in a fun and challenging blind taste test throughout the year. Each group prepares their dishes and presents them to a blindfolded Mr. Shea, who judges based on taste and texture. If Ms. Omori is lucky, she gets to enjoy any leftovers as a snack on taste test days! We have some budding Chefs at MCES!

### Parent Gathering



MCES is deeply grateful for the hard work and dedication of our ISAs in supporting both students and families. One of our school goals is to connect with our Indigenous communities in a safe and supportive way, and it was truly wonderful to share dinner and socialize with so many MCES families at the District Parent Gathering. We were especially proud of our students who shared their culture and traditions by giving the Sylix prayer and performing with the Powwow drum. We are also thankful for our ISA, Martha Chilihitzia, who has always helped us connect with community members to share their knowledge, ensuring that Sylix and Nlaka'pamux culture are integrated into our students' learning experiences, allowing them to take pride in who they are and where they come from.

### Character Teaching and Shout Out Assembly



At this month's Shout Out Assembly, Miss Matheson's class did an outstanding job presenting the Character Teaching of Love. Following the presentation, we celebrated several students who consistently do the right thing simply because it's the right thing to do. These students were recognized for their positive contributions to the school community, demonstrating characteristics such as good manners, persistence, resilience, courage, compassion, friendliness, sensibility, tolerance, and acceptance. These traits closely align with the Seven Character Teachings, and we are proud to see our students embodying these values in their daily lives.

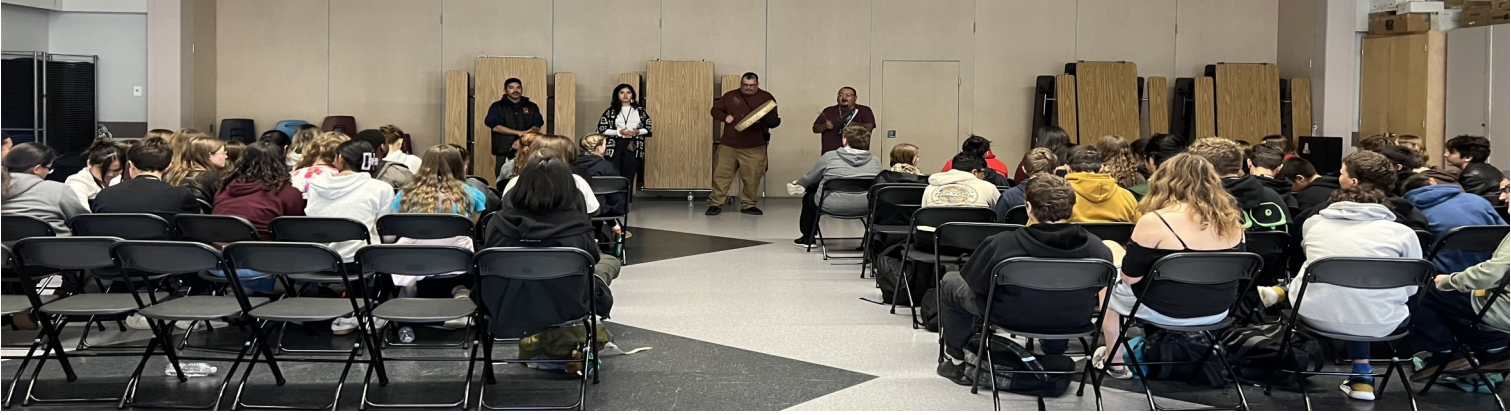
### Student vs Staff Volleyball



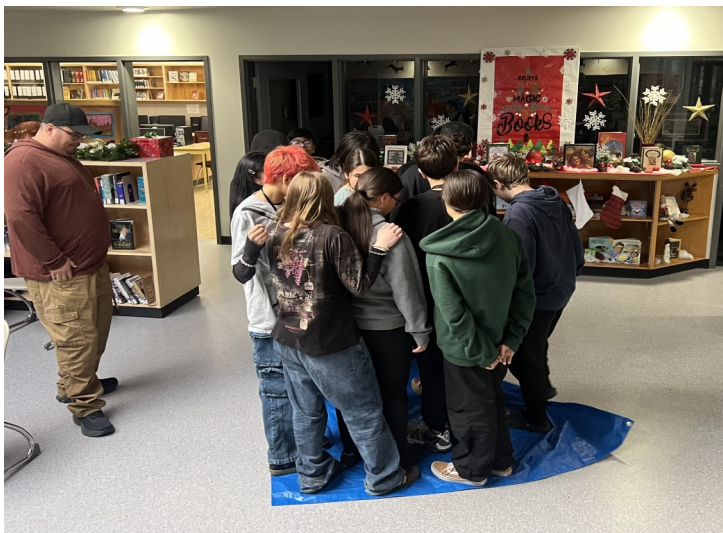
To wrap up an exciting volleyball season, the staff challenged the students to a fun yet intense lunchtime game. This has become a cherished tradition at the end of each sporting season, offering students the opportunity to see their teachers engaging in physical activity while also allowing everyone to relax and enjoy some fun together. Although the students came out on top this time, the event was a wonderful way for staff and students to connect and celebrate the spirit of sportsmanship and community.







- MSS continues to offer a drumming group each Thursday at lunch that brings students together.
- Our Grade 11 & 12 Indigenous students had the opportunity to visit UBC, UViC and UBCO campuses. The tours offered a firsthand look at post-secondary life and inspired many of our students to start planning their future. While in Vancouver, these students also had the opportunity to take in a Vancouver Canucks' hockey game and the Red Dress Event, which was a part of the Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week.
- MSS, through the hard work of our Indigenous Student Advocates, played host to the Grade 9 Embracing Change Youth Conference. This conference put students through a variety of workshops and learning activities.
- MSS was also fortunate to bring families together for the Parent Gathering. An evening filled with traditional activities such as beading, tea making, and sewing. It was a wonderful way to connect with others while keeping our hands busy!
- Grad planning is in full swing. Our 2025 graduates had the opportunity to get their grad photos taken this month, and the first grad list has been posted!
- MSS is also excited about announcing an updated and inclusive process for introducing achievement cords to this year's ceremony as a way to recognize outstanding student achievement in academics and other diverse areas. This process reflects our commitment to celebrating the diverse achievements of our students and recognizing their unique contributions to our school and community.
- Ms. Denton's Psychology 11 class was able to organize a Teen-to-Teen Toy Drive. Teens were encouraged to bring in an unwrapped gift that another student their age would appreciate receiving. MSS collected over 500 items! All items were donated to the Nicola Valley Food Bank. Giving back and supporting our community all feels good.
- To round out the month, the staff at MSS participated in a "Super Secret Staff Spirit Week." This behind-the-scenes event brought out the creativity and camaraderie of our team, reminding us all of the importance of joy and laughter in our school community.





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Students visiting the UBC First Nations Longhouse



Important Dates:

December 20, 2024	Friday	Last day of school before Winter Break.
Dec. 23, 2024 – Jan. 3, 2025		<b>Winter Break.</b>
January 6, 2025	Monday	Schools reopen after the break.
February 7, 2025	Friday	MSS Grade 9 to 12 & PSS Report Cards go home.
February 14, 2025	Friday	<b>Non-Instructional Day</b> (Professional Development Day.)
February 17, 2025	Monday	<b>Family Day.</b>

