



Fernwood School Newsletter October 9th, 2025



Myriah's Michaux's class will guess the number of seeds in each of the pumpkins at the end of October!

Whole School Meeting

At the whole school meeting today we acknowledged birthdays, read aloud all the great 'good deeds' that have been happening at school since Monday and laughed at the funny joke submissions.

Some announcements were made about two lunchtime recess opportunities:

On Wednesdays and Thursdays students who would like an opportunity to be in the library can come to do one of the three following things: read a book, play a board game quietly or draw. Thank you to Principal Shelly and Library Teacher, Amber for making this happen.

School Counsellor, Jennifer, will be offering a Drama Club over the lunch recess on Thursdays for students in Grade 6 and 7. Jennifer says they will start with a 'chat and chew' giving them a chance to eat first. Thank you Jennifer!



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

Bookmark Contest!

Amber congratulated all the students who participated in a contest to create a school library bookmark for all kids to have. Congratulations to the two winners who each had equal votes! Sophie Frisch (books are magic) and Makiah Blue (dinosaurs). Stay tuned for an upcoming library themed pumpkin carving contest.





Students in Sarah's grade 3 class demonstrated to us how they have learned to count by 25! They made a paper chain in sections of 25 loops also.



Bus Safety Talks

Kathleen and José, two of School District 64's dedicated bus drivers, spent the day at Fernwood School yesterday holding the annual Bus Safety Talks for all students. Safety tips covered included waiting at a safe stop, keeping your hands inside the bus, keeping the aisle clear at all times, following the bus driver's instructions, how to cross the road safely and more.





Thank You Salt Spring Fire and Rescue!

Thank you to Salt Spring Fire and Rescue for the pancake breakfast and Fire Safety Talks at Fernwood School this past Monday! Fire Prevention Week in BC runs from October 5-11. Some topics discussed were escape plans, cooking safety, burn prevention, and smoke alarms. The students did a great job at our first fire drill of the year. The school holds many drills throughout the year as part of our emergency preparedness plan. Our next drill is an earthquake drill on October 16th when we will participate in the Great BC ShakeOut.







Field Trips

Students in Melissa Hingston class and Brian Reid's class went to Cusheon Cove to study forest ecosystems. This was organized by the Salt Spring Conservancy. Learning centers included whittling, First Nations use of Stinging nettle for fibers and rope, learning about the Chinese, Japanese, and European presence at Bullman Sawmill in the early 1900s with an artifact museum, and a compass treasure hunt to learn about history.

Students in Malindi Curtis', Myriah Michaux, Cathryn Pyper, Heidi Cameron and Al MacLean's classes got to go to the Bond Farm to the Pumpkin Patch to take a pumpkin home!

Marissa Smith and Sarah Currie's students had a field trip to Ganges to go to the Public Library 'Our Living Languages' First People's Exhibit, Rainbow Pool and Mouat's Park.









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 in this link: [Criminal Record Check](#).

Cross Country – October 16th – volunteers needed and please return the permission forms

We are looking for a few parents to help out at the Grade 4,5,6,7 Cross Country event on October 16 at Mouat's Park. If you can help, please email Shelly sjohnson@sd64.org or Marie. mmullen@sd64.org
Permission forms have been sent home and need to be returned before the 16th - the day of the event.



ADEQUATE CLOTHING FOR THE COLD RAINY WEATHER

As we move further into the rainy and colder months, we've noticed that many students are arriving at school without adequate clothing for the weather. Students go outside for recesses and learning activities in all weather, except in the most extreme weather conditions. To ensure all children stay warm, dry, and comfortable throughout the day—especially during outdoor activities—it is essential that they come dressed appropriately.

Please make sure your child arrives in weather-appropriate attire, including a waterproof jacket, warm layers, and suitable footwear. We also ask that each student keep a spare set of clothes at school (including socks and pants) in case of unexpected weather-related changes.

If a student is not dressed suitably and does not have extra clothing available, we will need to contact home to request a clothing drop-off. We appreciate your support in helping us minimize these disruptions and keep all students safe and ready to learn.

FROM THE FERNWOOD LIBRARY

Dear Fernwood Families,

We need your help finding books in our wonderful library! We would really appreciate any donations of gently used, up to date children's books for our library to help add to our collection this year! We are specifically looking for:

- Non Fiction Fun Facts/Trivia books
- Cooking for Kids
- Sports
- Lego/Pokemon/Minecraft etc
- Fiction Graphic novels Manga (child appropriate)
- Children's classics Novels for Grades 5-7
- Thank you but at this time we don't need picture books or early readers!

We are also looking for gently used, stuffed animals to use as cute reading buddies for kids who benefit from a buddy to read with! Thank you SO much! I am available at the email below if you have questions, I am in the Fernwood library Wednesday and Thursday! Gratefully, Amber Thompson athompson@sd64.org

October 1, 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Childhood immunizations play a very important role in reducing many preventable diseases in children. As part of the B.C. immunization program, starting at age 4, children are eligible to receive school entry boosters. Routine boosters include Tdap-IPV (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis/whooping cough and polio) and MMRV (measles, mumps, rubella & chickenpox). Some children may also be due for additional immunizations based on their individual immunization history.

If your child has not received their school entry boosters, or if you have questions about their immunization status, please call your local public health unit to schedule an immunization appointment or speak to a Public Health Nurse.

Health Gateway (<https://www.healthgateway.gov.bc.ca/>) can be used to find out if your child's immunization records are in the Provincial Immunization Registry. If your child was immunized at a public health unit, community health centre, school, or pharmacy, their record should already be in the registry. If your child was immunized at a First Nations community health centre, doctor's office, or outside of BC, their record might not be in the registry.

If your child's immunization record is incomplete in Health Gateway and you have a paper record, you can submit the record online at <https://www.immunizationrecord.gov.bc.ca/> (records must be in English or French or a certified translation). Once the records are updated, you can access them through Health Gateway. If you have questions, please call your local public health unit for support.

For additional immunization information please visit:



Sincerely,

Salt Spring Island Public Health Nurses



LOOKING AHEAD DATES:

Monday, October 13 – Deadline to order Munch-a-Lunch Pizza Day orders please; Thanksgiving Monday (no school).

Tuesday, October 14 – PAC meeting 6 pm in the Library, Quentin Harris, SD64 Artist & Educator at Fernwood and Shayce Johnston, Indigenous Support Worker are at Fernwood today

Thursday, October 16 – Cross Country students bus to Mouat’s Park; departs at 9:10 am; ShakeOut Earthquake Drill 10:16 am

**Friday, October 17 – Friday School Day (due to the Holiday Monday)
Conservancy Pre-Trip sessions for Heidi/Al’s, Sarah and Cathryn**

Friday, October 24 – Professional Development Day for Staff

Monday, October 27 – Early Dismissal Day (12:00 dismissal) for informal learning updates

Thursday, November 6 – Photo Retake Day (for any individuals who missed photo day October 2)

PAC HOT LUNCH INSTRUCTIONS:

Pizza Day will be Friday, October 17th – Orders must be entered onto the Munch-a-Lunch webpage by Monday, October 13th

You must order on ‘muncha lunch’ (see below) and choose to pay with credit or indicate you will be paying cash at school or e transferring to the PAC (not the school) but all orders go through this muncha lunch website no matter which way you choose to pay for it.

Etransfers go to the PAC email fernwoodpac@sd64.bc.ca NOT the school etransfer email which is fernwood@sd64.org.

Dear Families,

Hot Lunch is returning!! **Pizza Day will be Friday October 17th**. 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.

We have also included the option to donate \$5 towards the PAC, which will support various initiatives, including teacher appreciation and sports equipment.

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 fernwoodpac@sd64.bc.ca 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 October 13th so we have time to communicate with vendors.

Thank you for your support!
Fernwood PAC



