



## Principal's Message

Mark your  
calendar!

### Important Dates

- May 2nd: Grad Meeting
- May 3rd: Report Cards posted @ 3pm
- May 4th: Chess Tournament
- May 5th: No School / ProD day
- May 10th: PAC Meeting @ 6pm
- May 15th: Elk Valley Schools 2nd annual Indigenous Grad Honouring Ceremony at FSS - 6pm
- May 19th: No School
- May 22nd: No School / Victoria Day
- May 23rd: Community Engagement Night @ 6pm
- May 24th: Tack and Field Gr. 8-12 @ COTR Cranbrook
- May 31st: Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Here at Elkford Secondary, we believe that communication between home and school is essential in fostering a positive and supportive learning environment for our students. It is through open dialogue and collaboration that we can help our students reach their full potential and achieve success.

To further strengthen our communication and partnership, I would like to invite you to an upcoming Community Engagement Night on May 23rd. This event is an excellent opportunity for us to come together as a community and learn more about the District's plans for growth and development. Additionally, Mr. McAllister and I will be there to provide an update on Elkford Secondary's school growth plan.

We encourage parents to attend the information night and hear from District staff, Mr. McAllister, and myself about our school's growth plan. This plan will help to ensure that our students continue to receive the highest quality education possible. We hope that you can join us for this important event.

Thank you for your continued support of Elkford Secondary. We look forward to seeing you at the information night.

Respectfully yours,  
Thomas Skelton



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](mailto:ess.mailing@sd5.bc.ca) to report any absence.



## Aboriginal Education Circle

April was a very busy month for Indigenous Education. All grade 8 students and the English First People 11 class had the opportunity to sit down with Elder Joan O'Neill and Faye O'Neill and learn all about Joan's experience at Residential school. They also heard stories from Faye of what it was like growing up with a Mom who had to endure Residential School. We are so lucky they have come to Elkford and have shared these very personal and important stories with our students and staff.



Students went to the Cranbrook History Centre, where a traveling presentation on Residential Schools in Canada was set up, called 'Killing The Indian in The Child- Generations Lost'. They watched the movie, 'We Were Children' and learned from the real-life stories of the people in the movie.



Grade 11 English First People class had the privilege of having Smokii Sumac join their class. Smokii shared stories of his life and how he came to be a published author. The students learned a lot. Everyone laughed and enjoyed every minute; we can't wait to have him back at ESS. For more information on our local author please check out his website at [www.smokiisumac.com](http://www.smokiisumac.com)



Finally, we ended the month with a tour at the Cranbrook College of the Rockies. Students got to spend the day exploring all areas of the College, The Place Where People Gather and the campus Residence. Some of our grade 12 students got to see exactly where they will be next year while others got some ideas of what they might want to do in the future.

May is another busy month please note the following dates:

The week of May 1st we will be honouring MMIWG2S - Missing Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People



May 3th is our Senior Indigenous Trip to Calgary

May 8th senior students will be participating in a Suicide training course paid for and supported by Ev, and her team at The Elk Valley Suicide Task Force. THANK YOU!!!!

May 11th - ESS will be participating in the Canada wide Moose Hide Campaign Day. Staff and students will be joining together to take a stand against violence towards woman and children and to continue our journey to reconciliation.

May 15th - Elk Valley Schools 2nd annual Indigenous Grad Honouring Ceremony at FSS - 6pm

May 25th - Possible date for grade 7-9 Indigenous Trip to Coaldale, Birds of Prey.

# Staff Spotlight

Graham is one of two Student Services teachers at Elkford Secondary, supporting students with any academic needs. He also runs robotics club with Mr Roszell. Graham has worked at all the schools in the Elk Valley and is excited to finally be settled at ESS, his favourite school. Graham moved to the valley from Ottawa to play in the mountains and never left. Outside school, Graham can be found exploring with his dog Sheeba, skiing or mountain biking. He also loves bad jokes, secret camping spots and stinky cheese.



Brady having fun with painting in Ms. Wenda's Senior Art Class.



Parent Teacher Meetings

There has been a change in district policy regarding Parent / Teacher meetings. As a result, School District #5 high schools will no longer be hosting parent teacher meetings. As a result, there will no longer be early dismissal like there has been in the past.

If you are having concerns regarding your student's education, you are more than welcome to contact your student's teachers via email.



**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.*

## MyEd Family Portal / To View Report Cards

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.

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

Welcome to MyEducation BC!

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

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.

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.*

**Physical and Health Education (PHE) and Socials 7 with Mr. Gulyas.**



It has been busy since the last newsletter in late February. PHE students have been out and about in their local backcountry surviving and getting stronger. Social 7s have been learning about myths, early humans, archeology as well as some early civilizations.

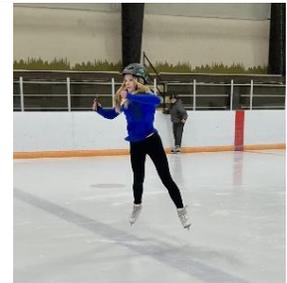


Elkford Secondary students have proven their strength and creativity.



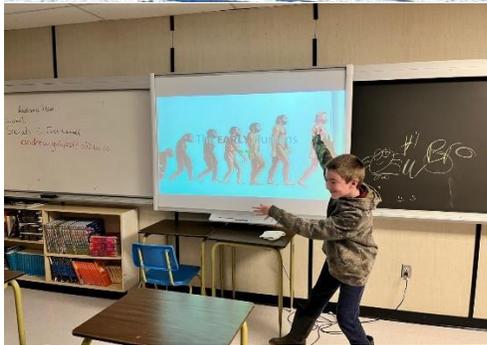
PHE

students continue to amaze me with their strength, tenacity and resilience. Senior PHE students went on their epic journey up to Boivin Cabin, they developed their basic skills and completed their journey. PHE students were also busy snowshoeing and surviving, building fires and eating in the woods. Students also had time down at the ice rink, working on their turning, accelerating and stopping skills. Inside the gym, there has



been a focus on balance and strength. Students have been going through circuits and an introduction to the weight room (bench press, squats, deadlifts, military press, accessory work, core and body weight exercises). PHE students have been working hard, developing their active living skills and understanding. This was also a milestone year for school ski trips, the final school wide trip brought the biggest group going up to Fernie Alpine Ski Resort, with over 80 students.





Socials 7, students have been working hard while being creative. Students read early civilizations myths and shared their reading and understandings with skits to the class. Students have also been busy with their inquiry into early human's project. Students delved deep into their research and shared their learning and understanding with class projects and presentations. The final and most "cool" activity has been their walk-through ancient Egypt with an Oculus



virtual reality adventure. Students saw where and how ancient Egyptians lived. These grade 7s work hard, are creative and inquisitive.

All students have been working so hard, accessing their strengths, skills, and creativity. Great hustle everyone, Mr. Gulyas.

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 **School District No. 5**  
(Southeast Kootenay)

**Community Engagement Night**

Talk Openly, Share Opinions & Ask Burning Questions

**TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023**  
at Elkford Secondary School  
6:00pm - 8:00pm

**Topic of Discussion:**  
**The District's and Community Schools Framework for Enhancing Student Learning**

**Speakers:**  
SUPERINTENDENT VIVEKA JOHNSON  
SECRETARY TREASURER NICK TAYLOR

**Breakout Groups:**  
Each Cranbrook school will present their own schools growth plans. With opportunities for discussion.

**More information:**  
Childcare will be provided on site

## 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.schoolcashonline.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#/=>

