



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Students and Families:

It's hard to believe, but Spring Break has arrived! The time between Winter Break and now has flown by, and our Gators have been busy achieving great things at WGSS. Alongside the incredible learning happening in classrooms, Gator Nation has been bustling with activity:

- We hosted our annual transition days, featuring Capstone presentations from our Grade 9 and Grade 12 students, and welcomed our Grade 7 students, giving them a taste of Gator life.
- We smoothly transitioned into the second semester.
- We celebrated a successful Diversity & Respect Week.
- Students completed their course planning for the next school year.
- Our winter sports teams wrapped up their seasons with impressive results.
- We hosted our Spring Music Concert.
- Students participated in their Informal Learning Update process. Students had an opportunity to reflect on their learning through their Spaces account.
- We conducted our parent-teacher interviews.

These are just a few examples of the curricular and extracurricular activities our students and staff have been involved in. A heartfelt thank you to our amazing students and staff for making our school such a fantastic place to work and learn.

After Spring Break, we have many exciting events and activities to look forward to at WGSS. We're eagerly anticipating our annual Grad Casino Night, the musical theatre department's presentation of *Between the Lines*, our annual Tuff Wally event, and much more.

Before we dive into the post-Spring Break excitement, I wish you all a wonderful and safe Spring Break with your families!

Mr. Jeremy Lyndon

Proud Principal



Gator News

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IMPORTANT DATES

March 14	Last Day Before Spring Break
March 31	School Re-Opens after Spring Break
March 31	Grade 8 Rotation 2 Begins
April 1	Dry Grad Meeting – 6:30-7:30pm
April 2	HUB Day
April 4	English 9 & 11 Honours Assessments
April 7	English 10 & 11 Honours Assessments
April 8	PAC Meeting
April 11	Design & Assessment Day – Students Not in Session
April 18	Good Friday – School Closed
April 21	Easter Monday – School Closed
April 23	HUB Day
April 30	HUB Day

IMPORTANT GRADUATION DATES & DEADLINES

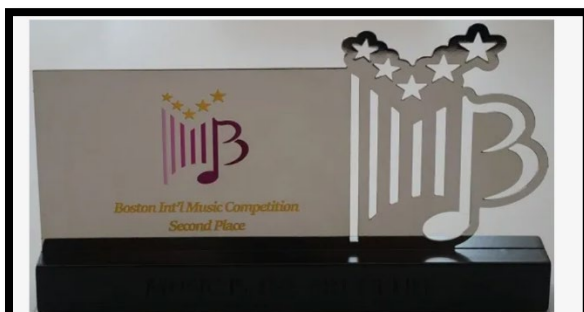


April 1	Dry Grad Raffle Begins
April 2	Online Ordering Closes for Ceremony Tickets
April 2	Completed Grad Walk Field Trip Form due on School Cash Online
April 2	Dinner & Dance Tickets Available to Purchase on School Cash Online
April 17	Hard Copy of Dinner & Dance Guest Passes Due at Office
April 17	Allocation of Extra Grad Ceremony Tickets Begins
April 24	Dinner & Dance Guest Interviews with VP – after school
May 1	Deadline to Return Dry Grad Raffle Tickets
May 9	Online Ordering Closes for Dinner & Dance Tickets
May 9	Dry Grad Raffle Draw at 1:30pm
May 15	Table Captains Submit all Required Dinner & Dance Paperwork
May 27	Dry Grad Kick Off Party & Ticket Sales from 3-5pm *details to come*
June 4/5/6	Cap & Gown, Ceremony Tickets, and Dinner & Dance Tickets Pick Up
June 23	Grad Walk
June 23	Graduation Ceremony
June 24	Grad Dinner & Dance
June 24/25	Dry Grad



Gator News #12

MUSIC STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Danny Lin

Canada
Category III - Orchestra
Age Group (C)
Title: Dawn



2024/25

Young Composers' Competition

Congratulations Winners!

Danny Lin

First prize (\$2000 scholarship, Orpheum performance)

WGSS Grade 11 Student, Danny Lin, has won first place in the Vancouver Academy of Music's 2024/25 Young Composers' Competition. With this award, Danny will receive a \$2000 scholarship and his piece, *Dawn*, will be performed by the VAM Symphony Orchestra next season, at the Orpheum Theatre in Vancouver!

Danny also received a Silver Medal from the Boston International Composition Competition for his age group. This competition is international and has participants from all over the world. It is judged based on high standards by the faculty from Berklee College of Music, Boston University, and New England Conservatory of Music.

Congratulatuions, Danny!



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2025 WINTER SPORTS SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Our 2025 Winter Sports Season has now come to a close. From November 25th to March 8th, we had 170 students participate in Basketball, Curling, and Lacrosse. Listed below are some of the highlights of the season.

Junior Boys Basketball Team
2nd at EVAA's
13th at Provincial Championships





Gator News

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Junior Girls Basketball Team
19th at Provincial Championships

Grade 9 Boys Basketball Team
2nd at EVAA's
6th at Provincial Championships





**Senior Boys Curling Team
EVAA Champions**



Lastly, a big THANK YOU to the 24 Teacher Coaches, Teacher Sponsors, and Community Coaches that dedicated their free time to help make this season possible.

Well done, Gators!



WGSS DRY GRAD NEWS

We encourage all parents/guardians of Grade 12 students to attend and learn how you can help and get involved in organizing a great and safe event for the Grads of 2025!

You can also find us on Facebook at *Walnut Grove Secondary Dry Grad 2025*.

All meetings will be held in the **WGSS Library from 6:30-7:30pm:**

Tuesday, March 11

Tuesday April 1

Tuesday April 22

Tuesday May 20

Tuesday June 3 (last meeting)

- Don't forget to donate all your refundable cans & plastic bottles to the Dry Grad Return-it account!! Details here: [Return-It Depot](#)
- Our WGSS Dry Grad Committee is currently running the following fundraiser: [WGSS Dry Grad-Langley School District Foundation](#)

DRY GRAD FUNDRAISERS

Meridian Meats – Online gift cards that never expire!

30% of every order goes directly to Dry Grad

BUY NOW: [Meridian Meats](#)

Order Deadline: March 30th, 2025

Purdy's Chocolates – ORDER NOW FOR PICK-UP BEFORE EASTER

(see attached flyer)

Order Deadline: March 25th, 2025

Order Pick Up: April 8th in WGSS Foyer 3:15 pm-4:15pm

WGSS Dry Grad 2025 Raffle – April 1st- 30th

All students will be sent home with 2 books of tickets on March 31st. See attached instructions that will come home with all Grade 12 students. This is our last big fundraiser! Our goal is to reach \$10,000+. All proceeds go directly towards Dry Grad to lower the ticket cost for our students!! The student that sells the most tickets will win a \$200 CASH prize!! LET'S DO THIS!!



WGSS DRY GRAD RAFFLE 2025 STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

This is your Graduation, and we need your help selling these two booklets of Raffle tickets. All the funds raised will make this event possible to Celebrate your accomplishments.

WHAT TO DO:

Here are your two booklets of 10 Raffle Tickets to sell for the WGSS Dry Grad 2025. 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 2 Booklets 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!! A \$200 cash prize goes to the student who has sold the MOST tickets. 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 is Thursday, May 1st, 2025.

The DRAW is on Friday, May 9th, 2025, at 1:30pm.

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

YOU MUST HAVE RETURNED YOUR BOOKLETS TO PURCHASE YOUR DRY GRAD TICKETS.



DRY GRAD DONATIONS

WGSS DRY GRAD + Langley School District Foundation

Help support your WGSS Class of 2025! Proceeds from your donations will make this year's Dry Grad a memorable, fun, and safe event for everyone.

Without the support and donations of our community, this event would not be possible.
No donation is too small, and every bit helps!

Let's make this event one that our students will never forget. Thank you from your
WGSS 2025 Dry Grad Committee!

(Note: 100% of your donation is tax deductible. 90% of your donation goes directly to this event).

[DONATE HERE](#)



Gator News #12

WGSS DRY GRAD 2025 FUNDRAISER



Buy your favourite chocolates to support

WGSS Dry Grad



Go to purdys.com/fundraising or Scan QR



Enter customer # to shop & support.

Place your order by

Contact at

for more details.

ORDER PICK UP – Tuesday APRIL 8th @ WGSS SCHOOL FOYER 3:15pm-4:15pm.



CANADA'S CHOCOLATIER SINCE 1907



Gator News #12

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



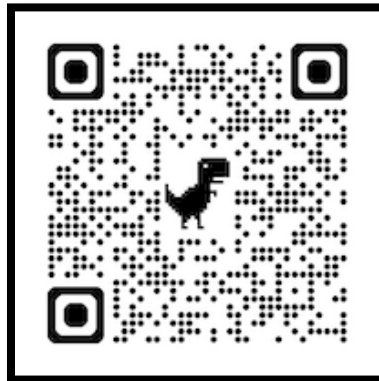


FROM OUR DISTRICT

Talk with Me, Play with Me, Learn with Me

Talk with Me, Play with Me, Learn with Me is a fun and engaging Langley Literacy Network program designed for Kindergarten students and their caregivers. Running Saturday mornings from 10–11am, April 5th to May 24th, at the Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary School Welcome Centre, this program offers a welcoming space to read, learn, play, and connect. Each week, families will explore new books and activities that support early literacy and learning. Plus, every participating family will take home eight new books to build their home library!

Registration is required, & space is limited. Please scan the QR code below to sign-up:



Free Swim Lesson Opportunity for Students – Inspired Swim’s Making Waves Program
The Langley School District Foundation is excited to announce a new partnership with Inspired Swim, a leading provider of private swim instruction. This initiative is designed to make water safety education more accessible to families in our district.

Through Inspired Swim's Making Waves Program, Inspired Swim will provide free swim lessons to students who may not otherwise have access.

Parents can apply for free lessons using the form linked here: [Apply Here](#)

Thank you for helping make water safety accessible to all children in our community!

For more details, visit www.inspiredswim.com or contact zach@inspiredswim.com



Screenagers - Elementary School Age Edition:
Community Screening and Expert Q&A - April 9, 2025

Physician and filmmaker Delaney Ruston examines the growing impact of screen time on young children, exploring the challenges families and educators face in managing digital use. Through personal experiences, expert insights, and the latest research, the film addresses key issues such as social media pressures, video gaming, screen time limits, and the effects of early exposure to technology.

Offering practical strategies for fostering healthy digital habits, *Screenagers: Elementary School Age Edition* is a must-watch for parents, teachers, and caregivers looking to guide children toward balanced tech use. View trailer: <https://youtu.be/EzzzeCny6oU>

FREE EVENT: Join other Langley parents and caregivers for a 55-minute documentary screening followed by a Q&A with expert panelists.

[Eventbrite Ticket Page](#)

[Facebook Event Page](#)

Y-Minds: FREE Program for Teens, Youth, and Adults

Y Mind is a FREE seven-week group program for teens, youth, or adults who are managing mild-to-moderate anxiety, stress, or worry. Two facilitators guide the group through evidence-based coping strategies based on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), mindfulness, and self-compassion. Group sizes are kept small, with 8 to 12 participants per group to facilitate peer support and connection.

Participants may self-refer, no diagnosis of anxiety is needed, and you do not need to be a YMCA member. All Y Mind Teen and Y Mind Youth participants receive a free YMCA membership for up to 14 weeks, including 10 free guest passes to bring a friend to the Y.

To join Y Mind, you must first register [here](#) for an information session where you will meet the group facilitators and complete an intake for the program. Spaces are limited, so inquire ASAP to guarantee your spot at an information session.



Gator News # 12

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 2025-2026 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: <https://www.studyinlangley.com/student-life/>

HOMESTAYS FAMILIES NEEDED

How to apply:



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





Gator News

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This Month in the Arts - March 2025

The Arts are alive and well in Langley schools! Please check out the poster below for a quick glance and overview of all of the amazing Arts events and activities happening across schools in the Langley School District in March!

THIS MONTH IN THE ARTS

March

1	HADESTOWN Brookwood Secondary School BSS Theatre 7:00 pm
3	JAZZ CAFE DW Poppy Secondary School DWP Small Gym 6:30 pm
3	NIGHT OF MUSIC Aldergrove Secondary School ACSS Gym 6:30 pm
5	SPRING 'POPS' MUSIC CONCERT RE Mountain Secondary School REMS Main Gym 7:00 pm
16-8	THE LIGHTENING THIEF Langley Secondary School LSS Main Gym 7:00 pm
16-8	THE WIZARD OF OZ DW Poppy Secondary School DWP Small Gym 7:00 pm
10	ELEMENTARY ZONE MUSIC CONCERT DW Poppy Secondary School DWP Small Gym 7:00 pm
11	SOUND OF SPRING MUSIC CONCERT DWP Secondary School DWP Small Gym 7:00 pm
11	SPRING MUSIC CONCERT Walnut Grove Secondary School WGSS Main Gym 7:00 pm



Gator News #12

UP TO \$20,000
IN SCHOLARSHIPS



2025 Challenge

Design a culturally sensitive and environmentally responsible solution to reduce human-caused wildfires in the local Harrison Lake area, while minimizing negative impacts on First Nations cultural practices, ecosystems, and wildlife.

More Information



LEARN MORE AND
ENTER YOUR SECONDARY
TEAM AT
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/4E48JED](https://bit.ly/4E48JED)





FROM OUR COMMUNITY



Gordon Greenwood Family Fun Night

Gordon Greenwood Elementary is hosting a family fun night on Friday, May 30th for the community. They are reaching out to see if there may be any students who would be interested in helping volunteer at their event and would be happy to sign off on any volunteer hours if needed.

Anyone interested in helping can email them directly at ggepac@hotmail.com or reach out to their principal at AJoo@sd35.bc.ca.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Langley is hosting a HUGE USED Book Sale

Discover great reads while supporting a wonderful cause!

All proceeds go directly to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Langley mentorship programs, helping ignite youth's potential in our community.





Spring Health Information From Fraser 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 Spring health. Please see below for helpful reminders to support your child.

Spring Health for Kids

The spring season is approaching which means warmer weather and more outdoor activities. It's also an opportunity to foster new healthy habits for our children. Here are five practical tips for school-aged kids to make the most of this season.

Get Active

Warmer weather makes spring the perfect time to get outside and play. Take a walk around your neighbourhood or head to a local park or hiking trail.

Think Fresh

Springtime often brings up images of fresh fruits and produce. Now is a great time to teach children about where food comes by helping them to start their own home garden. You don't need a large space to get started. Strawberries, tomatoes and lettuce can all be grown from pots on a sundeck.

Be Sun Safe

Sun burns are possible even in spring. Use a sunscreen that has Sun Protection Factor (SPF) 30 or more. When possible, schedule outdoor activities in the morning or late afternoon and early evening. If you and your children are out in the sun during mid-day hours, wear long sleeves, loose-fitting long pants and a hat with a wide brim.

Spring is also a good time to make sure your family has plans in place to be healthy in the coming heat. Investigate if your family is eligible for retrofitting rebates to keep the family cool, as indoor temperatures can be dangerous for everyone.

Support Positive Mental Health

The best way to support positive mental health in your children is by forming strong and caring relationships with them. Make time for connection each day. Talk to them about their feelings and experiences.

Practice Road Safety

Biking is a great way to exercise and spend quality time with your family. Remember to keep safety top of mind. Protect their heads with a well-fitted helmet and teach them the rules of the road, such as the hand signals for stop, right and left-hand turns.

Find more tips for a healthy spring in Fraser Health's Spring Health Guide: [Your spring health guide - Fraser Health Authority](#)



Gator News #12



YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD
STUDIO FOR FINE ARTS!

LOCAL ART CLASSES

Igniting hearts and minds so profound and
talented art shines

OPEN LEARNING CLASSES

INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING IN A GROUP SETTING:

Teachers provide one-on-one instruction within a group setting on individual, self-directed art projects or pieces, leading to a classical art education. Demo-guided, group-level learning is for our youngest student class.

ART ANGELS (AGES 5-7)

JUNIOR ARTISTS (AGES 8-12)

TEENS (AGES 13-17)

ADULTS (AGES 18+)

SENIORS (AGES 60+)

- OIL
- ACRYLIC
- WATERCOLOR
- CHARCOAL
- PASTEL
- COLOURED PENCILS
- + MORE 2D MEDIUMS

SPECIALTY COURSES

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO TRY A NEW ART FORM, BUT DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO START?

A variety of Specialty Courses are offered seasonally. They run from 4 weeks up to 8 weeks, taught by artists skilled in the form.

Some examples include:

- WATERCOLOUR THEORY
- CHINESE BRUSH PAINTING AND CALLIGRAPHY
- URBAN SKETCHING
- ACRYLIC LANDSCAPES
- 2-D COLLAGE



PORTFOLIO PREPARATION PROGRAM

APPLYING TO ART SCHOOL?

Prepare yourself for post-secondary art programs under the guidance of qualified art teachers. Pursue your career, receive tailored instruction, and form a strong portfolio.

BOOK GROUP OR PRIVATE
CLASSES, BIRTHDAY PARTIES,
PAINT NIGHTS, SPRING AND
SUMMER CAMPS, AND MORE!



CONTACT US

 (604) 455-0344

 www.theartschool.com

 @langleyartschool

 #215 20780 Willoughby
Town Centre Drive,
Langley V2Y0H5

COME AND JOIN US!



FROM OUR PAC

Happy Spring Break from your WGSS PAC!
We hope the second semester got off to a good start for everyone.

The PAC has been quite active since the Christmas holidays. At our January meeting, we discussed and approved a second round of funding requests for student clubs and societies.

In case you didn't know, every school PAC can apply for and receive funds from the BC Gaming Commission on a yearly basis. The amount given by the Gaming Commission varies by school size, but is generally around \$20 per student, and is given to the PAC to disburse for eligible extracurricular requests and projects around the school. Disbursement of these funds is tightly regulated by BC Gaming Commission guidelines.

Our first round of funding disbursements is generally done in November, and if there are funds left over, we open up a second round of requests in the New Year. At this second round, we were happy to be able to approve all eligible requests.

We just held our February meeting this week. Among other topics, we discussed the timely topic of mental health supports available for students. The WGSS Counselling Department offers a wealth of information on their website: <http://wgsscounselling.weebly.com/>. We're also continuing to discuss "succession planning" - recruiting a new PAC executive for the coming school year. Most of the current executive is either graduating or not eligible for another term. Open positions for the new school year include President, VP, Treasurer and Secretary. Please consider volunteering for your PAC. As the parent of a high school student, it can sometimes feel challenging to stay connected to events around the school, if not the district. Being a part of the PAC helps you stay informed and be a part of your child's high school journey.

Finally, please donate to your PAC if you can. We generally do not fundraise, because most of the school's fundraising centers around Dry Grad, and we have no wish to compete with that. Funds donated to the PAC do not fall under regulated guidelines, which means we have a lot more leeway in how we use the funds to support students and the school. Any amount helps, and we are incredibly grateful for your support. You can donate at <https://www.schoolcashionline.com/>. Please select your student, and then scroll down to "PAC Donations". Your WGSS PAC thanks you sincerely!

Find us on Facebook/ Meta as "WGSS PAC", or on our website: wgsspac.ca, or email us at contact.wgsspac@gmail.com.




Gator News

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Here are the dates for upcoming PAC Meetings for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

- March (No Meeting)
- Tuesday, April 8th
- Tuesday, May 13th
- Tuesday, June 10th (Regular PAC Meeting **and** Annual General Meeting)




ONE & DONE FUNDRAISER

**No selling required!
Just your support!**

Now that elementary school is behind you, you're probably ready to leave behind all those requests to sell or volunteer! We get it, and we won't ask you to do either.


However, the PAC still needs your support. We continue to fund important school programs and requests that go beyond the standard curriculum, enriching our students' educational experience.

Please consider making a contribution through our ONE-AND-DONE fundraiser. A simple donation—no selling, no volunteering required—just your generous support to help keep these programs going!



Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to donate on School Cash Online towards **PAC Donations**

- ✓ **\$15** - Bidding wars at a silent auction? No, thanks!
- ✓ **\$10** - Chasing down corporate sponsors? No, thanks!
- ✓ **\$5** - Selling chocolates or wrapping paper to my friends and family? No, thanks!
- ✓ **Other** - I love this school and I am happy to help!





Gator News #12



TRY SOMETHING NEW!

Dragon Boat Youth Program

Learn how to paddle, drum, and race in a dragon boat!
Open to Grades 8-12. No experience required.

Program: April 1 to June 21/22 - 2025

Practices: 2xwk Tuesday & Friday 4:15-5:45 (Flexibility for school and life!)

Location: Fort Langley Canoe Club, Fort Langley

Regattas (Races): May 3, May 31, June 21/22 - 2025

Price: \$100 (GST included) - Includes paddles, safety equipment, coaching
plus 3 regattas at Dragon Zone in False Creek (Science World)

Contact: youth@fortlangleycanoeclub.ca



To register - www.fortlangleycanoeclub.ca/youth-program/