



Merritt Central Elementary School



On November 10, our school came together to honour and remember the veterans who sacrificed so much to protect our safety, rights, and freedoms. We are grateful to live in a country where we enjoy the gift of freedom.

Our student-led ceremony began with a powerful entrance: Indigenous student dancers and our colour guard marched into the steady beat of our school drum group, setting a tone of respect and unity. Students and ISA, Martha Chillihitzia, shared greetings and land acknowledgments and nleʔkepmxcín and nsyilxcən, blessings. Leading up to the event, classes learned about the meaning of Remembrance Day and in our annual traditional fashion, created beautiful wreaths to honour veterans and fallen soldiers.

I read *Why We Remember*, a heartfelt book written and illustrated by students from Graysville School in Manitoba. Brave students recited the Act of Remembrance, the Commitment to Remember, and "In Flanders Fields," reminding us why November 11 matters. We also recognized Indigenous Veterans Day (November 8) through a video highlighting the vital roles Indigenous soldiers played in defending our freedoms.

The ceremony closed with a moving performance of *Soldier Boy* by our drum group, led by Derrick Sheena, a moment that touched everyone present. This day was a beautiful example of how student voice can lead the way in creating meaningful traditions. As a school, we are proud to honour the past, teach the present, and inspire the future. Lest we forget.

Space Day in Ms. Morrison's Class

Ms. Morrison turned her Grade 1 classroom into a space adventure! Students walked into a room where desks became rocket ships, planets hung from the ceiling, and constellations lit up the scene.

Throughout the day, students completed fun "missions" that blended literacy, numeracy, ADST, and art, earning astronaut badges along the way. After finishing all their tasks, the Grade 1 crew officially graduated from astronaut training, a celebration of creativity and hard work!



Mrs. Ferris' Class Enjoys Literacy Snacks



Mrs. Ferris' class combined reading and tasty treats for a memorable literacy activity! Students read the beloved story *If You Give a Moose a Muffin* by Laura Numeroff and then rolled up their sleeves to make their very own "moose muffins."

After reading, students discussed the story, visualized the events, and explored new vocabulary. Then came the fun part decorating muffins! The classroom was filled with laughter and the sweet smell of muffins as students worked to design their own moose muffin. I wonder what their next Literacy snack will be?

Snow Days lead to Outdoor Fun, Cooperation and Creativity

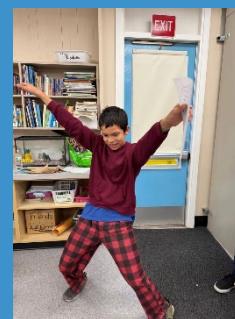
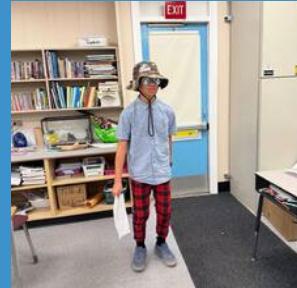


Mr. Shea Makes French Fashionable

Mr. Shea's Grade 6/7 class turned French learning into a creative celebration! After practicing vocabulary, colors, and clothing, students showcased their skills in a lively French Fashion Show.

They wrote short scripts describing their outfits and walked the "runway" in imaginative costumes, showing off both creativity and pronunciation.

This fun activity proved that learning a new language can be interactive and full of personality. Bravo to Mr. Shea and his class for making French Fantastique!



Indigenous Professional Development

Our staff is grateful to our community members Cora Tom, Christy Whitiker, and Judy Chilhitzia who joined us for an after-school session on culture and language. Their generosity made this learning experience truly meaningful.

A highlight was learning from our nsyilxcən language teacher, Matty Michel, how to introduce ourselves in nsyilxcən following Syilx traditions, a beautiful way to share identity and connect with the land. We also explored the symbolism behind ribbon skirts and shirts, which have become powerful expressions of identity and resilience. The colors, patterns, and ribbons carry deep meaning, reflecting connections to culture and personal stories.

This session inspired our staff to bring language and cultural knowledge into classrooms, fostering stronger relationships and a more inclusive environment. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this possible!



Volleyball Season was a Smash



This year's volleyball season was incredible! Under Mr. Shea's leadership, with support from Mr. Miller and Ms. Melissa, our school proudly fielded two competitive teams and for the second year in a row, we brought home the District Championship!

Our players showed amazing commitment, practicing daily at lunch and even scrimmaging with the MSS Grade 8 girls' team to sharpen their skills. After the big win, the team celebrated with games, dancing, and pizza a well-deserved reward for their hard work.

The season wrapped up with the Students vs. Staff game, a fun tradition that reminds us it's not about being the best athlete, it's about having fun, trying something new, and enjoying the spirit of play.

Thank you to everyone who played, supported, and cheered us on. Here's to another year of teamwork, sportsmanship, and MCE pride!



Mini Playgrounds in Action!

Mrs. Tolmie's Grade 5/6 class brought creativity and problem-solving to life with their ADST project: designing and building mini playgrounds! Students worked in teams to plan, construct, and test their designs, using everyday materials to create fun and functional structures.

This hands-on challenge encouraged collaboration, critical thinking, and innovation skills that go beyond the classroom. The results? Imaginative playgrounds that showcase what happens when learning meets creativity!

Great job, Grade 5/6 designers!



Mrs. Cleaveley is a Champion for Student Engagement at MCES

At Merritt Central Elementary, Mrs. Cleaveley's dedication to students shines far beyond the classroom walls. Her commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for learning and connection shines in the way she opens the school library during her own lunch breaks. Instead of taking time for herself, Mrs. Cleaveley transforms the library into a hub of creativity and collaboration.

Through clubs like Train Club and Junior Librarians, Mrs. Cleaveley fosters an environment where students can explore their interests, work together, and develop essential skills. These activities encourage peer collaboration, critical and creative thinking, and a love for reading, all while being fun and engaging. Students not only learn new skills but also build friendships and confidence in a welcoming space.

