



## Nicola Canford Elementary School



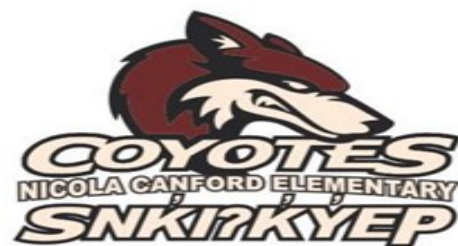
BATTLEBOTS & PROGRAMMING

We had our BattleBot and Robot Maze Challenge on Friday. Winners from each class came to compete against each other in the gym to see who created the best BattleBot and who could program a Sphero to traverse a maze the fastest. Congratulations to Stormm who created the most dominant BattleBot and Grace, Jaya and Ava who programmed the fastest maze traverse.

Our Ntē?kepmxcin language classes spent the day out at Stump Lake learning how to ice fish using some traditional tools. Kwukwsteyp to Hank and Daryl who helped our kids build their tools and prepared the ice for us. Also Kwukwsteyp to Lisa Nelson-Smith, the school board office and the maintenance department for working with us to make this trip work out... especially Randy who did more than just drive the bus!!!



Our French Language students had a great day today making crepes and practicing their oral language. Ça a été magnifique





Our Nte?kepmxcin language classes have been making their own ice fishing jigs with Hank Yamelst and Daryle Shackley. The kids will be heading out soon to try them out. It is great to have elders in our building helping out with the kids.



Our intermediate students had a great day at the ski hill today. The sun was shining, the wind was quiet and the blue sky made for beautiful views. Kwukwsteyp to the Harper Mountain staff for such a great day.

Nicola Canford participated in numerous kindness and character building activities for our lead up to this year's Pink T-Shirt day. Kwukwsteyp to the kids who work hard to make this a safe place to be.



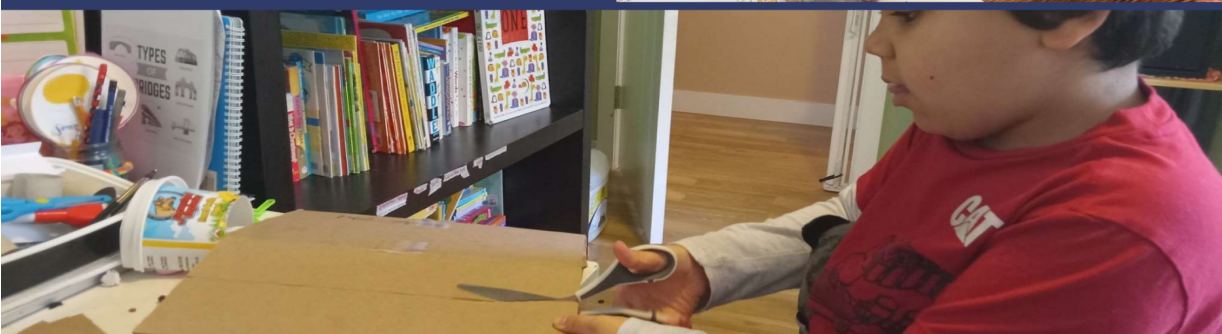
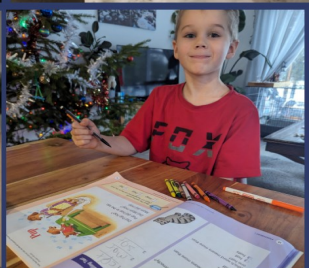
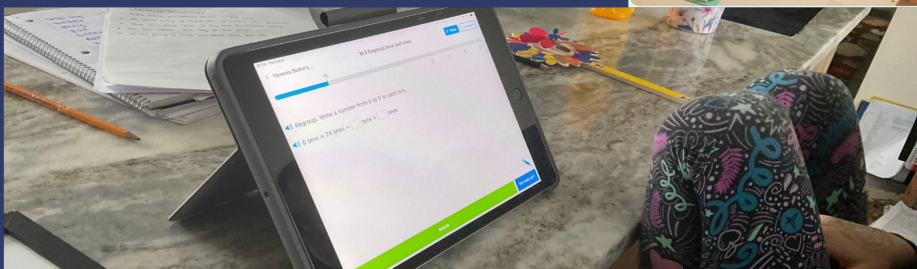
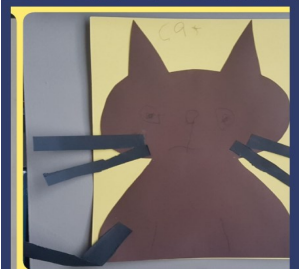
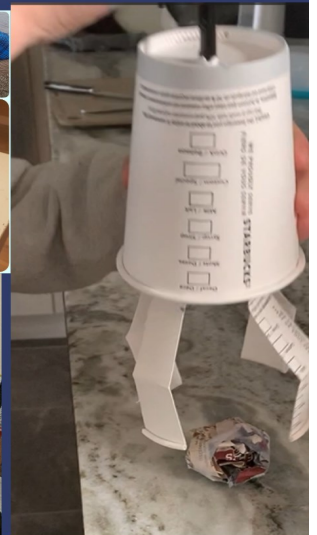


**LOOK WHAT OUR K-3 LEARNERS ARE UP TO!**

K-3 Learners at SCIDES showcase their learning through Portfolios. Portfolios are a learner's individual opportunity to share their growth and show us how they shine in all their subject areas!

So far this year the K-3 learners have answered 29,735 questions online and made progress in 846 skills!

**It is so exciting to watch you all grow!**







# Collettville Elementary School

*Les Chats Sauvages!*

## Science Fair



Intermediate students worked hard over the past two months to produce some really neat projects! It was great to see so many students - 17 in total - opt into the Science Fair Club this year. They worked over lunch hours, after school, and on weekends with the support of staff and families, and took lots of pride in their finished products. Well done Saisha, Beck, Ryker, Nico, Gretchen, Evelyn, Ivan, Miya, Imroz, Arthur, Travis, Lilly, Fionna, Ethan, Madeline, Lillian, and Charlee - you make Collettville proud! A special shout out to Lillian & Charlee, Travis & Arthur, Saisha, and Beck, for being selected to compete at the Regional level!

## LeFLOFRANCO Concert

LeFLOFRANCO, an artist from the Ottawa-Gatineau region, visited Collettville to share his unique brand of Franco-Canadian music with FIM and FSL students in Merritt.

## Sun Peaks

Thank you Mrs. Ouimet, Mme Mackay-Smith, Mme Odegard, Mme Livesey, and all parent volunteers for your integral part in making this annual trip a continued success.







## Merritt Central Elementary School

### Science Afternoon



The Science Exploration Afternoon at MCES was an enriching and interactive event, thanks to the hard work of Librarian and Enhancing Learning Teacher, Mrs. Cleaveley. Students had the chance to explore a variety of science stations, each led by local experts. In the library, the Nicola Naturalists and Bob Scafe shared fascinating insights into local animals and the land. The Welcome Room featured Mrs. Greta Brown, a local indigenous knowledge keeper, who taught students about traditional medicines and guided them in making an essential oil Sunshine spray. In the MPR, members of the CNA engaged students in hands-on experiments with seed bombs and water ecology. We were also thrilled to welcome special guest Kelsey Cleaveley, a Grade 12 science student, who shared her knowledge of mollusk shells and wasps, providing a sorting activity that kept the elementary students engaged. This afternoon was a great success in stimulating students' curiosity, connecting them with local knowledge, and fostering core competencies such as critical thinking, communication, and collaboration.

### Planetarium Day



Planetarium Day was a highlight of MCES Science Week, thanks to our special guest, Bill Burnyeat, who brought his traveling planetarium to the school. Every class had the unique opportunity to explore the wonders of the night sky, with lessons tailored to each grade level. Students were captivated as they gazed up at the stars, making this experience a hit, even with some of our most reluctant learners. One Grade 6/7 teacher shared how excited he was to see his typically reserved students "light up" during the session. Following the visit, Mrs. Cleaveley noted that "space" books are flying off the shelves in the library, and teachers are eager to share new, inspiring ideas with their classes. This interactive experience sparked curiosity and excitement about the universe, creating a lasting impact on both students and staff.

### Science Fair



The MCES Science Fair was a remarkable display of student dedication and innovation. Over the past two months, students worked diligently on their projects, dedicating their own time and every Tuesday during lunch to develop their ideas. Under the guidance of Science Fair Club sponsors Mrs. Martindale and Ms. Morrison, as well as special guest teacher Mrs. Kuzio from CLC, students honed their skills and created impressive presentations. On February 28, students proudly showcased their projects and presented them to a panel of esteemed judges, including Mrs. Sheldon and Mr. Duncan. All the projects were outstanding, and we are excited to announce that four projects and five students will be advancing to the regional Science Fair at TRU in April.



### World Read Aloud Day



Our World Read Aloud Day celebration at MCES was a wonderful success, thanks once again to the dedication of Mrs. Cleaveley. The day featured a variety of exciting activities, including a "Dress as a Book Character" event, where students and staff embraced their favorite literary characters. Ms. Omori read to the whole school, further fostering a love for reading. Students also enjoyed a whole-school buddy read in the gym, connecting across grade levels. Throughout the day, we held multiple "Drop Everything and Read" sessions, encouraging spontaneous reading. The day was made even more special by author visits from Josh Funk and Megan Freeman, who inspired students with their stories and experiences. It was a day filled with joy, creativity, and a deep appreciation for the power of books!

### Junior Librarians and Book Tastings



In the MCES library, incredible work is being done by a dedicated group of junior librarians from grades 4-7, under the guidance of Leanne Cleaveley. These students play an essential role in keeping the library running smoothly by collecting and checking in books, shelving them, creating engaging displays, and promoting the love of reading through book talks and "shelfies." They also assist with Scholastic Book Fairs and help organize special events, such as World Read Aloud Day. This initiative not only enhances the library experience but also fosters leadership, responsibility, and a passion for reading among our students.

Book Tastings are a highlight event in our library, designed to spark students' curiosity and love for reading. During this interactive activity, students are grouped and rotate through tables featuring different books, organized by genre, author, or literature circle. Each student is provided with a "book menu" and takes tasting notes, evaluating the cover, summary, and first few pages of each book. From these notes, students choose their favorite book, inspiring them to explore new genres and authors. This fun, hands-on experience encourages students to engage more deeply with literature and try books they might not have picked up otherwise.

### 100's Day



100's Day is an annual celebration that our early primary classes look forward to, marking the 100th day of school with fun and engaging activities. This year, Mrs. Meadows and Mrs. Morrison's classes went all out, incorporating a variety of exciting 100-day counting activities. Students wrote about what they thought they would look like and be doing when they turned 100, made cereal necklaces with 100 loops, and created creative 100-day hats, among many other activities. It was a fantastic way to connect the curriculum to hands-on, active learning while celebrating the halfway point of the school year. The students had a blast, and it was a memorable day filled with learning and laughter!



### Basketball tourment



The boys and girls basketball tournament was an incredible success, and Mr. Shea couldn't have been prouder of this year's group of young athletes. He shared that he has never had such a positive and coachable team. While the players didn't start off as seasoned athletes, their commitment, teamwork, and ability to take direction led them to fantastic results: 1st place for the boys' team, 2nd place for another boys' team, and 2nd place for the girls' team. These students did an excellent job representing both the school and themselves with pride and sportsmanship. We also want to extend a huge thank you to Mr. Shea for his dedication, as well as to assistant coaches Mrs. Smith, Ms. Sarah, and Ms. Martha, who helped transport students to the games and supported the teams throughout the tournament. This event was truly a team effort, and we are so proud of all the athletes involved!

### Handball



Martha Chillihtzia (boys' team) and Brock Shea (girls' team). Martha leads informal practice sessions every morning from 8:30-8:55 for both boys and girls, providing additional support and skill development. The coaches also collaborate during lunch for 30 minutes to an hour, focusing on teaching handball skills and offering game practice. In addition to coaching the teams, Ms. Martha and Mr. Shea have been training Grade 6/7 students to be referees, and these young leaders have shown incredible professionalism, even handling challenges from adults during afterschool games. Their leadership and commitment have helped foster a positive and supportive environment for all players.

### Teachers vs students Basketball Game



The Staff vs. Students basketball game brought an exciting energy and strong sense of connection to the MCES community. Mrs. Lebeau (Secretary), Mr. Easterbrook (Teacher), Mrs. Martindale (SST), Kalea Palmer (TTOC), and Ms. Omori took on the Grade 6/7 girls and boys basketball teams in a thrilling match that truly kept everyone on their toes! Even students who weren't playing got in on the action, building connections with both their peers and staff. The crowd couldn't help but laugh at Ms. Omori's clumsy athletic skills, while they were seriously impressed by Mrs. Martindale's powerhouse performance. It was a fun-filled event that showcased teamwork, school spirit, and a strong bond between staff and students!



## Farm Animal Guests



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*Mrs. Ferris brought our farm and ranching community to her kindergarten class this month with a number of special guest including chickens, ducks, sheep, and goats.*

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## Health and Wellbeing



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*Ms. Omori getting a little physical exercise while making connection with a new student.*

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*Mrs. Ferris' class learns the importance of dental hygiene with special dental guests*

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*PITW SEL games give students a chance to practice patience, following instructions and inclusion.*



# Daily Educational Experiences



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*Social Studies Projects integrating research, personal interests, and presentation skills*



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*ADST Passion Projects in Mr. Gagliano's Class*



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*Ms. Morrison's class used Loose Parts to design their dream schools with guest Mrs. Bennie, the District Vice Principal of Early Learning and Child Care.*

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*Miss Matheson's class finds real world purpose in reading and writing as they write to their pen pals in Thailand*

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# John Allison Elementary School

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## UPDATES

February 2025



### February Highlights:

- ⇒ Valentines Day Colour Spirit Day
- ⇒ Skating with the Posse
- ⇒ Pink Shirt Day #kindness
- ⇒ Ready Set Learn—preschool

Thank you to our local Gymnastics coach Stephanie for your support. Thank you to our Kitchen Kids volunteers. Thank you to our Princeton Posse Volunteers.



#play

#JOY

#learn



### HANDS ON LEARNING @ JAE

Our Grade 2 students used smarties to learn about colour ratios in math class. Then they used their data to graph their results. #mathematics #graphing



#handsonlearning Our grade 3s and our Ks learned about the value of blubber! #scienceexperiment



# MERRITT BENCH ELEMENTARY

March 2025



Floor Hockey -  
Family Engagement Night



Primary 100's Day



Ms. Shackelly's Lunch Hour  
Drumming Group



Intermediate Science Fair





# VERMILION FORKS

## MARCH 2025

STUDENTS AT VFE HAVE BEEN ENJOYING  
A RANGE OF FUN ACTIVITIES

### GRADE 6/7 BASKETBALL

Our 'Thunderbirds' had the opportunity to travel to Merritt and compete in the basketball tournament. All in all, a successful season with great #TEAMWORK.

### YOGA WITH JOI

HELPING OUR STUDENTS WITH THEIR  
SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING. MIND AND  
BODY CONNECTEDNESS/AWARENESS.





## ADST - FOODS WITH MRS. SHEA

EACH WEEK A GROUP TAKES TURNS PREPARING AND SHARING A MEAL WITH THEIR CLASS. A TRULY DELICIOUS EXPERIENCE!



## CHINA RIDGE

STUDENTS IN GRADE 4,5,6 AND 7 HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN TO CROSS COUNTRY SKI AND SNOWSHOE, PROMOTING A LOVE OF NATURE, EXERCISE, AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING. #ONTHELAND





## GRADE 6/7 SCIENCE

CHEMISTRY 101! STUDYING PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL REACTIONS.



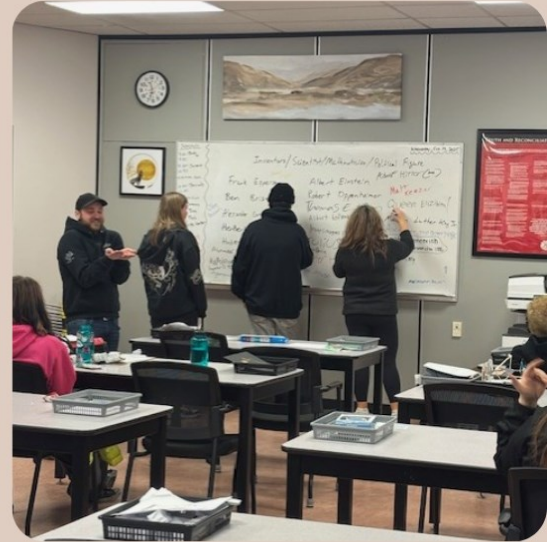
## SKATING WITH THE PRINCETON POSSE

GRADE 4'S AND 5'S HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SKATE WITH OUR OWN PRINCETON POSSE AS PART OF THEIR PHYSICAL EDUCATION.





# COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE



We kicked off the month by diving into the fascinating world of science. Our students rolled up their sleeves and got their hands dirty with a squishy simulation of the digestive system, journeying from beginning to end. Social studies class had students participating in a collaborative brainstorming session exploring both famous and lesser-known inventors. From groundbreaking ideas to quirky creations, the students were fascinated looking into the world of innovations!

This month's Lunch and Learn sessions were packed with insightful topics. Dr. Chenoweth, along with his helpers, enlightened us about the Moosehide Campaign, promoting awareness and understanding. Additionally, we were visited by a wildfire management crew, sharing valuable knowledge on how to protect and preserve our natural landscapes.

We were delighted to welcome visitors from the Take a Hike program. Bearing gifts of outdoor gear, they spent two days organizing everything for us. Their generosity and involvement have further enriched our outdoor education resources.

The highlight of the month was definitely our exhilarating tubing trip at Big White, generously sponsored by Scw'exmx. The smiles and laughter shared by students and staff alike made it a memorable event for all, showcasing the spirit of adventure and community. A special thank you goes out to Connie from CLC and Shaylee from Scw'exmx for all the work they put into making this trip a reality.

Finally, in other exciting news, Take a Hike, in collaboration with their new partner Spirit of Exploration Trips, created an amazing opportunity for students across BC to take part in a contest to design a logo that will be used for the next three years. Participants had to submit several pieces of artwork that highlighted their creativity and skills with different mediums. We are absolutely delighted to announce that CLC student, Justice Robertson, has been chosen as the winner from this province-wide search! Huge congratulations to Justice! What an incredible achievement!



# Merritt Secondary School

March 2025



## Basketball

We wrapped up the basketball season and want to congratulate all our teams for their dedication, hard work, and sportsmanship throughout the season. MSS hosted Ashcroft for Seniors' Night which gave our Grade 12 graduating players one last chance to play and be acknowledged in front of their home fans. A big thank you to the coaches, players, and fans who made this season one to remember.



## The Flash Fiction Writing Contest

The Flash Fiction Writing Contest, organized by Ms. Denton and Ms. Larsen was a huge success. Overall, participation was up 33%. MSS writers signed up to participate in two categories: Grades 8-9 and Grades 10-12. Each writer was given three prompts (genre, location, and word) and wrote a 500-word short story. Thank you to the MSS PAC, Literacy Merritt, and MSS for sponsoring this event. We are already looking forward to next year.







## Harper Mountain Tubing

Our Grade 12 students had a blast at Harper Mountain for their tubing adventure! It was a great way to enjoy the winter season, spend time with friends, and make lasting memories before graduation

## Boys Group

Our Boys' Group continues to meet every Tuesday, providing a supportive space for connection, discussion, and personal growth. This is a great opportunity for students to build friendships and develop important life skills in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

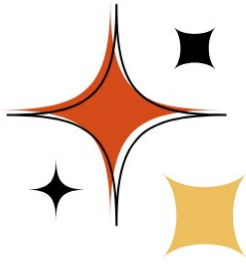


## 2nd Annual Open House

Our 2nd annual Open House - Course Fair evening was a success despite having to compete with the finals of the Four Nations Cup. Students and families were able to explore the variety of courses available, meet teachers, and plan for the upcoming school year.







March 2025

### Kamloops Brain Injury Association Visit

We were grateful to Lindsay and Nadine from the Kamloops Brain Injury Association who came to present to Grades 2-7 on concussion awareness and how to protect the brain.

### Ready Set Learn

*As part of our StrongStart program, we hosted a Ready Set Learn morning and welcomed a full house of families and children interested in learning about Kindergarten and what it means to be an elementary school student.*

### Scholastic Book Fair

*Our Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success. We far exceeded our goal with \$3672 worth of books sold and now in students' homes. We receive 30% return on this so will be purchasing many new books for the school library.*







## Science Fair

## Canadian Natural History Museum

## Seven Grandfather Teachings

*Mrs. Yadav has been working with students in Division 1 on Science Fair projects and we have six successful students who will be moving onto the regional round at TRU in April.*

*Mrs. Price's class partnered with the Canadian Natural History Museum and received a kit of artefacts which students were able to explore.*

*Love has been the focus of our assemblies/Seven Grandfather Teachings this past month which included Pink Shirt Day, and culminated with our Mrs. Hayward's Grade 2/3 class leading an assembly on what love means to them.*



## THE SEVEN GRANDFATHER TEACHINGS



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

*Shirley Williams, Residential School Survivor*





# PRINCETON SECONDARY

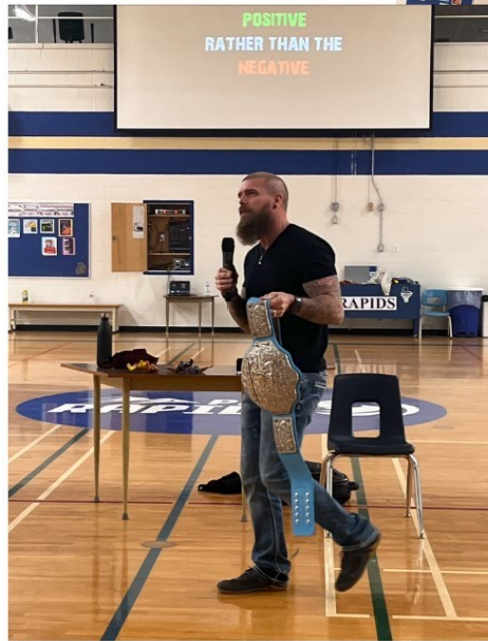


## Outdoor Ed

Both our Grade 8 and 11/12 Outdoor Ed classes were able to explore the trails on a hike at China Ridge.



## Chris Gray - Wrestler and Motivational Speaker



Inspirational speaker Chris Gray AKA Cody Deane spoke to our students about the power of perseverance and focusing on the positive to achieve your dreams. Gray is a Canadian professional wrestler and motivational speaker.

# IMPORTANT DATES

March 14, 2025	Friday	Merritt, Princeton Elementary Schools and Merritt Secondary Grade 8 Report Cards go home.
March 14, 2025	Friday	Community Learning Centre Report Cards go home.
March 14, 2025	Friday	Last day of school before Spring Break.
March 17 - 28, 2025		<b>SPRING BREAK.</b>
March 31, 2025	Monday	Schools reopen after the break.
April 18, 2025	Friday	<b>Good Friday.</b>
April 21, 2025	Monday	<b>Easter Monday.</b>