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Nicola Canford



Traditional Games

Nicola Canford was happy to host the District Traditional Games at our school for all the Grade 6s in the district. The kids had a great time. K^wuk^wsteyp to Mrs. McIvor and the Indigenous Support Advocates for organizing the events.

Red Willow Harvest

Our Language Classes were able to get out on the land last week and enjoy a Red Willow Harvest. Students were able to view some local pictographs as well.



FireHall Visit



Ms. Fosberys class got to visit the firehouse today as part of their community unit.

Chickens



Our chickens have come home to roost after their winter away.

Archeology

Suzy Carruthers came to Mrs. Nadolny's grade three, class on Friday to present on the topic of archaeology in British Columbia. The presentation was followed by an archaeological dig activity.



GARDEN PREP



SCHOOL GARDEN

Our School Garden is up and running. A very special thank you to the families that came out to support our garden prep for the season. We couldn't have done it without the help of Mark Robertson and Curtis Reimer and their equipment. The kids would very much like to thank Chanel Robertson for the snacks she brought to the event.

BABY CHICKS

Ms. Dreger used the school incubator to brood a dozen eggs in Mrs. Fosbery's K1 class. She successfully hatched all 12 of the chicks much to the delight of our Kindergartens. The chicks began hatching on the weekend and finished early Sunday morning. It was a great start to a Monday morning when the kids came into a lively group of fuzzy new chicks.



BABY CHICKS



FAMILY LITERACY GAME NIGHT

K'uk'w'steyp to Literacy Merritt, Ms Bennie and our PAC for arranging and running our Family Literacy Game Night last night. We had a great time and some great take away gifts!





Merritt Central Elementary School



Earth Day





Merritt Central Elementary School



Traditional Games



Merritt Central Elementary School



Outdoor Spaces





Merritt Central Elementary School



ON THE LAND LEARNING WITH N'KWALA



COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE



Another busy month here at CLC, post Spring Break with students settling in for the final term of the 2024/25 school year.

As we geared up for the federal election, our students actively engaged in studying the political platforms of various parties. They particularly enjoyed the voters compass survey, which helped them identify which parties align with their beliefs and values. Good old-fashioned fun is good for the soul, so we took some time to embrace the spirit of Easter with a scavenger hunt for Easter baskets followed by a pizza lunch. In honor of Earth Day, we learned about the immediate and long-term effects of oils spills on wildlife and the environment and conducted a hands-on simulation activity that highlighted the complexities of cleaning up oil spills. Students also learned about carbon footprints and made personal pledges to reduce theirs by changing at least one habit. We will see how we all did at the end of the school year.

We are thrilled to announce that Kayla Dunlop has been appointed as our CLC representative for the Youth Advisory Circle with Take a Hike, which aims to provide student voice across all Take a Hike schools in BC for future program initiatives and shared practices. We are incredibly proud of Kayla for being our representative and have full confidence in her ability to make sure CLC voices are heard. Lastly, students had a memorable out day with Christina, a guest teacher from Take a Hike, where they faced the unique challenge of setting up tents blindfolded and were taught about campfire safety while building their fires to cook their lunch on. Only one hamburger landed in the fire! (and it was the teacher's). With grad and the end of the year fast approaching, May is already gearing up to be a super busy month as well, but you'll have to wait until the next report to hear what we have been up to!



Our Arts department was very busy with clay sculptures, soap stone carving, and making miniature models.

HANDS ON LEARNING



The Humanities department did a great job putting together student vote and engaging students with the democratic process.





INNOVATIVE LEARNING



Our Foods classes have been busy preparing delicious meals.



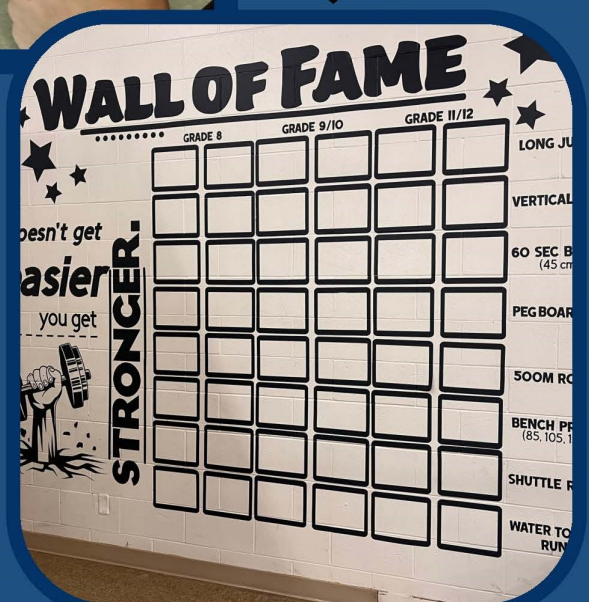
In Science students have continued working with robotics.

Our gym has seen the addition of a new Wall of Fame.

Thanks to Lindsay van Genne and Kirk McConnell for putting this project together!



We had a fantastic improv assembly from Rain City Theatre Group.



COMMUNITY GUESTS



Collettville Elementary School

Les Chats Sauvages!

Grade 6 Traditional Games



Students had opportunities to participate in traditional games like Lahal, Hoop Jump, Spear Throw, Double Ball, Rock Throw, Big Drum, and High Kick.

This annual event is a **meaningful** way for our kids to make cultural **connections** in an active and engaging environment.



At Collettville, we plan to give all Intermediate students the opportunity in June to participate in some of these games with the support of our Indigenous Student Advocate, Mr. Miller. Stay tuned!

Community Safety Walk for the National Day of Awareness for MMIWG2S



Our school Safety Walk began with singing and drumming as Willard led us through the Welcome Song and Woman Warrior Song. Students leading the group carried the Red Dress signs they made earlier in the week. It was a **respectful** and **meaningful** culmination of students' learning about safety.



Collettville Elementary School

Les Chats Sauvages!

Garden Club



The Collettville Garden Club has sparked a lot of interest from students, staff, and families alike, and we are excited to **transform** the space into something beautiful!

With support from our district, school, and community **partners**, including Rock Solid Industries and our PAC, we hope to start planting after the May long-weekend. The long term vision is to grow healthy fruits and vegetables that can be enjoyed by our school and local community.

McHappy Day



Mme Ouimet and M. Sambrook are **honored** to have been a part of this great cause. The looks on some of our students' faces when they pulled up to the window were priceless!

Rugby



The 2025 rugby season has come to a close - congratulations to all the players on a great season! Thank you Mme Livesey and Charlotte Livesey for volunteering your time to coach - we **appreciate** you.

VERMILION FORKS

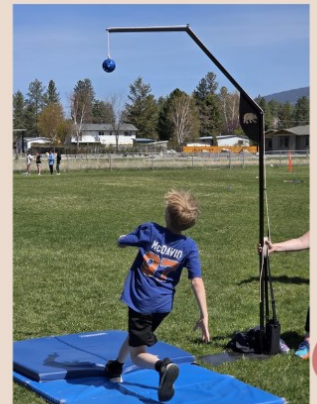
As May's beautiful weather takes hold, VFE students are taking full advantage of the outdoor sports season, actively engaging in baseball, volleyball and high jump practice.



The Merritt Forest Week Committee in partnership with Cascades Forest District and Weyerhaeuser delivered an engaging lesson to our Grade 4 and 5 students on aquatic invertebrates, wildlife readiness, forestry and natural resource management.



Grade 6's had the privilege of traveling to Merritt, where they immersed themselves in the Traditional Games. Discovering their hidden talents in spear throwing, hoop jumping, double ball, high kick, Lahal and mastering the rhythmic beats of the Big Drum.





MERRITT SECONDARY

There are some exciting highlights and accomplishments to share from Merritt Secondary this past month. Our students and staff continue to impress with their engagement, talent, and dedication across academics, athletics, and community involvement.



SD58 ROCKS!

The second annual SD58 Rocks Heavy Equipment Operator Experience was a tremendous success, offering high school students two days of hands-on training with real equipment used in the forestry, mining, and construction industries. Held under perfect spring weather, students rotated through stations like excavators, dozers, graders, and more learning directly from industry professionals. The event was made possible thanks to the generous support of local contractors, vendors, and sponsors who provided equipment, fuel, and operators. This unique experience continues to open doors for students interested in trades and technical careers.

MMIWG2S AWARENESS WALK



This month, our school community came together for the annual MMIWG2S (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People) Awareness Walk. With respect and reflection, students and staff walked in solidarity to honor the lives lost and raise awareness about this important issue. Thank you to all who participated and supported this powerful initiative.



SPRING SPORTS IN FULL SWING

Our student-athletes are in full stride this season with soccer, badminton, rugby, golf, ultimate, track & field, and mountain biking teams all in action. Thank you to our coaches and supporters who make these opportunities possible. We're looking forward to more great performances and team spirit as the seasons continue.

MERRITT SECONDARY



SCIENCE IN ACTION AT GENESKOOL

Students from Anatomy & Physiology 12 and Science 10 recently attended GeneSkool at Thompson Rivers University, where they took part in hands-on activities related to genetics. This enriching experience gave students the chance to apply their learning in a university lab setting and connect with real-world applications in biotechnology.

THE ANNUAL HUNGER GAMES RETURNS



It was game on as staff and Grade 12s faced off in the highly anticipated Hunger Games! For nearly two weeks, break and lunch hours turned into stealthy showdowns as participants schemed and dodged their way through the challenge. All in good fun—and all for a great cause—with donations going to the local food bank. Thanks to all who participated and helped support our community!

ULTIMATE TEAM HEADS TO PROVINCIALS



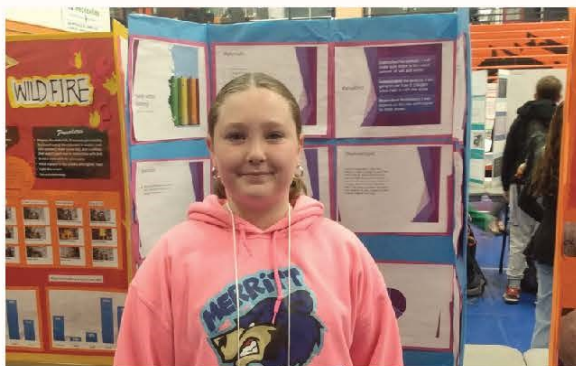
A huge congratulations to our Ultimate team for capturing their 4th consecutive Okanagan title! This title has earned them a well-deserved berth at Provincials. We're incredibly proud of their skill, sportsmanship, and dedication.

MERRITT BENCH

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL--MAY 2025

TOP RESULTS FOR BENCH STUDENTS

Grade six students Sophia and Harper earn top results in this year's Regional Science Fair in Kamloops, BC.



Kylynn stands in front of her plant experiment



Bench students sit in on a lecture in one of TRU's classrooms.



PREPARING A SWEAT LODGE FOR A CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

COMMUNITIES COME TOGETHER IN NOOIATCH



Mr. Schmid & Mr. Cleaveley's classes travel to Nooiatch to gain an understanding and appreciation of cultural teachings. Mr. Paul Joe welcomes the students with a drumming performance. Thanks to Mrs. Shackelly for planning the day.

STAY WARM BENCH STUDENTS...



Embrace outdoor activities

LOCAL CRANE COMPANY GIVES A LIFT TO LEARNING PHYSICS...



EARTH RANGERS TO THE RESCUE: BENCH STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT THE PLANET AND ECOSYSTEMS.



RAIN CITY IMPROV STARTS THE WEEK OFF WITH A LAUGH.

LUNCH HOUR LACROSSE GROWS IN POPULARITY THIS YEAR...



APPLIED SKILLS DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY MEASURES UP WITH TOOLBOX AND PLANTER PROJECTS THIS SPRING..



GRADE 5 & 6 CLASSES WORK WITH FORESTRY...PLANTING SAPLINGS AT LUNDBOM LAKE...





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UPDATES

April 2025



#guestpresentations Our own JAE guest 'conductors' offered assistance to the band students from Penticton's Princess Margaret. Vancouver's Rain City Improv delighted the crowd at JAE.
#music #laughter



#play #JOY #learn



#handsonlearning in grade 2/3
#science #chemicalreaction

#handsonlearning in grade 2
#storyworkshop #birdpuppets

#handsonlearning in the #garden
@JAE #worms #dirt



Stepping into Kindergarten - JAE welcomed next year's Ks to our school. The SEY2KT event "Once Upon a Book Tasting" combined food and stories: tacos (Dragons Love Tacos), fruit (The Very Hungry Caterpillar) and cookies (If You Give a Mouse a Cookie).