

Principal's Message

As the new Principal, I am delighted to welcome students, parents, and staff to another exciting year at Fernie Secondary School (FSS). I would like to extend a special welcome to our new grade 7 students, as well as other students returning and new to FSS from Fernie, the Elk Valley, Alberta, across Canada, Germany, Switzerland, and Spain. I look forward to contributing to a fantastic school year ahead and working alongside all the FSS staff, students, and parents to ensure that every student enjoys quality learning experiences in a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment.



This September we welcomed 509 students and over 50 staff to Fernie Secondary School! Our first two weeks were buzzing with activity and a bit of chaos as we adjusted to scheduling challenges and our increased numbers. We have now completed our timetable changes, grade meetings and have most of our staff in place. I am excited to share that we have permanently added Mr. Taylor (Metalwork, Auto Tech, Power tech, Shop), Mr. Olorenshaw, (Woodwork, Computers, Science) Ms. Webber (leadership, English, Career Life, English First Peoples) and Mrs. Wenda (Art, Photography) to our teaching staff. We also have Mrs. Lentz returning this year (Science, Anatomy, Life Sciences) and Ms. Bassett (Music, English). Ms. Albota has joined our Education Assistant Team and Jakub Emond is a new Custodian. We are also lucky to have Maeva Papin join us from France in a Teaching Assistant role and Ms. Springle joining us in an Elder-In-Residence role.

Educating our children is a partnership between school, home, and the community. I encourage all partners to collaborate and become involved within our school to help create new experiences and learning opportunities for all. Some ways to get involved are by joining the Parent Advisory Council (PAC), coaching teams, sponsoring clubs, and helping supervise extra-curricular events such as field trips and dances.

As the Principal, I am committed to facilitating improved communication between the school and home, ensuring that parents and guardians are well-informed and engaged in their child's education journey. There are several ways in which you can expect to stay informed this year. 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.

I encourage you to reach out with any questions, feedback, or suggestions you may have. Do not hesitate to call the school at 250-423-4471 or send an email to fss.mailing@sd5.bc.ca.

Appreciatively,

Ms. Neufeld



School Counsellor

If you need to contact our school counsellor, please see their emails below.

Karen Walker – karen.walker@sd5.bc.ca

Lindsay Knight – Lindsay.knight@sd5.bc.ca

Youth Care Worker Support

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

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



A note from Ms. Willow Burk: Indigenous Education Support Worker

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back students and families to the 2023/2024 school year! I am so excited for a new school year; I know it's going to be a great one. My name is Willow Burk, and I am the Indigenous Education Support Worker for Fernie Secondary School. I work with students from grades 7 to grade 12 who self-identify with indigenous ancestry. By providing support in areas of academics, as an advocate for students, emotional and social support, communication between home and school, educational trips, history, language, and culture. There are always opportunities and support for Indigenous students at FSS. Together we will work to promote success for indigenous learners in many different areas over their academic experience.

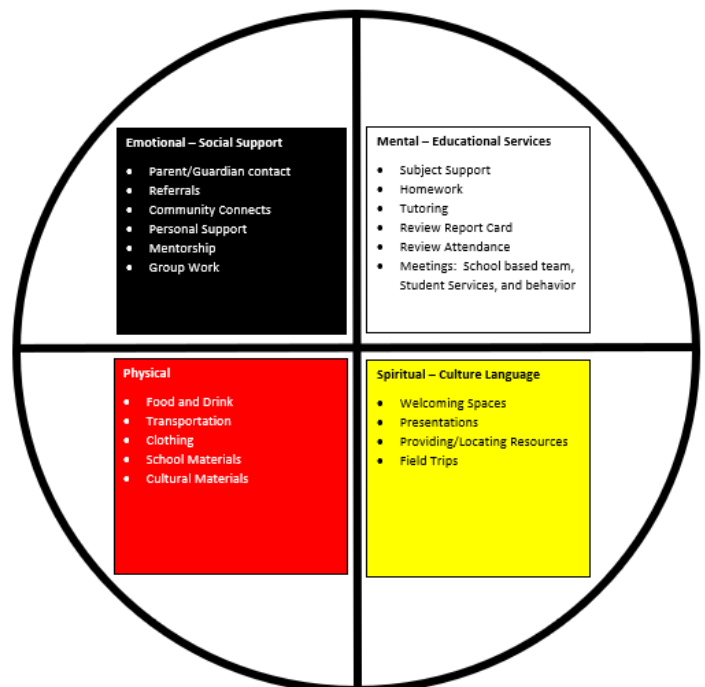
I am looking forward to a new school year of working with your child. There are lots of exciting presentations for whole classes as well as indigenous projects, groups, and field trips in the future. Reminder for those that know, and new students, that there are laptops in my room for students to use so please come and use them whenever you need to work on assignments or projects. The Indigenous space is a supporting and safe space. Please remember I am here to help; if there is anything I can do please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Willow Burk
Indigenous Education Support Worker
Willow.burk@sd5.bc.ca

FSS Indigenous Education Support Services

Medicine Wheel



Fernie Secondary School School Messenger SMS

September 19, 2023

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.



*if your number is Canada-based.

SchoolCashOnline
KEVGROUP

Fast. Safe. Convenient.

Register Today!

1. Create Your Profile

Go to <https://district.schoolcashionline.com/> and click on "Get Started Today".

2. Confirm Your Email

Check your inbox for the email confirmation and click on the link inside. Sign in with your new login details.

Stay connected by selecting "Yes" to email notifications about upcoming fees.

- I want to receive email notifications for new fees assigned to my student and updates on school-related activities.

3. Add a Student

Click "Add Student" and fill in the required fields with your child's details.

Why sign up for School Cash Online?

School Cash Online is an online parent portal that offers a safe, fast and convenient way to pay for school activity fees.

- ✓ Pay for your child's school fees online. Anytime, anywhere.
- ✓ Stop sending your child to school with money.
- ✓ Get automatic email notifications about upcoming school fees and activities.

Purchase these items and more online.

Use your computer, tablet or smartphone to register and pay online.



Which payment methods are accepted?

Credit Card

Pay with Visa or MasterCard on School Cash Online by entering your credit card number, CVV number (the three digits on the back of your card), card expiry date, and billing information.

eCheck

An electronic version of a paper check used to make payments online. Anyone with a checking or savings account can pay by eCheck on School Cash Online.

myWallet

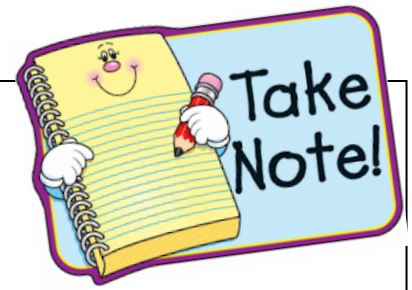
An online wallet that can be loaded to hold funds and pay for your child's fees on School Cash Online. myWallet also allows you to allocate funds to pay for school fees at a later date.

Interac Online

Pay directly from your bank account with Interac Online.

For more information, contact Parent Helpdesk at
parenthelp@schoolcashionline.com or 1.866.961.1803

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Upcoming Dates to Note:

- Wednesday, Sept 20th: Parent Advisory Council Meeting 7 PM
- Wednesday, Sept 20th: Elk River Alliance & FSS Shoreline Clean Up
- Thursday, Sept 21st: **Terry Fox Run 10:00 am**
- Friday, Sept 22nd: District Pro Dev Day: No School for Students
- Friday- Sat., Sept 22-23: Junior Boys Volleyball Home tournament: Come Cheer Them On!
- Tuesday, Sept 26th: School Photos
- Wednesday Sept. 27th: AB Universities Education Fair (gr 11-12)
- Wednesday, Sept 27th: Drama Club Trip to Calgary Theatre
- Friday, Sept 29th: **Orange Shirt Day**
- Monday, Oct. 2nd: No School National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Monday, Oct. 9th: No School Thanksgiving