



**EARLY DISMISSAL ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH – FOR LEARNING UPDATES** (email home Feb. 11)

Please note that Wednesday, February 18th is an early dismissal day for Informal Learning Updates. Students will be dismissed at 12:00 PM to allow teachers time to connect with families about student progress. Teachers will communicate with parents in a variety of ways, including in-person meetings, phone calls, virtual conferences or written reports

The school schedule on Early Dismissal Days is as follows:

**12:00 school is dismissed** - Please make sure your child knows what they are to do on this early dismissal day, so they feel at ease when the bell goes.

Link to the **Early Dismissal Bus Schedule** for Bus 4 and Bus 5:  
[Early Dismissal Schedules](#)

**12:20 staff supervision on playground ends** (all students should either be enroute home on the bus or with a supervising parent)

## LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

Dear Fernwood Families,

Our 4th Annual Light Up the Night was a wonderful evening of coming together and a beautiful display of our children's creativity. This year we were lucky to liven things up with joyful music by Tangle and Tyler and a chance to try our hand at shadow puppetry.

As usual, this event would not have been possible without the support of so many. Thank you to all of the staff and administrators for your patience, our tireless volunteers for your time and imagination and students for your festive lanterns. Thanks also to Country Grocer and the Fab Lab for your generous donations.

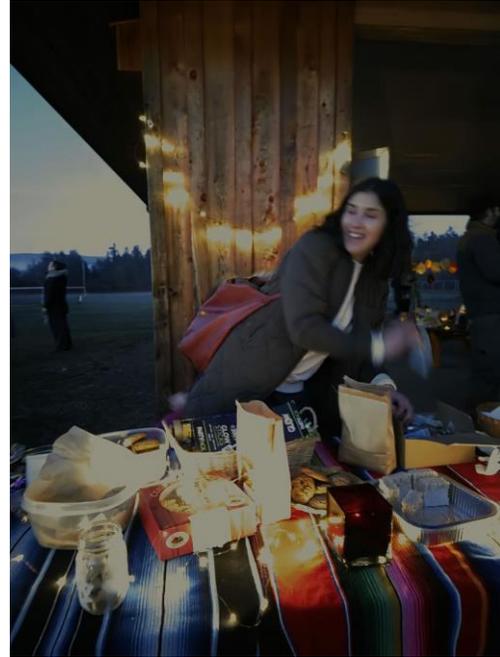
Everyone came out to celebrate a little light in the dark of winter and it was lovely.

Have a happy and healthy Family Day long weekend!

Your Fernwood PAC













## February Is Black History Month

Classrooms have been engaging in learning experiences to celebrate Black History Month. Students have explored influential figures, cultural traditions, music, art, and themes of kindness, inclusion, and community.

In our K/1 class students are enjoying stories and short videos highlighting a variety of traditional dances. They also created artwork. In Music, students are learning *Obwisana*, a traditional Ghanaian rhythm game and song. The Kindergarten class is spending time exploring themes of inclusion and global community. Their “We Are the World” art display outside the classroom is pictured below. The grade 5/6 students studied powerful speeches and the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, discussing the impact of his message and reflecting on how words can inspire change. In Grade 6/7, students are exploring historical and contemporary Black figures and independent reading projects.



**Book Riddle  
Winners This Week**

Congratulations to this week’s prize winners of the Book Riddle Contest. Lilly, Avery and Charlotte were the intermediate level winners for guessing the *Wing of Fire* book and Sema, Aquila and Audrey were drawn in the primary level category for guessing correctly the book title *The Day the Crayons Quit*. There were so many correct guesses! Winners will be drawn every week in the month of February during the Reading Blitz so guess again next week when we will have two more books to guess in the Book Riddle Contest!

**FROM YOUR FERNWOOD PAC - HOT LUNCH orders close Monday - LUNCH is on the FRIDAY SCHOOL DAY, FEBRUARY 20<sup>th</sup>**



Dear Families, **NOTE THAT THE PAC HAS A NEW UPDATED EMAIL: [fernwoodpac150@gmail.com](mailto:fernwoodpac150@gmail.com)**

Pizza Day will be Friday, February 20th. The choices include cheese, pepperoni, or Hawaiian pizza, an applesauce cup, and a Smartie cookie. There is also a gluten free dairy free pizza option.

We have also included the option to donate \$5 towards the PAC, which will support various initiatives, including teacher appreciation and sports equipment.

To order Hot Lunch, you will need to log in or create a new account on Munch a Lunch: <https://munchalunch.com/login>. Preferably, you can pay with a credit card through the site. If you do not have a credit card, you may send cash or a cheque made out to the Fernwood PAC to your child's teacher, or send an e-transfer to [fernwoodpac150@gmail.com](mailto:fernwoodpac150@gmail.com) with your child's name, their teacher, and what you would like to order in the notes. Please label any money sent to school clearly with your child's name and teacher, their order, and make sure the money is sealed in a ziplock or envelope. We cannot provide change.

**Orders need to be completed and paid for by Monday February 16th** so we have time to communicate with vendors.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WvpYegjyK5D4rVM3y02OjO5YIEPvM3vytWkvm9B4ZE/edit?usp=sharing>

Thank you for your support!  
Fernwood PAC



## **Student Learning Survey 2025/2026**

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 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.

### **Whole School Meeting – Everyone Welcome 8:45 – 9:15 am on Thursdays**

At this week's Whole School Meeting, Shelly led us through birthday wishes (thank you to music teacher, Heidi, for leading us through singing happy birthday wishes in both French and English) to everyone who has had a birthday in the past week. We also listened to 3C friendly deeds and the fun jokes. Shelly wanted to express how much staff have noticed how helpful the older students have been with younger students – thank you. Thank you to Izzy and Sparrow for opening and closing the whole school meeting with the Territorial Acknowledgement. In celebration of February Reading month, the staff got up and read aloud the poem 'Read to Me' by Jane Yolen:

Read to me riddles and read to me rhymes  
Read to me stories of magical times  
Read to me tales about castles and kings  
Read to me stories of fabulous things  
Read to me pirates and read to me knights  
Read to me dragons and dragon-book fights  
Read to me spaceships and cowboys and then  
When you are finished--please read them again.

Students were also reminded at the Whole School Meeting about the Province of BC's no cell phone policy in elementary schools.





**The FUN FRIDAY theme for Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> is 'Wordy T-Shirts' Day!**



**Fernwood Basketball**

'Thank You' to Becky and Dane, Caitlin, Mr. Reid, and Ms Meghan for being our coaches this season!



## Game Schedule

Date	Grade	Where	Time
Tue Feb 10	6-7 boys	Fulford	Bus leaves 11:30 am
Thurs Feb 12	6-7 Boys	SSE	Bus Leaves 11:30 am
Thurs Feb 19	6-7 Girls	Fulford	Bus leaves 11:30 am
Mon Feb 23	6-7 Girls	SSE Here (HOME)	12:15 pm
Wed Feb 25	4-5 mixed	Fulford Here (HOME)	12:15 pm
Thurs Feb 26	6-7 boys	SSE here (HOME)	12:15 pm
Mon March 2	4-5 (mixed)	Fulford	Bus Leaves 11:30 am
Tue March 3 (cancelled)	6-7 Girls	(HOME) Fulford here	12:15 pm
Thurs March 5	6-7 Girls	SSE	Bus Leaves 11:30 am
Thurs March 5	4-5 mixed	(HOME) SSE here	12:15 pm
Mon March 9	4-5 (mixed)	SSE	Bus Leaves 11:30 am
Wed March 11	Co-Ed 6-7 Tournament	GISS (Gulf Islands Secondary School)	TBA – outer island teams visit!

# February Reading Fun Challege

**WE KNOW YOU CAN DO IT!**

Reading Blitz February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
 1	 2	 3	 4	 5	 6	 7
 8	 9	 10	 11	 12	 13	 14
 15	 16	 17	 18	 19	 20	 21
 22	 24	 25	 26	 27	 28	

This is to certify that from February 2<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>

1. My child, \_\_\_\_\_, read for 20 mins/night
2. My child, \_\_\_\_\_, read for 20 mins/night AND did the Cold Turkey challenge

Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

During Reading Blitz, you have two options for challenges:

### Reading Blitz Challenge

Can you read for 20 minutes or more every day during the month of February? Post the attached calendar on your fridge and check off the book for each day you read for at least 20 minutes and earn a recognition award for 28 days of reading.



### Cold Turkey Challenge

Do you need more of a challenge? The Cold Turkey Challenge is No T.V.- No Videos for a month. Can you NOT watch TV or videos for the month? Can you NOT play video or computer games? Can you READ for 20 minutes or more a day instead? We are offering great incentive prizes to those kids who are tough enough to make it through READING BLITZ month without watching a television set or videos, and who read instead! If you are up for this challenge, cross off the T.V. and check off the book for every day that you read for 20 minutes or more instead of watching T.V./videos.



### What about computers?

No problem! Computers used for educational, useful, productive or creative things are great. Just playing games or "watching videos" are not allowed.

### FLEX DAYS

You have two "flex days" during the month when you can watch a T.V. or video and/or not read.

**Good luck! We know you can do it!**

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

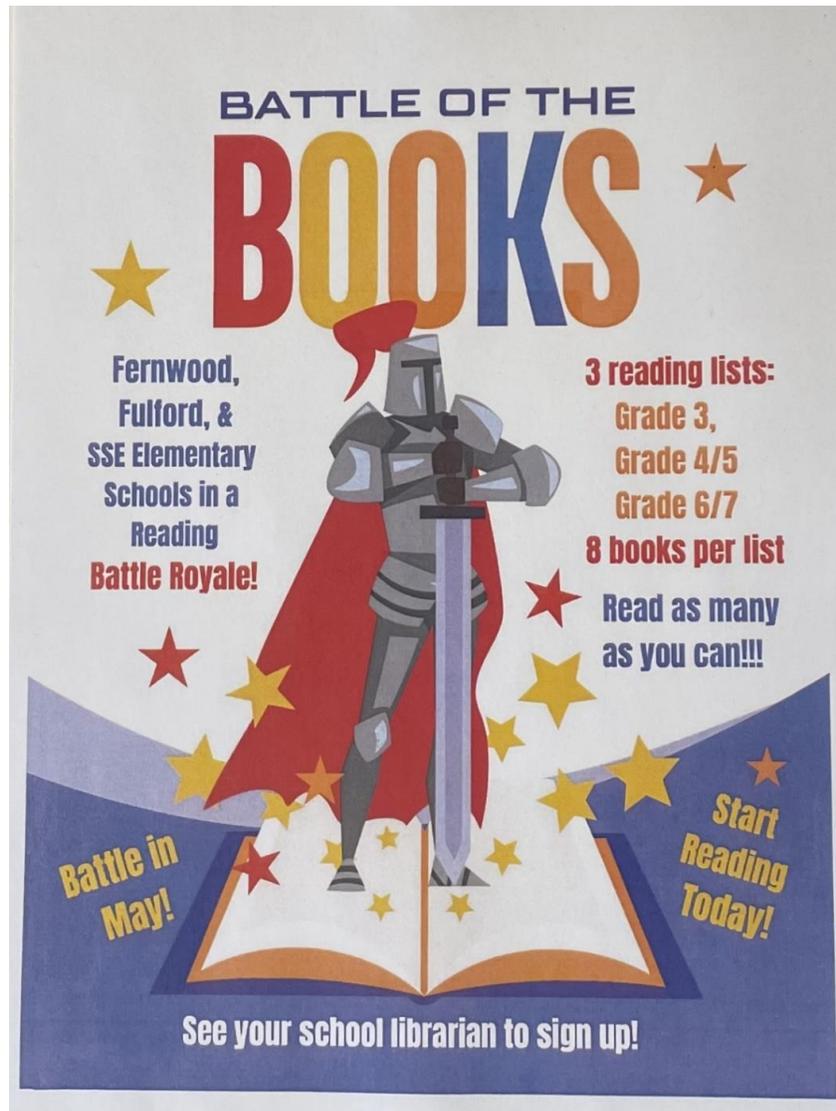
All kids from Grades 3-7 are invited to join the Battle of the Books (BOB). It is a fun competition between the three elementary schools on the island, where students read as many books as they can from a list of 8 books! Students will then make a small team and practice answering comprehension quiz 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](mailto:athompson@sd64.org)

**May the reading battle commence!**





## **Fernwood School Plan in Case of Snow or Inclement Weather**

In preparation for possible inclement weather, ***please familiarize yourself with the different scenarios to consider in case it snows or bus schedules change from the regular route to the 'main roads only route' which can sometimes happens.***

Your local area conditions should be taken into consideration as decisions are made centrally where road and snow conditions may be different than yours. 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.

If the District school buses are not running or are operating on "Main Roads Only," note that this is a limited route and it is a decision made for the safety of your child by the School District in consultation with Transportation Services. All communication regarding bus changes or cancellations will come directly from Transportation Services ([transportation@sd64.org](mailto:transportation@sd64.org)) and also through the SD64 App directly to your cell phone.

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>

### **IF IT SNOWS AFTER STUDENTS HAVE ARRIVED AT SCHOOL:**

The weather can change after students have arrived at school forcing buses to leave early and schools to close early. Parents would be notified by email if this were to occur. Parents of registered bus riders will also be notified by email from Transportation Services or through their SD64 APP if you have downloaded this app for notification.

Please note that it is very IMPORTANT that parents have updated their contact information with the Fernwood School office.

Here are examples of what 3 possible scenarios could be:

"Buses running on MAIN ROADS ONLY ROUTE" Schedule: <a href="https://sd64.bc.ca/increment-weather">https://sd64.bc.ca/increment-weather</a>	"Buses not running, but schools open"	"Schools Closed"
<p>Schools are open as normal. Note that this is a limited route on main roads only.</p> <p>An example of Main Roads Only bus service for registered riders is:</p> <p>MORNING: Bus 4 leaves the Bus Yard and travels to school along Lower Ganges Road and North End Road. Bus 5 starts its run at Vesuvius Bay Road at Humphrey's Hill and picks up students along Vesuvius Bay Road then up North End Road to school.</p> <p>AFTERNOON: Bus 5 leaves school and drives down North End Road and along Vesuvius Road dropping off along the way as far as the Vesuvius ferry terminal Bus 4 drives down North End Road and continues down Lower Ganges Road to the Bus Yard</p>	<p>Most students will likely not attend, but <u>school</u> is open.</p> <p>Staff are expected to attempt to come to work. If impossible or unsafe, staff report to the school nearest to them that they can reach safely, and call dispatch to <u>notify</u>.</p>	<p>In extreme cases, schools can be closed due to snow. Staff and students are not expected to come to school.</p>



**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 from now to 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**) forms go directly to SSE please
- [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 SCHOOL 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: deadline February 15th**

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**. A form is required whether your child is new or returning. New requests require signatures from the Principals however returning requests do not. The deadline for accepting cross-boundary request forms is **February 15**. Placement is subject to the availability of space. **Transportation for out-of-catchment requests is not guaranteed.**

#### **Dates Looking Ahead: See above for the Basketball Game Schedule (home and away games)**

**February 15<sup>th</sup> – Fall 2026 Registration Deadline:** New and Kindergarten Registrations & Cross Boundary Applications; French and SEEC

**Monday, February 16–** **Statutory Holiday Family Day (no school)** - MunchaLunch PAC Pizza Orders Due (see info above)

**Wednesday, February 18** – Early Dismissal Day – noon

**Friday, February 20** – **Friday School Day** (due to the holiday Monday); PAC Hot Lunch Pizza Day; Fire Drill; Whole School Read-In Theme 'Black History Month and Friendship/Kindness'; FUN FRIDAY THEME IS 'WORD-Y T-SHIRTS'

**Tuesday, February 24** – Field Trip for Heidi Cameron's and Cathryn Pyper's class to Hand of Man Museum in Duncan; Field Trip for Brian Reid's class to Climbing Wall and Skating in Duncan

**Thursday, February 26** – Drop Everything and Read! 11:30 am

**Thursday, March 12** – Whole School Dance (Fernwood PAC Event)

**March 16-26** - Spring Break

### **COMMUNITY NOTICES**



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.*

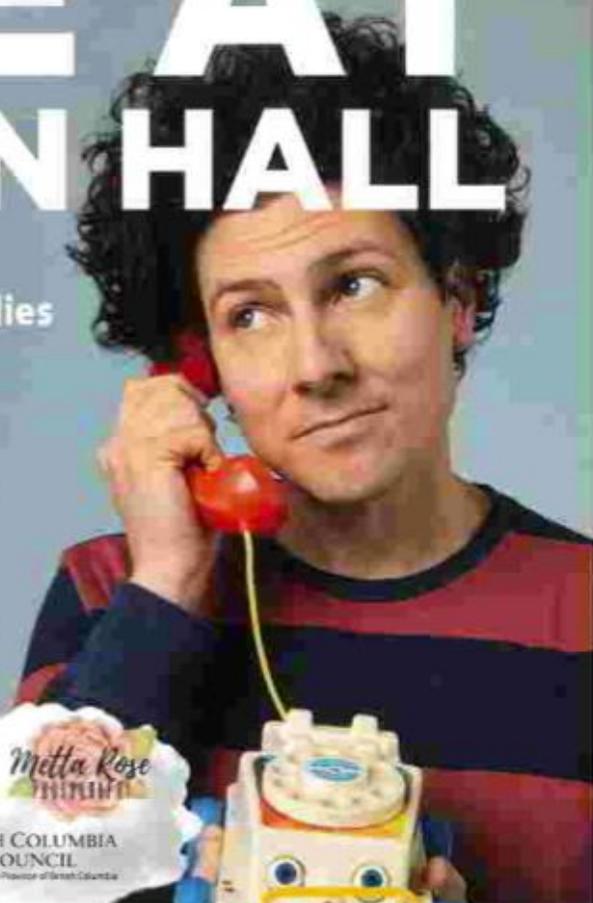


# BC FAMILY DAY EVENT JEREMY FISHER LIVE AT MAHON HALL

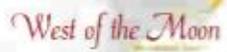
**MORNING SHOW:**  
Kids Songs for Young Families  
10am — 12pm

**AFTERNOON SHOW:**  
Songs for Everyone  
1pm — 3pm

Featuring crafts, face painting,  
puppets, photo booth & more!



Presented with  
the support of:



BRITISH COLUMBIA



BRITISH COLUMBIA ARTS COUNCIL  
An agency of the Province of British Columbia

Advanced registration is required:  
[saltspringarts.com/family-day](http://saltspringarts.com/family-day)



# **Fastpitch & Baseball Registration is**

## **Now Open!**

Registration is officially open, and we can't wait to welcome both returning players and new athletes to the field.

Registration Links:

**Girls Fastpitch:** [SaltSpringIslandMinorBB.rampregistrations.com/participant](https://saltspringislandminorbb.rampregistrations.com/participant)

**Boys Minor Baseball:** [saltbaseball.rampregistrations.com/participant](https://saltbaseball.rampregistrations.com/participant)

Our programs focus on skill development, teamwork, confidence, and — most importantly — having fun.

Whether your child is picking up a glove for the first time or looking to build on their experience, there is a place for everyone.

Spots fill quickly, so we encourage families to register early to secure their player's place for the season.



# BASEBALL REGISTRATION

**REGISTER NOW**

**WINTER CLINICS AND  
SPRING REGISTRATION**

Winter clinics: 9U | 11U | 13U | 15U

Spring registration: 7U T-BALL | 9U | 11U | 13U | 15U

<http://saltbaseball.rampregistrations.com/participant>

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR



# FASTPITCH

**REGISTER NOW!**

WINTER CLINICS AVAILABLE FOR:

Joined U11/U13 | U17

SPRING REGISTRATION FOR:

U9 | U11 | U13 | U15 | U17

REGISTER USING THE direct link below:

<http://SaltSpringIslandMinorBB.rampregistrations.com>

# Fernwood PAC

fernwoodpac@sd64.bc.ca

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Happy New Year, Fernwood families! We hope everyone had a wonderful winter break and a smooth return to school. As we kick off 2026, our PAC wants to share a few highlights and upcoming opportunities to get involved.

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## RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

It's been a busy few months at Fernwood! Thanks to your support:

- Book Drive: Tons of gently used books were collected and shared with the school library.
- Staff Appreciation: The teachers and staff loved the coffee and homemade baked goods.
- Funding Updates: PAC funds this year have supported class field trips, new art supplies, and even our growing Knitting Club.
- Movie Night & Pizza Day: Both events were a big hit!

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## GET INVOLVED

We have several exciting community events coming up and would love your participation!

- Lantern Festival: We're looking for bakers to contribute treats for the bake sale.
- Staff Appreciation: Planning has already begun for our spring staff appreciation event. If you enjoy baking, please sign up to bring something special for our teachers and support staff.
- Whole School Dance & 50/50 Raffle: Mark your calendars for a Fernwood Family School Dance! This will be an evening of music, fun, and community spirit. Please note it's a family night, not a drop-off event. We'll also be running a 50/50 raffle, with proceeds going toward library improvements. Volunteers will be needed for setup, clean up and possibly to DJ.

If you'd like to volunteer or contribute baked goods, please email us at [fernwoodpac@sd64.bc.ca](mailto:fernwoodpac@sd64.bc.ca)

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## UPCOMING DATES

- Lantern Fest- February 5
- Pizza Day- February 20
- Staff Appreciation- March 3
- Whole School Dance- March 12
- Pizza Day- May 22
- Staff Appreciation- May 27
- Fun Fair- June 11



Have a good loooong weekend!

**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**



**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.

