



Serving the Communities of Ferndale, Lummi Island, Custer, Lummi Reservation and North Bellingham.

FERNDALE SCHOOLS

Summer 2006

Student learning continues in summer programs

Did you know that student learning continues through the summer months?

The district offers a variety of programs that include: summer enrichment for 100 students grades 3-8, summer academic program for 150 students grades 7-8, reading and math intervention programs for 30 elementary age students, reading clubs and summer library for 75 students grades K-6, extended

school year for 42 students grades PK-8, high school credit retrieval courses, and high school WASL academy.

These programs are an integral part of the district in that they provide students the opportunity to improve and refine their skills.

For more information about summer programs contact the district office at 360/383-9200.



Instructor Cody Smith (left) teaches choreography to students in the summer enrichment hip hop class.

Cost Cutter is Business of the Year Manager Norm Mack dedicated to supporting schools

Cost Cutter—Ferndale was selected as the district's 2005-06 Business of the Year for its outstanding service to schools and students.

Cost Cutter Manager Norm Mack has led the support efforts that include: the Box Tops for Kids Program, refreshments for Math Olympiad, culminating project and other meetings; contributions of coupons and support for rewarding children through PTOs or ASBs; and support to the high school ASB, leadership team and football team.

This is the third time that Cost Cutter has been recognized with this award. Previously, Cost Cutter—Ferndale received this award in 2002. Brown & Cole, owner of Cost Cutter, received this award in 1986.

Congratulations, Cost Cutter!

District thanks all partners for contributions

Thank you to all of our corporate and community partners for supporting our students. Your generosity is vital to the operation of district programs and is greatly appreciated.

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Mr. Norm Mack, Manager of Cost Cutter-Ferndale, receives the Business of the Year Award from the district. Pictured left to right (standing) Superintendent Roger Lehnert, Board Member Lee Anne Riddle, Board Member John Hruby, Norm Mack, Executive Director for Instructional Services Jim Gibson; and (seated) Board Members Stuart McKay and Norman Robertson.

*Ferndale
making a
Schools
difference*

What tests do students take and when do they take them?

Washington state has high expectations for students. In 1993, the state legislature enacted a bill calling for high standards, tests and new graduation requirements.

Each year, students are tested

to see how well they are doing. Thousands of students in grades three through ten take the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). State assessments are administered in mid-March, late April and early

May.

This year, third through eighth grade students will take two or three state tests. Tenth grade students take four tests. In the table below, tinted squares represent tests students will take this year.

Grade	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Reading							Optional (reading, math, writing only)		Retakes available	Retakes available
Math										
Writing	No test		No test	No test		No test				
Science	No test	No test		No test	No test		No test			

A look at how WASL tests differ from tests parents took in school

Few parents understand how WASL tests differ from tests they took in school. Here's how testing has changed.

Traditional Standardized Tests	WASL Tests
100% multiple choice	Combined multiple choice, short answer, extended response and essay
Scored by machines	Multiple choice scored by machine; other responses scored by specially trained educators, many from Washington
Students' performance is compared to other students	Student performance is measured against state standards
Measures some skills, such as vocabulary and math computation, very well	Measures student ability to read, write, solve problems and communicate ideas in ways that cannot be scored by machines
Timed tests, students may feel pressure to complete the test quickly	Not a timed test, students have ample time to do their best work

Notices

Child Find

Federal Public Law, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), requires that disabled children in the Ferndale School District, ages birth to 21, be identified, located and evaluated. If anyone suspects that a child (age birth to 21) has a disabling condition, and if that child resides in the Ferndale School District, please refer the child to Dr. Michael Berres, Director of Special Services, Ferndale School District, (360) 383-9213. Upon referral, the special services staff will make the appropriate follow-up.

FSD complies with state and federal rules

Ferndale School District complies with all state and federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, age, or the presence of any non-job related sensory, mental or physical disability. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX/RCW 28A.640 Officer Mr. Elvis Dellinger at the administration office, 360/383-9206, and/or Section 504 ADA Coordinator Dr. Michael Berres at the special services office, 360/383-9213.

Special Services opportunities

Ferndale School District provides reasonable opportunities for participation by teachers, parents and guardians of special education students, families, and other interested agencies, organizations, and program. Any application and any required policies, procedures, evaluations, plans, and reports will be made readily available to parents and other members of the general public through the district's special services and superintendent offices. Please call the special services department at 360/383-9213 if you have questions or requests about this information.

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School offices will open:

- Beach—August 28
- Central—August 28
- Custer—August 28
- Eagleridge—August 22
- Mountain View—August 22
- North Bellingham—August 16
- Skyline—August 22
- Horizon—August 21
- Vista—August 21
- Ferndale High—August 15
- Windward High—September 1

Back to school information

Student/Kindergarten registration

Kindergarten and students new to the district should register for school directly at their neighborhood school between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays.

A reminder that kindergarten students must be five years old prior to September 1.

Immunizations required for school attendance

The state of Washington requires that all students be immunized prior to enrolling in school. Listed are the immunizations required for the 2006-07 school year.

GRADE	Varicella (Chicken Pox)	DTaP/DTP/DT/Td	POLIO	MMR	HEP B
Kindergarten (ages 4-6)	1 dose given on or after the 1st birthday OR Parent reported history of the disease	5 doses Pertussis-containing vaccine recommended 4 doses acceptable provided the last dose is given on or after the 4th birthday		2 doses MMR recommended both given on or after the 1st birthday and at least 28 days apart	3 doses
Grade 1-5 (ages 7-13)	Recommended, not required	Td/Tdap	4 doses recommended	2 doses Measles; 1 dose Mumps & 1 dose Rubella acceptable both given on or after the 1st birthday and at least 28 days apart	
Grade 6	1 dose given on or after the 1st birthday OR Parent reported history of the disease	Pertussis is not required above kindergarten (age 7) 5 doses recommended; the last dose must be received on or after the 4th birthday	3 doses acceptable provided the last dose is given on or after the 4th birthday		
Grades 7-9	Recommended, not required	Booster dose of Td/Tdap recommended at age 11-12			
Grades 9-12 (ages 14-18)		3 doses acceptable provided the last dose is given on or after the 4th birthday			3 doses recommended, not required

Meal Prices

Breakfast	
Reduced (K-12)	FREE
Elementary	\$1.10
Middle/High	\$1.25
Adult	\$1.80
Lunch	
Reduced (K-12)	\$.40
Elementary	\$2.25
Middle/High	\$2.75
Adult	\$3.25
Milk	\$.50

Back-to-School Extravaganza—August 31

The Third Back-to-School Extravaganza will be held Thursday, August 31, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Vista Middle School, 6051 Vista Drive.

Qualifying families can visit the resource fair to receive school supplies and sign-up for: clothing for children kindergarten through grade five, services at the Community Services

Office, Head Start, dental screenings held in the school, English language learner classes and other community services.

Ferndale School District's RTL program is seeking contributions of basic school supplies for next school year. Supplies are used by students who cannot afford to purchase such items.

Supplies may be dropped off

at the district's administration office located at 6041 Vista Drive, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information please contact the family community coordinator at 360/383-9589.

District implements state one mile walking policy

Due to the growing number of new families into Ferndale School District, it is necessary for the district to implement the state's one mile walking policy.

State policy has been in place for some time, however, the district has been able to serve

families as close as three-quarters mile from their school.

The district is at the point where the one mile walk zone will be enforced for the 2006-07 school year due to overloading of school buses.

The district evaluates safe

walk zones and only implements changes where safety permits.

If you need assistance in determining whether or not a student is within the one mile walk zone, please feel free to contact the district's transportation department at 383-9236.

Superintendent's message



Roger Lehnert

Welcome back! The 2006-07 school year is about ready to begin. A lot has happened over the summer months to prepare for the school year.

David Hutchinson will rejoin us as the interim principal of Horizon Middle School. David will be taking over for departed Wayne Massie who is now the superintendent of Tekoa School District.

During the summer, the district sold the voter approved bonds that are to be used for capital construction. We also refinanced the 1998 bonds and, by doing so, saved taxpayers \$230,000 in interest

payments, and we were able to create a tax rate below what was originally presented to voters. We shortened the payment timeline on the bonds to sixteen years which will minimize future interest expenses.

The bond projects that you approved are slowly getting underway. Some work has been done on the gym at Ferndale High School and we hope to get the new roadway into Skyline Elementary completed, thus alleviating traffic congestion.

In January, we will go to bid on the new elementary school. Following that, we will bid other projects as either stand alones or combined projects. One of the major projects will be at Ferndale High School which will include the fine arts building, electrification of the school, science classrooms and other small projects.

Shortly, we hope to purchase a new secondary school site and are beginning to plan what that will look like.

We made budget reductions of around \$2 million while

avoiding program cuts. Ferndale is not unique in having to make reductions. It use to be that the levy you approved paid for the extras that you wanted in your schools. Today, levies pay for basic education costs that include unfunded mandates that the state does not pay for, but requires. The things that you told us you supported such as music, elementary counselors, P.E. specialists and librarians are for the most part paid for by your local tax dollars, but the levy is paying basic education mandates such as special education, transportation and costs that have not kept pace with inflation. In many cases the funding formulas are so outdated they are irrelevant.

Judge Doran wrote in the School Funding II case that *the legislature is required to continually review, evaluate and revise, if necessary, the educational system of the state and the program of education and its funding to meet the current needs of the children of the state.*

My fear is that if we continue to pay basic education costs out of levy dollars there will not be the revenue available to support the many fine programs we have.

On another note, if you have young ones who will be walking to school, please take the time to familiarize them with their walking route. If you are new to the area please be sure to register your child(ren) as soon as school offices are open. If you need more information about your school district, please visit our website at www.ferndale.wednet.edu.

Our programs are rich in opportunity and are led by very talented people and great support groups. Get involved and stay involved with your child's education. We need your assistance and we enjoy working with you.

Again, welcome!

School Board of Directors

Dr. John Hruby, President
Mr. Norm Robertson
Ms. Lee Anne Riddle
Mr. Stuart McKay
Mr. Bernie Thomas

Superintendent/Board Secretary

Dr. Roger L. Lehnert

Editor

Tammy Bengen

FERNDALE SCHOOLS is a newsletter for Ferndale School District community members. Its purpose is to improve understanding of school programs. Questions or comments may be directed to the administration office, P.O. Box 698, 6041 Vista Drive, Ferndale, Washington 98248, 360/383-9207.

Visit the district website at <http://www.ferndale.wednet.edu>

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Ferndale School District is an equal opportunity employer. The district is committed to providing equal opportunity for all persons without regard to race, color, creed, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, age, or the presence of any non-job related sensory, mental or physical disability.

Our Mission

Ferndale School District, in partnership with families and the larger community, will educate each student to develop the knowledge, skills and character necessary to lead a self-reliant, socially responsible life.