Fernwood School Newsletter October 8, 2026

Dear Fernwood Families,

Thank You, Salt Spring Fire and Rescue!

Thank you to Salt Spring Fire and Rescue for the pancake breakfast and Fire Safety Talks at Fernwood School this past Wednesday! Fire Prevention Week in BC runs from October 4-10th this year. Some topics discussed were escape plans, cooking safety, burn prevention, and smoke alarms. The students did a great job at our first fire drill of the year. The school holds many drills throughout the year as part of our emergency preparedness plan.

Our next drill is on **October 15th** when we will hold an earthquake drill as that is the date of the province's **Great BC ShakeOut.**







Students in Mrs. Pyper's class spent 1 1/2 hours with Julia Ducharme Nuffer learning West African Drumming and Dance skills via the Artist in the Classroom program offered through the Salt Spring Arts Council. The kids learned about the creation of drums, how to create different sounds, and how to express joy and culture through dance moves.

The purpose of the SSAC Artist in the Class (AIC) program is to connect local professional artists with Salt Spring Island schools to provide rich, hands-on creative experiences.





The grade 2's in Mrs. Pyper's room also worked hard to solve a numeracy puzzle in which they had to match the number words from 1-20 with their corresponding numerals, base ten pictures and ten frame pictures. Look at how proud those mathematicians are!



Bond Farm Pumpkin Patch

Students in Malindi Curtis', Myriah Michaux, Cathryn Pyper, Heidi Cameron and Melissa Hingston's classes got to go to the Bond Farm to the Pumpkin Patch to take a pumpkin home!



Students received their band instruments this week! We look forward to hearing them play!



Workshops by Children of the Street

Safer Space: Staying Safe Online

Grade 5's took part in this workshop to better understand how to stay safe when using apps and social media, discussing and defining healthy and unhealthy relationships, sextortion, sexual exploitation and human trafficking, digital footprints and permanency.

Taking Care of Ourselves, Taking Care of Others - TCO2

The workshop for the Grade 6's and 7's focused on the prevention of sexual exploitation of children and youth, discussing the warning signs of an exploitive relationship, online exploitation, peer-to-peer exploitation, the connection to gangs, recruitment tactics pimps use to manipulate victims, and much more! The presentations are designed for youth and use multi-media to encourage students to talk about this issue and walk away with practical tips for real life scenarios with the goal of increasing social responsibility, empowerment and empathy.

More information: childrenofthestreet.ca

Foundation Skills Assessment

Students who are in Grade 4 and 7 will soon be completing the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) in October and November. The FSA is an annual assessment in which students in Grades 4 and 7 participate. It measures literacy and numeracy skills set out in the provincial curricula and is part of the overall assessment of the learning program in the district and province. The FSA has both online and written components, and the components will be spread throughout the six-week assessment period. We will do a practice test online with the students in Grade 4 so that they have an idea of what to expect and they can learn how to navigate the assessment. Our students have been very successful in the FSA in past years, and they have enjoyed many aspects of the assessment process. For more information about the FSAs, please see this link: FSA. If you have any questions, please ask Shelly or Marie.

Country Grocer Receipts

Thank you to everyone who participates in the receipt program through Country Grocer! A portion of your receipts can be donated to our school. If you would like to donate through your Country Grocer receipts, the Fernwood Elementary School is Box #114.

Adequate Clothing for Cold and Rainy Weather

Please make sure your child arrives in weather-appropriate attire, including a waterproof jacket, warm layers, and suitable footwear. We also ask that each student keep a spare set of clothes at school (including socks and pants) in case of unexpected weather-related changes.

This is for your child's comfort. If a student is not dressed suitably and does not have extra clothing available, we will need to contact home to request a clothing drop-off. We appreciate your support in helping us minimize these disruptions and keep all students comfortable and ready to learn.

Code of Conduct

Please visit this link to view our school Code of Conduct.
Code of Conduct

Supervision Before and After School

We can provide supervision from 7:55 – 8:20 am and 3:05 – 3:15 pm. Please do not drop your child off before 7:55 am unless you are able to stay with them, and please be sure to pick them up before 3:15 pm. Please note that in the morning, students must stay on the front side of the school until the bell rings at 8:20 am because that is where we have supervision.

Parent Volunteer Criminal Record Check

If you would like to be a parent volunteer in the school or on field trips, please make sure your criminal record check is on file and valid. Teachers are starting to organize field trips, so it is important that we have parent volunteers approved. Once the criminal record check is completed, it is valid for 5 years. If you need to submit a criminal record check, please do so by following the process outlined on the School District 64 webpage; search VOLUNTEERING or use this link: https://www.sd64.bc.ca/volunteering

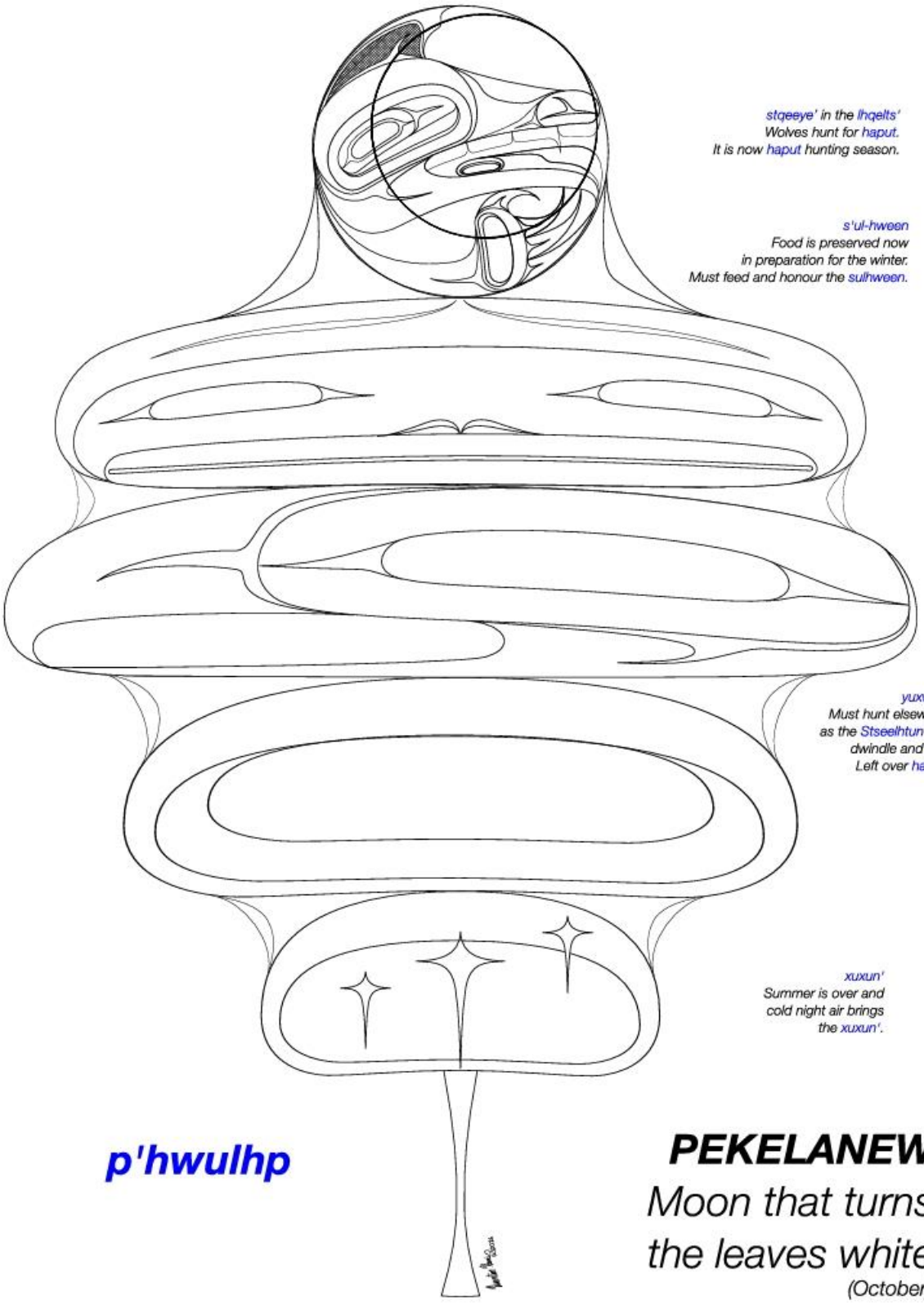
LOOKING AHEAD DATES:

Monday, October 12 – Thanksgiving Monday (school closed)
Thursday, October 15 – Earthquake Drill (Great BC ShakeOut)
Friday, October 16 – Friday School Day (due to the school closure Monday, Oct 12)
Monday, October 26 – Early Dismissal Day (12:00 dismissal) for informal learning updates
Monday, November 2 - Ms Hingston's Grade 3-4 Class to Ganges (swimming/pool)
Thursday, November 5th – Photo Retake Day

'Uy' skweyl!

Attached is a new colouring sheet - a Garry Oak leaf! 'Tis the season!

We challenge any/all students to...
1) colour it.
2) translate the Hul'q'umi'num either written or oral.
3) e-mail/find your nearest Indigenous Education team member (Shayce/Carol/Jenelle/Q) and present your drawing/translation/spoken words FOR A PRIZE!



stqeeye' in the lhqelts'
Wolves hunt for haput.
It is now haput hunting season.

s'ul-hween
Food is preserved now
in preparation for the winter.
Must feed and honour the sulhween.

yuxwule'
Must hunt elsewhere
as the Stseelhtun runs
dwindle and end.
Left over haput?

xuxun'
Summer is over and
cold night air brings
the xuxun'.

p'hwulhp

PEKELANEW

Moon that turns the leaves white

(October)

Red Circle: https://thenerdcle.com/the-12-moons-of-the-weshes/ https://www.thetvcities.com/fullpicture/ https://plants.hwulhs.hwulh.com/plant/thwulhp-oak/ https://www.flickr.com/photos/wsuhesc/7021951468/12026459

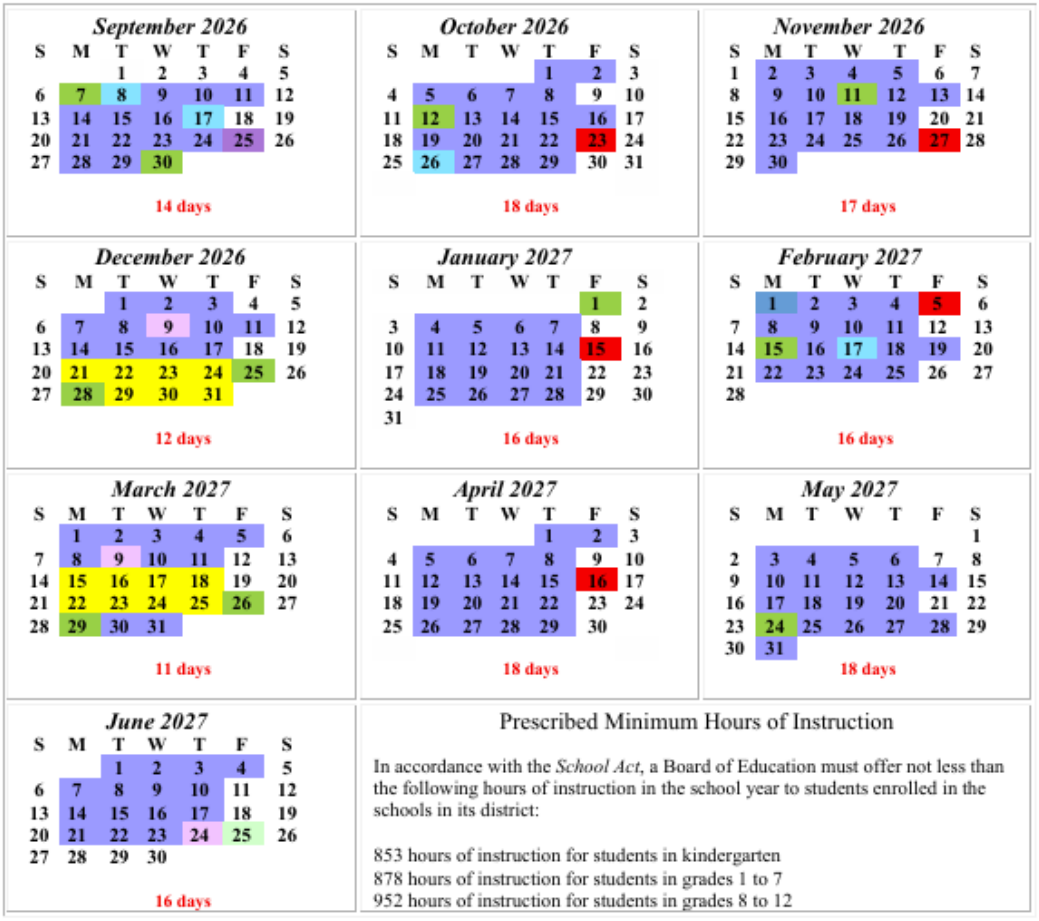

Happy
Thanksgiving


PEANUTS
HERE YOU ARE, SNOOPY...HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
THANK YOU
11-23
NO CRANBERRIES?
SCHULZ
©PNTS

This helpful Instructional Calendar can be found on the School District 64 website:
[Instructional Calendar]

School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)

2026/2027 Four-Day Instructional Week Calendar



September 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

14 days

October 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

18 days

November 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

17 days

December 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

12 days

January 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

16 days

February 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

16 days

March 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

11 days

April 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

18 days

May 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

18 days

June 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

16 days

Prescribed Minimum Hours of Instruction

In accordance with the *School Act*, a Board of Education must offer not less than the following hours of instruction in the school year to students enrolled in the schools in its district:

853 hours of instruction for students in kindergarten
878 hours of instruction for students in grades 1 to 7
952 hours of instruction for students in grades 8 to 12

Required **156** instructional days (students in attendance)
Stat holidays
September 25, 2026 – Framework Day – this is a day of work (non-instructional day)
5 Pro D days (non-instructional days)

- October 23 Provincial Day
- November 27 School Based
- January 15 School Based
- February 5 School Based
- April 16 District Pro D (GITA sponsored)

Winter and Spring Breaks/ Vacation
Secondary | Semester Change | FEB 1, 2027
Elementary | Report Card Dates | DEC 9, 2026 | MAR 9, 2027 | JUN 24, 2027
Early Dismissal | SEP 8, 2026 | SEP 17, 2026 | OCT 26, 2026 | FEB 17, 2027
Administrative Day - June 25, 2027

Approved: April 30, 2024 Updated: June 2026

Community Notices

FREE PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

Our Words Matter: Building Connection & Independence



Discover how using declarative language and co-regulation can help your children feel safe, capable, and ready to navigate challenges with greater independence.

Join the Zoom session

CLICK HERE!

Thursday 22 October
4:30 - 5:30 pm

For more than 30 years, Linda K. Murphy has partnered with neurodivergent individuals and their families to foster meaningful connection and growth. A speech-language pathologist, author, and speaker, Linda helps parents develop communication practices that support co-regulation, strengthen relationships, and help children feel understood, capable, and confident.



LINDA MURPHY

SLOW DOWN SALT SPRING

CLOTHING



24 OCT 2026 SWAP

DONATE UNWANTED ADULT AND CHILDREN'S CLOTHING ON FRIDAY. WE SORT AND SIZE. ANYONE CAN SHOP FOR FREE ON SATURDAY!

CLOTHING DROP-OFF
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23
3PM-6PM

FREE SHOP DAY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
10:30AM-2:30PM

LOCATION : MEADEN HALL

SENIORS & SPECIAL NEEDS EARLY ACCESS : 9:45-10:30AM

NEW THIS YEAR : NEW STOCK OUT EVERY 30 MINS, NO NEED TO RUSH!

Items accepted: Well-maintained, freshly laundered & odour-free, male/female/kids baby clothing (outerwear, shirts, sweaters, coats, pants, dresses, pjs).

Items excluded: Underwear, socks, shoes, accessories, items with noticeable stains or holes.

We would really appreciate pre-sorting donations by size and type before arrival.

No need to donate to access the free shop—it's open to everyone!

This event is made possible by: CRD Transition Salt Spring

salt spring arts council

CRAFTING CONNECTIONS

Hands-on FREE craft activities for children

Sat Oct 17	LEAVES	10 am to noon Mahon Hall
Sat Nov 14	GLOW	10 am to noon Mahon Hall
Sat Jan 16	WINTER WONDERLAND	10 am to noon Mahon Hall
Mon Feb 15 FAMILY DAY!	FAMILY	Morning show: 10 am Afternoon show: 1 pm Registration will be available
Sat March 13	SPRING	10 am to noon Mahon Hall

Come for 20 minutes, or stay for two hours.
All materials provided.



Learn more at:
saltspringarts.com/crafting-connections

A community initiative of the Salt Spring Arts Council
bringing seniors and youth together through creativity.



As part of Safer Schools Togethers' on-going work through the Ministry of Education and Childcare's *erase* strategy, we are pleased to announce **COMPLIMENTARY student and family sessions** coming up again this school year.

Student sessions on "**Establishing Safe, Caring and Respectful Digital Communities**", as well as "**Establishing Respectful Relationships and Consent in Our Communities"** are for students in grades 5-12. Please note this is a 60 minute session, with different days and times to accommodate different bell schedules. These are for educators to watch with their classes.

You are welcome to share this email with your schools.

All our student sessions can be found HERE.

As well, the family sessions are recommended for Parents/Caregivers/Grandparents and youth aged 10 and up. All our sessions can be found HERE – Please note the first session is Tuesday, September 15th.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out.

Warm Regards,

Nancy Hiebert
Operations Manager

SST | ICDTA®

Safer Schools Together | **The International Center for Digital Threat Assessment®**
Office: 604.560.2285 | Toll-Free: 1.855.677.3720

Gallery8

Deon Venter **UTOPIA**





Kathy Venter **ENTRANCE**

Opening Reception Friday, September 25th 5pm to 8pm • **Exhibition Runs** September 25th - November 1st, 2026
Grace Point Square 3104-115 Fulford Ganges Rd. | Tel: 250-537-8822 | gallery8ssi@gmail.com | **gallery8saltspring.com**

Dear friends...

We invite you to attend the exhibition of new works by **Deon Venter** and **Kathy Venter** at **Gallery8.**

This exhibition runs September 25th - November 1st

Please join us at the **OPENING RECEPTION on Friday, September 25th,** from **5pm to 8pm**

Gallery8

Grace Point Square - 3104-115 Fulford Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, Canada V8K 2T9
250-537-8822 • gallery8ssi@gmail.com • gallery8saltspring.com

GULF ISLANDS SCHOOL DISTRICT 64

SD64 MOBILE APP

SD64 MOBILE APP

Download the SD64 App. From events to bus delays, all the information your family needs in one place. With up-to-date notifications and information directly from your school, you'll stay connected no matter where you are.