

Gator News

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Gator Families,

It's incredible how quickly time flies, with just under a month (20 school days) left before School's Out for Summer! Despite the days counting down, things are continuing to ramp up here at WGSS. Spring athletics are heading into the final stretch as many of the sports are headed towards Provincial Championships. Some highlights are shared later in the newsletter. Good luck to Track & Field, Senior Girls Soccer and Senior Boys Rugby 7's as they head to their respective provincial championships in the next two weeks.



Last Thursday, we had the honour and privilege of attending the Langley School District's Aboriginal Achievement Awards where a number of Indigenous students from across the District were honoured for their strengths and their gifts. There are awards ranging from those that recognize excellence in Academics, Athletics, Leadership and Fine Arts as well as awards which recognize students for working through adversity and

challenges to find success in a variety of areas. It is one of the most inspiring evenings that we have the honour of attending and last night was an incredible way for all of us to celebrate the achievements, the efforts and the contributions of our Indigenous students at Walnut Grove Secondary, and other schools around the District.

On Wednesday, I had the privilege of attending the annual SASSY Awards, which is sponsored by the local Rotary Clubs of Langley. The SASSY Awards stands for Service Above Self Student Youth Awards. There are a multitude of categories in which students can be nominated including Community Service, Youth Leadership, Leadership Beyond Adversity to name a few. We had a number of amazing students who were finalists in their categories:

- Aarushi H. – Arts & Cultural Leadership
- Leo K. – Community Service
- Angela M. – Youth Leadership
- Emily T. – Sports Leadership

Congratulations to all the students for being finalists in their category! As a school community we are very proud of them for their leadership, their dedication to their community and for the commitment to serving others. Special Congratulations to Angela M. who won in her category of Youth Leadership and also to Emily T. who won in her category of Sports Leadership.

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As a school, we are continuing our tradition of raising money for The Terry Fox Foundation. Students are able to contribute donations in their Block D classes and Senior Leadership has been running a number of lunch time activities to help raise funds. I had the opportunity to participate in one of this week's activities: "Soak a Staff Member". Students and staff were able to donate \$5 for a cup of water or \$20 for a bucket of water and then dump it onto one of the participating staff members. Thanks to Ms. Kim, Ms.

Gabriel, Ms. Carnrite and Ms. Marsland, who were brave enough to endure the barrage of ice cold water for a good cause. If you wish to donate, please visit this link

<https://sd35.schoolcashionline.com/>. It's not too late—the donation link closes on May 29th.

As we enter into June and the final few weeks of the school year, we know that staff and students will be working hard to wrap up the year's learning and finish strong. Throughout the month we also look forward to a number of events and celebrations to honour the incredible learning and achievements of our Gators. Here is a sample of some of our upcoming events:

- Senior Art Show – June 1 to 4 (more information later in the newsletter).
- Scholarship Recognition Event – another WGSS tradition that I am very much looking forward to. This is taking place on Tuesday June 2nd
- We honour our Grade 12 "Grads Who Inspire Us" at our annual Evening of Inspiration on June 3rd
- Provincial Graduation Assessments will be happening from June 8th – June 19th for those students who are scheduled to write during this session
- The Music Department will be showcasing their gifts and talents at a number of shows:
 - The Jazz Band/Vocal Jazz night on Thursday, June 4th
 - District Vocal Jazz Festival will be hosted at WGSS on Monday June 8th and
 - The Choir and Concert Band final Concert of the year will take place on Tuesday June 9th
- On June 10th, we will honour a number of our retiring staff at the District Retirement Celebration
- Thursday June 18th is our last day of regular classes for students
- Grade 12 students who did not have their CLC 12 class in first semester will be presenting their Capstones on June 19th from 12:45 – 2:15pm.
- June 22nd we host our annual Grad Walk in the morning and then our Graduation Ceremony that same evening
- June 23rd we host our Grad Banquet
- Final Learning Updates will be published on Thursday, June 25th.

Finally, later in this newsletter, you will find the approved Calendar for the 2026-27 school year. While this calendar contains all the District wide days, such as Professional Development Days, Winter Break and Spring Break, it does not contain some school specific dates like our HUB days.

Mr Mike Pue
Proud Principal



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IMPORTANT DATES

June 1-4	Senior Art Show 5-6:30pm in Library
June 2	Grade 12 Scholarship Event
June 3	Evening of Inspiration @6pm in Library
June 8	District Vocal Jazz Fest @7pm at WGSS
June 9	WGSS Final Concert @6:30pm
June 8-19	Graduation Assessments in Library
June 11	PAC Meeting @7pm in Library
June 18	Last Day of Regular Classes



IMPORTANT GRADUATION DATES & DEADLINES

June 3/4/5	<p>Cap & Gown and Grad Ceremony tickets to be picked up according to schedule below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last Name A-H: June 3rd at lunch • Last Name I-P: June 4th at lunch • Last Name Q-Z: June 5th at lunch <p><i>*Students on the non-grad list or students who have outstanding items/fees, will not receive their cap & gown or ceremony tickets until their account is cleared.</i></p>
June 10/11	Table Captains pick-up Dinner & Dance ticket packages at the main office either before school, after school, or at lunch.
June 22	Graduation Ceremony at Langley Events Centre
June 23	Grad Dinner & Dance / Dry Grad

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

IMPORTANT DRY GRAD DATES

May 26	Purchase Dry Grad tickets at lunch (11:50am-12:25pm) in foyer. Early Bird pricing still available - \$65!
June 3	Purchase Dry Grad tickets after school 2:55pm-4pm at the full price of \$75



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TRACK & FIELD

Congratulations to our Grade 8 Girls Track & Field Team for becoming Eastern Valley Champions!





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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



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ATTENTION, WALNUT GROVE SECONDARY ADVENTURERS!

A call echoes across time—will you answer? Join us on June 4th at 7:00 PM in the Annex, Rm. 162 (beside the library), to uncover a 10-day Spring break 2027 odyssey through Italy and Greece. Walk in the footsteps of gladiators in Rome, wander the artistic streets of Florence, and stand among the ancient legends of Athens. This is more than a trip — it’s your chance to step into history, myth, and adventure. Come hear what awaits and begin your own epic journey.

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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DRY GRAD

Next Meeting

- 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.

Please click [here](#) to view all Dry Grad details in the Dry Grad Package!

Gator Grad Families!

Want to show your Grad how proud you are and show your friends, family and neighbors? Order your GRAD LAWN SIGN HERE:

<https://forms.gle/Hs1KrQ9dhqrvYG68>

Signs are \$22 - ordering and payment are due 11:59pm on MAY 26th. Please fill out form and send e-transfer with your grad's name to wgssdrygrad2026@gmail.com

Current Fundraisers:

- [Return-it Depot](#)

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

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



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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.

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 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:

- 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

School District #35 (Langley)
2026-2027 School Calendar
Walnut Grove Secondary School

MONTH	DATE	
September	Sep 7 (M)	Labour Day (School Closed)
	Sep 8 (T)	School Opens
	Sep 25 (F)	School Improvement Day (Students Not in Attendance)
	Sep 30 (W)	Truth and Reconciliation Day (School Closed)
October	Oct 12 (M)	Thanksgiving (School Closed)
	Oct 21 (W)	1 Hour Early Dismissal - Parent/Teacher Interviews
	Oct 22 (Th)	1 Hour Early Dismissal - Parent/Teacher Interviews
	Oct 23 (F)	Professional Development Day (Provincial - Students Not in Attendance)
November	Nov 11 (W)	Remembrance Day (School Closed)
	Nov 20 (F)	Design & Assessment Day / Learning Update Prep (Students Not in Attendance)
	Nov 27 (F)	Learning Updates Issued
December	Dec 17 (Th)	Last Day Prior to Winter Break
January	Jan 5 (T)	School Re-Opens After Winter Break
	Jan 28 (Th)	Last Day of Regular Classes - Semester 1
February	Feb 3 (W)	Semester 2 Begins
	Feb 5 (F)	Learning Updates Issued
	Feb 8 (M)	Professional Development Day (District - Students Not in Attendance)
	Feb 15 (M)	Family Day (School Closed)
March	Mar 10 (W)	1 Hour Early Dismissal - Parent/Teacher Interviews
	Mar 11 (Th)	1 Hour Early Dismissal - Parent/Teacher Interviews
	Mar 12 (F)	Last Day Prior to Spring Break
	Mar 26 (F)	Good Friday (School Closed)
	Mar 29 (M)	Easter Monday (School Closed)
	Mar 30 (T)	School Re-Opens After Spring Break
April	Apr 12 (M)	Design & Assessment Day / Learning Update Prep (Students Not in Attendance)
	Apr 23 (F)	Learning Updates Issued
May	May 21 (F)	Professional Development Day (District - Students Not in Attendance)
	May 24 (M)	Victoria Day (School Closed)
June	Jun 29 (T)	Final Learning Update & Last Day for Students Prior to Summer Vacation
	Jun 30 (W)	Administrative Day (Students Not in Attendance)
July / August		Summer Session

APPROVED: SD35 Board of Education Meeting
April 28, 2026



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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](#).