

MERRITT BENCH MARCH SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT



Catching Leprechauns

Mr. Denton's class worked on trapping Leprechauns! They spent time designing some amazing traps. But no one caught one this time!



Girl's Handball

Our Girl's Handball Team placed first! Thank-you to our Coach Mr. Cleaveley and all our student participants!

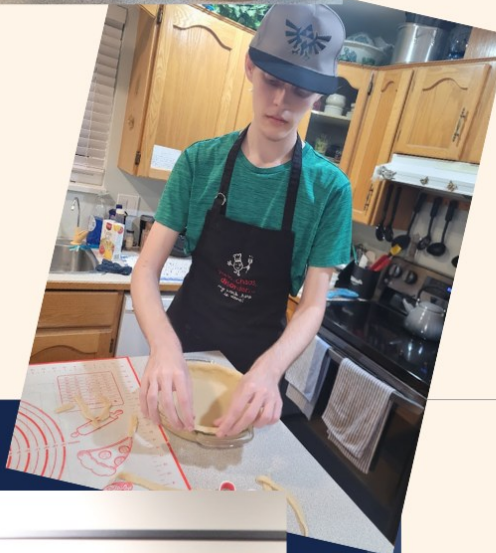


Boy's Handball

Our Boy's Handball Team Placed 4th. Thank-you to our parent volunteer coach Mr. Puterbough and all our student participants.



SCIDES - South Central Interior Distance Education School



Our senior students have been hard at work with their elective courses! These photos, submitted by Colton Bottrill—one of our talented Foods 12 and Photography 12 students—showcase some of his delicious creations. Here are a few of his favourite shots from his Photography 12 coursework. Great work, everyone—keep it up!



At SCIDES, we're all about innovation, learning, and community—no matter where our students are!





Collettsville Elementary School

Pride ~ Respect ~ Community

Handball Season Wrap-Up



The Grade 4/5 girls' handball team wrapped up their season with a strong showing at the tournament, demonstrating perseverance, teamwork, and growth. Throughout the season, students developed their skills and confidence, playing with heart and pride in representing the school. Bravo les chats sauvages!

Exploring Trades at TRU

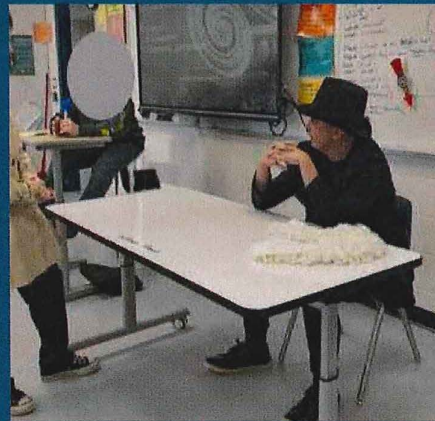
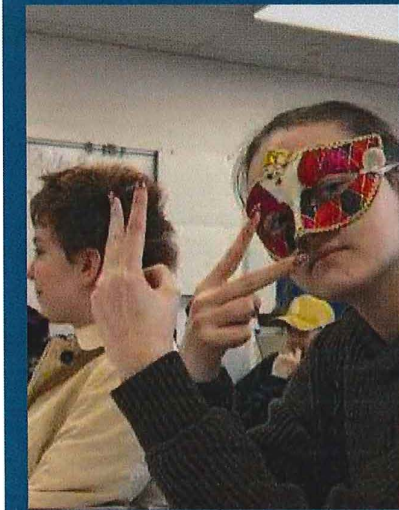
Five students from Grades 6–7 recently participated in Thompson Rivers University's "Try a Trade Day," engaging in hands-on activities across a range of skilled trades. Guided by TRU instructors, students explored potential career pathways while gaining insight into post-secondary training opportunities.



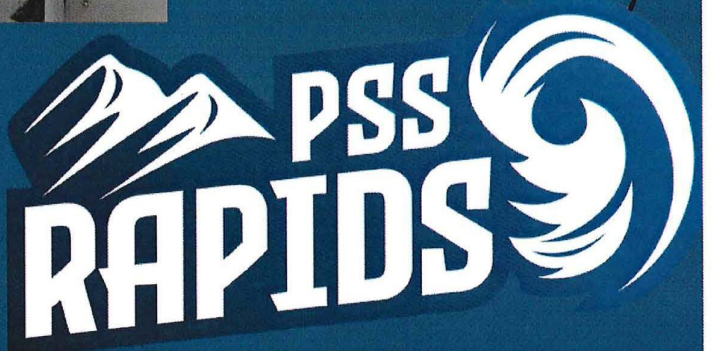


MARCH 2026

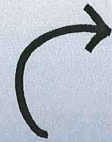
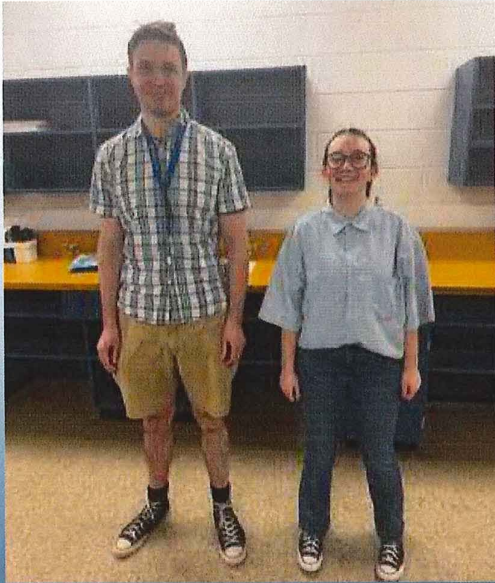
**GORMAN BROTHERS
DONATION FOR PSS
WOODS PROGRAM**



**ENGLISH 9 STUDENTS ACTED OUT
FORTUNADO WITH
MRS. MCDONALD**



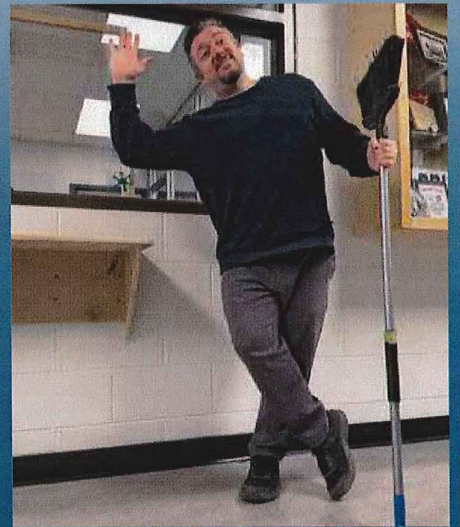
MARCH SPIRIT WEEK



DRESS AS A TEACHER



WHERE'S WALDO?
HIDDEN PICTURES



DIAMOND VALE MARCH 2026

BIG LITTLE SCIENCE CENTRE



Ms. Hayward's and Mrs. Stead's classes enjoyed a great visit to the Big Little Science Centre. Students took part in an interactive workshop on forces and had time to explore the exhibits, engaging in a variety of hands-on science activities. It was a fun and meaningful learning experience for everyone!



SURVIVAL DAY

As a culmination to their novel study of Hatchet, students in Mrs. Price's class spent a day in Kane Valley learning a variety of survival skills.



Students practiced building shelters, identifying foods that could be scavenged from the land, and learning the basics of fire-building. It was a hands-on experience that brought the themes of the novel to life.



TRU TRADES DAY

Five of our Grade 6/7 students who have shown an interest in the trades spent the day at TRU, where they learned about the wide range of opportunities available in post-secondary trades programs.



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Mrs. Cleaveley hosted a wonderful Book Fair during the final week of term, giving families and staff the opportunity to shop for their spring break reads. Over the three days, \$3676 worth of books were sold, generating \$1000 in fundraising for our school. Thank you to everyone who supported this event!



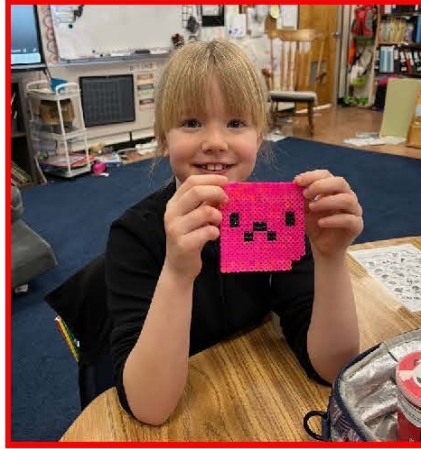


John Allison Elementary School

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Superintendent Report

March 2026



Crafting: Mrs. Unrau joined our Grade 1/2 class to make some perler bead creations.

Sumo's World *Koala* was the 'chosen' song that was played on repeat at recess and lunch as our students were singing and dancing to "I want a ko-all-la-la -la la la la la la"

Do you remember **centers**? In several classes, the students gain points that help them earn time to learn and play at cen-





JAE students enjoy time outdoors playing on the equipment and playing make believe. They created a spring campfire and a spring snowman.

The gymnastics equipment was set up for our students to enjoy prior to Spring Break.

“The leprechaun says that the children’s tricks were clever and the trap was great, but it takes more than rainbows to seal his fate.” - *How to Trap a Leprechaun*



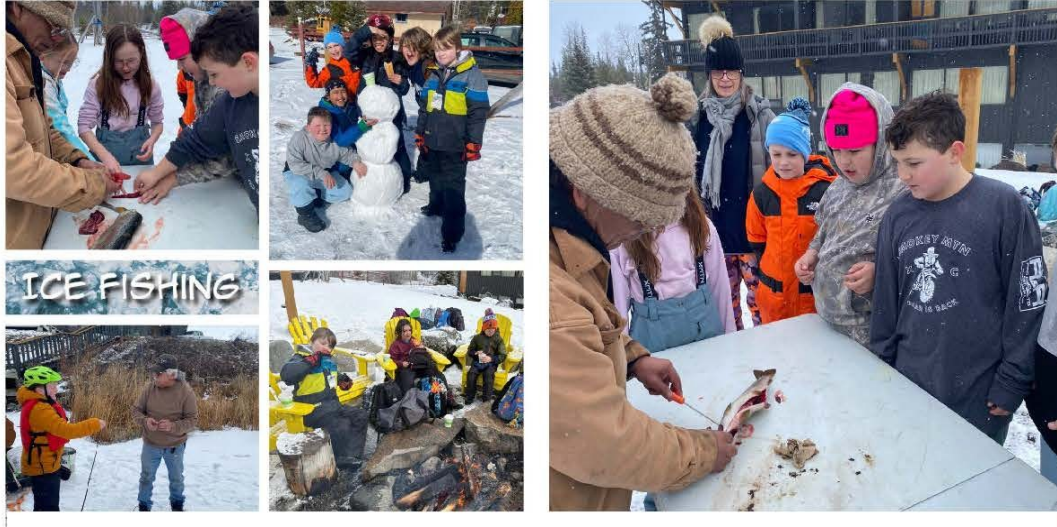


cowboyhats #WESTERNDAY #linedancing #yeehaw



"You can take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the boy"

Nicola Canford



Ice Fishing

Mrs. Thomas's class got to enjoy one last day of winter weather on their ice fishing trip up at Lac Le Jeune Resort today. K^{wuk^wsteyp} to the team at Lac Le Jeune Resort for the wonderful welcome and support. And K^{wuk^wsteyp} to Darrell and Hank for sharing their cultural knowledge with us.

Battlebots

Nicola Canford hosted our annual BattleBot and Maze programming competition at school today. Students have been spending the last few months designing their Battlebots and creating their maze navigation programs in hopes of representing their classroom at the championships.



Book Tasting



Mrs. Thomas's class enjoyed a book tasting today—no food, just fabulous reads! Students sampled the first few pages of different genres, discussed “flavour profiles,” and debated which books were worth a full order.

St. Patrick's Day



Ms. Pattison's class had a full week of St. Patrick's Day activities, complete with Lucky Charms math, leprechaun puppets, a green classroom party, and building leprechaun traps.



Merritt Central Elementary School



Kindergarten Shows What they know about Responsibility

This month, kindergarten students focused on developing responsibility in meaningful and engaging ways. They proudly demonstrated responsibility at home by bringing their animals for show and tell, teaching us how to care for horses, goats, and even participating in puppy training. Students also showed responsibility at school by working together to sweep up the winter gravel from our playground, helping make our outdoor spaces safe and welcoming. These learning experiences are thoughtfully planned and facilitated by our kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Ferris, who excels at creating engaging, hands-on opportunities for students to learn, practice, and showcase their learning whether out in the community and on the land, or by bringing rich, real-world experiences directly into the classroom.



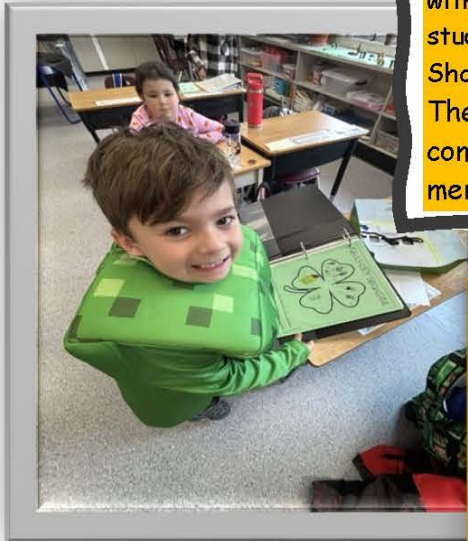
Saying Goodbye to Bus Driver Lockhart



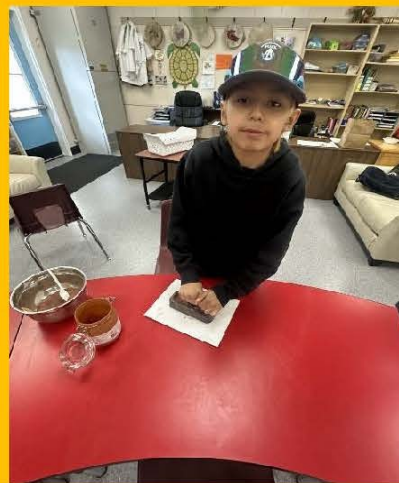
Ms. Martha organized a meaningful recognition event to honour Mr. Lockhart for his many years of dedicated service to our school community. Mr. Lockhart served for many years as both a custodian and a school bus driver, supporting regular routes as well as field trips and special events. Although he has not been our custodian in recent years, he remained a familiar, trusted, and caring presence for the many students who rode his bus. The ceremony was guided by local Indigenous cultural customs from the Nê?kepmxcín and nsyilxcán Nations and included a circle dance, reflecting the strong sense of respect, community, and gratitude held for Mr. Lockhart. The event honoured his pride in his work, kindness, and lasting impact on students and staff.

Leadership & Spirit Week

Thanks to Mr. Gagliano, Mrs. Tolmie, and our Leadership students, the final week before Spring Break was filled with school spirit, creativity, and fun. The week kicked off with Green Day, a spirited salute to St. Patrick's Day, which fell during the break. Students and staff then enjoyed Switch Day, with students dressing as teachers and teachers as students, followed by Character/Meme Day and Show Off Your Culture/Formal Dress Day. These theme days brought our school community together and created many silly memorable moments.



Connecting School and Community



Students worked alongside Ms. Martha to crush tulemen, learning firsthand about caring for their ancestors and respecting traditional practices. Through this hands-on experience, students deepened their understanding of cultural responsibility while contributing to the construction process of the new Upper Nicola Community Centre, set to open in September 2026. This meaningful work connected students to land, history, and community through learning by doing.

Arts and ADST Exploration in Mr. Gagliano's Class



Handball



Merritt Central proudly celebrated becoming Handball Champions following a season focused on learning, growth, and sportsmanship. As handball serves as an introductory sport for our younger intermediate students, the season provided many opportunities for skill development and important learning experiences. Early challenges led to meaningful conversations and growth, and over time the team demonstrated remarkable improvement not only as athletes, but as inclusive, respectful teammates. Under the guidance of Ms. Martha and Mr. Shea, the teams rose to the occasion and secured victory in the final tournament. In keeping with school tradition, staff celebrated the teams' success with a playful staff-versus-students' game at the conclusion of the season. Thank you to the coaches for their dedication of time and energy, and to the families and community members who came out to cheer on and support our Grade 4/5 students.

Strong Start



Mrs. Gage consistently makes learning engaging and fun in Strong Start by creating a rich, welcoming environment for children and caregivers. Through thoughtfully selected exploratory resources, she supports age-appropriate development while nurturing curiosity, creativity, and imagination. Her programming includes opportunities that promote both physical and mental well-being, offering meaningful ways for children to learn through play while also providing caregivers with resources and learning to support their children's growth. Mrs. Gage's dedication helps make Strong Start a vibrant and supportive space for families in our school community.



Vermilion Forks Elementary



MARCH AT VFE

March was a short but meaningful month at Vermilion Forks Elementary, with Spring Break taking up the middle two weeks and report cards completed just prior to the break. Despite the limited instructional days, students and staff remained engaged in a range of activities that reflected creativity and school spirit. Students made the most of our final snowfall by working together outdoors, while PreVenture groups continued to meet with support from our school counselor and Healthy Promoting Schools Coordinator, focusing on skill-building and well-being. Our boys handball team represented the school at a tournament in Merritt, and although a highway closure prevented the girls' team from attending their tournament, plans are being explored to reschedule games. The month also included a heartfelt farewell to a long-serving education assistant, reminding us of the strong relationships that shape our school community.

GOOD TIMES OUTSIDE

Making the most of our (hopefully) final snowfall, students headed outdoors to collaborate on snowman creations using branches and twigs collected from a recent windstorm. The activity highlighted creativity, teamwork, and the joy of learning and playing together outside.



FAREWELL MS. MCFARLANE

Staff celebrated "Green Day" in the spirit of St. Patrick's Day while also saying goodbye to Ms. McFarlane, a long-time education assistant who is moving to a new community. She is pictured holding a Picasso-style portrait created by one of our classes, a meaningful and artistic tribute to her years of service and impact on our school.



MERRITT SECONDARY

March at Merritt Secondary School was a shorter month due to Spring Break, but still included important steps forward as we continue to plan for both the current and upcoming school year.

A key focus this month was the beginning of our Grade 7 transition process. MSS hosted a French Immersion Grade 7 student and parent information evening, which was very well attended. The event provided families with an opportunity to learn more about the school, meet staff, and gain a deeper understanding of the French Immersion program as students prepare for their transition to secondary school.

Spring athletics also got underway, with the Girls Soccer team opening their season with a game in Hope. As the season progresses, MSS students will also be participating in badminton, track and field, rugby, ultimate frisbee, and golf. We look forward to another strong season of student participation and school spirit across these programs.



— April 2026 —

Community Learning Centre

CLC students made the most of the two weeks leading up to Spring Break with lots of hands-on learning and creativity. Students enjoyed drum making with guest ISAs from MSS, Trent, and Erikson, while also learning important drumming protocols. Students also tried their hand at sheet metal work with guest teacher Rene, crafting aluminum bowls and doing plenty of enthusiastic hammering... apologies to SCIDES for all the noise!





The class headed out on their second post-secondary tour to TRU, where the horticulture nursery was a standout highlight. Back at school, the final week was packed with electives. In Art, students created colourful “potted” flowers using wire and nail polish, and in Foods, they worked as a team to prepare 72 take-home meals, with each student heading into Spring Break with six different homemade dishes. After such a busy stretch, we hope everyone enjoyed a well-earned rest and is ready for the final term ahead.

