



Principal's Message

Mark your calendar!

Important Dates

- Oct 2: Truth and Reconciliation day No School
- Oct 5: World Teacher Day
- Oct 9: Thanksgiving No School
- Oct 11: PAC Meeting @ 6:30pm
- Oct 20: Pro D Day No School
- Oct 31: Next Newsletter
- Nov 6: School photo retakes
- Nov 8: Quarter 1 Ends
- Nov 9: Quarter 2 Begins

Dear ESS Families,

I hope this message finds you well! It brings me great joy to see the hallways buzzing with energy and the classrooms coming to life as we dive into another year of learning and growth.

School is now in full swing, and amazing things are happening at Elkford Secondary. Our dedicated teachers and staff have been working tirelessly to create a nurturing and inspiring environment for all our students. Our students are also getting to work, taking risks and rising to the challenges the academic year brings. Way to go!

To our families, I want to emphasize the importance of open communication between home and school. We are all part of the same team, with the shared goal of providing the best possible education and support for our students. Whether you have questions, concerns, or simply want to stay informed about your child's progress, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Together, we can ensure that every student thrives and reaches their full potential.

Once again, thank you for being a part of the Elkford Secondary community. I am confident that this will be a year filled with discovery, friendship, and success. Let's make it a memorable one!

Warm regards,

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 to report any absence.

Indigenous Education

Welcome back to another exciting year at Elkford Secondary School. The Indigenous program at ESS is for all students who identify themselves as being of Indigenous Ancestry. All students with Indigenous Ancestors are eligible for Support Services through the Indigenous Program. Examples of support: advocacy, communicating between home and school, classroom presentations, educational trips and student support.

Every year students with Indigenous Ancestry have not identified themselves as Indigenous because they mistakenly believe they need Status or Metis card. This is not the case. If you believe that you or your children have Indigenous Ancestry your word is all that is required. Please share this information with others to help ensure all Indigenous students receive support.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any question regarding the program or my role as an Indigenous Support Worker.

I can be reached at 250-425-9153 or by email at brenda.newlove@sd5.bc.ca

Ki?su?k Kyukyit - Good Day

Hu suki?ukni kin waki? ?amak?is Ktunaxa

Welcome to the land of the Ktunaxa



Circle - The circle is meant to symbolize the "Community/Family Support and Protection surrounding the student".

Smaller Circles - The smaller circles symbolize the four directions, the four senses of self (mental, spiritual, emotional and physical) and the four elements. Bringing a sense of balance to the student. The bottom circle depicts Earth, the top circle Air, the right circle Fire and the left circle depicts Water.

Tree - The tree inside of the student is meant to represent personal growth, with the roots anchored to show a sense of being "grounded" in self and culture.

Feathers - The feathers are meant to represent the Elders/Traditional/Ancestral Knowledge.

Inukshuk - The Inukshuk symbol is meant to acknowledge our Inuit students and families.

Infinity Sign - The Infinity symbol is meant to acknowledge our Metis students and families.

The student - The student's head, the heart and the earth symbol/roots are connected to one another. The heart holds a "fire of determination and purpose".

Sun and Mountain Range - The Sun represents a New Beginning, Hope and a lit Path moving forward. The Mountain Range is to give a sense of the Kootenay area.

We would like to acknowledge Ktunaxa Artist, Marisa Phillips, for creating our SD 5 Aboriginal Education logo

**As a school community we acknowledge that we operate on the
homelands of the Ktunaxa Nation**

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.*

Student Services

Need a quiet place to read for Socials? A hand figuring out fractions? Tricks to manage test anxiety? Drop by Student Services and talk to Graham Preston!

Student services exists to support all students with tools and resources for academic, social and career development. Our room is always open so come by for a quiet space or chat about what you might need to succeed this year.

Youth Care Worker – Amanda Culver

Elkford Secondary School offers Youth Care support to all students and families. Our Youth Care worker Amanda Culver provides students with social, emotional, and behavioral support.

This can look like one-to-one meetings with students, support/emotional growth groups, liaison with parents/caregivers and school staff and referrals to outside agencies.

School Meals Program and Donations

In addition, our youth care worker also operates the School Meals Program, providing every student with access to nutritious breakfast and lunch items. The Breakfast Program operates out of the school Foods room every morning from 7:45-8:30am. Everyone is welcome. Registration is not required.

This year the entire Meals Program menu is being donated by Atco at the Elk Valley Lodge here in Elkford. The amazing donation of food includes fresh sandwiches, fruit, vegetables and baking, milk, cereal, bread/bagels and more! The generosity and kindness of the staff and management at the Lodge has been amazing. Thank you so much Atco!

For more information about Youth Care support or the School Meals program please contact Amanda Culver at amanda.culver@sd5.bc.ca or 250-865-4674

Teacher Reports

Ms. Diamond

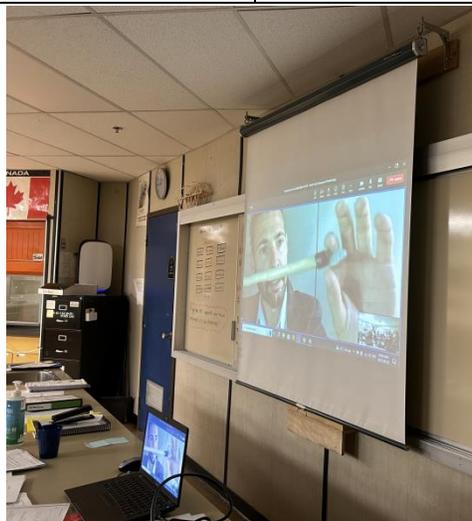
Right now in English, we are working on short story units. Students are reading and analysing short stories written by many different authors with different perspectives. The grade 12s read nonfiction articles as well. The grade 7s absolutely love reading and this is something that we do every day outside of take 15 as well. The grade 7s continue working on spelling and grammar as well as reading short stories.

Mr. Sanford

We have hit the ground running in Senior Social Studies this year. Every class started off the year by looking at the causes and consequences of wildfires in B.C. The Grade 9's transitioned into learning about Canadian Confederation, starting with the Seven Years' War. The Grade 10's have been learning about how the Canadian Government works and the roles and responsibilities of a government in creating a functional democracy. The Grade 11's have started our unit on World War II by looking at the rise of Fascism and Communism in Europe during the 1920's and 1930's. They have been analyzing how social, economic, and political hardships allow for radical ideologies to take root.

Mrs. Plamondon

In social 7 students learn about ancient civilizations. In our current unit, students have been learning about how early humans lived. This included learning about Otzi the iceman, a 5300 year old ice mummy found in the Alps in 1991. Students got the chance to speak with an archeologist from a museum in Bolzano, Italy where the ice man is kept. They had great questions about the mummy and artifacts found with him. They got to see replicas and pictures of the actual artifacts found in the Alps and the mummy. This was a fantastic opportunity to learn from experts that study the ice man every day."



Staff Spotlight

My name is Craig Boehmer.

I was born and raised in the Creston Valley, the third of four boys. For two years I served as a missionary in Western Ontario, afterwards I attended the University of Lethbridge to study Education. In 2019 I attended Dalhousie University and Gonzaga University to receive my Master of Arts in Canadian History, and my Masters of Educational Leadership. Prior to coming to Elkford I worked in Student Services at Kootenay River Secondary School.

My wife and I have been married for just shy of fourteen years. We currently have four children ten and under, with one more on the way. I love working with kids and youth and am thrilled to be at Elkford Secondary School.



Hello Elkford Secondary Community, I am Stefanie Mudry

I am thrilled to introduce myself as the new Art Teacher at Elkford Secondary. Art has always been my passion, and I am eager to share my love for creativity with our students. Living, working, and playing in the beautiful Elk Valley is a dream come true, and I can't wait for an amazing school year ahead.



Staff Spotlight

Hello everyone! My name is Brittany Diamond. I am so excited to be back at ESS this year teaching English!

Before teaching here, I taught in Ontario, Alberta, and the Bahamas. I have lived in Elkford for less than a year, and I absolutely love it here. I am amazed by the beauty all around us! I enjoy spending time outside especially with my dog. We both love to go on hikes and to explore new places. I am looking forward to an awesome year at ESS!



Hello!

My name is Garrett Hamilton and this is my second year at Elkford Secondary School. I live in Fernie with my wife who is also a teacher in the district. I am a valley boy, born and raised and love being able to be part of this community. I teach English Language Arts, English First Peoples, Entrepreneurship and Law Studies. I love to ski, mountain bike and fish in my free time. One of my favorite parts about teaching is being able to

also participate in extra curricular activities like coaching. I coach basketball and track and field at our school and am always blown away by the exceptional athletes and young people that we have in Elkford. I am looking forwards to a wonderful year in ESS once again.



College of the Rockies Field trip

On September 27th, a group of senior shop students had an exciting opportunity to visit the College of the Rockies for the college trades EXPO. During their visit, the students were introduced to various trades courses and learned about the different programs available at the college. The students were able to explore the different trades and ask questions about the programs. This visit was a great way for the students to gain insight into potential career paths and to learn more about the trades industry. Overall, the students had a fantastic time and were grateful for the opportunity to attend the college trades EXPO.



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+i>wiki+i+n



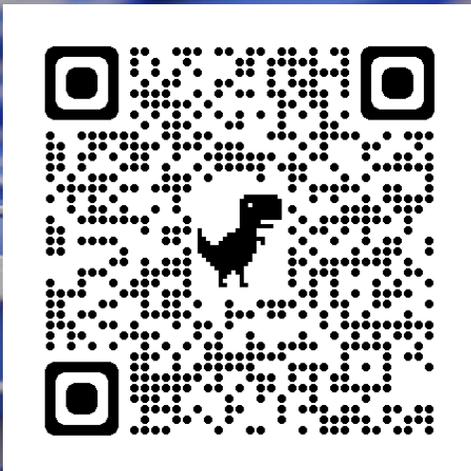
Made with PosterMyWall.com

A poster for volleyball practice. It features a large, colorful volleyball in the foreground. The background is a scenic view of a beach and ocean. The text on the poster is as follows:

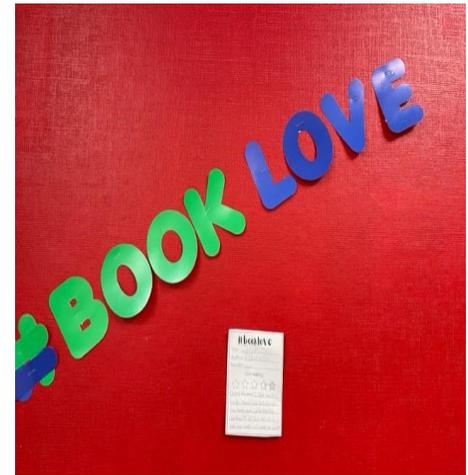
Volleyball Practice

Monday and Wednesdays
Bantam Boys 3:30-5:00
Junior Girls 3:30-5:00

Tuesdays and Thursdays
Bantam & Senior Girls 5:00-7:00
Junior & Senior Boys 7:00-9:00



Check out our new Facebook page.



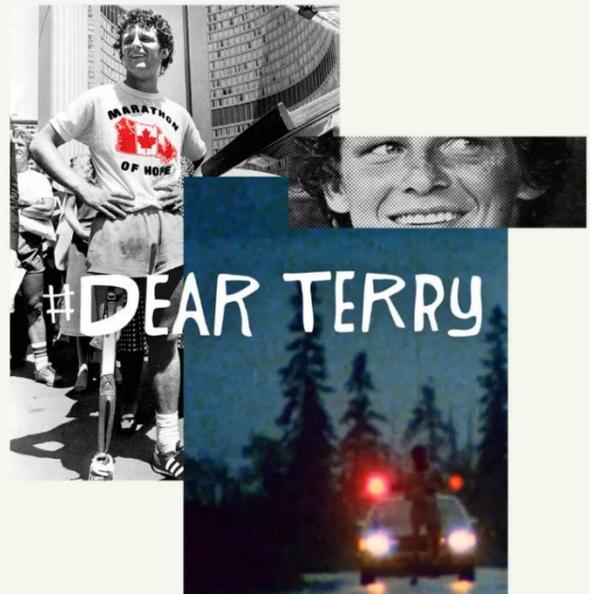
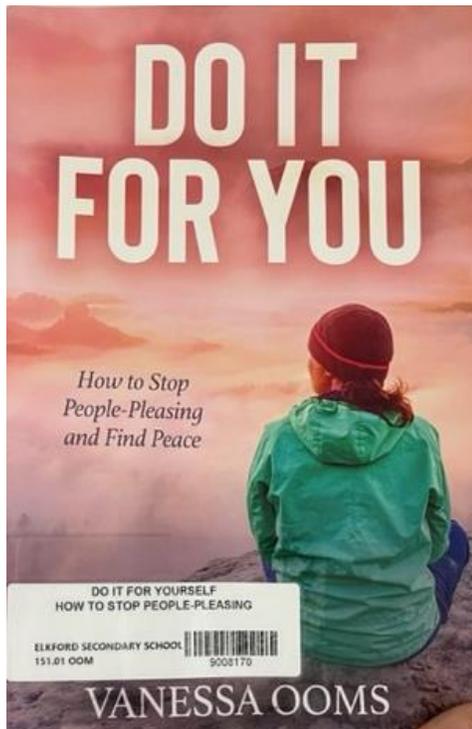
Book Nook

September has been a busy month in the library. There have been a lot of new books purchased and many requests coming in to order more. Again this year, we will be doing #BOOKLOVE – read a book, write a brief summary and be entered into the monthly draw for an Amazon gift card. Mrs Buchan is looking forward to fostering the love of reading in our ESS students!



Vanessa Ooms

So proud to offer this book to our students and staff.
#Celticsrockgrad2005



YOU RAN FOR US.
NOW WE RUN WITH YOU.

TERRY FOX SCHOOL RUN

For this year's Terry Fox School Run, Elkford Secondary School will #TryLikeTerry! Terry never quit on his dream of a world without cancer, and neither will we. Our students will try to challenge themselves everyday with their own #TryLikeTerry challenge. Donate at today to support our students in their efforts! #terryfoxschoolrun @terryfoxfoundation Online donations can be made at <https://schools.terryfox.ca/33146>

Cash donations will be accepted at the office until October 13th.

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/asp/en/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.

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 and white geometric pattern background. At the top, it says "Welcome to SchoolCashOnline" in a large, blue, sans-serif font. Below this, it says "Fast. Safe. Convenient." in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. On the left side, there is a graphic of a smartphone displaying a white shield with a blue checkmark. Below the shield, text reads: "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 side, there are three sections: "What is School Cash Online?" with a paragraph and a bulleted list of four benefits; "How to Register" with a paragraph and a three-step numbered list; and "Accepted Payment Methods" with logos for VISA, MasterCard, and eCheck.

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

VISA MasterCard eCheck

SchoolMessenger / SafeArrival

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#/=>

