



## Superintendent's Report - June 2025



# Class of 2025 Congratulations

to the graduating students of Merritt Secondary,  
Princeton Secondary, Community Learning Centre,  
The Bridge and SCIDES!

"You're off to great places. Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So ... get on your way." — Dr. Seuss, "Oh, the Places You'll Go!"



# DIAMOND VALE JUNE 2025

## TRACK & FIELD



For the past few weeks, students in Grades 4-7 have been learning about track and field and have been practicing for our school and District meets.

## TREE PLANTING



Div 2 partnered with the local wildfighters and Ministry of Forestry to learn about treeplanting.

## ART FESTIVAL

### Art Show

All students learned about the work of artist Emily Carr and created individual art pieces inspired by her work.



### Visits to NVAC

All students in Grades 2-7 visited the local arts centre to visit the gallery and participate in an art activity. We are extremely grateful to the local artists who donated their time and to Mrs. Grismer for organizing the visits.

### Talent Show

To end our arts festival with a bang, we celebrated the performing abilities of our students with a talent show.



## ART CARD SALE

All students have printed their own art cards which are now for sale.



## GRANDFATHER TEACHING

This month we are learning about **Truth** and the importance of understanding ourselves, our gifts and what we bring to the world. Just like turtle, we are reminding ourselves of the importance of the journey..



**May 2025**

### **Visit to Fire Station**

Mrs. Marklund's class made a visit to the local Fire Station to learn about their role in keeping the community safe.



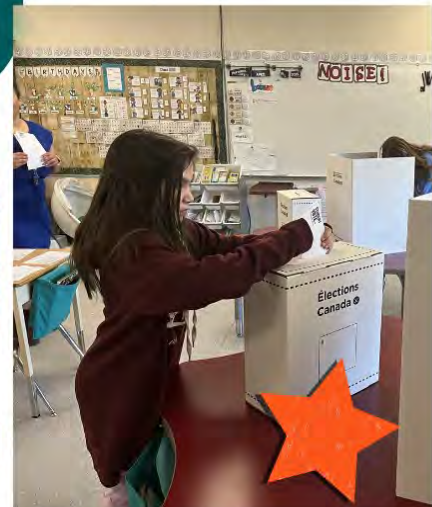
### **Hands on Science Learning**

Mrs. Price's class have made recent visits to Spius Creek Hatchery and Big Little Science Centre in Kamloops where they participated in a biology pond study workshop. Students investigated different species that live in ponds and got to look at them under the microscope.



### **Student Vote**

Students in Grade 2 and up learned about the federal election process with Ms. Hayward organizing a Student Vote to coincide with the national event. Interestingly, as has historically been the case for Student Votes, the Green Party came out on top.





## River City Improv & Talent Show Auditions

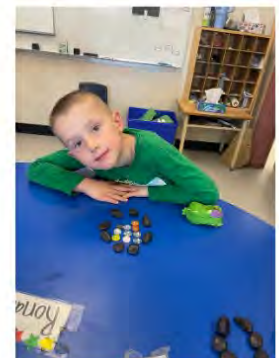
*We were grateful to receive a visit from River City Improv which proved to be a great inspiration for our upcoming Diamond Vale's Got Talent Show. Students from Grade 1-5 have been auditioning over the past week, displaying dance, singing, gymnastics, trampolining, and live drawing skills.*



## Red Dress Day



*In recognition of Red Dress Day, our students participated in learning about safety in the community, including a visit from local RCMP as well as conversations around our safe circles. They took to the local sidewalks to display their messages.*

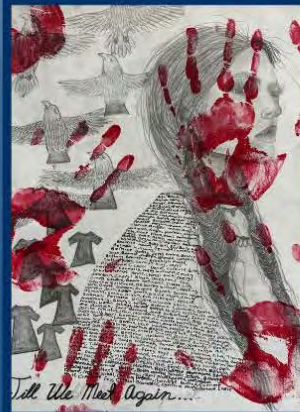


# JUNE 2025 <<<



Functional Monsters and Clay Plates for  
Foods Class!

## HANDS ON LEARNING



Students learned about Ancient Egyptian Art  
and also commemorated Red Shirt Day. Trades  
students began learning glass-cutting!



# VERMILION FORKS



June has gotten off to a flying start at VFE



## SWIMMING SAFETY

Students have been learning essential swim safety techniques courtesy of the Princeton Centennial Pool.



## BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

Our students showcased their literacy skills, securing first place in the Battle of the Books in Merritt.

## PICKLEBALL

Some grade 5 students had the opportunity to experience the new Pickleball courts at Memorial Park.



## FINAL BAND CONCERT OF THE YEAR

We had our final Band Concert of the Year, and though we are sad Ms. Coates is leaving, we wish her well in her retirement. Over the years, she has transformed many fumbling fingers into marvelous musicians!



## COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE



May has been another whirlwind month with many opportunities for our students to remain engaged in their learning.

Over the past month, our Foods class has been bustling with activity. Students spent the month exploring tasty pasta recipes, featuring an array of dishes such as a penne pasta bake and a creative TikTok-inspired dish. The class particularly loved preparing Talon's special spaghetti sauce.

Our students enjoyed a tour of the wildfire management crew base, where they learned about all the equipment needed to fight fires and what a typical work day looks like. Additionally, they engaged in wilderness first aid activities with TAH, gaining valuable skills for outdoor safety. Another significant experience was the MMIW2S walk in Shulus, where students participated and showed their support and respect. Finally, students took the time to honour a special woman in their lives through the painting of flower pots and planting of flowers.

June has been an especially busy and rewarding month. Many of our students proudly walked across the stage in the Indigenous Graduation ceremony, marking an important milestone in their educational journeys.

We are excited to celebrate the conclusion of the school year with events such as the TAH/CLC year-end lunch, our final Lunch and Learn session, our year-end celebration with Scw'exmx, and of course, the graduation ceremony and everything that is prom. These gatherings are excellent opportunities to reflect on our successes and make some lifelong memories with family and friends.

As the academic year wraps up, we want to express our pride in our students and gratitude to everyone who has supported our CLC family along the way. We wish everyone a happy and safe summer, filled with joy and relaxation.



# Collettville Elementary School

*Les Chats Sauvages!*

## Cultural Connections



Div 3 class shown drumming with Willard.

Thank you to our Indigenous Student Advocate, Mr. Miller, for organizing.



## Community & Pride



Collettville's "Canada Day" Spirit Day was full of enthusiasm, joy, and pride.

The day included face painting, freezies, Canada-themed trivia, and a live performance of "O Canada" by our Grade 7 Band students.





# Collettville Elementary School

*Les Chats Sauvages!*

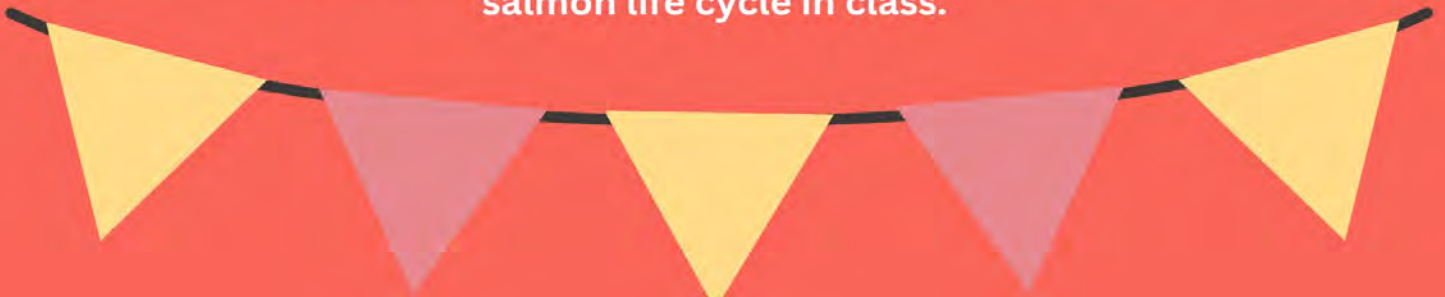
## Learning Beyond the Classroom



Collettville students went to The Centre Culturel Francophone de l'Okanagan (CCFO), a non-profit organization in Kelowna that promotes the understanding and appreciation of French language and Francophone cultures.



Div 3 students went to the Spius Creek Fish Hatchery after learning about the salmon life cycle in class.



# Merritt Secondary School

As we head into the final stretch of the school year, there's no shortage of incredible moments to celebrate here at MSS!



We kicked off the last month with our **Grade 8 Leadership Conference**, masterfully run by our Senior Leadership students. With the creative theme “Minecraft,” the day was filled with energy, connection, and inspiring activities designed to empower our future school leaders.

Our **Grade 10 students** had the chance to step onto a post-secondary campus with a visit to **Thompson Rivers University**, offering a glimpse into university life and the possibilities that lie ahead.

Several of our **Indigenous students** attended the **MineEd Conference**, where they explored exciting career pathways in the mining industry and connected with professionals in the field.

We also played host to some of our favourite events:

- Our final Bake n Read session brought together MSS and our elementary schools for stories and sweet treats.
- The always-exciting Battle of the Books saw students testing their literary knowledge.
- And our Youth Collaboration Lunch provided a meaningful space for students to connect with community partners and leaders.





## Ultimate team

Our Ultimate team attended the BC Sports AA Ultimate Provincials and managed a Top 8 finish! Their skill, heart, and teamwork were nothing short of amazing, and we are so proud of their achievement.

## MSS Shop Club

The MSS Shop Club competed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual electric go-kart races at the rodeo grounds. Students, under Mr. Smith spent hours building, tweaking and practicing all to come away with a first-place finish!



We were also deeply honoured to host our **Annual Indigenous Graduation Celebration**, recognizing Indigenous graduates from both Merritt & Princeton, and the journeys that brought them to this milestone moment.



In the arts, students were invited to submit their favourite creations from the year to be considered for the **Margaret Reynoldson Art Collection**. Three outstanding pieces were selected in partnership with the Nicola Valley Arts Council—a proud honour for these talented young artists!



# Nicola Canford



## A Day At The Races

Nicola Canford had an amazing trip to the Merritt Speedway this month. The Merritt Stock Car Association did a fantastic job of showing our students the fun and excitement of racing, right here in their backyard.

## Mini Traditional Games

Ms. Phillips took some time last month to run a mini traditional games for Mrs. Nadolny's Grade 3/4 class. Students got to try the Spear Throw, High Kick, and Rock throw and had a great time in the sun.



## Golberg Machine



Ms. Dreger had her Grade 4/5 Science class building Goldberg Machines

## Tree Planting



Division 2 & 3 were able to enjoy a great day out at Lundbom learning about firefighting, tree planting and invertebrate biodiversity in the water biome.

## Dissection

Division 2 got to dissect a heart last month. Ms. Dreger makes learning science so much fun!.



## LNIB DANCE PRESENTATION

It was a real treat to be invited to LNIB School to watch a presentation of dancers from around the world. The presenters were very impressive and very interactive with our students. K<sup>w</sup>uk<sup>w</sup>steyp to LNIB for welcoming us in and providing us lunch.

## EMOTIONAL WELL BEING

Tricia Rainville from Nlaka'pamux Health services came to present some strategies for emotional well being with the students of Div.5 last month. Students made stone pouches and were shown how they could use the stones to name and discuss feelings. Thank you Tricia for sharing your wisdom.



## EMOTIONAL WELL BEING



## TWIN DAY

We were seeing double last month at school with many twins walking around the building for student leadership's planned twin day event.





# L'ACTION FRANÇAISE!

A Publication of Collettville 6 MSS French Immersion



June 9, 2025

## Grade 6/7



The Grade 6/7 class has been working hard on their Science unit on Natural Selection and Evolution. They are also creating a creature that lives in an extreme environment with adaptations to survive and thrive. Once built, their creatures will stand independently! Bravo les



## Kindergarten & Grade 1



Division 6 students participate in Math centres almost everyday. It gives Mme Anscomb an opportunity to target specific skills for a variety of ability levels. The centres/stations typically reinforce skills that the students are working on and consist of Math games, ADST challenges, numeracy practice and computation activities.

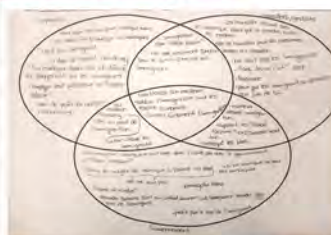
## Track & Field



Our grade 4-7s have been practicing hard since the end of April to prepare for the school and district track & field events. The intermediate students spent the morning of May 22 competing in running, jumping and throwing events. We were very grateful to have Mme Warren and our MSS French Immersion students join us to help run the various events. Un grand merci to our staff, parents and volunteers for making the day successful and memorable for everyone!



## Grade 9/10/11



This week, we finished our study of the Komagata Maru, and we are now switching over to the use of internment camps in Canada during WW1 and WW2. We are trying to better understand how these

wrongs in Canada's history helped Canada become the multicultural Canada that is recognized as worldwide today.

## Battle of the Books

Collettville was very well represented by this group of Chats Sauvages! Their ability to recall details from the seven titles we started reading in November is unbelievable! Un grand merci to MSS for hosting, to the amazing group of teacher-librarians who organized the event, to the various volunteers who contributed & to Literacy Merritt for sponsoring the beautiful book prizes!



June 9, 2025

## Grade 8/9



We are well into our study of the Middle Ages. We are trying to better understand how communities and societies restructure themselves after devastating events such as the fall of the Roman Empire, the Black Death and Covid-19. As part of our study, students created posters to show their understanding of the feudal system used in Europe during the Middle Ages.

## Early Canada Day Celebration

This celebration was a full day of fun for Collettville staff and students!! Face painting, freezies, a live performance of "O Canada", Canadian themed trivia and tons of red & white everywhere! Merci to Mme Odegard for this great idea and surely a new Collettville tradition!



## Canadian Parents for French Survey



Are you a parent or guardian of a French Immersion student? Is your child in Grade 5 to 12? We want to hear from you—and from them!

We're collecting input to better understand the current French Immersion environment in BC, especially around student enrolment, attrition, and retention. Your insights will help paint a clearer picture of what families and students are experiencing. Take the parent/guardian survey now!

If you have any questions, please contact Anna Von Holtzendorff at [avonholtzendorff@pgf.ca](mailto:avonholtzendorff@pgf.ca).

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FIBCSurveyParents>

## Grade 3



Our grade 3s have been working on their drama skills through Reader's Theater. Each group acted out a fairy tale to their classmates. Next they wrote and read their own original fairy tale to their peers. Students also completed a research project on a Canadian animal.



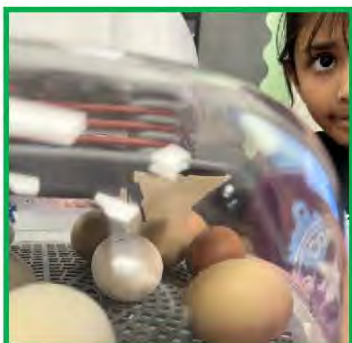


# John Allison Elementary School

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## UPDATES

May & June 2025



**#hatchingchicks** Our grade 1s had an opportunity to care for eggs in an incubator and witness them hatching. **#chickens**  
**#butterflyrelease** Our Grade 2s witnessed **#metamorphosis** as caterpillars → chrysalis → painted lady butterflies **#life**



**#play #JOY #learn**



**#schoolspirit #favoritecharacterday #primaryschool**  
Staff & students dressed up as their favourite characters

Our **Kindergarten** students witnessed the first year of **#growth** of our **#rootsofempathy** baby.  
**#relationships #socialemotionallelearning #empathy #connections #inclusion @johnallisonelementary**



In collaboration with the *kt c̓p̓alk̓ st̓im* Hatchery, Ms. Ransome's & Ms. Draude's gr 2 students observed the developmental stages of #sockeyesalmon growth from eggs → alevins → fry and released them into Skaha Lake #metamorphosis #indigenous



Our Parent Advisory Council has worked tirelessly to support the staff and students at John Allison Elementary school. They secured a #UnitedWay grant for our upcoming Bubbles and Books event. We will celebrate literacy with, as mentioned, bubbles and books (Guided Reading books). Through their fundraising, they will also support classroom yearend parties, and on June 25, the entire school will head to RockRidge Canyon for our year-end celebration!

## UPCOMING YEAR END EVENTS

- ♦ June 11 Bubbles & Books
- ♦ June 13 Fun Field Day
- ♦ June 16 National Indigenous Peoples Day events / fieldtrip
- ♦ June 16—20 Gr2/3 Swimming Lessons
- ♦ June 24 Grade 3 transition to VFE
- ♦ June 25 RockRidge Canyon
- ♦ June 26 Grade 3 "Graduation"



FireSmart Training for our Grade 2s and 3s



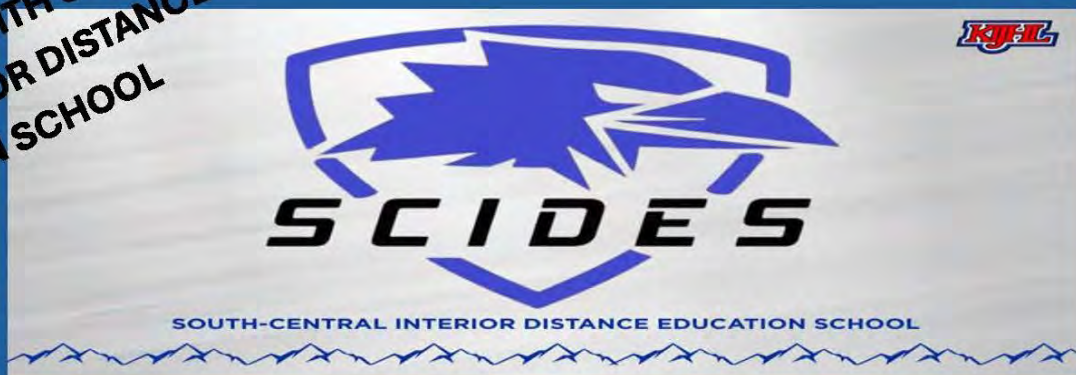
Mrs. Vaggerbottom visited Draude's & Ransome's classroom to open a candy store for grade 2 students to practice counting money & making financial decisions. #financialadvice #money



Ms. Wilschek and Mrs. Hodder took their grade 2s and 3s on a field trip to Manning Park to explore nature in the lake and in the forest. Identifying "critters" in the lake was the highlight.

**KIJHL PARTNERS WITH SOUTH-CENTRAL INTERIOR DISTANCE EDUCATION SCHOOL**

**For Immediate Release  
May 15, 2025**



Kimberley, BC – The Kootenay International Junior Hockey League (KIJHL) is excited to announce an educational partnership with the South-Central Interior Distance Education School (SCIDES) and School District 58 to provide distance education services and resources to KIJHL student-athletes.

**SCIDES Adult Learning**

**We are proud to support over 300 adult learners in reaching their goals. Their reasons for returning to school are varied, as each student follows a very unique path**



**SCIDES Graduate Hazel Jack James at the SD 58 Indigenous Graduation Ceremony. Hazel made her ribbon skirt and beaded her cap.**



**LIONS PEAK STUDENTS MAKING AND THEN ENJOYING THEIR SKIM BOARDS**



JUNE 2025

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

# MERRITT BENCH ELEMENTARY

## THIS MONTH...

- **Primary Literacy centers bring out smiles in our grade 2 students!**
- **Impressive attendance during our Merritt Literacy Parent Engagement Night**



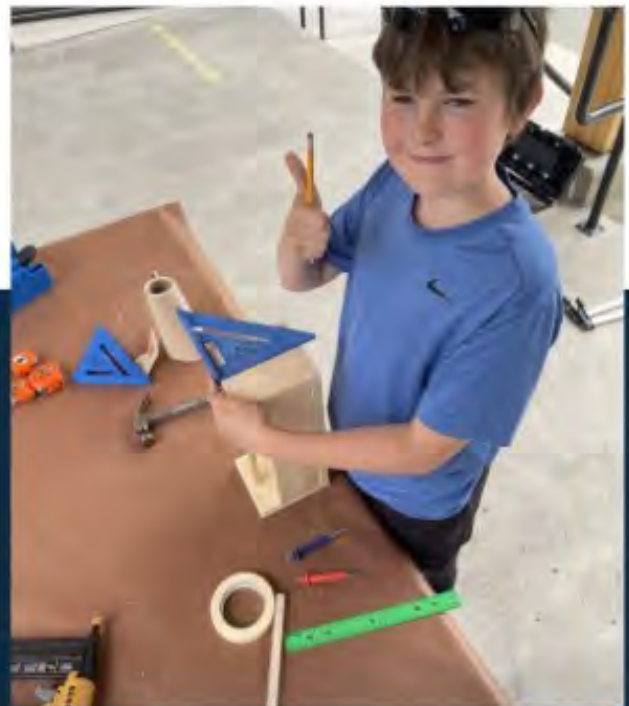
**JUNE 2025**

# SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

## MERRITT BENCH ELEMENTARY

### THIS MONTH...

- Grade 6 & 7 students apply numeracy skills while building their planter boxes and tool boxes.





# Merritt Central Elementary School

## Safety Walk



## FAMILY PICNIC



Our school recently hosted its first-ever Family Picnic, a heartwarming event that brought students, families, and staff together for an afternoon of connection, laughter, and play. Thanks to the incredible efforts of ISA, Martha Chillihtzia, who coordinate community volunteers to BBQ, every student received a free meal that included juice, watermelon, and their choice of a hot dog or hamburger.

Families were invited to bring their own picnic lunches and join their children on the primary play field for a shared meal. Following lunch, students, families, and staff participated in a variety of outdoor games and activities. Staff members were actively engaged—playing alongside students, joining in the fun, and building meaningful connections with families. The event was a fantastic celebration of community spirit and a reminder of the joy that comes from learning, playing, and growing together.

## Literacy Merritt Family Games



As part of our ongoing school goal to foster strong community connections, MCES was proud to host a vibrant Family Games Night in collaboration with Literacy Merritt. This event brought together students, families, staff, and community volunteers for an evening of fun, learning, and togetherness.

Literacy Merritt generously provided volunteers who engaged families in a variety of games while promoting a love of reading. Every attendee received free books and games to take home, helping to extend the joy of literacy beyond the event.

Understanding the challenges families face in attending evening events, MCES provided a nutritious meal of chili and Bannock. Special thanks go to Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Martindale for preparing the chili, and to ISA Martha Chillihtzia for ensuring Bannock was available for all.



## Budding Botanists

Taking advantage of the beautiful spring weather, Mrs. Meadows brought science learning to life by taking her students outside for a hands-on lesson about plants. Each student planted grass seed in a small container, creating their own miniature "lawn." As the grass grew, students took responsibility for watering and trimming it, gaining firsthand experience in plant care. Through this engaging, real-world activity, students explored plant needs, seed germination, roots, and stem development, deepening their understanding of the plant life cycle in a meaningful and memorable way.



## Grade 5 Tree Planting



Coach Alyssa from Persistence Training Center



Professor Tom from NVIT



Suzanne from forestry department



As part of Forest Week, the Merritt Forest Week Committee co-led the Annual Grade 5 Tree Plant in partnership with the Ministry of Forests. This impactful outdoor learning event featured interactive stations, including one on aquatic invertebrates led by Ministry staff and another on wildfire readiness presented by the BC Wildfire Service. Students were introduced to key concepts in natural resource management, forestry, aquatic ecosystems, and wildfire preparedness. The highlight for many was planting their own trees and realizing the positive impact they can have on the environment. The event was very well received and provided students with an inspiring and educational experience on the land.

## Ultimate Frisbee





Nurse Amy



The 2025 Central Elementary School Track Meet was a super success, showcasing exceptional organization, school spirit, and community collaboration. Students, staff, high school mentors, and parent volunteers came together for a day that celebrated athleticism, teamwork, and student leadership. Spearheaded by the dedicated MCES team, with special thanks to Mr. Shea, Mrs. Martindale, and Mrs. Smith, the event ran seamlessly. Their leadership ensured smooth coordination of stations, equipment, logistics, and volunteer support including the enthusiastic student leaders from MSS's Leadership program, whose mentorship played a vital role throughout the day. A highlight of the event was the popular concession stand, operated by staff and parent volunteers. Teachers, education assistants, and school and district staff worked collaboratively to support student participation, ensure safety, and manage event logistics. Special recognition goes to Mr. Gagliano for providing on-site first aid and to Mrs. Nelson Smith for her continued guidance and support.

## Battle of the Books



The annual *Battle of the Books*, organized by SD58 librarians, was once again a highlight of the school year, with our very own Mrs. Cleaveley leading the way. Her tireless dedication, spending countless hours outside of school time ordering books, reading each title, crafting thoughtful questions, and coordinating logistics, was instrumental in the event's success.

Mrs. Cleaveley also led weekly preparation meetings for our school's team, the *Reading Raptors*, building excitement, teamwork, and deep engagement with literature. The competition was intense, featuring 10 enthusiastic teams from across the district, all of whom demonstrated a strong commitment to reading and teamwork. The top-voted title across all teams was *Pony*, a clear favorite among student readers. Through Mrs. Cleaveley's leadership and the collaborative efforts of SD58's librarian team, this event fostered a love of reading and brought students together in a fun, academic challenge that celebrated literacy across the district.



## Annual Division 1 & 2 Egg Drop



Division 1 and 2's Annual Egg Drop Challenge continues to be a favorite STEM event that engages students in critical thinking, problem-solving, and hands-on learning. As part of this dynamic challenge, students design, build, and test protective structures to prevent an egg from breaking when dropped from a significant height. Through the process, students apply scientific principles, including Newton's Laws of Motion, potential and kinetic energy, and inertia, while also strengthening their mathematical reasoning and design evaluation skills. The challenge emphasizes collaboration as students work in teams to plan, test, and refine their designs, fostering a growth mindset and encouraging perseverance through trial and error. The event brings a number of classes to come spectate while Mr. Shea drops each design from the school roof. It's a fun, high-energy conclusion that celebrates learning and creativity.



## BUTTERFLY AND MOTH RELEASE

This spring, students across the school had the unique opportunity to witness the magic of metamorphosis firsthand through two engaging life cycle projects led by Mrs. Preet and Mrs. Cleaveley. As the school's prep science teacher, Mrs. Preet guided students through the stages of a butterfly's life, from caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly. In a similar experience, Mrs. Cleaveley, our school librarian, raised moths in the library, allowing students to observe their transformation up close. Both activities sparked curiosity, deepened understanding of life science concepts, and brought learning to life in a meaningful way.

Because both Mrs. Preet and Mrs. Cleaveley work with all students in the school, these separate projects provided a rich and inclusive learning experience for every child, helping to foster a schoolwide appreciation for the natural world.



## Spreading Kindness

Grade Seven Student, Hallie Paschinski, spends her free time knitting worry worms and spreading them around the school for students to find as a random act of kindness. Her thoughtfulness has spread cheer to both students and staff.

