



Principal's Message

Important Dates

Mark your calendar!

- Nov 26: No School
- Dec 8: PAC Meeting
- Dec 2: RISE Assembly
- Dec 8: Adventure Club
- Dec 13: SAIT virtual Presentation
- Dec 16: Newsletter
- Dec 18-Jan 2: Winter break
- Jan 3: Back to School
- Jan 12: PAC Meeting
- Jan 31: Semester 2 begins

As the holiday break approaches it has me reflecting on the importance of communication. In the case of the holidays, for me it is around connecting with all the important people in my life and communicating to all the people who can use a hello. We have had a tough couple of years, and it seems more important than ever to take some extra time over the holidays and reach out to others. Reconnect and make new connections with people who have been struggling.

Communicating in school is also important. Parents, please take the time to reach out to teachers and support staff with questions or problem-solving ideas. Working together to solve problems and help students achieve their potential is one of the best parts of teaching.

A reminder that teachers, support staff, and admin can be reached via email (firstname.lastname@sd5.bc.ca), telephone (250-865-4674), or video conference (TEAMS, email or call to set up a time).

Proud to be a Celtic,

Mike Kelly (michael.kelly@sd5.bc.ca)



No student should be absent from the school unless the parent has notified the school of this absence. This includes leaving at lunch. If a student is not going to return after lunch, parents should notify the school of this absence.

You can call the school at **250-865-4674**, use the **SchoolMessenger** app, or email the school at ess.mailing@sd5.bc.ca to report any absence.

Aboriginal Corner

Rocky Mountain Elementary and Elkford Secondary School joined together with Nasu?kin Joe Pierre, Numa ka•kin (drummers), and Metis Elders for a Blessing of the Stones Ceremony. Staff and students got to participate and learn the meaning of these stone circles. We all enjoyed the beat of the drum and the sound of the singers. The sun was shining, and the beautiful view of the mountains enhanced this amazing experience. Our school community is thankful they came to Elkford to share their culture and bless our stones.



November 15th - 19th Was Metis Week

Metis week marks the celebration of the Metis people, their culture, and their contributions. The Metis are descendants of French Canadian or European fur traders and First Nations, who have evolved to develop their own unique and distinct culture. The infinity sign, a Metis symbol, is used to represent the coming together of two cultures. Throughout the week we learned about Metis culture and taking part in this celebration. Students loved the fresh Bannock throughout the week.

The Ktunaxa words for this month are:

Ka Papa – Grandpa

Ka Papa – Grandma

(We double checked this is how they were in the book)



Elkford Secondary School
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
Ryan McAllister, Vice Principal



*Vaping or Smoking is Prohibited on **all school property**. If any student requires support with quitting, please see the **School Counselor** for assistance.*

Metis Sash Its Uses

B B M E T I S S A S H B V G
L J V Z L P X R A K S S S O
U M E N D C L O T H I N G L
E S P T A S S E L S I E G D
T P X W K W R A P D B Y O B
X S Y M B O L R W H I T E R
S L C N X G R E E N Q Q J I
S A C K S K R D D Z V Z F D
C A R R Y C A N O E S Y U L
R C U X W O R N D A I L Y E
R P D O G H A R N E S S E S
E O T M A K E S N A R E S P
O R D E R O F T H E S A S H
U L O O M S U R V I V A L E

BLUE
BRIDLES
CARRYCANOES
DOGHARNESSES
GOLD
GREEN
LOOM
MAKESNARES
MENDCLOTHING
ORDEROFTHESASH

SYMBOL
TASSELS
WHITE
WORNDAILY
WRAP
SACKS
SURVIVAL
RED
METISSASH



Staff Spotlight

Hello Elkford Secondary School families. My name is Amanda Culver and I am the Youth Care Worker here at ESS. I have been working in the field of supporting students, children, and families for about 19 years now. Everything from residential treatment centres in England to family support work here in the Valley. I started with SD5 in 2018 and have loved every minute of it. New this school year I am working full time at ESS instead of sharing my time between two schools. The time I get to spend with students and staff members has been very rewarding and fulfilling. I am a valley local, living on my hobby farm outside of Sparwood with my husband and two sons. Just one farmyard over from my childhood home. On the farm I enjoy tending to the chickens, having campfires and just being outside.



My name is Nancy Buchan. My husband and I moved to Elkford in the summer of 1990 after completing my degree at University of Lethbridge. Having lived in the prairies, it was quite a change to be surrounded by the mountains. I still remember getting a phone call to look out my front window at a moose in our front yard. My first job was teaching grade one at Elkford Elementary School and from there, I taught a variety of grades at Rocky Mountain Elementary, Isabella Dicken and Mountainview Elementary. I finally put down roots at Elkford Secondary in 2007. It has been exciting to teach students of past students and I believe that ESS is a hidden treasure at the 'beginning' of the road! I love that our daughters Shelby and Taylor have decided to return to Elkford to pursue their careers. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, camping and golf.



RISE TO THE SUMMIT

'Celtic Character Award' celebrates the culture of ESS, while supporting students in developing the character it takes to be successful and happy individuals at school and in the world.

RESPECT - ha#i#kaxuma#i#i#

INTEGRITY - #makki

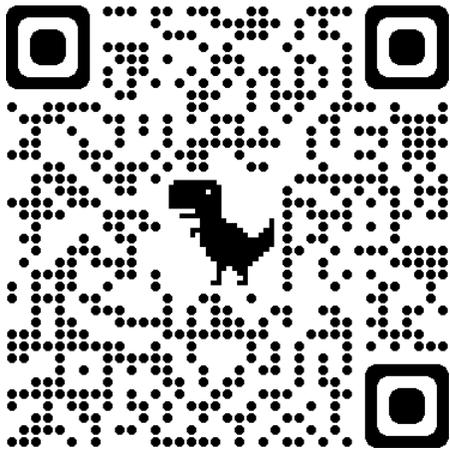
STRENGTH - #makqa

EMPATHY - haki#wi#ki#in



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Book Nook

ALL IN PIECES by Suzanne Young

"Anger-management issues." - That's how they classified Savannah Sutton after she stuck a pencil in her ex-boyfriend's hand because he mocked her little brother, Evan, for being disabled. That's why they sent her to Brooks Academy—an alternative high school that's used as a temporary detention center.

The days at Brooks are miserable, but at home, life is far more bleak. Savvy's struggling to take care of her brother since her mom left years ago, and her alcoholic dad can't be bothered. Life with Evan is a constant challenge, but he's also the most important person in the world to Savvy.

Then there's Cameron, a new student at Brooks with issues of his own, a guy from a perfect family that Savvy thought only existed on TV. Cameron seems determined to break through every one of the walls Savvy's built around herself—except if she lets herself trust him, it could make everything she's worked so hard for fall apart in an instant.

And with her aunt seeking custody of her brother and her ex-boyfriend seeking revenge, Savvy's fighting to hold all the pieces together. But she's not sure how much tighter she can be pulled before she breaks completely.



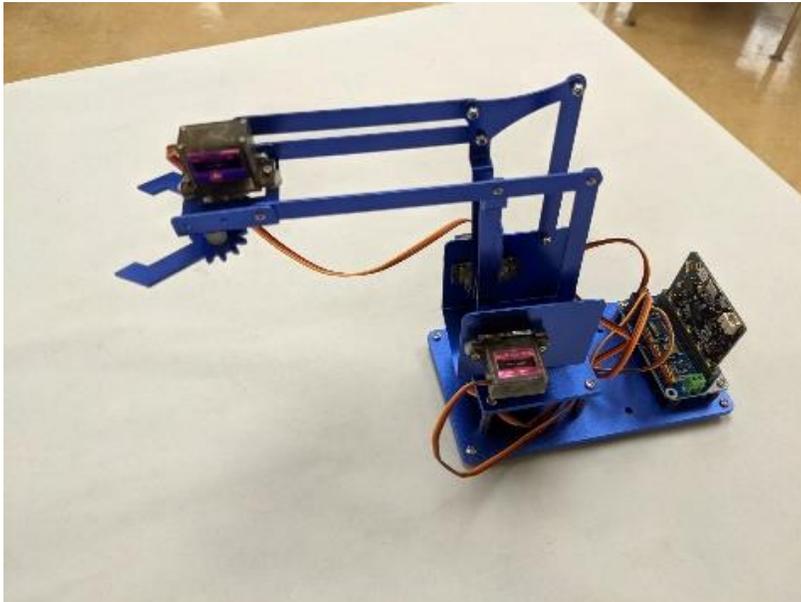
Tehya says "this book is a page turner to say the least! This can be relatable to any young person. It is easy to relate to Savannah in any way, through her struggles, triumphs, and internal conflicts. Seeing her succeed gives hope for ourselves. I recommend this book!"



Check out our new Facebook page.

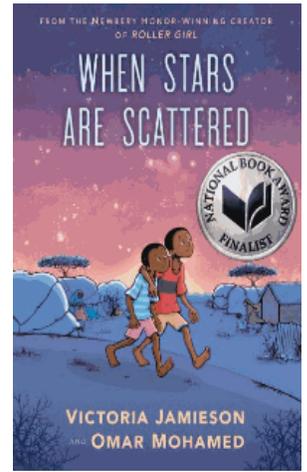
Mr. Roszell's Sr. Computers Class

In Senior Computers we were working on building some robotic arms this week. Next week we will be programming them to have a contest to see which team can pick up the most objects in a given time!



Book Nook 2

WHEN STARS ARE SCATTERED by Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed



"Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp, and when an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother in this intimate and touching portrayal of family and daily life in a refugee camp"



Mya says "I enjoyed this book very much. It shows a refugee camp from a young boy's perspective. I recommend this book for people who like reading about things that are happening in real life."

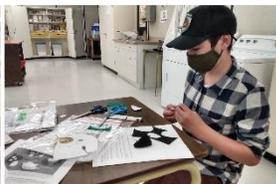
Thank You Atco at the Elk Valley Lodge for the continued food donations.

On top of all of the everyday breakfast and lunch items, Atco provided sweet treats for all of our student pumpkin carvers.

And.... on the sleepy Monday morning after Halloween Atco provided hot breakfast sandwiches to the entire school population!

Home Ec. 7

Mrs. Wenda's class during their kitchen lab and finishing the sewing project.



Art 8/9

Students working on the abstract sculptures made of wire and nylon in Mrs. Wenda's class.



Foods 10, 11, 12

Mrs. Wenda's class was challenged to make savory and sweet pierogies – look at the great results!



Social Studies 8

Students have been using technology to explore castles, and learn about attack and defence methods during the Middle Ages. We have completed a digital breakout room, used virtual reality, and are now designing castles with MinecraftEdu.



French 8/9

This month, students have been exploring Francophone culture with a weekly song on musique mercredi, trying Francophone food, and learning about La Toussaint (All Saints Day).



Some Highlights from October's Spirt Week

A big shout out to PAC for their help with our first pumpkin carving event! They donated \$100 toward the purchase of the pumpkins and matched students' donations to the Elkford Food Bank. So far, we have \$216.00 to donate. Stay tuned for December's fund-raising event!



More Spirt Week Highlights!





Indigenous
Caregivers of BC



BRITISH
COLUMBIA



foster
parents
50 YEARS
BCFFPA

FosterNow.ca



**"She believed in me until I could believe in myself." - Guy,
*Former youth in care***

Throughout this pandemic, children are still coming into care. If becoming a foster parent has been on your mind, please reach out to us.

Ministry of Children and Family Development Local Contact:

Resource Social Worker: Halina Wloka

Ph: 250-423-9718

Email: Halina.Wloka@gov.bc.ca

341 2nd Avenue

PO Box 950

Fernie, British Columbia, V0B 1M0

Payments

Making payments to the school has never been easier with SchoolCashOnline. Of course, you can still pay the old fashion way at the office with Check or Cash. Please see the directions below, to pay any outstanding school fees.

Welcome to SchoolCashOnline

Fast. Safe. Convenient.



What is School Cash Online?

School Cash Online allows parents to easily make online payments for the school fees available to their children.

- ✓ Pay all your student's school fees with the click of a button. Wherever. Whenever.
- ✓ Stay connected and informed of all school activities
- ✓ Never miss out on field trips, school events, yearbooks and more
- ✓ Say hello to smart online forms, and goodbye to cumbersome paper based forms for data submissions

How to Register

Follow these instructions to create your School Cash Online account today.

- 1 Create Your Profile:**
Go to <https://sd5.schoolcashionline.com> and click on "Register".
- 2 Confirm Your Email:**
Check your inbox for the email confirmation and click on the link inside. Sign in with your new login details.
- 3 Add a Student**
Click "Add Student" and fill in the required fields with your child's details.

Accepted Payment Methods



How to Report an Absence

SchoolMessenger SafeArrival

To report an absence to the school you may choose any of the following methods:

- call 1-833 566-1225
- Access the website
<https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>
- download App from Apple or Google Play

Please choose the reason for your child's absence from school: sick, appointment, family vacation, etc. **Don't forget to wait for confirmation # to ensure your child's absence has been recorded.**

How to sign up for SMS

School Messenger SMS

Our district utilizes the School Messenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.

You can join by sending a text message of "Yes" or "Y" to **978338**.

Please make sure you are utilizing the cellular number that the school has on record. The cellular phone number for SMS must match the contact information on file.

For more information and detailed instructions visit our support page on the School District Website

<http://www.sd5.bc.ca/studentparent/SchoolMessenger/Pages/default.aspx#/=>



MyEd Family Portal

Report cards are coming soon. Now is a good time to familiarize yourself with the MyEd Family Portal. Since last year our school has done report cards electronically. Thus, cutting our paper waste and reducing the number of students that lose them on the way home. If you need any assistance, please feel free to contact us at the office 250-865-4674.

Click here for [Family Portal Information](#). Also check out the quick notes below.

Initial Log In



We recommend to use a **Laptop** or **Desktop Computer** to initialize your account.

Pop Ups should be **enabled** for some features of the site to work properly.

Login to MYEDBC: <https://www.myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspen/logon.do>

Family Portal Login ID: **sd5-firstinitiallastname** (all lower case)

Welcome to MyEducation BC!

1. Enter your **Login ID**
2. Enter your **Password** (Case Sensitive)
3. Click **Log On**

1. **Current Password** – enter the temporary password
2. **New Password** – enter the new user created password
3. **Confirm New Password** – enter the new user created password a second time

Passwords are good for 90 days to protect your child's data and you will be prompted to change your password.

Passwords must meet the following criteria:

- ✓ Minimum length is **8**
- ✓ At least one **number**
- ✓ At least one **capital letter**
- ✓ At least one **lowercase letter**
- ✓ At least one **symbol** that isn't a letter or number
- ✓ Cannot contain login name, first name, middle name, last name, date of birth, personal id, or only sequential letters or numbers.

Security Preferences Update
To enable self serve password recovery, please provide the following information

This will allow you to use the '**I forgot my password**' function on the logon page, should you need to reset your password.

1. Enter your **Primary Email address**. This email address will be used to receive a new password if you forget your password.
2. Choose a **Security Question**
3. Enter your **Security Answer** then confirm your security answer. (Case Sensitive)
4. Click **Submit**