

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 Carnaval 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 esthetics 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 8th and the intermediates on March 11th.

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 13th.

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 14th. Spring break will be from March 16th top April 1st, with school resuming on Tuesday April 2nd.

Best wishes for a great break!

Mr. Mike Hibberson

Principal



Staff Directory

<u>PRINCIPAL</u> <u>EXTENSION</u>

Mike Hibberson 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 McCluskev	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

hello hello hello hello

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.



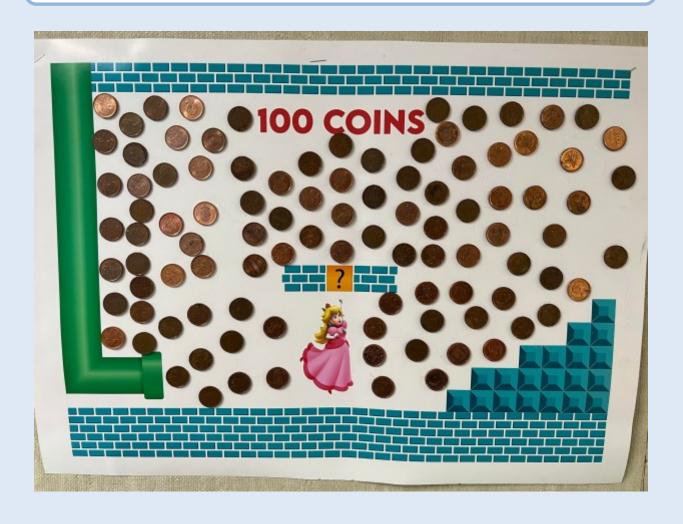
NES STEAM FAIR SEMarch 13th 2024



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!!

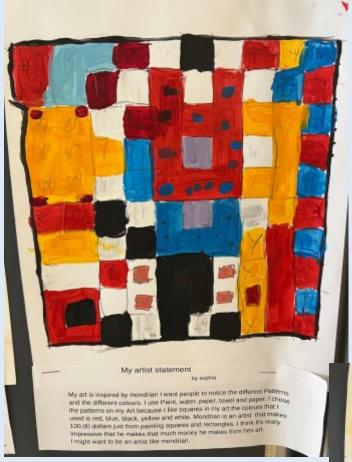
Around the Halls at NES







Around the Halls at NES









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.