



Merritt Central Elementary School

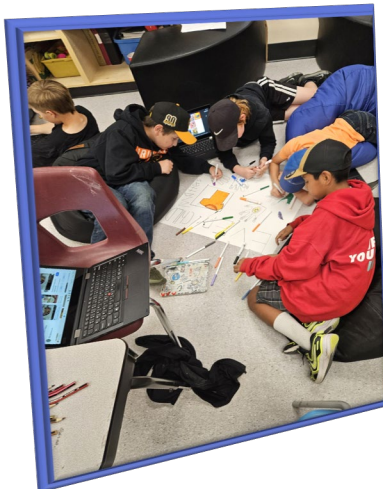


Honouring Truth and Reconciliation at MCES

Our school community came together in a powerful way to honour National Truth and Reconciliation Day and Orange Shirt Day. We began the year by deepening our commitment to anti-racism through our *Cultural Language and Storytelling Initiative*, expanding Indigenous language instruction to all primary classes and embedding diverse cultural practices and storytelling into school-wide learning.



A heartfelt thank you to Ms. Martha, our long-standing Indigenous Support Advocate, whose leadership brought this important day to life. She organized a series of meaningful activities, including a visit from Elder Willard Wallace, who shared his gifts as a drummer and storyteller. Ms. Martha also helped connect our school with N'kwala School, who joined us in a powerful march to honour Survivors and remember those who never made it home. The events concluded with a BBQ, made possible with the support of Indigenous Student Advocate Mr. Miller.





NŁEʔKEPMXCÍN

At our TRC assembly, our new nsyilxcən language teacher, Mrs. Michel, shared moving poetry by local Indigenous author Dennis Saddleman. Leading up to National TRC Day both Mrs. Michel and Miss Mansfield, our nłeʔkepmxcín language teacher, shared stories and teachings with students across all grade levels. Mrs. Smith supported our student leaders in learning and sharing the “word of the week” and land acknowledgements, helping to bring Indigenous language into the heart of our school culture.

In classrooms, staff ensured students understood the significance of Truth and Reconciliation through thoughtful lessons and discussions. Together, students created a collaborative bulletin board reflecting how every child should feel at school, safe, valued, and loved.

We are proud of our students and staff for their deep engagement and commitment to reconciliation, and we are grateful to our Indigenous partners for their continued guidance and generosity in sharing their knowledge and stories.

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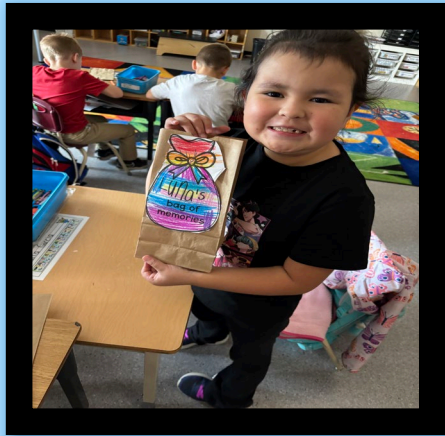


Mr. Easterbrook's grade 1/2 class enjoyed getting their feet wet with some on-the-land learning, exploring and play at the river.

The river is a great source of knowledge and medicine. Mrs. Ferris often utilizes the land learning opportunities that are in our back yard and the kindergarten class loves the opportunity to get outside.



Mr. Gagliano making connections with his students.



Ms. Morrison's student displays her memory bag after a culture lesson.



At the recent Grade 1-7 cross country race at Nicola-Canford, our MCES Hawks showed incredible perseverance, determination, and team spirit. Whether it was their first race or they were seasoned runners, every student gave it their all and made our school proud. 1-2-3 Hawks!

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our dedicated coaches, Mr. Shea, Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Martindale, who generously volunteered their lunch hours to train with our runners. Your time, encouragement, and leadership made this experience possible and meaningful for our runners. Way to go, Hawks!



StrongStart

Our StrongStart program is off to a beautiful start this fall! Mrs. Gage has created a calm, inclusive, and engaging environment where young children and their families can explore, play, and learn together. In the photos, you'll see children using play dough and fall-themed loose parts to create, imagine, and discover, activities that spark curiosity and support early development.

We're also grateful to be welcoming several new families from the community while Diamondvale School works through a temporary delay in launching their own StrongStart program. Mrs. Gage has gone above and beyond to ensure these families feel at home, offering a warm and supportive space for everyone.



Our dedicated librarian, Leanne Cleavelly, continues to inspire a love of reading, often putting in extra time to make the library a welcoming and engaging space. This month, she launched the Junior Librarian program, an exciting extracurricular that builds leadership and responsibility through hands-on tasks.

One recent challenge had students alphabetizing book sets, a deceptively simple activity that sparked real learning. As she shared, "This might become an event in the Junior Librarian Olympics! They were so engaged and many learned something new." One student's lightbulb moment said it all: "I got it! You have to look at the second letter!"

Our kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Ferris, is passionate about helping students learn through real-world experiences. She often partners with local businesses and community services to bring lessons to life and show students the value of the world around them.

This month, she took her class on a special visit to the public library. The children explored books, admired the train display, and took part in a fun activity led by one of the library helpers. It was a wonderful opportunity to discover all the great things our public library has to offer and to spark a lifelong love of reading and learning.

