



Fernwood Elementary School Newsletter March 12, 2026

Whole School Meeting – Everyone Welcome 8:45 – 9:15 am on Thursdays

Congratulations to all the winners of the Reading Challenge! Pictured below are the winners in both categories ~ Reading every day during the month of February and reading and also 'no screen time'! Way to go!

All students received a certificate and the reading champions received a prize and the reading and 'no screen time' champions received a gift certificate from West of the Moon.



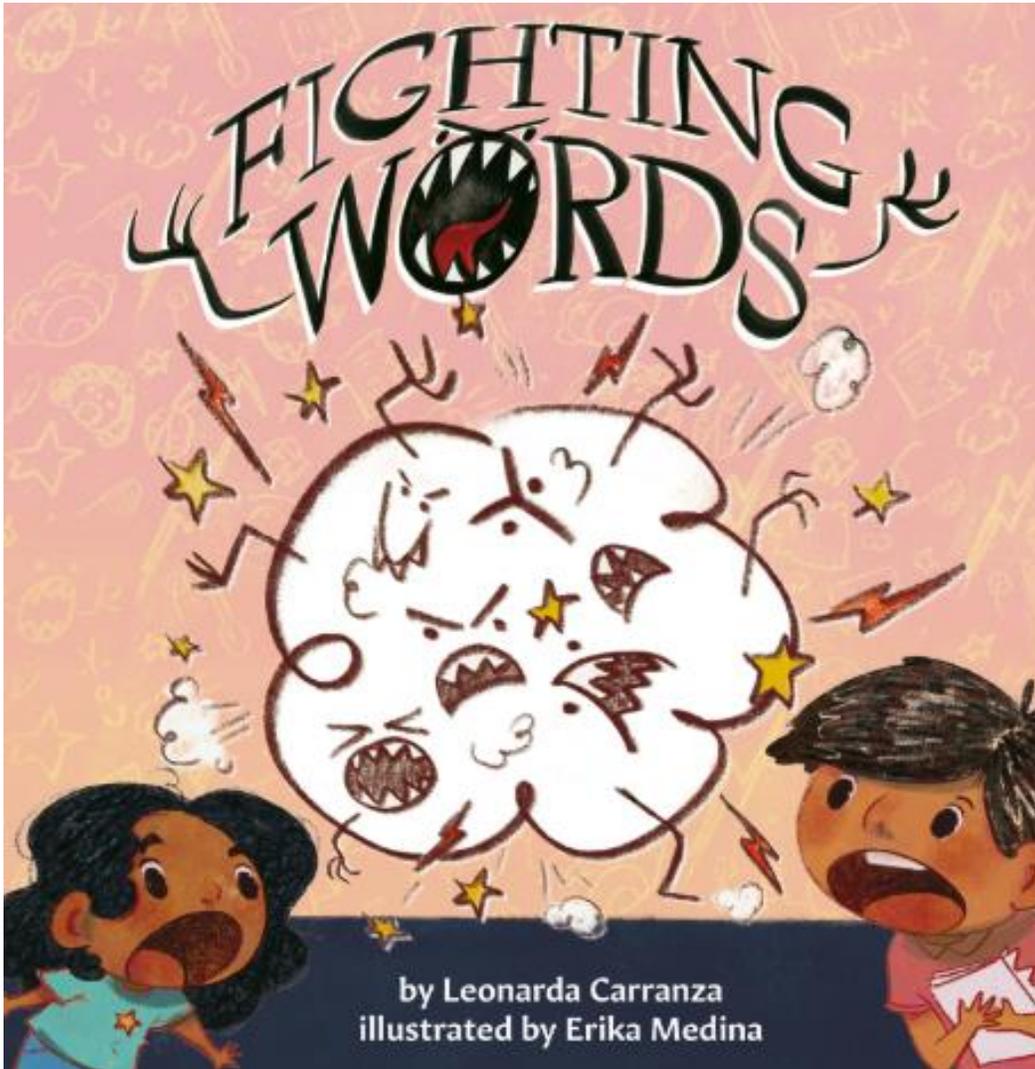


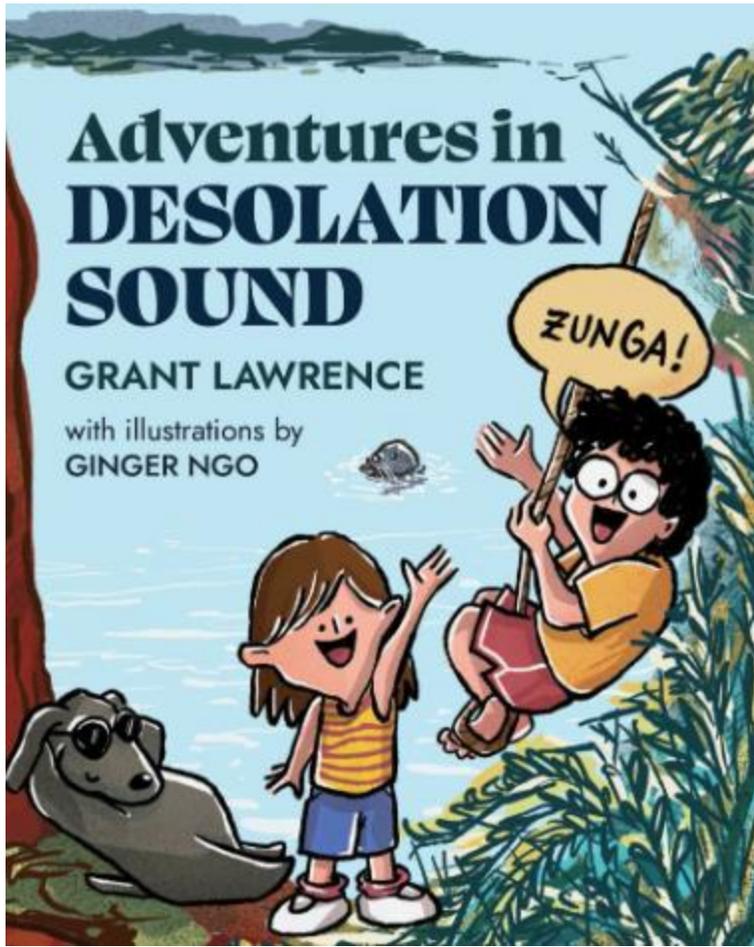
Thank you to Ozzie and Isaac for opening and closing the Whole School Meeting with the Territorial Acknowledgement drumming!



Author Visits in the Fernwood School Library Today - Grant Lawrence & Leonarda Carranza

Grant Lawrence, author and nominee of the Chocolate Lily Award ([Home | Chocolate Lily Book Awards](#)) for his book 'Adventures in Desolation Sound' was at Fernwood School today to read the book to the kids and answer questions. He is a Canadian broadcaster and best selling author. Another author visit arranged today was for Leonarda Carranza, author of 'Fighting Words' to zoom in to talk to the kids about her book, and answer questions about the writing process. Thank you Amber for organizing this author visit!



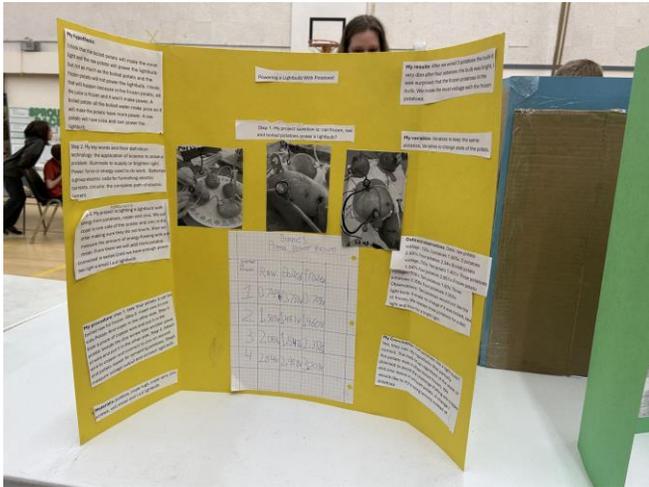




Grant Lawrence

Grade 4/5 Science Fair

Grade 4/5 students had an opportunity to showcase their hard work and creativity at Fulford Elementary Wednesday at the Science Fair. Here are some photos of the Fair (thank you for the photos, Mike!)





Math Riddle - Winner This Week - Isla Cadger

Congratulations to Isla Cadger, in Sarah Currie's grade 3 class, who is the winner of Ms Heidi's weekly Math Riddle! Isla's name was drawn from the winners who guessed correctly for this week's challenge!

4 and a 5
 $4 + 5 = 9$
 $5 \times 4 = 20$

Isla Cadger

Dance Show Today for the Kindergarten Classes - thank you Sue Newman!

Both Kindergarten classes today performed their show that they have been rehearsing with Sue Newman! Sue Newman is a prominent figure in the Salt Spring arts community known for her musical and dance performances. The dances were performed to the three songs Jump in the Line by Harry Belafonte, Here Comes the Sun by the Beatles and Van Halen's 'Jump'!







Fernwood Basketball -

'Thank You' to Becky and Dane, Caitlin, Mr. Reid, and Ms Meghan for being our coaches this season!











Chess Club- after spring break! - Volunteers Needed

We are seeking volunteers to help us start a chess club at school. If you are interested, please let us know. You can be helpful in many ways and do not have to have experience. We already have a very keen parent (thank you Hannah!) who has always wanted to run a school chess club, and also an experienced grade 7 student who is willing to help.



We need more volunteers to let us know which day of the week works for them so we can start the weekly lunch club after spring break. The lunch hour runs from 12:15-1:00 pm so it will be about a 30 to 40 minute commitment once a week.

We would also like to find out if any families would be willing to loan the club a chess board so that we have enough.

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.

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 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!

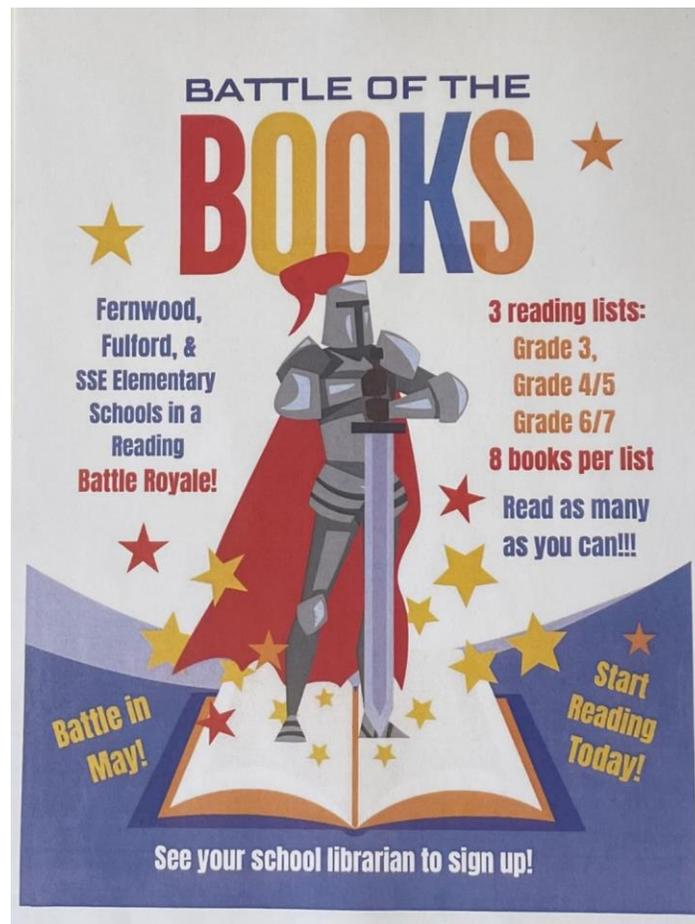
Wednesday, May 20th at Fernwood School! Parents are welcome to watch!

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

May the reading battle commence!



SD64 & Your Library

Full details about this FANTASTIC literacy initiative are available through YOUR child's school!

Parents/students are now invited to take out books through ILL with their Library cards using the ILLUME system online, or getting help at the Circulation Desk; they generally arrive about a week from the time when they are ordered, and can be out for 3 weeks.

MEANWHILE... The Library has made audiobook copies of these titles available through Libby, and there is **no waitlist for any of these titles!** Stats show people are making great use of these books - we hope you do too! Ready your Library card and [CLICK HERE](#) to access these on-demand audiobooks.

Talk to your child's teacher about your child's new Library card too!



Fernwood's Spring Clean
Lost & Found

Collect your child's Lost & Found items by
March 12th.
All uncollected items will be donated.
Thank you.

Dates Looking Ahead:

Thursday, March 12 – Spring Dance & Raffle (Fernwood PAC Event); Field Trip for Natalie Bienen's and Meghan Montgomery's classes to Mount Washington

March 16-26 - Spring Break

Monday, March 30 – back to school

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

Monday, April 6 – Easter Monday (stat holiday school closed)

Friday, April 10 – Friday School Day; PAC Pizza Day (PAC would like orders by the 6th)

Tuesday, April 28 – next PAC Meeting (minutes attached)



ALL STUDENTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.
NO DROP-OFFS, PLEASE.

JOIN US FOR A

WHOLE SCHOOL *Dance!*

• PIZZA • 50/50 RAFFLE • TREATS
THURSDAY | MARCH 12TH | 6-8 PM

\$10 DONATION REQUESTED PER FAMILY
FOR ENTRANCE

FERNWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM

PLEASE SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER HERE:



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 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

COMMUNITY NOTICES



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.

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.

Nature Art Camp

Lisa Lipsett
250-538-2251
llipsett@me.com

March Break
WK 1: March 16-20
WK 2: March 23-27
10-3, \$375

Paint Draw Print
www.paintwithnature.com

March Break Nature Art Camp

Week 1- March 16-20, 10-3pm, \$375 – full

Week 2- March 23-27, 10-3pm, \$375 – might be room!

To register call/text Lisa Lipsett 250 538 2251

Email llipsett@me.com

For more info visit: <https://creativebynature.org/nature-art-classes-camps-2026/>

Fastpitch & Baseball Registration is

Now Open!

Registration is officially open, and we can't wait to welcome both returning players and new athletes to the field.

Registration Links:

Girls Fastpitch: SaltSpringIslandMinorBB.rampregistrations.com/participant

Boys Minor Baseball: saltbaseball.rampregistrations.com/participant

Our programs focus on skill development, teamwork, confidence, and — most importantly — having fun.

Whether your child is picking up a glove for the first time or looking to build on their experience, there is a place for everyone.

Spots fill quickly, so we encourage families to register early to secure their player's place for the season.



**BASEBALL
REGISTRATION**

REGISTER NOW
WINTER CLINICS AND
SPRING REGISTRATION

Winter clinics: 9U | 11U | 13U | 15U
Spring registration: 7U T-BALL | 9U | 11U | 13U | 15U

<http://saltbaseball.rampregistrations.com/participant>



REGISTRATION OPEN FOR

FASTPITCH

REGISTER NOW!

WINTER CLINICS AVAILABLE FOR:
Joined U11/U13 | U17

SPRING REGISTRATION FOR:
U9 | U11 | U13 | U15 | U17

REGISTER USING THE direct link below:

<http://SaltSpringIslandMinorBB.rampregistrations.com>

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

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.

The graphic is a blue rectangle with a white icon of a mobile phone displaying the SD64 app interface. The text is white and black.

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

