



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Gator Families,

Hope you have had an amazing start to February and are looking forward to the long weekend. As we are two weeks into Semester Two, students are settling into their classes and engaging in the learning opportunities. Now is a great time to check in with them and see how they are feeling about their progress so far. Speaking of learning progress, we published the first semester Summary of Learning reports last Friday. Hopefully, you have had the opportunity 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.

Preparations for next year are in full swing. This week we hosted our course planning virtual assemblies for students. Information about course offerings, special programs, and how to complete the course planning process was shared with students. We have also been offering a number of MyEdBC Help Sessions at lunch in the library to ensure that students can access their accounts in preparation for course selection. One of the resources that we encourage our students and families to make use of is our [WGSS Course Guide Website](#). It is loaded with information that can answer many questions for you. Huge thank you to our counselling team and our office staff who have worked to ensure that the website is updated with all the information to help students and families make good decisions about their course selections.

We also hosted a number of sessions for parents, including:

- Course Planning for families with students going into grades 9 and 10
- Course Planning for families with students who are entering grades 11 and 12
- Advanced Placement Information Session

One thing I do want to emphasize is to please take time to discuss options for next year. We encourage students to be thoughtful and intentional about course selections. We build our timetable based on the selections that our students make now for next year. Making the right selections now ensures that we are able to build a better timetable, and also increases the chances that a student will be scheduled into the courses they want.

Please note that all course selections are due in MyEd BC on February 20th. Applications to special programs are also due on February 20th.



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We have seen continued success in athletics over the past few weeks as we have entered into the winter sports playoff season. Our curling team made it to the semi-finals of the Easter Valley championships and has received a wild card berth to the Provincials next week in Chilliwack. All of the WGSS grade 8, grade 9 and junior basketball teams had successful seasons that saw them reach the Langley District playoffs, with some advancing further into the Eastern Valley Championships. Congratulations to all the players and coaches on successful seasons and good luck to the Jr. Girls & Boys teams in the upcoming year-end Invitational tournaments.

Last night we hosted our Seniors' Night for our graduating student athletes in Basketball. It was a wonderful celebration of our 9 graduating student athletes and their contributions to Gator Basketball, while also having the opportunity to recognize the support of their families. The Boys team finished their season on a winning note with a hard fought victory over crosstown rival LSS.

This past Monday was a District Professional Development Day, where staff had the opportunity to engage in professional learning that ultimately supports student success. At the District event, we had the opportunity to hear from Dr. Niigaan James Sinclair, a writer, professor and son of the Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair, who spoke of the importance of all people working together to make Indigenous teachings a pillar of the education system. It was an amazing day of learning for all staff.

I do want to take a moment to acknowledge the tragic events that occurred in Tumbler Ridge earlier this week. Our thoughts are with the students, staff, and families of Tumbler Ridge Secondary as well as the entire Tumbler Ridge community. As mentioned in the letter from the District, the health, safety, and wellbeing of our students and staff are a priority. We want everyone to know that your children are surrounded by adults who are ready to listen, comfort, and support them. If you feel your child needs additional support, please reach out to their teacher, school counsellor, or administrator, and/or access the community supports identified in the February 11th email from the school.

We wish you a Happy Valentine's Day and a wonderful Family Day Weekend!

Mr Mike Pue

Proud Principal



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IMPORTANT DATES

February 16	Family Day – schools closed
February 18	Grade 9 Immunizations
February 18	HUB Day
February 19	PAC Meeting at 7pm (Library Annex)
February 20	Online Course Selection Closes
February 20	Vocal Jazz Café @7pm (Drama Room)
February 25	HUB Day
February 25	Pink Shirt Day
February 26	Grade 7 Open House
March 4	HUB Day
March 10	WGSS Spring Concert @6:30PM
March 11 & 12	Parent/Teacher Interviews – dismissal at 1:55pm

IMPORTANT COURSE PLANNING DATES

February 12-20	Counselling Centre open at lunch for drop-in course planning support
February 13 & 18	MyEd Log In Help Sessions at lunch (Library)
February 20	MyEd course selection closes
February 20	Applications for Specialty Programs closes

Our [WGSS Course Guide Website](#) includes helpful and informative course planning videos and presentations to watch while making selections for the next school year. Follow the links below for more information pertaining to each grade:

[Grade 8 into Grade 9](#)
[Grade 9 into Grade 10](#)

[Grade 10 into Grade 11](#)
[Grade 11 into Grade 12](#)

IMPORTANT GRADUATION DATES & DEADLINES

February 17	Grad Ceremony Ticket sales begin
April 1	Deadline to order Grad Ceremony tickets
April 1	Deadline to complete Grad Walk Fieldtrip - School Cash Online
April 1	Dinner & Dance tickets available for purchase - School Cash Online
April 15	Hard copy of Dinner & Dance Guest Permission Form due at office
May 8	Deadline to purchase Dinner & Dance tickets – School Cash Online
May 14	Table Captains submit all required Dinner & Dance paperwork





SPAIN 2026/27

Would you like to travel to Valencia, Spain?



WGSS is hosting a two-week travel exchange for 22 students
Estimated student cost: \$2900

Travel dates: March 10-25, 2027

Hosting dates: September 10-25, 2026

Eligible students: Grades 10 or 11 in 2026/2027 (current grade 9 and 10 students).

To find out more, please see Ms. Fenato in room 147 or contact her at dfenato@sd35.bc.ca. The parent meeting will be held on Thursday, February 26 at 6:30 pm in the library and registration begins on February 27.



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Governor General Academic Medal – Grad Class of 2025

We are pleased to recognize our graduating student who has earned the Governor General's Academic Medal for the Graduation year 2025, awarded to the student with the highest academic standing in the graduating class. This prestigious national distinction honours exceptional academic achievement and sustained commitment to excellence. More than grades alone, the Governor General's Academic Medal recognizes perseverance, dedication, and a deep respect for learning. We extend our sincere congratulations to our recipient on this outstanding accomplishment and for modelling academic excellence throughout their secondary school journey. Congratulations Hanson Wei! Hanson is continuing to pursue academic excellence as he continues his studies at the University of Waterloo in Ontario.





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Basketball Wins!



	GRADE 8 GIRLS FINAL		
	38	FINAL 61	
LANGLEY CHRISTIAN			WALNUT GROVE



	JUNIOR GIRLS FINAL		
	53	FINAL 46	
WALNUT GROVE			BROOKSWOOD



Gator News # 11



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 councillor will contact you with further details

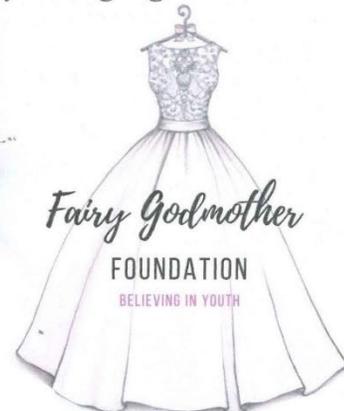
Let us help you feel like the star you truly are on your big night!

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—anonously 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?](#)

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



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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

- March 2 at 6:30pm in WGSS Library

Scan QR code to join our Dry Grad 2026 parent group on Facebook to stay up to date: Walnut Grove Secondary Dry Grad 2026.



Current Fundraisers

Meridian Farm Market

Click here to purchase gift cards - <https://meridianfarmmarket.ca/wgssdrygrad2026>



Farm Fresh Fundraiser

Shop *fresh* craft meats, local handpicked produce, and farm market goodness delivered fresh to your door

30% of proceeds go directly to your organization

With your help, we've given back over \$2 million to local charities and organizations just like yours! Proceeds have been used to purchase everything from new ice skates to school supplies to tournament accommodations.

We're honoured to support our local community, and we're grateful for your support of our local farm market.

Convenient online gift cards

Our online gift cards never expire and are valid for all online purchases. They're like cash and can be used in combination with any offer or promotion. Simply enter the unique code at checkout.

Online gift cards are not valid in store.

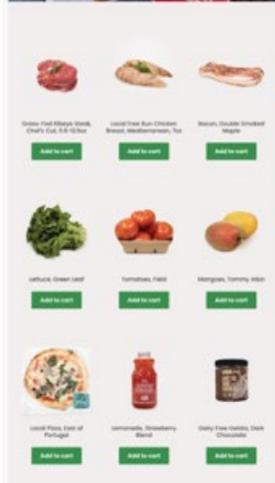
Farm fresh to your door

Deliveries arrive hand-packed and chilled, fresh to your door, across Vancouver & the lower mainland. Enjoy our farm fresh guarantee, including hassle free refunds and truly exceptional customer service.

Shop online at meridianfarmmarket.ca

Please use our WGSS Dry Grad link:

<https://meridianfarmmarket.ca/wgssdrygrad2026>



Meridian Farm Market, Ralph's Farm Market and Meridian Meats & Seafood are locally owned and family run since 1989



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Purdy's Spring Fundraiser - <https://fundraising.purdys.com/campaign/000020279>

For more info:

- [Catalogue](#)
- [Order Form](#)

Fundraising runs until March 4, pickup will be March 12.

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!

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](#) (code - 545LVX)

Fundraising runs until **May 2026**

SAVE THE DATE for our upcoming Pub Night on Saturday, April 4, 2026! More info coming soon!

Thank you for supporting WGSS Dry Grad 2026. Every contribution helps us create an amazing celebration for our grads! Next meeting will be March 2 at 6:30pm in the school library. Come share your ideas to make this an amazing night for your grad! Hope to see you there!

WGSS Dry Grad Committee



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WGSS DRY GRAD 2026 RAFFLE ~STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS~

We need your help selling Raffle Tickets to host your DRY GRAD!

All the funds raised will make this event possible for you to celebrate your accomplishments and create lifelong memories.

WHAT TO DO:

Each student will receive 1 booklet of 10 Raffle Tickets to sell for the WGSS Dry Grad 2026. Tickets are \$3 each, \$30/booklet. Sell to whoever will buy: Parents, Friends, Family, Aunts, Uncles, Neighbors...

Raffle Prizes are as follows:

- 1st: \$500.00
- 2nd: \$250.00
- 3rd: \$100.00

Once you have sold your Booklet of 10 Tickets, please return the **COMPLETED TICKETS STUBS AND MONEY** in a sealed envelope or Ziploc bag to the main office **CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR FIRST & LAST NAME AND DRY GRAD ON IT.**

PRIZE ALERT!! ADDITIONAL BOOKLETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS TO SELL -- the student who has sold the MOST tickets will win a prize. GOOD LUCK!!

Extra Raffle booklets can be signed out at the main office if you want to sell more.

IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE:

The DEADLINE to return all tickets and money is **Friday, April 24, 2026.**

The DRAW is on Monday, April 27th, 2026 at 12:15pm.

ALL SOLD OR UNSOLD TICKETS HAVE TO BE RETURNED AS PER BC GAMING LICENCE RULES.

Outstanding ticket payments will be added to the cost of your DRY GRAD Ticket.

RAFFLE BOOKLETS MUST BE RETURNED TO PURCHASE YOUR DRY GRAD TICKETS.



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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

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

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



**\$16,800 TO BE AWARDED!
7 CATEGORIES!**

Seven exceptional youth will be recognized for the following award categories:

- SPORTS LEADERSHIP
- YOUTH LEADERSHIP
- COMMUNITY SERVICE
- LEADERSHIP IN ARTS, CULTURE
- CULTURAL AND DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP
- ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP
- LEADERSHIP BEYOND ADVERSITY

more information and nomination forms are available at:
sassyawardslangley.ca

Apply now! Nominations close March 14th, 2025

Know an exceptional youth aged 15-21 that is making a positive impact in our Langley communities!

NOMINATE THEM TODAY!

All nominees participate in a
Red Carpet Awards Ceremony
May 8th, 2025

Winners receive a
Cash Award & SASSY Trophy!





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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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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!

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.

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. Updates are also posted to X (formerly Twitter) @LangleySchools and Facebook at 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.



FROM FRASER HEALTH

Immunizations – February 18

During their first visit in November, Fraser Health was able to provide immunizations to grade 9 students with last names A-L. During their second visit on February 18, they will be going through grade 9 students with last names M-Z, as well as any other grade 9 students who missed the first session. If time permits, they will immunize students in grades 10-12 who have outstanding vaccinations. If your child has outstanding vaccinations they should be receiving forms today or on Tuesday from their Block A teacher. Please complete and return these forms to the office by Wednesday, Feb 18.

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](#).