



Gator News

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Gator Families,

This past week was Diversity and Respect Week at Walnut Grove Secondary and around the District. Students and staff put together a number of activities and theme days for students and staff to engage with. It was a wonderful week of highlighting and celebrating the diversity in our school community. I extend my sincere thanks to all our students and staff who engaged in these learning opportunities for our school this month and I also extend thanks to our school community for celebrating diversity, raising important questions, and challenging us as a school community to continue to learn and grow in the areas of equity, diversity, and inclusion. Special thanks to Student Council, Culture Club, The Humanitarian Club, the Model UN Club and the Pride Club along with Ms. Alexander, Ms. Barberis, Ms. Hanson, Ms. Harradine, Ms. Kelly, Ms. Matson, Ms. Rempel, Ms. Vaters and Ms. Viefhues for supporting this week and helping to organize it.

Next Tuesday, our students and staff will be engaging in our Informal Learning Update process. Students will be bringing home that day, so please make sure you check in with them. Connected to this process are our upcoming Parent/Teacher interviews scheduled for Wednesday March 11th & Thursday March 12th. Some further information is available later in the newsletter and we will be emailing more detailed information home on Monday next week. Please be sure to sign up following the instructions provided if you are interested. If you are unable to book an appointment with a teacher, please contact that teacher directly to set up an alternate time.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we have been engaged in our course planning process these past few weeks. On February 20, course requests were due in MyEdBC. This week, we followed up with students who had not yet completed their course requests for next school year. One of the things that we want to continue to emphasize is that we have asked students to choose their courses wisely, including their "alternate" selections. We build our timetable based on student course requests. As such, there is not always an opportunity for a student to change their courses once we have built the timetable. We will do our normal course verification process after Spring Break. But in the meantime, I encourage you to have further conversations with your child about their course requests to ensure that it reflects their needs, their areas of interest and that it also supports their potential future pathways.

Have a great weekend,

Mr Mike Pue

Proud Principal



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IMPORTANT DATES

March 3	Informal Learning Updates
March 4	HUB Day
March 10	WGSS Spring Concert @6:30PM
March 11 & 12	Parent/Teacher Interviews – dismissal at 1:55pm
March 16-27	Spring Break
April 1	HUB DAY
April 3	Good Friday – school closed
April 6	Easter Monday – school closed
April 8	HUB DAY
April 8	Job Fair
April 9	PAC Meeting @7pm (Library)
April 13	Design & Assessment Day – students not in session
April 15	HUB DAY
April 20-24	Graduation Assessments (Library closed)
April 20	HUB DAY
April 23	Grade 8 Dance
April 27	Learning Updates Issued
April 30	WGSS Musical (Chicago)



IMPORTANT GRADUATION DATES & DEADLINES

April 1	Deadline to order Grad Ceremony tickets – see Grad Info Package for Details: https://www.sd35.bc.ca/wgss/grad-info
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

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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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PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent-Teacher interviews will be held on Wednesday, March 11 from 2:20pm to 4:30pm, and Thursday, March 12 from 2:20pm to 7:30pm. Appointments are booked online for in-person interviews. Online booking will open at 5:00pm on Wednesday, March 4 and close at 11:59pm on Sunday, March 8. Please go to wgss.schoolappointments.com to register. *Please note that even if you have registered for appointments in previous sessions, you must re-register for the March 2026 session!*

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.



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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ERASE BULLYING REPORT IT TOOL

The [ERASE Bullying Report It Tool](#) is a way for students to report bullying, threats, or unsafe situations—anonynously 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

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

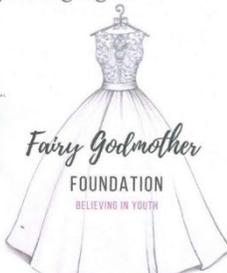
Let us help you feel like the star you truly are on your big night!

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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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.



Hello Parents & Grads!

We need your help. We have an active list of 8 fundraisers between now and May 1st with the goal of raising funds to keep the costs down for the 2026 Dry Grad Event!

What we need from you:

- Participation in the fundraising - share our posts (Facebook page and Grad Instagram)
- We need prizes for both the Pub Night (Apr 4) and the Dry Grad Event (June 23) - please send emails to wgssdrygrad2026@gmail.com to arrange drop off/pick up
- Parents we need you to help out in the planning of the event itself. Our Executive has/is forming subcommittees that will help with decorations, food, security, etc - COME TO OUR NEXT MTG AT 6:30PM, MARCH 2 IN THE LIBRARY. Agenda will be sent out before meeting.

ON THE NEXT PAGE IS OUR FUNDRAISER LIST WITH ACTIVE LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Any questions please let us know at wgssdrygrad2026@gmail.com OR on our Facebook page: [Walnut Grove Secondary Dry Grad 2026](#)

Thank you!
Dry Grad Committee



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Current Fundraisers – Please click [here](#) or on poster below for links to fundraising opportunities!

DRY GRAD FUNDRAISING	
SCHEDULE	3.04* PURDY'S EASTER P/U 3.12 @ WGSS
	3.05* MERIDIAN MEATS ON-LINE
	4.04* PUB NIGHT @JIMY MACS
	4.16* RAFFLE SALES END - DRAW 4.27
	4.27* NEUFELD FARMS APR 4-27 P/U 5.07
	5.01* 50/50 DRAW 5.04
	5.01* FLIPGIVE ON-LINE
	5.01* RECYCLE IT REFERRAL LINK
	*END DATES



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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:

- 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

Message to Community from Minister of Education and Child Care

Health and safety continue to be a priority in our schools. We are sharing a letter from the Minister of Education and Child Care which provides information about health and safety in schools as well as resources to support students and families. Thank you to parents/guardians who continue to collaborate and cooperate with our staff, as we know they have an important role in ensuring a healthy, safe, and positive learning environment for all students. Please click [here](#) for letter.

International Student Program Homestay Families

Embark on a rewarding journey of cultural exchange! The District is seeking homestay families to host International Student Program (ISP) students for the 2026-2027 school year and beyond. There are many benefits including learning a new culture, sharing your family traditions, and developing life-long friendships. Homestay families are provided \$1200 per month to offset costs. Start your journey here: [Students & Homestay](#)



HOMESTAY FAMILIES NEEDED

How to apply:



www.studyinlangley.com
isp@sd35.bc.ca
604-534-7891



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Middle and Secondary Schools on the Willoughby Slope

This week the Langley Board of Education announced the names of the two new schools in the Smith neighbourhood of the Willoughby Slope. The schools are currently under construction and are expected to be completed in fall 2027.

The new secondary school is named Emery Dosedall Secondary. The late Emery Dosedall was a longtime Superintendent in the Langley School District as well as a former Deputy Minister of Education in the BC government. You can read more about it in the media release [here](#).

The new middle school is named statləw Middle School. statləw is a word that means 'little river' or 'little creek' in the həŋqəmiŋəŋ language, and the name statləw signifies an acknowledgment of the land, the preservation of the həŋqəmiŋəŋ language, and a renewed commitment to truth and reconciliation. Phonetic pronunciation [stot – low]. You can read more about it in the media release [here](#).

U-Connect

U-Connect offers programming at the elementary, middle and secondary level. For elementary and middle years (K-8), U-Connect offers multi-grade classes with a focus on small classes and a collaborative approach to learning between school and home. The secondary program is for students in grades 9 to 12. Students in the secondary program have the option of the blended pathway program and blended mornings. U-Connect also offers online-only courses for Langley students in grades 10-12. The school will be hosting Information Sessions this spring; please click [here](#) for more information.

This Month in the Arts: March 2026

Please see link below to learn about all of the incredible Arts Performance's and Show's happening around the Langley School District in March! Despite having only two weeks in session, the ARTS are making every moment count! From concert and jazz music to Broadway productions, from the Greek tragedy Antigone to the moment-by-moment journey of 110 Stories, this month highlights the remarkable range of our secondary students.

[This Month in the Arts: March 2026](#)

Aboriginal Program Spring into Wellness Family Gathering

The "Spring into Wellness Family Gathering" originally scheduled for Friday, February 27th has been cancelled. More information will be shared at a later date around a potential reschedule date for the event.



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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.



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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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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 13th, 2026

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 20th, 2026

Winners receive a **Cash Award & SASSY Trophy!**





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FROM FRASER HEALTH

Immunizations – March 5

Fraser Health will be returning for a third time next week to provide immunizations to students in grade 8, 10, 11 and 12 who have outstanding immunizations. Students with outstanding immunizations received Fraser Health forms from their Block A teacher within the last couple of weeks. Please note that not all students received these forms. Only students who have outstanding immunizations received them. Please complete these forms and return to the office before next Thursday, March 5.

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](#).