



Fernwood Elementary Newsletter June 26, 2025

Principal's Message:

It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know the Fernwood School community this year. From the moment I arrived, I was warmly welcomed by an incredible team of dedicated teachers, supportive and engaged parents, and our kind, curious, and friendly students.

Working alongside Principal Marie Mullen has been an invaluable experience. Her wisdom, leadership, and deep connection to the school have been inspiring, and I've learned so much from her.

Fernwood is a school with a vibrant and positive culture. The energy here is contagious—whether it's through the wide variety of student clubs, the enthusiasm for sports, or the joy of our special events. Highlights like the Grade 6/7 vs. Staff Volleyball Game and the beautiful Lantern Festival brought our community together in meaningful ways.

I am pleased that we were able to bring back our school concerts this year—both Winter and Spring. These performances showcased the incredible talent of our students and reminded us about the power of music and the arts in building community.

Thank you to everyone who makes Fernwood such a special place. I hope that you all have an enjoyable summer!

-Shelly

Grade 7 Graduation



On Thursday we said goodbye to our grade 7's as they leave us to begin their next chapter. It was a pleasure getting to know all of you. We wish you the best of luck as you begin Secondary School at G.I.S.S.

Whole School Meeting

We had our last whole school meeting of the year on Tuesday. Thank you to Jet and Max for opening and closing our gathering.



We were treated to a performance by Sasha Poirier, who played Nirvana's "Come as You Are" on electric guitar. He did a wonderful job.



Mrs. Pyper's class told us what they would miss about school while they were on Summer Break. Some examples were doing art, their classroom, their friends, math, the nook, word work and lava tag.



Mrs. Pyper included a special message for our grade 7's. They will be missed, and Fernwood will never be the same without them.



Fun Fair

It was great to see so many come out to enjoy our annual year end Fernwood Fun Fair! It was an amazing afternoon in the sun.

A special thank you to all our tireless volunteers and school staff. This event is possible because of your generosity and hard work! Also to note are our local contributors, Country Grocer, Fab Lab, Salt Spring Books, Salt Spring Chocolate, Thrifty's and West of the Moon.

We look forward to the next school year and wish you all a wonderful summer!

Your Fernwood PAC!



Air Bands

On Wednesday our Grade 6 and 7 students put together a mind-blowing Air Band concert! They put weeks of preparation into practicing their stage routines, making props, and putting together costumes. A special thanks to Mr. McPhee, Natalie, Sue-Anne, and Brandon for a surprise performance of Alice Coopers “School’s Out”





Updates to District Policy Manual

At its Wednesday, June 11th meeting in public, the Board considered many policies and procedures as work to renovate the Board's Bylaw and Policy Manual nears completion. Please read through the sections below carefully and review the changes that have been made to the Policy Manual. The [District website](#) has been updated to reflect all changes (*Board < Bylaws and Policies < Bylaw and Policy Manual*).

Approved/Adopted

The Board approved:

- [5.12 Annual Budget](#) (replacing policy 605 Annual Budget and Policy 606 Budget Monitoring and Reporting)
- [5.20 Student Fees and Financial Hardship](#) (replacing Policy 6700 Student Financial Assistance and Policy 6750 School Fees.
- [5.30 Expense Reimbursement](#) (replacing Policy and Procedure 6500 Travel Expenses)
- [5.40 Donations and Gifts](#) (replacing Policy and Procedure 630 Education Trust Fund)
- [5.60 School Closure](#) (replacing Policy and Procedure 635 Permanent School Closure)
- [1.22 Trustee Remuneration](#) (amendments)

Repealed

The Board repealed a number of Policies and Procedures in favour of Administrative Practices. These include:

- Procedure 410 Student Transportation - replaced by [AP T5 Student Transportation](#)
- Procedure 615 Disposal of Equipment - replaced by [AP B5 Disposal of Equipment](#)
- Procedure 6200 Purchasing and Tendering - replaced by [AP B4 Purchasing and Tendering](#)
- Procedure 6300 Retention/Destruction of Records - replaced by [AP B2 Retention and Destruction of Records](#)
- Policy 6450 and Procedure 6450 School-Generated Funds - replaced by [AP B3 School Generated Funds](#)
- Policy 6850 and Procedures 6850 Public Use of School Facilities/Joint Use, and forms 6850-1, 6850-2, 6850-3, 6850-4, and 6850-5 - replaced by [AP F4 District and Community Use of Facilities](#)

- Policy 6900 and Procedure 6900 Outdoor Play Areas - replaced by [AP F5 Outdoor Play Areas and Other School Enhancement Projects](#)
- Policy 203 and Procedure 203 Property Control Procedure - replaced by [AP F3 Property Control](#)
- Procedure 6750 School Fees - replaced by [AP L7 School Fees](#)

At the meeting in public on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, the Board presented a Notice of Motion to consider adoption of the following draft policy:

- [2.90 Employee Conflict of Interest](#)
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The Board will consider the question of adopting this policy at the next scheduled meeting in public on September 10, 2025. Please read this draft policy carefully and submit any feedback prior to **September 1, 2025** if you would like it included for the Board's consideration in adopting these draft policies.

Feedback can be directed to CorporateServices@sd64.org

All [Administrative Practices](#) can be found on the District website (District<Administrative Practices

Salt Spring Primary Care Network

Salt Spring Island Primary Care Network (PCN), in collaboration with HealthLink BC and local physicians, is actively working to connect residents with primary care providers. A key tool in this effort is the **Health Connect Registry**, a centralized platform where individuals can register to be matched with a family doctor or nurse practitioner in their community.

Please see the attached poster for more information.

Diverse Village Participaction Parade

We invite you to join us for a Participaction Parade!

Sat, June 28 at 1 pm

Portlock Park

There will be a **Decoration Station** for children who wish to bring their bikes for the parade or decorate their hat, or make a flag, to join the parade around the track.

Complimentary Fruitcicles for the children!

Salt Spring Circus and Gymnastics Fall Registration Opens June 14

Is your child ready to flip, roll, and soar this fall? Registration for our Fall circus and gymnastic classes opens Friday, June 14, at 10:00 AM!

Our fun and engaging classes help kids build strength, balance, and confidence — from cartwheels and handstands to circus skills like juggling and aerial arts. Perfect for elementary-aged kids who love to move and try new things!

Registration Opens: Friday, June 14 at 10:00 AM

www.ssicircusandgymnastics.com

Join us this fall for active fun, new friends, and plenty of chances to learn and grow. We'd love to see you all there!

Equine Facilitated Wellness Group

Salt Spring Therapeutic Riding is offering a group for youth with anxiety over the summer (no riding involved) Please see the attached poster for more information

Summer Camp Offerings

We're getting closer to summer with every passing day! Li Samadhi is hosting two summer day camps.

Moss and Melody is taking place July 7th-11th , for ages 5-9.

Wild Muse, July 21-25th , for ages 10-14!

Please see the attached poster for more information.

Summer Reading Club at the Library

With support from teachers across **SD64, Salt Spring Island Public Library** encourages parents to sign up their children for the **BC Summer Reading Club**.

The **BC Summer Reading Club** is a **free** program **designed to engage children aged 5-14 with libraries and reading**. It is sponsored by the British Columbia Library Association and your local public library with the generous assistance of Public Libraries Branch, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, and CUPE BC.

Please see the attached poster for more information.

Important Dates

Sept. 2 School in Session Early dismissal

Sept. 5 Friday school in session

Sept. 11 Early Dismissal