

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



Hello FSS Families,

I hope you all had an excellent spring break and were able to spend quality time with those you care about. Now that the break is over, we are in a sprint toward the end of June. Here are some important items coming up in April:

Graduation assessments are scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, Wednesday, April 22 and Thursday, April 23. During this session, we will be administering the Literacy 12 assessment, as well as any outstanding assessments that our Grade 12 students may have missed. Our goal is to ensure that all graduates can move toward June with confidence and peace of mind.

Our Grade 10 students will complete their Literacy 10 and Numeracy 10 assessments in June, after they have had additional time to build their skills in their English and Math courses.

Quarter 3 ends on April 16, and learning updates (report cards) will be published on Tuesday, April 28. Please ensure you can log in to MyEd to review your child(ren)'s progress. During the last reporting period, some families experienced issues after creating a second MyEd account. Please avoid creating a new account using your BCeID, as that account conflicts with your SD5 account and will prevent access to your child's learning update.

As the weather warms, I hope you can get outside and enjoy our beautiful community.

Regards,

Jason Sommerfeld

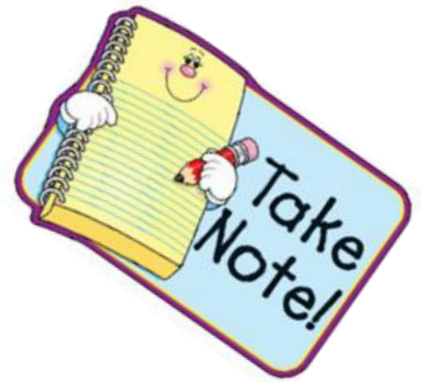
Principal

Fernie Secondary School

I am grateful to learn, work, and play on the Homelands of the Ktunaxa people.

Upcoming Dates to Note:

- Apr. 14th – PARTY Program
- Apr. 15th – PAC: Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
- Apr. 16th – Careers 10 Job Fair
- Apr. 17th – Yellow Day – NO SCHOOL
- Apr. 20th-24th – Grad Assessment Open (Grade 12s)
- Apr. 20th – Start of Quarter 4
- Apr. 24th- Thursday Day 2 Schedule
- Apr. 27th- Pro-D Day – NO SCHOOL
- May 1st – Monday Day 2 Schedule
- May 5th-May 7th – Band Trip to Calgary
- May 8th- Tuesday Day 1 Schedule
- May 13th – FSS Pride Event
- May 15th - YELLOW DAY – NO SCHOOL



School Counsellor

Karen Walker – karen.walker@sd5.bc.ca

Andrea Reed – andrea.reed@sd5.bc.ca

Sarah Hallett – sarah.hallett@sd5.bc.ca

Indigenous Education Support Worker

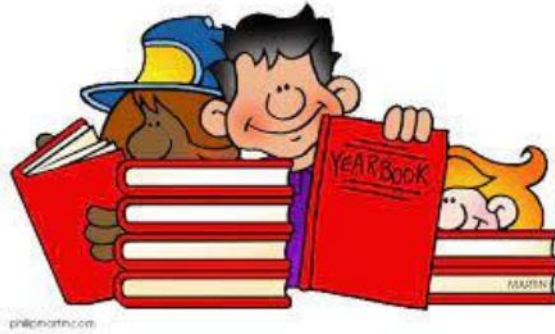
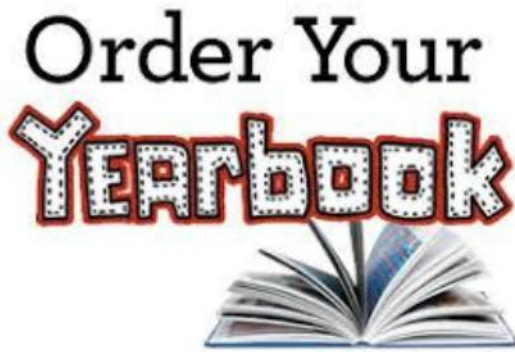
Willow Burk (IESW) willow.burk@sd5.bc.ca

Deb Springle (Elder in Residence) deb.springle@sd5.bc.ca

Youth Care Worker Support

Lisa Bax (YCW) lisa.bax@sd5.bc.ca

Sherry Bylsma (YCW) sherry.bylsma@sd5.bc.ca



You can order your yearbook on SchoolCash Online

Student Council

Student council has been up to a bunch of different events and initiatives throughout March and April. The highlights throughout the last and current months have been the creation of an International Women's Day display that featured images and descriptions of women who have been pioneers in their times for Women's rights and opportunities. In honour of International Women's Day, the student council organized and hosted a clothing drive and pop-up thrift shop. All of the proceeds from the event were donated to the Fernie Women's Resource Centre, and any extra clothing was also given to the centre. Throughout April, we have been organizing our annual trash bash event for Earth Day, where the entire school community works together to make our community as trash-free as possible. We have been coordinating with local community groups to gather supplies and split up responsibilities, and we look forward to hosting the event on April 24th. Further, we have begun to plan our assembly and events to recognize Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and we are communicating with Elders in our community to properly recognize this movement. We will continue to work on campaigns throughout the next couple months until the end of the school year, and we look forward to updating you all on what we will be working on.

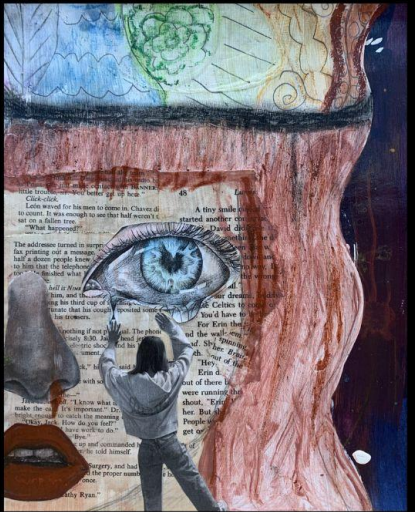
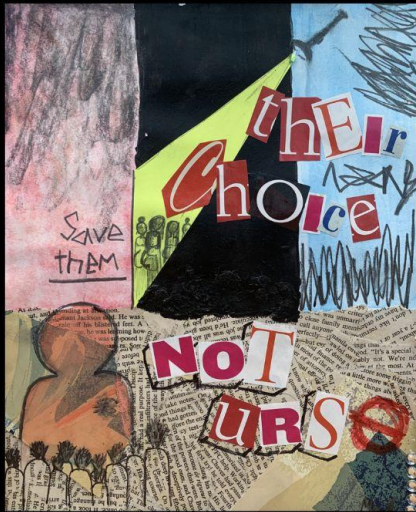
Outdoor Education: Bread Making with Honey Butter Along the Elk River

The Outdoor Education 8/9 class recently enjoyed a beautiful afternoon along the Elk River, combining hands-on learning with the natural beauty of our local community.

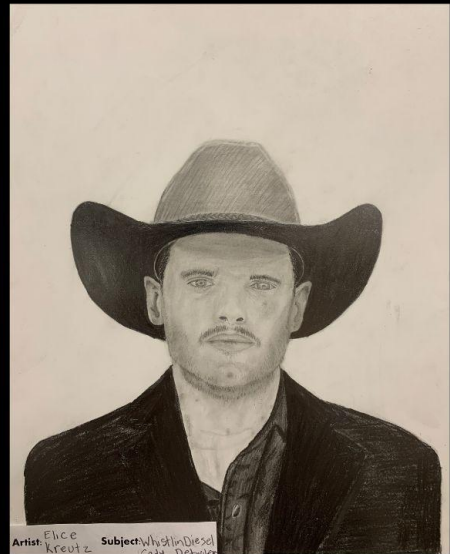
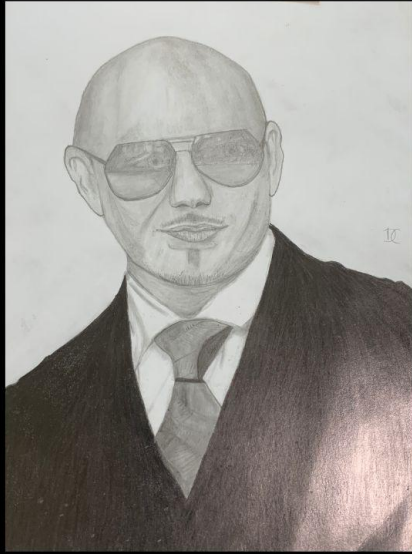
Students began by learning about BC campfire regulations, the fire triangle, and essential fire safety practices. Working in small groups, they planned and organized their approach before preparing and cooking homemade bread over the campfire. Inspired by The Outdoor Boys, students also made a simple honey butter, adding a delicious reward to their efforts.

This experience highlighted teamwork, responsibility, and practical outdoor skills, while creating a memorable, shared experience outside the classroom.

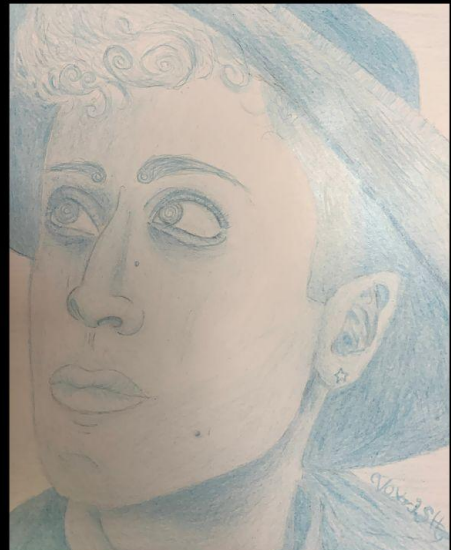
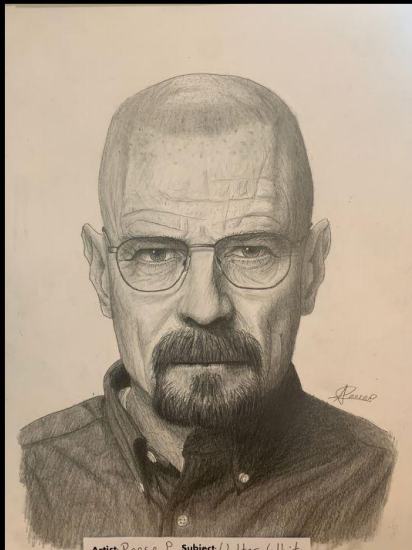




8/9 MIXED MEDIA PROJECTS



SENIOR ART PORTRAIT DRAWING





FSS *You've Got Talent*



SHOW YOUR TALENT Get Creative!

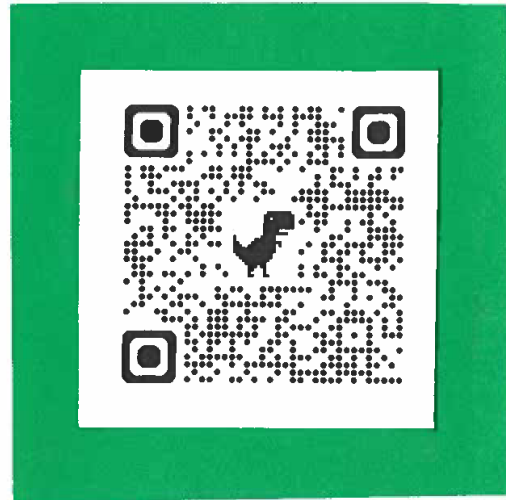
Sing, dance, juggle,
(clean) comedy
show...you name it, we
would love to see you!
Groups are welcome.

Contest is open to
Students and STAFF!
(Encourage your teacher to
show us what they've got!)

*Top winner will
receive a cash prize,
bragging
rights and
name on a
trophy.*



*Second and third
place winners will
also win a prize.*



\$5 Entry Fee

(goes towards prizes and future Junior Student council events)

Entry fee can be paid at the
Sign-up table in **Traynor Hall April 13-16**
w/ debit card or School cash Online using the
QR Code above

When is it?

Sign up soon-
pick your first choice of date for the try outs.

Sign up April 13-16 (Monday-Thursday)

Try outs April 20-24 at lunch
(In Drama Room-Monday through Friday)

Grand Finale- Tuesday, April 28

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 7,10,11, and 12 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 the school at fss.mailing@sd5.bc.ca

Content for Parent Newsletters

HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOLS

APRIL 2026

DENTAL HEALTH

April is Oral Health Month!



Healthy smiles help children learn, grow, and feel their best. Taking care of teeth and gums starts with simple daily habits like brushing twice a day with fluoride toothpaste, flossing daily, eating healthy foods, and visiting a dental professional regularly. Good oral health supports overall health and helps prevent problems before they start. This month is a great reminder for students and families to focus on the basics and keep smiles bright at every age. Click [here](#) for more dental health information.

LEGAL SUBSTANCES

Calling All Teens: Join the YOUTHWISE Advisory Group!

Interior Health is looking for youth ages **13–19** to join the **YOUTHWISE Advisory Group**. This team of young advisors helps improve health and wellness services for teens across our region.

Members meet **online every 6–8 weeks** and are **paid \$30/hour** for their participation. If you live in the Interior Health region, have internet access, and want to share your ideas to support youth health, this is a great opportunity to get involved.

To learn more or sign up:

LegalSubstances@interiorhealth.ca

Help shape a healthier future for youth in Interior Health!

MENTAL HEALTH

Podcast highlight: Supporting your Kids Through Trauma

When it comes to supporting children and youth through trauma there are things that parents can do to help. This podcast touches on what trauma is, how it can show up for kids, and its impact on mental health. This episode also outlines ways parents can support their child at home. Listen to the [podcast](#) or click here to [learn more about Trauma & PTSD](#)

Starting a Conversation About Bullying: Resources for Families

Bullying can significantly impact a young person's mental health and well-being. Families and educators can play an important role in intervening if bullying is suspected. [Check out tips](#) from Kelty Mental Health for parents and caregivers on how you can support your child if they are being bullied, or if they are bullying.