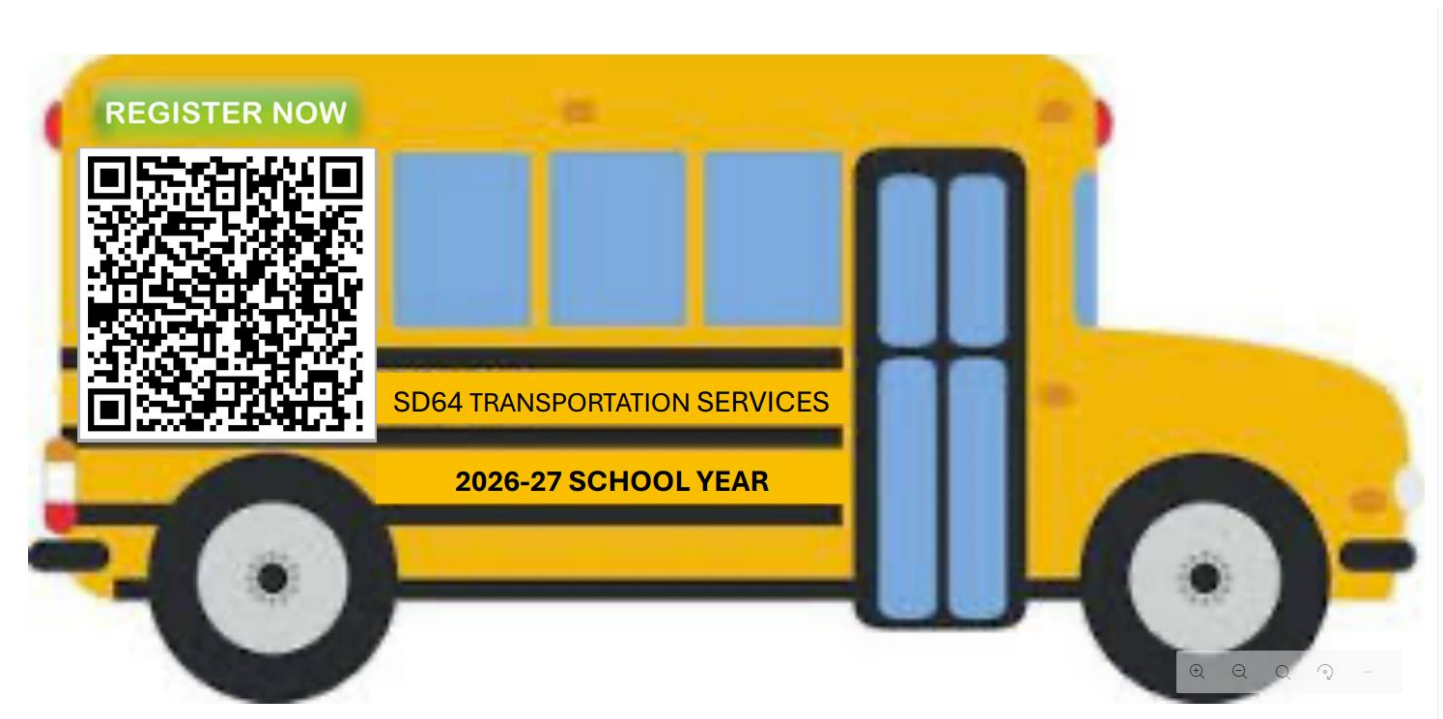




## Fernwood Elementary School Newsletter April 2, 2026

### BUS REGISTRATION IS OPEN

**PLEASE REGISTER BEFORE APRIL 30 IF YOU REQUIRE BUS SERVICE NEXT YEAR**



March 31, 2026

Re: School Bus Transportation Registration – 2026–2027 School Year

Dear Parents and Guardians,

School bus transportation registration will open on April 1, 2026. If your child or children require bus service for the upcoming school year, please complete the registration process before April 30, 2026.

**Transportation Registration for the 2026–27 School Year Is Now Open — Click Here**

Early registration is important as it allows the Transportation Department to effectively plan bus routes, determine capacity, and assign stops. Registering your child early provides the best opportunity to secure a seat on the bus and helps minimize the possibility of overcrowded buses.

Please review the following important information regarding transportation registration:

**Registration Period:** The bus service registration window will be open from **April 1 through April 30, 2026**.

Transportation registrations are valid for one school year only, and students must be registered each year.

**Late Registration:** Bus registrations received after April 30, 2026 are subject to a \$75 late registration fee. This fee is waived for students who move into the district after the April registration period.

**Transportation Cards:** Transportation cards are required to ride SD64 Transportation Services. Please keep your child's current bus card, as it will be used for next year's bus service.

**Registration Blackout Period:** No transportation registrations will be processed from August 15 through September 18. Any registration requests received during this period will be reviewed after September 18.

**Bus Eligibility:** Only students who have received confirmation that they have been assigned a seat on the bus are permitted to ride. Unregistered students are not permitted to use SD64 transportation services.

**Water Taxi Riders:** Students who travel by water taxi are registered directly through the Transportation Department. Note: Students traveling by water taxi to Pender Island will also be registered for the Pender bus service through the Transportation Department.

If you have any questions regarding student transportation, please contact the Transportation Department at [transportation@sd64.org](mailto:transportation@sd64.org) / 250-537-5723.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Transportation Department

School District 64

## FERNWOOD SCHOOL HAS A NEW GYM FLOOR!





### Grade 7s

Jude Shugar, Vice-Principal of Gulf Islands Secondary, met with the Grade 7s this week as part of a series of events to help students transition to the high school. He covered what a typical day could look like at the high school, explained the semester system and informed them about what classes they will take as grade 8 students.



### Salt Spring Arts Council 'Flight of Colour' - Fernwood Elementary Participating

The Salt Spring Arts Council is introducing a new children's community project this spring called 'Flight of Colour'. This outdoor public installation of painted driftwood and bird-shaped plywood cutouts will be planted upright on the grounds of Mahon Hall and will stay in place for two years. Once the installation is complete in early May, they will host an opening exhibition to celebrate the students and their work. Students in Cathryn Pyper, Brian Reid and Melissa Hingston's classes will be participating from Fernwood Elementary.

## Exploring Scenes and Characters with Metta Rose – Mrs. Pyper's Peeps

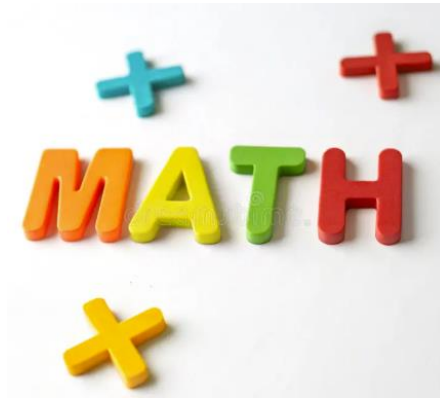
As part of the Artist in the Classroom program, Metta Rose made her first of 4 visits to Mrs. Pyper's classroom. Pyper's Peeps are participating in Metta's workshop series called Exploring Scenes and Characters. Today the students did many activities designed to help them warm up as actors and connect with themselves and each other in dramatic ways.



## Indigenous Learning in Ms Heidi's Class

Students in Ms Heidi's grade two class learned about local animal tracks and names with school district artist and educator, Quentin Harris. They were also introduced to the concept of basic tracking skills.





**Weekly Math Challenge - Winners This Week**  
**Congratulations, Knox, Annie and Laurel**

The question this week was:

Daniel's secret number is an even number less than 10 but larger than 6. What is the mystery number?

Knox, Annie and Laurel got to choose a prize of a keychain of their choice! Thank you Heidi!

**Play in Ms Heidi's Class**

Ms. Curtis' Kindergarten students were a captive audience to Ms. Heidi's performers when they attended two plays on Wednesday. Ms. Heidi's grade 2 class and Ms. Curtis' K students are 'Big Buddy' partners.

There will be three more next week!





Order by Monday, April 6th

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](mailto: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



## **Chess Club is On! - Come join us as a volunteer!**

We are going to have a lunchtime option for students to come to chess club to play chess or learn about it for the first time. If you are interested, please let us know. You can be helpful in many ways and do not have to have experience. 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](mailto:fernwood@sd64.org).



## **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 on 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.

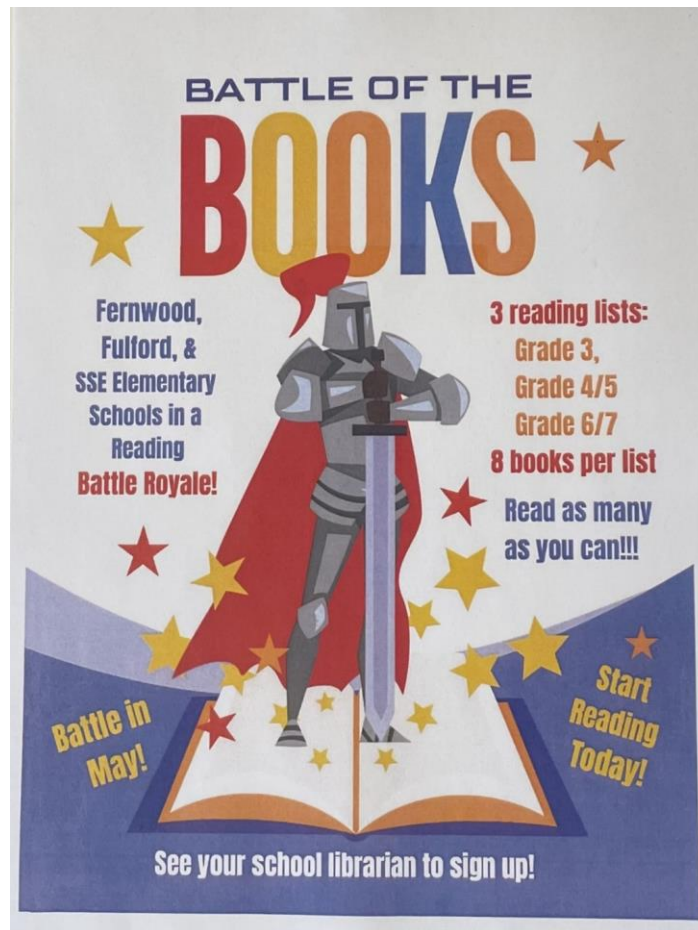
**'Battle of the Books' continues between Fernwood, SSE and Fulford!**

**Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at Fernwood School! Parents are welcome to watch!**

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](mailto:athompson@sd64.org)

**May the reading battle commence!**



### **Dates Looking Ahead:**

**Friday, April 3 – Good Friday (stat holiday school closed)**

**Monday, April 6 – Easter Monday (stat holiday school closed); orders due for Pizza Day**

**Friday, April 10 – Friday School Day; PAC Pizza Day (PAC would like orders by the 6<sup>th</sup>); School Spirit Day – theme to be determined – stay tuned**

**Thursday, April 16 - Kindergarten Hearing Screening – Nurses onsite at Fernwood – letters have gone home**

**Tuesday, April 28 – next PAC Meeting**





# Salt Spring Island CHEESE

<b>Organizer</b>	Salt Spring Island Cheese Company
<b>Date</b>	2026/04/05
<b>Start Time</b>	10am
<b>Event Length</b>	2 hours
<b>Location</b>	Salt Spring Island Cheese Company

We are holding our annual Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday April 5th. Chocolate eggs are provided, as well as coffee. Please bring your own baskets. Also, please park on Reynolds Road, on the Cheese Company side, and not on the hill. Thank you for your understanding.



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.*

**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**



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



# INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Designed to support SSI in growing more connected, informed, & inclusive.



#### Four consecutive Wed or Sat afternoons cover:

- **Inclusion:** Develop understanding of how true inclusion supports healthy communities.
- **FASD:** (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) and why it impacts everyone.
- **What is Neurodiversity:** (and why its not a trend), so you can better understand your community.
- **Child Minding Across the Spectrum:** Learning how to add to your toolbox as a caregiver!

**TAKE 1 OR ALL 4  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
OPPORTUNITYS!**

Register at: <https://www.ssiparc.ca>

For professionals, caregivers, educators, service providers, parents, and community members to deepen their understanding of neurodiversity, inclusion, and supportive care across the lifespan.