

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 we move into the winter season, I would like to congratulate all of our teams and athletes who represented our school at provincials. Your hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship make our entire school community proud. I would also like to give a big shoutout to our Senior Girls Volleyball team, who played their hearts out, earning second at provincials. Lastly, I would like to wish our students, staff, and families a safe, restful, and happy winter break. Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year.

Jason Sommerfeld

Principal

Fernie Secondary School

102 Fairway Drive, V0B 1M0

(250) 423-4471

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



Upcoming Dates to Note:

- Dec. 1st-15th – Holiday Food Drive
- Dec. 1st-15th – Angel Tree Fundraiser
- Dec. 9th – Winter Band Concert
- Dec. 11th – Movie Night
- Dec. 12th – Yellow Day – NO School
- Dec. 15th-19th – Spirit Week
- Dec. 17th – Craft Fair
- Dec. 19th – Day 1 - Wednesday
- Dec 22nd – Jan 2nd – Winter Break
- Jan. 5th – First day after Winter Break
- Jan. 8th – Student Grad Meeting – Lunch time in the library
- Jan. 9th – Day 2 – Thursday
- Jan. 14th – Parent Grad Meeting – 7:00pm in the library
- Jan. 16th – Yellow Day – NO School



School Counsellor

Karen Walker – karen.walker@sd5.bc.ca

Lindsay Knight – Lindsay.knight@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

Holiday Food Drive

Our annual Food Drive will be running from December 1–15 in collaboration with the Fernie Food Security Society, and each class will receive a collection box by the end of the week! This year, we have been asked to focus on specific high-need items, including candy canes, pasta sauce, pasta, hot chocolate, cranberry sauce, mini marshmallows, Rice Krispies, granola bars, granola, syrup, pancake mix, pretzels, gravy mix, peanut butter, salad dressing, apple sauce, chicken broth, and crackers. If your family is able to contribute, we would be so grateful, as every item makes a difference for local families. As a fun incentive, the Block A class that brings in the most total items will win a pizza lunch! Thank you for supporting our school community and the Fernie Food Security Society this holiday season.



Angel Tree Fundraiser

From December 1–15, our school will be running an Angel Tree in the office, open to all staff and students who wish to support a local child in need this holiday season. The tree will be decorated with paper angel tags (each listing the age, gender, and wish list of a child), and these will be ready by the end of the week. Anyone who would like to participate can take an angel from the tree, scan the QR code to record their name and the child's number, purchase a gift of approximately \$50, and return it wrapped to place under the tree. All donated gifts will be delivered to families in our community before Christmas. Thank you for helping us spread holiday joy and support children who could use a little extra brightness this season.



Candy Grams

We will be selling Candy Grams in the week leading up to Spirit Week in Traynor Hall, with candy canes available for \$1 each at lunchtime. All proceeds will go directly to the Fernie Food Security Society, supporting local families during the holiday season. Candy Grams will be delivered to students during Block A on Wednesday, December 17.



Movie Night: Thursday, Dec 11, 6:30pm-10pm

On Thursday, December 11, we'll be hosting a fun School Movie Night for students in Traynor Hall. The Junior Movie will run from 6:30–8:00 PM, followed by the Senior Movie from 8:30–10:00 PM. Tickets will be available for \$2 both during the week prior in Traynor Hall at lunch and at the door, with all proceeds going to support the Fernie Food Security Society. Students are encouraged to dress cozy and bring some cozy seating options! A variety of snacks will also be available for purchase throughout the evening. Please enter through the gym doors.



FSS
Movie Night

Relax, unwind, and enjoy a movie with friends.
Snacks are available for purchase and all proceeds go to the Fernie Food Security Society.

Location: Traynor Hall (enter via Gym Doors)
Cost: 2\$ (Advance purchase or at the door)

11 DECEMBER, 2025 | JR: 6:30-8PM
THURSDAY SR: 8:30-10PM

Craft Fair: Dec 17, 6:30-8pm

Our annual Winter Craft Fair will take place on Wednesday, December 17, from 6:30–8:00 PM in Traynor Hall. Students, staff, families, and community members are invited to browse a variety of handmade items, baked goods, and creative projects produced by our talented students and local makers. If your student has something they would like to sell, they are welcome to participate for free—they can sign up using the QR code on the event poster or by emailing the school. It's a wonderful opportunity to pick up unique holiday gifts while supporting student creativity. We hope to see you there!



The poster features a decorative border with musical notes and swirls at the top and bottom. On the left and right sides, there are illustrations of green Christmas trees with white ornaments and stars. The text is centered and uses a mix of green, red, and black colors. A QR code is prominently displayed in the center-right, with a black button below it that says 'SIGN UP HERE' in white capital letters. The overall theme is festive and inviting.

Sign up for the

**FERNIE SECONDARY
HOLIDAY MARKET**

Student, staff, class and club vendors all welcome!

What you can sell:
*Anything handmade or
self-designed!*
Baked goods, woodwork,
sewing, art, clay,
ceramics, self-designed 3D
prints, handmade or
repurposed clothing, the
list goes on!



SIGN UP HERE

**This is a FREE, low-stakes chance to run your own
business, share your creations, or just to have fun!**

Spirit Week Dec 15-19

Students can look forward to themed dress-up days all week, including Meme Monday, Zoom Call Day, One-Colour Wednesday, Ugly Sweater Day, and Pajama Day. Special activities include a stocking hunt, a student council bake sale supporting the Fernie Food Security Society, candy gram delivery, and door-decorating contests. Wednesday is also the final day for our Food Drive and Angel Tree programs, and our school Craft Fair will take place that evening from 6:30–8:00 pm in Traynor Hall. See poster for more details!

HOLIDAY *Spirit Week*

DECEMBER 2025

15 MONDAY	THEME: MEME MONDAY DRESS AS YOUR FAVORITE MEME OR POP CULTURE REFERENCE!
16 TUESDAY	THEME: ZOOM CALL DAY BUSINESS ON THE TOP COMFY ON THE BOTTOM!
17 WEDNESDAY	THEME: ONE COLOUR WEDNESDAY WEAR ALL THE SAME COLOUR! CANDY GRAMS GET HANDED OUT!
18 THURSDAY	THEME: UGLY SWEATER + HOLIDAY HAT WEAR YOUR FAVORITE UGLY SWEATER AND HOLIDAY HAT! DOOR JUDGING BLOCK A!
19 FRIDAY	THEME: PJ DAY WEAR YOUR BEST COMFY PAJAMAS!

TUESDAY: BAKE SALE @ LUNCH. BUY DELICIOUS HOMEMADE BAKED GOODS!

FIND YOUR STOCKING HIDDEN AROUND THE SCHOOL ALL WEEK!
IF IT HAS A STICKER, BRING IT TO THE OFFICE ANY DAY FOR A PRIZE!

BUY CANDY GRAMS MONDAY AND TUESDAY



FSS Senior Art Class - Portraits

The FSS Senior Art Class proudly presents a diverse showcase of their recent work. Students are exhibiting their finely rendered pencil portrait drawings alongside a unique series of coffee-painted portraits, created using traditional watercolour techniques applied in a new and innovative way.

The Senior Sculpture Class is also sharing an exciting collection of projects, including their Altered Books, Basket Weaving, and a visual journey through the clay bust sculpting process.

Jola Wenda

Fernie Secondary School, teacher

Art & Photography

jolanta.wenda-szolty@sd5.bc.ca

A Giant Thank-you

Paul McKeown – Huge donation -Wood Shop materials, consumables, and tools.

Banditos- Metal Shop Tools and Materials

Matt Joinson- Metal Shop Tools and Materials

Columbia Industries, Mountain Mechanical, TMM Projects Inc., Elk Valley Precision all donated scrap metal to the Metals Shop.

Fernie Home Hardware for the donation of 18 bundles of shingles

Also, the following companies below



On behalf of Fernie Secondary School, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous donation toward materials, tools, and supplies to keep our Wood and Metal shop classes alive. Your support plays a vital role in enriching the educational experience of our students and ensuring they have access to quality tools and resources.

Thanks to your contribution, our students will be able to engage in hands-on learning projects that foster creativity, problem-solving, and practical skills essential for their future careers.

Thank you once again for your kindness and dedication to our school.

Handwritten signatures of Vaughn Olorenshaw and Rhona Kane in black ink.

Vaughn Olorenshaw and Rhona Kane
Woods and Metals Instructors



Pictured left to right: Mark Elson, Leah Folkman, Tanya Malcolm, Nat Parr. Not pictured Deb Davidson

Meet Your Fernie Secondary School PAC!

Hello FSS families! We're your Parent Advisory Council — a group of parents who care deeply about supporting our school community, strengthening the connection between home and school, and helping every student feel seen, supported, and successful.

Our 2025–2026 PAC team includes:

- **Tanya Malcolm, Chair** — parent of a Grade 12 and Grade 7 student
- **Mark Elson, Vice Chair** — parent of a Grade 10 and Grade 8 student
- **Nat Parr, Treasurer** — parent of a Grade 8 student
- **Leah Folkman, Secretary** — parent of a Grade 10 student
- **Deb Davidson, District PAC Representative** — parent of a Grade 9 and Grade 12 student

What does the PAC do?

We advocate for the needs of parents and students, strengthen communication between families and the school, and support meaningful projects through fundraising, community-building, and monthly in-person connection. As a BC PAC, our mission is to lift parent voices, enhance student learning, and help create the best possible school experience for all FSS students.

We would *love* for you to join us!

Our meetings take place on the **3rd Wednesday of every month**, from **7–8:30 pm in the FSS Library**. Upcoming dates:

- **December 17, 2025**
- **January 21, 2026**

Whether you're curious, have ideas to share, or simply want to meet other FSS parents, you are warmly welcomed.

If you ever have questions, feedback, or concerns, please reach out at fsspac7@gmail.com or chat with any of us in person — we're here for you.

Together, let's make this a great year at Fernie Secondary! 🎓 ❤️

Tanya Malcolm *She/Her*
250.278.0667

Shoulder Season Highlights with Mr. Gulyas

Although this month brought a true shoulder season with a tiny bit of snow, students kept the energy high with positivity, movement, and strong engagement. Classes stayed active and connected, and we are excited for winter programming once conditions finally arrive.



Grade 7 and 8 Physical Education Highlights: ALL Grade 7 and 8 students jumped into upbeat, collaborative PE activities, including our hula-hoop skipping challenge, and group skipping challenge which all demanded rhythm, coordination, and teamwork. Students also all went through active and collaborative hygiene lessons. Students brought huge enthusiasm to the school-wide Just Dance session on Halloween. A meaningful visit to the Fernie Cenotaph allowed students to show respect, reflection, and



thoughtful community engagement.

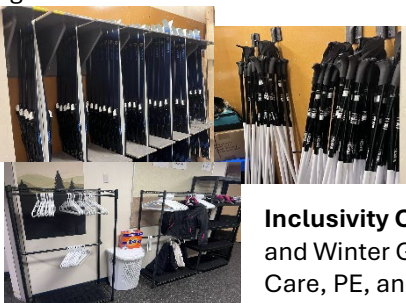
PE 10 – Avalanche Canada, Opioids, Relays and Skipping:

PE 10 students completed essential learning sessions on opioid awareness, backcountry safety, and Avalanche Canada, building important knowledge for safe decision-making in our mountain region. Classes also dove into high-energy skipping challenges and fast-paced relays that showcased outstanding teamwork, strong communication, and impressive cardio effort. The Grade 10s brought real drive and fun to every challenge.



Careers 10 and College of the Rockies: Careers 10 students explored post-secondary pathways during a visit to the College of the Rockies, learning about opportunities in Culinary Arts, Welding, Outdoor Adventure, Business, and Kinesiology. Presenters later visited FSS to expand on Business programs, Youth Train in Trades, Dual

Credit, and Work Experience options. Students showed strong engagement and curiosity as they planned future goals.



PE and Outdoor Education – Ski and Snowshoe Update: Although snow has not arrived, preparations are complete. Our new cross-country ski fleet and snowshoes are *almost* ready for action, and students will begin Nordic skiing and snowshoeing as soon as conditions allow. Thank you to EVR, Fernie Nordic Society, Abbi Moore and the Emily Brydon Foundations, Fernie Lions Club, and FSS PAC for supporting this exciting program.

Inclusivity Clothing and Winter Gear Storage Project: New this year, is the Inclusivity Clothing and Winter Gear Storage Project. This initiative continues to grow with support from PAC, Youth Care, PE, and Student Services. This project hopes to allow a space for all students to have access to warm, reliable clothing for outdoor activities. Donations of teen-appropriate clothing—

shoes(basketball/hiking/court), boots, hats, gloves, snow pants, sweaters, t-shirts, and shorts—are greatly appreciated.

This month has been full of active learning and strong effort across all classes, from energetic PE sessions to Careers students exploring real pathways for their futures. Here is to hoping winter finally turns on the tap and brings us some big, beautiful POW days soon!

Great hustle everyone, Mr. Gulyas

