



# Gator News

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### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Gator Families,

Welcome to second semester! Students and staff worked hard to close out the first semester and to celebrate the learning that was done throughout first semester. My sincere thanks to staff for all that they have done to help students finish the first semester well and to help students settle into the second semester.

During our Transition Days, our Grade 9 students completed their mini-capstone presentations and our Grade 12 students who had CLC 12 this past semester completed their Capstone presentations. This is such a wonderful experience for our students and our staff; there was such a positive buzz throughout the building throughout the presentations. Our Grade 9 students met with staff to share their journey of growth, their plans for the future, as well as their strengths and their areas of growth. Our Grade 12 students were broken into small groups, where they presented to a small panel of staff members. Many students remarked about how their Capstone didn't feel like work because they had chosen something that they were so passionate about. Congratulations Gators on a job well done. I extend sincere thanks to Ms. Stubbings, Ms. Kelly, Ms. Castro and all our Career Education teachers who supported students along the journey of their capstone development. Thank you to our students who obviously put tremendous time and effort into their presentations. It is not an easy thing to present in front of peers and a group of adults; I commend our students for their professionalism and their courage.

On Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be publishing the first semester Summary of Learning reports. Please be sure to login to MyEd BC to review the report card with your student. Click <https://www.sd35.bc.ca/myedbc-family-student-portal-help> if you need help logging on.

At the start of a semester there are always changes that need to be made to student schedules and there are also requests from students and families for schedules to be changed. We have made some adjustments to schedules as we have worked to balance classes. For the most part, these changes are completed, as of today. There may still be a few changes into next week, but courses are mostly settled for second semester. We also are continuing to receive a number of requests to change courses. Please note that we will not be able to accommodate further course changes for a variety of reasons, with the exception of course changes that will impact graduation or in the case that a student has an incorrect class in their schedule.



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As we enter into second semester, not only are we beginning a new set of courses, we are also beginning to plan for next school year. Our Counselling and Administration team, alongside our department head team, have been preparing and planning the course catalogue for next year. Along with our course planning website (<http://www.wgsscourseguide.ca/>), we will be hosting a number of course planning presentations for students and families throughout the month of February. Please see the upcoming dates in this newsletter.

Finally, please note the change in date for our February PAC meeting. Due to scheduling conflicts, it will now be hosted on Thursday, February 19 in the Library Annex at 7:00pm.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

*Mr Mike Pue*

Proud Principal



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### IMPORTANT DATES

February 6	Learning Updates Issued
February 6	Grade 10 Edge Info Session at @REP
February 9	Pro D Day – students not in attendance
February 12	Parent Course Planning @ 6PM
February 16	Family Day – schools closed
February 18	Grade 9 Immunizations
February 19	PAC Meeting at 7pm (Library Annex)
February 20	Online Course Selection Closes
February 26	Grade 7 Open House
March 10	WGSS Spring Concert @6:30PM
March 11	Early Dismissal – Parent/Teacher Interviews
March 12	Early Dismissal – ParentTeacher Interviews
March 16-27	Spring Break
March 30	School Re-opens

### GATOR NATION BREAKFAST CLUB VOLUNTEERS

Our Breakfast Club has started and we are looking for volunteers who can assist. If you are willing and able to assist one or more mornings per week (7:45-8:45am) please contact our Breakfast Club Volunteer Coordinator, Rebeca Monzo: [rmonzo@lwchurch.ca](mailto:rmonzo@lwchurch.ca)



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### Fairy Godmother Foundation

#### Are you in need of grad wear for prom?

The Fairy Godmother Foundation is here to help! We provide FREE grad wear (dresses, suits, shoes, accessories) to students who may not be able to afford them, ensuring everyone has the chance to celebrate this special milestone.

##### Who Can Apply?

Any high school student in need of assistance with prom attire.

##### How to Apply:

Visit your school counselor and let them know you'd like to be considered for assistance.

Once applications are reviewed your counsellor will contact you with further details

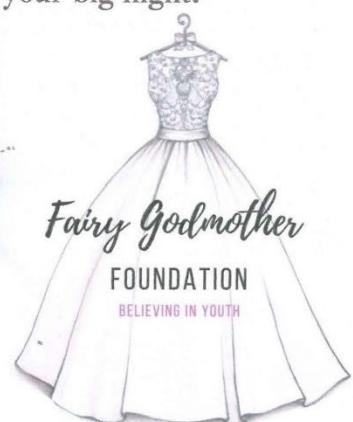
Let us help you feel like the star you truly are on your big night!

Our team is excited to work with you to find the perfect outfit for your prom night!

The Fairy Godmother Foundation –  
Where every student deserves to shine!

\*Apply ASAP as space is limited\*

For more information, ask your counsellor





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### STUDENT DROP OFF & PICK UP

We have a very large school population, with approximately 2200 students attending WGSS this year. As the weather gets wetter and colder, the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up gets busier and our school grounds and surrounding roadways become very congested.

We thought it would be helpful to send a few reminders:

- Please do not drop-off or pick-up students along Walnut Grove Drive. This is unsafe.
- If you can drop-off or pick-up your student in a neighbouring area that is not as busy, that would be helpful.
- Please do not park in the parking lots of our neighbouring Townhouse Complexes. This creates situations where residents are not able to park in their own homes and makes it more difficult for them to navigate their internal roadways.
- If you can stagger your drop-off times (a little earlier) or pick-up times (a little later) that would also help to alleviate congestion.
- Please be mindful of blocking lanes if you are coming through the front of the school:
  - Please make room for our buses to be able to park and maneuver in the parking lot.
  - Please do not park in the lanes in front of the parking stalls; this holds up traffic and prevents cars from leaving the parking spots.
  - Please do not park in the designated bus zones.

### ERASE BULLYING REPORT IT TOOL

The [ERASE Bullying Report It Tool](#) is a way for students to report bullying, threats, or unsafe situations—anonimously and securely. If you or someone you know is being bullied, feeling unsafe, or worried about violence at school, you can use this tool to get help from trusted adults. [Interested in seeing a counsellor?](#)



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### REPORTING AN ABSENCE

The school uses an automated absence reporting system called SafeArrival, offered through SchoolMessenger. With SafeArrival, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these three convenient methods:

1. **SchoolMessenger App** – Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store. The first time you use the app, select “Sign Up” to create your account. You must use the same email address and phone number that is on file at the school. Select “Attendance” then “Report an Absence”.
2. **SafeArrival Website** – Use the SafeArrival website: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select “Sign Up” to create your account. You must use the same email address and phone number that is on file at the school. Select “Attendance” then “Report an Absence”.
3. **Toll-Free Phone** – Call the toll-free number 1-833-294-4837 to report an absence using the automated phone system. If you are calling the toll-free number, you must call from the parent/guardian phone number on file with the school.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. We ask that daily absences are reported as soon as possible and **before 3:00pm** on the day of the absence. This includes late arrivals and early departures. Future absences can be reported at any time. If absences are not reported before the cut-off time of 3:00pm, the parent/guardian may still receive an automatic notification in the evening to inform them of an absence.

Absences are only to be reported by parents/guardians on file with the school. Students are NOT to report their own absences.

Please report absences using SafeArrival instead of sending notes, calling, or emailing the school. Please use the three options above to report absences. **The school office will no longer accept calls regarding attendance. Parents/guardians will need to report via the app, website, or toll-free number in a timely manner.**

If families have children attending other schools, please continue to report absences using the existing procedures for those schools.



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### DRY GRAD

#### **Next Meeting**

- Wednesday, February 4 at 6:30pm in WGSS Library

Join our Dry Grad 2026 parent group on Facebook to stay up to date: Walnut Grove Secondary Dry Grad 2026.

We're excited to announce two simple ways you can help support WGSS Dry Grad 2026. Your participation makes a big difference!

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**1. Return-It Express Bottle Drive** - Turn your refundable beverage containers into donations for Dry Grad!

**How to participate:**

- **Bag your containers** in clear, sealed bags (90L capacity).
- **Drop off** at any Return-It Express location (max 6 bags per visit).
- **Donate to WGSS Dry Grad 2026** by selecting our organization in your Express account.

**Tip:** Phone numbers are no longer needed - donations are now linked through your own Express account! Just click the drop down to direct the funds towards WGSS Dry Grad 2026 and drop and go as usual!

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**2. FlipGive Online Shopping** - Shop online and earn cashback for WGSS Dry Grad!

**How it works:**

- Start your shopping through FlipGive and earn a percentage back for our team.
- Buy gift cards or shop directly from hundreds of brands.
- **Join our team here:** [Flip Give - WGSS](#)

Fundraising runs until **May 2026**

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Thank you for supporting WGSS Dry Grad 2026. Every contribution helps us create an amazing celebration for our grads! Next meeting will be Wednesday, Feb 4 at 6:30pm in the school library. Hope to see you there!

**WGSS Dry Grad Committee**



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### FROM OUR PAC

#### **PAC Executives** for the 2025 – 2026 school year:

- President - Itzel Symonds
- Vice President - Valerie Steckler
- Treasurer - Shivani Khera
- Secretary - Amy Olson
- DPAC Rep - Rebecca Hardin
- Members at Large - Stephen Northrup and Tali Litvak Kor

#### **PAC Meeting Dates**

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at **7:00pm** in the WGSS library, with a few exceptions. There is no PAC Meeting in December or March. The meeting in June is a regular meeting as well as the Annual General Meeting.

Here are the remaining dates for PAC Meetings for the 2025 – 2026 school year:

- **February 19 (library annex)**
- March – no meeting
- April 9
- May 21
- June 11

The PAC continues to fund important school programs and requests that go beyond the standard curriculum, enriching our students' educational experience. For more information, please check out our website: [www.wgsspac.ca](http://www.wgsspac.ca)

Please consider making a contribution to the PAC through their One & Done Fundraiser. A simple donation – no selling or volunteering required – just your generous support to help keep these programs going!

**Scan QR code to donate!**



***We are very appreciative of our PAC and the Executive for the support that they provide for our students and our school!***



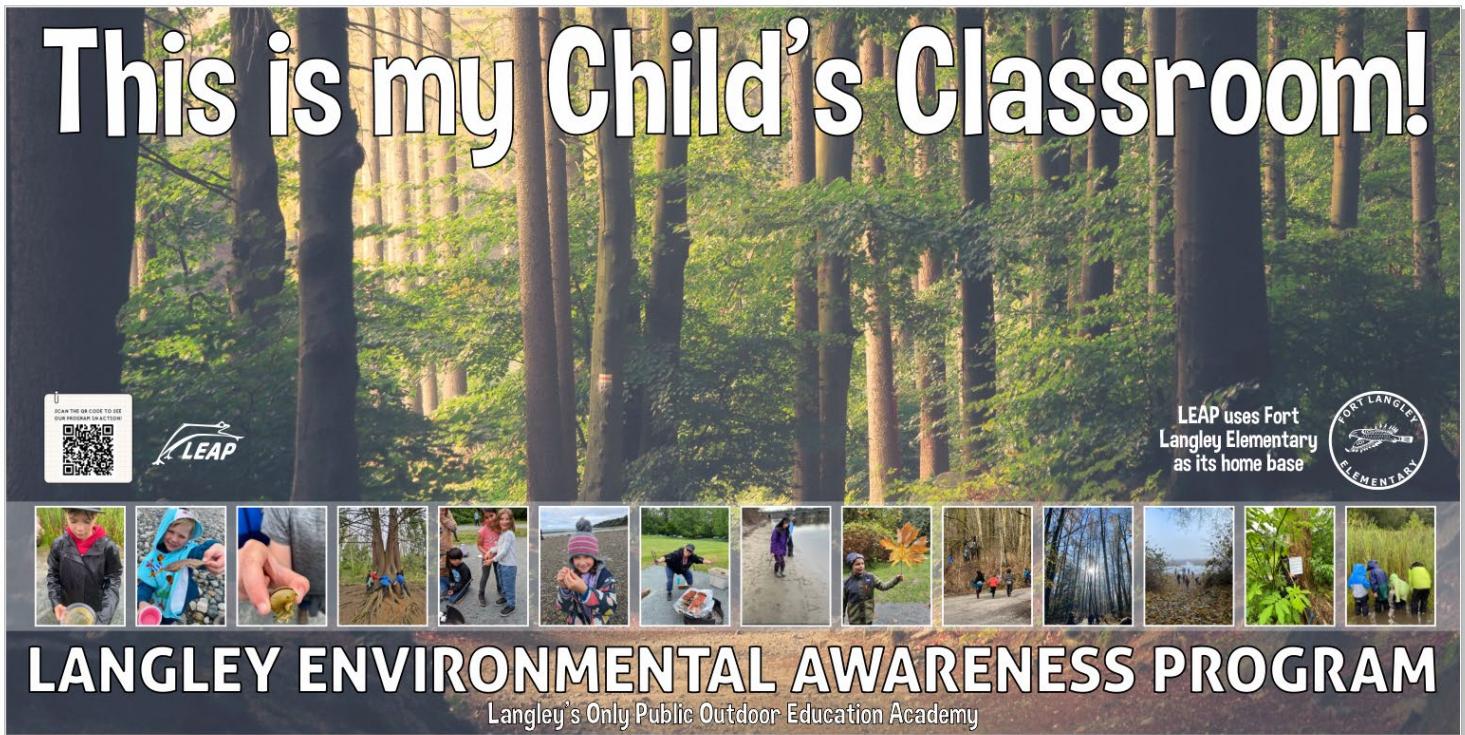
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### FROM OUR DISTRICT

#### **LEAP (Outdoor Education)**

For more information about the outdoor education program and to watch our new stunning promotional video please visit: <https://youtu.be/PdXcrUJSzfl>



**This is my Child's Classroom!**

LEAP uses Fort Langley Elementary as its home base

LANGLEY ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS PROGRAM  
Langley's Only Public Outdoor Education Academy





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### Langley Fine Arts School Open House – Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Are you looking for a program that encourages secondary students to EXPLORE, CREATE, and INSPIRE? Langley Fine Arts is inviting families to an open house to learn more about secondary programming streams including Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Arts, Photography, and Writing. This unique, publicly funded, K-12 fine arts school located in historic Fort Langley, combines provincial curriculum with high-level courses that develop aesthetic intelligence in student artists. Administrators and staff will share information, lead tours, and answer questions. Join us on **Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> anytime between 9:30am and 2:30pm**. Our address is 9096 Trattle Street (Fort Langley) and check in will be at the main entrance (on Trattle Street). Click [here](#) for more info!

For more information about LFAS visit the school website: <https://www.sd35.bc.ca/lfas>

### This Month in the Arts: February 2026

Click [here](#) to view the February "This Month in the Arts" poster which showcases the many different Arts Education productions and events that are happening around the District in February for staff, students, parents, and community members! This month, there are TWO productions of *Newsies*: The Broadway Musical. The month of February will also see evenings of Dance, Jazz music, and three of the District's Musicals. Lots to enjoy!

### A Season of Theatre

The Langley School District is proud to be presenting another season of Main Stage Productions! This year's lineup dives deep into what makes us human - identity, love, resilience, and transformation. From the bold defiance of *Antigone* to the glittering ambition of *Chicago*, the heart of *The Prom*, and the magic of *The Little Mermaid*, every show invites you to explore who we are and what we stand for. Click [here](#) to see the full listing of shows and dates, and reserve your seats and experience the power of live theatre!



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### **Vaping Information Sessions for Youth**

In partnership with Health Canada, [QuitNow](#) is hosting [I quit for me](#), a series of sessions for youth ages 13-18 who would like to stop vaping or smoking. The sessions will focus on health risks of nicotine, creating a support plan, and healthy ways to manage stress. Sessions are 45-minutes on Zoom and run every Tuesday at 7pm PST from February 3 to March 3, 2026. Please encourage youth to [register](#) in advance to secure a spot. Questions may be directed to Beth Clark, Manager, Behavioural Coaching & Outreach at [clark@bclung.ca](mailto:clark@bclung.ca).

### **LSS Sports Academies Information Nights**

Are you looking for a way to fuel your passion for hockey, baseball or softball while still achieving your academic goals? Langley Secondary School's sports academies may be the perfect fit for your child! These high-performance skills-based programs combine on-and off-field or ice training, strength and conditioning education, and the BC school curriculum. Learn more at an upcoming Information Session, which is scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Langley Secondary Learning Commons. Click on links below for details. Please note, this information session does NOT include the LSS Soccer Academy.

[LSS Academies](#)

[LSS Baseball 2026](#)

[LSS Hockey 2026](#)

[LSS Softball 2026](#)

### **Vancouver Giants**

We are partnering with the Vancouver Giants to raise money for Langley students! The game is **Friday, February 6th, at 7pm against the Spokane Chiefs!**

Join the Langley School District Foundation at this great family night out! Partial proceeds of ticket sales plus the 50/50 from this game goes towards supporting the Langley School District Foundation's work supporting the students and schools of Langley.

Click [here](#) for more info!



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SD35 Career Education



## Pathways to the Future

Exploring Langley School District's Trades & Career Opportunities

Join us for this family information evening as we highlight the district's career programs and pathways to post-secondary success!



When:

February 3, 2026  
6:30 pm- 8:00

Where:

Langley Events Centre  
7888 200 Street, Langley



LOOK  
FORWARD TO  
YOUR FUTURE!!

CONNECT WITH  
POST-SECONDARY  
INSTITUTIONS!!

PARENTS &  
STUDENTS  
WELCOME!!



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### **Middle School and Secondary School Registration 2026-2027**

The Langley School District is expanding its online school registration to middle and secondary school students. If you or someone you know is expecting to apply for entry into a middle or secondary school as a new student in September 2026, please note that the application process is online beginning on January 5, 2026. If you have any questions, please contact your catchment school. For instructions and information about required documents please visit the District website [here](#).

### **Information About School Status During Inclement Weather**

Snow closures and power outages are an annual occurrence in Langley School District. So, where do you go to get information about the status of schools during periods of inclement weather? If you are able to access the internet via computer or smartphone, current information about Langley schools can be accessed on all school websites or [www.sd35.bc.ca](http://www.sd35.bc.ca). Updates are also posted to X (formerly Twitter) @LangleySchools and Facebook at [www.facebook.com/langleyschooldistrict](http://www.facebook.com/langleyschooldistrict).

If you don't have internet connectivity but your phone is working, call a relative or friend in an area that has not been affected by the storm and ask them to check the district website for you. Local radio stations are also informed of school status in Langley. Tune in to CKWX 1130AM, CKNW 980AM, Country Radio 107.1FM, Pulse 107.7 or CBC 690AM or 88.1FM for updates.

Please note that Langley District schools are all considered 'open' until a decision to close is required. Decisions on school closures are usually made by 6:30am. As always, it is a parent's decision whether to send their child to school based on safety and individual circumstances. If you feel it is unsafe for you or your child to travel to or attend an open school for any reason, please keep your child home and report an absence to the school.



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### FROM FRASER HEALTH

#### **Grade 9 Immunizations – February 18**

During their first visit in November, Fraser Health was able to provide immunizations to students with last names A-L. During this second visit on February 18, they will be going through last names M-Z as well as any students who missed the first session.

#### **Healthy Childhood and Youth Development includes Sexual Health**

Learning about sexual health, including understanding your body, its changes, health conditions, personal hygiene, healthy relationships, consent and sexuality, are all part of growing up. Youth going through puberty experience big physical, emotional and social changes. Talking about sexual health can encourage children and youth to identify their values and develop skills that promote healthy decision making and self-esteem.

#### **How do I teach my child about sex and sexuality?**

Beginning to talk to your children, as early as pre-school age, about sexual health is important. Establishing an open and trusting relationship with your child will help them know they can come to you for honest and reliable information about sex and sexuality.

For help on how to talk to your child and what to include about sexual health, read Fraser Health's [Sexual education for children](#) page.

#### **Youth Clinics**

Let your teen know about our youth clinics. Located throughout the Fraser Health region, these clinics offer free and confidential sexual health care for youth, with age eligibility varying by site and service. Learn more about the services available at youth clinics [here](#).

#### **Child and Youth Mental Health**

Health, safety, and wellness continue to be a priority in our schools. To help support our students and families, we are sharing important information from our community partner Fraser Health about Child and Youth Mental Health. Please see below for helpful reminders to support your child.

#### **Support Your Child's Mental Health**

Positive mental health allows us to enjoy our lives and can help children and youth weather the normal ups and downs of life. It plays a critical role in the healthy development of children and youth, supporting their ability to build healthy relationships and succeed in school.



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### How Can Parents Support Positive Mental Health?

Parents can foster positive mental health through strong and caring relationships with their children.

- Self-care – focus on doing something for yourself, even if just for a few minutes.
- Build routines – consistent schedules, such as meal, sleep and play times help children feel safe.
- Connect – talk and listen to their feelings and experiences.
- Be active together – take a walk and build physical activity into family time.
- Take notice – encourage and praise the positive behaviours and choices your children make.
- Keep learning – encourage your child to learn from both positive and negative experiences.
- Be present, not perfect – give your time, your encouragement and your presence.

Get more information about positive mental health for children and youth [here](#).

Sometimes parents aren't sure how to talk about mental health. Learn more about [tips for how to talk to your child or teen about mental health](#).

Family transitions like separation and divorce can be tough and can impact mental health. To learn more and access practical resources visit [FamiliesChange.ca](#).

Need help? Find out services, programs and resources for your child and/or youth on Fraser Health's [Child and youth mental health](#) page.

Remember, you can get fast and reliable health advice from registered nurses with emergency experience who have access to your child's personal health record. Contact them via phone at 1-800-314-0999 or web chat. Learn more at [Fraserhealth.ca/VirtualCare](#).