



Dedicated to Excellence



Fern Hill is a Feeling

What is the Fern Hill feeling? It can be seen in the palpable sense of warmth and welcome that greets you as you enter the doors. It is in the remarkable enthusiasm of our students as they learn and discover, fueled by the passion and dedication of our teachers. It is in the camaraderie and connection shared among members of our school community—a bond that extends beyond the classroom and lasts a lifetime.

Our Core Values

We believe the potential within each child deserves to be recognized and nurtured and that children develop best when there is an active and willing partnership between school and family.

We believe that an enriching, challenging and supportive environment is necessary for personal and academic development and that our curriculum teachers skills and strategies that foester the acquisition of knowledge, critical thinking and creative problem solving.

We believe that adults are important role models, guides and mentors for children and that those connections between teachers and students are most effective in small class settings.

We believe that by recognizing, respecting, sharing and appreciating our similarities and differences, we grow and flourish.



Endless Possibilities

From the moment students step through our doors, they are immersed in a culture that celebrates diligence, perseverance, and a deep sense of belonging. This feeling emanates from the teachers, the students and even the design of the facilities.

The Fern Hill feeling has been years in the making. Beginning in 1982, it was born out of our desire to help children become the best possible version of themselves. Today, it is a reflection of the knowledge and experience that went into each decision made along the way to create our outstanding learning environment.

The Fern Hill feeling shines in the eyes of our primary students who are filled with wonder as they learn how things work. It is generated by the energy and engagement in classes where the academic potential of each student is ignited through challenging lessons and experiential learning. It is also reflected in the composure and poise of our graduating students who lead our schools with respectful confidence.

Many things have evolved to keep pace with the changing world, but our original vision remains intact; provide an airy and vibrant learning environment, fill it with talented teachers who are experts in their subjects and ignite the academic potential of each student with an engaging and challenging curriculum. Fulfilling this vision lets us create an atmosphere that allows everyone to walk in the door, ready to seize the day.

Step inside

Fern Hill is more than a location. It is a community composed of students, teachers and parents. The connection of these three components to the building and the property that holds it, creates a vibrant energy and atmosphere that defines Fern Hill.



Feel the energy that lives inside our walls!



At Fern Hill, we believe children should receive a great education, but we also believe they should experience a great environment outside of the classroom. This is why we put resources into building an unparalleled campus.

Our state-of-the-art facility includes a fully equipped gymnasium, I.T. lab, science lab, music and art studios, a field station and engaging early-learning classrooms.

Large playing fields, light-filled hallways and original works of art hanging on the walls create an environment that inspires learning and creativity. There is wide-open space where students can burn off energy, shoot hoops, play soccer and meet with friends during recess.

Choosing the right school starts with examining what your child **needs**, then researching what schools would meet these needs. Ultimately, it is about choosing the one that **feels** right.



Teaching with the love of learning.

“One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child.”

- CARL JUNG



Professors specialize, why not teachers?

We believe one secret to our success is giving highly qualified educators the opportunity to teach the subjects they love. With a teacher for each subject, our students have the opportunity to find and share their individual passions for a subject with a teacher who feels the same way. The chemistry and energy that emerges when like minds discover a shared passion, brings endless opportunities for children to find a sense of wonder in what they do every day. Be it math, science, athletics, humanities or the arts, there is a teacher at Fern Hill waiting to inspire.

A typical week in Grade 3 includes:

- Math
- Language
- Science
- History
- Geography
- French
- Mandarin
- Music
- Art
- Phys. Ed
- Field Studies
- Life management
- I.T.

Our teachers lead.

Our teachers set high standards and define goals that are supported by a clear understanding and commitment to the learning process. Students thrive when working in lessons where teachers balance the challenge needed for engagement with the success needed to develop confidence and mastery.



A love of learning.

Our first school opened in 1982 and we have watched proudly as generations of Fern Hill students have graduated with a joy of learning and deep-rooted confidence in their talents and abilities. With your guidance as parents and our support as teachers, your children's experience at Fern Hill School offers endless exciting possibilities. With a sense that their own talents and abilities have been nurtured and developed, they are capable of anything.

Fern Hill's curriculum has been developed through research, observation, and experience. It has been designed to anticipate each development milestone a student must cross and to deliver exactly the right level of challenge and opportunity needed to support success at each step.

Our curriculum is also engaging and fun. Along with all of the core academic subjects, we have unique offerings such as Mandarin, field studies, band, I.T., international travel and an amazing selection of arts programs. Each day begins with a Morning Assembly run by the students, to start the day.

Fern Hill is committed to providing our students with an ever-widening array of opportunities to "learn by doing." Our Morning Assemblies, community service projects and social events are designed to encourage students to do their part in creating a caring society.



Leadership is a subject.

Leadership is a subject at Fern Hill - a subject as important as Mathematics, French or Science. From Preschool to Grade 8, its many components are woven into each and every day. It originates in the example set by the talented members of our faculty, for we all know that children emanate what they see more than what they hear. Leadership grows as children gain confidence in themselves. It flourishes when opportunities, challenges and recognition are ever present.

As students move through the grades, they take on escalating responsibilities and become role models for those following behind. Our Grade 7 and 8 students are the leaders of our school houses, athletic teams and musical and performing arts groups.

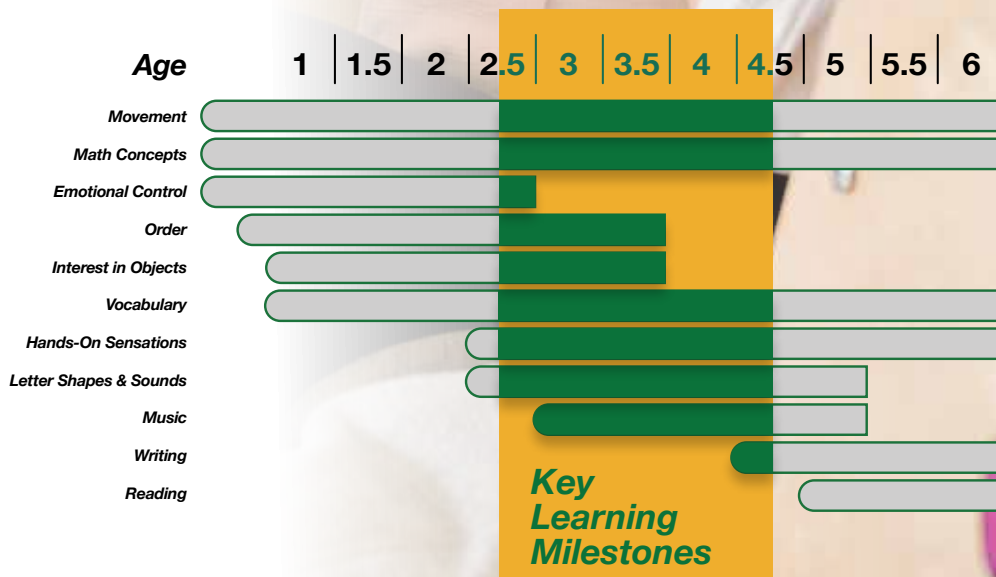


Why start in Preschool?

It is never too early to learn who you are and explore the world around you. Research in early development has shown that there are key learning milestones that ***begin and end between the age of 2 and 5***. That is why our Preschool program begins as children turn 3. We know how important it is to fill this short window with a program designed to balance play with academic opportunities to learn using positive stimulation, role modeling, engaging lessons and experiential learning.

Our caring, registered ECE teachers know that their Preschoolers are ready to build vocabulary comprehension and social skills while their bodies master physical coordination through music, drama and sports. Their phenomenal ability to store new information makes learning multiple languages, numbers, and letters easy and engaging. We are amazed at their transformation from nervous first smiles to the confident little performers who, within a few short weeks in school, begin taking the stage in schoolwide performances.

Stages of early development





**JK &
SK**

Where the **magic** begins!

JK

Writing skills typically develop at age 4 and reading takes flight shortly thereafter. Our JK curriculum is delivered by fully certified teachers who are ready with engaging materials that make the entry into reading and writing rewarding and exciting. In no time, reading is underway and the foundation for independent learning has begun. Numbers come to life with rote counting, addition and subtraction and fun math activities that solidifies several mathematical concepts. Children will grasp these skills as each becomes ready, and our program is designed to support them so they feel confident and successful as they take each step.

SK

Reading skills improve quickly in SK along with the foundation of solid math concepts and investigative science skills. Music and Morning Assembly presentations prepare them for future dramatic roles in plays and choirs and their French and Mandarin vocabularies begin to unfold. As the leaders on our Early Years playground, it is wonderful to see the spirit of compassion and inclusion develop as our SK children set the tone for fair play and develop connections with the younger children. At the same time, SK students are socially ready to become valued members of our school Houses which allows them to participate actively in school-wide events.

Grades 1-4



By Grade 1, students have developed independence and confidence. They are infinitely proud to move into the first year of our full rotary program of subject specific teachers yet appreciate the safety net their Homeroom teacher continues to provide at the beginning, middle, and end of the day. In Grades 1-4 our focus is teaching children how to learn; how to study, how to store, retrieve and present information, and how to organize themselves and their school work. Opportunities for competitive teams, choirs, and productions let them test and showcase their skills as they build mastery. It is an exciting time, as talents surface, are nurtured, and turn into passions.

Fern Hill captures the imagination of each child inspiring a life-long love of learning. The rigorous curriculum prepares our students for the challenges ahead.



Building on the Early Years

Fern Hill's enriched curriculum for the Primary and Junior grades provides students with a solid foundation of both academic and social skills. Students are introduced to French, Music and Physical Education starting in Preschool and those topics expand throughout the Primary and Junior grades.

Each child engages in a program designed to challenge them with a rigorous academic curriculum, combining traditional and experiential learning. A range of opportunities in sports, the arts, and clubs are introduced as students become emotionally and intellectually ready. Fern Hill's experienced teachers continue to support and nurture each child's personal growth throughout these years.

Fern Hill students are known for their confidence and self-assurance. At each grade level in the Primary and Junior years, opportunities are presented where students learn new skills and push their limits of learning.



A group of students in green uniforms are sitting in a circle, engaged in a classroom discussion. One student is holding an open book, and others are looking at it or talking. The setting appears to be a library or a quiet study area with large windows in the background.

Grades
5-8

In Grades 5-8, content and its analysis invites classroom discussions and independent research. Exams are introduced to test comprehension and the ability to present and defend opinions. Students advance in subjects, preparing them to choose reach-ahead high-school credits that are offered in Grade 8. Independence is nurtured and students develop strong work habits and the confidence to express their creativity.

Students are encouraged to take appropriate academic risks and to challenge themselves to think outside of the box, to be joiners, contributors and leaders. Through our commitment to academics, character development, and a philosophy that teaches students to approach learning with curiosity and courage, Fern Hill students are confident individuals, well-prepared for success in high school and beyond.

Intermediate students at Fern Hill School have many opportunities for genuine leadership. Students in our lower grades look to our Intermediate students for leadership and our older students respond with maturity and confidence.

Why end in Grade 8?

Early Leadership Opportunities: Our students are provided with opportunities to learn about leadership and to practise their skills in meaningful ways. Intermediate students are entrusted with additional responsibilities. Opportunities to be a House Leader, Athletic Team Leader and Peer Mentor provide valuable experiences that further develop their independence, social maturity and confidence. Our goal is to help Intermediate division students emerge from Grade 8 as compassionate people, as well as confident and engaged learners.

Free to be a Kid: Our students are not living their academic and social lives under the influence of high school students which substantially reduces the pressure on them to appear or behave “older”.

Appropriate Curriculum Development: At Fern Hill School, because we specialize in elementary education, it is our priority to make sure our students are fully prepared for their next academic steps. Upon entering Grade 8, students often advance to secondary school level courses and have the opportunity to graduate with Ontario Secondary School credits in Mathematics and French. Media students begins in Grade 7 providing students with the opportunity to work with a variety of computer and video editing technology. All Grade 6-8 classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards and are transformed into computer-based learning centres. In Grades 7 and 8, the use of laptop computers is integrated into all aspects of the curriculum.

A Choice of Secondary Schools: Families grow and students change, especially in their early teens: a school that graduates students in Grade 8 allows time for families to consider secondary school options that fit best. Our students emerge from Fern Hill as confident and capable contributors, ready for the challenges of secondary school and beyond. At Fern Hill, they are supported in an atmosphere that celebrates courage, comfort and acceptance. Our students graduate as confident and self-assured students ready to face the next step in their academic career.

By the time they graduate, Fern Hill students are prepared both socially and academically to take their place as leaders in the high schools of their choice.





Beyond the classroom

Seize the day!

Extracurriculars at Fern Hill are thoughtfully designed to extend our core program, offering opportunities to develop passions and talents, build confidence and encourage students to explore new possibilities. From tryouts, auditions, or finding the courage to simply sign up, our students push themselves to try new things outside of their comfort zones.



Athletics

Athletics at Fern Hill are an integral part of our Phys-Ed classes but also extend to participation on various competitive sports teams against other schools throughout the year. Bringing home a trophy and announcing a big win in Assembly is always exciting, but travelling on the bus in team jerseys and sharing the camaraderie of a tournament team is also a powerful lesson in team-work, quick thinking, courage and resilience.



Morning Assembly

Each morning, the entire student body gathers for Morning Assembly. Each homeroom takes a turn leading the Assembly each week. Students assume various roles: announcers, reporters and performers. It is an opportunity to share their talents in front of their peers, while building confidence, courage and a sense of community.

At Fern Hill, we bring the festivals celebrated in our families' homes into Morning Assembly or special cultural presentations. Halloween, Diwali, Christmas, Lunar New Year, Nowruz, Vaisakhi, Eid, are just some examples of the celebrations we share.



Field Studies

Fern Hill's campuses are surrounded by wonderful greenspaces that naturally foster a sense of environmentalism. Our Field Studies program takes advantage of our grounds to bring science projects to life.

Students at Fern Hill participate in Bird Banding, managing invasive species, nurturing native plants, learning about land stewardship and supporting animal habitats. They also learn to build quinzhees in the snow and gain an understanding of what it means to survive in Canada's natural environment.



Experiential Learning

Adventure abounds at Fern Hill. Whether it is building experiments in the lab for science, banding birds in Field Studies, or travelling to other countries global destinations on an international service trip, we continuously provide experiences that encourage students to test their limits.

Overnight trips are introduced to our Junior/Intermediate students and grow in length and distance as the students grow and mature. Sharing these early adventures with classmates and teachers helps students to feel secure and build the confidence to travel further abroad in Grades 7 and 8.



Leadership

Leadership skills develop through presenting in daily Morning Assemblies, taking on roles in musicals and performing in bands or choirs, all of which allow our students to stand before an audience with the confidence of an experienced performer. Guiding younger students in House games or acting as Student Ambassadors teaches compassion and communication skills. Competing against other schools in sports tournaments, math competitions, or music festivals provide opportunities to excel as an individual or a team. This is how strong leaders are developed.



Service

Service plays an important role at Fern Hill and students are encouraged to be responsible citizens who make a significant impact on the world. Our students learn to tune in to the needs of their peers, their community and the world to look for ways they can help. From participating in a local community service project to organizing a fundraiser in support of a group in need to travelling abroad to building a playground or well, students become active contributors.



Round Square is an internationally diverse network of 200 like-minded schools in 50 countries on six continents that connect and collaborate to offer world-class programmes and experiences, developing global competence, character and confidence in our students. We are like-minded in our shared understanding of the hardwired link between character education and academic success. We also believe that in order to equip our students for positive, active and engaged global citizenship we must offer them more than academic knowledge. Membership in Round Square provides opportunities for our faculty and students to connect and participate in conferences, online meetings and events with other students around the world. The Round Square ideals are woven into the fabric of all member schools and reflected in the development of our programs and the mindset of our graduates.





Let's Connect!

Fern Hill seeks students who will benefit from the pursuit of our mission. We are dedicated to academic excellence and to the development of self-confident and positive contributors. In order to determine if our programme can meet a child's needs, we assess an applicant's ability through a carefully developed entrance evaluation geared to the child's age. Arrangements for evaluation can be made through the Admissions Office.

Each year, we welcome new families into our school and we embrace the opportunity to share additional information on what distinguishes a Fern Hill education and the many benefits our school can provide for your child. We accept applications from Preschool through Grade 8 throughout the year if there is availability, however, we encourage you to begin the process in October of the year prior to admission. Fern Hill holds an Open House each year usually in the Fall. You may also contact our Admissions Office to arrange a school day tour.



How Do I **Apply** to Fern Hill?

1. Fill out the online inquiry form for your campus of interest or contact our Admissions Offices by phone
2. Take a tour
3. Submit an application package
4. Schedule an in-school shadow day/assessment
5. Receive acceptance offer
6. Confirm your registration

Your completed Application Package should include:

- Application Form
- Copy of Birth Certificate/Copy of Passport
- Copy of PR Card / Student Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of 2 years' English Report Cards (if any)
- Copy of Immunization Record
- Small photo
- Non-refundable application fee
- Early Years Observation Report (PS – Gr 1) or Confidential School Report (Gr 2 – Gr 8) will be required prior to any placement decision



The Fern Hill school experience will give your children the confidence to know who they are and they will be happy with that person.



– Wendy Derrick, Fern Hill Co-Founder and Director

The Fern Hill feeling is felt in the physical spaces that were architecturally designed to support children and their learning. Carpeted floors bring warmth and quiet. Rooms are designed with purpose to support science, technology, art, and bands. Full size gymnasiums encourage athletes and provide comfortable gathering space for Morning Assembly and our many school events. Each space with its own feeling and purpose for learning, performance, and play.

Outdoors, fenced Early Years play spaces offer age-appropriate activities that keep our younger children engaged and safe, while the large playing fields and green spaces that surround both schools allow the older children space for imaginative play, team sports and individual exploration. Even outside our classrooms, everything has been carefully considered and designed to foster curiosity, teamwork, resilience, fair play, adventure and discovery.

What will their future hold?

Our Fern Hill graduates continue to revisit the school year after year. They are accepted at coveted private high schools throughout the area and further afield. As adults they are doctors, lawyers, dancers, scientists. They are thought starters, trend setters, and game changers. Most of all, they are people who grew up in a learning environment that built confidence in themselves and their ability to connect with people, to face and overcome challenges, and to change the world.

Imagine what Fern Hill School can do for your child!



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Leaders of the future.



FERN HILL SCHOOL

