



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Gator Families,

Spring Break has arrived and (apparently) time changes have left us! 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 over the past few weeks:

- Students completed their course planning for the next school year.
- Our winter sports teams wrapped up their seasons with impressive results (more information later in the newsletter).
- Athletics hosted an awesome Grade 6&7 Basketball Jamboree, building community between our current and future Gators.
- Grad Council put on an amazing Spring Fling Dance for the Grads of 2026.
- We hosted our Spring Music Concert.
- Students participated in their Informal Learning Update process.
- We welcomed students and families for our parent-teacher interviews.
- A few groups of Gators have been preparing to experience other parts of the world through exchanges and tours during Spring Break.

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.

While we are transitioning to a time of more daylight and better weather where more students are likely to walk to and from school, I do want to highlight the information later in this newsletter around student pickup and drop off. These guidelines help to ensure student safety and ensure smooth traffic flow through our parking lots. One important highlight is to please avoid stopping on Walnut Grove Drive to drop off or pick up students, as it poses safety risks to students and drivers.

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 *Chicago*, and many more amazing events organized by Student Council, Grad Council, Leadership classes and so many of our school clubs.

Before we dive into all the excitement of the coming weeks, I want to extend my warmest wishes to everyone for a wonderful and safe Spring Break—whether you're travelling or enjoying a stay-cation, spending time with family, catching up with friends, or simply revelling in some well-deserved rest. Thank you for being such an important part of our community!

Mr Mike Pue
Proud Principal



Gator News # 13

IMPORTANT DATES

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)
May 1-2	WGSS Musical (Chicago)
May 4-8 & 11-15	AP Exams in Library
May 7	Grade 8 School Wide MAZE Assessment
May 7-9	WGSS Musical (Chicago)



IMPORTANT GRADUATION DATES & DEADLINES

April 1	Deadline to order Grad Ceremony tickets! Please note this is a two step process. Step 1: Students must complete this MS Form (this link will NOT work for parents): WGSS GRAD 2026 CEREMONY TICKET ORDER Step 2: Parents/Guardians visit School Cash Online account to claim the 2 free tickets and make payment for any extra tickets you are purchasing. You will also fill out the digital Grad Walk Field Trip Permission Form here.
April 1	Deadline to complete Grad Walk Fieldtrip Form - 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



Gator News #13

Gator Nation Family,

Our 2025/2026 Winter Sports Season has now come to a close. From November 24th, 2025 to March 7th, 2026, we had 103 students participate in Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, and Curling. Listed below are some of the highlights of the season.

Junior Boys Basketball Team
EVAA Silver Medalists
8th at Provincial Championship



Junior Girls Basketball Team
EVAA Bronze Medalists
8th at Provincial Championship



Grade 8 Girls Basketball Team
EVAA Bronze Medalists
4th at Provincial Championship



Senior Curling Team
EVAA Bronze Medalists
Provincial Championship Bronze



Lastly, a big THANK YOU to the 19 Teacher Coaches, Teacher Sponsors, Community Coaches, and Student Coaches that dedicated their free time to help make this season possible. Well done Gators!



Gator News #13

SPAIN 2026/27

Would you like to travel to Valencia, Spain?



WGSS is hosting a two-week travel exchange for 20 students
Estimated student cost: \$2900

Travel dates: March 10-25, 2027

Hosting dates: September 10-25, 2026

Eligible students: Grades 9, 10 or 11 in 2026/2027 (current grade 8, 9 and 10 students).

To find out more, please contact Ms. Fenato at
dfenato@sd35.bc.ca or in room 147.



Gator News

13

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—anononymously 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



Gator News

#13

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.



Gator News #13



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 7 to June 26, 2026

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

Location: Fort Langley Canoe Club, Fort Langley

Regattas (Races): May 2 and May 30, 2026

Price: \$100 (GST included) - Includes paddles, safety equipment, coaching plus 2 regattas at Dragon Zone in False Creek (Science World)

Contact: youth@fortlangleycanoeclub.ca

Fun ▪ Teamwork ▪ Meet New People



www.fortlangleycanoeclub.ca/youth-program/



Gator News #13

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





Gator News #13

DRY GRAD

Next Meeting

- March 31 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 31 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



Gator News #13

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



Gator News #13

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.



Gator News #13

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!



FROM OUR DISTRICT

Learning Resources in Schools

The Ministry of Education and Child Care is responsible for setting direction around the use of Learning Resources by educators in classrooms and school Learning Commons. In BC, the Ministry of Education and Child Care has determined that local boards of education have responsibility for determining how learning resources are chosen for use in schools. All boards and school districts must have policies and procedures for choosing learning resources. This directive is set out in the Ministry of Education and Child Care's Learning Resources Policy which can be found at the link below:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/legislation-policy/public-schools/learning-resources>

In Langley, there are two Administrative Procedures that guide the selection and use of Learning Resources in Langley schools. Both procedures can be found on the school district website and are being shared with parents at the links below:

Administrative Procedure 251 – Learning Resources

https://media.sd35.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/ap_251_learning_resources.393d258361.pdf

Administrative Procedure 252 – Selection Procedure for Library Learning Commons Resources

https://media.sd35.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/ap_252_selection-procedure-for-library-learning-commons-resources.5ac4588360.pdf

If parents/caregivers have questions or concerns about the resources available in their child's school or the local procedures regarding the review, evaluation, approval, and selection of learning resources, they should reach out first to their child's teacher or school principal. Most questions and concerns can be addressed productively through conversation with educators at the school level.



Gator News #13

Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL) Reading Advisor

FVRL Reading Advisor is a free resource for everyone living or studying in communities served by FVRL, including Langley. The Reading Advisor service offers personalized book recommendations for readers of all ages, making it an excellent support for students and staff across the Langley School District. All that is required is to fill out a short form about your reading interests, and trained library staff respond with a customized reading list based on genre, themes, age level, and preferred formats (print, eBook, audiobook, graphic novel, etc.) This is ideal for boosting reading engagement, supporting diverse learning needs, and possibly helping teachers quickly discover high-quality texts for classroom use. This free community resource extends the capacity of school libraries and connects learners with a broader range of inclusive and accessible materials and would be a great resource to share with students and other staff to help them find some new great reads for over spring break. Happy Reading!

<https://www.fvrl.bc.ca/my-reading-adviser>

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



Gator News #13

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](#)

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!

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.



Gator News #13

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

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!**

Apply now! Nominations close March 13th, 2026





Gator News #13

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 for school-aged children and youth. 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. You can also stay active close to home with jump rope or hopscotch in your neighbourhood.

Think Fresh

Springtime often brings up images of fresh fruits and vegetables. Now is a great time to teach children about where food comes from by helping them to start their own home garden. You don't need a large space to get started. Any bright space indoors or outdoors can be used to grow fresh food. For tips, check out this resource about [gardening with kids](#).

Be Sun Safe

Sunburns 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.

Be Prepared for Extreme Weather

Spring weather can be very unpredictable and can bring heavy rains or heat. Make sure you and your family are ready for possible [flooding](#), heat and [indoor air quality](#) issues. Plan for summer heat by preparing your home early. Find tips on [Window safety for children](#) as well as information and resources, including programs to help, at Fraser Health's [Before a heat event](#) page.



Gator News # 13

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. Check out our Fraser Health's [Bike safety for children](#) page.

For tips on all of this and more, check out Fraser Health's [Spring health guide](#).