



Fernwood Elementary School Newsletter January 12, 2026

Art in the Classroom

The classes of Ms. Curtis and Ms. Michaux created their own bags out of t-shirts with local artist, Jaime Fry!

Creative Upcycling / Life of a T-Shirt - Macramé: After the Life of a t-shirt was explained, the students were guided to deconstruct their t-shirts and shown a simple macramé technique to create a bag.

Jaime Fry is a Salt Spring Island-based textile artist and certified BC educator. She values historical and critical thinking and in her art practice she uses traditional textile techniques to transform everyday detritus objects and material into works of art.

Look what they made!





Basketball Season

Great practices this week! Thank you to Becky, Caitlin, Mr. Reid, Meghan and Dane for being our coaches this season!

Stay tuned for the lunch hour game schedule beginning in February!

An advertisement for kindergarten registration. The left side features the text "IS YOUR CHILD TURNING FIVE IN 2026?" in a large, dark font. The right side features the text "KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!" in a large, green font. Below the text is a colorful illustration of children of various ethnicities and ages drawing on a wall with chalk. The wall is decorated with a house, a ship, a sun, and various flowers and shapes. The bottom right corner of the advertisement contains the text "GULF ISLANDS SCHOOL DISTRICT 64" in a green and orange gradient.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR 2026/2027:

Registration for the 2026/2027 school year is now open at all schools in School District 64. Families are invited to contact their local school now, from **February 15, 2026**, to make arrangements for registration.

Kindergarten: Registration is open for children who will be five (5) years old on or before **December 31, 2026**, meaning those born in **2021**. If your child is currently

enrolled in the district's Strong Start programs, you still need to complete a student registration form for the upcoming academic term.

All New K to 12: Please register your child in the school in your residential catchment area. [MAP](#)

Please provide the following documentation when you register your child for school:

- Verification of the child's birth date and citizenship status (birth certificate, passport or Landed Immigrant authorization, proof of residency)
- B.C. Care Card

Expressions of interest in specific programs can be found on the [student registration form](#). Additional application information is required for admission to:

- [French Immersion](#) (registration deadline **Feb 15, 2026**)
- [SEEC](#) program located on Saturna Island

Registration and water taxi transportation are subject to [Board Policies and District Administrative Practices](#). Program placement is subject to the availability of space in specialized programs.

STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN SCHOOLS IN DISTRICT 64:

Students will automatically be enrolled at their next catchment school as part of the normally prescribed grade to grade transition (unless the school is informed otherwise). No registration is required.

Expressions of interest in specific programs at your child's school should be made to the school principal. For additional information about high school [programs](#) available through [Gulf Islands Secondary School](#), contact the school's principal.

CROSS-BOUNDARY TRANSFER REQUESTS: -

Should you wish to enroll your child in a school outside of your catchment area (non-neighbourhood school), a cross-boundary transfer request form ([Fillable PDF](#) | [PDF](#)) must be completed **annually**.

Prior to submitting the form to the requested school for approval, parents must obtain signatures from the principal of the neighbourhood school. The form will be date-stamped. The deadline for accepting cross-boundary request forms is **February 15, 2026**. Placement is subject to the availability of space. **Transportation for out-of-catchment requests is not guaranteed.**

Terry Fox Run Update from the *Terry Fox Foundation*

“We just want to say a huge THANK YOU and CONGRATULATIONS!

This year was extra special being the 45th anniversary of the Terry Fox Run and your school helped make it one to remember. With heart, creativity, and determination, you showed what Terry’s legacy is all about, and it made a real difference.

We’re excited and proud to share that Fernwood Elementary raised \$305.55 for cancer research through the Terry Fox School Run. Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible!” -- Natalie Anderson, Manager - School Runs / BC and Yukon

Battle of the Books is on!

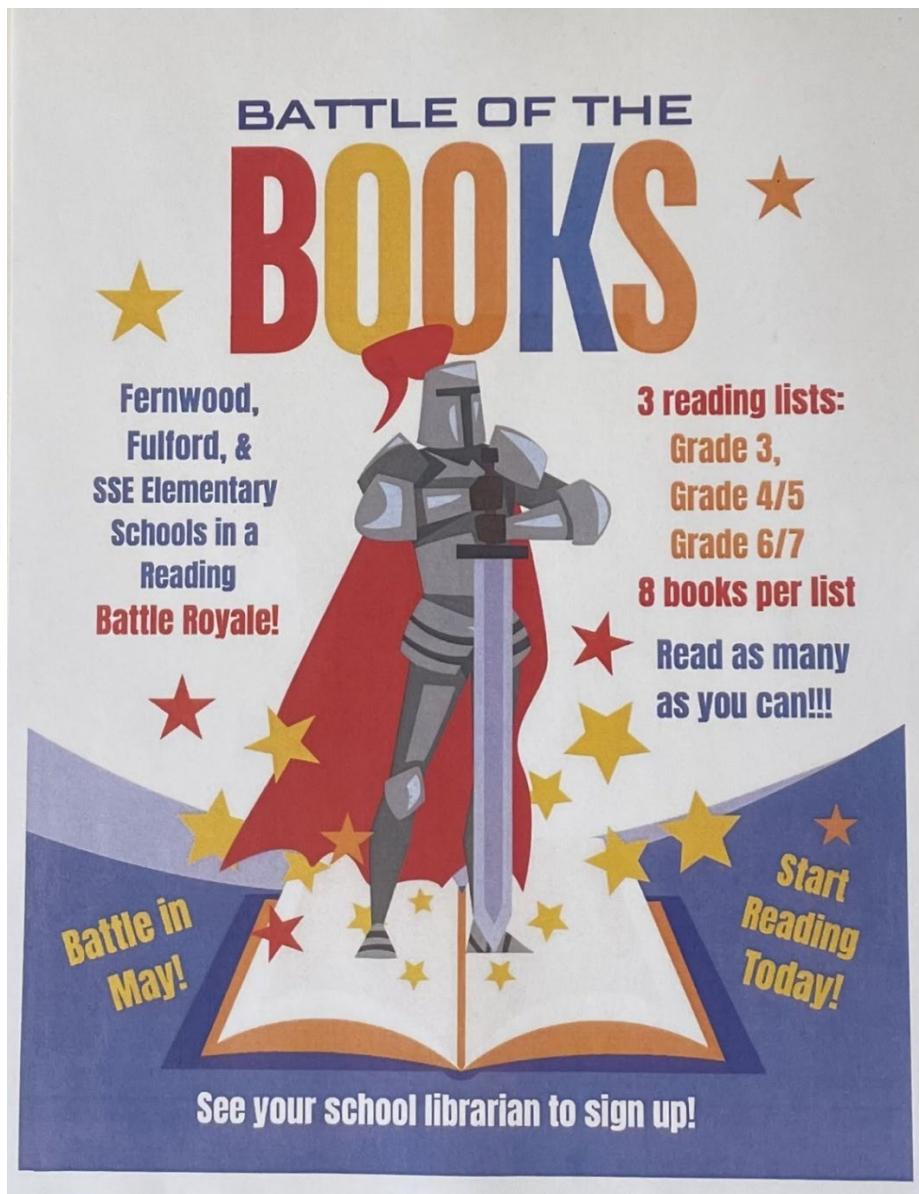
All kids from Grades 3-7 are invited to join the Battle of the Books (BOB). It is a fun competition between the three elementary schools on the island, where students read as many books as they can from a list of 8 books! Students will then make a small team and practice answering comprehension quiz questions on the books.

There will be a district wide event in May (date TBA) where Fernwood, Fulford and SSE compete against each other! All participants will be invited to an ice cream party and there will be awesome prizes for the winning teams!

Books can be borrowed at the school library, or at the Salt Spring Public library. They can also be audio books, e-books, or books that are read to them! Students sign up at the school library.

Any questions? Email Amber, the teacher-librarian at athompson@sd64.org

May the reading battle commence!



Fernwood School Plan in Case of Snow or Inclement Weather

Sometimes, it is safest to have your child stay home if you know you won't be able to pick them up due to the possibility of snow or poor road conditions. Your local area conditions should be taken into consideration as decisions are made centrally where road and snow conditions may be different than yours. There are sites and apps that might be helpful such as the CRD Emergency Notifications system that can be helpful for decision making for your area and the Fernwood School area as well.

Buses may either run, not run, or run on a third possibility that they may run on the 'Main Roads Only' schedule.

If the District school buses are not running or are operating on "Main Roads Only," it is a decision made for the safety of your child by the School District in consultation with Transportation Services not by the school itself.

All communication regarding bus changes or cancellations will come directly from Transportation Services (transportation@sd64.org) and through the SD64 APP.

The link for the Main Roads Only schedule is in the process of being updated in preparation for this and can be found at: [Inclement Weather](https://www.sd64.bc.ca/inclement-weather)
<https://www.sd64.bc.ca/inclement-weather>

Important Dates:

Friday, January 16 – Professional Development Day for Staff

Monday, January 26 – Earthquake Drill

Monday, February 16 – Statutory Holiday Family Day (no school)

Wednesday, February 18 – Early Dismissal Day

Friday, February 20 – Friday School Day (due to the holiday Monday)



Thank you to everyone who chooses to donate to Fernwood Elementary School through the Country Grocer Save-a-Tape program. Funds are used to subsidize field trips and purchase classroom and learning services supplies. It is very appreciated.

The Fernwood Elementary School number on their scanning two scanning kiosks is #114.

Salt Spring Arts Council presents:

CRAFTING CONNECTIONS

– All Ages! Free-All Materials Provided and No registration required.

Funded by the Salt Spring Arts Council.

Hands on art and craft activities for children & families

Date: January 17

Time: Drop-in between 10:00 am -1:00 pm

Location: Mahon Hall

FREE! - No pre-registration required – All materials provided.

Please note: No drop-offs. An adult must be present with the child/children the entire time.

Kids have cabin fever? Get out of the house and come down to Mahon Hall for some family creative time. There will be fun art and craft activities for all ages. Volunteers will have several stations set up for different activities: printmaking, slow stitch sewing, lantern-making, felting and other wool crafts. We will also have a space for kids to draw and color on their own.

Crafting Connections is a Community Initiative of Salt Spring Arts Council (SSAC) that brings together seniors and youth through hands-on pop-up art and craft activities at community and SSAC events. The initiative creates meaningful volunteer opportunities for local seniors while expanding access to fun, creative experiences for families and young children.

Questions can be directed to Megan Amaral at programs@ssarts council.com.



The poster is for the "Crafting Connections" event. It features a green background with a yellow and orange paint splatter graphic. The Salt Spring Arts Council logo is in the top left. The title "CRAFTING CONNECTIONS" is in large white letters, with "CRAFTING" on top and "CONNECTIONS" on the bottom. Below the title is the subtitle "Hands on art and craft activities for children". The date "Saturday, Jan 17th" is in a yellow oval, and the time "10 am to 1 pm" is next to it, followed by the location "Mahon Hall". A statement "Free. All materials provided." is below. A photo of a hand holding a paintbrush is on the left, and photos of people at a table with craft supplies are on the right. At the bottom, there is a QR code and the text "Learn more at: saltspringarts.com/crafting-connections".

CRAFTING CONNECTIONS

Hands on art and craft activities for children

Saturday, Jan 17th 10 am to 1 pm
Mahon Hall

Free. All materials provided.

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

Learn more at:
saltspringarts.com/crafting-connections

Tonight!

PRO D opportunity for STAFF and Parent NIGHT

The District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) and the GISS PAC are supporting a Parent Night on Thursday, January 15th.

Parent Night IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE

Date: Thursday, January 15th

Time: 6:00 -7:30 pm

Location: GISS - Gulf Islands Secondary School

Room: N207

In response to ongoing concerns in our school community about substance use, consent and sexual exploitation risks among our students, facilitators from PLEA: Children of the Street will be presenting their in-person workshops "It Can Happen to Anyone" and "Keeping Kids Safe Online".

PLEA 'Children of the Street' is a provincially funded initiative that is dedicated to preventing sexual exploitation of children and youth in British Columbia. Facilitators from PLEA have offered to provide a series of workshops this school year to Gulf Islands Secondary School teachers, students and staff to provide knowledge and dialogue on this important topic.

"It Can Happen to Anyone": Provides a comprehensive overview of youth sexual exploitation in British Columbia including case studies and trends of youth exploitation, online exploitation, an overview of legal issues surrounding sexual exploitation, and family support.

"Keeping Kids Safe Online": Will provide participants with essential information about online sexual exploitation, including common red flags of luring and grooming, sextortion, child sexual abuse materials (CSAM), and peer-to-peer exploitation. Attendees will build literacy through a review of online platforms most popular with

youth today. The session will also cover important safety tips, highlight available local resources, and explain how and where to seek help if concerns arise.

NOTE: Please note that these workshops can be customized to ensure that participants receive relevant information. If you are interested in attending the workshops and have specific concerns, please reach out to GISS staff: Elliot for more information ewheatcroft@sd64.org or Stacy smitchell@sd64.org, who is supporting Elliot.

GISS & DPAC Present a Parent Workshop

"It Can Happen to Anyone"

In response to ongoing concerns in our community about substance use, consent and sexual exploitation risks among our students, facilitators from PLEA: Children of the Street will be presenting their in-person workshop "It Can Happen to Anyone"

Join us JANUARY 15th at 6:00pm -7:30pm
In person at Gulf Island Secondary School
Virtually here [click here](#) or Scan

It Can Happen to Anyone": Provides a comprehensive overview youth sexual exploitation in British Columbia including case studies and trends of youth exploitation, online exploitation, an overview of legal issues surrounding sexual exploitation, and family support.

Children of the Street Providing awareness, education and support to keep children, youth and families safe from sexual exploitation

"I learned how recruitment happens and how to notice and stop it. There are also lots of resources to help if something happens." - Program Participant



Stay Healthy!

You may have noticed there has been a spike in flu and flu-like illness around. We encourage everyone to support and maintain healthy practices for students (washing hands, lots of sleep/healthy food, flu shots, stay home when sick, cover your coughs/sneezes with your tissue/elbow).

Please see the attached infographic regarding influenza, Covid19 and RSV.

[HERE](#) is a link to the Public Health Agency of Canada, with more information for you.