# Fernwood School Newsletter October 16, 2026




**Dear Fernwood Families,**

**Join Us at Our Whole School Meetings –**

Wednesday mornings Whole School Meetings are an opportunity to be together as a whole school. We acknowledge students who have exhibited the 3Cs (caring for self, caring for others, and caring for the environment), celebrate birthdays and see class presentations. Everyone is always welcome to our Whole School Meetings~11:30 am Wednesdays in the Gym.

This week, Addie and Lily opened and closed the meeting together with the Territorial Acknowledgement.

Ms. Heidi's class presented us with a *Lost and Found Fashion Show*! Each student chose an item from the lost and found area to share with the group as a reminder to check for your lost clothing. **Parents,** please take a moment to look through the growing pile of sweaters, water bottles, and more. The lost and found area can be found in the hallway by the gymnasium doors.

Announcement that the Leadership Club will begin this week for the Grade 6/7's.

Review of Gaga Ball Rules in the playground.

Cross Country Running has been postponed, now happening in spring. More information will come at that time.





## Earthquake Drill

Well done to all the students and staff who did their *Drop, Cover, Hold on* for our Earthquake Drill for the Great BC Shakeout on Thursday at 10:15. It is great to practice and feel prepared for potential emergencies so doing it when the rest of BC is doing it just makes it more fun.

## Bus Safety Talks

Kathleen and José, two of School District 64's dedicated bus drivers, spent the day at Fernwood School Tuesday holding the annual Bus Safety Talks for all students. Safety tips covered included waiting at a safe stop, keeping your hands inside the bus, always keeping the aisle clear, following the bus driver's instructions, how to cross the road safely and more.



**Bond Farm Pumpkin Patch**

The Bond Farm has opened its Pumpkin Patch to many classes this season! We are truly appreciative to continue this tradition of visiting the farm and going home with a pumpkin! Thank you!









**Fernwood PAC**

*(Email to families October 7 provided the active link to the PAC meeting and the minutes)*
Hello Fernwood Families!

Our next PAC meeting will take place on *Wednesday, November 4, at 6:30PM*.

All Fernwood families are welcome to attend! Meetings are a great opportunity to stay informed about what's happening at the school, share ideas, and get involved in our school community. You can join us in person in the Fernwood library or virtually.

**Meeting link: Fernwood PAC Meeting | Microsoft Teams | Meet-up-Join**
We've also created a Google Drive folder where Fernwood families can access PAC meeting minutes and stay up to date on what's being discussed and decided at our meetings.

**View the Fernwood PAC Meeting Minutes**

Whether you're a regular attendee or joining us for the first time, we'd love to have you there!

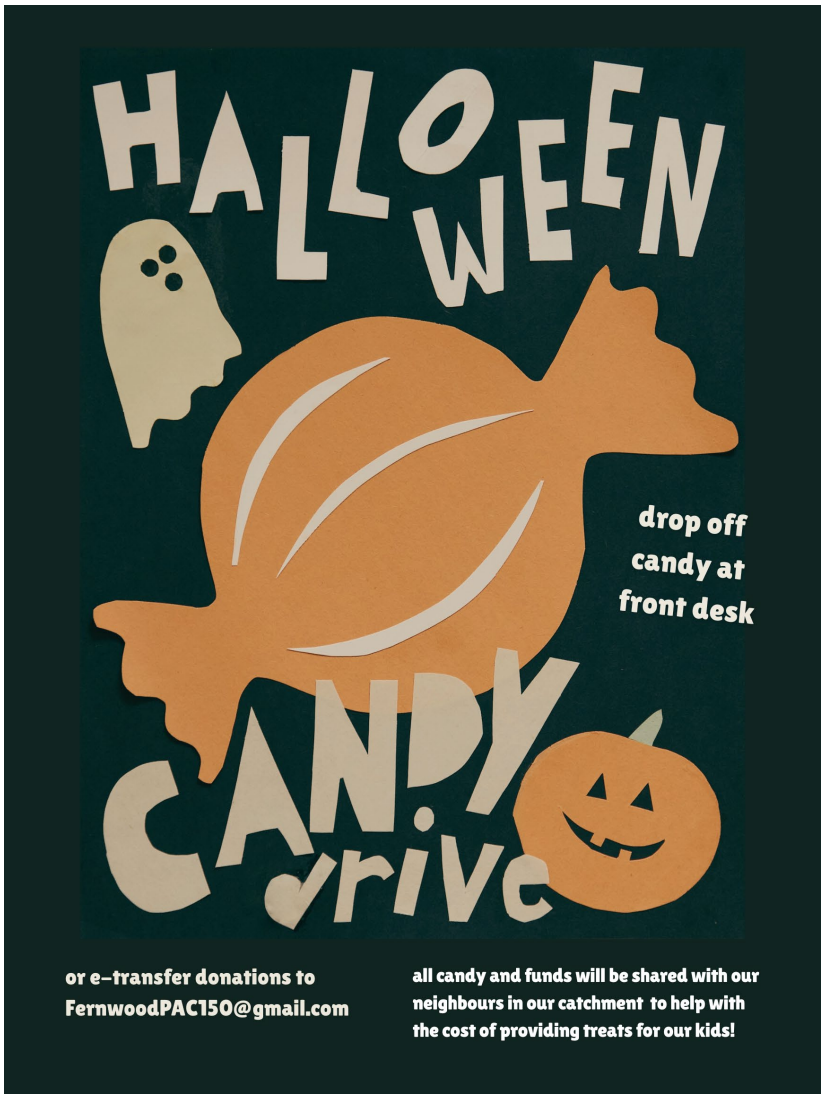
Also, we are collecting donations for our upcoming ***Halloween Candy Drive***! Contributions will be shared with neighbors in our catchment to help subsidize the cost of providing treats for our

kids.

You can contribute in one of two ways:
• Candy Donations: Candy can be dropped off discreetly at the front desk.
• Monetary Donations: E-transfers can be sent to FernwoodPAC150@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!
Best regards,
Fernwood PAC

*Please remember when you are sending any payments or donations to the PAC the e-transfer email is FernwoodPAC150@gmail.com not the school (which is just simply fernwood@sd64.org). The school account and the PAC account are different. - Leah*



## Band

Music is flowing through the halls from our Grade 6's and 7's in Band. Thank you Mr. Bronson!





## Foundation Skills Assessment

Students who are in Grade 4 and 7 have begun completing the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA). The FSA is an annual assessment in which students in Grades 4 and 7 participate. It measures literacy and numeracy skills set out in the provincial curricula and is part of the overall assessment of the learning program in the district and province. The FSA has both online and written components, and the components will be spread throughout the six-week assessment period. We will do a practice test online with the students in Grade 4 so that they have an idea of what to expect and they can learn how to navigate the assessment. Our students have been very successful in the FSA in past years, and they have enjoyed many aspects of the assessment process. For more information about the FSAs, please see this link: FSA. If you have any questions, please ask Shelly or Marie.

## Parking Lot Safety

Just a reminder to drivers to follow the correct Enter and Exit protocols for our parking lot. This is especially busy when the parking lot is busy at pick-up and drop-off time.

**Now that students are settled with pick ups, drop offs and bus registration, it is time for a parking lot safety reminder. If your child must be driven to school instead of taking one of our two buses, please adhere to the following, for the safety of children (and adults too) during the busy drop off and pick up times:**

- Please park in the parking stalls rather than stopping or idling your vehicle in the queue.
- There are Zones that must be free of vehicles: in front of the steel fence where buses must stop AND beside the Fernwood signboard at the exit. Buses cannot navigate a right turn if a car is parked there causing delays.
- There are both children and adults on foot in the parking lot at these very busy times. Please drive slowly and carefully using extra caution.
- The school zone speed limit along Fernwood Road is a maximum of 30 km/hr. and it's a definite "no-no" to drive in the EXIT way that is marked EXIT. Please enter through the proper ENTRANCE.

## Country Grocer Receipts

Thank you to everyone who participates in the receipt program through Country Grocer! A portion of your receipts can be donated to our school. If you would like to donate through your Country Grocer receipts, the **Fernwood Elementary School is Box #114.**

## Adequate Clothing for Cold and Rainy Weather

Please make sure your child arrives in weather-appropriate attire, including a waterproof jacket, warm layers, and suitable footwear. We also ask that each student keep a spare set of clothes at school (including socks and pants) in case of unexpected weather-related changes.

This is for your child's comfort. If a student is not dressed suitably and does not have extra clothing available, we will need to contact home to request a clothing drop-off. We appreciate your support in helping us minimize these disruptions and keep all students comfortable and ready to learn.

## Code of Conduct

Please visit this link to view our school Code of Conduct.
Code of Conduct

## Parent Volunteer Criminal Record Check

If you would like to be a parent volunteer in the school or on field trips, please make sure your criminal record check is on file and valid. Teachers are starting to organize field trips, so it is important that we have parent volunteers approved. Once the criminal record check is completed, it is valid for 5 years. If you need to submit a criminal record check, please do so by following the process outlined on the School District 64 webpage; search VOLUNTEERING or use this link: https://www.sd64.bc.ca/volunteering




The Learning Services Department - Fernwood LIST Account has been selected as the charity for the remainder of October and all of November for the Return It Depot on the island. When you go to drop off your bottles you can ask for it to be donated to the FERNWOOD Learning Services Account – THANK YOU!

## Looking Ahead Dates:

**Tuesday, October 20 –** Brian Reid's Class Field Trip
**Wednesday, October 21 –** Sarah Currie's class field trip to Pool, Library, Mouat's Park
**Monday, October 26 –** Early Dismissal Day (12:00 dismissal) for informal learning updates
**Monday October 26 to Thursday, October 29** – Display your 'Pumpkin Book Character' in the Fernwood Library- see Library Newsletter
**Thursday, October 29 -** Halloween at School
**Monday, November 2 –** Ms. Hingston's Grade 3-4 Class to Ganges (swimming/pool)
**Wednesday, November 4th –** Science World on the Road presentation
**Thursday, November 5th** – Photo Retake Day
**Monday, November 9th** – Schoolhouse Teaching Book Fair – Fernwood School Library
**Wednesday, November 11 -** Remembrance Day, No school
**Wednesday, November 18 –** Grade 6 Immunization Clinic



# LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

FERNWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## HALLOWEEN BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS!

Room On A Broom
Bt Julia Donaldson




Creepy Carrots
by Aaron Reynolds




The Haunted Castle
By Geronimo Stilton



Haunted Canada Ghost Stories




## PUMPKIN BOOK CHARACTERS!

It is that time of year again! Pumpkins are gathering outside Country Grocer and Thrifty's!

**It is time to get creative and decorate a pumpkin to look like a children's book character!**

There will be two winning pumpkins, one for primary and one for intermediate! The winners will receive a **SPOOKY** prize!

The pumpkins will be displayed in the library for **one week before Halloween (October 26 - 29)!**

**PLEASE** don't bring them to school before that or they will go mushy!



## Upcoming Library Event!

**Save the Date!** This year's Schoolhouse Teaching Bookfair will be held on **MONDAY NOVEMBER 9th!!**

I will be looking for about 5 parent volunteers Please email if you are willing to help out!

Email: athompson@sd64.org

## Community Notices

## Island Health Insert

KEY UPDATES

### Switch to Permanent Daylight Saving Time

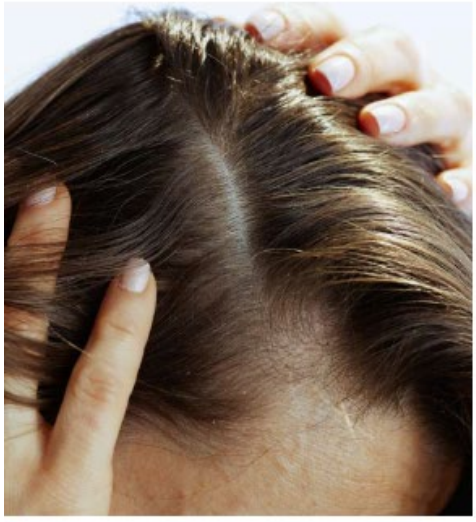
This winter, sunrise will occur after school starts in many B.C. communities. This may affect sleep, alertness, and well-being for some students. School communities can support by:

- Encourage healthy sleep habits
- Turn on school ground lighting earlier
- Max opportunities for daylight exposure and outdoor activity
- Promoting safe school travel during darker morning hours.

Public health will continue to monitor emerging evidence and share updates.



**Tip**: Send reminders to families on safe travel to school and consider including or adapting our "Active School Travel" insert in your school's Fall newsletter to families.



### Lice Management

Island Health has retired its Head Lice Management Guideline & Wet Combing Method Resource. Please remove any references to these on your school documents and websites.

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- Current evidence indicates head lice shampoos are more effective than wet combing.
- Children with head lice or nits should not be excluded from school.
- Family resource:
  - HealthLink BC – Head Lice
  - School Newsletter Insert: Head Lice
- School information:
  - BCCDC Quick Guide to Common Childhood Diseases
  - Canadian Paediatric Society position statement on head lice

PPH - HEALTHY SCHOOLS OCTOBER 2026

# FREE PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

## Our Words Matter: Building Connection & Independence




Discover how using declarative language and co-regulation can help your children feel safe, capable, and ready to navigate challenges with greater independence.

**Join the Zoom session**

CLICK HERE!

**Thursday 22 October**
**4:30 - 5:30 pm**

***For more than 30 years, Linda K. Murphy has partnered with neurodivergent individuals and their families to foster meaningful connection and growth. A speech-language pathologist, author, and speaker, Linda helps parents develop communication practices that support co-regulation, strengthen relationships, and help children feel understood, capable, and confident.***



**LINDA MURPHY**

SLOW DOWN SALT SPRING

# CLOTHING




# 24 OCT 2026 SWAP

**DONATE UNWANTED ADULT AND CHILDREN'S CLOTHING ON FRIDAY. WE SORT AND SIZE. ANYONE CAN SHOP FOR FREE ON SATURDAY!**

**CLOTHING DROP-OFF**
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23
3PM-6PM

**FREE SHOP DAY**
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
10:30AM-2:30PM

**LOCATION :** MEADEN HALL

**SENIORS & SPECIAL NEEDS EARLY ACCESS :** 9:45-10:30AM

**NEW THIS YEAR : NEW STOCK OUT EVERY 30 MINS, NO NEED TO RUSH!**

**Items accepted:** Well-maintained, freshly laundered & odour-free, male/female/kids baby clothing (outerwear, shirts, sweaters, coats, pants, dresses, pjs).

**Items excluded:** Underwear, socks, shoes, accessories, items with noticeable stains or holes.

We would really appreciate pre-sorting donations by size and type before arrival.

**No need to donate to access the free shop—it's open to everyone!**

This event is made possible by: CRD Making a difference...together | Transition Salt Spring

salt spring arts council
EST. 1968

# CRAFTING CONNECTIONS

**Hands on art and craft activities for children**

**Saturday, Oct 17th**

**10 am to 12 pm**
**Mahon Hall**

**Join a FREE activity for children (of all ages) with their caregivers. Come for 20 minutes, or stay for two hours. All materials provided. The October craft theme is LEAVES.**



A community initiative of the Salt Spring Arts Council bringing seniors and youth together through creativity.Learn more at:
saltspringarts.com/crafting-connections

salt spring arts council

# CRAFTING CONNECTIONS

**Hands-on FREE craft activities for children**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sat Oct 17 | LEAVES | 10 am to noon<br>Mahon Hall |
| Sat Nov 14 | GLOW | 10 am to noon<br>Mahon Hall |
| Sat Jan 16 | WINTER WONDERLAND | 10 am to noon<br>Mahon Hall |
| Mon Feb 15<br>FAMILY DAY! | FAMILY | Morning show: 10 am<br>Afternoon show: 1 pm<br>Registration will be available |
| Sat March 13 | SPRING | 10 am to noon<br>Mahon Hall |

**Come for 20 minutes, or stay for two hours.**
**All materials provided.**



Learn more at:
saltspringarts.com/crafting-connections

A community initiative of the Salt Spring Arts Council bringing seniors and youth together through creativity.

SALT SPRING ISLAND LIONS CLUB

WE SERVE

# The Great PUMPKIN TOSS

*In memory of Mark Ritchie*

## NOVEMBER 1, 2026
## 12 PM – 3 PM

**103 Bonnet [Lion's Hall]**
**Upper Parking Area**




Bring your old pumpkins and toss 'em!

**Hot chocolate and hotdogs**
***by donation***




As part of Safer Schools Togethers' on-going work through the Ministry of Education and Childcare's *erase* strategy, we are pleased to announce **COMPLIMENTARY student and family sessions** coming up again this school year.

Student sessions on "**Establishing Safe, Caring and Respectful Digital Communities**", as well as "**Establishing Respectful Relationships and Consent in Our Communities"** are for students in grades 5-12. Please note this is a 60 minute session, with different days and times to accommodate different bell schedules. These are for educators to watch with their classes.

**You are welcome to share this email with your schools.**

All our student sessions can be found HERE.

As well, the family sessions are recommended for Parents/Caregivers/Grandparents and youth aged 10 and up. All our sessions can be found HERE – Please note the first session is Tuesday, September 15th.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out.

Warm Regards,

Nancy Hiebert
Operations Manager

**Safer Schools Together** | **The International Center for Digital Threat Assessment®**
Office: 604.560.2285 | Toll-Free: 1.855.677.3720

GULF ISLANDS SCHOOL DISTRICT 64

**SD64 MOBILE APP**

