



Principal's Message – Mike Kelly

How do we educate youth for the 21st century? We used to have students collect facts and details, but today we don't know what facts and details they will need. The year 2022 marks the 15th anniversary of the iPhone – wow, the world has changed a lot in 15 years. How do we know what facts and details are needed for the future? Are all the facts and details we need for the future in our pockets? The best way to future-proof youth is to help them become problem solvers. Moving forward youth will be faced with a variety of challenges and they will need to assemble resources and figure out ways to meet those challenges. Over time and with practice youth will become quicker at problem-solving to the point it will become a skill they hold and can transfer across time and space.

Creativity is a key to problem-solving and a skill that can be practiced – it is not, as many think a magic moment or a trait that some possess and others don't. Creativity is a process that includes preparation, incubation, illumination, and verification. The first step to creatively solving a problem is preparation. Youth should collect as much background information on the problem as possible. Technology is a great starting point; Google, YouTube, and social media are great starting points. We must not forget books, newspapers, and journals as sources of background information. Once full of background information on the problem, it is time to incubate or to step away from the problem. Go for a run, listen to music, or play with the idea through light discussion with others. The illumination stage is the time when the thesis or solution to the problem has come. Part of the illumination stage includes compiling and organizing information, craftsmanship is key! Finally, the verification stage is to check if the problem has been solved. This is best done with an actual audience.

Problem-solving is a key to success in the 21st century. Creativity is a key tool youth can use to problem-solve. It is a must that youth practice the steps within creativity to assist with becoming proficient problem solvers. Students at Elkford Secondary School can use creativity and problem solving to move towards a growth mindset and excel in the 21st century.

Fisher, D., & Frey, N. (2017). Apprenticing students into a way of thinking: Three strategies can help students become future-proof problem solvers. *Educational Leadership*, 75(2), 83-84.

Tomlinson, C. (2017). Catalyst for creativity. *Educational Leadership*, 75(2), 91-92.

Tucker, C. (2017). Putting them in the driver's seat: Give students the freedom and tech range to become problem solvers. *Educational Leadership*, 75(2), 85-86.

Important Dates

- Jan 28: Semester 1 & Quarter 2 Ends
- Jan 31: Semester 2 & Quarter 3 Begins
- Feb 7: Last day to change courses
- Feb 8: Report Cards Published
- Feb 9: PAC meeting @ 6:00 pm
- Feb 18: No School - ProD
- Feb 21: No School - Family Day
- Feb 23: Last day to withdraw from courses
- Feb 24: Newsletter

Mark your calendar!



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.

Staff Spotlight

This is my fourth year as Principal at Elkford Secondary School, in total I have worked at ESS for 8 years. I am proud when I see students working on their literacy skills during Take 15. I can't think of a school subject or a career where you don't have to acquire new information and transform it to new understanding. Seeing students gain leadership skills is also important to me. Empowering students with skills such as communication, empathy, metacognition, craftsmanship, responsibility etc. to make a difference in the community of Elkford or wherever their lives take them is what drives me as an educator.

Outside the school I love to ski, mountain bike, motorbike, listen to music, and read. I also find myself "parenting" my two German Sheppard's, Mogul and Fenix.

I am proud to be a Celtic, work with wonderful people, and to be on a learning journey with the wonderful students of ESS.



Hello Elkford Secondary community!

My name is Ian Jarrell aka Mr. J. I grew up in Southern Ontario where I gained an appreciation for working with youth through outdoor recreation and education programs. Naturally pushing me towards teaching and education, I received my teaching degree in Northern Ontario before moving to the Elk Valley in 2008. Being in a place that provided opportunities to teach while being immersed in a beautiful area, Fernie became a natural choice for my family to settle. Since then, I have worked at Elkford Secondary School for 11 years now, trying my hand in Physical Education, Social Studies and Administration. Pursuing my goal of lifelong learning, I completed my Master's in Leadership and Education from Gonzaga University in 2017. My future self is excited to continue to build new skills and acquire new knowledge as a classroom leader and enjoy my off-time skiing, golfing, and traveling.

I look forward to building new education experiences with students at ESS.

Staff Spotlight

Hello everyone! My name is Muriel Kirby and I am the newest teacher at Elkford Secondary School. This is my second year teaching. I grew up in Airdrie, Alberta and started my teaching career in Okotoks. I completed my teaching and history degrees at the University of Lethbridge and specialized in social studies education. I moved to the area in October from Alberta. I

currently teach careers, food, social, and ELA. As a teacher my goal is to help students achieve that “ah ha” moment and spark a desire to be a lifelong learner. ESS has been such a welcoming community and I have greatly enjoyed my short time at the school so far. During my free time I enjoy reading, watching history movies, and baking. I look forward to becoming more involved with the Elkford community moving forward and helping your students grow.



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 - c+makki

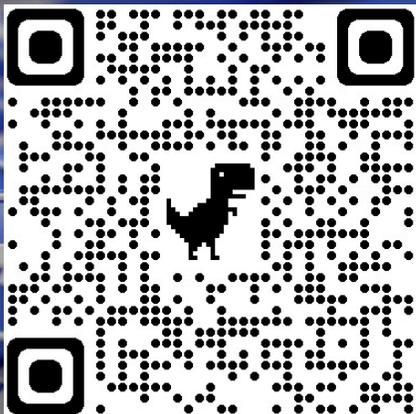
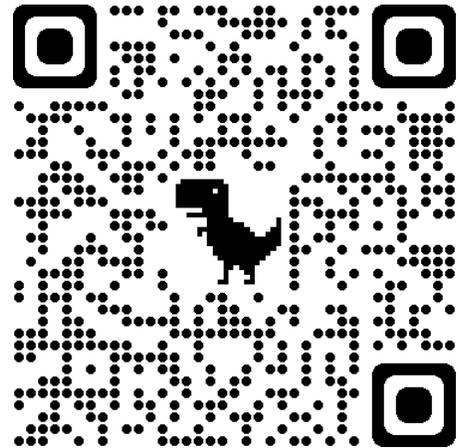
STRENGTH - c+makqa

EMPATHY - haki+i>wi+ciki+i



Made with PosterMyWall.com

To learn more about this program please check out the QR Code below:



Check out our new Facebook page.

Art 8/9

students at Elkford Secondary School have been working on Lino-cut projects inspired by Aboriginal Ways of Knowing. Students had to design a picture representing First Nations' world views, carve the linoleum and print the image. We used both – creative and critical thinking – for the image development strategies and to learn this challenging technique. The prints turned out great!



Home Ec. 7

class learners completed their first sewing project – felt animals key chains. We learned basic hand stitching and had a lot of fun stuffing the little felt creatures.



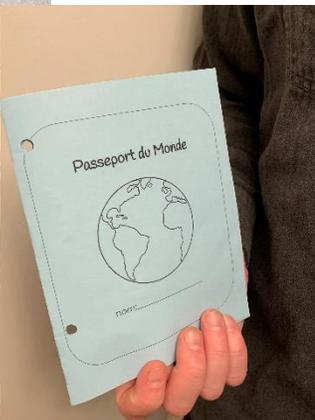
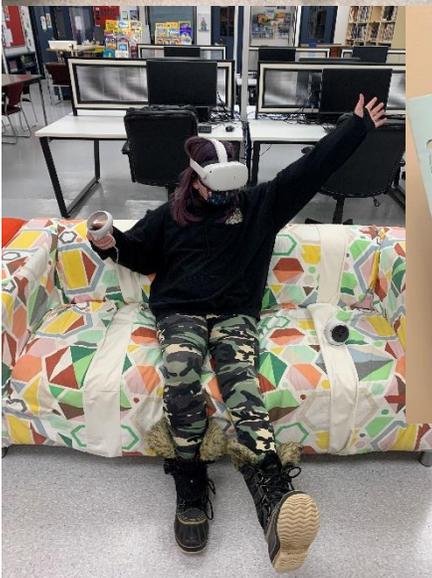
Elkford Secondary School
2500 B Balmer Dr.,
PO Box 910, Elkford, BC V0B 1H0
Phone: 250-865-4674 Fax: 250-865-2915
Website: <http://www.sd5.bc.ca/school/ess>
Michael Kelly, Principal
Ryan McAllister, Vice Principal



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



French 8/9
 Students have focused on music, culture, and the francophone world. They even travelled to 8 incredible locations using virtual reality. Bonne voyage!



Aboriginal Education Circle

Nicole Tanner in grade 9 got her beautiful artwork displayed in this years SD5 Aboriginal Education Calendar.



Words for January

ka tat
 brother

ka çu
 sister

Are you interested in working at ESS on an emergency call out basis?

Please submit your resume to Michael Kelly our principal at michael.kelly@sd5.bc.ca

Draft Annual Calendar For 2023/2024

Comments/suggestions will be accepted in writing to amanda.skene@sd5.bc.ca on or before February 28, 2022.
The information collected will be taken to the Board of Education for their consideration

School District 5

2023-2024 Annual School Calendar

July 2023						
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 2023						
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		

September 2023						
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

October 2023						
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				

November 2023						
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		

December 2023						
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						

January 2024						
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			

February 2024						
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		

March 2024						
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						

April 2024						
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				

May 2024						
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	

June 2024						
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
-  Professional Development Days
-  Stat Holidays
-  Administrative Day
-  Second Semester

Local School Calendar (School District No.5, Southeast Kootenay)

From the School Act, sections 87.01 and 87.02 and the new
School Calendar Regulation

Days in Session	180
Days of Instruction	173
Non-Instructional Professional Development Days	6
Administrative Day	1
First Day of School	Tuesday, September 5, 2023
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	Friday, September 29, 2023
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 9, 2023
Remembrance Day	Friday, November 10, 2023
Christmas vacation period	Friday, December 25, 2023 - Friday, January 5, 2024
Schools reopen after Christmas vacation	Tuesday, January 8, 2024
First day of second semester	Monday, January 29, 2024
Family Day	Monday, February 19, 2024
Spring vacation period	Monday, March 18, 2024 to Thursday, March 28, 2024
Good Friday	Friday, March 29, 2024
Easter Monday	Monday, April 1, 2024
Schools reopen after Spring vacation	Tuesday, April 2, 2024
Victoria Day	Monday, May 20, 2024
Last day of school for students	Thursday, June 27, 2024
Administrative Day	Friday, June 28, 2024
Minimum Hours of instruction (Kindergarten)	853 hrs
Minimum Hours of instruction (Elementary)	878 hrs
Minimum Hours of instruction (Secondary)	952 hrs
Minimum Hours of instruction per day (Elementary)	5 hrs 5 min
Minimum Hours of instruction per day (Secondary)	5 hrs 31 min

Professional Development Days	Who Attends	School Breaks	
		Semester 1	Semester 2
September 22 – District Day – Indigenous	For all contractual employees		
October 20 – Provincial Specialist Teachers' Association	Youth Care Worker mini conference Clerical Pro-D Day	November 24	February 16
December 8 - School Based	Teacher led CUPE staff on approval of the principal	December 25- January 5	March 1
February 2 – School Based	Education Assistant mini-conference Clerical Pro-D Day	January 26	April 19
April 22 – Regional Specialist Teachers' Association	Teacher led CUPE staff on approval of the principal		May 3, May 17
June 7 – School Based	CUPE staff on approval of the principal		June 14

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)

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

Password Requirements

- Minimum length is 8
- At least one number
- At least one capital and lowercase letter
- At least one symbol that isn't a letter or number
- Can't contain 'password', login name, first name, last name, date of birth, personal id, letters or numbers

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

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**

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