

Armstrong Elementary School

## Respect Self, Others, Property and Learning

May 1, 2026

### Principal's Message

Spring has definitely arrived in our community! The AES garden is back in action, with classes returning to the learning garden to plant and care for their class garden box. Thank you to our PAC Garden Coordinator for supporting this outdoor learning experience for classes.

It continues to be a busy time of year, so please be sure to check the calendar on the school website ([aes.sd83.bc.ca](http://aes.sd83.bc.ca)) for ongoing information.

Sincerely,

*Megan Weir*

### Our school goals:

**Writing:** One form of non-fiction writing is creating a "how to" guide. Step by step information is really important when creating a "how to" guide. This month one of the things that you can help your child with is sequencing information. It can be challenging for students to put information in logical sequence without missing steps. For example, asking your child to explain all the steps needed to make a hamburger or plant a seedling will help them to practise keeping the information in order, as well as focus on the details to ensure that no steps are left out. March/April Writing Thinkers had 137 submissions! Students of all ages participated and submissions were so fun to read – and a few were shared out at the April Celebration of Learning Assembly. Thank you to all who participated... next Writing Thinkers will be in June.

**Numeracy:** Finding great games to practice basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts will be incredibly helpful for students at all grades. Around the House is a fun game for adult and kids alike.

AROUND THE HOUSE

Materials: 3 regular 6-sided dice

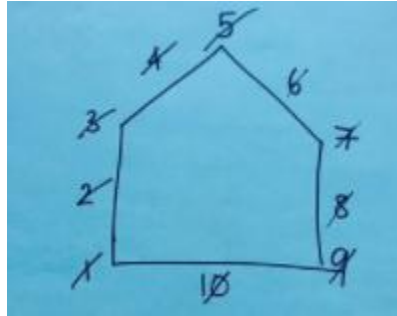
Player 1: Rolls all three dice. See if they can use all three dice, using any or all operations, to create the first target number of 1. If Player 1 is successful, they cross off the 1 on the house. **(NOTE- for young students, you can make the rule that they only have to use 2 of the 3 dice rolled to make the desired total)**

Then, without re-rolling the dice, Player 1 sees if they can create an equation equivalent to 2 (using same dice). If they can, they cross off 2 and then try to create an equation equal to 3 and so on.

When Player 1 cannot find an equation to equal the target total, then Player 2 gets a turn.

Player 2 picks up the three dice and rolls them all. They then try to create "1" from their dice. When they can't make a move, play passes to the next person and so on.

**The winner is the person who crosses off the final 10 and therefore makes it all the way around the house first.**



Player 1 rolls



Player 1 needs to make "1" so they say  $2 + 2 - 1 = 1$ . Then they cross off "1" on their house. Player 1 now needs to make "2". If they cannot make "2" then play passes to Player 2. In this example, depending on the understanding and level of the child, they can make "2" by doing  $3 - \frac{2}{2} = 2$ . Then Player 1 can try to make "3". In this example  $3 + 2 - 2 = 3$ . To make "4"  $3 \times 2 - 2 = 4$ . Player 1 continues on with the same roll until they cannot make the next number. Then play passes to the other player.

Player 2: Rolls the three dice.



Player 2 tries to make "1".  $6 - (5 \times 1) = 1$ . Player 2 then tries to make "2"  $6 + 1 - 5 = 2$  and then tries to make 3 and so on.

**\*\*Reminder that young children can roll all three dice and then just use 2 of them to make the required total.**

### **Class Organization for 2026-2027 school year**

At this time, staffing has not been completed for next year however we are working on configurations for next year's classes. We anticipate that configurations will look similar to this year with split classes for gr.  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{2}{3}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$  and  $\frac{4}{5}$ . Please be assured that we do not split kids into classes based on academic achievement. If a class is a  $\frac{2}{3}$  combined class, for example, we do not put the highest 2's in with the lowest 3's. That's not a helpful

learning situation for anyone. We work hard to place students based on what we feel is the best placement for each individual child. If you have questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at the school.

May is the time of year when we begin the lengthy process of placing students into classes for next year. This is a fluid process and won't be locked in until school starts in the new school year, but there is a great deal of thought and care that goes into placing everyone. We consider many factors including the number of students in each grade, Ministry of Education and Child Care mandated maximum class size, number of students with designated learning needs, social and emotional considerations and matching learning and teaching styles.

If there are specific educational reasons that you would like us to take into consideration when placing your child, please fill out [the attached Microsoft form link](#) (open until the end of May).

## **Cross Country running**

Congratulations to our HUGE cross country running team on a fantastic season! We had approximately 60 students involved in the team. Many thanks to the coaches Mr. Belec, Mrs. Rempel, and Mrs. Lane for their dedication to the after school practices and all the organization it takes to host two runs at AES as well as take the team to the Little Mountain district race. There were well over 1000 runners at Little Mountain and our students did very well.

## **Swimming lessons and pool time**

Thank you to our PAC for supporting swimming lessons for all grade 3 students. We are very grateful!

Swimming sessions for all classes will be starting in the third week of May and continuing through June. Please watch for a permission form coming home soon, if they haven't already been sent. This must be returned to the school in order for your child to enter the water. We will also need parent helpers for these sessions, particularly for our Kindergarten classes. All helpers must have a criminal record check completed. Please ensure you have done this process if you are willing to help out. Instructions for completing record checks are at the end of this newsletter.

## **Spring Festival**

Our Spring Festival will be held on Friday May 15 between recess and lunch. We will enjoy a picnic lunch outside with families (weather permitting). Come and watch our Maypole dancers as well as be entertained by some musical performances (Div 1, 4, 11 and 12). We will not be parking in front of the school (by the bus lanes) so that there is room for classes to set up chairs and view the festivities. If it is a bright and sunny day, please help your child remember to bring a hat. The picnic will happen at the rear of the school- on the field, the asphalt or the picnic tables – families are welcome to bring chairs/blanket to sit on. For safety reasons no eating at the front of the school will be permitted. Thank you to Mrs. Normandeau, Mrs. Monsigneur and Mrs. Ramsey for all their work to prepare students and organize this event!

## Communicating Student Learning

Each year students receive formal written learning updates in December, March and the end of June. We also have two informal learning updates: the conferences in October and another learning update in the spring- which is happening during the last week of April and the first week of May. This year, teachers are doing either a student led conference where an adult comes to school with their child and the child will present their learning in a variety of ways, or there will be communication coming home in the form of a written document or portfolio of work for students to present to their families. Teachers are always happy to speak with families to discuss their child's progress. The more we work together, the better we can support your child's learning.

## PAC volunteers

Our school has benefitted from all the volunteers who have supported our many programs and initiatives, from breakfast program and hot lunches/soup days to fundraising to support our swimming program. Please consider getting involved – to find out more, come and join us at the PAC meetings, last one for this year is June 16<sup>th</sup> (child-minding is available).

## Criminal Record Checks

We are now at the point when most of our volunteers have successfully completed their Criminal Record Checks. Thank you! Please remember that we will not be able to have any parents accompany classes on field trips, at the pool, or volunteer in the school, without a criminal record check. This is a district policy and is really done to help protect our children. We don't want to have to turn away parents from the school, so please ensure you have your criminal record check completed as soon as possible and definitely in advance of any upcoming event. Your support is very much appreciated.

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](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/crime-prevention/criminal-record-check/ecrc_online_service_-_user_guide_2021.pdf)

If you have any questions, please contact either Kyla Verbeek or Megan Weir at the school.



## Important Dates (please also check the Calendar at [aes.sd83.bc.ca](https://aes.sd83.bc.ca)):

May 4	Japanese Curry soup
May 4	School spirit: Star Wars Day (please leave light sabres at home 😊)
May 5	munchalunch: Opa
May 7	Div 5 & 10 to Kal Lake Park (9:30-1:45)
May 7	Div 2 & 4 to Gardom Lake (8:30-1:45)

May 8	No school for students; Indigenous Day of Learning for all staff
May 11	Minestrone soup
May 11	Div 6 & 7 to O'Keefe Ranch (9:30-1:45)
May 12	munchalunch: Pizza
May 15	AES Spring Festival (recess to lunch with family picnic weather permitting)
May 18	Victoria Day – no school in session
May 19	munchalunch: Askews
May 21	Div 6 to Allan Brooks Nature Centre (9:00-1:00)
May 25	Mac & Cheese (soup)
May 26	munchalunch: Sushi
May 27	PAC meeting 5:30 in the library (child-minding provided)
May 28	Div 10, 11 & 12 field trip to Legendairy Farm
May 29	Spirit Day: Dress sporty; Celebration of Learning Assembly at 10:10am
June 1	Chilli & Bannock (soup)
June 1	Div 1 to Gardom Lake (8:15-1:25)
June 2	Gr. 4/5 District Track and Field meet at Field of Dreams in Salmon Arm
June 2	munchalunch: Opa
June 2	Len Wood Middle new student and family information session (time TBD)
June 3	Welcome to Kindergarten for our incoming Kindergarten families
June 4	Div 9 & 10 to RJ Haney (9-1pm)
June 5	Chess Club – chess & pizza in the park (9:45-11:45)
June 8	Div 11 to Blackburn park
June 9	munchalunch: pizza
June 10	PAC AGM
June 12	Gr. 5 celebration day
June 15	Div 6 & 9 to Ellison park (9:00-1:45)
June 16	munchalunch: Askews
June 16	PAC meeting @ 5:30pm
June 17	School spirit: Celebrity Day
June 18	Kindergarten grad (1:00-1:50pm)
June 19	AES Waterslides Day
June 22	National Indigenous Peoples Day – activities at AES
June 23	Group swims
June 25	Last day for students; final written learning updates go home; Dismissal at 10:00am

AES: the school where everyone BELONGS