

# Fernie Secondary

February 13, 2023



## Principal's Message:

Hello FSS Families!

We have had a successful start to semester two and report cards were sent home last week. Report cards will also be available through the family portal. All families were sent information about how to access the family portal and more information is in this newsletter.

Our staff had a successful professional development day last week. Many of our staff spent some time together discussing a book about teen cell phone use with one of the authors of the book. The book is called: Behind Their Screens – What Teens are Facing (and Adults are Missing) written by Emily Weinstein and Carrie James. The information from the book provided our staff with a fresh perspective about teen use of cell phones. The research findings from this book will help inform and guide our school based interventions. It is clear that schools and families must work together to teach responsible usage and digital citizenship. A resource that is very useful is [Common Sense Media](#). There are many useful resources and ideas to support your children with how they use their cell phones.

Activity day is quickly approaching on February 15, 2023. We have activities for students that include skiing, climbing, fat biking, attending a local movie, painting, baking, playing board games, gym games, card games, paper art and reading. Our staff are working together to provide your children structured and supervised opportunities to have fun at school and build positive relationships among peers. A positive relationship with school and with peers has a positive impact on well being and achievement in school. Some activities have a cost, and many are free. If there is a cost related to the activity your child has selected, you will be sent a link to pay using school cash online.

We are happy to have a positive start to this semester. If you have any questions, concerns or support for our school, please reach out to us. We appreciate hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Erin Hay

## Support for Students and Families!

This year the provincial government has provided schools with a one-time Student Affordability Fund. The intention of this fund is to support families who are experiencing more significant financial stress this year.

If you would like support for your children, please reach out to any member of our school staff you are comfortable sharing your situation with.



✓ groceries    ✓ school fees

✓ clothing    ✓ necessities



## Before You Post

# THINK

**T** - is it True?

**H** - is it Helpful?

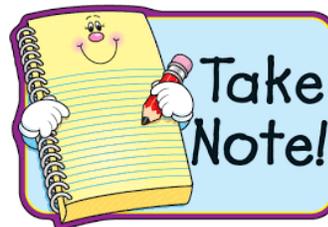
**I** - is it Inspiring?

**N** - is it Necessary?

**K** - is it Kind?

## Upcoming Dates to Note:

- Feb 15 – Activity Day
- Feb 17- Yellow Friday (no school)
- Feb 20 – Family Day STAT Holiday
- Feb 27 – Learning Extension Day (Block D)
- Feb 27-Mar 3 – Grad Photo
- March 14 – Last day for T4 Gr7 elective
- March 15 – First day of T5 Gr7 elective
- March 20-31 – Spring Break
- April 13 – Grade 11's Field trip to Lethbridge to visit the University of Lethbridge and Lethbridge Community College campuses. (More information to come)



Creative Writing Club with Ms. Forefield is happening Mondays at lunch. All those interested are welcome to attend!

Drama Club with Mr. Caldwell Thursdays after school. Everyone



is happening  
is welcome!

## IMPORTANT NOTE:

We continue to monitor our attendance daily. If you give your child permission to leave the school - we **MUST** hear from you directly. Please use [School Messenger](#), email the school at [fss.mailing@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:fss.mailing@sd5.bc.ca) or **write a note** to log the absence. We will no longer accept a text to your child's phone as an excused absence. Some students change their contact names to 'Mom' or 'Dad' so an absence appears to be excused when it is not. You send your children here each day, we take our responsibility for the safety of your children seriously!



**\*Important Reminder for all**

**Students: Please remember when leaving early to stop in at the Office and sign out, thank you.**

## Family Portal – Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: How do I access the system?

A: You will receive an email with your login ID and password information. Please check your JUNK or SPAM folder for the email.

You can log on to [MyEdBC Family Portal](#) from any computer that connects to the internet.

1. Find the MyEdBC link at our website. ([www.sd5.bc.ca](http://www.sd5.bc.ca))
2. Enter your login ID and Password.
3. The first time you log on, you will be prompted to change your password.

### Q: I don't have the Family Portal Access.

A: Please contact the school office to make sure your correct email address is in the contact information for your child.

### Q: I've never received an email for Family Portal login ID and password etc.

A: Emails containing login IDs, passwords, etc., will come from an address such as [sysadmin@myeducation.gov.bc.ca](mailto:sysadmin@myeducation.gov.bc.ca) or [admin@myeducation.gov.bc.ca](mailto:admin@myeducation.gov.bc.ca).

If you have not received emails from MyEdBC, check your junk or spam folder in your email or contact the school office to make sure your email address is correct in the contact information for your child.

### Q: What is my login and password?

A: Your login and password have been sent to you via email. Please check your junk folder if you did not get it or contact the school office.

### Q: I forgot my password.

A: If you forget your password, click "I forgot my password" on the log On Screen. Once you successfully answer your security question, a new password will be emailed to you. IMPORTANT: The recovery process asks for your current login ID and Email address. Both are Case Sensitive.

### Q: If password fails.

A: Passwords are good for 90 days to protect your child's data and you will be prompted to change your password. Please make sure to allow pop-ups.

### Q: If password fails or forgot Login ID.

A: Please contact the school office or visit the [website](#)

### Q: Reset login for parent.

A: Please contact the school office or visit the [website](#)

### Q: I see a blank window when I double click the PDF report cards...

A: Please make sure to allow pop-ups (Unblock pop-ups). Pop Ups should be enabled for [script](#) features of the site to work properly.

**Q: I cannot login to the Family Portal or am having trouble viewing items.**

**A:**

Home computers may have unique restrictions. If you experience difficulties, try another web browser such as Chrome, Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, Opera, MS Edge. One of these may be the reason you cannot login or are having trouble viewing items. Use a desktop or laptop computer as mobile devices do not work reliably when initiating accounts.

**Q: I received more than one email with different Login IDs.**

**A:**

If you receive more than one login IDs, it may be because the contact information for one child is different from the contact info for another child and the system was unable to merge your accounts. Please go to Please contact the school office or visit the [website](#). At this point, a single username login should give parents access to all their children's report cards.

**Q: Why can I only see one of my children on the Family Portal?**

**A:**

If you cannot see one or more of your high school level children when you log into the portal, please contact the school office.

**Q: I can see the report card for one of my children but not the other.**

**A:**

If you see your children's information under Family Top Tab, please contact the school office to re-publish the report cards. (Please see "[Basic Navigation](#)" section.)

**Q: I cannot see a previous report cards for my child.**

**A:**

Please contact the school office to re-publish it for you.

\*Published Report Cards will remain on the system for a certain period of time. Published Report Cards are only available for the Current School Year All current and previous class marks will be on Transcript side tab.

**Q: Contact detail information is incorrect.**

**A:**

Please contact the schooloffice

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If you have any questions, please contact the school office or visit  
Please contact the school office or visit the [website](#).



# FSS BASKETBALL TEAMS



## Capstone Fair 2022/2023

The Capstone Fair was a resounding success! The students did an outstanding job of presenting their projects and sharing the successes and challenges that occurred throughout their learning journey. We would like to thank everyone, particularly our parents/guardians, mentors, community members, and Fernie Secondary Staff for all the support, help, and guidance you provided!

Congratulations, Grade 12's, on a job very well done! It has been such a pleasure teaching all of you 🎓

I wish you all the best and know you will succeed in whatever path you choose to follow!

Tonja Skead



## Jaffray Christmas Kickoff

Three Jaffray Students decided to throw a big event for their community.

For our Grade 12 Capstone Project, we wanted to do something that involved our community and brought people together during the Christmas Season. We had an impressive turnout of 70+ people attend our event, we had a Stuff Your Stockings Run where we designed a 4km route where runners would gather items to stuff their stockings with Christmas goodies, along with we had a cookie decorating contest and a Christmas movie. We were able to raise just over \$3000 thanks to our many sponsors and generous donations. We also had many foodbank items donated so we were able to make up food hampers and give them to 33 families in our community.

With all the money we raised, we have decided to donate \$500 to FSS for the Breakfast/Lunch program and \$500 to Jaffray School to give kids an opportunity to have a healthy lunch or breakfast. We are also donating \$2000 to fund the food share that will be starting up in Jaffray where people in need can get a wide selection of necessities to feed their families. We wanted to give back to our community because they have done so much for us, especially the two schools we have attended for the last 12 years, as we have often used the breakfast club as a source of a healthy breakfast. We know there are many students in need and the breakfast/lunch programs at the schools may be the only real meal they get throughout the day. We are happy to help donate to a worthy cause. We hope this sparks new ideas for the future graduate classes to get involved in their community and give back to people in need.

Sincerely,

Bryson Barr, Jacob Barr and Cassie Fashelt



## Erase Parent Sessions on Establishing Respectful Relationships and Consent

*erase* is providing two virtual learning sessions (Feb. 27 and Mar. 8) for parents/caring adults focused on Establishing Respectful Relationships and Consent. These sessions are best suited for parents/caring adults of students in Grade 8 and above. Please share the [session schedule](#) with your school communities.



Our next Canadian Parents for French Cranbrook-Fernie meeting will be the evening of March 8, 2023, over Zoom - please join us if you are interested! You can become a CPF member anytime at [cpf.ca](http://cpf.ca) and help support local French programs.

Self-guided French for Parents courses, levels 1, 2 and 3, are available online at low cost for CPF members, as well as resources to support your child's learning. Virtual French tutoring is also available for students, and volunteers for this are always appreciated.

Email [CPF Cranbrook Fernie@gmail.com](mailto:CPF Cranbrook Fernie@gmail.com) with any questions or suggestions, we look forward to hearing from you.



# DIVE INTO LIFEGUARD TRAINING!

The City of Fernie Department of Parks & Recreation is excited to offer upcoming courses aimed at developing lifeguards in the community we serve. Our courses provide an inclusive education and training program for youth aged 13 and up, preparing them for employment opportunities beginning at age 16. Participants acquire the fundamental skills necessary to pursue a career as a lifeguard.

## **BRONZE CROSS:**

Participants must have their Bronze Medallion.

\*Course completion requires attendance of **ALL** training dates.

**Training Dates:** February 24th (4:00pm-9:00pm), 25th (8:00am-4:30pm), 26th (8:00am-4:30pm)  
**(20 Hours) Cost: \$168 + tax**

## **STANDARD FIRST AID (CPR C):**

Completion of this course and Bronze Cross qualifies participants to become Aquatic Attendants.

**Training Dates:** March 25th (8:30am-5pm) & 26th (8:30am-5pm)  
**(16 Hours) Cost: \$178 + tax**

## **NATIONAL LIFEGUARD (NL)**

Participants must be 15 years old at the time of registration and have completed Bronze Cross and hold a Standard First Aid (CPR C). Completion of this course qualifies participants to become Certified Lifeguards.

**Training Dates:** Thursday March 30th & April 13th - 4:00-8:00PM,  
Friday March 31st & April 14th - 4:00-8:00PM,  
Saturday April 1st & April 15th - 8:30-5:00PM  
Sunday April 2nd & April 16th - 8:30-5:00PM  
**(44 Hours) Cost: \$250 + tax**

## **LIFESAVING SWIM INSTRUCTOR**

The Lifesaving Swim Instructor course trains candidates on the Competency Level 1 knowledge needed to teach the Society's Swim for Life and Canadian Swim Patrol programs. Prerequisites: Participants must be at least 15 years old and have completed Bronze Cross

**Training Dates:** March 27th - ~~31st~~ (9:00am-4:00pm)  
**(32 Hours) Cost: \$378.00+tax**

## **HOW TO REGISTER**

**Scan QR code for more information and registration.**

Visit [fernies.ca/recreation](http://fernies.ca/recreation) and either use your existing online account or create one to facilitate online registration.  
Register for desired courses.

## **REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

For more information, please contact Fernie Aquatic Centre (250) 423 4466



## School Counsellor Updates

I hope the New Year is off to a great start for everyone! Here at Fernie Secondary School, Karen Walker and Lindsay Knight offer counselling services to our students. Karen will be in school 4-5 days each week and Lindsay will be here one day per week. Both counsellors can help students with personal, career, and academic counselling issues.

School Counsellors are a great resource for students who are experiencing emotional difficulties or struggling with mental health issues. Ms. Walker and Ms. Knight are qualified teachers and Registered Clinical Counsellors. If your child is struggling, we can help! We are here every day, our services are free, and there are no waiting lists to see us. Reach out if you think we can help.



As students move through grades 11 and 12 there are a lot of decisions that need to be made about their future. This process can be overwhelming for students and parents alike. If your child needs support to research colleges, universities, or employment opportunities, please make an appointment. It can be helpful for parents to attend counselling appointments with their children so we can learn together and you have the information you need to continue to support your child at home.

If you or your child would like to make an appointment, please contact the school office to schedule a time. Alternatively, you can email the counsellors using the details below:

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)



**The November 2022 graduation assessment results are now available. Students can access their results from the “Graduation Assessment/Provincial Examinations” link after logging in to their account on the Student Transcripts Service (STS)**

**You can use the Student Transcripts Service (STS) to:**

- View or order your grade 10 to 12 course [transcript](#)
- Send your high school transcript to post-secondary institutions
- Send your high school transcript to a third-party (another person or group)
- Order your [graduation certificate](#)
- View your [provincially awarded scholarships](#)
- View your provincial graduation assessment and exam results

## Follow the link for more information:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/transcripts-and-certificates/order-a-high-school-transcript-or-certificate>

If you have any questions about this service, please see your Careers Teacher or make an appointment to see the school Counsellor.

## GRADE 12 STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Information about scholarships, Ms. Walker will be meeting with students in their Careers' class to go over how to apply for scholarships. I will then send out the information to parents via email.

## ATTENTION EMPLOYERS:

If you have work experience placements or job opportunities that might interest our students, please contact Karen Walker via the school office – 250 423 4471 or email her – [karen.walker@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:karen.walker@sd5.bc.ca)

- taking students out in the community to build community connections
- participating in a lab
- planning art, music or cooking opportunities that take more than the usual amount of class time
- exploring math centers for hands on application of math skills

This time will be varied from teacher to teacher.

Attendance is very important! The learning opportunities created during these days will not be easily replicated with a homework assignment or worksheet.

One of the outcomes of this plan is to also build stronger connections with peers and with the classroom teacher. Strong relationships to the school community are one of the characteristics of student success.

I will be seeking feedback from teachers and students throughout the school year. If you have feedback you would like to share, please let us know.

We will have one Learning Extension afternoon per month and the longer block will be spread equally across all classes in a student's schedule.

## Workshop Descriptions

Saturday, February 25 – For gender diverse and gender creative youth (ages 14 – 19)

10:00 am – 11:30 am PT / 11:00 am – 12:30 pm MT

On Zoom

Are you a trans, non-binary or questioning teen? Have questions about talking to friends, family & teachers about diverse gender identities and sexual orientations? Are you curious about groups and resources in the Kootenays for gender diverse people?

Join Trans Connect (ANKORS) Coordinator, Nicola Hare, for a workshop on: navigating coming out, transitioning, and accessing gender affirming care, acquiring gender affirming gear, self advocacy and where to direct your parents, caregivers and teachers for support.

Thursday, March 2 – For parents/family members of gender diverse youth

6:00 – 7:30 pm PT / 7:00 – 8:30 pm MT

On Zoom

How do we affirm our child's authentic self while also keeping them safe in the world? You may have a lot of questions about supporting a young person who is gender creative, trans or questioning. What is the difference between gender identity, expression and sexual orientation?

Facilitated by Nicola Hare from Trans Connect (ANKORS), our hope is that participants leave these sessions with a greater awareness of resources, and community connections for supporting youth with trans and non-binary identities.

We will be joined by Tammy Plunket, author of *Beyond Pronouns*, a book that offers clear and practical guidance and an opportunity to reflect on our gender-affirming parenting practices. We will also be joined by Carla Grant, author of *Uncommon Girls*, a journal-like memoir and guide to supporting parents and families with youth or children in transition.

## Gender Junction: Exploring Diverse Gender Identities

Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>

10 am – 11:30 am PT on Zoom  
11 am – 12:30 pm MT on Zoom

For gender-diverse youth  
ages 14 – 19

Join Nicola Hare, from Trans Connect (ANKORS),  
to chat about:

- Accessing gender affirming care
- Navigating coming out
- Transitioning
- Self-advocacy

Registration required

*Learning*  
TOGETHER

## Gender Junction: Exploring Diverse Gender Identities

Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

6:00 – 7:30 pm PT on Zoom  
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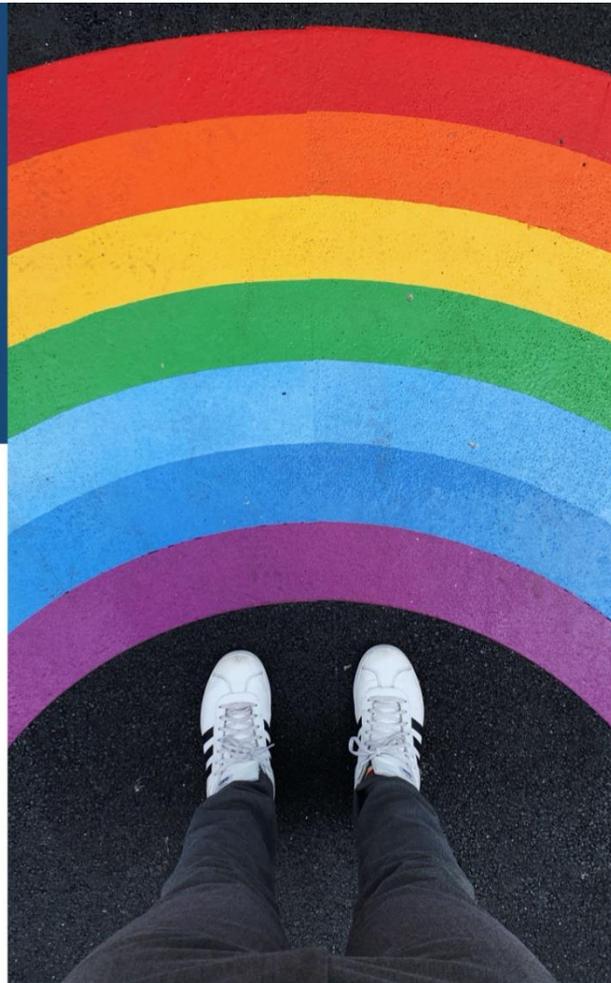
For parents & family members  
of gender-diverse youth

*Learning*  
TOGETHER

Join Nicola Hare, from Trans Connect (ANKORS), Tammy Plunkett, author of *Beyond Pronouns*, and Carla Grant, author of *Uncommon Girls*, to discuss gender identity, expression, and sexual orientation.

Gain awareness, resources, &  
connections.

Registration required.



TO REGISTER OR LEARN MORE, CONTACT:

Mandy Huser, Regional Youth Program Coordinator

 @cbaliteracy.youth

 mhuser@cbal.org

 (or text) 250-505-5757

 www.cbal.org

# Youth Care Worker Support

## Fernie Secondary School

Lisa Bax (YCW)  
Sherry Bylsma (YCW)  
Room 118



Welcome back to another busy school year! Fernie Secondary would like to welcome our newest YCW - Sherry Bylsma. Sherry has transitioned into her new role supporting Fernie Secondary's junior students (Grade 7-9) and is looking forward to meeting and getting to know our students and staff. Welcome Sherry!

Our Youth Care space is located in Room 118, just off of Traynor Hall. We are here to provide social-emotional, as well as behavioral support to students, foster and facilitate self-regulation for our students, provide for their everyday needs (nutritional support, assistance in accessing community-based programs and supports, home-school liaison and social/peer support).

We are looking forward to another wonderful school year at FSS, and we welcome any questions or input from our parents and students. Please feel free to reach out to us at any time. You can reach Lisa at [lisa.bax@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:lisa.bax@sd5.bc.ca) or via cell at (250) 430-1248 or Sherry at [sherry.bylsma@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:sherry.bylsma@sd5.bc.ca)

Youth Care Worker services are accessed through our Student Services department or administration. Teachers are encouraged to refer students who they believe could benefit from the additional support. We also encourage parents to let us know if they would like to make use of Youth Care Worker services.

## How do you access Youth Care Worker support?

Once you are connected with a Youth Care Worker (YCW), you can access the YCW room by asking for a hall slip from your teacher. If your teacher permits you to leave class, or prior arrangements have been made, you can come to the room for the allotted amount of time.

Contact: Lisa Bax [lisa.bax@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:lisa.bax@sd5.bc.ca)  
Sherry Bylsma [sherry.bylsma@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:sherry.bylsma@sd5.bc.ca)

**NEW!** Recently designed **FSS Apparel** – To purchase items, please log into [School Cash Online](#)

## Fernie Secondary School Apparel

Visit SchoolCashOnline for purchase or ask your parent if they've received an email regarding the new apparel which includes a link for purchase.



Black sweatpants with Falcon logo on back right calf.

\$44.99

Heather grey hoodie with FSS logo and falcon.

\$35.00

Graphite Anorak jacket with FSS logo and falcon.

\$65.00

Black hoodie with FSS logo and falcon.

\$35.00

