



Fernwood Elementary School Newsletter January 29, 2026



On Wednesday, Ms Hingston's class went to the Royal BC Museum and IMax, to learn more about BC's history including Indigenous cultures and language, local flora and fauna, and change over time.



Fernwood Basketball Practices Continue – Games Scheduled

Again, a big 'Thank You' to Becky, Caitlin, Mr. Reid, Meghan and Dane for being our coaches this season! Pictured below is the 'Fernwood Grade 6-7 Boys Basketball Team' and 'Coach Becky' today with her little helper 'Baby Wells'! We appreciate you all!

Games days are listed in the Looking Ahead Dates below! Parents are always welcome to watch at any of the schools where games take place!



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

This week's presentation was from Mr. Reid's class who shared that they have been learning about different forms of government around the world and also different levels of government within

Canada. They are learning about how Canada's electoral system works both provincially and federally. Part of the learning process entails coming up with ways they could make meaningful change if voted in, running a campaign, writing speeches, holding a debate and ultimately a vote!



Thank you to Lennon and Isla for opening and closing the whole school meeting with the Territorial Acknowledgement.

February Reading Fun Challenge

**Forms are with your Teacher, at the office and
in the library. 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: _____

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!



Thank you to ALL of the Fernwood Salt Spring

Literacy One-to-One Reader Volunteers!

The first term has ended and another term will start up again soon.

Pictured above are Gillian, Linda and Christine.

Battle of the Books is on!

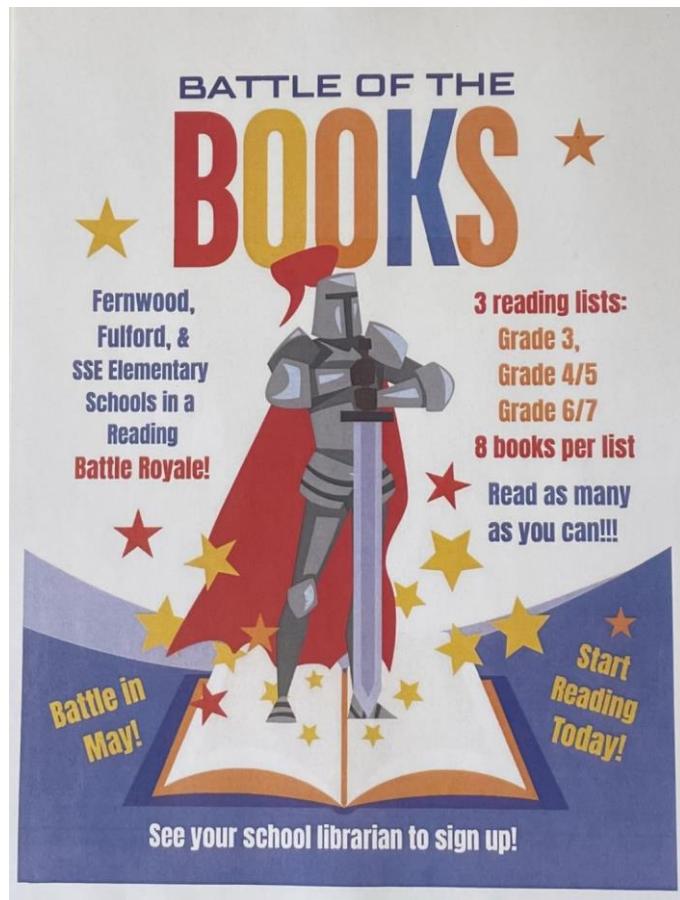
All kids from Grades 3-7 are invited to join the Battle of the Books (BOB). It is a fun competition between the three elementary schools on the island, where students read as many books as they can from a list of 8 books! Students will then make a small team and practice answering comprehension quiz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



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.

Emergency Preparedness

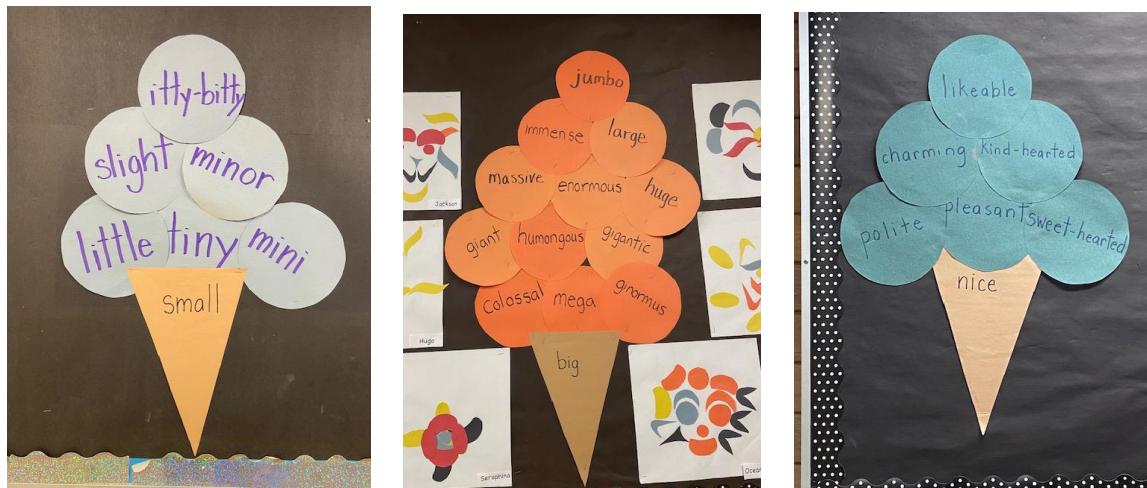
On Monday, all students and staff practiced an earthquake drill. This was our second earthquake drill of the school year as part of Fernwood's emergency preparedness protocol. Our next drill will be a fire drill.

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.



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.

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) 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:

<u>"Buses running on MAIN ROADS ONLY ROUTE"</u>	<u>Schedule:</u> https://sd64.bc.ca/inclement-weather	<u>"Buses not running, but schools open"</u>	<u>"Schools Closed"</u>
Schools are open as normal. Note that this is a limited route on main roads only. An example of Main Roads Only bus service for registered riders is: 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. 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		Most students will likely not attend, but <u>school</u> is open. 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> .	In extreme cases, schools can be closed due to snow. Staff and students are not expected to come to school.



IS YOUR CHILD TURNING FIVE IN 2026?

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

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**)
- [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:

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.**



FERNWOOD PAC PRESENTS

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

*An evening of light
in the dark of winter*

FEBRUARY 5TH | 5PM TO 6:30 PM | FERNWOOD ELEMENTARY OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

STUDENT LANTERN GALLERY | SHADOW PUPPETS
BAKE SALE | LANTERN WALK

HOMEMADE LANTERNS WELCOMED

THIS IS A PARENT SUPERVISED EVENT. STUDENTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.

Dates Looking Ahead:

Thursday, February 5 – Light Up the Night

Tuesday, February 10 – Grade 6/7 Boys Basketball Game at Fulford (lunch time)

Thursday, February 12 – Grade 6/7 Boys Basketball Game at SSE (lunch time)

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

Wednesday, February 18 – Early Dismissal Day – noon

Thursday, February 19 – Grade 6/7 Girls Basketball Game at Fulford (lunch time)

Friday, February 20 – Friday School Day (due to the holiday Monday); PAC Hot Lunch Pizza Day; Fire Drill

Monday, February 23 – Grade 6/7 Girls Basketball Game at SSE (lunch time)

Wednesday, February 25 – Grade 4/5 Mixed Basketball Game HOME game with Fulford here (lunch time)

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

March 16-26 - Spring Break

Fernwood PAC

fernwoodpac@sd64.bc.ca

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.

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!

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

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

