



ELKFORD SECONDARY SCHOOL

October 2020 NEWSLETTER

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Michael Kelly, Principal

Ian Jarrell, Vice Principal

Principal's Message

I am taking this time to reflect on two months of being in a school during a pandemic. This is my third year at Elkford Secondary School (ESS) in the role of Principal. Each year has been unique: Year 1 - transition from past principal, Year 2 - gym flood, and this the most unique, Year 3 - Covid Pandemic. I wonder what normal looks like?

I would like to thank all students and parents who have been helping us deal with this unique time. The Province, School District Number 5, and ESS have all set out guidelines with the hopes of keeping the school open, ensuring learning is taking place, and keeping students and staff safe.

While not all COVID expectations are preferred for optimum student learning, these decisions have been put in place to keep people safe and the school open. Essentially making the best of a tough situation. Students have been following the policy of wearing masks in hallways and other common spaces, following one way traffic expectations in hallways, students are sticking to learning groups, and movement around the hallways has been limited by a variety of measures, including AM and PM classes.

Besides the changes to school routines students have been showing tremendous patience and resilience in adapting to these new policies. Again, a thanks is deserved.

As always a school performs at its best when all moving parts are working together. Students, Staff, and Parents are all required to make ESS the best it can be.

Be safe and never hesitate to contact me with a question,

Mike Kelly - Principal

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	
1	Time Change - fall back an hour
2	PE 10/11/12 Rock Climbing (Cranbrook)
3	School Photo Retakes
4	BC Literacy Assessment - gr 10
5	PE 10/11/12 Rock Climbing (Cranbrook)
6	PE 10/11/12 Skating
10	Remembrance Day Ceremony
11	NI Day – Stat (Remembrance Day)
12	Quarter 1 End
13	Quarter 2 Starts
18	PAC Meeting via Zoom, 6pm
19	Report Cards
24	Parent / Teacher Interviews - 2-4pm. Early Dismissal
25	Parent / Teacher Interviews - 2-4pm. Early Dismissal
27	NI Day - Yellow

Mark Your Calendar..... School Photos Retake Day, Friday, Nov 3

Reminders from the Office....

For attendance purposes, please notify the office at 250-865-4674 or email at ess.mailing@sd5.bc.ca if your child will be away from school for any reason. It is also important to contact teachers for homework. 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.



Remembrance Day Ceremony

Looking forward to November, we are beginning to organize Remembrance Day Ceremonies. This will be a collaborative project once again between ESS and RMES and will look considerably different this year as we account for COVID-19 health parameters. We will be having a live online event that will be streamed to all classrooms. This will limit large gatherings and interactions between learning groups and schools.

Though we cannot open our doors to the greater population at this time, we recognize the importance of community participation; particularly for an event such as this. We will be encouraging families and other community members to join us in our online ceremony by accessing the 'Microsoft Teams Live' link found on each school's website. We will also be reaching out to community members to participate in our ceremony digitally.

Speaking of parent/community participation, our ask is as follows:

If you have a family member who has served and are comfortable sharing, would you please send a picture of the service member to school with your child? Our vision is to make a video thanking our service men and women with a quick thank you from a student who is related to them or a close family friend.

For example, Mr. Skelton's brother served as a Military Policemen - so his daughter will be recorded with a picture of him saying "thank you Uncle Stephen" or some variation of that.

The more connections the better as we find new ways to honour those who have served for all of us. Physical pictures, or digital will be accepted!

In order to accommodate this idea and allow us time to create the video, we ask that all photos are submitted by November 2nd. Further details of this November 10th assembly will be sent at a later date.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out via email. Pictures can also be submitted to me by email, with the name of the service member and the student who will be honouring them.

Finally, please share this information with the others as we would be proud to provide this service to the greater community during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Ian Jarrell
ian.jarrell@sd5.bc.ca

French 8/9

A "BIG SHOUT OUT" to the French 8/9 class for excellent work on our 'ESS Has Talent' project. Students worked hard and were well prepared. They did an awesome job speaking in French and sharing many talents such as playing piano, animation, bike jumping, dancing, skate boarding, drawing, bracelet making, photography, video games, hunting and Lego creations. So much fun, a lot of learning and great talent! Congratulations French 8/9!!

Home Ec 7

Grade 7 Home Ec. students have been extremely busy practicing their baking skills and creating wonderful and tasty products. Students also learned how to sew and made their own stuffed turtle.



Workplace Math 11/12

Students from Workplace Math 11 and 12 have been busy designing their perfect tiny home – from ‘real-life’ measurements to intricate floor plans. All architectural plans were done by hand and the results were fantastic. Great job students!



Elkford Secondary PAC

The PAC meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6pm. The next meeting will be on November 18. This year, due to COVID 19, we will be meeting virtually from our homes. We encourage anyone who would like to attend our meetings, please advise Carmen in the Office (carmen.murray@sd5.bc.ca / 250-865-4674) and she will be sure to pass on the information and get you added to our email list.

Terry Fox



The Terry Fox run was a huge success at Elkford Secondary school. We fundraised over \$400 in just one week! The kids in this school were so helpful in donating to help us reach our goal. The day of the Terry Fox run was a beautiful day, and everyone had an amazing time, we spent our day recognizing Terry and his amazing journey throughout Canada. People ran/walked but they all had a blast and tried their best. At the end of the people's faces were lit up happiness. Leadership 8/9 was the lucky winner and raised the most money. It was a very tight count with Ms. Wenda's 8/9 class only 9 dollars behind. Overall, it was a great day, and we can't wait till next year.

-Emily Joy

Physics 11 in Motion

Through the first 5 weeks of school, physics students have been learning about how objects move, when force is applied. The grade 11s tried their hardest to build cars powered by either mouse traps or by balloons, while the grade 12s got medieval and built trebuchets.



Science 9

During one of the last warm weeks of October, Mrs. Culver's Science 9 class took part in the Know Your Watershed program delivered by Columbia Basin Trust. For half a day the class toured the local watershed here in Elkford and were guided by the knowledgeable and enthusiastic Janelle Park. Students tested water samples from Boivin Creek and had a blast identifying some of the small creatures they found in the water. Thanks to Janelle for showing the students why protecting our water supply is so important and a big thank you to the students for their enthusiasm in wearing hip waders and working with slimy creatures!



PE at Elkford Secondary School: Stewardship, Service Learning and the Connection it can Bring Within a Community During Covid.



This school year has brought a lot of changes to the landscape of the typical gym class. At Elkford Secondary, this has meant the typical one hour gym class for half the year is now 3 hours for a quarter of the year. It has also meant suggestions from the Ministry of Education that more classes be outside and students are not playing traditional close contact types of games or sports.

This year, students at Elkford Secondary have been

outside with everything from disc golf, to hiking and building survival shelters. Where the new changes have truly allowed this class to blossom and find its way, has been the freedom the extended class time has provided. This extra time has allowed students to give back to their community and find enrichment in their learning with stewardship and service learning in their PE program. Students have been going out and helping their community as well as active living clubs and societies. In late September, students picked up garbage along trails that a lot of students take to buy snacks from a nearby convenient store, as well as cleaned up their late night weekend gathering spots. In early October, students climbed Wapiti ski hill to clear problematic brush on a few main ski runs. Recently, students walked from the school to Boivin Cabin (7km round trip), where they stained and painted the backcountry building.



The initial idea behind this initiative was to show senior students how to support their community and how they can support active living volunteer organizations. The hope is that through these experiences, this will support students in helping to build healthy and active communities of the future. The other side of this initiative, is that through the stewardship and service learning activities, students will feel physically connected to their contributions, anchoring them to a sense of place within their community thereby enriching positive connections to their changed landscapes during Covid.

In order for this community building initiative to begin, it was supported by local organizations. I would like to thank the Lions Club for their Transportation Grant, with their support we were able to pay for a bus to the Wapiti Ski Hill. I would also like to thank the Wapiti Ski Club and the Nordic Society, for allowing students the opportunity to give back to their community and use of their tools and materials. Lastly, I would like to thank the students, they were willing to climb mountains, hike into the wilderness and work to support their community.

Great hustle, Mr. Gulyas



Seeing Beauty In Things

I like to go out of my way to see the beauty in nearly everything. I think it goes along with falling in love with life. I think we should all learn to fall in love with it, nearly every part of it, seeing beauty in television shows that are so weird that they're funny and mean cats and crunchy snow and mediocre sunsets and all-nighters and mascara running down your bottom lids on a hot day. Trying to look at everything like a piece of art can really change your perspective. Things like belts that don't have a hole to make it small enough to fit your waist, so you have to make your own, and a teacup someone has done their best to glue back together after dropping it on the dining room floor, and the paint chipping off a bathroom door. Old things like rotting fruit and classic rock. Things that are new like babies and iPhones. I like to imagine that when the sky is pretty colors that someone is falling in love with someone else and the sky is changing just for them, and I think imagination is beautiful too. Along with bad hair days and scuffed shoes sitting next to a new, shiny pair, and heart shaped chocolates and little designs on floors that you only notice when you're really, really bored, (for instance the hallway floors have a checkerboard pattern if you look very closely). Life is like an amazing piece of poetry. Its deep and sad and happy and the most difficult and aggravating thing but we still carry on, and I think that's beautiful. ~ Anonymous

Blanket Exercise

In October the grade 9 students were able to participate in the Blanket Exercise lead by Chief Joe Pierre and Faye O'Neil.

The KAIROS Blanket Exercise program is a unique, interactive and participatory history lesson developed in collaboration with Indigenous Elders, knowledge keepers and educators.

During the Blanket Exercise participants walk on blankets representing the land and into the role of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples by reading scrolls and carrying cards which ultimately determine their outcome as they literally 'walk' through situations that include pre-contact, treaty-making, colonization and resistance. Participants are guided through the experience by trained facilitators (who read the script and assume the roles of European explorers and settlers) and Indigenous Elders or knowledge keepers. The Exercise concludes with a debriefing, conducted as a 'talking circle', during which participants discuss the learning experience, process their feelings, ask questions, share insights and deepen their understanding.

For more information please check out: <https://www.kairosblanketexercise.org>



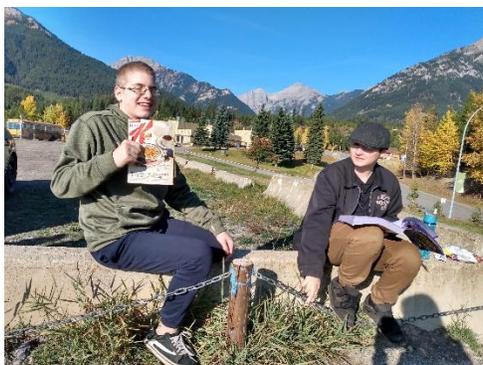
Art 8/9



It has been a busy month in our Art 8/9 class. When the weather was still nice and warm we went outside to collect organic material for our “weaving on twigs” and “nature wreaths” projects. As you can see in the attached pictures, students had a lot of fun when creating their pieces inspired by the local environment. In terms of projects, we completed the “Coffee Painted Portraits”, “Impasto Painting”, and “Drawing in Reverse”. Currently, we are working on a clay project of students’ choice.



Mrs. Wenda’s Foods 8/9 class has prepared several delicious and nutritional meals such as stir fry, spaghetti, crepes with whipped cream and strawberry sauce, French omelet with biscuits. We also baked cookies, chocolate cake and muffins. Additionally students participated in the cooking contest which was a very popular activity among the pupils promoting creative thinking and problem-solving skills.



Grade 7A Woodworking

