



Gator News

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Gator Families,

Welcome to the last two months of the 2025-2026 school year. This year continues to move by at lightning speed and we are just entering one of the busiest and most fun times of the year here at WGSS!

Last week, we published our Semester 2, Term 1 Learning Updates. I hope that families were able to login to MyEd BC and look at the Formal Learning Update. A reminder that if you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress in a given course, please connect with the teacher at your earliest convenience.

Last Wednesday, we hosted our annual ICBC Road Safety Speaker for our Grade 12 students. Our presenter was Kevin Brooks. He is such an amazing presenter, and he strikes the balance almost perfectly between sharing the knowledge he wants students to reflect on, while at the same time, one of Kevin's phrases that sticks with people is "Just Wiggle Your Toes." Kevin does a masterful job of sharing his personal story and creating impactful moments throughout the presentation. If you are interested in learning more about Kevin and his presentation, please visit his website:

<https://kevinbrooksspeaker.com/#about1>

Our spring athletics team are busy preparing for EVAA playoffs and championships. Throughout the season we have seen success on the track, the court and the field. Best of luck to all the student-athletes participating on our badminton, ultimate, lacrosse, track & field and girls soccer teams in the coming weeks.

Theatre in the Grove's presentation of *Chicago: Teen Edition* is nearing completion, with 3 sold out shows between tonight and tomorrow. I have been fortunate to see the show on numerous nights, and it was an amazing performance. It is always special to see the students come together and share their gifts and talents after months of hard work. It was evident that the students and the staff loved performing. Huge thanks to Mrs. Castro, Mr. Hendricks, Ms. Meshen, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Blackburn for all their work. Thank you as well to all the other students, staff and volunteers who helped make the production a successful one!

Student leadership is busy planning and organizing our school's fundraising efforts for the Terry Fox Foundation. Our Gators have a long-standing tradition of raising substantial amounts to support Cancer research. Look to future Gator News editions, as well as our school's social media channels to see all the fundraising activities and to learn more about how you can donate to the cause.

One final piece of information for families of Grade 12 students currently in Capstone classes. Capstone projects are due on June 8th, with students' presentations scheduled for Friday, June 19th between **12:45pm – 2:15pm**. I share this as these times are different than originally communicated.

Have an amazing weekend,

Mr Mike Pue
Proud Principal

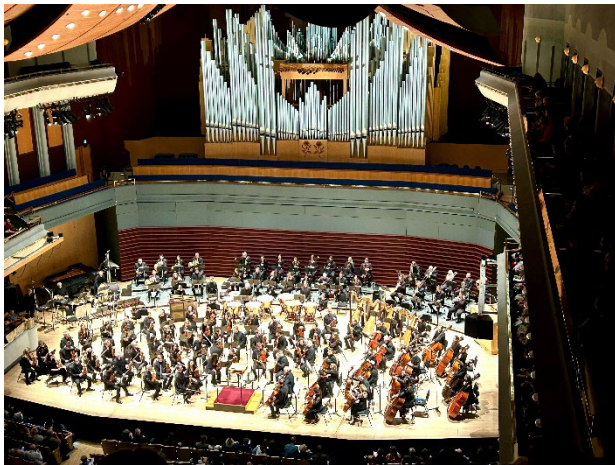


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BAND TRIP

The WGSS Music Department recently returned from a trip to Calgary and Banff. The group attended Stage West Calgary for an outstanding evening of live music and a buffet dinner. The following day, students performed at the TELUS Spark Science Centre before travelling to Banff to take in the breathtaking views from the Banff Gondola. The group returned to Calgary to attend a performance of Holst's *The Planets* and John Luther Adams's minimalist, 42-minute masterpiece *Become Ocean* (a work reflecting on rising ocean levels due to climate change).

On the final day of the trip, students visited the University of Calgary for two excellent music workshops. Drawing on what they learned, students then delivered a stunning concert at the Hangar Flight Museum, performing among a hangar filled with classic airplanes.





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SENIOR ART SHOW

The WGSS Senior Art Show opens on June 1st for families in the WGSS library from 5:00-6:30pm. This year we will be hosting our 1st Annual Anonymous Art Show! Artwork will cost \$30 and the profits will go directly back to the artist. We will accept cash or debit on June 1st between 5:00-6:30pm with sales being first come, first served. The art show will have a collection of photography, ceramics, sculpture, drawing, painting, and printmaking from students in grades 9 through 12. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Norman at knorman@sd35.bc.ca.

WGSS PRESENTS

SENIOR ART SHOW

GRADES 9-12



CERAMICS
PHOTOGRAPHY
PAINTING
SCULPTURE
DRAWING
PRINTMAKING

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- OPENING NIGHT FOR FAMILIES IS JUNE 1 FROM 5:00-6:30PM IN THE WGSS LIBRARY
- ANONYMOUS ART SHOW: SELECT STUDENT ARTWORK WILL BE FOR SALE DURING THE OPENING NIGHT FOR \$30. CASH OR DEBIT ACCEPTED

JUNE 1-4, 2026

EXPLORE A COLLECTION OF ARTWORKS IN A VARIETY OF STYLES AND MEDIA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL: KNORMAN@SD35.BC.CA



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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YEARBOOKS FOR SALE

We have extra yearbooks available for purchase! Yearbooks are \$65 each and can be purchased through [School Cash Online](#). These will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis, and once they are gone, there will be no additional copies available.

Be sure to purchase yours soon so you don't miss out! If you have any questions, please contact Krystal Charlston at KCharlston@sd35.bc.ca.

OUTSTANDING SCHOOL/COURSE FEES AND LIBRARY/CLASSROOM ITEMS

A reminder to families that all outstanding school fees, program fees, and library items are now due. Please login to your School Cash Online account to view what is owing. Students can check with Mr. Janzen or Ms. Ekici in the Library to see what items still need to be returned. Students with outstanding fees/items will not receive their yearbook, and **Grads will also not be able to pick up their cap & gown or ceremony tickets until their account is cleared.**

If you are in a position where paying fees is difficult for you and/or your family, please connect with your student's Vice Principal.

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?](#)



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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.



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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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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.

**WGSS
DRY GRAD 2026
EVENT WEAR**

**I SURVIVED
DRY GRAD
WALNUT GROVE SECONDARY
Class of 2026**

**ONLY
\$15**

**WGSS
2026**

**SOUVENIR
T-SHIRT**

**LIMITED TIME
ORDER BY
MAY 14TH**

Click [here](#) to order a Dry Grad Souvenir T-Shirt!



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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

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

This Month in the Arts - May 2026

This May, our schools light up the stage and gallery with musicals, plays, art shows, writing, dance, and music galore! From musical theatre favourites to student creativity, come and celebrate the arts.

 [MAY 2026.pdf](#)

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](#).

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/>



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FROM FRASER HEALTH

Youth Vaping Information

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 youth vaping for school-aged children and youth. Please see below for helpful guidelines and resources to support your child.

Vaping is popular among youth. Daily or near-daily use can increase the risk of mental and physical health harm. In 2023, 26 per cent of youth in grades seven through 12 in British Columbia reported having vaped. The most common age that B.C. youth first tried vaping was 13.

How to Support Youth to Prevent, Delay or Reduce Vaping

It is important to be supportive and recognize that setbacks may happen. You can help by being a positive role model and offering guidance in the following ways:

- Have open conversations about vaping. Listen to your child's beliefs and offer accurate information to help them understand the risks involved.
- Practice refusal skills with your child by discussing ways they can say no to vaping, especially in situations that feel uncomfortable to them.
- Be honest about your own use of tobacco, cannabis or vaping products. Share any health impacts or challenges you've experienced.
- If you vape, avoid vaping around children to limit their exposure to second-hand vapour. Consider quitting or reducing vaping to improve your own health. For help, contact [Quit Now](#), a provincially funded nicotine cessation program.
- Store vapour products securely and out of reach of children and youth.
- [Tip sheet for parents: Talking with your teen about vaping](#)

Learn more about vaping products [here](#).

For more information about child and youth substance use, including services, programs and resources available for children and youth, visit [Fraser Health's website](#).