

Chinook's Edge remembers and says thank you

Chinook's Edge staff and students took time, last week, to remember the sacrifices of Canadian men and women, who fought for Canada in armed conflicts. Thank you to our staff for providing these valuable learning opportunities for students, and for helping us all remember. #RemembranceDay



At Carstairs Elementary School



Above: Elnora School students. Below on the left: A procession at Penhold Crossing (and Penhold Elementary and Jessie Duncan School participated in this ceremony). Below right: meeting veterans at Delburne School.

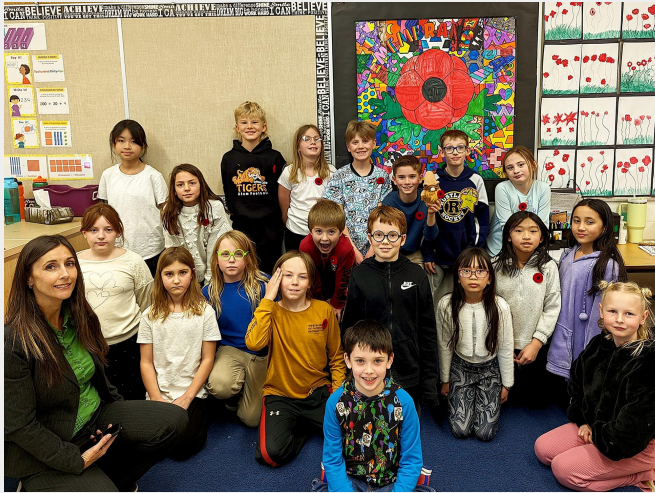


Below left: lighting a candle of remembrance at Poplar Ridge School. Below right: Meeting veterans at Ecole HJ Cody High.





Above: Cremona School band playing at the school's Remembrance Day ceremony. Above right: a moment of remembering, from the Didsbury High School Remembrance Day ceremony.



Above left: CP Blakely School students with a special mural they created. Right: Younger and older generations come together to remember, at River Valley School. Far right: Spruce View students learn about Remembrance Day from an RCMP visitor.



Above left: students from three Innisfail schools (Innisfail High, Innisfail Middle and John Wilson Elementary School) gather together to remember. Above right: Art to remember Indigenous Veterans, created by John Wilson Elementary students. Below: artwork created by Delburne students.



'Mad Scientist' Principal of Ross Ford Elementary starts off with a bang!

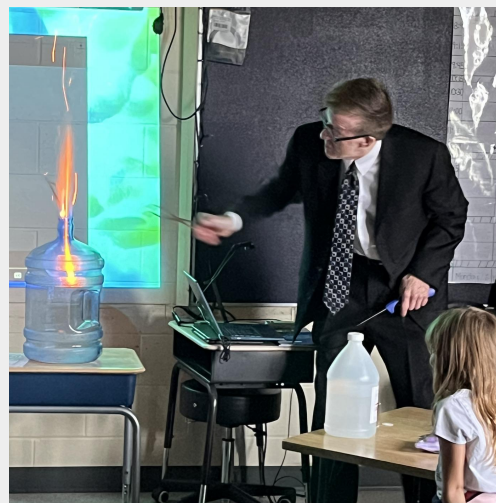
Ross Ford Elementary School in Didsbury is buzzing with more than just the usual school bell these days, thanks to the school's new Principal, George Thomson, who is mixing up a special formula for fun and learning, as well as for great relationships. Thomson has been conjuring up some explosive and eye-catching science experiments in school assemblies and Grade 2 science classes.

"Between the laughter and the delighted squeals, it's been exciting for all of us to be part of," said Diane Arbuckle, a teacher at Ross Ford. "We're all having a lot of fun with it."

Thomson came to Ross Ford after serving as the Principal of Hugh Sutherland School in Carstairs. Arbuckle said Ross Ford staff were excited to meet Thomson, and wondered what it would be like for him to transition to an elementary school.

"He came in keen and enthusiastic, and is getting the students excited about learning, especially with science. The kids think the experiments he does are amazing and it's one way for him to get to know the students. Students take their excitement home and so the transition for families is going well too," said Arbuckle.

"The staff at Ross Ford are great," said George Thomson. "When I arrived at the school I was impressed with all the amazing learning opportunities staff provide for students. I am also enjoying the students and the Didsbury community. This is a really great place to be. When I considered how I might contribute to the strong Ross Ford culture, I thought of doing science experiments."



Want to watch videos of the actual experiments?

Check out [this Facebook post](#), and [this one too](#).

Thomson is not only a certified educator but also has a background in science. "My first degree is in science," said Thomson. "I am passionate about science and love helping students discover the power of the scientific method. Doing experiments gives students a hands on, real world experience."

Thomson performed a science demonstration at the school's first assembly in September and had such a great response, he has performed more, including the appearance of a ghostly vapour at the school's Halloween assembly, made possible by pouring boiling water on dry ice that Thomson made a special trip to Calgary to get the night before. The staff have embraced Thomson as the 'mad scientist' of Ross Ford, and all dressed as mad scientists at Halloween in support.





Ross Ford staff appreciate the 'mad scientist' persona... and had a little fun with it on Halloween. Below are different stages of two experiments done at school assemblies.

“We are having fun with the mad-scientist persona, and we are enjoying getting to know our new leader,” said Arbuckle.

“George is not only fun. He is also supportive and humble. He works hard at making sincere connections. He is a gift to Ross Ford Elementary.”

Thomson said, “I have learned that if you provide a remarkable learning experience for students, they are engaged in the learning. When students get excited about learning - when you see students understand and connect to the content and have that light bulb moment - that’s why we are here. That’s why I do what I do, and why I love education.”

Thomson said, “I’m very grateful for the warm welcome from the staff and students at Ross Ford and from families and the community. Didsbury is a great community and I am so happy to be here.”

