

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER!

MARCH/APRIL NEWS



Spring

Events are a fun way to bring in a new season and spend time with friends and family and connect with the community. Spring is often a time when families start looking for activities to do together because the days are getting longer and it's lighter later in the day. Are you and your family looking for some cool activities to do this spring?

Here are four big events that are happening this spring, that you might find interesting:

FIFA World Cup 2026 (June 11–July 19, 2026):



Welcome Spring! Comic by Beatrix

While starting in late spring/early summer, this is the largest event of the year, co-hosted by Canada, the U.S., and Mexico. Expect massive international influxes and, in Canada, large-scale fan zones.

Coastal Black Tulip Fest on Vancouver Island:

A vibrant celebration of spring where over 350,000 spring flowers bloom in a breathtaking sea of colour. Located in the heart of Vancouver Island, our festival offers an unforgettable experience surrounded by vibrant flowers, fresh air, and family-friendly activities.

FROM THE STUDENTS

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Comox Valley International Film Festival (April 2-4), Image Fest 2026 (April 24):

There will be various live performances at local theatres. For more information see: [Comox Valley International Film Festival](https://www.comoxvalleyinternational.com)

20th Annual Golden Shoe

Hunt: Take part in this year's 20th annual hunt for the golden shoe in regional and community parks. Each week a golden shoe is hidden in an RDN park, and a clue to its location is released. Head out to the park to find the shoe, log your entry and maybe win a prize. Adventurers of all ages will enjoy the hunt. Clues and instructions for the locations of the shoes will be posted weekly to getinvolved.rdn.ca/golden-shoe, and RDN social media (Facebook and Instagram) starting April 3. Hunt is on April 3-May 15.

Hopefully one of those activities interested you, or you can find something on your own that will bring you joy this spring.

Saint Patrick's Day

Saint Patrick was born around the year 385, in Britain. When he was a teenager, he was captured by raiders and taken to Ireland, where he worked as a shepherd.

Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated every year on March 17th. It began as a day to honor Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Over time, it became a fun holiday filled with green decorations, parades, and music. Many people wear green clothes—like shirts, hats, socks, or even face paint—to celebrate and show Irish pride. Cities and towns including Dingle, [Kinsale](#), [Adare](#), [Bruges](#), and [Rothenburg](#), often hold parades with marching bands, dancers, colorful floats, and cheerful crowds.

If you forget to wear green, you might get a tiny (and friendly!) pinch from someone playing around. This silly tradition comes from the old legend that wearing green makes you invisible to leprechauns.

According to the story, leprechauns like to sneak up and pinch people they can see!

So, wearing green is a fun way to “hide” from them. The pinch is always meant to be gentle and playful, and only if everyone is okay with it. Another popular symbol of the holiday is the shamrock, a small three-leaf plant that Saint Patrick once used in his teachings. Some kids even build leprechaun traps at school or at home, with hopes of catching one to find a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow is an Irish legend depicting a Leprechaun's hidden treasure,

Another fun part of Saint Patrick's Day is the yummy food. Many families enjoy traditional Irish dishes like corned beef and cabbage, or Irish soda bread. Some people bake cupcakes with bright green frosting or make green pancakes for breakfast. Restaurants and bakeries may create special holiday treats, and kids sometimes help decorate cookies with shamrocks and rainbows. Sharing a festive meal together is a special way for families and friends to celebrate Irish culture and enjoy the cheerful spirit of the day.

FROM THE STUDENTS

Autism Awareness Month

April is the Autism Awareness Month. Autism is a developmental condition that affects how a person understands the world and interacts with others.

Some important things to know are that autism is not a disease, and you cannot catch it from someone. People with autism can have many different talents. Some are great at math, art, memory, building things, or noticing small details. People with autism may find social skills, speech, or body language more challenging, and they may repeat certain actions. Even so, they should always be treated with understanding and respect. Everyone deserves kindness, patience, and respect.

Spelling Bee

Aspen Park held their annual spelling bee on Tuesday, April 7th. Congratulations to Kavan, Henrik and Theo who placed in the top three and went on to represent the school at the District Bee on the 16th. Congratulations to all three on a good effort at the Districts.

Mixed Berry Cobbler

Pancake mix is the secret to the crunchy topping.

Ingredients

For filling:

Unsalted butter, for greasing
2 Tbsp. granulated sugar
1 Tbsp. cornstarch
1 pt. blueberries
1 6-oz blackberries
1/2 tsp. finely grated orange zest
1 Tbsp. orange juice

For topping

3/4 cup pancake mix (I use the premade one from superstore)
3 Tbsp. granulated sugar
1/4 tsp. cinnamon
4 Tbsp. cold unsalted butter, cubed
1/3 cup buttermilk
powdered sugar, for sprinkling

Step 1

Make filling: Heat oven to 350°F. Butter 8- by 8-inch baking dish. In medium bowl, whisk together granulated sugar and cornstarch. Add berries and orange zest and juice and toss to combine; spread in prepared dish.

Step 2

Make topping: In another medium bowl, whisk together pancake mix, granulated sugar, and cinnamon. Using fingers, rub in cubed butter until mixture is crumbly and butter pieces are no larger than pea-size. Pour in buttermilk and fold with rubber spatula until dough just comes together and no flour streaks remain.

Step 3

Drop spoonfuls of dough on top of filling and gently flatten into rough patties. Sprinkle with turbinado sugar. Bake until topping is golden and filling is bubbling, 33 to 38 minutes. Let cool for 10 minutes before serving.



CLUBS, ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

Track and Field

This year's track and field is Friday, May 8th. Our school will be competing against Brooklyn and Airport. Practice has now started. Good luck to whoever is competing. We are all cheering for Aspen Park.



Minecraft Club

All teams from the Minecraft club have now turned in their world and are patiently waiting for the results. Everyone's world has turned out amazingly well and hopefully they all had a great time creating. If you were part of Ms. Mathew's Minecraft club, and submitted a world, please see Ms. Mathew.

Chess Club

The chess club has now ended for the year. We have had a great year full of amazing chess games, great times, and amazing memories. Next year we hope to have the same amount of joy in chess.

Agents of Change

Agents of change did a great job putting together Spirit week activities. It was fun for everyone at Aspen Park. From April 15th-17th, there were daily themes. Monday was dress up as a holiday; Tuesday was teachers dress up as students and students dress up as teachers; Wednesday was dress up like a hippy or tie-dye; Thursday dress up as your culture; and finally, Friday was find a friend and be their twin for one day. Hopefully everyone enjoyed these activities!



Girls in STEAM

Girls in STEAM was a fabulous day of experiences for grade 6/7s from 13 district elementary schools. Students got to rotate through two different stations which hosted STEAM activities in the morning and got to meet with local women who work in STEAM over the lunch hour. In the afternoon, they worked in teams to complete a STEAM challenge.

Reading Links Challenge

The Reading Links Challenge has now come to an end. Teams from 14 district elementary schools came together on March 19th for the District Reading Link Challenge, and all teams had a great time. Congratulations to Puntledge who won the District Challenge this year facing Huband in a sudden death tiebreaker question.

Entrepreneur Fair

The grade 6/7 classes will be holding the Entrepreneur fair again this year. The fair will be on Thursday, May 14th at the gym. We are all so curious about what everyone will make.

ACTIVITIES AND CLASSES

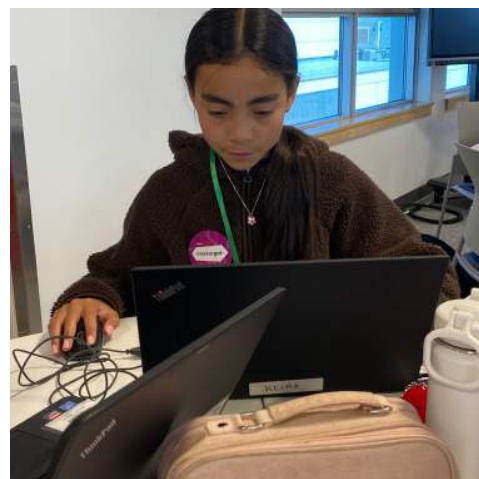
Divisions 7 and 8

Divisions 7 and 8 made miniature models of their bedrooms using wood and nails. They started off by nailing three pieces of wood together and then they moved on to decorating and detailing their rooms.



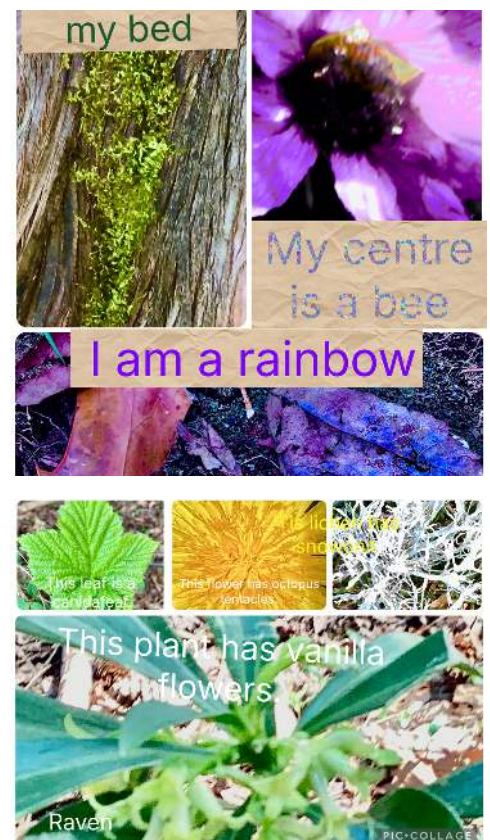
Hackergals

Last week 4 grade 7 students got to take part in the annual Hackergals Hackathon. The theme of this year's event was Stories that Spark Change. Students were given the mission to create a digital storytelling project that either sparked change, amplified unrepresented voices or empowers your community to take action. Today is national pitch day!



Ms. Rehnby's Class

Ms. Rehnby's class is going into the forest by the soccer field and taking pictures in it which they then use in forest related rhymes such as naming the plant or flower species.



New Building

The New Build is finally open: The new wing of Aspen Park Elementary school is finally open. Classes have moved in, and activities and teaching have commenced.



Numeracy Night

Aspen Park is hosting a first ever numeracy night April 28th. There will be a series of activities that families can work through in various rooms around both buildings. Families will have a map and a checklist of activities to help them navigate.