



**NAKUSP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**FEBRUARY 2024**

Greetings NES families,

We are only two weeks from spring break! It has been an interesting year with this unseasonal weather. Although we weren't able to do our usual ski program or cross country skiing activities, we did have plenty of other fun activities on the go! The winter semester is the heart of learning growth and students have been working hard in all subject areas.

Josh from Jess Dance was here for a week and our students learned some new dance moves! We enjoyed a great Carnival celebration care of our Grade 7 group and their fearless leader Mrs. Katie Oakes! Despite the lack of snow, the kids had fun singing songs, pulling sleds, team skiing, snowshoeing, and making sculptures. It's always great to see our students face adversity and make the best of it! PAC helpers were on site helping Mrs. Deb Guest to prepare and deliver poutine and beavertails. We also had Metis singer/ historian Mr. Patrick Alexander join us to tell a tale of the Red River Resistance through song.

Our second set of clubs has been well attended. Students have been staying late Tuesdays and Wednesdays to take part in a diverse range of clubs. I can honestly say I did not foresee an aesthetics club when we started Thrive after Three a few years ago. We also have music clubs on Mondays and Friday afternoons with Ms. Dianne Perry. For a small school and district, we are doing a great job of providing diverse opportunities for our students with the support of Adopt a School and RDCK Community Recreation grants.

Our literacy programs continue to produce great learning progress for our students! Primary students are learning new strategies and improving their reading fluency with targeted instruction and low staff to student ratios. Our intermediate classes have also been working together, working on reading comprehension as well as writing skills. Today the 5/6/7 students are sharing their writing work at the Write Genre celebration. I am personally amazed at the level of writing we are seeing from students of this age. Mrs. Martin has her Battle of the Books contests coming up next week; the primary group face off March 8<sup>th</sup> and the intermediates on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

To support this targeted instruction, our classroom teachers have been collaborating to plan differentiated learning while our non-enrolling staff and administrators get to work with students in other areas. Our grade 2/3 students sing songs, listen to stories, and have discussions with Mr. Van Brummelen. Intermediate students switch between Drama, Oral storytelling, Outdoor Education, and Service learning. The flexibility and teamwork shown by this committed staff is something special that I have not seen elsewhere in my career. Even former staff members like Mr. Greenhalf (now the ALTA president) continue to contribute to our student's growth; the NES steam fair is scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup>.

SD10 Superintendent, Mr. Peter Dubinsky, along with the Board of Education members, and a diverse range of staff members and students have been working hard to refine feedback from all stakeholders and produce the districts five-year Strategic Plan. Please have a look at the plan in this newsletter and see how this guiding document reflects our strategies to support growth in our schools and communities. This plan will guide priorities for instruction and learning over the next five years.

With Spring break on the horizon, our second term learning updates are coming home soon as well. We will send home written formal learning updates on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Spring break will be from March 16<sup>th</sup> top April 1<sup>st</sup>, with school resuming on Tuesday April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Best wishes for a great break!

Mr. Mike Hibberson

Principal



# Staff Directory

## PRINCIPAL

Mike Hibberson

## EXTENSION

3314

## VICE-PRINCIPAL

Tim Van Brummelen

3310

## SECRETARY

Lisa Bateman

3401

## TEACHERS

Sheri Boswell	Kindergarten
Marsha Roberts	Grade K/1
Jenna Arnold	Grade 2/3
Patti Zeleznik	Grade 2/3
Karlee Cook	Grade 3/4
Andrea Volansky	Grade 4
Elizabeth Tupper	Grade 5/6
Jess Campbell	Grade 5/6
Katie Oakes	Grade 7
Ethan McCluskey	PE/IST
Kim Hood	Learning Resource
Claire Jackson	Learning Resource
Brenda McQuair	Learning Resource
Megan Martin	Teacher Librarian

## EDUCATION ASSISTANTS

Dorraine Gustafson  
 Michele Hildebrand  
 Candace Sollows  
 Melanie Levitt  
 Tammy Merry  
 Cathy Quigley  
 Meaghynne Jones  
 Arlene Timmer  
 Elyse David

## STRONG START

Nancy Bone

Please visit our Facebook Page "Nakusp Elementary School" for all our current information.

## Important Dates for March

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- Fri. March 1 Spirit Day—Western/Cowboy/Cowgirl Day
- Fri. March 8 Primary Battle of the Books—1:00 PM
- Sun. March 10 Daylight Savings



- Mon. March 11 Intermediate Battle of the Books—1:00 PM
- Sun. March 17 St. Patrick's Day
- Mon. March 18 Spring Break Starts
- Fri. March 29 Good Friday
- Sun. March 31 Easter Sunday
- Mon. April 1 Easter Monday
- Tues. April 2 Classes back in session



**Spirit Day—Friday, March 1**  
**Western Day—Yee Haw!**



## News from the Indigenous Education Department

Submitted by Mr. McCluskey

### Smudging

#### What Is It?

Sacred medicine that is put into a bowl then it is lit. Smoke is brushed with a feather over the body. Smudging has been done for hundreds of years by many native cultures.

#### Why Smudge?

It is like a bridge between life we see & the part of life we don't see (that spark within us & that brings life to the natural world). Each sacred medicine has its own purpose for cleansing, bringing positive energy, helping to deal with negativity & making a connection with all living & non living things.

#### What Is Needed? What To Do?

Usually an abalone shell, sacred medicine, matches, and a feather. When placed all together in a container it is called a smudge bundle. You need to set an intention for why you are smudging.

For example, have you been sad, angry, or full of gratitude recently? Choose one to focus on while doing a smudge.

#### What are the Sacred Medicines?

##### Tobacco

The bridge between us : our world to all we cannot see that is within living non-living things. This opens the door for this communication.

##### Sage

Offers strength, clarity and wisdom. It is used to clear negative thinking/feeling

##### Sweetgrass

The hair of Mother Earth. When braided or bundled together, each strand means something. It is used to purify the spirit and rid negative energy.

##### Cedar

Is used to cleanse, purify and promote a positive balance to connect to one another.



# NES STEAM FAIR

*March 13th 2024*



Students of all ages can register. Projects from different age categories will be selected to participate in the West Kootenay Regional Science fair in April. Ask your teacher for a registration form!

**Prizes to be won!!**

# Around the Halls at NES



## Around the Halls at NES



### My artist statement

by sophia

My art is inspired by mondrian I want people to notice the different Patterns and the different colours. I use Paint, water, paper, towel and paper. I chose the patterns on my Art because I like squares in my art the colours that I used is red, blue, black, yellow and white. Mondrian is an artist that makes 100,00 dollars just from painting squares and rectangles. I think it's really impressive that he makes that much money he makes from his art. I might want to be an artist like mondrian.



### The seasons of lines Athena

The person who inspired my art is Piet Mondrain. I want people to notice that I outlined it to make it contrast more. I used acrylic paint and a grid and ruler to help with the lines. I chose these colours because Piet Mondrian doesn't like green and I like the primary colours. I choose these patterns because they kinda looked like the different seasons and I like the lines.