



Gator News

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Gator Families,

As the weather continues to get warmer and the sunshine comes out, we are reminded that we are heading into the final leg of the 2025 – 2026 school year. As always, WGSS has been a very busy place these past few weeks and it is humbling to see our students and staff showcase such amazing learning and culture building in our school community.

Last night we hosted our annual Grad Casino Night. Students and staff had an amazing evening together. It started with a fabulous meal from our PC 1, Professional Cook Training Program, and culminated in a variety of table games that students enjoyed. Huge thanks to our staff who were hosts for the different games and to our Grad Council for hosting another wonderful event for our grade 12 Gators.

Beginning next week, our Musical Theatre Program's production of *Chicago: Teen Edition* will begin. The students and staff have been working tirelessly rehearsing, set designing, and building and preparing for opening night on April 30th! If you haven't yet had a chance to purchase your tickets, please do! It is always a fantastic experience! More Details can be found later in the Gator News.

The first formal learning update for second semester will be published on Monday, April 27th. This marks the half-way point of second semester. Please be sure to login to the MyEd BC Parent Portal to view the Learning Update. If you have any questions or concerns, please be sure to reach out to the classroom teacher to discuss. Connected with this is the reminder that Summer Session registration opens on Wednesday, April 29th for Secondary students. More information can be found in the "From The District" section of the Gator News.

Our preparations for next school year are continuing. The course verification process will wrap up later this evening. If you have not yet had a chance to review the course selections for next year with your child, please try to do so tonight. Information about the course verification process was sent out in an email from WGSS Administration on Wednesday afternoon. We are beginning to build the timetable for next school year and I thank all of you for reviewing the course selections with your child so that we can ensure we build the timetable based on the most accurate information and requests as possible.

I just wanted to reiterate the importance of following the reminders about student Drop Off and Pickup shared later in the Gator News. The safety of students, staff and families is paramount and your help in following these guidelines helps. 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.

Hope you all have an amazing weekend as it looks like right now, this amazing weather will be sticking around.

Mr Mike Pue
Proud Principal



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





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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 or in room 147.



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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



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REPORTING AN ABSENCE

The school uses an automated absence reporting system called SafeArrival, offered through SchoolMessenger. With SafeArrival, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these three convenient methods:

1. **SchoolMessenger App** – Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store. The first time you use the app, select “Sign Up” to create your account. You must use the same email address and phone number that is on file at the school. Select “Attendance” then “Report an Absence”.
2. **SafeArrival Website** – Use the SafeArrival website: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select “Sign Up” to create your account. You must use the same email address and phone number that is on file at the school. Select “Attendance” then “Report an Absence”.
3. **Toll-Free Phone** – Call the toll-free number 1-833-294-4837 to report an absence using the automated phone system. If you are calling the toll-free number, you must call from the parent/guardian phone number on file with the school.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. We ask that daily absences are reported as soon as possible and **before 3:00pm** on the day of the absence. This includes late arrivals and early departures. Future absences can be reported at any time. If absences are not reported before the cut-off time of 3:00pm, the parent/guardian may still receive an automatic notification in the evening to inform them of an absence.

Absences are only to be reported by parents/guardians on file with the school. Students are NOT to report their own absences.

Please report absences using SafeArrival instead of sending notes, calling, or emailing the school. Please use the three options above to report absences. **The school office will no longer accept calls regarding attendance. Parents/guardians will need to report via the app, website, or toll-free number in a timely manner.**

If families have children attending other schools, please continue to report absences using the existing procedures for those schools.



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DRY GRAD

Next Meetings

- May 19 at 6:30pm in WGSS Library
- June 9 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.

The sole purpose of our Dry Grad Event is to protect, celebrate, and support our students as they step into their next chapter of life. With rising costs and sponsorship low the WGSS 2026 Parent Dry Grad Committee is asking the community for help.

Ways that you could help:

- 1) Cash/Cheque (No tax receipt)
 - Payable to WGSS DRY GRAD 2026 and can be dropped off at the school.
- 2) School Cash Online (No tax receipt)
 - Donate online via the school cash online portal
- 3) Tax-Receipt Donation
 - Donate online
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/langley-school-district-foundation/p2p/wgssdrygrad2026/>

Cheques payable to the Langley School District Foundation
 Memo WGSS Dry Grad
 Deliver to 4875 222nd st. Langley BC V3A 3Z7

- 4) E-Transfer
 - Wgssdrygrad2026@gmail.com

Thank you for helping us give our grads the safe and unforgettable send out they deserve.

Current Fundraisers:

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



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WGSS DRY GRAD

GRADS RETURN YOUR

RAFFLE BOOKS

**ALL Sold or Unsold Books/
tickets are DUE NOW**

**\$3.00 /
TICKET** | You must return your book to
purchase a Dry Grad ticket.

All books/tickets must be
accounted for. Please email
us if you have any questions.

wgssdrygrad2026@gmail.com

Reminder to Return ALL sold & unsold raffle books to the office ASAP! Students you will **NOT** be able to purchase a Dry Grad ticket if you have not returned your raffle books! If you have any questions, please reach out to the Parent Dry Grad Committee.

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 OR on our Facebook page: [Walnut Grove Secondary Dry Grad 2026](#)



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FROM OUR DISTRICT

Summer Session 2026 – Elementary/Middle/Secondary

Are you looking for skill-building or new learning opportunities for your child to keep them engaged during the summer? The District offers a variety of courses as part of Summer Session. Online registration begins on Wednesday, April 22nd for Elementary (Grades 1 to 5), Monday, April 27th for Middle (Grades 6 to 8), and Wednesday, April 29th for Secondary (Grades 9 to 12) at 11:30am each day for Langley School District students. For important dates, times, and courses available to Grade 1-12 students, please visit our webpage [here](#).

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](#).



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FROM LANGLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION

The Lucky Langley 50/50 Raffle Fundraiser – Closes Saturday, May 23, 2026
Every ticket counts, and every ticket makes a difference!

Enter The Lucky Langley 50/50 Raffle before Saturday, May 23, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. Your support directly helps K–12 students in Langley through mental health initiatives, literacy programs, weekend food support, and scholarships.

Plus, you have a chance to win one roundtrip flight for two guests to any regularly scheduled WestJet destination!* (*No cash value, fees, taxes, surcharges not included, blackout dates and restrictions apply.)

Don't miss your opportunity to make an impact and maybe you'll be one of our lucky winners! **The draw will be held on May 25, 2026 at 12pm.**

Follow the link to get your tickets! <https://lsdf.rafflenexus.com/a/sa>

The Mane Event - Saturday, May 23, 2026

If you're looking for something a little different this spring, **The Mane Event** is worth a spot on your calendar.

Hosted at Thunderbird Show Park, this Kentucky Derby-inspired afternoon brings together community and world-class show jumping, all in support of Langley students. It's a chance to step away from the everyday and experience something elevated, social, and meaningful.

All proceeds support programs that help remove barriers for students, ensuring they have access to the opportunities they deserve.

Click here for more info: <https://lsdf.org/mane-event/>



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.