

FERNIE SECONDARY SCHOOL

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"Home of the Falcons"

NEWSLETTER # 1 – September 19, 2018

Website: <http://www.sd5.bc.ca/school/fss/Pages/default.aspx>

If you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail, please make sure we have your address! E-mail your address to: fss.mailing@sd5.bc.ca. All Newsletters can be viewed on the FSS Website.



PARENT REMINDER FROM THE OFFICE...

For attendance purposes, please notify the office @ 250-423-4471 or email fss.mailing@sd5.bc.ca if your child will be away from school for any reason. It is also important to contact the teachers for homework. To contact any staff member in our school please email by using: (firstname.lastname@sd5.bc.ca)

If there are ANY changes in your personal contact information (phone number, addresses, email, etc.) or your child's medical information, please let the office know by emailing: fss.mailing@sd5.bc.ca

Student fees of \$15.00 are now due. All students of FSS must pay these to cover the costs of lock and lockers \$5.00, agendas \$6.00, and student council fees \$4.00

Please make cheques payable to Fernie Secondary School



SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Sep. 21 Friday | -School Not in Session |
| Sep. 26 Wednesday | - AGM and General Meeting School Library
7pm |
| Sep. 27 Thursday | - SCHOOL PHOTOS |

OCTOBER

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Oct. 5 Friday | -School Not in Session |
| Oct. 17 Wednesday | -Newsletter #2 |
| Oct. 19 Friday | -School Not in Session |
| Oct. 25 Thursday | - Picture Retakes |





FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL:

Wow! It is hard to believe that the first month is almost gone!

Our volleyball teams are up and running, (thank-you coaches), Student Council is busy organizing school events and students are back into school routines. September 14th saw a very well attended Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast and Terry Fox Run. Each year we see the evidence of growth within our schools. This year at FSS we have a population of 370 grade 7-12 students.

We have happily secured new teaching staff for this year. Welcome to Mrs. Hay (Vice-Principal), Ms. Campsall (Drama/SS), Ms. Christenson (English), Mrs. Cain (Student Services) and Ms. Bax (Educational Assistant). We are waiting to have two positions filled.

Our staff remains committed to continuing to teach our students to behave in a manner that is both responsible and respectful - to themselves as well as others. We appreciate the support of our parent group and encourage parents to contact the school with concerns so that we can have an opportunity to work with students and families to resolve these concerns before they become too large.

We have a great school, and working together, we will make it even better!

Mrs. Linda Christenson
PRINCIPAL



New Report Cards

To reflect the recent changes to the curriculum for grades 7-9, the ways teachers report about student learning has also changed. One of these changes is that students will receive letter grades at the end of the course only. The report cards throughout the school year will include information about the strengths students have in each course as well as opportunities for growth. Each student will also receive information about where they are in relation to the following standards: EMERGING, DEVELOPING, PROFICIENT, and EXTENDING. These terms describe the extent that a student is able to access the knowledge, skills, strategies and processes in each course.

The descriptions for the standards model that will be used to report the level of a student's understanding of course material for grades seven, eight and nine is as follows:

- **Emerging**: The student has an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies in relation to the expected learning.
- **Developing**: The student has a partial understanding of the concepts and competencies in relation to the expected learning.
- **Proficient**: The student has a complete understanding of the concepts and competencies in relation to the expected learning.
- **Extending**: The student has a sophisticated understanding of the concepts and competencies in relation to the expected learning.

Message from the Vice-Principal:

Motivating Teens

Report card time is an important time to celebrate academic successes and address the challenges that our students experience. I have included a few highlights from an education article by L. White (2014) to provide some ideas about how to continue to motivate teenaged students.

For some teens, school doesn't come easy. The sources of the problem are varied—some struggle with a learning disability, while others may be challenged by a simple lack of motivation. But, regardless of the cause, parents want to know one thing: is it possible to turn struggling students around?

Teens need to clearly see their goals, whether it's graduating from high school, going to college, or just passing the next big test. Teens who struggle with school cannot be expected to reach their goals alone. They need support from both parents and teachers. Below are six ways to motivate struggling teens to stay on task:

1. **Pay Attention.** Parents often assume that teens do not need the same amount of attention they received when they were younger. But nothing could be further from the truth. "The most motivated students are those whose parents sit with them during homework and do not ignore problems until it's too late."
2. **Communicate.** Parents should be aware of what is going on at school and what assignments their children have been given. Parents should communicate regularly with teachers about their child's progress.
3. **Don't Make Excuses.** Sometimes parents enable their teen's poor performance in school by laying the blame on the child's social situation or the behaviors of others. Instead, parents ought to expect teens to be responsible for their own education, while keeping such expectations reasonable.
4. **Recognize Achievements.** For teens who struggle in school, even the slightest improvement is an achievement. Praise your child for his or her efforts. Receiving recognition for accomplishments is a great motivator.
5. **Celebrate Strengths.** We all have different abilities. Parents can motivate their teens to succeed by focusing on their strengths and helping them improve on their weaknesses.
6. **Never Give Up.** High school students who face academic challenges can sometimes feel like throwing in the towel. But with the love and support of their parents and teachers, even the most frustrated teen can set and meet goals.

Have your child set realistic goals and never stop helping your child attain them!



Welcome back students and families to the 2018/2019 school year!

My name is Amanda Lavoie and I am the Aboriginal Education Support Worker for Fernie Secondary. The program is designed to support the success of all aboriginal students, which looks differently for each student.

Some examples of services provided are:

- Free School Supplies
- Tutoring Support
- Advocacy for students and parents
- Snacks (granola bars, juices, coffee) is always available in the Aboriginal Gathering Place
- Quiet place to work
- Fieldtrips (UofC,Sait, Glenbow Museum)

A really important thing to know about Aboriginal Education in B.C. is that it is based on self-identification by the student's family, students **do not** have to have status or "proof". In our District, we have children who are status and non-status, Inuit, and Metis. We have children and families who know details of their Aboriginal ancestry, and we also have children and families who do not know the details of their ancestry.

If you believe your child has Aboriginal Ancestry, (documentation is **NOT** required) and you would like to identify, please stop by to see myself or the school office for a self-identification form. I can also be reached via email: amanda.lavoie@sd5.bc.ca or cell 250-425-3683

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DRIVER TRAINING



Drive to Survive:

39 Ridgemont Ave. Fernie BC V0B 1M2
PHONE: 250-423-4058
EMAIL: dbird10@telus.net

GLP Course November 24 & 25 December 1 & 2
– 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Classes are held upstairs in the Sparwood Chamber building. Fernie students are provided transportation. Program qualifies for Teck healthy living grant

Students must attend all four days to fulfill the classroom requirement

Driving instruction will be by individual appointment and may start prior to the classroom portion

This course provides students with all the required skills and manoeuvres for the road test as well as excellent defensive skills to last a lifetime.

If also entitles the student to:

- Reduce the time in "N" phase by six months
- Receive two grade 11 credits
- Develop good defensive driving habits

ELK VALLEY Pride Festival

We're having a party! As part of the Fernie Pride Society mandate of creating safer and more inclusive communities, the Elk Valley Pride Festival is returning bigger and better for its second year.

From October 9-14, 2018, the society is hosting events and activities for all ages. Providing opportunities for young people to participate in festival events was one of the main goals this year. Free, all ages events include the Pride Flag Raising at City Hall followed by a fun "Build a Pride Lantern" event at the Arts Station, a gay author presentation and Drag Queen presentations at the Fernie library. Other ticketed events include an Arts Station concert performed by a nationally recognized non-binary musician and a double feature matinee at the

Vogue screening 2 documentaries on the LGBTQ community.

For event dates and times www.elkvalleypridefestival.com



From the PAC Chair: September 2018

Hello and Welcome to all new and returning parents!

We are off to another exciting year at Fernie Secondary School. All parents of all students attending our school are automatically members of our Parent Advisory Council (PAC). We usually meet monthly to make spending decisions of our funds, discuss any issues, and catch up with our principal (Ms. Christenson), as well as the School Trustee for Fernie (Mr. Lento). These meetings are informal, short, and very informative – I know for myself they are my lifeline to the school, since I am not inside the building very often. A great resource of information about PACs and how it works is the BCCPAC website, <http://bccpac.bc.ca/pacdpac-info/what-is-pac/>, please check it out. Our FSS PAC constitution is available to view on the school web site as well. Please consider joining us for our first meeting of the new school year on Wednesday, September 26, at 7pm in the school library (combined AGM/regular meeting, see agenda). Also please feel free to contact the school or myself with any questions/concerns you might have. We would love to hear from you, regards,

Ute Hammer, outgoing PAC Chair Fernie Secondary,
(250 423-0838, or
ute_hammer@hotmail.com)

FSS PAC Agenda

AGM and General Meeting

Wednesday, September 26, 2017

School Library, 7pm

**1. Welcome to a new year at Fernie Secondary.
Introductions.**

2. Adopt agenda

3. Adopt minutes from previous meeting

**4. Treasurer's Report – Anna Piney
did we receive confirmation/amount for
Gaming Funds?**

Budget for 2018/2019 school year

5. Old Business

**discussion on how PAC can be more effective,
please read**

**<http://bccpac.bc.ca/pacdpac-info/what-is-pac/>
for ideas**

6. New Business

**-PAC executive elections – positions open
chair/vice chair/dpac rep**

**Current nominations: Jodie Parker for chair,
Adriana Pumphrey for vice
chair and fundraising.**

**-Funding request received from PE department
for monies towards swimming**

**-Proposal to create and maintain a FSS PAC
Facebook page**

**7. DPAC Report - last dpac meeting Sep 12,
2018**

<http://www.dpac.sd5.bc.ca> website with info

8. Trustee Update - Frank Lento

<http://www.sd5.bc.ca/pdfs/BoardNews.pdf>

9. Principal's Report – Linda Christenson

10. Correspondence & Committee Reports

School District #5 web site

<http://www.sd5.bc.ca/index.asp>

School Calendar

<http://www.sd5.bc.ca/calendar/>

BCCPAC <http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/index.aspx>

11. Other Business

12. Adjourn

Next meeting tba

FSS PAC MINUTES FOR MAY 30th, 2018

1. Meeting called to order at 7: 00pm.Ute Hammer, Wendy Blackburn, Anna Piney, Linda Christenson, Harmony Lloyd, and Adriana Pumphrey in attendance.
2. Agenda and minutes from the last meeting by Anna, Wendy seconded.
3. Treasurers Report: Anna Piney
 - \$368.11 bank balance. Can spend \$300.00 if there are any requests. Bank signatures have been changed.
4. Old Business:
 - Jodie Parker offered to be PAC President with some help. Adriana offered to be Vice President. Anna **motioned** to nominate Jodie as chair and Adriana as vice chair, seconded by Wendy. **Motion** will be on September agenda when voting will take place.
5. New Business:
 - Harmony Lloyd gave update on class activities. They are composting, which is feeding a pig, chickens, and worms. Ashley Taylor came in to chat with the kids. Anna **motioned** to give \$150.00 for this compost program, Adriana seconded, motion carried. Grade 7's doing most of the work on educating and presenting on it. This year is pilot project, will be going on next year!
 - \$389.00 was raised from the dance for the bat houses.
6. DPAC Report
 - Ute unable to attend.
7. Principal's Report: Linda Christenson
 - Term 4 report cards are issued June 28th,2018. Grade 7-9 Self-Assessment included with the final report card. 25 new students next year. 3 Jaffery students.
- Student Lead Initiatives:
 - Bat Project – 8 houses have been made and students will be bat counting next week. New Composting Stations at FSS.
 - School/Community Cleanup May 17th. Weed Pull May 30th at the Annex Park for Grade 7's. 30-hour famine May 30th, all night. Grade 7 track Meet May 31st. Six different schools

coming. Senior Dance June 12th. Year End

activities June 22nd.

- PRIDE June is month of Empathy.

- Other Activities:

Flag raising Ceremony, June 5th, June 8th
Grade 6 Transition Day, June 13th Band
Concert, June 14th New Student Transition,
June 22 last day for Senior Instruction, June
25th last day for Junior Instruction, June
25/26th Senior Exams.

- Timetable:

2 postings for next year
Biology/Math/Science and
Drama/Socials/Career.

- Awards will be hosted on June 20th at 11am
for Academic and 1pm for Athletics

- Graduation Commencement June 29th in
FSS Gym at 1pm.

Thank you PAC for your support of student
lead initiatives and team travel. FSS staff and
students appreciate what you do for us!

8. Correspondence and Committee Reports:

-none

9. Other Business:

- Wanting to do some fundraising next year.
June 30th is the silent Auction at the Castle
on 1st. Grade 8 and 9 student's artwork for
presentation. Money raised to go to help kids
in third world country.

10. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 by Ute. Thanks
Ute for your 6 years of service to the PAC!!
NEXT REGULAR MEETING AND AGM WED.
SEPT. 26th, 2018, 7:00 PM AT FSS LIBRARY