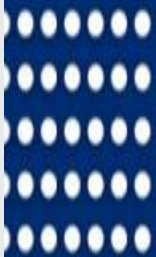


STEM IA Scoop

OCTOBER EDITION

*Know what's happening,
the newspaper isn't
babbling!*



Hiking Experience A Big Success!



On October 9th and 10th every grade nine class went on a hike in Grassi Lakes, Canmore. In health class, they learned safety and preparation for a hike. Mrs. Dhanoa organized the trip for everyone, and the students' Spark teachers went with their classes. The day was a nice, slightly cool, mostly sunny day, and the students enjoyed the chance to socialize

- Archer L.

Door Decorating Competition

Door decorating is one of the ideas that was put forward in our Spark class time. Each door's decor was supposed to reflect the identity of the class members in the room. The winner of the door is revealed to be 9B, Ms. Bretner's class! How did they react? Well, let's say that they were really excited to win... and they should be! The idea to do baby photos emerged when the class wanted to compare things that they had in common like the fact that all of them like food, but they came up with words that start with "B" and that is when they came across funny baby photos. It was a brilliant idea. They made a great team and look forward to building and competing in more challenges! With a great creative idea and lots of teamwork, they are sure to be successful. Let's congratulate 9B on their win. Keep up the good work, 9B!

- Erin C.



9B Door. Photo credit to Ara U.

STEMIA ATHLETICS

BOY'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Grade 7 teacher, Mr. Celis, has coached the boys' volleyball team for the last two seasons. Though he had no experience with volleyball, Mr. Celis was interested in teaching the game, so he chose to coach them.

In the boys' volleyball team, grades 8 and 9 students participate. Mr. Celis believes

The season's highlights in the boys' volleyball team are that they won two games. Mr. Celis was proud of how hard the boys worked!

In volleyball, the struggle comes when the ball is passed and served. Mr. Celis found that the area the team struggled in was receiving the ball when people served it. The problem was that some

that the grade 8's will return next year better, because the grade 9's will go to grade 10.



people served too hard while others did the opposite, making it difficult to receive/catch the ball. With practice, the coach believes that the team would get better at serving and receiving the ball. He believes that the team will improve gradually, with time and determination.

The game of volleyball concentrates on the team's combined effort in how the ball is passed and served to each other. When the team works together in moving the ball, this effort would get them to their goal of winning or learning something new together.

- Tejaswini P.



A Coach's View: Girls' Volleyball

Ms. Seib is the dedicated coach of the girls' volleyball team, sharing her passion for sports and teamwork on the court. With two years of coaching experience, she aims to help each player grow individually while also building a strong team. Her approach mixes skill development with a fun and supportive environment, making practices both effective and enjoyable. Ms. Seib believes every player



can shine and strives to create a space where everyone can thrive.

For the past two years, she has focused on understanding each player's strengths and weaknesses to build a strong team. Her practice routine includes a warm-up lap, dynamic stretching, partner exercises, skill drills, and gameplay. This helps players improve while also learning to work together.

Ms. Seib thinks it's essential for the team to have fun while learning and growing. She encourages everyone to show up consistently and get to know each other as individuals. By building trust and friendships, the team becomes closer and more united. She reminds the players that doing their best looks different for everyone, and the goal is to enjoy the game and support one another.

Whatever they are doing, it's working! The team is the strongest we have seen at STEMIA, and we hope they go to the top of our division!

- Samara M.

Orange Shirt Day

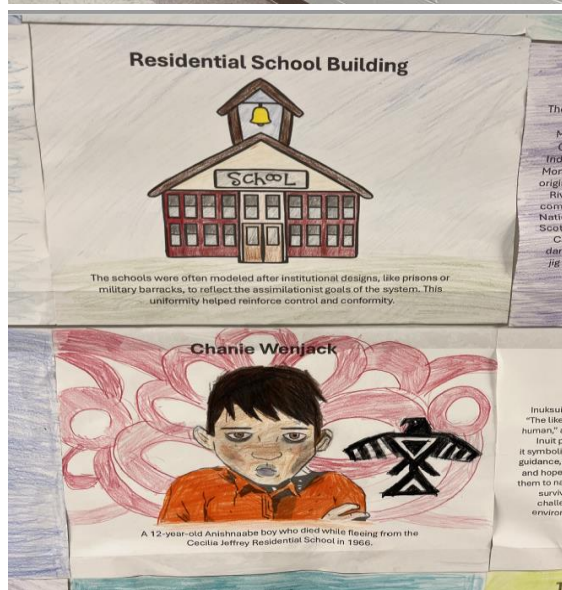
In the spirit of reconciliation, Stem IA would like to acknowledge that we live, work and play on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the îethka Nakoda Nations (Chiniki, Bearspaw, Goodstoney), the Otipemisiwak Métis Government (Districts 5 and 6), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

On September 30, we all wear orange shirts for Truth and Reconciliation Day. Most of you know why we wear orange shirts, but what really is Truth and Reconciliation Day and what does it mean? This day is dedicated to learning from the indigenous people, recognizing, and taking responsibility for our past actions. We, specifically, were not involved in the process, but we still acknowledge the mistakes collectively as a group.

Many of you know the origin of Orange Shirt Day. A girl named Phylis Webstad wore an orange shirt to a residential school which was given to her by her grandmother. The nuns took it away and it was never returned, but they could not take away her legacy that still makes an impact on us today.

Orange Shirt Day officially started in 2013. For Phylis, it started in 1973. Here at Stem IA, we all participated in activities that informed us about some information about Orange Shirt Day. In addition, the highlight of it was creating a witness blanket. There is a real witness blanket in the Canadian Museum for Human rights in Winnipeg. It is made up of donated items, and they each tell their own story individually and as a group. This blanket represents warmth, friendship, and acknowledgement. Some more exciting news - we raised almost \$1000! Thank you to anyone who helped us accomplish this amazing goal!

- Amaya K.



THE CLUB COLLECTIVE



EMPOWERING OUR FUTURE: INSIDE THE STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is a vital part of our school community from representing students to organizing fun events. Ever wondered what goes on inside the meetings? Find out!

The Student Council is a group of students from grades 7-8, who are leaders and representatives of their classes. It is run by Ms. Lehti and Ms. Ochitwa, who selected the Student Council 2024-25 team. They organize fun events to raise school spirit and celebrate traditions and cultures. So far, events such as the Halloween dance, pumpkin carving, and the Fantastic Fall Art Fest Contest have been planned by our amazing Student Council!

Q/A with Ms. Lehti, one of the Student Council teachers!

To know more about what goes on in the Student Council, I interviewed Ms. Lehti, one of the teachers who run the Student Council!

Q: How do you think the Student Council impacts the school community?

A: *The Student Council helps bring multiple classes and grades together to participate in school events. They also act as a bridge between students and administration.*

Q: What goals does the Student Council have for this academic year?

A: *This year, Student Council hopes to create a lot of events to help foster a school community. We are aiming to have multiple events/activities in each month of the year.*

Q: What will you say to those wanting to join the Student Council in future years?



A: *For those considering joining the Student Council, I'd say go for it! We had a form and video submission process this year for interested members. It's a fantastic opportunity to develop leadership skills, meet new people, and make a positive impact in your school.*

Q: What do you like the most about Student Council?

A: *I like that students brainstorm their own, creative ideas to weave fun activities into the school day. And then they put in the time and effort to help those ideas come to life.*

Q: What do you think of this year's Student Council?

A: *This year, the Student Council brought forward a lot of new ideas and improved on events that were completed in the past. It is nice to have a mix of students that have been on the council before and that are new.*

Q: What qualities make a good student leader?

A: *A good student leader needs to be communicative, collaborative, reliable and open to new ideas.*

Q: If you could get a famous person to guest star at an event hosted by the Student Council, who would it be?

A: *I feel like trying to get local singers/authors/athletes would be really cool so that students are exposed to people in their local area.*

Thank you so much for the interview, Ms. Lehti! As mentioned by Ms. Lehti, the Student Council is a great place for improving and/or putting your leadership skills to good use! It's also a way to make friends from any grade or class!





To conclude, the Student Council is not just a group of kids but is a group of kids who are ready to shape our school's future with help from our two awesome Student Council teachers! And don't forget to join the fun events by the Student Council, like the Halloween dance!

- Avani K 7C

CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

Choosing to run long distances without motivation (like a bear chasing you...) is not for the faint of heart. This year, 34 crazy runners signed up to take on the



challenge. Coach Dhanoa recruited the team in early September. The races increased in length and difficulty over the season, ending with a 2,000 m run over uneven terrain. All runners placed in the top half of a group of over 70 runners from the 10 private and charter schools in our league. A special acknowledgement goes out to Thomas B. (grade 9) and Rafferty D. (grade 7), who finished in the top 10. Our STEMIA cross-country team, the largest ever, had an outstanding season. Thank you to Coach Dhanoa, the supportive running teammates, and parents for all the driving.

-Ms. Witte

GRADE 8 CONSTRUCTION SITE EXPERIENCE

On Wednesday October 9, Grade 8 science students went on a field trip to explore how a busy construction site uses the principles of Mix and Flow of Matter (the current unit Grade 8 is learning) in a real-world work environment.

Arriving at the construction site, the students were greeted by a team of experienced construction workers who gave an overview of the project called The Nines. The Nines built by OPUS is “a sophisticated six-story residential and main floor retail development” with one floor for shops, and five above, including 86 condos, with underground parking below. After the trip, the president and CEO of OPUS, Mr. Kovac, came to STEMIA, and gave a presentation on everything that OPUS does, from sketching the buildings on a napkin to leasing them out.

I was able to ask Mr. Joseph a few questions on the planning and outcome of the outing and presentation:

Q: Why did you choose to do a walking tour and invite the Opus group to our school?

A: Mr. Hoffman drives by the site every day on his way to work and the science team is interested in helping students see the connections between what they study in the classroom to how it is applied outside the classroom. Mr. Hoffman emailed the company, and they agreed to support the field trip idea and speak at STEM IA.

Q: Would you organize something like this again? Why or why not?

A: Yes! During parent teacher conferences, I heard from parents that their child had talked about the field trip and that they enjoyed what they had seen and learned about. Our teachers enjoy planning experiences for our students that help them to see a 'bigger picture' of what they are learning about. We are planning more!

Q: Was the presentation about what you intended?

A: We were not sure what Mr. Kovach was going to speak about. We sent him some questions that the students might be interested in knowing about and he made his presentation from that. I was very impressed with how he delivered his presentation to the students and answered their questions thoughtfully.

Thanks to Mr. Hoffman for planning all of this, and to Mr. Joseph for answering my questions, and Mr. Kovach for giving the presentation!

-Stella J.

A picture of "The Nines" that OPUS plans to build in Calgary:



This is our first issue of 2024! If you have any comments or requests for certain content, please see Ms. Higden or Ms. Witte.