



Principal's Message

Dear ESS Families,

As we reach the halfway point of the school semester, term one is coming to an end, and with it comes the anticipation of report cards. I am pleased to inform you that the report cards will be published on November 17th.

I am incredibly proud of the success we have achieved so far this year. Our students have shown tremendous dedication and commitment, both academically and in their extra-curricular activities. It is heartwarming to witness their growth and accomplishments firsthand. The spirit of teamwork and collaboration has been palpable, and I am grateful for the support and encouragement from our families and that of our amazing staff.

I would like to remind our families that we are here for you every step of the way. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are a team on this education journey, and together, we can overcome any challenges that come our way. Let us continue to foster a nurturing and inclusive environment where every student can thrive

Thank you for your ongoing support, and let us look forward to a successful second half of the semester.

Warm regards,

Thomas Skelton
Principal, Elkford Secondary School

Important Dates

- Nov 6: Retakes
- Nov 8: Q1 Ends
- Nov 9: Q2 Begins
- Nov 10: Remembrance No School
- Nov 13-17: Metis Week
- Nov 13: Metis Fiddlers
- Nov 15: Rock your Mock
- Nov 17: Report Cards Published
- Nov 24: No School
- Nov 30: 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.

Indigenous Education

On September 30, Canadians commemorate the day and work towards reconciliation by honouring residential school victims, survivors, and their loved ones. Elkford Secondary students honoured residential school victims, survivors, and their loved ones. We think it is very important to work toward reconciliation every day.



A special thank you to Fire Chief, Enzo Calla, and Deputy Director of Fire, Trey Hale, and our Elkford Fire Department. Sean and Addie loved every minute of our tour of our local Fire Department.

Sean and SD5 Elder, Deb Springle, got to meet Grady Green, a Fernie Secondary athlete, who won Gold this summer at the North America Indigenous Games playing soccer.

Deb's niece was one of the co-ordinators that put the NAIG together. She presented Grady with his Gold metal.

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October – Autumn Leaves Fade and Fall



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>
Thomas Skelton, 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

"Hi, my name is Nicole Bridgeo and I am the new French teacher at ESS! Born and raised in Cranbrook, BC, I've always loved being in nature. Along with my background in French, it was an easy decision for me to make the move to Elkford, BC. I graduated with my bachelor of education through the University of Victoria and this will be my first year teaching. As a first-year teacher, I spend most of my time planning, but when I am not at the school, I enjoy hiking, travelling, cooking, and spending time with my friends and family. I became an educator because I am a strong believer in life-long learning, and I am looking forward to sharing this passion in my new position!"



Hello ESS Community!
My name is Muriel Plamondon and this is my third year teaching at Elkford Secondary. Many of the students also know me as Ms. Kirby, as I changed by name when I got married last year. I am the junior high social studies and grade ten careers teacher at the school. I grew up in Airdrie, Alberta and have now been living in the Elk Valley for a little over two years. I live here with my husband and our two furry friends, Miso (a very angry kitty) and Sushi (a very fluffy and excited puppy). When I am not teaching, I enjoy baking, reading, and watching movies. I look forward to another year at ESS and watching your kids succeed. I am so thankful to be part of this community!



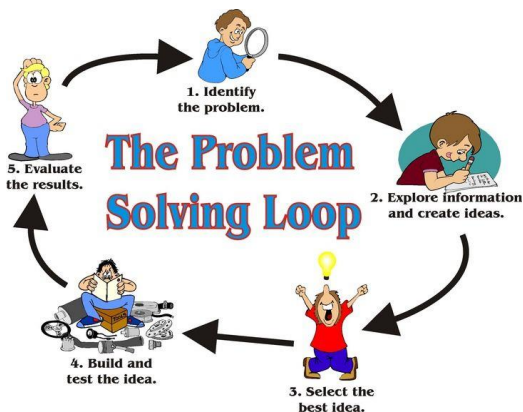
Chess Club at Elkford Secondary School

Chess club is open every Thursday in the Woods room. Students who join the club will have the opportunity to improve their memory and concentration power through playing chess. Chess also helps develop better planning and organization skills, as well as increased self-confidence. It is a great way to improve problem-solving skills and increase IQ level. Additionally, chess promotes sportsmanship and helps in creative thinking. Join the chess club and discover the many benefits of playing this strategic game!



Grade 10-12 Tech ED

The Sr. woods students have been working on using technology to problem solve. This project was to use buoyancy and have the student design boats that would carry the most heavy load. This activity uses the problem solving loop and has the students use their creativity to complete the assignment.



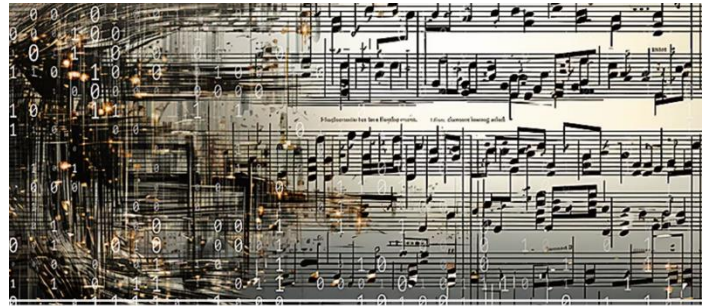
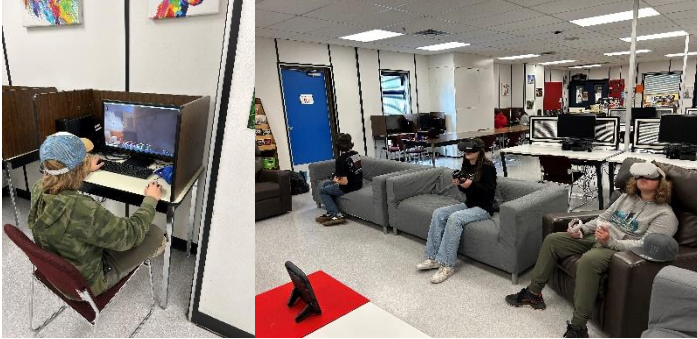
Problem solving takes place in an interactive cycle. The user builds a conceptual model of the problem and develops a problem-solving strategy that

contains a visualization as a key component. The visualization feeds into and enhances the hypothesis generation and testing operations of working memory.

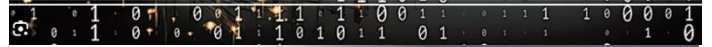
A BIG shout out to Nuflors in Fernie. They donated \$800 worth of paint to the ESS art program!

Socials 7

This month the social 7 classes have been studying ancient Egypt. They were able to use different technologies to explore this topic. Students had the opportunity to do virtual reality tours of important ancient Egyptian historic sites. They also got to test their skills in an ancient Egyptian themed escape room using Minecraft



Music Club is Monday – Friday At lunch in the Band Room



Chess Club

Thursdays at lunch in the Woods Shop



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

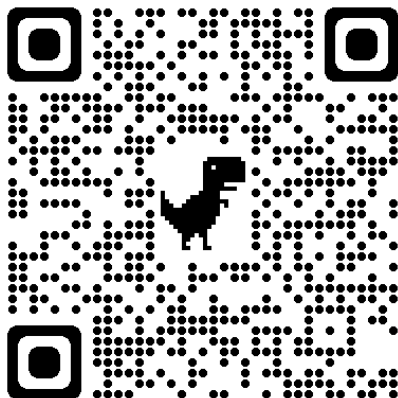
INTEGRITY - makki

STRENGTH - makqa

EMPATHY - haki+wi+ki+i



Made with PosterMyWall.com



Check out our new Facebook page.

Elkford Secondary School's PE Class

This month in the PE program in Elkford, there has been a focus on exploring the outdoors, from active living activities, to finding local sources of nutrition, survival as well as giving back to the community. In early October, Mr. Gulyas' PE students have been to "Amanda's farm," learning about renewable sources of protein. The class focussed on chickens and the nutritional value of their eggs. Students also learned that their families could have chickens in their backyards, as well as the value of farm fresh eggs over store bought eggs. Students saw other animals on the farm that produce food, such as cows, goats and bunnies. Students had the opportunity to pick their own eggs and cook them over an open fire.

Students have been helping in their community. PE students hiked into the local mountains and helped the Elkford Trails Alliance work on the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle" trail network. Students started with raw ground, removed the top layer of soil and helped build an awesome section of bike trail. Students showed tremendous grit and strength while working together to help build this local trail. Students were able to give back to their community and help support a local active living society through this stewardship and community building adventure.

Moving deeper into October, winter came early to Elkford. Students hiked into the mountains and over several days, built shelters and learned how to build a fire with flint and steel. The survival section of the hikes was to emulate a hiking trip "gone wrong," and how students could survive with a few basic supplies. Student worked hard to find resources to build shelters and start fires, especially when close to 5 inches of snow and a dramatic temperature drop came down mid way through the unit. Students showed tremendous grit and resilience with the fall conditions changing so dramatically.

Elkford Secondary School Physical Education program is diverse. Ranging from circus and balancing activities, basketball and disc golf to finding chicken eggs, survival scenarios and volunteering with local organizations. Students are learning to live healthy active living lifestyles as well as how to support their active living community in the "Wilderness Capital of BC."

Thank you to Amanda for opening your farm to this boisterous and respectful group. Thank you to the Elkford Trails Alliance for this stewardship opportunity to give back. Thank you to the Lions Club and the Elkford United Steel Workers for your transportation grant that allowed us to get to our farm and work site.

Thank you to all the students for all of your hustle and willingness to try



TERRY FOX RUN

In September, students were actively engaged in fundraising efforts for cancer research, demonstrating their commitment to making a difference. Their dedication not only raised \$726.00 for research but also spread awareness and hope, inspiring others to join the fight against cancer. It was a heartwarming display of compassion and unity among high school students.



Rise Winners



SPIRIT WEEK

Spirit week at the school brought a wave of excitement as students and teachers transformed the school with a burst of creativity and enthusiasm. Everyone embraced the various theme outfits, from Halloween costumes to Summer Vacation wear, showcasing their school spirit. The festivities began with a school-wide pumpkin carving event, setting a fun tone for the week. The students welcomed their little neighbours from RMES for a costume parade and short dance party in the gym. As the hall filled with laughter and camaraderie, it was a memorable time that fostered a sense of unity and fun, reminding everyone that school can be about more than just academics.

A big thank you to ESS PAC, Sys.tem and E360 for the donation of pumpkins!





Calgary Zoo trip

On October 11th, Grade 12 Anatomy and Physiology students embarked on an educational adventure to the Calgary Zoo. Despite the very early departure time and wet weather, their spirits remained high as they eagerly dived into a day filled with immersive experiences. The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the opportunity to watch the tiger training program, where students gained firsthand insights into animal behaviour and conservation efforts. Additionally, an animal scavenger hunt challenged their biological knowledge and observational skills. After an evening of shopping and hotel pool shenanigans, the students enjoyed a guided tour of the University of Calgary, offering a glimpse into the world of higher education. Despite the rain, the trip provided a unique and memorable opportunity for students to bridge the gap between classroom learning and the real-world applications of biology. A big thank you to our chaperones – Brenda, Shelby, Charlene, and Jamie!



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**

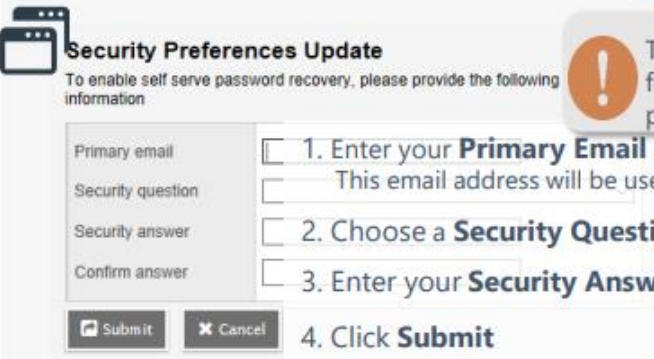


1. **Current Password** – enter the temporary password
2. **New Password** – enter the new user created password
3. **Confirm New Password** – enter the new user created password a second time

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

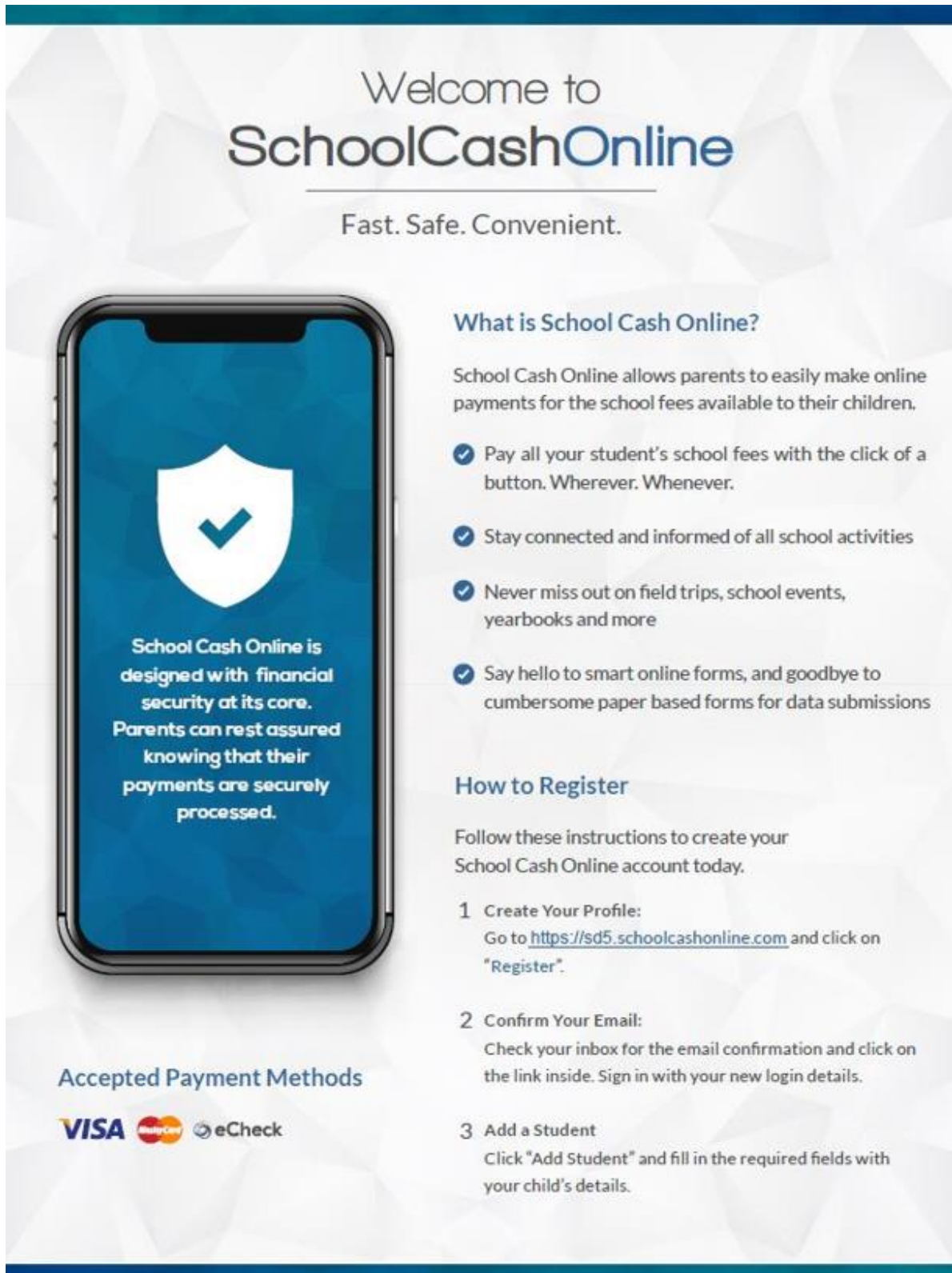
To enable self serve password recovery, please provide the following information

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.

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.



The banner features a blue header with the text "Welcome to SchoolCashOnline" in white and blue. Below this is the tagline "Fast. Safe. Convenient." in blue. On the left, a smartphone displays a white shield with a blue checkmark and the text: "School Cash Online is designed with financial security at its core. Parents can rest assured knowing that their payments are securely processed." On the right, there are two sections: "What is School Cash Online?" with a list of four benefits, and "How to Register" with a list of three steps.

Welcome to SchoolCashOnline

Fast. Safe. Convenient.



School Cash Online is designed with financial security at its core. Parents can rest assured knowing that their payments are securely processed.

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#/="](http://www.sd5.bc.ca/studentparent/SchoolMessenger/Pages/default.aspx#/=)

