

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

## Principal's Message

Welcome students, parents and caregivers to the 2024-25 school year at Fernie Secondary School (FSS). We continue to grow our community and we are starting our year with **549 students** and **56 staff!** We welcomed grade 7 students from Isabella Dicken Elementary, as well as new students from other schools in the Elk Valley, Alberta, across Canada, Germany, the Philippines and Australia. Our first two weeks were buzzing with activity and a bit of chaos as we adjusted to our new linear timetable for grades 7-9 and our increased numbers. We have now completed course changes and have most of our staff in place.



I am excited to share that we have permanently added the following teachers to our staff: Mr. Preston (Learning Services), Ms. Lee (Social Studies, Careers, English), Mr. Vanthuyne (English), Mr. Gulyas (Physical and Health Education, English), Mrs. Lentz (Physical and Health Education, Science) and Ms. Moore (Mathematics) to our team. We also have Ms. Patel (Science, Chemistry), Mrs. Larsen (History, Social Studies) and Mrs. Gemmell (Learning Services) joining our teaching staff this year. Mrs. Mutchter and Mr. Singh have joined our Education Assistant Team.

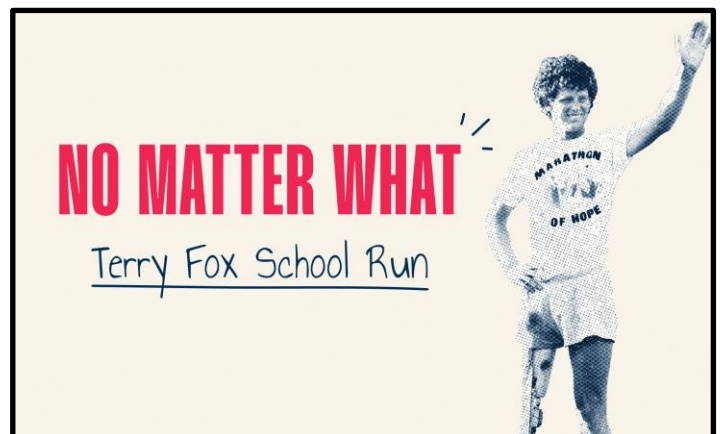
Everyone is encouraged to stay connected with what's happening at FSS. Start by reading the **monthly newsletter** where we will highlight important news, events, and school updates. This will be emailed to you and posted on the school website. You can also expect to receive timely **emails** through our **School Messenger App**. We have a [Fernie Secondary Facebook Group](#) where we will be sharing news, photos, and stories from the school community. You can visit the [FSS School Website](#) any time to access essential information about academic programs, resources, event calendars, contact information and more.

Please reach out with any questions, feedback, or suggestions you may have. Call the school at 250-423-4471 or send an email to [fss.mailing@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:fss.mailing@sd5.bc.ca).

Appreciatively,

Ms. Neufeld

Parents/caregivers are invited to join the students and staff of FSS and Isabella Dicken Elementary for our annual **Terry Fox Run** on **Thursday, Sept 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:40 pm**. Please gather on the outside of the track while we organize our students and join us when we head out on the run.



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### School Counsellor

Karen Walker – [karen.walker@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:karen.walker@sd5.bc.ca)

Lindsay Knight – [Lindsay.knight@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:Lindsay.knight@sd5.bc.ca)

### Indigenous Education Support Worker

Willow Burk (IESW) [willow.burk@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:willow.burk@sd5.bc.ca)

Deb Springle (Elder in Residence) [deb.springle@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:deb.springle@sd5.bc.ca)

### Youth Care Worker Support

Lisa Bax (YCW) [lisa.bax@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:lisa.bax@sd5.bc.ca)

Sherry Bylsma (YCW) [sherry.bylsma@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:sherry.bylsma@sd5.bc.ca)



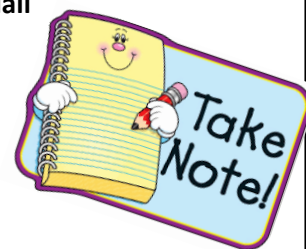
### **BREAKFAST CLUB AT FERNIE SECONDARY!**

Breakfast Club is up and running again for the 2024-2025 school year. All students are welcome to join us in Traynor Hall from 8:00-8:35 for something to start the day off right! We offer a variety of cereals with milk, fresh fruit, bagels, yogurt, cheese, granola bars/fruit bars, applesauce, homemade muffins and warm toast with peanut butter and jam on Chef Kristy's amazing homemade bread. Our school was fortunate to once again be the recipient of a very generous grant through PC (Presidents' Choice) Children's Charity, and once again Save-On Foods has extended a 15% discount to help support our school food program. There is no charge to join us for Breakfast and it is open to our entire student body. Come say hi!

### Upcoming Dates to Note:

- Tuesday, Sept 17<sup>th</sup>
- Wednesday, Sept 18<sup>th</sup>
- Thursday, Sept 19<sup>th</sup>
- Friday, Sept 20<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday, Sept 24<sup>th</sup>
- Wednesday Sept 25<sup>th</sup>
- Wednesday Sept 25<sup>th</sup>
- Friday, Sept 27<sup>th</sup>
- Friday, Sept 27<sup>th</sup>
- Monday, Sept 30<sup>th</sup>
- Wednesday, Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Monday, Oct 14<sup>th</sup>
- Friday, Oct 25<sup>th</sup>

**ERA/ AmbassadorWild Watershed River Clean Up day**  
**Grade 10-12 Parent Information Night 7:00 pm Traynor Hall**  
**Terry Fox Run, 1:40 pm: Meet on the FSS Soccer Field**  
**No School: Professional Development Day**  
**Rock Solid: Grade 7's**  
**U of C Presentation for Indigenous Students**  
**Parent Advisory Council Annual General Meeting, 7 pm**  
**Reconciliation Day**  
**BC Post Secondary Fair**  
**National Day For Truth and Reconciliation: No School**  
**College of the Rockies Trades Expo Day**  
**No School: Thanksgiving Day**  
**No School: Professional Development Day**



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## THINGS TO KNOW:



Ministry of  
Education

MyEducationBC

[MyEducationBC](#) is the system used across the province for managing student information such as attendance and report cards. The family portal allows parents to have access\* to the MyEducation BC system where you can view report cards, attendance, demographics, and progress towards graduation. Please visit the [FSS Website](#) for help accessing the Family Portal.

For safety and efficiency reasons, School District 5 - Southeast Kootenay would like to reduce the amount of cash & cheques coming into our schools. Please join the thousands of parents who have already registered and are enjoying the

convenience of paying ONLINE! It takes less than 5 minutes to register. To set up your account please visit

<https://sd5.schoolcashionline.com/>

Pay school fees online

SchoolCashOnline



On January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Province announced three actions for safety and wellbeing of students in relation to digital technology. The announcement included restrictions on the use of cell phones in schools to be put in place for September 1, 2024.

Effective September 1, 2024, students will be expected to adhere to [School District No 5 AP 145: Use of Cell phones and Digital Devices](#). As a school we have developed a school protocol for this policy: [FSS Cell Phones and Digital](#)

[Devices Student Use](#) Protocol. Both of these documents are available for viewing/downloading on the [Fernie Secondary Website](#). We appreciate all the support we have received from parents and students as we implement this new protocol.

### School Messenger [SMS](#)

Our district utilizes the [School Messenger System](#) to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more. You can join by sending a text message of "Yes" or "Y to 978338. Please make sure you are utilizing the cellular number that the school has on record. The cellular phone number for SMS must match the contact information on file.

