



Fernwood Elementary School Newsletter April 16, 2026



Whole School Meeting

Becky led our 'Whole School Meeting' today. Thank you Sparrow and Izzy for opening and closing with the Territorial Acknowledgement and drumming. We recognized birthdays and students who had demonstrated the 3Cs (caring for self, others and the environment). Becky also introduced us to some of our new students and to our two University of Victoria student Teachers Piper and Soleil. Piper and Soleil will be doing their teaching practicum in Natalie Bienias' grade 6/7 classroom.


Everyone is always welcome to our meetings in the gym every Thursday morning at 8:45 am.

Thank you to Ann Marie Davidson and Ollie from the PATS program for the time they spent with students at Fernwood School this spring!



Fernwood PAC

The next PAC meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, April 28th.

The next Pizza Day is Thursday, May 22nd.  MunchaLunch

Thank you for your support!

Your Fernwood PAC

Kindergarten Hearing Screening for Current Students

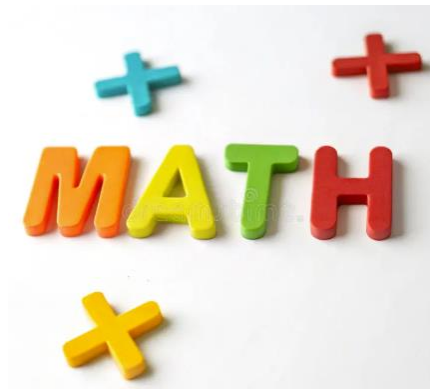
Thank you to the Vancouver Island Health Authority nurses who were onsite at Fernwood today for hearing screening with our Kindergarten students. You will get your child's results if there is any concern, and, if necessary, recommendations for further hearing assessment. Letters were sent home on Thursday, April 16th in student planners.



THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME YOU DO TO SCAN YOUR RECEIPT! COUNTRY GROCER HAS ISSUED THE SCHOOL \$1600 THAT WE CAN DISTRIBUTE TO THE 10 CLASSES – IT IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED AND ITS WORKING! THE SCHOOL NUMBER IS: #114

Thank you to everyone who chooses to donate to Fernwood Elementary School through the Country Grocer Save-a-Tape program. We appreciate the time it takes to scan your receipt! Funds are used to subsidize field trips and purchase classroom and learning services supplies.

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



Weekly Math Challenge - Winners This Week

Congratulations Emmett, Sumi and Aquila!





Welcome to Kindergarten Events – *emails have gone home to parents of New Kindies to sign up for these events...*

The first event is a Pizza Night (4:30-5:30 pm on April 30th) and then an opportunity to come in small groups (small groups of up to 7 children) on one of the days to choose between May 5, 12, 19 or 26.

Further events, such as Family Info Night and a Family Picnic are in the works with dates to be announced at the end of May and in the month of June. We hope you can make it to some of these events to help your child transition into K!

Kick Start to Kindergarten

Pizza Night 🍕 🍕 🍕

Date: Thursday, April 30

Time: 4:30-5:30

Meet in Fernwood Strong Start (ELF) classroom for pizza and play, meet Fernwood Staff, and tour kindergarten classrooms.

K Play Sessions

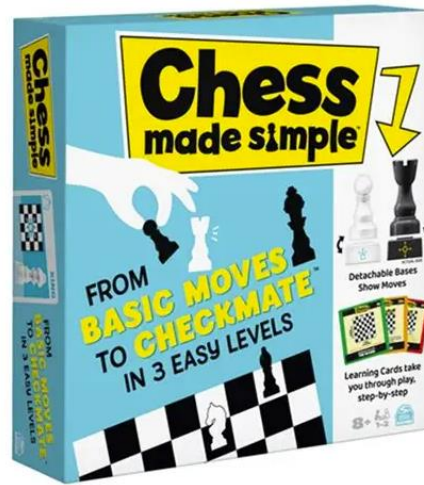
Location: Fernwood ELF

***Dates: May 5, 12, 19, 26**

Times: 2:00pm-3:00pm

Play with 5-7 other future kindergarten students, tour the school, participate in a story walk and connect with future K teachers. *Parents will need to sign up for preferred dates.

Join Us to Play or to Learn Chess!



Thank you to the Blizzard family who generously provided 'Chess Made Simple' games and also soft travel style chess bags to Fernwood Elementary in response to a request for the need! We are very excited and grateful for this donation and for these games that have been donated in memory of Dave Blizzard. Chess Club was so well attended at the lunch hour on **Tuesday!** Everyone is welcome. Thank you to Hannah Garvie-Ransen for spearheading this opportunity for kids to learn and enjoy chess! Thank you also to teacher, Clay Dawson, parent Bruce Winstone and Leah for helping to run this club! See you at the next one!





Student Learning Survey 2025/2026 - open until May 1st

The Provincial Student Learning Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents/guardians/caregivers, teachers, and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective.

Early in **2026** the Student Learning Survey will be administered to students in grades 4 and 7, their parents/guardians/caregivers, and all school staff. We encourage parents/guardians/caregivers to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus on improvement. The surveys contain standard questions for the Province – in addition, questions from the school and/or district that focus on local conditions or issues may be included.

The survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the Internet at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/student-learning-survey>. Any computer or mobile device with an Internet connection can be used, and access to the e-survey is simple and secure. The survey can be accessed through the link and by clicking on Take the Survey. On the login page, click on the Parents icon, and then select the school district and school name where your child attends school. Provincial, District and School Reports for previous years can be viewed at the same site under the *Results* section.

The e-survey site will be open until May 1, 2026. If you have any questions, please contact Shelly or Marie.

YEARBOOK COVER DESIGN CONTEST

Calling all young artists!



What We're Looking For

- **Specifications:** Design must fill an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper and clearly state Fernwood Elementary and the year (2025/2026) in your design
 - **School Imagery:** Include elements that remind us of school, like the natural surroundings, books, pencils, or the school building
 - **Bright Colors and bold lettering**
- Your design should be playful, inviting, and age-appropriate for elementary school students. Think about what makes our school special and try to capture that in your artwork. What do you love most about Fernwood? What makes our school community special? We want a cover that captures Fernwood's spirit and makes everyone excited to open the yearbook!

Previous Covers:



How to Enter

1. **Create Your Design:** Use any art supplies you like – crayons, markers, pencil crayons, paint, or even digital art!
2. **Submit Your Entry:** Drop off your finished design at the office.
3. **Deadline:** All entries must be submitted by **May 7th**.

Remember to include your name, grade, and teacher's name on the back of your submission!

Prizes

The winning design will be featured on the cover of this year's yearbook! The winner will also receive a gift certificate to Dragonfly Art Supply and recognition at the whole school meeting. Runners-up will also have their artwork displayed in the school hallway. Good luck!

Parent volunteers are gearing up to create this year's edition of the Fernwood yearbook. They have decided to host a cover design contest. Any age child can submit a design for consideration. The deadline for submissions is May 7th and in addition to having their design grace the cover of the yearbook the winner will also receive a \$50 gift card to Dragonfly Art Supplies! Thank you to Marissa Smith for organizing this opportunity.

'Battle of the Books' continues between Fernwood, SSE and Fulford!

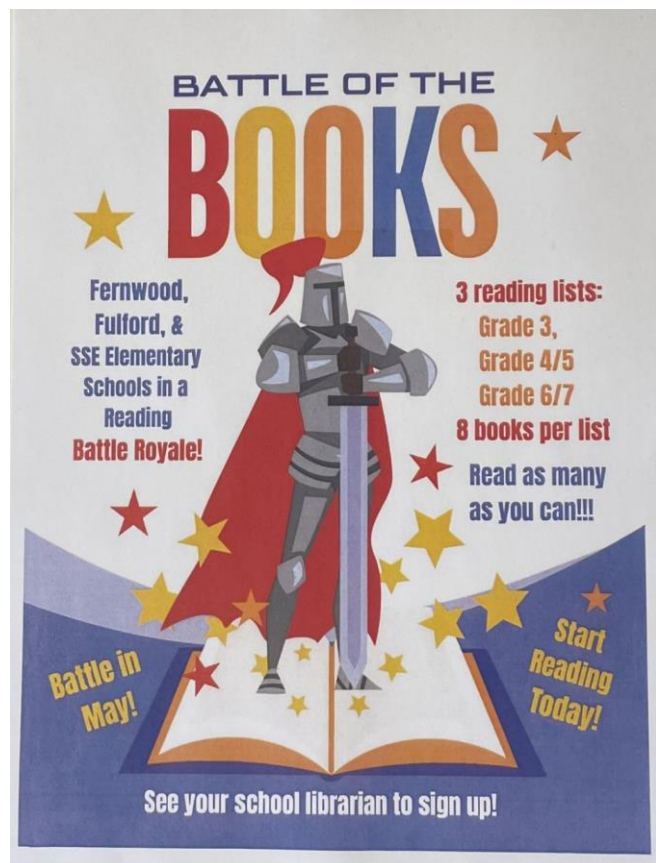
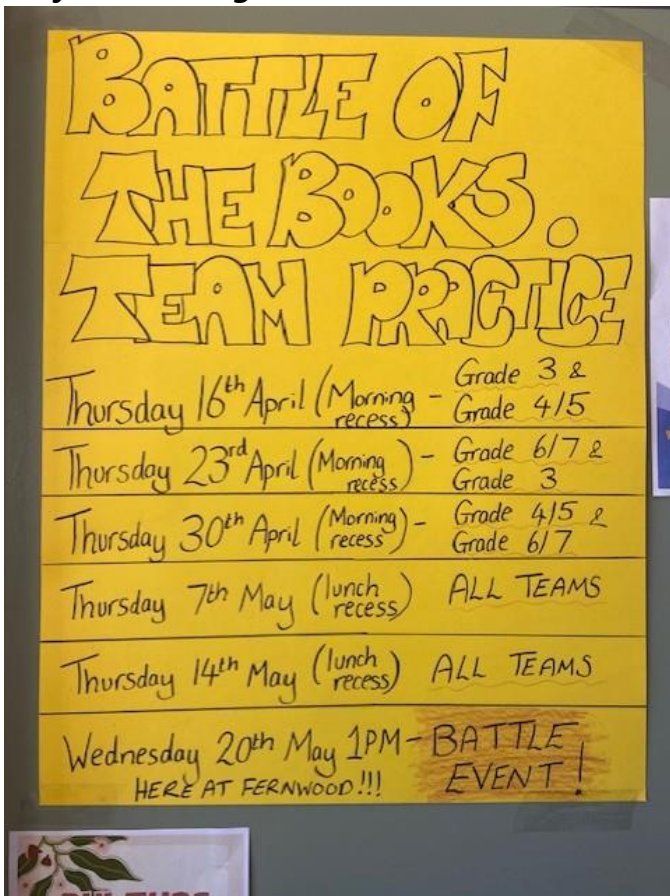
Wednesday, May 20th at Fernwood School! Parents are welcome to watch!

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!



Dates Looking Ahead:

Tuesday, April 21 – Field Trip: Melissa Hingston, Allan MacLean and Myriah Michaux’s classes to Mahon Hall to see the Nature-Tech Exhibit - Bus departs at 9:15 am; returns at 11:30 am

Wednesday, April 22 – Earth Day

Thursday, April 23 – Earthquake Drill 2:50 pm

Friday, April 24 – Professional Development Day for Staff

Tuesday, April 28 – next PAC Meeting 6:00 pm in the Library; Grade 6 and 7 Career Event at GISS

Thursday, April 30 – Kindergarten Kickstart Pizza Night (for next year Kindies) - 4:30 –5:30 pm

-Deadline to register for the School Bus for next year

May 5,12,19,26 – Kindergarten K Plays (in the StrongStart room) 2:00 – 3:00 pm (a sign up will go home to fill 5-7 spots per session)

Monday, May 18 – no school

Wednesday, May 20 – Battle of the Books (elementary schools visit Fernwood)

Friday, May 22 – Friday School Day; Pizza Day; next Whole School Spirit Day

Thursday, June 11 – The Fabulous Fernwood FUN FAIR!

Thursday, June 25 - Last Day of School





BUS REGISTRATION IS OPEN - closes April 30th

PLEASE REGISTER BEFORE APRIL 30 IF YOU REQUIRE BUS SERVICE NEXT YEAR



USE THE QR CODE ABOVE OR GO TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT 'TRANSPORTATION' WEBPAGE [Transportation](#)

March 31, 2026

Re: School Bus Transportation Registration – 2026–2027 School Year

Dear Parents and Guardians,

School bus transportation registration will open on April 1, 2026. If your child or children require bus service for the upcoming school year, please complete the registration process before April 30, 2026.

Transportation Registration for the 2026–27 School Year Is Now Open — Click Here

Early registration is important as it allows the Transportation Department to effectively plan bus routes, determine capacity, and assign stops. Registering your child early provides the best opportunity to secure a seat on the bus and helps minimize the possibility of overcrowded buses.

Please review the following important information regarding transportation registration:

Registration Period: The bus service registration window will be open from **April 1 through April 30, 2026**.

Transportation registrations are valid for one school year only, and students must be registered each year.

Late Registration: Bus registrations received after April 30, 2026 are subject to a \$75 late registration fee. This fee is waived for students who move into the district after the April registration period.

Transportation Cards: Transportation cards are required to ride SD64 Transportation Services. Please keep your child's current bus card, as it will be used for next year's bus service.

Registration Blackout Period: No transportation registrations will be processed from August 15 through September 18. Any registration requests received during this period will be reviewed after September 18.

Bus Eligibility: Only students who have received confirmation that they have been assigned a seat on the bus are permitted to ride. Unregistered students are not permitted to use SD64 transportation services.

Water Taxi Riders: Students who travel by water taxi are registered directly through the Transportation Department. Note: Students traveling by water taxi to Pender Island will also be registered for the Pender bus service through the Transportation Department.

If you have any questions regarding student transportation, please contact the Transportation Department at transportation@sd64.org / 250-537-5723.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Transportation Department

Talking Through Temperament

SALT SPRING ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
THURSDAY APRIL 23RD, 2026 6:00 PM - 7:30PM

WITH DARCY MORGAN
AND ANDREA HOLLINGSWORTH

**Free Event in partnership with the Salt
Spring Island Foundation and SD 64**

For families* and educators working
with children age Birth to 12 years

EVENT DESCRIPTION

During our evening together we will unpack the 9 temperament traits and learn how our own temperament traits impact the way we relate to others. We will also highlight the power of emotional literacy for our collective mental health and wellbeing.

*We are unable to provide childminding for this event.

contact: Andrea Hollingsworth
ahollingsworth@sd64.org

www.rootsofempathy.org



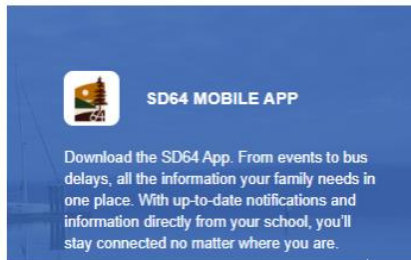
Roots of Empathy
Racines de l'empathie



This newsletter is also sent out to the District APP – subscribe to Fernwood Elementary on the app or any other sources you choose!



SD64 MOBILE APP



The Province of BC has a 'no cell phone' policy in elementary schools.

