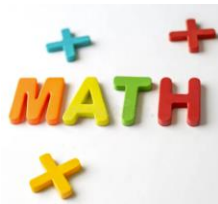




## Fernwood Elementary School Newsletter April 30, 2026

### Whole School Meeting

School Librarian Amber Thompson announced the recess practice for the upcoming Battle of the Books, which will take place here on May 20<sup>th</sup> with Salt Spring Elementary and Fulford Elementary visiting. Melissa's class did a presentation on Jump Rope for Heart. We acknowledged birthdays and the 3Cs (care for self, others and the environment) and the winners of the Math Riddle were announced.



### Weekly Math Riddle Winners This Week

**Congratulations to Audrey Crabtree, Lily Lane and Harrison Campbell**



**Thank you Ms. Heidi for running this weekly math challenge!**





Thank you to Scarlet and Dallas for opening and closing the whole school meeting with the Territorial Acknowledgement and drumming.



### **BC Blind Sports Visits Fernwood Elementary**

Today, two instructors from the British Columbia Blind Sports and Recreation Association came to teach a few classes about Goalball, which is one of the competitive sports of the Paralympics. Goalball uses a ball which jingles as it's rolled, to signal its movement. Children were asked to play with their eyes closed and practice listening for the ball rather than depending on their sight. Everyone learned a lot and had fun!

BlindSport has kindly donated sports equipment to the school. The purpose of their visit was to teach us about inclusive sports opportunities. They will be visiting again next week and other classes will have the opportunity to learn from them. The two classes that participated today were Heidi Cameron's Grade 2 class and Cathryn Pyper's Grade 1-2 class. Here are some photos of Mrs. Pyper's Peeps. [Home Page - British Columbia Blind Sports and Recreation Association](#)





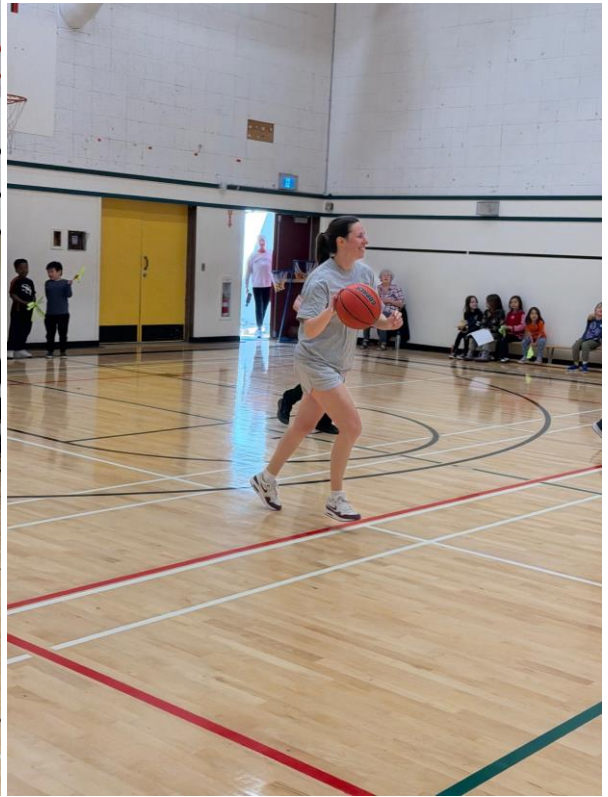


## Staff vs. Students Lunch Hour Basketball Showdown

What a game! The gym was buzzing at lunch hour this past Monday as Fernwood staff faced off against our talented Grade 6 and 7 students in a basketball matchup. The students brought the energy, teamwork, and determination—and in a thrilling finish, they claimed victory by just **four points**.

In the end, staff proudly bowed down to the champions. Congratulations to our students on a well-earned win, and thank you to everyone who came out to play and cheer. Thank you also to the coaches Becky Acheson, Dane Orser and Caitlin Kettlewell for joining us!





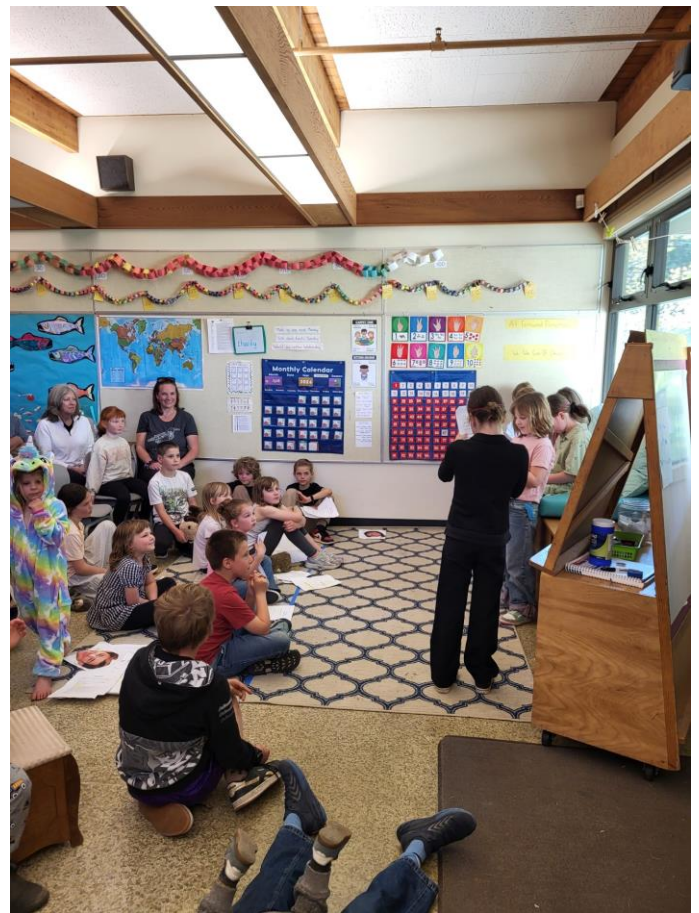






## Salmon Release and Plays in Sarah Currie's Class

Sarah Currie's Grade 3 students travelled to Jarrod's Grove Nature Reserve today to release their salmon! Thank you to the Salt Spring Salmon Enhancement Society for providing the salmon! The kids were very excited to release the salmon! Sarah's students also put on plays this week.





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

**Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at Fernwood School! Parents are welcome to watch! *A few parent volunteers are needed for this approximate 2 hour event.***



This fun competition between the three elementary schools on the island is in the works! Students read as many books as they can from a list of 8 books above! Students are in teams and practice answering comprehension quiz questions on the books. There will be a district wide event on May 20<sup>th</sup> 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!

***There will be approximately 70 students participating and Ms. Amber would like (needs!) a few parent volunteers to come to see this event and help out! Please email Amber at [athompson@sd64.org](mailto:athompson@sd64.org)***

# BATTLE OF THE BOOKS. TEAM PRACTICE

Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> April (Morning recess)	Grade 3 & Grade 4/5
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April (Morning recess)	Grade 6/7 & Grade 3
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> April (Morning recess)	Grade 4/5 & Grade 6/7
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May (lunch recess)	ALL TEAMS
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May (lunch recess)	ALL TEAMS
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May 1PM	BATTLE EVENT! HERE AT FERNWOOD!!!

## BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

Fernwood, Fullford, & SSE Elementary Schools in a Reading Battle Royale!

3 reading lists:  
Grade 3,  
Grade 4/5  
Grade 6/7  
8 books per list  
Read as many as you can!!!

Battle in May!

Start Reading Today!

See your school librarian to sign up!




Talking About Business Plans in Ms Hingston's Class

Certified Financial Advisor, Marcus Wenzel, has been visiting Ms. Hingston's Grade 4-5 students to teach them about budgeting and 'More Than Money'.

From Your Fernwood PAC - thank you to everyone who attend last night's meeting!

Fun Fair Planning is in the works! This annual event has always taken place thanks to volunteers!

The next Pizza Day is Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.  MunchaLunch

Thank you for your support!

Your Fernwood PAC



Lacrosse with Quentin!



### **Welcome to Kindergarten Events**

The first event is a Pizza Night (4:30-5:30 pm on April 30th) and then an opportunity to come in small groups (small groups of up to 7 children) on one of the days to choose between May 5, 12, 19 or 26. Further events, such as Family Info Night May 27 and a Family Picnic June 11 are in the works. We hope you can make it to some of these events to help your child transition into K!

#### **TODAY Kick Start to Kindergarten**

**Pizza Night** 🍕 🍕 🍕

**Date: Thursday, April 30**

**Time: 4:30-5:30**

Meet in Fernwood Strong Start (ELF) classroom for pizza and play, meet Fernwood Staff, and tour kindergarten classrooms.

#### **K Play Sessions**

**Location: Fernwood ELF**

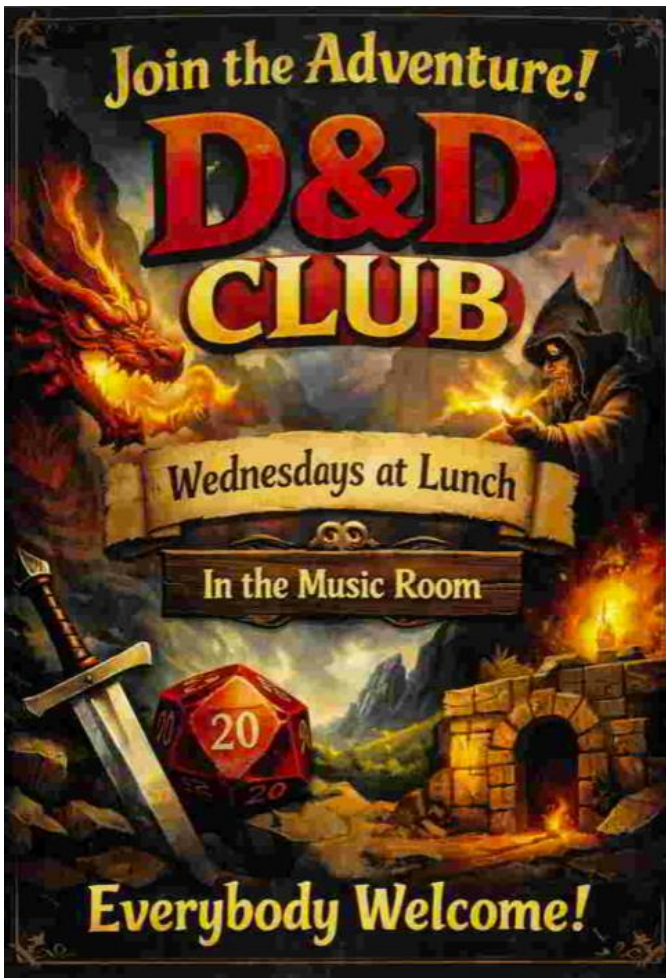
**\*Dates: May 5, 12, 19, 26**

**Times: 2:00pm-3:00pm**

Play with 5-7 other future kindergarten students, tour the school, participate in a story walk and connect with future K teachers. \*Parents will need to sign up for preferred dates.



Ms. Curtis wanted to say 'thanks' to Debbie (Zola's grama) and Jackie (Ivans mom) for helping us get our garden bed started for the Kindergarten Class!



# CULTURE CLUB

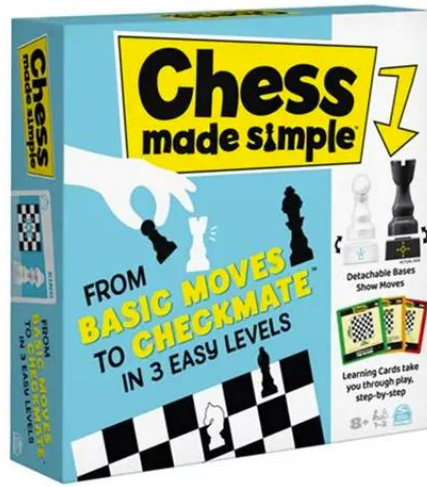
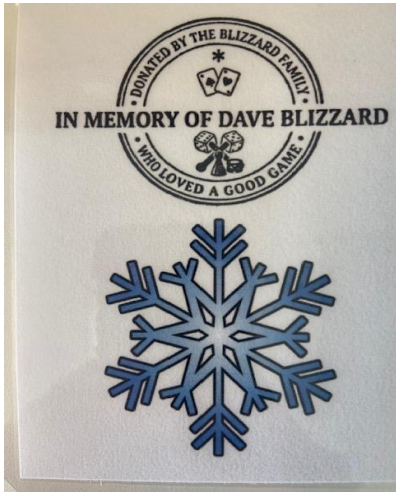
All Indigenous students are invited!

**INFORMATION**

<b>WHO:</b> Indigenous Students	<b>WHAT:</b> Crafts, music, learning & more!	<b>WHERE:</b> Music Room
<i>Tuesday just upcoming this week ...</i>	<b>WHEN:</b> Monday at Big Recess	<b>WHY:</b> Connect with culture and others

Talk to Shayce if you want to learn more about it!

## Chess Club Meets Tuesdays at Lunch



### Student Learning Survey 2025/2026 - open until May 1<sup>st</sup> (tomorrow – email sent today)

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.

# YEARBOOK COVER DESIGN CONTEST

Calling all young artists!



## What We're Looking For

- **Specifications:** Design must fill an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper and clearly state Fernwood Elementary and the year (2025/2026) in your design
  - **School Imagery:** Include elements that remind us of school, like the natural surroundings, books, pencils, or the school building
  - **Bright Colors and bold lettering**
- Your design should be playful, inviting, and age-appropriate for elementary school students. Think about what makes our school special and try to capture that in your artwork. What do you love most about Fernwood? What makes our school community special? We want a cover that captures Fernwood's spirit and makes everyone excited to open the yearbook!

Previous Covers:



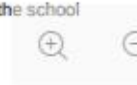
## How to Enter

1. **Create Your Design:** Use any art supplies you like – crayons, markers, pencil crayons, paint, or even digital art!
2. **Submit Your Entry:** Drop off your finished design at the office.
3. **Deadline:** All entries must be submitted by **May 7<sup>th</sup>**.

Remember to include your name, grade, and teacher's name on the back of your submission!

## Prizes

The winning design will be **featured on the cover of this year's yearbook!** The winner will also receive a **gift certificate to Dragonfly Art Supply** and recognition at the whole school meeting. Runners-up will also have their artwork displayed in the school hallway. Good luck!



Parent volunteers are gearing up to create this year's edition of the Fernwood yearbook. They have decided to host a cover design contest. **We have received 4 great submissions already! Any age child can submit a design for consideration. The deadline for submissions is May 7<sup>th</sup>.** In addition to having their design grace the cover of the yearbook the winner will also receive a \$50 gift card to Dragonfly Art Supplies! Thank you to Marissa Smith for organizing this opportunity.

## **Dates Looking Ahead:**

May 5,12,19,26 – New Kindergarten K Plays (in the StrongStart room) 2:00 – 3:00 pm (email links sent home to fill 5-7 spots per session)

Thursday, May 7 – hand in your Yearbook Cover designs by today if you would like to design one

Tuesday, May 12 – Malindi Curtis and Myriah Michaux’s classes to Greenwoods to visit and sing

Thursday, May 14 – Grade 4/5 Track & Field at Portlock (back up if rain May 19)

Monday, May 18 – no school (statutory holiday)

Wednesday, May 20 – Battle of the Books (elementary schools visit Fernwood) - volunteers needed

Friday, May 22 – Friday School Day; Pizza Day; next Whole School Spirit Day

Tuesday, May 26 – Grade 6/7 Track & Field at Portlock (back up day if rain is May 28)

Thursday, June 4 – Kindergarten and K/1 classes to Pacific Raptors Centre Duncan

Thursday, June 11 – Fernwood FUN FAIR afterschool event

Tuesday, June 16 – Brian Reid’s class to WildPlay

Tuesday, June 16 – Band Rehearsal (evening at the HUB – old SIMS location)

Wednesday, June 17 – Band Concert (evening at the HUB – old SIMS location)

Thursday, June 25 - Last Day of School

  
TSUNAMI CIRCUS  
PRESENTS...

# UNDER TOW

A Youth Circus Production



SIMS GYMNASIUM

**MAY 7**

EVENING SHOW  
Thursday, 6-8pm

**MAY 8**

AFTERNOON SHOW  
Friday, 4-6pm

**MAY 9**

MATINÉE  
Saturday, 1-3pm

**MAY 9**

FINAL SHOW  
Saturday, 5-7pm

**\$20**  
ADULTS

**\$10**  
CHILDREN & STUDENTS

**Free**  
UNDER 2

Tickets at West of the Moon - cash only



TICKETS



INSTAGRAM

QUESTIONS?  
[tsunamicircussi@gmail.com](mailto:tsunamicircussi@gmail.com)



graffiti



SPEND A DAY IN

# SUEÑO BAY

EXHIBITION ON THE CREATION OF GRAPHIC NOVELS

WITH AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR PAIR NANCY AND MIKE DEAS



Open Reception Saturday, May 9th 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Exhibition ongoing May 9th - 30th

Salt Spring Island Public Library Community Program Room

Everyone Welcome!



Salt Spring  
Books

Salt Spring Island  
Public Library



## **BUS REGISTRATION IS OPEN - closes April 30<sup>th</sup>**

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

Please go here to the School District 64 webpage and choose 'Transportation':

<https://www.sd64.bc.ca/transportation>

#### **Bus Registration**

School bus transportation registration for the **2026–2027 school year** will open on **April 1, 2026**.

Families who require bus service are asked to complete the registration process as early as possible. Early registration helps the Transportation Department plan safe and efficient routes, assign bus stops, and ensure adequate bus capacity for all eligible students.

For further information or inquiries regarding student transportation services, please contact the Transportation Department at [transportation@sd64.org](mailto:transportation@sd64.org).



# **MOTHERS DAY BOUTIQUE**

**A carefully curated  
pop-up boutique  
offering affordable gifts  
for any and all mothers.**

**Come early for  
best gift selections for  
your mom to celebrate  
this special day.**

**Sat, May 2, 2026  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**SSI United Church  
111 Hereford Avenue**



## Struggling to make ends meet and eat well?



- Learn healthy meal planning and how to save money on food
- Cook a shared meal each week, with leftovers to take home



### **FREE 5 week program**

May 13, 20, 27 and June 3, 10  
10:30 am to 1:30 pm



Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS, former middle school) Home Economics Room

### **More information or to register**

**email: [collectivekitchen@saltspringliteracy.org](mailto:collectivekitchen@saltspringliteracy.org)**

**phone: 250-537-9717**

Supported by

islandcommunity  
services



salt spring island  
foundation



United Way

# Talking Through Temperament

SALT SPRING ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY  
THURSDAY APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2026 6:00 PM - 7:30PM

WITH DARCY MORGAN  
AND ANDREA HOLLINGSWORTH

**Free Event in partnership with the Salt  
Spring Island Foundation and SD 64**

For families\* and educators working  
with children age Birth to 12 years

## EVENT DESCRIPTION

During our evening together we will unpack the 9 temperament traits and learn how our own temperament traits impact the way we relate to others. We will also highlight the power of emotional literacy for our collective mental health and wellbeing.

\*We are unable to provide childminding for this event.

contact: Andrea Hollingsworth  
ahollingsworth@sd64.org

[www.rootsofempathy.org](http://www.rootsofempathy.org)



**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.



**THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME YOU DO TO SCAN YOUR RECEIPT! COUNTRY GROCER HAS ISSUED THE SCHOOL \$1600 THAT WE CAN DISTRIBUTE TO THE 10 CLASSES – IT IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED AND ITS WORKING! THE SCHOOL NUMBER IS: #114**

**Thank you to everyone who chooses to donate to Fernwood Elementary School through the Country Grocer Save-a-Tape program. We appreciate the time it takes to scan your receipt! Funds are used to subsidize field trips and purchase classroom and learning services supplies.**

***The Fernwood Elementary School number on their scanning kiosk is #114.***