

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,

As our first semester comes to a close, I would like to share how much I have appreciated my time at Fernie Secondary so far. I have been warmly welcomed by students, staff, and the greater school community, which has helped me settle in quickly. It has also been encouraging to hear positive feedback on the direction of our school from so many members of our school community.

With the end of the semester approaching, learning updates (report cards) will be available on Monday, February 9. Families can access these through the parent portal in MyEd.

The conclusion of Semester One also marks the first opportunity this year to celebrate our graduating students through their Capstone Exhibition. FSS families are invited to join us on Wednesday, January 21, at 2:00 p.m. to view the impressive work our Grade 12 students have completed. As the Grade 12 Careers and Capstone course is still relatively new, it may be unfamiliar to some families. We encourage everyone to attend the exhibition, even if you do not currently have a student in Grade 12.

As always, please feel free to reach out at any time if you have questions or would like to connect regarding school programming or expectations.

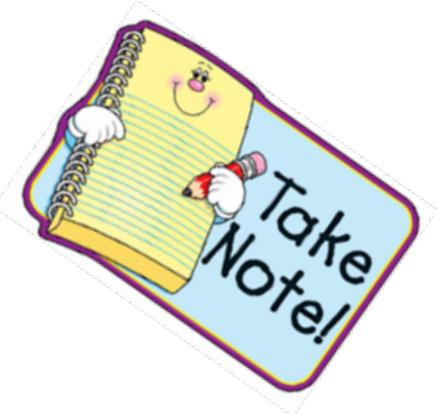
Regards,

Jason Sommerfeld



Upcoming Dates to Note:

- Jan. 12th-23th – Grad Assessments
- Jan. 14th – Parent Grad Meeting – 7:00pm
- Jan. 16th – NO SCHOOL – Yellow Day
- Jan. 19th – Grade 10-12 Ski Day
- Jan. 21st – Grade 10 PE Rock Climbing Bowling Field Trip
- Jan. 21st – Capstone Fair in the Library – 1:40pm
- Jan. 26th – End of Quarter 2/Semester 1
- Feb. 5th – Grade 8-9 Ski Day
- Feb. 6th – Wednesday Day 1
- Feb. 9-12th – Grad Photos in the Library
- Feb. 9th – Learning Updates Published
- Feb. 13th – NO SCHOOL – Yellow Day
- Feb. 16th – NO SCHOOL – Family Day
- Feb. 18th – Grade 9 Immunizations
- Feb. 20th – Thursday Day 1



School Counsellor

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

Indigenous Education Support Worker

Willow Burk (IESW) willow.burk@sd5.bc.ca
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Youth Care Worker Support

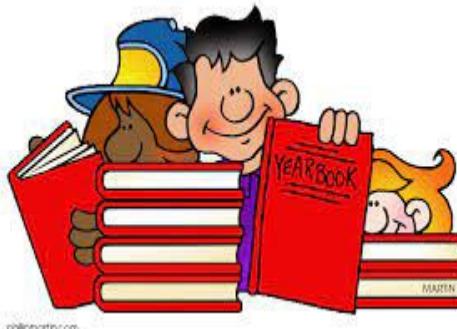
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Order Your
YEARBOOK



You can order your yearbook on School Cash Online

Student Council

In December, the Student Council partnered with the Fernie Food Security Society to support our community during the holiday season. Students organized a food drive to assemble totes for local families over the winter break, donating more than 500 items. These totes included essential food items as well as a few special treats to enjoy during the holidays. Special shoutout to Mrs. Adams' food class, who baked over 1000 cookies and made over 20 jars of homemade granola for families in need.

The Student Council also helped coordinate an Angel Tree initiative, where families could adopt an angel and purchase gifts for a student in need. Thanks to this collective effort, gifts were provided to 110 students who may not have otherwise received one this season. A huge thank you to everyone who participated and brought our community some cheer this year!

In addition, Student Council brought festive energy to the school by hosting a spirit week that included dress-up days, a stocking hunt around the school, and a door decorating competition, which was won by the Art class. Candy grams were also sold at lunch and delivered to students just before the winter break. We hope that everyone had a safe and restful holiday, and we look forward to planning more events in the future!





Content for Parent Newsletters

HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOLS

January 2026

WINTER HEALTH TIPS

Handwashing Tips

When done properly, good hand hygiene is the best way to prevent the transmission of disease. This hand hygiene article offers reminders for proper hand washing and hand sanitizer use, including when it is best to use soap and water and when to use alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Parents and caregivers can also find illustrations to help them teach their child how to properly wash their hands. To learn more, please visit www.aboutkidshealth.ca/handwashing

New Colour-Coded Weather Alerts

Canadians know how quickly the weather can change—and how important it is to be prepared for when it does. That's why

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has introduced new colour-coded weather alerts. Under this new system all weather alerts—Warnings, Advisories, and Watches—are now colour-coded, moving from yellow, to orange, to red as the potential risk increases. ECCC's forecasters choose the colours based on how confident they are that the weather will happen, and the possible impacts that weather may have. By giving alert colours meaning, Canadians are now able to get at-a-glance information about the potential risk a weather hazard poses to them. For more information on what the colours mean click [here](#)



Canada.ca/Weather-Alerts

Canada

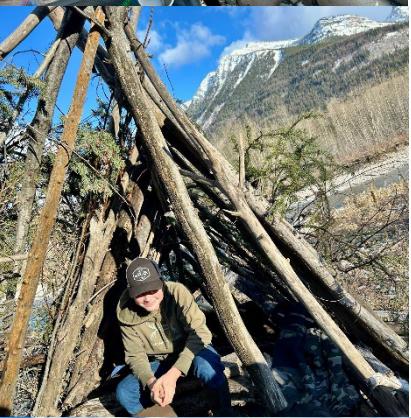
SCREEN TIME

Protecting Youth Online

Violent online groups are targeting children and teens through social media and gaming platforms, coercing them into harmful acts and spreading extremist ideologies. Parents and caregivers should watch for warning signs like secretive app use, sudden interest in violent content, or withdrawal. Learn more and get prevention tips: [Read the RCMP report](#).



Students in the FSS Outdoor Education 8/9 class participated in the Elk River Gourmet Campfire Cookout after spending several weeks preparing for the experience. Leading up to the event, students learned about BC Campfire Regulations, fire safety, meal planning, and outdoor cooking, built shelters, and practiced teamwork and problem solving — with some students even cooking steaks from elk they had harvested themselves.



CAPSTONE PROJECT FAIR



The *Career Life Connections* and *Carrière 12: Liens avec la vie personnelle et professionnelle* students will be presenting their Capstone projects on **Wednesday, January 21st, from 2:00 – 3:00 pm** in the **Fernie Secondary Library and Traynor Hall**.

Fernie Secondary families and Capstone mentors are welcome to attend! We are excited to celebrate our students' hard work, knowledge, effort, and creativity 😊

We look forward to seeing you at the Fair and to sharing in the success of all our students!

Sincerely,
Tonja Skead & Danielle Gibson

Thank you, EVR!!



FSS would like to give EVR a huge shout out for the generous donation that helped our Jr. Boys and Girls volleyball teams get to their Championship games, as well as our Sr. Boys and Girls volleyball teams getting to Provincials.

