



Important Dates

- May 3: No School
- May 8: PAC Meeting 5:30
- May 9: Indigenous Grad Honoring Ceremony
- May 17: No School
- May 20: No School
- May 31: Newsletter

Dear ESS Families,

I am pleased to announce that the report cards for this term will be published on Friday, May 3rd. This is an important opportunity to review your progress and set goals for the remaining school year.

As we approach the end of the academic year with under 40 school days remaining, I urge all students to finish the year strong. This is an important time to stay focused, dedicated, and committed to your studies. Your hard work and perseverance at this stage will make for a successful finish and a fun summer which (although it looks like winter right now) is closer than you think!

Thank you for your continued support, and let's work together to make the remainder of this school year a successful and fulfilling experience for everyone.

Best regards,  
Thomas Skelton  
Principal, Elkford Secondary School



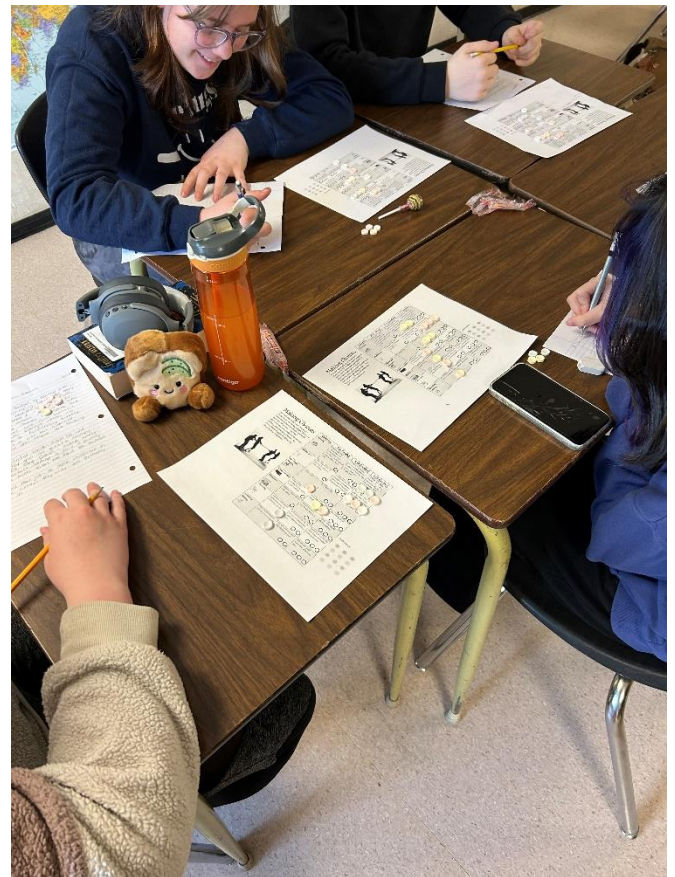
No student should be absent from the school unless the parent has notified the school of this absence. This includes leaving at lunch. If a student is not going to return after lunch, parents should notify the school of this absence.

You can call the school at **250-865-4674**, use the **SchoolMessenger** app, or email the school at [ess.mail@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:ess.mail@sd5.bc.ca) to report any absence.

## The grade 8 social studies

Classes have greatly enjoyed studying life in medieval Europe. Students have explored multiple aspects of medieval life including social structures, daily tasks, religion, trade, and disease. Students had the opportunity to build their own medieval castles on Minecraft or using physical materials.

Students also got to explore the experiences of medieval people during the black plague. They even got to see what it would be like to wear the plague masks used by medieval doctors. Overall, students had a great, hands-on experience learning about medieval societies



## The Careers 10

Class has been exploring different topics to prepare themselves for life after graduation. They have explored different jobs, written resumes and cover letters, and created presentations about different post-secondary schools. This week we started working on budgeting and finances. Students were given a "candy bank" that they used to pay their expenses. This was a great, hands-on activity to show them the importance of creating a plan and being ready for unexpected events.

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

Graham is one of two Student Services teachers at Elkford Secondary, supporting students with any academic needs. Graham has worked at all the schools in the Elk Valley and is excited to have 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 skiing or mountain biking with his dog Sheeba. He also loves bad jokes, secret camping spots and weird foods.



**A Busy March and April in PE: Avalanche Training at Fernie Alpine Resort (No Cost!), Snow Men, Curling, Skating, Cross-country skiing, Snowshoeing, Yoga/mindfulness, and Resistance Training.**



On March 6<sup>th</sup>, Senior PE students went up to Fernie Alpine Resort for the first Senior PE Avalanche adventure. Students met up with a Ski Patroller who was their avalanche education mountain guide for the day. Students were taken up to the Avalanche Transceiver Training Area, where students practiced their searching with transceivers and probes. Students also went up to the White Pass Patrol Hut, where

students learned about the differing careers of working on the hill. Students saw patrollers “ski cutting,” were able to see the avalanche cannon and its projectiles as well as meet Fenix, the avalanche dog. Students also had the opportunity to see avalanche terrain and past avalanches from a safe location, as well as see and identify crowns and breaks in the snow.

Students were also guided through the construction of snow pits, carving out columns and identifying weak layers in the snow. This adventure was planned to give students an intrinsic connection to their learning and safety by making it hands on, in their extended community and with people from the Elk Valley.



This adventure was supported by many local groups (transportation costs), private citizens and families (equipment) in Elkford. The Fernie Alpine Resort Summit Fund was the primary supporter of this enriched learning experience, covering the costs of lift passes, rentals, the time of the patrollers. This trip was cost free for all Senior PE Students wanting to go. Thank you to all who participated and supported this local place-based learning adventure.

Moving further into the months of March and April, the PE programming has been working towards fitness, that is local and within the community. The recreational activities are selected to reflect what students could do now and into their local future. Students have been out curling and skating. Grade 7 students learned the basics of cross-



country skiing and took a trip up to Bovin Cabin. Senior PE also had a chance to sharpen their skills and had a chance to ski up to the Water Tower and challenge themselves down some of the terrain. There was also ample snow to venture into the mountains for various snowshoe expeditions. Students have also been in the weight room, working on fundamental compound movements, as well as core. Jogging was also introduced, small sections at a time, with one final 1.38km jog (all students loved it 😊). As part of the fitness and conditioning segment, students have also been doing yoga and mindfulness in the gym, trying different exercises that could be used as mental health activities/tools into their future. PE has been diverse, working to support the interests of students as well as introducing students to recreational activities they may have never considered trying.



It has been a pleasure to work with such an amazing and supportive community as well as students who are willing to demonstrate their grit and strength with the many activities we do.

Great hustle everyone!



Check out our new Facebook page.



# 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** - haʔiʔkaxumaʔtiʔ

**INTEGRITY** - ɕmakki

**STRENGTH** - ɕmakqa

**EMPATHY** - hakiʔwiɕkiʔin



Oh what a night! Rock-a-rama is back! An amazing group of performers entertained 430 people with their dancing, singing and lip syncing. Student Council and Grad 2024 are so appreciative of the support!! See you again next year!

HOME OF THE CELTICS



Home of the Celtics



Home of the Celtics



Home of the Celtics



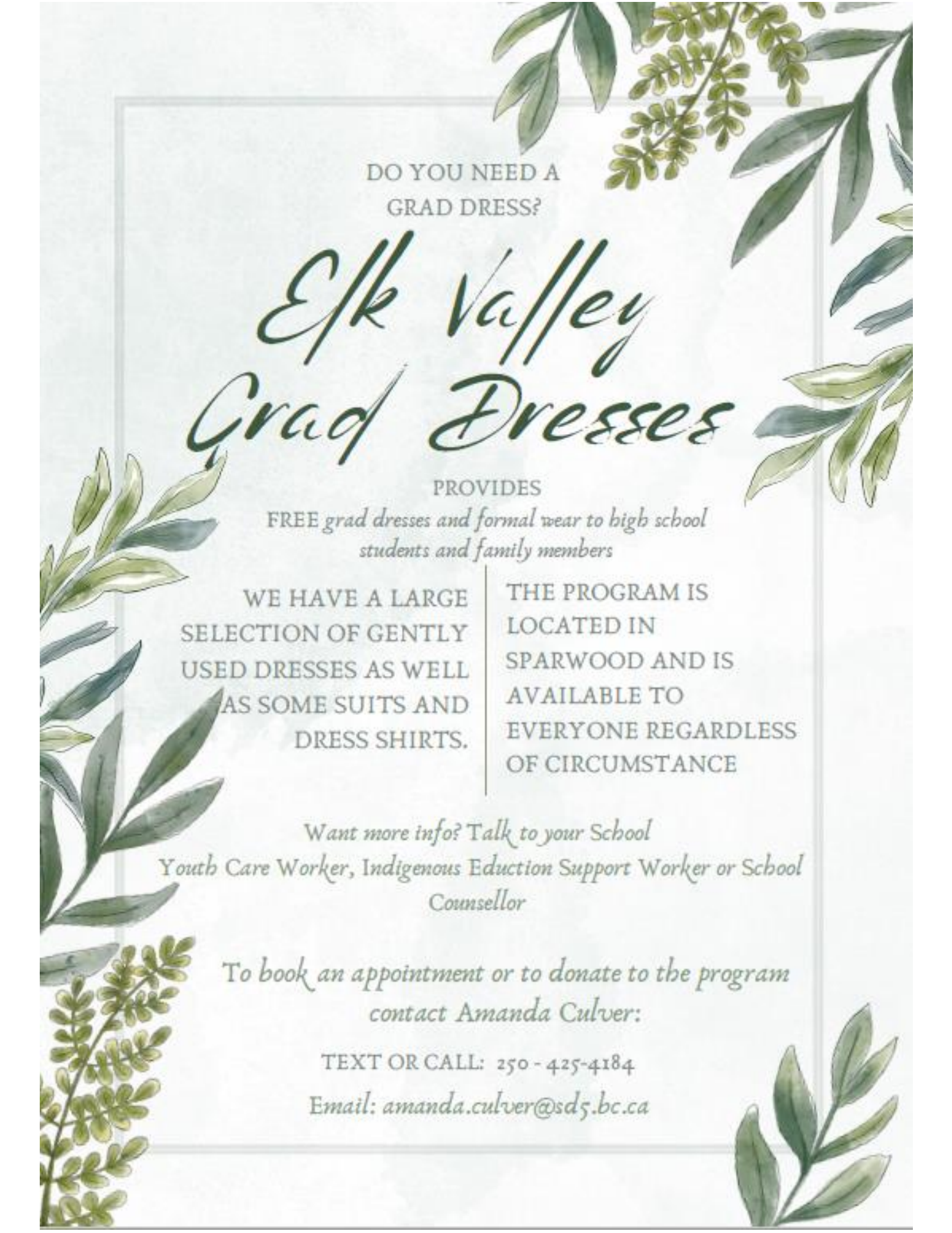


Science 9

students taking care of dirty business







DO YOU NEED A  
GRAD DRESS?

# Elk Valley Grad Dresses

PROVIDES

*FREE grad dresses and formal wear to high school  
students and family members*

WE HAVE A LARGE  
SELECTION OF GENTLY  
USED DRESSES AS WELL  
AS SOME SUITS AND  
DRESS SHIRTS.

THE PROGRAM IS  
LOCATED IN  
SPARWOOD AND IS  
AVAILABLE TO  
EVERYONE REGARDLESS  
OF CIRCUMSTANCE

*Want more info? Talk to your School  
Youth Care Worker, Indigenous Education Support Worker or School  
Counsellor*

*To book an appointment or to donate to the program  
contact Amanda Culver:*

TEXT OR CALL: 250-425-4184

Email: [amanda.culver@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:amanda.culver@sd5.bc.ca)

# 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 blue screen with a white shield icon containing a blue checkmark. Below the shield, the 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#/=>

