



# ELKFORD SECONDARY SCHOOL

## September 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

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### Principle's Message - Mike Kelly

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On the first Professional Development Day of the year, I got to listen to keynote speaker **Senator Murray Sinclair**. The topic of the day centered on **Reconciliation** and that is more important today than ever. For myself, as a former Social Studies teacher it made me reflect on whose history our students are learning. Today's students do not need to remember the facts of historical events. Today's students do not need to memorize a textbook. What today's students need to learn is how to be critical thinkers. Critical thinking involves the analysis of facts to form a judgement. Researchers have shared that critical thinking involves being inquiring, being open to new ideas, and most importantly having an open mind. It is time our youth start to question our perceptions and seek to understand Indigenous perspectives on both history and the present.

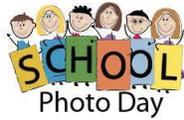
During grade meetings at Elkford Secondary School, a school tradition, I presented on the notion of respect. This year I focused on the idea of respecting yourself. Senator Sinclair in his keynote address shared the importance of taking care of oneself so that you are able to take care of others. Parents please remember that youth will often need reminders of how to do this. Getting enough sleep and eating well are important for youth to succeed. If the students take care of themselves, they will better be able to learn and just as important tend to their relationships at school.

Senator Sinclair also shared that sometimes we just need to sit with Mother Earth. We are blessed with nature in Elkford. The lives of youths are socially demanding with the domination of social media and learning how to navigate between friends, family, and school. With having two classes per day students are learning in a way that is unfamiliar to them. Students need to remember they must respect themselves by taking care of themselves. Sitting and reflecting in nature is a way student can bring peace to themselves and be prepared to move forward with treating others with respect.

Final share, I think this is an example that learning never stops. I wanted to impart a couple items I learned, and feel will help students succeed. This is just the start of a life of learning for the students of Elkford Secondary.

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## Upcoming Important Dates at ESS



SEPTEMBER		
	23	PE 10-12 Island Lake Lodge Hike, 11:20am - 7pm
	24	PE 10-12 Island Lake Lodge Hike, 11:20am - 7pm
	25	Block Rotation - Day 2
	30	Terry Fox Activities
	30	Orange Shirt Day
OCTOBER		
	1	School Photos
	2	Block Rotation - Day 1
	9	NI Day - Yellow
	12	NI Day - Stat (Thanksgiving)
	14	ESS PAC Meeting, 6pm
	14	Grad Meeting, 7:30, TEAMS (email invite)
	16	Q1 (T1) Report Cards Go Home
	16	Block Rotation - Day 2
	23	NI Day - Green
	30	Block Rotation - Day 1

**Mark Your Calendar.....**  
**School Photos, Tuesday, Oct 1**  
**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ess.mailing@sd5.bc.ca).

## Measure Twice, Cut Once!!

Wow! The days are flying by already! My name is Vaughn Olorenshaw (Mr.O). I have 22 years of experience teaching shop and am very excited to be the new Tech teacher at Elkford Secondary. My family and I just moved from the flat prairies, Oyen, Alberta, to the beautiful mountainous town of Sparwood.



I am currently teaching Woodworking 7 and Careers 9 for the first quarter of the year. We have had a fantastic start!! After only 6 days, we are already starting our third little project! We have learned how to measure with mm



(metric) both on paper and with computer aided drafting (CAD), and with small strips of wood to create our first hand-tool T-Puzzle project. We have discussed shop safety, hand-tool safety, and types of sandpaper. We then moved on to making wooden rings and learned about different types of hardwoods that would be good for jewelry making. Some students have started the third project: Mr. O's Famous Ring Puzzle that will be a challenge for the parents to solve. So far, the students have been great, keeping busy, and hopefully learning something.

I strongly believe in 'hands-on-learning' and feel that shop class is very important in schools. Unfortunately, due to the lack of funding in schools, the shop budgets have not kept up with inflation. This really limits what can be taught to the students, and what kind of materials and machines can be purchased. Any donations would be very much appreciated. Please contact me if you have any resources that you think might be useful for our classes at [Vaughn.Olorenshaw@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:Vaughn.Olorenshaw@sd5.bc.ca).

I am honored and excited to be able to teach and build new relationships with your kids.

## Aboriginal Education

Welcome back to another exciting year at Elkford Secondary School. The Aboriginal program at ESS is for all students who identify themselves as being of Aboriginal Ancestry. All students with Aboriginal Ancestors are eligible for Support Services through the Aboriginal Program. Examples of support: advocacy, communicating between home and school, classroom presentations, educational trips and student support. Every year students with Aboriginal Ancestry have not identified themselves as Aboriginal because they mistakenly believe they need Status or Metis card. This is not the case. If you know that you or your children have Aboriginal Ancestry (First Nations, Metis, Inuit) your word is all that is required. Please share this information with others to help ensure all Aboriginal students receive support.



Please feel free to contact me if you have any question regarding the program or my role as an Aboriginal Education Support Worker.

### Brenda Newlove

Aboriginal Education Support Worker  
Elkford Secondary

[brenda.newlove@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:brenda.newlove@sd5.bc.ca)

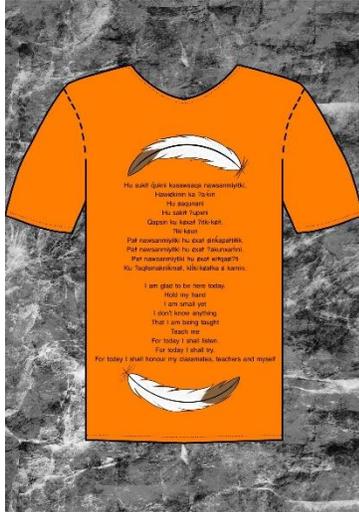
250-425-9153

Acknowledging the homelands of the Ktunaxa People



## Orange Shirt Day

We will be participating in Orange Shirt Day on September 30th. This is an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. **Please wear an Orange shirt on Sept. 30th!**



- Orange Shirt Day started in Williams Lake in 2013. Orange Shirt Day (September 30) is a day when we honour the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada and learn more about the history of those schools.
- The “Orange Shirt” in Orange Shirt Day refers to the new shirt that Phyllis Webstad was given to her by her grandmother for her first day of school at St. Joseph’s Mission Residential School in British Columbia. When Phyllis got to school, they took away her clothes, including her new shirt. It was never returned. To Phyllis, the colour orange has always reminded her of her experiences at residential school and, as she has said, “How my feelings didn’t matter how no one cared and I felt like I was worth nothing. All of us little children were crying and no one cared.”

This is an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually. The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year.

## Terry Fox

40 years ago, a young man set out to make the world a little better by raising funds for cancer research. He set an incredible example of leadership and his legacy continues as students of all ages take up his cause each year by following in his footsteps. This year has many challenges for us and so we need our students to lead the way more than ever now. We invite all students to use Terry’s example of leadership, strength and determination to help lead the way to unleash their creativity and set great new examples of leadership, just like Terry did.

Elkford Secondary is proud to be continuing the legacy of one of our greatest heroes. Please join us and support this wonderful cause by donating to: <http://www.terryfox.ca/ElkfordElementarySecondary>.

Together, we can all make a difference! #terryfoxschoolruns @terryfoxfoundation. As well, Leadership 8/9 will be supplying classrooms with jars for fundraising for Terry Fox. On September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, we will be collecting toonies and on September 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> we will be collecting loonies.

The staggered run will be scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup>. Please support this important cause!



## Elkford Secondary School Meals Program

Welcome back to school ESS students and Families!

Here at ESS we want to make sure our students start each day with breakfast. Breakfast will continue to be available to all students everyday.

Students can access individual bagged breakfasts first thing each morning from our AB ED worker Brenda Newlove, Education Assistants or myself, Amanda Culver – Youth Care Worker.

Daily lunches and snacks are also available to all students. Just ask!

Please feel free to contact Brenda Newlove - ABED or myself (Amanda Culver – YCW) with any questions or concerns.

## Take 15 - Literacy Break

This year ESS is taking a break for 15 each day. From 10 – 10:15 all students and staff will be stopping what they are doing and will be reading for 15 minutes.



## Elkford Secondary PAC

We find ourselves getting back into the daily hustle and bustle of a new school year, and your ESS PAC has also started in full swing with our first meeting held last night via Zoom.

The PAC meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6pm. The next meeting will be on October 14<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto: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.

ESS PAC is currently looking to fill the following positions as soon as possible:

- Treasurer
- Secretary

**\* If you are interested in filling one of these positions please advise the school and we will get you all the materials / information you require for a successful year on our committee.**

Sincerely,

Tammy Ogilvie  
ESS PAC Chair  
**Art and Foods 8/9**

Here are a few snapshots from Mrs. Wenda's Art and Foods Classes. During the first two weeks of school in Foods we had a chance to discuss safety and sanitation, practice basic knife skills and learn about flour mixtures. We have made waffles, bread and carrot cake! As you can see in the pictures, all activities were completed with enthusiasm and the products were consumed pretty quickly.



In Art, we started our traditional Sketchbook Challenges, Decalcomania Project and also completed quick sketches of the Wapiti Mountain. It has been great so far to experience a variety of different art techniques and approaches the young artists used for their creations! I look forward to seeing more of my students' ideas and skills in the coming weeks! Way to go Art and Foods 8/9 Classes!





## Garbage Pick Up

Thank you to all the ESS Students who helped pick up litter uptown! Several of our students decided on their own to pick up garbage one evening. Thank you to Harmoni Harry Heather and Annaka Rodd who led this initiative with the help of several friends.

The PE 10/11/12 class was also busy picking up litter in areas around ESS the week of September 20.



## COVID Self Assessment

Please see the below updated COVID Self Assessment form. This replaces the former self-assessment form that was sent out at the beginning of the school year. This new self-assessment list adheres to Ministry of Health, and Ministry Of Education guidelines. It is our hope that this will simplify identifying symptoms, when to stay home and when to contact 811.

Some key changes:

- shortened list of symptoms to look out for
- If students/staff show a single symptom(not including fever), they can monitor their health for 24hrs without need to contact 811.
- If symptoms do not improve, a fever develops, or a 2nd symptom develops, seek a health assessment or call 811.

This form is for your own personal use and does not need to be signed or returned. This same form was also emailed out to all parents on September 22.



### Self-Assessment

The following is an example of a daily health check for students or employees to determine if you should attend school that day.

		Daily Health Check		
1.	Key Symptoms of Illness	Do you have any of the following new key symptoms?	Circle One	
		Fever	Yes	No
		Chills	Yes	No
		Cough or worsening of chronic cough	Yes	No
		Loss of sense of smell or taste	Yes	No
		Diarrhea	Yes	No
		Loss of appetite	Yes	No
		Nausea and vomiting	Yes	No
2.	International Travel	Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	Yes	No
3.	Confirmed Contact	Are you a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?	Yes	No

If you answered "YES" to one of the questions included under "Key Symptoms of Illness" (excluding fever), you should stay home for 24 hours from when the symptom started. If the symptom improves, you may return to school when you feel well enough. If the symptom persists or worsens, seek a health assessment.

If you answered "YES" to two or more of the questions included under "Symptoms of Illness" or you have a fever, seek a health assessment. A health assessment includes calling 8-1-1, or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner. If a health assessment is required, you should not return to school until COVID-19 has been excluded and your symptoms have improved.

When a COVID-19 test is recommended by the health assessment:

- If the COVID-19 test is **positive**, you should stay home until you are told by public health to end self-isolation. In most cases this is 10 days after the onset of symptoms. Public health will contact everyone with a positive test.
- If the COVID-19 test is **negative**, you can return to school once symptoms have improved and you feel well enough. Symptoms of common respiratory illnesses can persist for a week or more. Re-testing is not needed unless you develop a new illness.
- If a COVID-19 test is **recommended but is not done** because you choose not to have the test, or you do not seek a health assessment when recommended, and your symptoms are not related to a previously diagnosed health condition, you should stay home from school until 10 days after the onset of symptoms, and then you may return if you are feeling well enough.

If a COVID-19 test is not recommended by the health assessment, you can return to school when symptoms improve and you feel well enough. Testing may not be recommended if the assessment determines that the symptoms are due to another cause (i.e. not COVID-19).

If you answered "YES" to questions 2 or 3, use the COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool to determine if you should seek testing for COVID-19.

**A health-care provider note (i.e. a doctor's note) should not be required to confirm the health status of any individual.**

940 Industrial Road #1, Cranbrook, BC V1C 4C6 • Tel: 250-426-4201 • Fax: 250-489-5460 • www.sd5.bc.ca

# School District 5

## 2020-2021 Annual School Calendar

July 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2020						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2020						
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27	28	29	30			

October 2020						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2021						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

- School Breaks
- Stat Holidays
- Professional Development Days
- Administrative Day
- Second Semester

Approved May 14, 2019