

Armstrong Elementary School

Respect Self, Others, Property and Learning

February 23, 2026

Principal's Message

Despite the recent cold snap, Spring seems to be near. Along with spring comes mud 😞 Please send some extra clothes to leave at school, or at least in backpacks, in case your child ends up slip sliding into the mud. We're running out of clothes at the office to lend out! We are happy to take donations of pants, mostly boys, sized 6-12. Thank you!

As we are in the last three weeks prior to spring break, I'd also like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a wonderful break. I hope you get to enjoy some good family time and hopefully some nice sunny weather. I will look forward to seeing everyone on March 30th!

Sincerely,

Megan Weir

Our school goals:

Writing: In support of student writing, we are introducing "Writing Thinkers" in March. While we will continue with math word problem solvers, for the months of March and May we will have a school-wide opportunity for students to do some writing. More information on this will be shared with students in the coming weeks. We are continuing to help children develop their stamina for writing and oral language plays a key role (we can write what we can talk about). To support children sharing their thinking and developing an idea by giving reasons, "would you rather" is a great game to play, whether around the dinner table or on the go.

Play "Would You Rather...?" (Opinion Writing)

Some ideas:

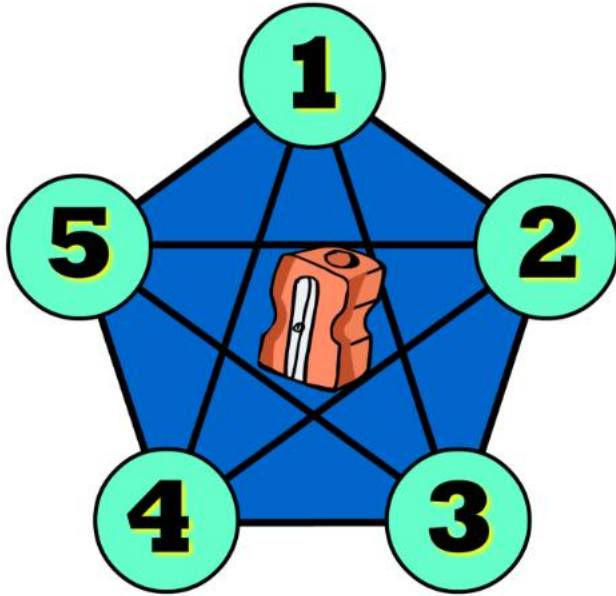
- "Would you rather be able to fly or be invisible? Why?"
- "Would you rather live in space or underwater?"

Encourage reasons: "...because..."

Supports writing: forming opinions, supporting ideas with evidence.

Numeracy: "23 or Bust" is a great game that requires no equipment other than a paper and pencil (and a random small object). It builds number sense as well as fluency with addition, which is important for all of our students. Here's how to play:

This is a game for two players



Draw the diagram above on a sheet of paper and place an object, such as a pencil sharpener, in the centre.

Two players take it in turns to move the object on to a number. This number is added to the running total for this game. The object of the game is to reach a total of 23. If a player makes the running total greater than 23 they have lost.

School Wide Pancake Breakfast

We will be holding a school-wide pancake breakfast on the morning of **Thursday March 12**. Leadership students will cook and serve pancakes to classes- **but we will need quite a number of parent helpers to assist with this large undertaking**. We need helpers who are available to help supervise groups of students cooking pancakes, adults helping with serving in the gym, and of course, some supervision for the clean up crew! Those volunteering to supervise the “chefs” will need to be available from about 7:10am to approximately 10:00. Those assisting with serving and cleanup would be required from 8:00 to 10:30 or so. **We are also hoping to borrow a couple of electric griddles or electric frying pans (to be labelled and brought into school at least the day ahead, on March 11th)**. **If you are able to assist with this morning in any way, please call the school and leave your name and contact number for Ms. Weir**. Without your support this fun feast would not be possible! Because many classes won't be eating right away, please still feed your kiddo a bit of breakfast before they come to school that day 😊

Gr. 5 Variety Show

AES Gr. 5s have a variety of talents to showcase for us! The Variety show will be held on Friday, March 13 at 10:20am. We are very much looking forward to this special event.

Student cell phones/devices at school

Please note the school district's policy on cell phones/devices at school:

“Elementary/middle schools: The use of personal digital devices are not permitted while at school during both instructional and non-instructional time.”

The [full policy can be found here](#), if you would like to read further.

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February 13th Professional Development Day

This Pro D day was a regional professional development day, shared with Vernon and Kelowna school districts. Many staff attended learning sessions hosted by the Central Okanagan Teacher's Association. Teachers who were at the school spent time pursuing a variety of professional development interests, which, for classroom teachers, mostly focused on: Writing, Math/Science-Tech-Engineering-Math (STEM). I was able to attend a learning session on Restorative Practices, where we learned about ways to support students through conflict resolution that promotes learning while striving to maintain the dignity of the child.

Gr. 4 Student Learning Survey

Students in grades 4, 7, 10 and 11 across the province participate in a Learning Survey, meant to help school districts better understand the academic and extra-curricular life of students. This survey is also open to the parents/guardians of these students. Grade 4 students will have the opportunity to participate in the survey as soon as we're back from Spring Break. Grade 4 families, a link to the parent survey will be shared out shortly. Your input is appreciated!

Restoration and Painting

The Operations crew working at AES had to attend to some small but urgent projects around the district, but they will be back at AES in the last week of February to begin work on room 123. Mrs. Ramsey's class will be in the music room during the time of work being done to the room. Once that room is done, Mr. Belec's room will be next.

Kindergarten and Gr. 3 Vision Screening

In the morning of April 13th, Lions Club volunteers will be on site to support vision screening for our Kindergarten and grade 3 students. Since Lions Clubs International was founded in 1917, sight is one of the Lions defining causes and Lions have since gained worldwide recognition for their work to improve sight and prevent blindness. More information and a "reverse" consent form will be shared with Kindergarten and Grade 3 families before Spring Break.

PAC

Our PAC continues to work behind the scenes in support of the Breakfast Program, Soupermeals, as well as fundraising in support of school initiatives. The Willing 2 Ninja PE sessions in the last week of February are supported by PAC funds. Thank you! There is a "learning garden" display by the office that students have enjoyed checking out! The upcoming PAC meeting is Wednesday, February 25 at 5:30. This will be a hybrid meeting: parents/guardians are welcome to join us in the AES library, or online using the following link: [PAC meeting | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)



Important Dates – also noted on [Calendar - Armstrong Elementary](#):

Feb. 23	Div 6 Skating 8:30-9:45; Div 8 Skating 11:45-1pm
Feb. 23	Soupermeal: Stone soup
Feb. 24	Munchalunch Opa
Feb. 24	Pink Shirt Day @ AES
Feb. 24	Celebration of learning Assembly 10:30am
Feb 26-27	Willing 2 Ninja PE workshops
Mar. 2	Soupermeal: Chicken pesto pasta
Mar. 3	Munchalunch pizza

Mar. 6 Ready Set Learn! Age 3-5 and their caregivers!
Mar. 6 Munchalunch hotdogs
Mar. 9 Soupermeal: minestrone
Mar. 10 Learning update #2 comes home
Mar. 10 Munchalunch Askews
Mar. 11 Cultural Performance (500 Words) 8:35am
Mar. 11 PAC meeting 5:30
Mar. 12 Pancake Breakfast
Mar. 13 Gr. 5 Variety Show 10:20am
Mar. 16-27 Spring Break!
March 30 Back to school! Can't wait to see everyone!
April 3 Easter Friday: no school
April 6 Easter Monday: no school
April 7 Munchalunch Opa
April 20 Pro D day: school for staff only!
April 28 PAC meeting