

# Gator News

## # 14

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Gator Families,

Welcome back from Spring Break and the Easter long weekend! I hope that everyone was able to find some time to rest and relax.

On Wednesday, we hosted an amazing Job Fair. Our students were able to engage with a wide variety of partners from the local business community to learn more about potential employment opportunities. In some cases, students went home with official offers of employment. Thank you to the local business community who gave their time to be here to connect with our students. A big thank you as well to our career advisor team, Ms. Verbeek and Ms. Kostiuk, for all their time and effort in organizing this tremendous event.

Yesterday evening, Ms. Harradine and I had the pleasure of attending the Langley Township's Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Evening. One of our students, Nathaniel Radillo, was nominated for the *Pete Swensson Outstanding Community Youth Award*. Nominees for this award are students who excel in the areas of academics, athletics, and community service. Nathaniel is an outstanding student who has been involved in Gator athletics with the Cross Country, Track and Field and Ultimate school teams. He is actively involved in promoting a positive school culture through his involvement with a variety of school clubs. In the community, he volunteers with Power in Youth, to alleviate food insecurity locally, as well as Boxes of Hope, where they work with global partners to provide medical supplies to hospitals in West Africa. **Congratulations on your nomination Nathaniel, you are a fantastic representative of Gator Nation!**



On April 22, we will be doing course request verifications for the 2026-2027 school year. I encourage parents to please review this with your child to ensure that the course selections are appropriate for their needs and goals. This is a critical step in the course planning process for next school year. We build our timetable based on the requests that students make now. As you know, having a course request in the system does not guarantee that a student will get all the courses that they request, however, it certainly increases the likelihood that they will. So, it is important that students make good choices now to increase the likelihood that they get the courses that they need and want next year.



We are also really looking forward to the presentation of “Chicago: Teen Edition” from our Musical Theatre class. They have been working so hard all year and I encourage all of you to come out for a night of amazing musical theatre. Dates and the link to the box office can be found later in the Gator News. Hope to see you there!

We have had some inquiries about Summer Session. We can confirm that WGSS will be one of the district sites for Secondary Summer Session. Further information can be found later in the Gator news about registration dates and where to find Summer Session related information.

With the weather getting better, I just wanted to reiterate the importance of following the reminders about student Drop Off and Pickup shared later in the Gator News. As previously mentioned in past communications, it is important that students are not picked up or dropped off along Walnut Grove Drive, as it poses significant safety risks to students and drivers. I also want to highlight the importance of keeping our bus lanes clear to ensure easy drop off and pick up for our students who access district transportation.

Please don't forget that Monday is a Design and Assessment Day with students not in attendance. During the day, staff will be engaging in a variety of learning opportunities provided by the District, which ultimately will greatly benefit our students.

Have a Great Weekend!

*Mr Mike Pue*  
Proud Principal



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## IMPORTANT DATES

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 23	Grad Casino Night
April 27	Learning Updates Issued
April 30 & 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)
May 15	Pro-D – students not in session
May 18	Victoria Day – schools closed
May 21	PAC Meeting @7pm in Library



## IMPORTANT GRADUATION DATES & DEADLINES

April 1 - May 8	Dinner & Dance tickets available for purchase - School Cash Online
April 15	Hard copy of Dinner & Dance Guest Permission Form (if applicable) due at office for VP's approval
April 15	Allocation of extra Grad Ceremony tickets begins. Families will be notified.
May 5	Students pick up approved Dinner & Dance guest passes from the office (if applicable)
May 14	Table Captains submit all required Dinner & Dance paperwork
June 3/4/5	Cap & Gown, Grad Ceremony tickets and Dinner & Dance tickets to be picked up. More details to follow!

**IMPORTANT!** *If you have not ordered your Grad Ceremony tickets or have not completed the mandatory Grad Walk Field Trip Form (both available on School Cash Online) please do so ASAP! We have extended the deadline to 6pm today! After today, extra tickets will be offered to families who have requested additional tickets and we cannot guarantee there will still be tickets available for you to purchase!*

Click [here](#) for more details in the Grad Info Package!



**PUBLIC SHOW DATES AND TIMES**

April 30, May 1, 2, 7, 8, 9

- Doors open at 6:30pm, show starts at 7pm

May 9 Matinee

- Doors open at 1:30pm, show starts at 2pm

**TICKETS**

- \$18.00

***Scan QR code or click on link below to get your tickets now!***

Box Office Link: [cur8.com/projects/18444](https://cur8.com/projects/18444)





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## 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](mailto:dfenato@sd35.bc.ca) or in room 147.



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### GRAD ASSESSMENT DATES

April 2026 Assessment Schedule					
Class	Teacher	Term	Block	Session	Date
ENGLISH 12: ENGLISH STUDIES	Heer	S2	A	Mon AM	20-Apr
ENGLISH 10 (SKILLS BASED)	Oppenlander	FY	A(Day 1)	Mon AM	20-Apr
ENGLISH FIRST PEOPLES 10	Heer	FY	B(Day 1)	Mon AM	20-Apr
SPORTS JOURNALISM 10	Salter	FY	B(Day 1)	Mon AM	20-Apr
ENGLISH 10	Butcher	S2	C	Mon PM	20-Apr
ENGLISH 10	Laine	S2	D	Mon PM	20-Apr
LITERARY STUDIES/COMPOSITION 10 (ISP)	Fike	S2	A	Tues AM	21-Apr
ENGLISH HONOURS 10	Sommerville	S2	B	Tues AM	21-Apr
ENGLISH FIRST PEOPLES 12	Gabriel	S2	B	Tues AM	21-Apr
No assessments on Wednesday, April 22					
ENGLISH 12: ENGLISH STUDIES	Heer	S2	C	Thurs AM	23-Apr
ENGLISH 10	Fike	S2	D	Thurs AM	23-Apr
ENGLISH 10	Smith	S2	A	Thurs PM	23-Apr
ENGLISH 10	Smith	FY	B(Day 2)	Thurs PM	23-Apr
ENGLISH FIRST PEOPLES 10	Fike	FY	B(Day 2)	Thurs PM	23-Apr
ENGLISH 12: ENGLISH STUDIES (Comm)	Brasnett	S2	C	Fri AM	24-Apr
ENGLISH 12: ENGLISH STUDIES	Berger	FY	C(Day 1)	Fri AM	24-Apr
ENGLISH FIRST PEOPLES 12	Brasnett	S2	D	Fri AM	24-Apr
ENGLISH 12: ENGLISH STUDIES	Heer	S2	D	Fri AM	24-Apr
ENGLISH 12: ENGLISH STUDIES	Sweeney	S2	A	Fri PM	24-Apr
ENGLISH 12: ENGLISH STUDIES	Sweeney	S2	B	Fri PM	24-Apr
AM Session - arrive by 8:15 in the library; assessment runs from 8:30-11:30					
PM Session - arrive by 11:45 in the library; assessment runs from 12:00-3:00					



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### **STUDENT DROP OFF & PICK UP**

We have a very large school population, with approximately 2200 students attending WGSS this year. The morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up are very busy 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](mailto: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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## 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](mailto:youth@fortlangleycanoeclub.ca)

Fun ▪ Teamwork ▪ Meet New People



[www.fortlangleycanoeclub.ca/youth-program/](http://www.fortlangleycanoeclub.ca/youth-program/)



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### DRY GRAD

#### Next Meeting

- April 21 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.



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#### Current Fundraisers:

- [Neufeld Farms](#)
- [Ongoing Online 50/50](#)
- [Return-it Depot](#)
- [Flip Give](#)

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Raffle ticket sale cut-off is April 16<sup>th</sup>. Reminder to please bring back ALL booklets (sold or unsold) to the office by this date.

Dry Grad Parent package is coming soon! Please watch for it as there will be permission forms to sign.

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



## **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:

1<sup>st</sup>: \$500.00

2<sup>nd</sup>: \$250.00

3<sup>rd</sup>: \$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 **Thursday, April 16, 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:

- May 21
- June 11

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

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

**Scan QR code to donate!**



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





## FROM FRASER HEALTH

### **Physical Activity Outdoors**

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 the importance of physical activity outdoors. Please see below for helpful reminders to support your child.

### **Get Outside and Play**

Physical activity is a necessary requirement for optimal health. Regular physical activity in childhood and adolescence helps to develop cardiovascular fitness and muscle strength, supports positive social connections and improves mental well-being.

There are many benefits to unstructured play. These benefits are even greater when engaging in physical activity outdoors. When children and youth spend time outside, they:

1. Sit less, move more and play longer - key to cardiovascular health and fitness.
2. Have healthier eyes - spending more time outside reduces nearsightedness risks.
3. Sleep better - sunlight helps regulate sleep hormones and sleep patterns.
4. Enjoy improved mood - physical activity can reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression.
5. Feel more connected to nature - appreciation of the environment and being in nature can support healthy and balanced emotions.

Planning active outings doesn't have to be challenging or costly. Here are some fun ideas you can try:

- Try a new activity – check out [geocaching](#) or attend a local explorer day with [NatureKidsBC](#).
- Unplug and connect – ideas to decrease recreational [screen time](#).
- Go for a scavenger hunt – try this [nature scavenger hunt](#).
- Go for a walk or hike – try these [10 hikes to take your kids on this summer](#).
- Play in a forest or park – try a new [regional park](#) every day for a week.
- Explore a local stream – check these [beautiful watershed walks](#) in the region. Learn about [water safety for children](#).
- Swim at the pool, waterpark or beach – check [beach safety conditions](#) first or stay cool at a local spray park.



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- Ride a bike or scooter – explore the [Hope Bike Park](#) or check out these rides along [Boundary Bay](#), [Pitt Meadows](#) or [Vedder Greenway](#). Learn more about cycling safety on [Fraser Health's website](#).
- Visit farms, fish hatcheries and bird sanctuaries – try this [local family fun guide](#) for unique ideas.

Find more ideas to keep your kids active through the year on Fraser Health's [Keeping children active](#) page.