



ELKFORD SECONDARY SCHOOL

November 2020 NEWSLETTER

2500 B Balmer Dr., PO Box 910, Elkford, BC V0B 1H0

Phone: 250-865-4674 Fax: 250-865-2915

Website: <http://www.sd5.bc.ca/school/ess>

Michael Kelly, Principal

Ian Jarrell, Vice Principal

Principal's Message

We are now almost three months into our initiative called **Take 15**. This is where Elkford Secondary School (ESS) allots 15 minutes per day for independent reading (IR). I wanted to take the time to share why we are doing this. IR directly relates to improved academic performances, it can:

- Improve students' oral reading accuracy
- Increase reading rate
- Improve reading expression
- Increase reading comprehension

If you search the benefits of reading online you will find all sorts of interesting material. Including information that there is a correlation between wealth and reading, top business professionals read more books, etc. These are all good reasons but not my primary concern.

What I do love about books, is the idea that they are the great equalizer. Books can be used to take readers anywhere in the world they want to go, they can increase vocabulary, share different approaches to life, provide a break from the social stresses of being a teen, and a break from technology. Books can equalize exposure to the word for the students of ESS.

Please help us with IR by having a discussions with your son/daughter over what they are reading, encourage them to go to the library and get a book, buy them a book, or set a reading example.

ESS has purchased much new reading material in support of Take 15, we are providing a rich library of reading materials and hope to keep adding more texts every year to our library.

Happy Reading,

Mr Kelly

Lunch Open Gym Times

(11:35 – 12:05)

Mondays	Grade 11 & 12
Tuesdays	Grade 10
Wednesdays	Grade 8 & 9
Thursdays	Grade 7s
Fridays (Rotation)	Rotation

Intramurals - Volleyball

(3:00 - 4:30)

Mondays	Grade 7
Tuesdays	Grade 8 & 9
Wednesdays	Grade 10/11/12

All students are encouraged to make use of supervised gym time.
Students must wear appropriate footwear and change into gym strip for intramurals.

Upcoming Important Dates at ESS

NOVEMBER		
	27	NI Day - Yellow
	30	Grad Fees Due
DECEMBER		
	1-3	Door Decorating Challenge
	9	PAC Meeting via Zoom, 6pm
	11	NI Day - Green
	17	Newsletter
	18	Report Cards - Q2 T3
	21-Jan-01	Winter Break
JANUARY		
	4	1st Day of School for 2021
	11 - 13	Grad Photos with Lifetouch
	13	PAC Meeting via Zoom, 6pm
	22	NI - Yellow Day
	27	Let's Talk (Mental Health Day)
	29	Q2/T4 - Ends

Reminders from the Office....

To contact a staff member in our school please email by using: firstname.lastname@sd5.bc.ca.

If there are any changes to your personal contact information (phone numbers, addresses, email, etc.) please let the office know by emailing: ess.mailing@sd5.bc.ca.

Health & Safety Update During COVID-19

As new guidelines have recently been rolled out by the B.C. Government, many students and families are feeling confused and anxious about changes being made. We at ESS are being vigilant in ensuring the protocols and procedures that are in place continue to adhere to the guidelines laid out by the Ministry. As of now, the protocols that have been in place will remain the same and we are confident our school is set up to welcome your child safely. We will also continue to monitor health guidelines and will be prepared to adapt.

Please be mindful that your child is coming to school with appropriate PPE. We have recently seen increasing amounts of students coming to school without face masks. We have disposable masks to provide for students, however the supply is not endless.

If you have any questions regarding Health & Safety at the school, please contact Mr. Jarrell.

Ian Jarrell
Vice Principal

New Way to Report Absences

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school every day. To improve our safe arrival process, we are adding a new system that will make it easier for you to report – and respond to – school absences of your student.

The new student absence reporting system will let you use a mobile app, a web site, or an interactive toll-free phone line to report an absence *in advance*. As a result, it will take the school less time to verify student attendance, and less time to begin to notify parents and guardians of absences that were unexpected or unplanned.

This time savings makes it faster and more efficient to account for all students and their safety. If your student is marked absent and the absence hasn't been explained in advance, our new SafeArrival system will be able to rapidly contact you by automated phone call, text message, email, or mobile app push notification to get a reason for the absence. Calls and contacts will continue until you choose an option to explain the absence.

This new, automated SafeArrival process is part of our SchoolMessenger notification system from West, and our new SchoolMessenger mobile app for iOS and Android devices. It'll be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to make it convenient for you to report future absences.

You'll soon be receiving more details on how to sign up for SafeArrival and we look forward to all families taking part.



Youth Care Worker

I am excited to announce that starting November 30th, I will be working full time hours here at ESS! Students are encouraged to reach out for support as needed. I can provide social/emotional support to students on a daily basis or as situations arise. I offer a safe space to talk with a supportive adult.

Parent and caregivers – please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. I can also provide direct support to parents and caregivers to help strengthen communication and relationships within your family.

We are also continuing to provide students with healthy breakfast and lunch options. Again, please reach out to myself with any food needs. As well as supporting students at school we can provide food related resources to families outside of school hours.

Amanda Culver
Youth Care Worker
Amanda.culver@sd5.bc.ca

Foundations and PreCalculus 10

In the first week and a half of Quarter 2, students in math 10 learned about the trigonometric functions/ratios and then got some real world experience. Students went outside and surveyed the height of the gym and a couple other objects. Other than the cold and snowy weather, it was a great experience for real world applications involving Mathematics



Interior Health

Interior Health will be offering in school immunizations for all Grade 9 students, in the early new year. Please expect personalized consents and supporting documents to arrive home with your child on or around December 2nd. These personalized consents provide opportunity for students to be offered routine school immunizations as well as missing routine childhood immunizations. Public health will return to the school to collect the consent forms Dec 9th. If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Elkford Public Health at (250)865-2247. For more information on Grade 9 immunizations please visit the following link:

<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/grade-9-immunizations-bc>

Thanks please let me know if any additional information is required,

KYLIE KWASNY, RN, BScN

Elkford Public Health

212 Alpine Way, Elkford BC V0B1H0

250-865-2658

Kylie.Kwasny@interiorhealth.ca



Senior PE 10/11/12: Comes to an End in Quarter 1

In the month of November, senior PE came to a finish. Students worked hard and learned some First Aid that could save lives.



Students went rock climbing at the Arq Climbing Gym in Cranbrook. Students learned how to tie a figure 8 knot, secure their rope to their harness as well as how to belay. Students really showed their courage, strength and grit as they climbed; furthermore, they showed their trust in one another as the belayer held their partners life in their hands. Great hustle everyone. Thank you to PAC for supporting this wonderful adventure.

Students also had a chance to get into the

backcountry and complete their survival shelters and build an emergency fire. Students worked in groups and had to simulate an emergency situation and make a shelter from the elements and fire to stay warm.



Students talked with Jenepher Hebert from Elkford's Community Paramedicine about the *Opioids Crises* and opioid overdoses. There was a lengthy discussion about *Fentanyl* and how *Naloxone* can help in the case of an overdose. We discussed the concept of *Harm Reduction* and how knowledge along with how to properly administer Naloxone that can save lives. Students then had the opportunity to go through the hands-on procedures and develop their skills. Students were given the opportunity to take one Naloxone Kit home in case they ever needed it in an emergency. It was a really interesting day.



Finally, we all said our good byes with a hike up to Boivin Cabin, where students willingly hiked 7 km (round trip), had a fire and chatted about old memories of our adventures. It has been a pleasure getting to know all of these strong and resilient kids (and nearly adults). I hope students can continue to be

active, find a place that they can continue to hustle and keep working out during our Covid restrictions. I wish all students the best of luck for the remainder of the year. For those graduating this year, it was a pleasure to work with you, and I wish you luck with your future endeavors.



KEEP HUSLTING, Mr. Gulyas.

Mr. Gulyas' PE 8 and 9: A New Beginning in Quarter Two



What a great new group of PE 8 and 9 students to have in this very different school year. The start has been physical, and exciting. Students have done everything from basic fitness exercises (pushups, squats, chin ups and The Beep Test) a fitness obstacle course, to trudging through the mountains (3-5 km) to make survival fires and quinzees. In these early days, students really show their grit, resilience and tenacity. I

have been very impressed with the level of fitness, strength and determination in these wonderful young people.

I am excited to keep on hustling into December and January with these tenacious and strong students.



French 8/9

After completing a Global Café project, French 8/9 students are enjoying a French Café with tasty baguettes, croissants, fromage, and Perrier. Students practiced “Je veux...” and please and thank you in French.

Bon Appétit!,  ,  ,  ,, 

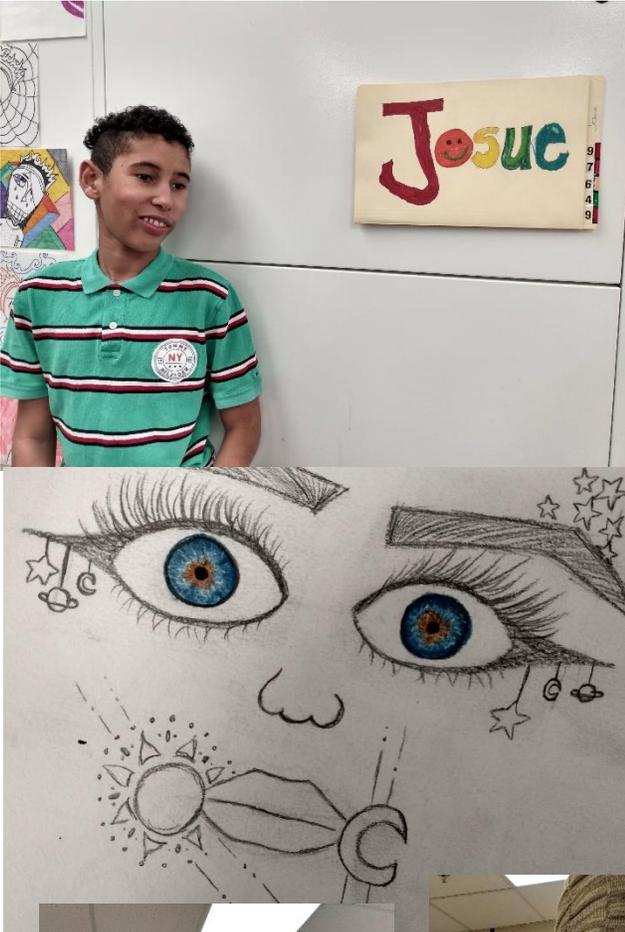


Home Economics 7

Home Economics 7 students designing and creating wonderful projects.



Art 8/Art 11 and Foods 11/12



Grade 7 Wood Shop

Another great group of students at Elkford Secondary!! Grade 7 Wood Shop just finished the quarter with more projects completed. I was very impressed with their wall art projects, pencil holders, puzzles, and tool boxes. A job well done!







Introducing the Family Portal

Enhancing Communication with Parents and Students

School District 5 (Southeast Kootenay) is launching the [MyEducation BC Family Portal](#) in three phases. Phase One of the launch will include the following schools:

- Mount Baker Senior Secondary
- Elkford Secondary

[MyEducation BC](#) is the system used across the province for managing student information such as attendance and report cards. The family portal allows parents to have access* to the [MyEducation BC](#) system where you can view report cards, attendance, demographics, and progress towards graduation.

(*not all features may be available in the Family Portal initially)

Benefits of the [MyEducation BC Family Portal](#):

- Parents can easily access their child's report card
- Increases the security and privacy of student information. With the Family Portal, report cards are stored and accessed on a secure web server as opposed to sent out via email or on paper.
- Parents can view up-to-date attendance information on the same day it is entered.
- Parents can view demographic information and contact the school should updates/changes need to be made

In the next few days, you will receive an email from [MyEd BC](#) providing you with your username and password to access the Family Portal. You will also receive an email from the school with further instructions on how access the portal. Please add sysadmin@myeducation.gov.bc.ca to your address book to make sure it does not end up in your junk mail. The message will look like this:

```
Parent,  
Welcome to the Southeast Kootenay MyEducation BC FAMILY PORTAL which will  
allow access to course information.  
  
To Access the MyEducation BC System  
1. Visit www.myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspen  
2. Make sure popups are enabled for your browser  
3. Your username will be: (sd5-firstinitiallastname)  
4. Your temporary password will be: (system generated code)
```

For instructions on how to use the portal, please refer to the [Family Portal Website](#). The [SD5 Family Portal Instructions to Parents](#) is found under the support button. There are also many useful support documents on this site for your reference.