



## Fernwood Elementary School Newsletter January 22, 2026

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

Thank you to Shelly for leading us at the whole school meeting today. All of the great 3C behaviour that has been happening around the school was recognized (expressions of appreciation, teamwork, friendship, caring for the school and more), birthdays were celebrated and some fun jokes by the students were shared.

We would like students to be aware of others' personal space in the halls, use quiet voices in the halls and walk - not run - to avoid any possibility of knocking down or injuring a fellow student or any adults or visitors who may be in the building. The school frequently has volunteer seniors in the building as part of our Salt Spring Literacy One-to-One reading program.

Thank you to Isla and Ellora for opening and closing the whole school meeting with the Territorial Acknowledgement.



## **Fernwood School Plan in Case of Snow or Inclement Weather**

In preparation for possible inclement weather, please familiarize yourself with the different scenarios to consider in case it snows.

Your local area conditions should be taken into consideration as decisions are made centrally where road and snow conditions may be different than yours. Sometimes, it is safest to have your child stay home if you know you won't be able to pick them up due to the possibility of snow or poor road conditions.

If the District school buses are not running or are operating on "Main Roads Only," note that this is a limited route and it is a decision made for the safety of your child by the School District in consultation with Transportation Services. All communication regarding bus changes or cancellations will come directly from Transportation Services ([transportation@sd64.org](mailto:transportation@sd64.org)) and also through the SD64 App directly to your cell phone.

The link for the Main Roads Only schedule is in the process of being updated in preparation for this and can be found at: [Inclement Weather](#) <https://www.sd64.bc.ca/inclement-weather>

### **IF IT SNOWS AFTER STUDENTS HAVE ARRIVED AT SCHOOL:**

The weather can change after students have arrived at school forcing buses to leave early and schools to close early. Parents would be notified by email if this were to occur. Parents of registered bus riders will also be notified by email from Transportation Services or through their SD64 APP if you have downloaded this app for notification.

Please note that it is very IMPORTANT that parents have updated their contact information with the Fernwood School office.

Here are examples of the 3 possible scenarios to be aware of:

<b>"Buses running on MAIN ROADS ONLY ROUTE" Schedule: <a href="https://sd64.bc.ca/inclement-weather">https://sd64.bc.ca/inclement-weather</a></b>	<b>"Buses not running, but schools open"</b>	<b>"Schools Closed"</b>
<p>Schools are open as normal. Note that this is a limited route on main roads only.</p> <p>An example of Main Roads Only bus service for registered riders is:</p> <p>MORNING:</p> <p>Bus 4 leaves the Bus Yard and travels to school along Lower Ganges Road and North End Road. Bus 5 starts its run at Vesuvius Bay Road at Humphrey's Hill and picks up students along Vesuvius Bay Road then up North End Road to school.</p> <p>AFTERNOON:</p> <p>Bus 5 leaves school and drives down North End Road and along Vesuvius Road dropping off along the way as far as the Vesuvius ferry terminal Bus 4 drives down North End Road and continues down Lower Ganges Road to the Bus Yard</p>	<p>Most students will likely not attend, but <u>school</u> is open.</p> <p>Staff are expected to attempt to come to work. If impossible or unsafe, staff report to the school nearest to them that they can reach safely, and call dispatch to <u>notify</u>.</p>	<p>In extreme cases, schools can be closed due to snow. Staff and students are not expected to come to school.</p>



### **Basketball Season**

Great practices this week! Thank you to Becky, Caitlin, Mr. Reid, Meghan and Dane for being our coaches this season!

*Stay tuned for the lunch hour game schedule beginning in February!*

### **Stay Healthy!**

You may have noticed there has been a spike in flu and flu-like illness around. We encourage everyone to support and maintain healthy practices for students (washing hands, lots of sleep/healthy food, flu shots, stay home when sick, cover your coughs/sneezes with your tissue/elbow).

Please see the attached infographic regarding influenza, Covid19 and RSV.

[HERE](#) is a link to the Public Health Agency of Canada, with more information for you.



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.*



## **REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR 2026/2027:**

**Registration for the 2026/2027 school year is now open at all schools in School District 64.** Families are invited to contact their local school from now to **February 15, 2026**, to make arrangements for registration.

**Kindergarten:** Registration is open for children who will be five (5) years old on or before **December 31, 2026**, meaning those born in **2021**. If your child is currently enrolled in the district's Strong Start programs, you still need to complete a student registration form for the upcoming academic term.

**All New K to 12:** Please register your child in the school in your residential catchment area. [MAP](#)

Please provide the following documentation when you register your child for school:

- Verification of the child's birth date and citizenship status (birth certificate, passport or Landed Immigrant authorization, proof of residency)
- B.C. Care Card

Expressions of interest in specific programs can be found on the [student registration form](#). Additional application information is required for admission to:

- [French Immersion](#) (registration deadline **Feb 15, 2026**)
- [SEEC](#) program located on Saturna Island

Registration and water taxi transportation are subject to [Board Policies and District Administrative Practices](#). Program placement is subject to the availability of space in specialized programs.

## **STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN SCHOOL DISTRICT 64:**

Students will automatically be enrolled at their next catchment school as part of the normally prescribed grade to grade transition (unless the school is informed otherwise). No registration is required.

Expressions of interest in specific programs at your child's school should be made to the school principal. For additional information about high school [programs](#) available through [Gulf Islands Secondary School](#), contact the school's principal.

### **CROSS-BOUNDARY TRANSFER REQUESTS:**

Should you wish to enroll your child in a school outside of your catchment area (non-neighbourhood school), a cross-boundary transfer request form ([Fillable PDF](#) | [PDF](#)) must be completed **annually**.

Prior to submitting the form to the requested school for approval, parents must obtain signatures from the principal of the neighbourhood school. The form will be date-stamped. The deadline for accepting cross-boundary request forms is **February 15**. Placement is subject to the availability of space. **Transportation for out-of-catchment requests is not guaranteed.**

### **Battle of the Books is on!**

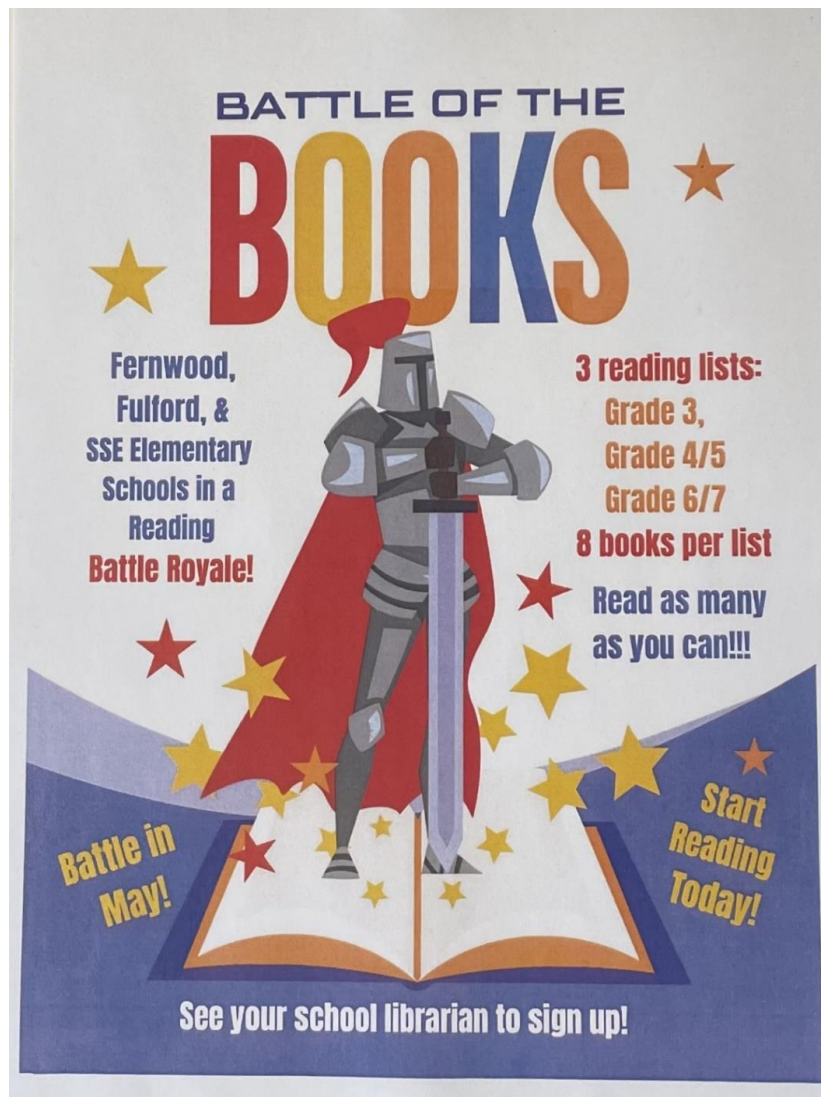
All kids from Grades 3-7 are invited to join the Battle of the Books (BOB). It is a fun competition between the three elementary schools on the island, where students read as many books as they can from a list of 8 books! Students will then make a small team and practice answering comprehension quiz 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!**



### **Important Dates:**

**Monday, January 26** – Earthquake Drill

**Thursday, February 5** – Fernwood School Lantern Fest

**Monday, February 16**– Statutory Holiday Family Day (no school)

**Wednesday, February 18** – Early Dismissal Day - noon

**Friday, February 20** – Friday School Day (due to the holiday Monday); PAC Hot Lunch Pizza Day



# Fernwood PAC

[fernwoodpac@sd64.bc.ca](mailto:fernwoodpac@sd64.bc.ca)

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Happy New Year, Fernwood families! We hope everyone had a wonderful winter break and a smooth return to school. As we kick off 2026, our PAC wants to share a few highlights and upcoming opportunities to get involved.

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## RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

It's been a busy few months at Fernwood! Thanks to your support:

- Book Drive: Tons of gently used books were collected and shared with the school library.
- Staff Appreciation: The teachers and staff loved the coffee and homemade baked goods.
- Funding Updates: PAC funds this year have supported class field trips, new art supplies, and even our growing Knitting Club.
- Movie Night & Pizza Day: Both events were a big hit!

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## GET INVOLVED

We have several exciting community events coming up and would love your participation!

- Lantern Festival: We're looking for bakers to contribute treats for the bake sale.
- Staff Appreciation: Planning has already begun for our spring staff appreciation event. If you enjoy baking, please sign up to bring something special for our teachers and support staff.
- Whole School Dance & 50/50 Raffle: Mark your calendars for a Fernwood Family School Dance! This will be an evening of music, fun, and community spirit. Please note it's a family night, not a drop-off event. We'll also be running a 50/50 raffle, with proceeds going toward library improvements. Volunteers will be needed for setup, clean up and possibly to DJ.

If you'd like to volunteer or contribute baked goods, please email us at [fernwoodpac@sd64.bc.ca](mailto:fernwoodpac@sd64.bc.ca)

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## UPCOMING DATES

- Lantern Fest- February 5
- Pizza Day- February 20
- Staff Appreciation- March 3
- Whole School Dance- March 12
- Pizza Day- May 22
- Staff Appreciation- May 27
- Fun Fair- June 11

