



## Principal's Message

Mark your calendar!

### Important Dates

- Mar 2: Rise Assembly
- Mar 8: PAC Meeting @ 6pm
- Mar 16: 3rd Ski Trip
- Mar 13-16: Course Selections
- Mar 20 - Apr 2: Spring Break
- Apr 7 - 10: Easter Break
- Apr 12: PAC Meeting @ 6pm

Dear Elkford Secondary Families,

As spring break is quickly approaching and I want to remind you of the importance our school places on academics. We believe that our students can only reach their full potential when all members of the school community work together, and we need your help to make that happen. Please make sure to reach out with any questions regarding your child's learning.

In March and April, Elkford Secondary will be making a push towards promoting our RISE (Respect, Integrity, Strength and Empathy) values. This will include speaking with all of our students in how to "rise" to the occasion in all aspects of everyday life. We are hopeful and excited to continue to push these values and ask all of our stakeholders to recognize when we see these values both at school and in the community. Finally, I would like to take this time to wish all of our families of Elkford Secondary a safe and happy spring break. Enjoy the time with your family, and we will look forward to finishing the month off strong prior to this well deserved break.

Sincerely,  
Thomas Skelton  
Principal, Elkford Secondary



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



This month the Indigenous Education honored **Have a Heart Day**.

Have a Heart Day is a youth-led reconciliation event that brings people together, and further promotes the idea of opening your heart to kindness and compassion and then showing that same kindness to others.

All Elkford Secondary students celebrated this day and were given an activity led by two of our grade 12 students, Allie Hurley and Brinley Kuntz.



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 Haley Culver and I have been a resident of Elkford since 2018. I primarily teach Math and Physical Education, however I have taught a wide variety of courses since arriving in the district. I have two teenagers, one who currently attends ESS, and another who recently moved to Australia for university. Prior to moving to Elkford our family has lived in a wide variety of places: Fort McMurray (AB), Brisbane (Australia) and Brockville (ON). So it's safe to say I am an expert packer! In my free time I enjoy reading, watching movies and hanging out with my dog Riley. I also enjoy travelling as well as playing volleyball and hockey.

Hello everyone! My name is Brittany Diamond.

I am new to both Elkford Secondary and Elkford. Before teaching here, I taught in Ontario, Alberta, and the Bahamas. I love teaching at ESS and I look forward to the rest of the semester. It's been great getting to know everyone!

I'm originally from Ontario and just moved to Elkford in January. I absolutely love it here! So far, I have enjoyed snowmobiling, hiking/snowshoeing, and snowboarding. In the warmer weather, I can't wait to mountain bike, although I am still learning. I spend most of my time outdoors enjoying all the beautiful scenery around us.



# Staff Spotlight

My name is Brian Borton.

My family and I moved to Elkford in the fall of 2022 from Hinton, Alberta and I started at ESS just a few weeks ago! I have been teaching for 12 years in a variety of subjects, primarily senior sciences with Physics being my favourite. Throughout this time I have had the opportunity to teach in several communities, the most memorable being three years teaching in New Zealand.

I love sports, travel, the outdoors and completing projects with my hands. In my spare time you may find me playing hockey or baseball, fishing, hunting, canoeing, working in my garage or taking my kids outside. Or maybe you won't find me... as I might be a random international trip like the time we decided to take "the scenic route" and traveled for 8 months through Asia, parts of the Middle East and Southern Africa including an impromptu hiking trip up the tallest mountain in Africa, Mount Kilimanjaro.

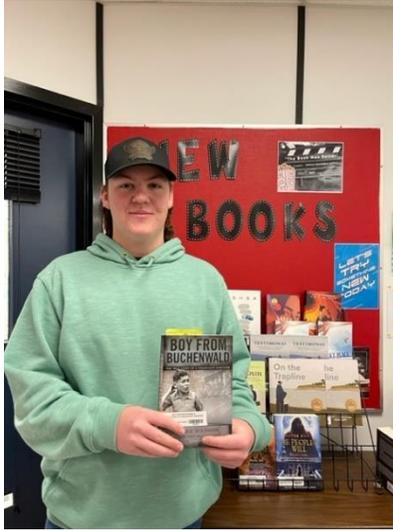
I have only been at Elkford Secondary for a short while now, but thus far I have enjoyed my experience here and I am looking forward getting to know the students of the school better so that I am able to help them learn and grow as a person.



Hello I'm Ruby Clowe. I started at Elkford secondary as an Education Assistant on February 22, 2022. I love working with kids. It is a great experience for myself. I love the outdoors and going for walks. I have a great sense of humor and personality. I am really enjoying working with people and making new friends at ESS

## Book Nook

There have been so many new additions to the library! There have been new additions to our Manga collection, donations from SYS.tem and from the Kootenay Library Federation. Brayden enjoyed 'Boy From Buchenwald'. This is a true story of a Holocaust survivor and is recommended for those who like to read about real-life drama and history. Brayden gives it two thumbs up!



## 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** - emakki

**STRENGTH** - emakqa

**EMPATHY** - hakiþwiþkiþin



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

## The Sr. Woods

Has been building mini sheds this year at ESS. They are measuring and constructing the frame of a shed. They are going to take the skills from this project and construct a full sized shed that will be converted into a functional chicken coop.



## Ms. Wenda's Home Ec. 7 class

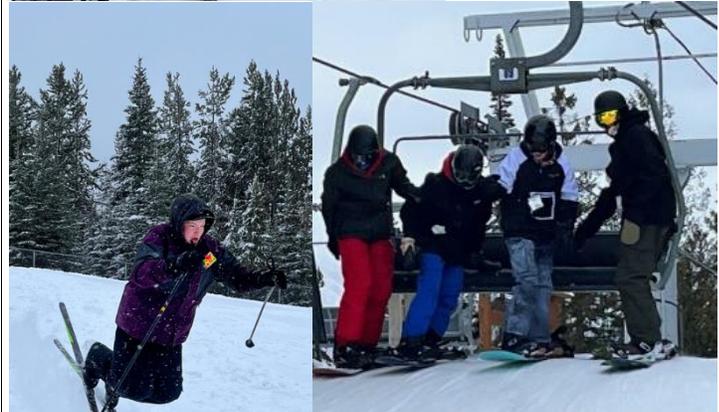


## PHE and Socials with Mr. Gulyas

This has been a busy month and a bit, with the end of the old semester and the start of the new semester. PE Students have been busy, skiing at Fernie Alpine Ski Resort and Cross-country skiing in our back field. The PE 8/9 students have most recently gone on an epic journey into our local back country, making their way to the Boivin back country cabin. I have been so impressed with how kind students were with one another at Fernie Alpine Resort, helping each other get ready, finding students to ski with and supporting one another on the mountain. Students were respectful to one another and truly represented Elkford well on this trip. I have also been very impressed with how senior and junior students have been learning how to cross-country ski in our back field. PE 8/9 students took their newfound skills and applied them, grinding their way up to Bovin cabin and then fearlessly making their way down the mountain. PHE students have been busy inside the gym as well, working on their push ups, sit ups, squats and running through the Beep Test. I have been so impressed with students work ethic and willingness to try new and challenging activities.



Socials 7 has also started well. Students started with organizations skills; such as, keeping lockers clean and orderly, binders staying organized and maintaining their agenda. We started the semester with a discussion on communication and the beginning of language in ancient civilizations. Students then learned how to tie a tie with limited language and learning to follow instructions. Students have been delving deeper into learning the fundamentals of note taking, attaining an understanding of archeology and beginning their investigation into ancient civilizations. It has been a busy start to the new semester. It has been wonderful watching students rising to their new challenges and working hard to succeed.



## "Better late than never" - brought to you by Mrs. Buchan

### December -

The best way to kick off the Christmas season is with the annual door decorating contest! Students (and staff) worked hard to create each masterpiece. After much consultation, the judging panel chose Mr. Hamilton's Law 12 class as the winners. Congratulations to all!

### January -

ESS was able to beat the January blues and new year depression with a fantastic turkey dinner. All adults and students of the Elkford Secondary family sat together in the gym to enjoy a traditional turkey dinner.

"Nancy and Karen Mills (Elkford Food bank), what a great idea to bring the whole school together... It was truly a wonderful activity of connections with the whole school, everyone was welcomed... It was so amazing to see community members, Mrs Paton, Miss Wurmlinger, Foods and Leadership students stepping up and helping (everyone working, looked like they had such a positive and intrinsic connection to supporting this event).

Moving onto the student population, it was evident that the students saw their school community as well as their outlying community putting this event together. Students came together, connected with one another and were truly respectful of the day and time that was put into this lunch. They ate, laughed, and read their perfectly cheesy jokes. So many people enjoying their food, sharing their jokes and strengthening/making connections with one another.

When it came to clean up, so many helped.

Students picked up stray garbage and swept without being asked. Students from classes that were not part of the event, helped!... There were so many students that felt like they were part of a school, part of a community...

Yesterday was truly heart-warming. This event was something that truly enriched the school and strengthened the culture of our school..

Thank you to all involved. Truly a wonderful school event...

### Science -

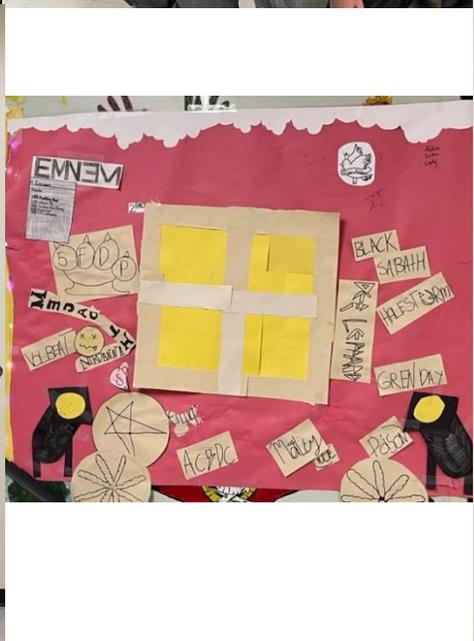
Life Science students were busy learning about the microscopes as they explored various prepared slides. The expertise in which many of them handled the end of term dissections was impressive.

### Capstone -

As part of his grade 12 capstone, Aubrey Zlatnik raised money through hot chocolate and taco bag sales to pay for senior science students to take part in a virtual knee replacement surgery through the Telus Science center and Rockyview Hospital. The experience was one that won't be soon forgotten. Thanks Aubrey.



Door Decorating Winners











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](mailto: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.