



Fernwood School Newsletter September 24th, 2026

Dear Fernwood Families,

Join Us at Our Whole School Meetings – Wednesday mornings

Whole School Meetings are an opportunity to be together as a whole school. We acknowledge students who have exhibited the 3Cs (caring for self, caring for others, and caring for the environment), celebrate birthdays and see class presentations. Everyone is always welcome to our Whole School Meetings~11:30 am Wednesdays in the Gym.



This week, Ruby, Juliette and Lennon made our opening and closing territorial acknowledgments.



Ms. Meghan's class is learning about the seasons, sharing a song saying goodbye to summer and hello to fall.

A few reminders were shared:

- Please eat snacks and lunches inside to avoid wasps.
- We need to stay within the school boundaries when playing outside – for safety as well as respect for our neighbours.

- No cell phones at school. If sent to school, phones will need to stay in the student's backpack. If a student is using their phone, the phone will be taken away for the remainder of the day and it will be reported to the parent.
- In addition to our Feeding Futures lunch program, we are now offering *Breakfast Snacks with our EA Jen* for students who haven't had breakfast. It will be set up inside the front doors until 8:15 am each morning.



The rain held off for our **Terry Fox School Run** today. Thank you to the parents who came to cheer the students on. Our students showed incredible endurance and positivity by running many laps and encouraging each other. Thank you also for the donations for the Terry Fox Foundation. We will let you know next week how much we raised. If you wanted to donate but forgot to send money, it is not too late. You can still donate online here: **Fernwood Elementary Fundraising Page:** <https://schools.terryfox.ca/FernwoodElementary>





Friday, October 2nd is a Friday School Day, and it is School Photo Day

All students are photographed on picture day for our own school purposes and for parents to order individual portraits of their child. Once we receive the proofs from Lifetouch Photography, we will send them home with ordering instructions. Smile!

Orange Shirt Day

On **Tuesday, September 29**, our school will observe **Orange Shirt Day**. We encourage everyone to wear orange in recognition of the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** and in honour of residential school survivors, their families, and their communities. Learning the truth about Canada's history and the lasting impacts of residential schools is one way our school responds to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. This is done in developmentally appropriate ways. Through education, reflection, and respectful dialogue, we strive to deepen our understanding and contribute to the ongoing work of reconciliation.



We are committed to walking a good path with our Indigenous friends, neighbours, and community members as we continue learning together and building relationships based on respect, understanding, and reconciliation.

School will not be in session on Wednesday, September 30th because it is a stat. holiday, but it will be in session on Friday, October 2.

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.

September Information Packages

Information packages for parents have gone home. They include a consent form (photo release, consent for local walking trips, etc.), emergency release form, the self-identification Indigenous Education form and the "student verification of information" form. Parents need to confirm that the information on the verification form is accurate. When adding names to the emergency release forms, please write the names of anyone who may pick your child up, including parents of your child's friends who may pick up for playdates. **District policy states that we are not permitted to release students to anyone other than the people listed on the emergency contact sheet.** You are welcome to add names to the emergency release contacts throughout the year by sending us an email directing us to add the name and phone number of the person you would like to add. *Until these packages are returned, your child cannot participate in walking field trips. Teachers would love to get them back as soon as possible!*

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>

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.

Arriving Late and Leaving Early Procedures

Please remember to sign your child in at the office if they arrive late and sign them out if you are picking them up early. If your child is going to be away, please email your child's teacher **AND** the fernwood@sd64.org email.

PAC Meeting

Hello Fernwood Families, (sent by email to all parents on September 21)

The first PAC meeting will be held on *Wednesday, October 7th, at 6:00 pm* in the school library. A Microsoft Teams link is also available below for anyone who prefers to join online.

PAC meetings are open to all Fernwood families!

Fernwood PAC Meeting

Wednesday, 7 October 2026

18:00 - 19:30 (PST)

Meeting link: [Fernwood PAC Meeting | Microsoft Teams | Meet-up-Join](#)

Warm regards,
Fernwood PAC

LOOKING AHEAD DATES:

Tuesday, September 29 - Orange Shirt Day at School

Wednesday, September 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Stat Holiday); Schools closed

Friday, October 2 – Friday School Day (due to the school closure on Wednesday, Sept 30)

Friday, October 2 - School Photo Day (Individual Portraits) - all students are photographed on picture day, and then Lifetouch Photography will let you know what date they would like you to order by when we send home your 'proofs' a few weeks later

Wednesday, October 7 – PAC Meeting 6:00 pm in the school library

Monday, October 12 – Thanksgiving Monday (school closed)

Friday, October 16 – Friday School Day (due to the school closure Monday, Oct 12)

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							October 2026							November 2026														
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S								
			1	2	3	4						1	2	3														
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		1	2	3	4	5	6	7							
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		8	9	10	11	12	13	14							
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		15	16	17	18	19	20	21							
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31		22	23	24	25	26	27	28							
14 days							18 days							17 days														

December 2026							January 2027							February 2027														
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S								
			1	2	3	4							1	2														
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		1	2	3	4	5	6								
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		7	8	9	10	11	12	13							
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		14	15	16	17	18	19	20							
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30		21	22	23	24	25	26	27							
12 days							16 days							16 days														

March 2027							April 2027							May 2027														
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S								
	1	2	3	4	5	6						1	2	3														
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		2	3	4	5	6	7	8							
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		9	10	11	12	13	14	15							
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		16	17	18	19	20	21	22							
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29								
11 days							18 days							18 days														

June 2027							Prescribed Minimum Hours of Instruction																			
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																				
			1	2	3	4																				
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																										
In accordance with the <i>School Act</i>, 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	▶	February	5	School Based		
		▶	November	27	School Based		▶	April	16	District Pro D (GITA sponsored)
		▶	January	15	School Based					
	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

FALL REGISTRATION OPEN



Learn healthy singing habits |
Develop musical literacy |
Have fun

Makana Kids: Grades 2-5

Fridays at ArtSpring: 3:30-4:30pm

Makana Youth: Grades 6-9

Fridays at ArtSpring: 4:30-5:30pm

Term is Fri Sep 18-Fri Nov 20

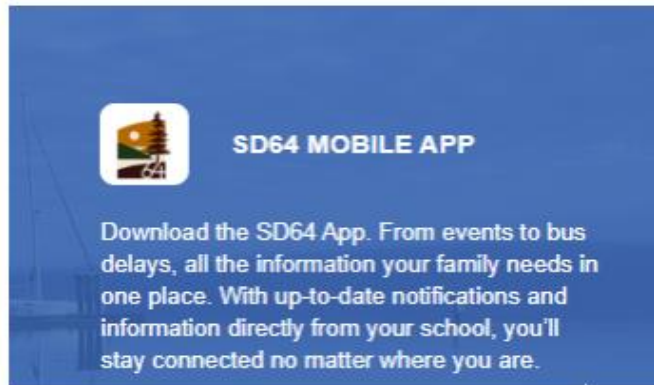
Concert Sun Nov 22

\$150 + \$25 T-shirt: financial aid available thanks to
sponsors: Seth Berkowitz Photography | Lynn Blanche |
Deb & Mark Toole | Viva Chorale!

Register at purchase.artspring.ca or the Box Office



SD64 MOBILE APP



As part of Safer Schools Together's 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



[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 Fullford 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 Fullford Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, Canada V8K 2T9
250-537-8822 • gallery8ssi@gmail.com • gallery8saltspring.com