

Superintendent's *Report*

OCTOBER
2026

WELL-BEING

k^wuk^wzncút

(Practise things that keep one
healthy/healthy living)

n^xstán

That what gives us good health
and well being.



WELL-BEING,
BELONGING &
RELATIONSHIPS

LEARNING

cunemncút

(evolving yourself/the act of doing
something)

s^cmipnwítⁿx

Learning what we begin to
understand and know.



LEARNING &
TEACHING
EXCELLENCE

COMMUNICATION

nq^wincútn

(language, usage, way of talking)

q^wa?q^wa?almín^m

Discussing/talking about
something with others.



COMMUNICATION
& TRANSPARENCY



SUCCESS FOR ALL LEARNERS, TODAY AND TOMORROW



Senior Girl's Volleyball
Princeton Rapids vs
Penticton's
Princess Margaret

SEPTEMBER 2026

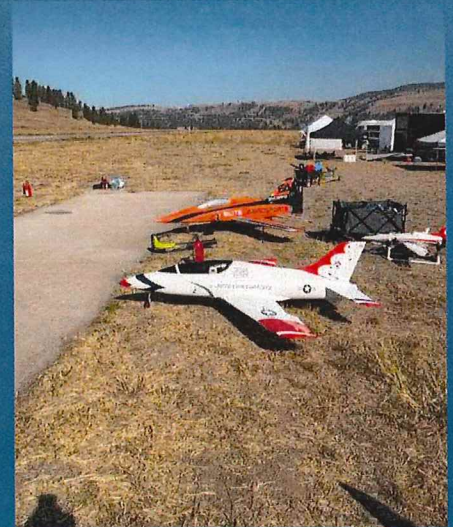
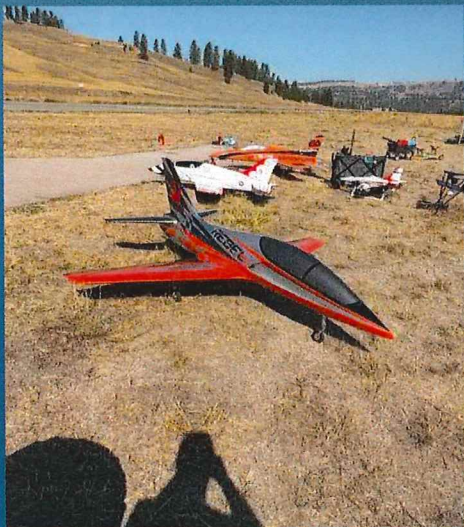


Ms. Guglielmino's
Foods students
busy creating





"Frisbee Rob" came to PSS and put on a fun demonstration.



Students walked over to the airport for a demonstration of RC Planes.

— October 2026 —

Community Learning Centre

September has been a month of connection and relationship building at CLC as we welcomed a fairly new group of students. Time was spent getting to know one another, setting up courses, and establishing learning routines.

Students participated in a river outing, created personal collages that reflect who they are, and took part in the Every Child Matters Walk, which concluded with a BBQ prepared by one of our Grade 12 students. In the classroom, students have been learning about Truth and Reconciliation, exploring the Calls to Action, and researching Indigenous trailblazers from across Canada.

We are excited to offer a new nsyilxcan language class this year, taught by Nexpetko Joe, providing students with an opportunity to learn the local Indigenous language and culture.

We are also pleased to report that six graduates from the Class of 2026 have successfully enrolled in post-secondary programs, pursuing studies in hairdressing, healthcare, trades, and Early Childhood Education. We wish them every success in their future endeavors.

Overall, September has been a positive start to the year, focused on building a strong school community. We can't wait to begin our weekly field trips in October and continue building connections through hands-on learning experiences.

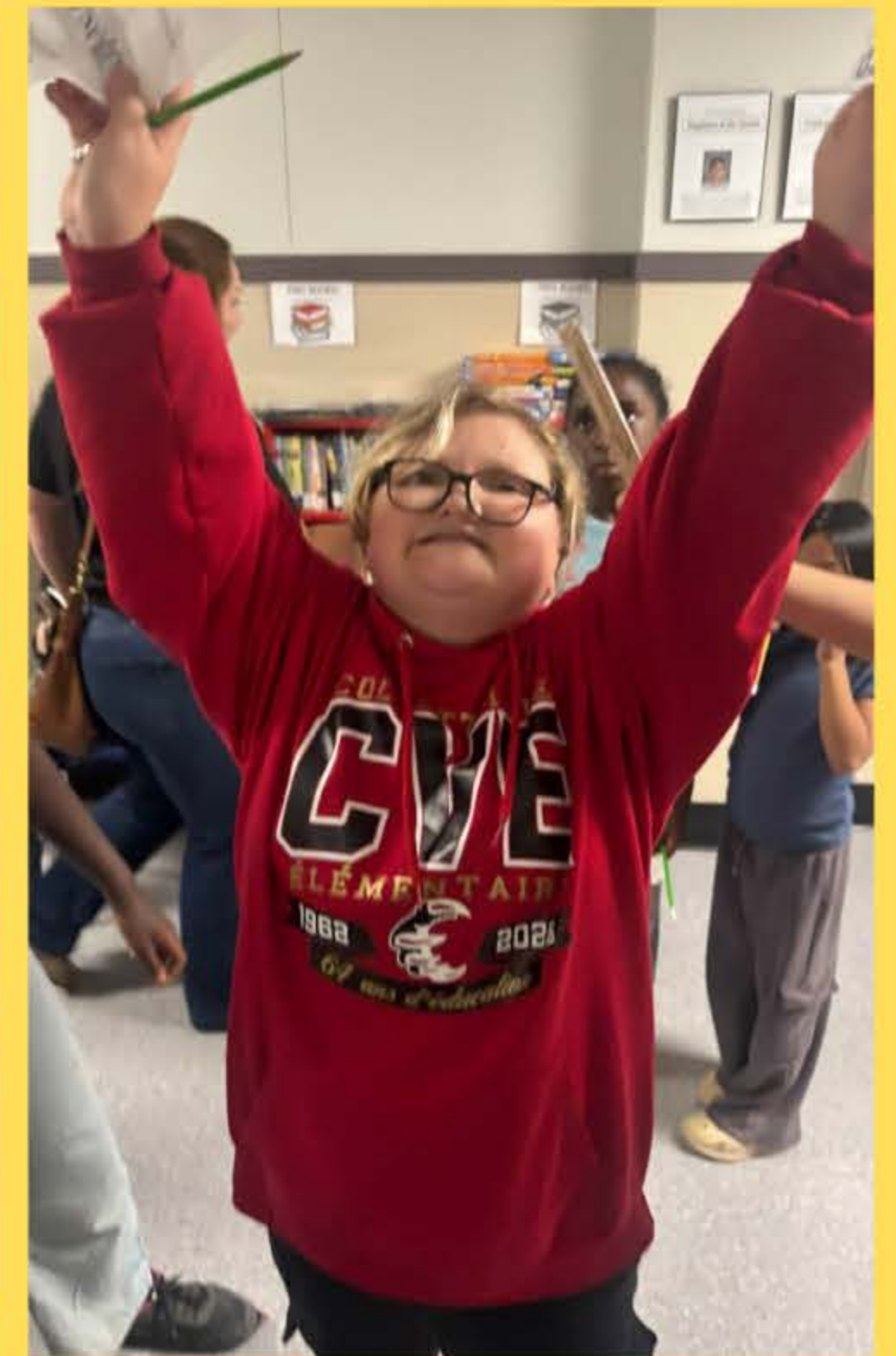
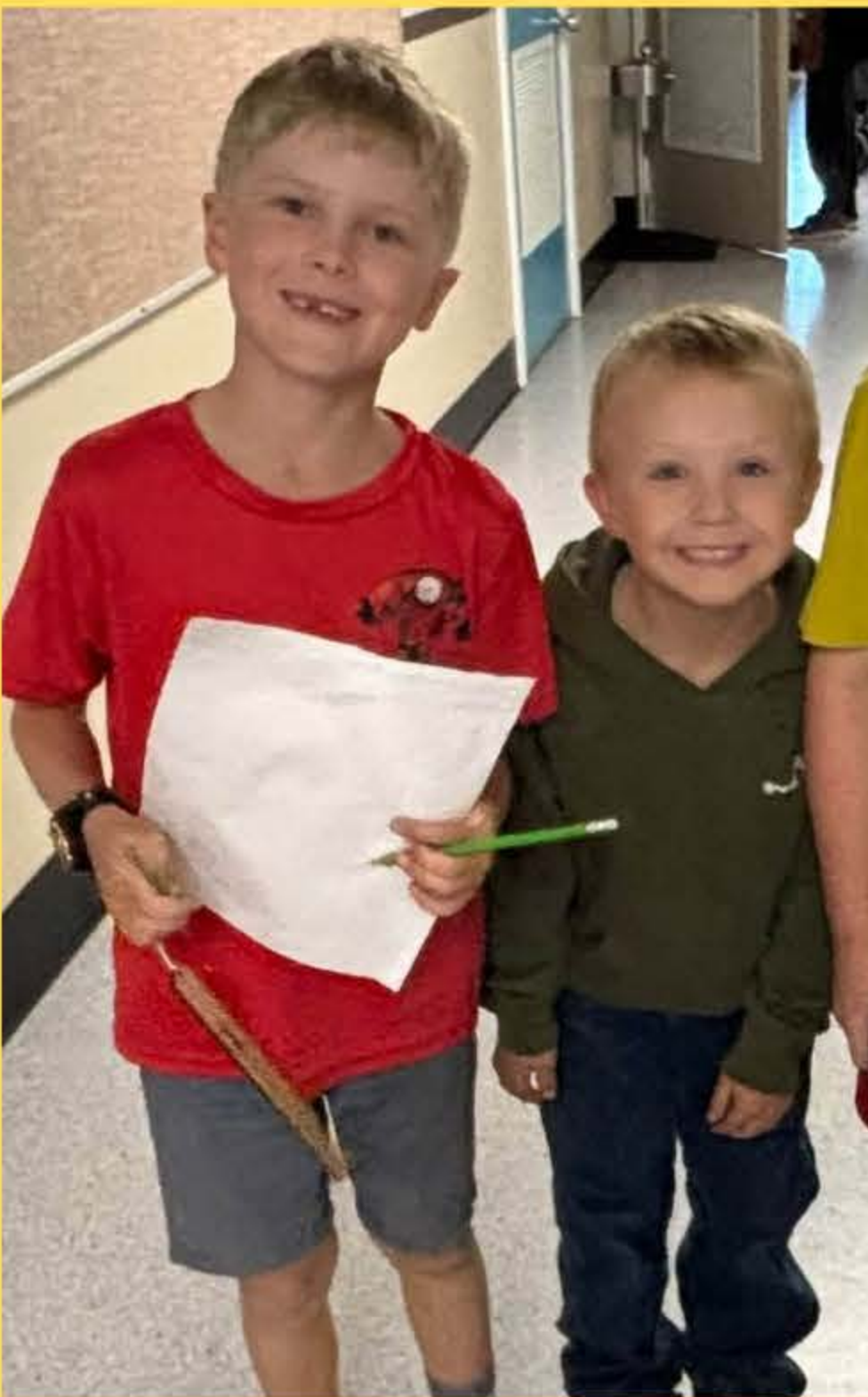




École Merritt Central Elementary

Home of the Hawks!

Building Connection: EMCE Open House



Our Welcome Back Open House was an excellent way to connect at the start of the new school year, with contributions from our staff, PAC, Canadian Parents for French - Nicola Valley Chapter, and Literacy Merritt.

With chili and bannock served to all, and an interactive Bingo game to help families get to know staff, there was a little something for everyone!

Exploring the nsyilxcən Language



Ms. Joe sharing the nsyilxcən language with our primary students as they learn how to count to 10.

Our primary push-in model is one of the important ways we are connecting students to culture and helping them make an informed decision in Grade 5 when they can choose to study French, nsyilxcən, or Nt̓eʔkəpmxcin as a second language.

Showing Gratitude Through Art

Our Arts teacher, Ms. Wainwright, had Mrs. Kaur's grade 3/4 class make turkeys and record who/what they were grateful for.



DIAMOND VALE OCTOBER 2026

TRUTH & RECONCILIATION



Students in the intermediate grades created their own personal land acknowledgements, reflecting on the history and significance of the traditional territories on which we live, learn, and play. Intermediate students also had the opportunity to hear from guest speaker Dennis Saddleman, who shared his experiences as a Residential School survivor.

Our primary students were visited by Mrs. Decoine, who read stories and led discussions to help students better understand the history and significance of Orange Shirt Day in an age-appropriate and meaningful way.

RUNNING SEASON

All students participated in this year's Terry Fox Run and were challenged to raise the equivalent of a toonie each in support of the Terry Fox Foundation. Our school community successfully raised \$265 to help carry on Terry Fox's legacy of determination, hope, and helping others.



Cross country season has been in full swing, with 24 dedicated runners regularly attending practices and representing our school at races.

Our students have competed at Merritt Central, Douglas Lake, and NVIT, demonstrating excellent effort, perseverance, and sportsmanship throughout the season. Our Grade 6 & 7 students showed great leadership in marshalling the last event.



'MEET THE TEACHER'

Our Meet the Teacher night was well attended by students, parents, and staff. Participants took part in a fun school-wide challenge, with prizes generously donated by 7-Eleven. Chilli and bannock were provided for everyone to enjoy.



FIRE SAFETY

We are grateful to our local fire department for visiting our school and educating our older students about the importance of fire safety. Particular attention was given to the safe charging and use of electronic devices, helping students understand how to reduce the risk of fires at home and at school.





John Allison Elementary School

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT—September, 2026

THE COLOURS OF FALL



JAE & the TERRY FOX RUN





A successful school year begins long before the first bell rings. We would like to recognize and thank our **school bus drivers** for the care and professionalism they show every day. Their commitment to safely transporting our students to and from school is greatly appreciated, and we are thankful for their contribution to our JAE community.

Our JAE students explored the significance of **Orange Shirt Day** through learning activities and crafts, while also enjoying an unforgettable performance by world-class hoop dancer **Jay Genaille**, who shared his culture through movement and storytelling.

Hands and hearts at work! A Grade 1 student creates an orange tissue paper craft as part of our learning in recognition of Orange Shirt Day.



* PLAY * JOY * LEARN *





MERRITT SECONDARY

October 2026

September was a busy and positive start to the school year at Merritt Secondary School, with students quickly becoming involved in learning, athletics, leadership, and opportunities to connect with one another and the broader community.



Fall athletics are in full swing, with MSS students participating in Boys and Girls Volleyball, Boys Soccer, Cross Country, and Field Hockey. It has been great to see so many students representing the Panthers and building connections through school sport early in the year.



MSS is also thrilled to have Outdoor Education back on the timetable this year. Students have already been busy getting outside and learning on the land through a variety of experiences. The return of the program provides another valuable opportunity for students to develop practical skills, build relationships, and connect classroom learning with the natural environment around them.



Student leadership was on display during this year's Terry Fox Run. Thank you to our Leadership classes for organizing and leading the event for the school. Terry Fox's original goal was to raise one dollar for every Canadian, and each year MSS sets a similar goal of raising one dollar for every person in our school community. We were proud to once again surpass that goal while coming together in support of an important cause.



Building a strong sense of belonging and community was also an important focus throughout September. Grade 8 students participated in Code of Conduct orientation sessions grounded in the Circle of Courage. Rather than simply reviewing school rules, the sessions introduced students to a positive and relational approach to the ways we want to learn, work, and be together at MSS through the values of Belonging, Mastery, Independence, and Generosity.



September also provided important opportunities for cultural learning and reflection. French Immersion students participated in cultural drumming and song, while students and staff came together on September 29 for a Truth and Reconciliation Awareness Walk. The walk provided an opportunity for our school community to reflect, learn, and recognize our shared responsibility in the ongoing work of Truth and Reconciliation.



Overall, September provided a strong start to the 2026–27 school year, with students finding opportunities to connect, contribute, learn, and belong throughout the MSS community.

Nicola Canford



MUSHROOM PICKING



Mushroom Picking

As part of our observance of the local traditional 13 Moon Calendar, Mrs. Weatherbie's and Mrs. Cunningham's classes went out mushroom picking with Michael Ebenal from Forest Moon Fungi. It was a great day to hunt for mushrooms.

ƙecé? Tea Picking

Mrs. Ellingsen's class and Mrs. Thomas's classes were out on the land ƙecé? tea picking as part of our learning connected to the 13 moon calendar. What a great way to end the month. The weather was great, Hank Yemelst shared his wisdom with us and we collected enough tea for our school.



13 Moon Calendar



The 13 Moon Calendar follows the cycles of the moon and the natural seasons. Each moon marks a time of year connected to activities on the land

Salmon Reach The Source Moon



This moon marks the time when the salmon complete their long journey upstream to their spawning grounds. It is a season of gratitude, renewal, and reflection, reminding us of perseverance.



HOOP DANCING

Hoop Dancing

It was great to host hoop dancer Jay Genaille this week at our school. His presentation was very engaging and kids loved it. Nicola Canford participated in a number of activities in the lead up to Truth and Reconciliation day. All students sewed their own orange felt heart with sage and juniper inside. Our Intermediates participated in the Blanket Exercise and we held an assembly to memorialize those whose history connects to the residential school.

Cross Country Running Team

Our Cross Country Running Team has attended each race over the last few Wednesdays. They did an amazing job. K^{wuk}wsteyp to Derek Mobbs and Amelia Kim for supporting our team. And K^{wuk}wsteyp to Carter and Timber for being our team captains and supporting the team as they prep for the race. Great job showing humility and serving our community.

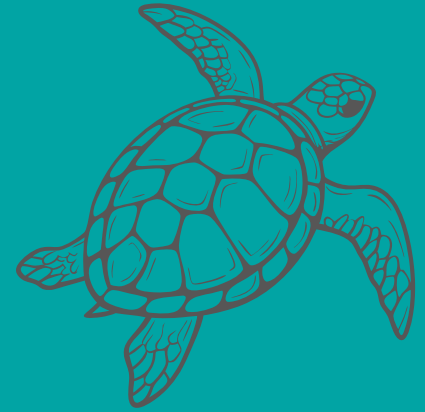


CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING TEAM

Terry Fox Run

Our school held our annual Terry Fox Run. Our younger primaries completed the field run while our older students ran to Smith Pioneer Park where this year's t-shirt winner was selected. K^{wuk}wsteyp to Mrs. Nelson-Smith for organizing us again this year and to Derek and Timber Mobbs for being our run leaders.





Find The Staff Member Who...

Find a staff member who matches the description.

Have them sign their names in the boxes that describe them.



I taught in another country.



I used to be a Merritt Centennial Hockey Player.



I used to be a figure skater.



I grew up on a farm in Saskatchewan.



I love to play hockey with my friends.



I love to bake.



I used to be a lifeguard.



I spent time in Greece this summer.



I visited 6 countries in the summer of 2020.



I like to play soccer.



I wrote a poem that was published in a book.

MERRITT BENCH OCTOBER SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Over the past month, students have begun settling into their classrooms and establishing routines for a successful school year. We were pleased to host a very successful Open House, where families were welcomed to the school to enjoy hot dogs, meet staff, and participate in a fun "Find the Teacher Who..." scavenger hunt activity.

Our school community also came together for a school-wide Terry Fox Run. Inspired by Terry's dream of raising one dollar for every Canadian, we set a goal of raising one dollar per student. We are proud to share that we surpassed our goal thanks to the generosity of our students, families, and community.

Students also enjoyed a special cultural presentation by Jay Genaille, who shared his talents and traditions through hoop dancing.

On September 29, staff and students wore orange shirts in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. We also held our first monthly assembly focused on the Grandfather Teachings. This month, students learned about the teaching represented by the Turtle: Truth, and explored how honesty and working hard to be the best versions of ourselves can support our school community.

Vermilion Forks Elementary



A GREAT START

It's been a busy and positive start to the year at our school. We were proud to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with activities that highlighted Indigenous cultures, traditions, and learning, giving students an opportunity to connect with and celebrate the rich histories and contributions of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. We also came together for our annual Terry Fox Run, with students showing great enthusiasm and community spirit while supporting an important cause.

A new addition this year has been our lunchtime Guitar Club, which has quickly become a popular gathering place for students. A big thank you goes to our parent volunteers who generously share their time and talents to make this opportunity possible.

We also took time to celebrate National Custodians' Day and recognize the incredible work of our Jess our custodian, whose efforts help keep our school safe, welcoming, and running smoothly every day. We are grateful for all she does behind the scenes to support our students and staff.



Vermilion Forks Elementary

