



ARMSTRONG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

3010 Pleasant Valley Road ○ Armstrong, B.C. ○ V0E 1B2
Telephone (250) 546-8778 ○ Fax (250) 804-7781 email aes@sd83.bc.ca

Respect Self, Others, Property and Learning

November 3, 2025

Principal's Message

November is a great month for learning. Before we shift into the business of December, we are focused on academic learning with a particular emphasis on our goals of writing and math. In the monthly newsletters, I'll share some ways to support your child in these areas that are hopefully simple and easy-to-do.

In November, comes a change in weather, and often, the first snowfall. It's a great time to start digging out the snowsuits and boots and checking to make sure they still fit 😊 Labelling clothing with your last name is sure helpful. Please have a look at our overflowing lost and found the next time you are in the school. We have some great clothes that need to find their way back home!

Sincerely,

Megan Weir

Principal: AES

Our school goals:

Writing: Writing skills start to develop right from the very beginning of Kindergarten. One of the things our kids often struggle with is being able to give examples and back up their thinking. For example, after reading or watching a show/movie, ask your child about it. What did they think? A favourite part or thoughts on one of the characters... Ask them to tell you about some of their reasons and give examples. This can even be done when just talking about their day. In bus lineups after school, for example, I am often asking students to give me an example of something that made their day a good one. Being able to develop an idea by telling more about it and giving reasons and examples is an important skill for children to develop.

Numeracy: Playing games is a great way to reinforce the basic addition, subtraction and multiplication facts that are so important for math success.

Kindergarten: Playing "Go Fish" is great for learning to recognize numbers.

Grade 1-3: "Make 10" Using regular deck of cards, remove Jack, Queen, King. Deal nine cards face up (3 rows of 3 cards). Place the remainder of the pack as a draw pile. First person tries to pick up two cards that add to 10. If they can, they keep those cards and replace them with two cards from the draw pile. Play passes to the next player. If they cannot find any partners to 10, play passes to the next player. If no move is possible, the player can choose to take a card from the draw pile and see if it adds with any of the others to 10. Keep going until all the cards are used or no more moves are possible. The player with the most cards wins.

Intermediate: This is a great month to learn the game of crib! Crib is a fantastic game for developing math skills. There are many great videos online that can show you how to play if

you've never played before. All you need is a deck of cards and a cribbage board (often easily found at Dollar stores and thrift stores).

What did the teachers do on the last pro D day?

October 24 was a provincial pro D day. Most staff focused on Writing and technology, some focused on Social-Emotional learning, Science/ STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)/Math and one staff member was able to attend the Early Years Conference.

Writing is an important area of focus for us this year as we look at ways to support students understanding what their next step in writing is.

In support of this, writing samples have been posted in the stairwells. They were posted as well last year, and feedback indicated that many students took time to read the different samples.

From one sample to the next, there is a progression as ideas take shape and become increasingly organized and described. We want our students to embrace their learning journey in writing.

Parent, Teacher, Student Conferences

Thank you to everyone for coming in for our Parent, Teacher and Student conferences. We had terrific turn-out, but if you have not yet connected with your child's teacher, please reach out to them. This communication is so important in ensuring your child's success. I'm hoping that people found the online booking for conferences fairly straight forward. We welcome feedback!

Remembrance Day

We will hold our Remembrance Day assembly on Friday Nov 7 starting at 12:30 p.m. We are grateful to members of the Legion for leading our Remembrance Day assembly.

Skating

We have confirmed our skating dates/times for this season. Information likely made it home last week with your child. We will need lots of help, especially with the younger students, with getting skates tied. A reminder that ALL volunteers need to have a criminal record check completed even if they are only helping their own child. Here is the information of how to complete the criminal record check process:

If you would like to volunteer in any capacity in the school, you will need to complete a criminal record check online. This is a free process as costs are covered by the school district. Completed criminal record checks are good for five years.

Process:

- 1) Go to <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/criminalrecordcheck>
- 2) Enter the code **6TQTFUJGQP**
- 3) Follow the instructions for completing the online Criminal Record Check.

Further instructions, showing step by step instructions can be found at https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/crime-prevention/criminal-record-check/ecrc_online_service_-_user_guide_2021.pdf

Winter concert

AES Winter Concert is one month away and I know it can take quite a bit of planning to be able to organize schedules at work and other commitments. We will hold three concerts again this year, with rehearsals in the morning and the live performances in the afternoon starting at 12:30. Each class will perform one day only.

“The Colours of Christmas”

TUESDAY Dec. 2	WEDNESDAY Dec. 3	THURSDAY Dec. 4
Ramsey (Red)	Dorward/Crowie (Red)	Rempel (Red)
Monsieur (Green)	Quinton (Green)	Novakowski/Lane (Green)
Jacques (Silver&Gold)	Foster (Silver&Gold)	Purdon (Silver&Gold)
Belec (White)	Neufeld (White)	Weeks (White)

*Concerts @ 12:30 p.m. Doors will open at noon.

This year the theme is “The Colours of Christmas” and each class has been assigned a special colour to wear for the performance.

We kindly ask that students come dressed in their class colour on top (a shirt, sweater or something similar) for their concert day. This helps bring our theme to life and makes our performance extra festive!

Please don’t feel the need to buy something new – we completely understand that not everyone will have something in the exact colour. We just ask that you do your best with what you already have (a t-shirt with the colour on it or even a small accessory like a scarf or tie).

Thank you so much for your support

School fees

This is a friendly reminder to please pay your school fees. When we order the supplies in bulk through the school we save quite a bit and have been able to pass along the savings to you. However, we do count on recovering the fees as families pay them in the fall in order to make the system work. If you haven’t yet paid your school fees, we ask that you submit them as soon as possible. We realize that finances can be tough for families. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to Megan Weir, Principal, if you require assistance with covering the cost of your child’s school fees.

Soup Days

We continue to really appreciate the soup days that Shuswap Food Action provides and our PAC generously donates their time each week to look after serving soup on Mondays. We really encourage you to send a mug and spoon with your child each Monday. This helps us save on disposable dishes and helps the environment too.

Letter writing day

We will be holding a family letter writing day again this year. Students will have the option of writing a letter to Santa, as well as one more letter to a relative or special person. Parents/guardians are encouraged to join us, if possible, to enjoy the letter writing time with their child. We know not all families will be able to take time in the middle of the day, so we are

grateful to those who are able to come and perhaps support another child as well as their own while writing letters. It takes a village 😊 . Letter writing time will be November 28 from 1-2 p.m. Watch for more information coming home soon!



Parent Advisory Council (PAC) News

Our PAC is a dedicated group of parents who work very hard to provide opportunities for our kids in so many different ways. PAC supports things like breakfast program, hot lunches, supporting field trips financially, providing funds for ‘extras’ in classrooms, and so much more.

Parent connect is Wednesday Nov 5, 4:30-6:00. Childcare is provided. A safe and inviting space for parents to come and connect with the PAC and connect with other AES parents. Everyone welcome!

Thank you to everyone who supported our apple fundraiser. We raised \$600.

Pub night and silent auction Nov 8 at the legion.

Parents can watch for the Christmas wrapping paper fundraiser to come out soon as well as details on the Christmas bake sale!

Our next PAC meeting is Wednesday Nov 19 @ 5:30. Childcare will be provided and just a reminder that as a parent with a student at AES you are automatically a member of the PAC and we encourage parents to come out to the meetings and comment and share suggestions and get an idea of how they can help support our staff and students.

AES Spirit Wear is available for purchase. It is on the Armstrong Elementary School website <https://aes.sd83.bc.ca>

Click on the top tab “Parents” and it is the Spirit Wear in the drop down menu.



Important Dates:

Nov 3	Soup day: Buffalo & Barley soup
Nov 4	Munchalunch: Pizza
Nov 5	Photo re take day
Nov 5	PAC Parent Connection drop in 4:30-6pm
Nov 7	Remembrance Day assembly 12:30
Nov 10	Pro D day: no school for students
Nov 11	Stat holiday: Remembrance Day
Nov 14	Munchalunch: hotdogs
Nov 17	Soup day: Minestrone Soup
Nov 18	Munchalunch: Askews
Nov 19	PAC meeting 5:30
Nov 20	Student leadership Spirit Day: Mustache Day
Nov 24	Soup day: Mac & Cheese
Nov 25	Munchalunch: Sushi
Nov 27	“Come Read with Me” Grade 1 families 8-9:30am (more information to come)
Nov 28	Letter writing afternoon: parents invited to join their children in classes 1-2 p.m

AES: the School Where Everyone Belongs