



Fernwood Elementary School Newsletter April 23, 2026



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

Wednesday, May 20th at Fernwood School! Parents are welcome to watch! A few parent volunteers are needed for this approximate 2 hour event.



This fun competition between the three elementary schools on the island is in the works! Students read as many books as they can from a list of 8 books above! Students are in teams and practice answering comprehension quiz questions on the books. There will be a district wide event on May 20th 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!

There will be approximately 70 students participating and Ms Amber would like (needs!) a few parent volunteers to come to see this event and help out! Please email Amber at athompson@sd64.org

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS.
TEAM PRACTICE

Thursday 16 th April (Morning recess)	Grade 3 & Grade 4/5
Thursday 23 rd April (Morning recess)	Grade 6/7 & Grade 3
Thursday 30 th April (Morning recess)	Grade 4/5 & Grade 6/7
Thursday 7 th May (lunch recess)	ALL TEAMS
Thursday 14 th May (lunch recess)	ALL TEAMS
Wednesday 20 th May 1PM	BATTLE EVENT! HERE AT FERNWOOD!!!

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS ★

Fernwood, Fulford, & SSE Elementary Schools in a Reading Battle Royale!

3 reading lists:
Grade 3,
Grade 4/5
Grade 6/7
8 books per list
Read as many as you can!!!

Battle in May!

Start Reading Today!

See your school librarian to sign up!



The two grade 4/5 classes (Ms Hingston and Mr. Mac) went to Mahon Hall this week to see the exhibit *Digital Ecologies: Bridging Nature and Technology* and also explored Ganges. The exhibit explores the intersection between nature and technology through the work of regional artists.





Mahon Hall Art Project: Some more photos of the Flight of Colour Art Project from Mr. Reid's Class...

This outdoor public installation of painted driftwood and bird-shaped plywood cutouts will be planted upright on the grounds of Mahon Hall and will stay in place for two years. Once the installation is complete in early May, they will host an opening exhibition to celebrate the students and their work. Students in Cathryn Pyper, Brian Reid and Melissa Hingston's classes began this project this week!





From Your Fernwood PAC

The link to next PAC meeting if you would like to join online was sent to all families by email.

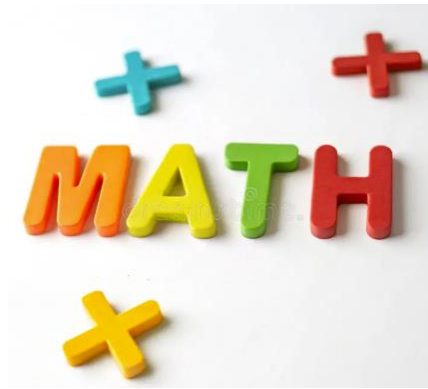
The in person meeting will take place Tuesday, April 28th 6:00 pm in the Fernwood School Library – ALL WELCOME!

The next Pizza Day is Thursday, May 22nd.



Thank you for your support!

Your Fernwood PAC



Weekly Math Challenge Winners This Week

Congratulations to Scarlett, Carolina and Ignatia!

Question this week:

Tia's secret number is an even number. It is between 50 and 60. Its one digit is the number of wheels on 2 bikes. What is Tia's secret number?

Thank you Ms Heidi for running this weekly math challenge!





Welcome to Kindergarten 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.

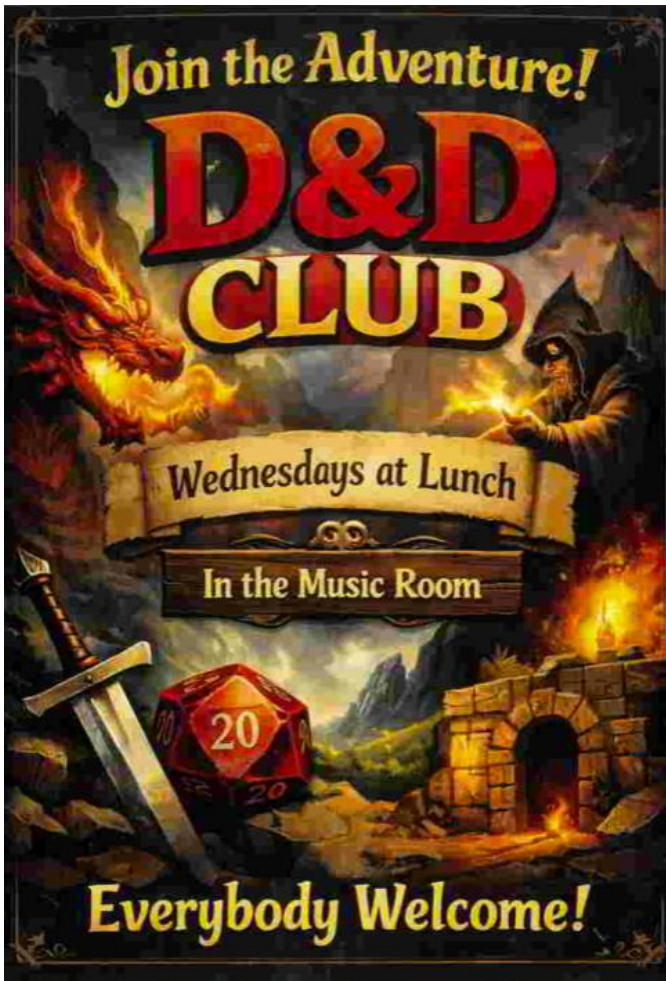
K Play Sessions

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.



CULTURE CLUB

All Indigenous students are invited!

INFORMATION

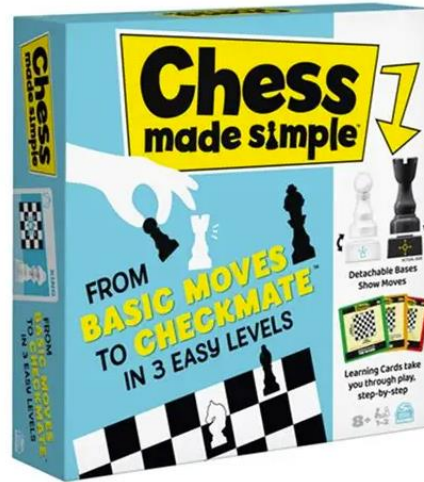
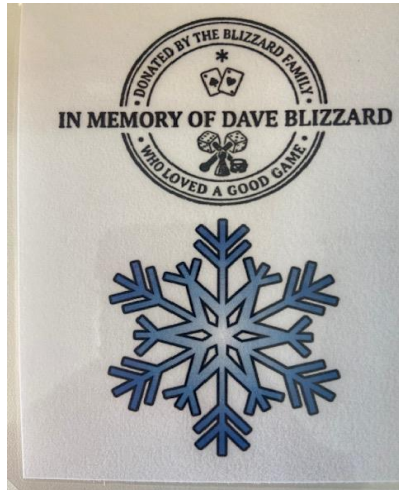
WHO: Indigenous Students	WHAT: Crafts, music, learning & more!	WHERE: Music Room
WHEN: Monday at Big Recess	WHY: Connect with culture and others	

Talk to Shayce if you want to learn more about it!

Tuesday just this upcoming week...

Thank you to Teacher, Clay Dawson for running Dungeons and Dragons! Thank you Shayce Johnston, ISW, for running Culture Club...it will be on Tuesday next week (not Monday).

Chess Club Meets Tuesdays at Lunch



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 teachers, Clay Dawson and Brian Reid, 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.

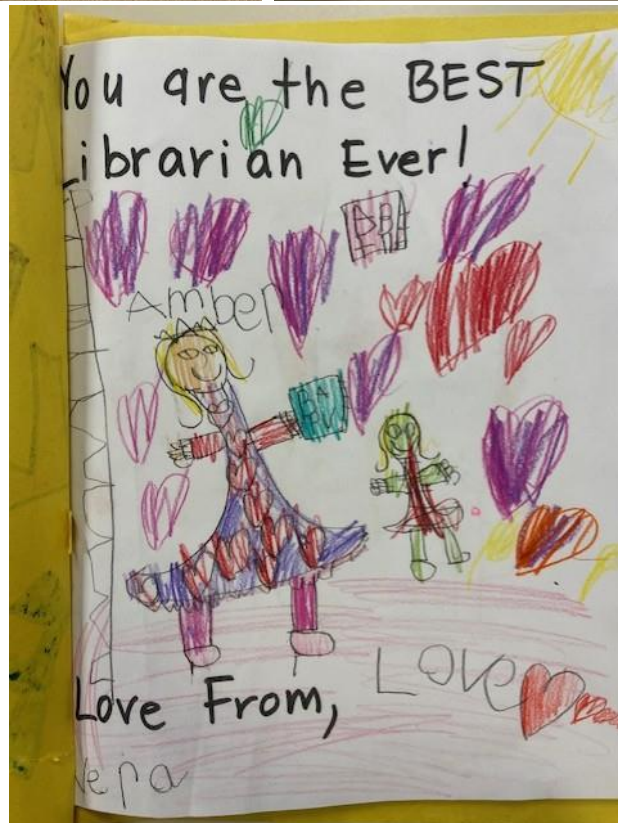
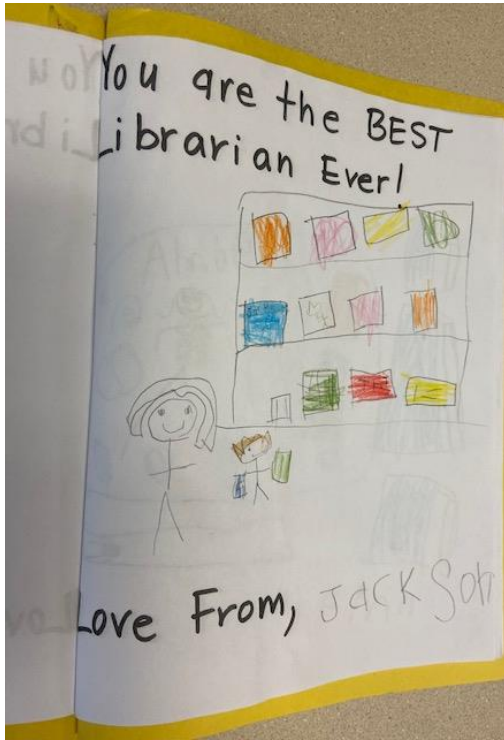
Celebrating Our School Community

During the month of April there have been wonderful expressions of appreciation for Librarian Day, Bus Driver Appreciation Day and Administrative Assistant Day. Thankyou so much! At the same time, **we want to express our sincere gratitude for our entire school community—students, families, staff, and volunteers alike.** It truly takes all of us working together to make our school such a caring, supportive place to learn and grow.

Bus Driver Appreciation Day



Librarian Day



Administrative Assistant Day



Dates Looking Ahead:

Tuesday, April 28 – 10:00 am: Grade 7s Visit GISS – students travel by bus for a tour and learning about programs and facilities; 6:00 pm PAC Meeting in the Library

Wednesday, April 29 – 5:30 pm – NEW GISS Parent Night at GISS - school administrators and course advising counsellors will share details and be available for questions

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

-Sarah Currie's Grade 3s to Salmon Release at Beddis Beach

-Malindi Curtis and Myriah Michaux's classes to Fernwood Beach

May 5,12,19,26 – New Kindergarten K Plays (in the StrongStart room) 2:00 – 3:00 pm (emails links sent home to fill 5-7 spots per session)

Tuesday, May 12 – Malindi Curtis and Myriah Michaux's classes to Greenwoods

Thursday, May 14 – Grade 4/5 Track & Field at Portlock (back up if rain May 19)

Thursday, May 7 – please hand in your Yearbook Cover designs by today

Monday, May 18 – no school (statutory holiday)

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

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

Tuesday, May 26 – Grade 6/7 Track & Field at Portlock (back up day if rain is May 28)

Thursday, June 4 – Kindergarten and K/1 classes to Pacific Raptors Centre Duncan

Thursday, June 11 – Fernwood FUN FAIR afterschool event

Tuesday, June 16 – Band Rehearsal (evening at the HUB – old SIMS location)

Wednesday, June 17 – Band Concert (evening at the HUB – old SIMS location)

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

Please go here to the School District 64 webpage and choose 'Transportation':

<https://www.sd64.bc.ca/transportation>

Bus Registration

School bus transportation registration for the **2026–2027 school year** will open on **April 1, 2026**.

Families who require bus service are asked to complete the registration process as early as possible. Early registration helps the Transportation Department plan safe and efficient routes, assign bus stops, and ensure adequate bus capacity for all eligible students.

For further information or inquiries regarding student transportation services, please contact the Transportation Department at transportation@sd64.org.



MOTHERS DAY BOUTIQUE

**A carefully curated
pop-up boutique
offering affordable gifts
for any and all mothers.**

**Come early for
best gift selections for
your mom to celebrate
this special day.**

**Sat, May 2, 2026
10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**SSI United Church
111 Hereford Avenue**



Struggling to make ends meet and eat well?



- Learn healthy meal planning and how to save money on food
- Cook a shared meal each week, with leftovers to take home



FREE 5 week program

May 13, 20, 27 and June 3, 10
10:30 am to 1:30 pm



Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS, former middle school) Home Economics Room

More information or to register

email: collectivekitchen@saltspringliteracy.org

phone: 250-537-9717

Supported by

islandcommunity
services



salt spring island
foundation



United Way

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

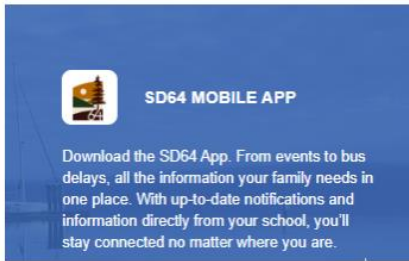
www.rootsofempathy.org



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.



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.