



Principal's Message

Mark your
calendar!

Important Dates

- Jan 3: First day back
- Jan 9, 10, & 11: Grad Photos
- Jan 11: PAC Meeting
- Jan 26: Newsletter
- Jan 26: Semester 1 Ends
- Jan 27: No School
- Jan 30: Semester 2 Begins
- Feb 8: PAC Meeting

Dear ESS Families,

We appreciate all of you who came out to our Family/Teacher Interviews. It is always so great to see families here in the building!

As we reflect, we see all the growth and change that has happened in our school. It seems hard to believe that we are already into the winter break. Students have accomplished a great deal, and this time of year is always a great time to celebrate the learning that has happened in our building.

As always, we ask that you reach out with any questions about your child's learning. Research suggests that the more communication between home and school, the better the student's success at school is.

Take time during the break to celebrate the successes with your child. A lot has happened, including academics, clubs, sports, and all of these deserve to be recognized.

This season, we wish everyone the best in a well-deserved break. If you celebrate, have a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year



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 Education Circle

November has been a busy month for the Indigenous Program. Erica Vogt came in to share a presentation with students on Indigenous Veterans Day. Erica has been away from Elkford for several years focusing on History and Aboriginal studies in university. We are very fortunate that she has been so willing to come back to ESS to share some knowledge with us.



Grade 8 student, Kristofer Blackmore, shared his knowledge of beading. We were able to complete some beautiful, beaded poppies. Kristofer and Brenda will be continuing to help other students who would like to learn to bead at lunch times in Brenda's room.

Grade 12 student, Allie Hurley, contributed to her capstone by helping to plan activities and events during Metis week. Jacey Pumphrey and Erica Vogt both spent a full day with Allie making Bannock that most everyone at school got to enjoy. Erica also spent another full day with Allie, where Erica presented and shared about Metis culture to all students in the school.

Thank you, Allie, Erica, and Jacey!

Grade 11 and 12 Indigenous girls joined up with students from SSS and FSS to take a self defence class. The girls learned some amazing skills and had fun while practicing. Thank you to Kootenay Taekwondo for sharing such important skills with these girls.

Students ended last week with big smiles and lots of laughter. We were fortunate to have JJ Guy and Gordon Strobbe of 'Twin Fiddlers' join us for a full school assembly where staff and students all listened, danced, and laughed together. It was wonderful seeing so many smiling faces. We can't wait till next year to have them back again!



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.

Staff Spotlight

My name is Breanne King.

I grew up in Lethbridge and went to university for my teaching and mathematics degree there. I've been teaching for school district 5 for four years- one previously at ESS and I am excited to be a part of the ESS community again! I'm a mom of four amazing kids and we live in Elkford. I love being outside, hiking and exploring; travelling is one of my passions and I have visited thirteen countries and would love to visit more. I speak French and am currently working to learn American Sign Language. I love music; I sing, play the piano and am attempting to learn and ukulele.



Hi, my name is Sarah Brooks.

I am one of the Student Services teachers here at Elkford Secondary School. I moved to the Kootenays from Port McNeill, on Vancouver Island at the end of August and have been really enjoying exploring the area! I have been a teacher for 16 years, but when I am not in school, I enjoy scrapbooking, skiing, dirt biking, biking, camping, fishing, and watching my boys play hockey. Really anything to spend time with my family! Wishing you all a happy holiday season. All the best in the New Year! ~Sarah Brooks

Staff Spotlight

Hi, my name is Nicole

I have lived in Elkford since 2018, moved here for my husband's "Mike" job at Fording River Operations. I have worked a few different jobs in the area, one of which has been as an on-call member of the "Emergency List/Casual List" for all jobs at the schools in both Elkford and Sparwood. Recently been hired on at Elkford Secondary School as an Unqualified Educational Assistant, working with students from Grades 7 to 12 in all types of classes and very much enjoying it. I have been on call since the first day of school this year and had the honor to go on an Overnight Camping Trip to the Elk Lakes with PE Class. My Stepson who's in grade 11 went as part of that class also and his father got to join as a chaperon. This is a tremendous honor to have been hired, and I very much enjoy all the students and staff. Some of which I know from past calls into the Rocky Mountain Elementary School, and others as family friends from within the community of Elkford. I

enjoy in my off time doing art, photography, and outdoor activities, exploring by vehicles bush trucks, hiking with my family and friends and my pets.



Hello, my name is Laura Paton.

I've lived in Elkford for almost 3 years now, but my first time here was in 2012. I have lived in BC, Alberta, France and Idaho and I loved them all. I have 3 kids aged 7, 5 and 3. I love hiking, baking, and crafting.

I am super excited to be part of this staff. Thank you all for the warm welcome and the help, I definitely need any help I can get! I hope to create a fun and welcome learning space for students. I look forward to working with you all



Basketball Practice

- Junior and Senior Boys – Monday and Wednesdays – 3:05-5:00
- Bantam Boys – Mondays and Wednesdays – 5:30-6:30
- Bantam, Junior, and Senior Girls – Tuesdays and Thursdays – 3:05-5:00

Chess Club

Thursdays at lunch in the Woods Shop



Thrown for a Loop



Have the feeling that you want to learn a Yarn craft? Try Thrown for a Loop! Tuesdays at Lunch in the Library with Shannon

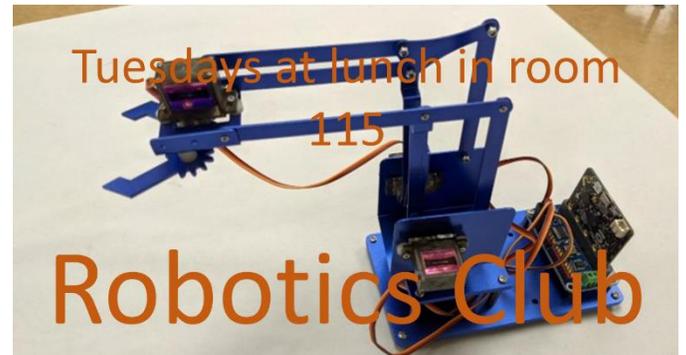


Magic: The Gathering Club Mondays @ lunch in rm. 116



Drama Club

Mondays at Lunch in Mrs. Kings room (122)



Tuesdays at lunch in room 115

Robotics Club



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 - haþiþkaxumaþtiþ

INTEGRITY - ɸmakki

STRENGTH - ɸmakqa

EMPATHY - hakiþwiɸkiþin



To learn more about this program, check out the QR Code.

The Sr. Metalwork

Has been using the sand-casting process this term. Sand casting, also known as sand molded casting, is a metal casting process using sand as the mold material. Brayden has made a cancer ribbon to be donated to an Elkford art sale with proceeds going to a local charity.



JR shop at ESS

The grade 8/9 shop classes at ESS have completed their Catapult project for the term. The students assignment was to create a catapult that will shoot a minimum of 10 feet in distance and 4 feet in height.



Mrs. Wenda's Art Room

We have been working on clay for the past few weeks as well as sketchbook challenges. The Nutri Tower in the Art Room is a lovely addition allowing us to grow some herbs and leafy greens - feel free to taste some if you are around



Great Hustle, Strength, Courage and Positivity in PE

What a month!!! All students were busy this month. It has been awesome to see so many students being so active.

Senior PE students finished their school weightlifting program and then headed down to Rockhard Fitness. Students took their previous knowledge and applied it in a real-life setting. Students used machines, free weights, cardio equipment as well as followed etiquette and rules in a commercial gym. Thank you to Kelly for allowing nearly 50 students into her gym over four classes.



Moving forward, all students from grade 7-12 had the opportunity to go skating and curling. Mr. McAllister and other community members helped with showing the students the basics of curling. Mr. Skelton also came down and helped with skating. Students were busy and worked hard on the ice.



All students had health class with Ms. Keast and the Community Health Nurse, Shealaine Taylor. Shealaine talked with all senior PE students about her role in the community and how students can access

services in Elkford and the Elk Valley.

Finally, a big highlight of the month was rock climbing with the Senior PE class. Students went down to Cranbrook's Arq Climbing Gym, where all students learned the basics to climbing. Students showed their strength, courage and pushed themselves to their limits.

This was a big month out in the community and surrounding areas. I would like to thank PAC for their support of the rock climbing (they covered the cost of the admission), Elkford's Lions Club and the United Steel Workers for paying the transportation costs, Elkford Secondary School for covering the costs of substitute teachers for rock climbing and transportation to skating/curling.

Thank you to the parents and guardians who made sure their student was ready for the day. Thank you to the students for working so hard and bringing your positive energy to our adventures.

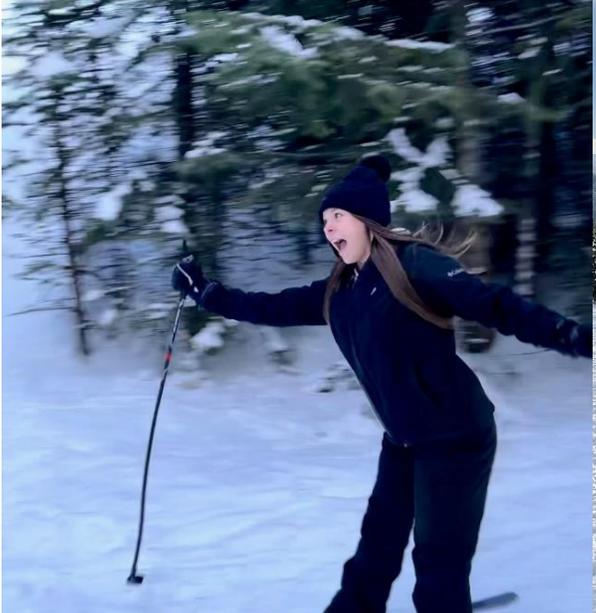
Great hustle out there, Mr. Gulyas.

Great Hustle: PE Students in the Local Outdoors.

Throughout December, grade 7-12 students have been snowshoeing and cross-country skiing through the local wilderness and local trails. Students learned how to climb and descend mountains in their snowshoes and how to "break trail" in the deep snow. Students also learned how to cross country ski up and down trails, how to turn in corners and follow etiquette on the trails.

Thank you to the Lions Club and USW for the transportation costs for the grade 7s to access the groomed trails at Mountain Meadows golf course, as well as the Elkford Nordic Society for having the trails groomed for students. Thank you to the Elkford Trails Alliance, for providing such great local trails. Thank you to the Columbia Basin Trust for the grant to purchase new snowshoes as well as the Elkford Project Society, Elkford Nordic Society and Sparwood Thrift Shop Society for helping purchase epic cross-country skis that are being used by all PE students at Elkford Secondary School. Great hustle everyone, Mr. Gulyas .







All PE Students: Avalanche Training with Avalanche Canada

Madeline Martin from Avalanche Canada came in to discuss safety in the back country with ESS PE students over two days in the last week of school before the holiday break. On day one, Madeline discussed the fundamentals of trip planning, the dangers in the backcountry, and the essential gear students would need when venturing into avalanche terrain.

On day two, students had the opportunity to do some hands-on transceiver, probe and shovel work, digging, probing, and finding buried beacons. Students were well prepared and respectful of our Avalanche Canada presenter.

Thank you all for your hustle and resilience, Mr. Gulyas.





Indigenous
Caregivers of BC



BRITISH
COLUMBIA



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

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.