



Fernwood Elementary School Newsletter March 5, 2026

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



Thank you to Meghan who shared her story today about her experience as a Canadian Paralympic rower! Meghan has participated in three summer paralympic games and she shared her medal with each classroom today so students could look at it and hold it too!

Meghan taught us about what the logo represents (red, blue and green crescents called Agitos which is the latin word for 'I move' with all three colours representing colours that are in all the flags of the world). We also learned when the Paralympics began and about the meaning of the word 'para' as the Paralympics have become one of the largest international sporting events held 'in parallel' with the Olympic Games.

The Paralympic Games start tomorrow March 6 and runs to the 15th of March!

GO CANADA GO!





Thank you to Jet and Brandon for opening and closing the Whole School Meeting with the Territorial Acknowledgement drumming!

Little Buddies Time for Heidi's Grade 2s and Malindi's K Students

It was a magical morning with big smiles and lots of helping hands 🧡

Heidi & Lani's class spent time reading with their Little Buddies from Ms. Curtis' class!











The two Grade 6/7 classes went to the Curling Rink in Duncan and the Aquatic Center!







Sarah Currie's grade 3 students and Allan MacLean's grade 4/5 students went to the Hand of Man Museum in Maple Bay and bowling on Wednesday. The Hand of Man Museum is a 15,000 square feet Museum of Natural History, Cultural Arts and Conservation. [Hand of Man Museum - Hand of Man - Museum of Natural History, Cultural Arts & Conservation](#)





Math Riddle - Winner This Week – Coakley Oppmann

Congratulations to Coakley, the first winner of Ms Heidi's weekly Math Riddle! Her name was drawn from the winners who guessed correctly for this week's challenge!



Chess Club- after spring break!

We are seeking volunteers to help us start a chess club at school. If you are interested, please let us know. You can be helpful in many ways and do not have to have experience. We already have a very keen parent (thank you Hannah!) who has always wanted to run a school chess club, and also an experienced grade 7 student who is willing to help.



We need more volunteers to let us know which day of the week works for them so we can start the weekly lunch club after spring break. The lunch hour runs from 12:15-1:00 pm.

We would also like to find out if any families would be willing to loan the club a chess board so that we have enough.

A game of chess can be a fun way to learn math, strategy, problem solving and social skills and it doesn't matter if you win or lose because each time you play a game of chess you improve!

Please let us know if you can volunteer to run Chess Club! You can tell your teacher, phone the school at 250-537-9332 or email Leah in the office at fernwood@sd64.org.



Fernwood Basketball

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

Note: Grade 4/5 team – Be sure to bring your permission slips to school on Monday morning so you can travel to SSE for your next game! Grade 6/7s go to the highschool on March 11th and permission forms need to come back for that also (before then).

Here are some photos from this week's games, We hosted the Fulford grade 4/5 team and the girls 6/7s travelled to SSE.









Game Schedule – please return your permission form for these two events...!

Date	Grade	Where	Time
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)	Bus leaves at 9:10 am

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.

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 2nd to 28th

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: _____

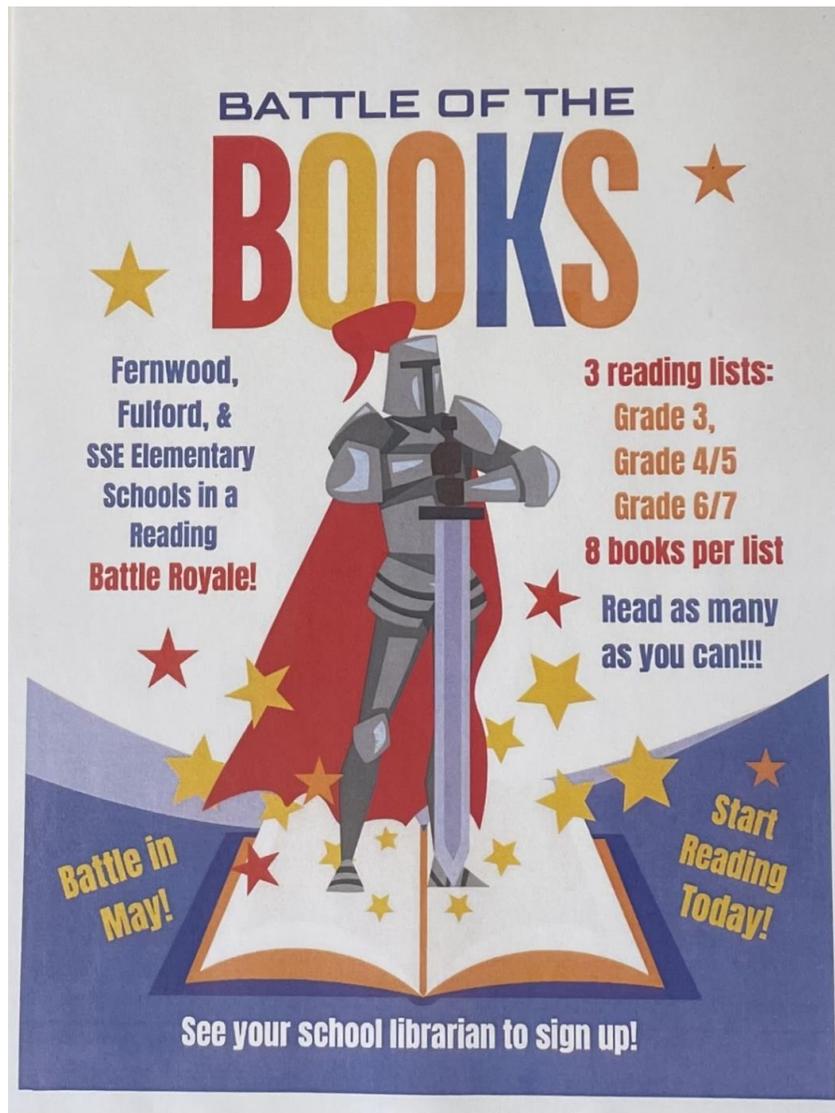
'Battle of the Books' continues between Fernwood, SSE and Fulford!

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

May the reading battle commence!



Update from the Library

Ms Amber met students at lunch today to arrange teams in preparation for practicing after the Spring Break! They will be coming up with their team names and 'theme' based on one of the books they have read. The event will be held on **Wednesday, May 20th at Fernwood School!** Parents are welcome to watch!

SD64 & Your Library

Full details about this FANTASTIC literacy initiative are available through YOUR child's school!

Parents/students are now invited to take out books through ILL with their Library cards using the ILLUME system online, or getting help at the Circulation Desk; they generally arrive about a week from the time when they are ordered, and can be out for 3 weeks.

MEANWHILE... The Library has made audiobook copies of these titles available through Libby, and there is **no waitlist for any of these titles!** Stats show people are making great use of these books - we hope you do too! Ready your Library card and [CLICK HERE](#) to access these on-demand audiobooks.

Talk to your child's teacher about your child's new Library card too!



Daylight Savings Time Change (for the last time)

Remember to spring forward one hour on Saturday night before you go to bed. This will be the last time we need to do this!



Dates Looking Ahead:

Monday, March 9 – Basketball Grade 4-5 players go to SSE on the bus at 11:30 am

Tuesday, March 10 – PAC Meeting; Science Fair Grade 6/7 at Fulford

Wednesday, March 11 – Grade 6/7 Basketball Tournament at GISS bus leaves at 9:10 am; Science Fair Grade 4/5 at Fulford

Thursday, March 12 – Spring Dance & Raffle (Fernwood PAC Event); Field Trip for Natalie Bienas' and Meghan Montgomery's classes to Mount Washington

March 16-26 - Spring Break

Friday, April 10 – PAC Hot Lunch Day (order by the 6th)

*Thank you so much to the PAC and parent volunteers who spoiled staff with treats and coffee this week!
We felt very appreciated! ~ From All of Us at Fernwood!*

ALL STUDENTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.
NO DROP-OFFS, PLEASE.

JOIN US FOR A

WHOLE SCHOOL *Dance!*

• PIZZA • 50/50 RAFFLE • TREATS

THURSDAY | MARCH 12TH | 6-8 PM

\$10 DONATION REQUESTED PER FAMILY
FOR ENTRANCE

FERNWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM

PLEASE SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER HERE:



Dear Families,

Hot Lunch is returning!! **Pizza Day will be Friday April 10th.** 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, and the option to donate \$5 towards the PAC, which will support various initiatives, including teacher appreciation and sports equipment.

With two weeks of Spring Break, followed by the return to school and then the Easter Long weekend, we know how easy it is for things to slip through the cracks. Since the ordering deadline falls right on that holiday weekend (April 6th), we are opening up the pizza sales early and are encouraging everyone to **order now**, before the break begins!

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 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 April 6th so we have time to communicate with vendors.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WvpYegjyK5D4rVM3y02OjO5YIEPyvM3vytWkvm9B4ZE/edit?usp=sharing>

Thank you for your support!

Fernwood PAC

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.

Nature Art Camp

Lisa Lipsett
250-538-2251
llipsett@me.com

March Break
WK 1: March 16-20
WK 2: March 23-27
10-3, \$375

Paint Draw Print
www.paintwithnature.com

March Break Nature Art Camp
Week 1- March 16-20, 10-3pm, \$375 – full
Week 2- March 23-27, 10-3pm, \$375 – might be room!

To register call/text Lisa Lipsett 250 538 2251
Email llipsett@me.com

For more info visit: <https://creativebynature.org/nature-art-classes-camps-2026/>

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

Boys Minor Baseball: 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>

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

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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.

The graphic is a blue rectangle with a white icon of a mobile phone displaying the SD64 app interface. The text is white and centered.

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

