

We wish to acknowledge as a school community that we continue to work, learn and play together on the homelands of the Ktunaxa People

---

# Fernie Secondary School

---

	April 2025	
--	------------	--



## Principal's Message

As we approach the end of the school year, it's remarkable to see how quickly time has passed. Midterm Learning Updates (report cards) will be published during the last week of April, signaling that the final stretch of the school year is ahead of us. If you are unable to access your child's Learning Update on MyEd, please call our office-we are happy to assist you.

We extend a warm invitation to all parents and guardians to attend the SD#5 Community Engagement Night at Isabella Dicken Elementary School on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. We are also looking forward to welcoming new families to FSS at our Incoming Grade 7 and New Parent Information Night on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm.

Planning is already underway for the 2025-2026 school year. If you anticipate any changes to your child's enrollment, such as a move or a shift to a different educational plan, please let us know. Early communication helps ensure a smooth transition for students and supports our planning efforts.

We are excited for the many upcoming events that celebrate student achievements and creativity, including our Beetlejuice Drama Production, Track & Field Meets, Girl's Soccer and Badminton tournaments, the Spring Band Concert, Community Engagement Night, and of course, the Commencement Ceremonies for the Graduating Class of 2025 on June 27th.

I would also like to share some personal news with the FSS community. I have been transferred to Isabella Dicken Elementary School for the upcoming school year, and Mr. Jason Sommerfeld will be joining FSS as Principal effective August 1, 2025. I am truly grateful for the time I spend at Fernie Secondary School. It has been a privilege to watch many of the students I once welcomed to kindergarten grow into confident graduates ready for their next steps. Thank you for the support and partnerships over the years - it has been an honour to be part of this community.

Sincerely,

Nicole Neufeld

Principal, Fernie Secondary School

---

---

# Featured Articles

---

## Upcoming Events

**April 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>** - Concert & Jazz to Music Festival

**April 18<sup>th</sup> - NO SCHOOL** - Good Friday

**April 21<sup>st</sup> - NO SCHOOL** - EASTER MONDAY

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>** - FSS Leadership Food Drive Begins

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Leadership Class TRASH BASH & hotday lunch

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Indigenous Education trip to Calgary Galt Museum

**April 28<sup>th</sup> - NO SCHOOL** - Professional Development Day

**April 29<sup>th</sup>** - Learning Update published in MyEd

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** - Gr. 11 trip to U of Lethbridge, Lethbridge College

**May 8<sup>th</sup>** - Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Assemblies

**May 12<sup>th</sup>** - English First Peoples to St Eugene's

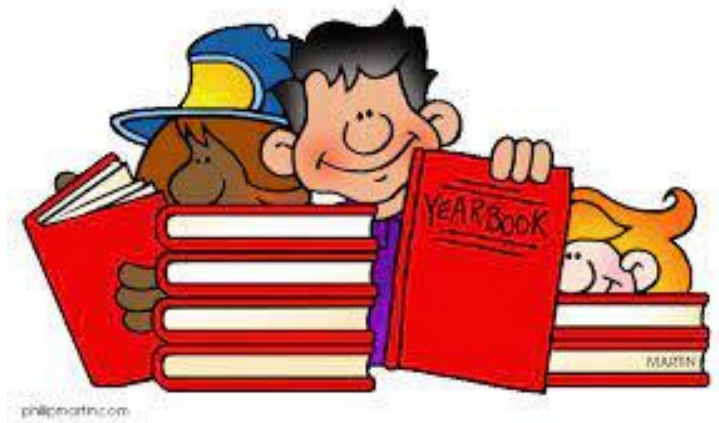
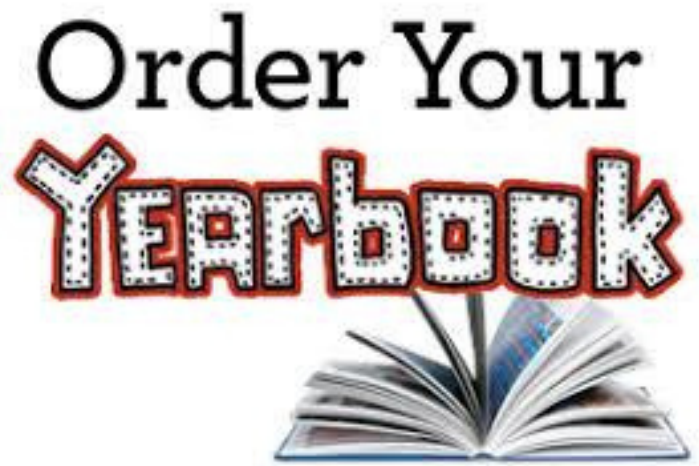
**May 12<sup>th</sup>** - Moosehide Campaign

**May 13<sup>th</sup>** - SD5 Community Engagement Night @ IDES 6:00pm

**May 14<sup>th</sup>** - Indigenous Honouring Ceremony at SSS

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>** - RCMP/Pizza Day with grades 11&12

**June 27<sup>th</sup>** - 2025 Graduating Class Commencement Ceremonies 10:00am Fernie Arena



**You can order your  
yearbook on School  
Cash Online**

Good morning,

I am excited to announce that the Math Attack Summer Camp for Girls will be running again this summer!

Overview: The 2025 Math Attack Summer Camp for Girls will be held at the University of Calgary and the Banff International Research Station (BIRS) from Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. This 8-day overnight camp will bring 21 grades 7 - 10 girls together to engage in fun mathematical activities and build connections. Students will stay in the university residence for the first five nights of the camp and at the Banff Centre for the last two nights. The camp aims to encourage girls to pursue their passion for mathematics and make connections with peers who shared similar interests.

Application: Your paragraph text

Applications received by Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 11:59pm MDT will be given full consideration.

Additional Information: The Math Attack Summer Camp for Girls also ran in 2022 and 2023. At the 2022 camp, students engaged in mathematical sessions that explored topics such as cryptology, data science, probability paradoxes, and actuarial science. They investigated the spread of disease by modelling a zombie outbreak, learned what you can do with a math degree at a Women in Math Panel, and competed in the Amazing (Math) Race. These sessions and panels exposed students to over 20 female role models, including recent high school graduates, undergraduate math students, graduate math students, mathematics faculty, and mathematicians in industry. During the camp, there was also plenty of time for friendship building and physical activity. Evening activities included sports, swimming, board games, karaoke, and a walk along Bow Falls Trail. On Friday, students also took some time to explore the town of Banff and hiked up Tunnel Mountain. The 2025 camp program will be very similar.

All the best,

Lauren

# MATHCAMP

**Homestays Needed**  
For international students arriving in September 2025!

**LIMITED OFFER**

REFER A NEW HOST FAMILY AND EARN \$250

**\$500 REFERRAL BONUS**

COMPLETE OUR REFERRAL FORM BY APRIL 30TH

Scan to learn more:

**SEE ALL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA & APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS ONLINE AT:**  
[rminternational.ca/homestay](http://rminternational.ca/homestay)

**For more information, contact:**  
Ulli Murtagh Program Coordinator  
[ulli.murtagh@sd6.bc.ca](mailto:ulli.murtagh@sd6.bc.ca)  
(250) 432-5904

**Why host?**

- Global connections
- Cultural enrichment
- Lifelong friendships
- Community support
- Receive \$1400-\$1650/month

Dear Fernie!

This September, Fernie will be receiving international students from Germany, Luxembourg, and New Zealand in Grades 10 and 11. We are still looking for host families that would open their home and family to one or two of these students. Monthly homestay fees are \$1,400 - \$1,650 per student. If you are not able to host yourself, but know of someone that is interested, please take advantage of our referral reward of \$500 (only until April 30!!). Host families are matched with their student mid-May, so don't wait to apply or refer someone.

For more details see attached flyer, visit our [website](http://rminternational.ca/homestay), or email [ulli.murtagh@sd6.bc.ca](mailto:ulli.murtagh@sd6.bc.ca).

# East Kootenay Regional Science Fair

Although SD5's group was small, we were mighty! Eight students combined from Laurie Middle School, Parkland Middle School, and Fernie Secondary School received medals, door prizes, scholarships, and special awards.

## **FERNIE SECONDARY SCHOOL**

### **ORIGINAL PROJECT AWARD - EKRSFS**

Fernanda Gonzalez and Arlo Jamin, Fernie Secondary School

Project Name: Code vs Conscience: Comparing AI Reasoning to Human Thought

• \$100 Each awarded to the most original project in grades 6 to 12.

### **JULIA LANE AWARD- Julia Lane Foundation**

Ellie Colden, Fernie Secondary School

Project Name: The Durability Test of Different Types of Clays

• \$300 To be awarded to a student with a passion for science and community. Preference given to female candidates with projects relating to Geology or Earth and Environmental Sciences.

### **BC GAME DEVELOPERS INNOVATION AWARDS - INTERMEDIATE (Gr. 9-10)**

-Blackbird Interactive, Codename Entertainment, EA, Klei Entertainment

Lucas Gemmell, Fernie Secondary School

Project Name: Home to Text AI: The Future of Property Descriptions

• \$100 To be awarded to the student(s) whose project demonstrates creativity and innovation in computer science, mathematics, engineering, or astronomy.

### **SHAD CANADA COMMUNITY CHANGEMAKER PRIZE**

Lucas Gemmell, Fernie Secondary School

Project Name: Home to Text AI: The Future of Property Descriptions

• \$750 (towards SHAD 2026 fees) to be awarded to a Grade 9 or 10 student whose project demonstrates creativity, curiosity, and the potential for social impact.

### **GENOME BRITISH COLUMBIA AWARD -Genome BC**

Pari Parmar, Fernie Secondary School

Project Name: The Preemie Project

• \$300 To be awarded to two projects dealing with a topic of genomic interest. Students in all grades are eligible for this award.

### **GENOME BRITISH COLUMBIA SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATIONS - Genome British Columbia**

Pari Parmar, Fernie Secondary School

Project Name: The Preemie Project Pari Parmar

• \$1,000 (nomination) To be awarded to a Grade 11 or 12 student who has developed a science and technology project focused on areas of strategic importance such as human health, forestry, fisheries, agriculture, bioenergy, mining, and the environment. The winner must pursue a science degree in British Columbia. (The completed nomination forms must be submitted to the Science Fair Foundation of BC by May 31, 2025.)

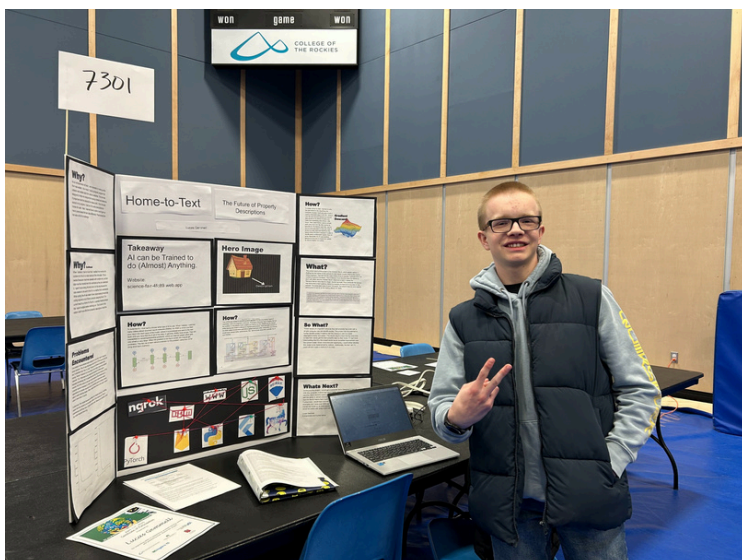
### **COLLEGE OF THE ROCKIES YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD**

Pari Parmar, Fernie Secondary School

Project Name: The Preemie Project Pari Parmar

• \$500 Tuition Scholarship

Through these awards, College of the Rockies recognizes the contributions to science made by students in the East Kootenays. Available to East Kootenay residents in Grades 11 or 12 presenting a project that is exceptional in terms of scientific design and originality.



**FERNIE SECONDARY SCHOOL PRESENTS:**

*May 27, 28, & 29, 2025*



# BEETLEJUICE

*The Musical. The Musical. The Musical.*

7 PM AT FSS TRAYNOR HALL - DOORS OPEN AT 6PM

TICKETS: \$12 - AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT FSS DRAMA ROOM  
OR BIG BANG BAGELS

**Tickets are for sale at Big Bang Bagels or the Drama Room**

# Content for Parent Newsletters

## HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOLS

[April 2025](#)

### MENTAL HEALTH

**For Caregivers/Parents from the BC Association of Clinical Counsellors**

[Caregivers and the Teen Years: How to Navigate Your Relationship, Healthy Boundaries, and Conflict](#)

Tuesday, April 29th | 6 - 7pm, free virtual public event

[Link](#)



### Matters of the Mind | Caregivers and the Teen Years: How to Navigate Your Relationship, Healthy Boundaries, and Conflict

April 29 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm PDT

◆ Public Event

FREE

## CREATING A SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION PLAN

A **WEBINAR** FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS & CAREGIVERS

Join leading adolescent **Clinical Psychologist** Dr. Hayley Watson, as she helps you create a **personalized step-by-step plan** for implementing **substance use prevention skills** in your home. Dr. Watson will focus on specific steps you can take to ensure that **you and your family are supported** as you teach substance use prevention skills to your child/youth.



### Key Takeaways:

- 🕒 Learn the skills that will help prevent your child and youth from using substances
- 🧠 Navigate the challenges that arise while teaching these skills to your child/youth
- 📋 Create a step-by-step plan for implementing substance use prevention strategies
- 👨👩👧👦 Increase your ability to support yourself and your child/youth at the same time

**Time:** 6-7:30pm PST (includes Q&A!)  
**Date:** April 29th, May 7th and 8th 2025

Scan the QR Code to Register



**REGISTER NOW**



# School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)

## 2025-2026 Annual School Calendar

July 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



School Breaks



Professional Development Day



Stat Holidays



Administrative Day

Approved by Ministry of Education and Child Care  
March 7, 2025

# 2025-2026 Calendar Legend

From the School Act, sections 87.01 and 87.02 and the new  
School Calendar Regulation

Days in Session	180
Days of Instruction	173
School Breaks	68
Non-Instructional Professional Development	6
Administrative Day	1
Weekend	104
Stat Holidays	13
First Day of School	September 2, 2025
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	September 30, 2025
Thanksgiving Day	October 13, 2025
Remembrance Day	November 11, 2025
Christmas vacation period	December 23, 2025 -January 3, 2026
Schools reopen after Christmas vacation	January 5, 2026
First day of second semester	January 27, 2026
Family Day	February 16, 2026
Spring vacation period	March 16-27, 2026
Schools reopen after spring vacation	March 30, 2026
Good Friday	April 3, 2026
Easter Monday	April 6, 2026
Victoria Day	May 18, 2026
Last day of school for students	June 25, 2026
Administrative Day	June 26, 2026