



Fernwood School Newsletter September 11th, 2026

Dear Fernwood Families,

We had a great first week at Fernwood School! The school is quiet and calm, and students are settling into their new classes. Teachers are busy teaching classroom routines and expectations and getting to know their students. It is a beautiful sight to see all the smiling faces as students connect with old friends and make new ones. We would like to welcome all the new Fernwood families, including the kindergarten students.

Office Admin Contact Info

Welcome Stacy! Stacy will be joining Leah in the office this year! Email fernwood@sd64.org to contact either Leah or Stacy. To email the Principals, use sjohnson@sd64.org for Shelly and mmullen@sd64.org for Marie.

September Information Packages

Information packages for parents have gone home. They include a consent form (photo release, consent for local walking trips, etc.), emergency release form, the self-identification Indigenous Education form and the "student verification of information" form. Parents need to confirm that the information on the verification form is accurate. When adding names to the emergency release forms, please write the names of anyone who may pick your child up, including parents of your child's friends who may pick up for playdates. **District policy states that we are not permitted to release students to anyone other than the people listed on the emergency contact sheet.** You are welcome to add names to the emergency release contacts throughout the year by sending us an email directing us to add the name and phone number of the person you would like to add. *Until these packages are returned by every child in the class, the class cannot partake on any walking field trips so Teachers would love to get them back as soon as is possible!*

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.



First Day in Kindergarten!

Supervision Before and After School

We can provide supervision from 7:55 – 8:20 am and 3:05 – 3:15 pm. Please do not drop your child off before 7:55 am unless you are able to stay with them, and please be sure to pick them up before 3:15 pm. Please note that in the morning, students must stay on the front side of the school until the bell rings at 8:20 am because that is where we have supervision.

Arriving Late and Leaving Early Procedures

Please remember to sign your child in at the office if they arrive late and sign them out if you are picking them up early. If your child is going to be away, please email your child's teacher in addition to the fernwood@sd64.org email.



The Indigenous Ed Team visited every classroom this week. It was so nice to see Quentin on the first day of school this week and Shayce today!

Early Dismissal Day **next Thursday for Tell Me About Your Child Parent-Teacher Conferences – Half Day**

Next Thursday, September 17th is an early dismissal day for, "Tell Me About Your Child Conferences." School is dismissed at 12:00 pm on this day so that teachers can be available to meet with parents in the afternoon. You can expect to hear from your child's classroom teacher about a meeting time. Parents of new Kindergarten students do not need to schedule an appointment because they just had a family meeting this week, but if you would like to talk to the teacher, please make an appointment. Both buses leave Fernwood School at approximately 12:10 on early dismissal days. 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. Supervision of students is not available after 12:20 pm.

EARLY DISMISSAL DAY INFORMATION:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 - school is out at 12:00 pm

Bus Departure Times when there is an Early Dismissal Day are:

Bus 4 Leaves Fernwood at 12:10 - Bus 5 Leaves Fernwood at 12:10 pm

Supervision of students is not available after 12:20 pm. **Thank you for being clear with your child about what their plans for going home are so there is no confusion for them at dismissal time.**



The Fernwood gymnasium was painted this summer! Thanks to our SD64 Maintenance crew for everything they do to make Fernwood a special place!



Sunday, September 20th is the Salt Spring Community Run.

We will hold our own **Terry Fox School Run** at Fernwood Elementary – Date To Be Announced

Students are asked to bring a loonie, toonie or more as a donation to the Terry Fox Foundation. Students should come wearing good walking/running footwear that morning. Parents are welcome to join in the fun.

As students, staff, and families come together to carry on Terry's dream, the school's fundraising page is a great hub for general donations, classroom or student fundraising and celebrating your school's impact on cancer research.

Here is our link specific to Fernwood Elementary if you would like to donate in this way to the Foundation: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/FernwoodElementary>

LOOKING AHEAD DATES:

Thursday, September 17 ? Because community run is that weekend; half day early dismissal though hmmm? – Terry Fox School Run 10:10 – 10:30;

Early Dismissal: School ends at 12:00 pm for 'Tell Me About Your Child' interviews; bus 4 leaves 12:10; bus 5 at 12:10

Tuesday, September 29 - Orange Shirt Day at School

Wednesday, September 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Stat Holiday); Schools closed

Friday, October 2 – Friday School Day (due to the school closure on Wednesday, Sept 30)

Friday, October 2 - School Photo Day (Individual Portraits) - all students are photographed on picture day, and then Lifetouch Photography will let you know what date they would like you to order by when we send home your 'proofs' a few weeks later

Monday, October 12 – Thanksgiving Monday (school closed)

Friday, October 16 – Friday School Day (due to the school closure Monday, Oct 12)

EARLY DISMISSAL DAY INFORMATION:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 - school is out at 12:00 pm

Bus Departure Times when there is an Early Dismissal Day are:

Bus 4 Leaves Fernwood at 12:10 - Bus 5 Leaves Fernwood at 12:10 pm

Supervision of students is not available after 12:20 pm. **Thank you for being clear with your child about what their plans for going home are so there is no confusion at dismissal time.**

This helpful Instructional Calendar can be found on the School District 64 website:

[Instructional Calendar](#)

School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)

2026/2027 Four-Day Instructional Week Calendar

September 2026 <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr><tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> 14 days	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				October 2026 <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr></table> 18 days	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	November 2026 <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr><tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> 17 days	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30												
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																																	
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																																																	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																																																																	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																																																																	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																																																																	
27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																				
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																																	
				1	2	3																																																																																																																																	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																																																	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																																																	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																																																	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																																	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																																																																																	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																																																																																																	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																																																																																																	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																																																																																	
29	30																																																																																																																																						
December 2026 <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr><tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> 12 days	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			January 2027 <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr><tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr><tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> 16 days	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							February 2027 <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr><tr><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> 16 days	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																																	
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																																																	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																																																																	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																																																																	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																																																																	
27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																			
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																																	
					1	2																																																																																																																																	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																																																																	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																																																																	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																																																																	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																	
31																																																																																																																																							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																																	
	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																																																																	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																																																	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																																																																	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																																																																	
28																																																																																																																																							
March 2027 <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr><tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> 11 days	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				April 2027 <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr></table> 18 days	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		May 2027 <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr><tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr><tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> 18 days	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																																	
	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																																																																	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																																																	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																																																																	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																																																																	
28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																				
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																																	
				1	2	3																																																																																																																																	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																																																	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																																																	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																																																	
25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																																	
						1																																																																																																																																	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																																																																																																																	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																																																																	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																																																																																																																	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																																																																	
30	31																																																																																																																																						
June 2027 <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr><tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> 16 days	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				Prescribed Minimum Hours of Instruction In accordance with the <i>School Act</i>, a Board of Education must offer not less than the following hours of instruction in the school year to students enrolled in the schools in its district: 853 hours of instruction for students in kindergarten 878 hours of instruction for students in grades 1 to 7 952 hours of instruction for students in grades 8 to 12																																																																																												
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																																	
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																																																	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																																																																	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																																																																	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																																																																	
27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																				

	Required 156 instructional days (students in attendance)				
	Stat holidays				
	September 25, 2026 – Framework Day – this is a day of work (non-instructional day)				
	5 Pro D days (non-instructional days)				
	▶ October 23	Provincial Day	▶ February 5	School Based	
	▶ November 27	School Based	▶ April 16	District Pro D (GITA sponsored)	
	▶ January 15	School Based			
	Winter and Spring Breaks/ Vacation				
	Secondary Semester Change FEB 1, 2027				
	Elementary Report Card Dates DEC 9, 2026 MAR 9, 2027 JUN 24, 2027				
	Early Dismissal SEP 8, 2026 SEP 17, 2026 OCT 26, 2026 FEB 17, 2027				
	Administrative Day - June 25, 2027				

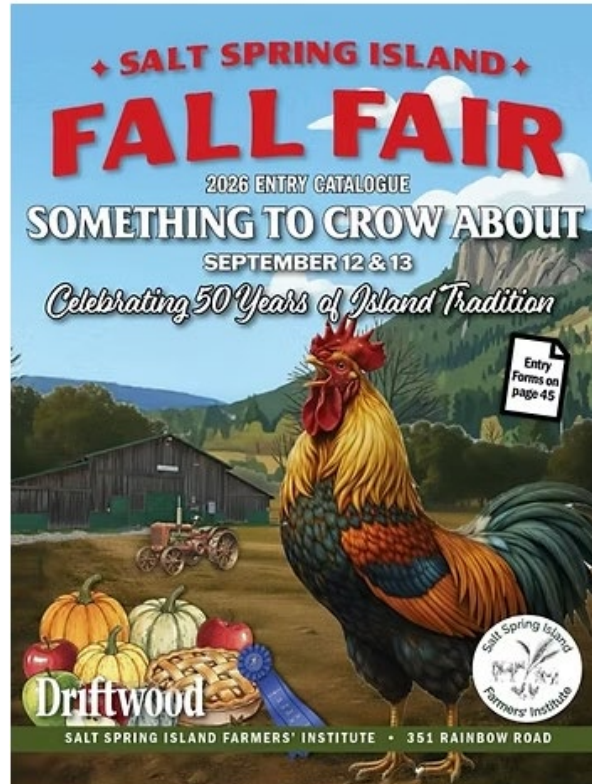
Approved: April 30, 2024

Updated: June 2026

'See you at the Fall Fair!'



Luna's Rooster for the Fall Fair – Meghan Kerr's Class





**Special
Olympics**
British Columbia



Active Start & FUNDamentals Try-It Day!

Special Olympics BC – Salt Spring Island is offering fun and welcoming Active Start and FUNDamentals for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities ages 2 to 11!

Date: Monday, September 21, 2026

Time: 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Fernwood Elementary School

These programs are specifically designed for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, to help them learn vital motor, sport, and social skills in a supportive environment!

It's an open house. **No pre-registration required**, just drop in!

Active Start
Ages 2 to 6

FUNDamentals
Ages 7 to 11

To learn more please contact:
Laura Mackillop at
lmackillop@specialolympics.bc.ca



specialolympics.bc.ca



FALL REGISTRATION OPEN



Learn healthy singing habits |
Develop musical literacy |
Have fun

Makana Kids: Grades 2-5

Fridays at ArtSpring: 3:30-4:30pm

Makana Youth: Grades 6-9

Fridays at ArtSpring: 4:30-5:30pm

Term is Fri Sep 18-Fri Nov 20

Concert Sun Nov 22

\$150 + \$25 T-shirt: financial aid available thanks to
sponsors: Seth Berkowitz Photography | Lynn Blanche |
Deb & Mark Toole | Viva Chorale!

Register at purchase.artspring.ca or the Box Office



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.