



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Gator families,

It is unbelievable to think that we have almost reached the end of our first month together. It has been a busy time here at WGSS with so much going on. We've had our first round of photo days for all staff and students (**retakes coming up on October 13). Fall athletics are well underway, with WGSS athletes giving their best in volleyball, soccer, swimming and cross country. Our musical theatre class is gearing up towards auditions for our spring presentation of the musical "Wonderland". We had our first PAC meeting last Monday and it was great to see so many parents out to meet the PAC and hear about all the things planned for this year. On Tuesday, our entire school participated in our first Emergency Preparedness drill, as we went through all 3 of the different drills: Lockdown, Earthquake and Fire including an evacuation. Students and staff did a wonderful job of following our plans and ensuring that the focus remained on ensuring safety for our students in case of an emergency. Finally, today was the School Improvement Day, where staff engaged in learning and discussion around assessment strategies and practices to help support student learning and growth. Departments lived our motto of "Together, We Learn" as they worked collaboratively to deepen their knowledge and shared understandings of assessment. Overall, it has certainly been a busy but exciting month.

I did want to take this opportunity to highlight a couple of important items that families should be aware of. Earlier this week, you should have received an email about Student Verification Forms. Please take the time to review the student verification forms through MYEDBC, as it is important that we have up to date information about address, contacts, etc. While more information will be sent out soon, I wanted to highlight that during the week of October 5th, Yearbook Consent forms will be distributed in class to students, allowing them to indicate whether they consent to their photos being used in our school yearbook. If the form is not completed or students decline consent, we cannot use any pictures of them in the yearbook.

We just had our first PLC/HUB day on September 23rd and I wanted to offer some clarification for families. Like previous years, we have 16 HUB days throughout the year (8 in each semester), where staff will come together to collaborate around instructional strategies and assessment practices to improve student learning. While most of the staff will be engaging in these collaborative professional learning communities, some staff will host learning HUBs for students. HUBs are designed to provide students with opportunities to receive extra support in specific curricular areas or to engage in some additional learning in an area of their choosing. While all students are encouraged to stay and engage further in their learning, we recognize that some may choose not to engage and therefore will leave the school campus.



I also wanted to again remind families of some guidelines around student pick up and drop off. You can find the full list later on, but I do want to highlight that the front parking lot is one way, moving North (tennis courts) to South (community centre). I recognize that the exit line can build up, but for the safety of everyone, please do not try to exit out of the north end of the front driveway. As well, please do not stop on Walnut Grove Drive at the bus stop to drop students off. This has resulted in a number of near misses and adds to traffic congestion. Thank you again to everyone for their support around the District change in policy about e-Scoters and e-dirt bikes. We appreciate the community's willingness to follow these new guidelines, which are in place to ensure student safety.

Finally, September 30th is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day, which means students and staff will not be in attendance. It is a day to recognize and honour the children who did not return from residential school, the survivors and all of their families impacted by the residential school system. On Monday and Tuesday, students and staff will be engaging in a variety of learning opportunities to create a greater understanding of the Truth and reflect on small actions that everyone can take towards Reconciliation. I also wanted to make families aware of the community gathering on September 30th at Douglas Park Spirit Square from 5:00pm – 8:00pm.

Have an amazing weekend,

Mr Mike Pue

Proud Principal



IMPORTANT DATES

Sept 30 Truth & Reconciliation Day – School closed
October 5 World Educator's Day
October 7 PLC/HUB Day
October 7 Grad Gala

MEDICAL ALERTS

We want to ensure the school is aware of any student life-threatening conditions. If your child has a new or updated life-threatening condition, please contact Ms. Lee at dlee@sd35.bc.ca to have a Medical Alert Form emailed to you for completion.

SELF-IDENTIFICATION OF ABORIGINAL ANCESTRY **(First Nations, Métis Or Inuit)**

Aboriginal Ancestry is determined on a voluntary basis through self-identification. This includes First Nations (Status or Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit Ancestry. If you have filled out the form in previous years, you do not need to send in a new one.

****Please fill out this [form](#) if student has Aboriginal ancestry (one form per child).****

STUDENT FEES – SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Thanks to all our families who have already paid their student fees using our School Cash Online system. If you have not yet paid the \$30 student fee and \$70 grad fee (if applicable), please make sure this is done before the end of September.

WGSS has an online payment system that allows parents to pay for most school related items online. We encourage all WGSS families to pay their school fees using our online payment system. If you haven't already created an account, you can do so now. It only takes a few minutes to set up and add your child(ren). Once this is completed, you will see available activities or fees that can be processed online. You will require the following three pieces of information to attach your child to your account: Student ID (found on your child's timetable or MyEd account), child's legal last name and child's date of birth.

You will also find instructions and information on our [WGSS website](#) or by visiting <https://sd35.schoolcashionline.com/> to get started.

Print or screenshot your online receipt: Your child will be REQUIRED to present their receipt to pick their purchased items such as locks, PHE strip, yearbook, etc. Your receipt can always be accessed and reprinted as needed from your account.



SCHOOLMESSENGER

The Langley School District uses a notification system called SchoolMessenger to communicate information to families. As we welcome our new families to our schools, some parents/guardians may receive a text message notifying them about SchoolMessenger. For more information about the system and how to opt-in to receive text messages, visit the District webpage [here](#).

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.



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.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Langley School District is committed to fostering safe and caring schools that promote mutual respect, cooperation, and social responsibility, and support optimal learning. Trauma Informed Practices and Procedures promote the creation and maintenance of safe, inclusive, equitable, welcoming, and nurturing school environments.

Families play an important role in helping students achieve success as well as helping create a compassionate learning community. Just as students are expected to follow the District's **Student Code of Conduct**, there is an expectation for parents/guardians to uphold the District's.

INTIMATE IMAGES PROTECTION ACT

The Intimate Images Protection Act makes the non-consensual sharing of intimate images illegal. Individuals who have experienced, or are threatened with, the sharing of intimate images can access free supports through the **Intimate Images Protection Service**. Additional information is available on **erase Online Safety**.



E-SCOOTERS/E-BIKES GUIDELINES IN LANGLEY SCHOOLS:

The Langley School District has new guidelines around the use and storage of e-scooters and e-bikes at our schools. **E-scooters and e-dirt bikes are prohibited on all school sites. This ban applies for elementary, middle, and secondary schools.** Legally, e-pedal bikes are permissible at secondary schools; light e-bikes for students aged 14 and 15, and standard e-bikes for students aged 16 and older. E-pedal bikes are permissible at all schools for adults. Health and safety are a priority. Please have conversations with your child about these guidelines and help us maintain a healthy, safe, and positive learning environment. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your school administrator. For more information, visit the district website [here](#).

TRANSPORTATION: MY RIDE K-12 APP

Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, the Langley School District's Transportation service will be using the My Ride K-12 (app or website) to share up-to-date bus rider information with parents/guardians and students. The application allows parents/guardians and students to view assigned bus stops and pick-up/drop-off times and receive notifications about bus delays or route changes. To access your child's bus rider information, sign-up and login to the My Ride K-12 app by following instructions found on the District website [here](#).

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR SCHOOL

Schools and families continue to work together to ensure success for students. If you have an issue or concern but don't know who to speak with, the District encourages you to read these helpful Communicating with your School guidelines for parents/guardians found on our District website [here](#). As an additional reference, review this one-page resource [here](#).

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES IN SCHOOLS

Schools follow emergency procedures and practice drills throughout the year to ensure students, staff, and any visitors at our sites are safe when unexpected incidents happen. The District encourages families to become familiar with emergency procedures to help you and your child be prepared. You will find the District's Emergency Procedures poster in schools and on the website [here](#).

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS IN EMERGENCIES

Emergencies can happen unexpectedly due to weather events (e.g., earthquake or flooding) or unforeseen situations in the community. The health and safety of students, staff, and families is the District's priority. The District, together with schools, follow emergency procedures to respond to incidents as well as prevent them from happening.



In these circumstances, schools may rely on members of the community to assist with emergency responses. Administrators may send a request to parents/guardians to help volunteer with first aid, facilities and maintenance, safety and security, and general labour. Adults with special skills in health care, policing, and engineering would be an asset in an emergency. No action is needed from families at this time as the purpose is to keep families informed.

WGSS SCHOOL STORE IS OPEN!

Show your Gator pride! Our online school store is officially open for the next **two weeks**, with WGSS gear available for students, staff, families, and Gator fans.

The store closes **Friday, October 9**, so be sure to get your orders in before it closes!

[Shop WGSS Merch Here](#)

Together We Learn.

When your child's order comes in, we will have them labelled with their name and grade and distributed during lunch hour and after school.

STUDENT TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY: EXPLORE ITALY & GREECE

A once-in-a-lifetime adventure awaits! Students are invited to join an unforgettable 10-day journey through Italy and Greece, exploring iconic destinations such as Rome, the southern Italian coast, Athens, and Delphi, where history and mythology come to life. From the ancient ruins of Pompeii to the legendary Acropolis, this immersive educational experience brings classroom learning into the real world while creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Families who enrol by September 30th will receive a \$200 Early Enrolment Discount.

Pricing, trip details, itinerary information, and enrolment instructions can be found on the tour website:

<https://www.eftours.ca/tour-website/2986951MR>

Don't miss your chance to be part of this incredible adventure and secure your spot before the early enrolment discount expires!

Contact Ms. Neuscheler for more: UNeuscheler@sd35.bc.ca



Gator News # 2



LEAP INFO SESSION: Learning beyond classroom walls!

Does your child love exploring and discovering the world around them? Outdoor education turns every day into an adventure! Join the LEAP team (Langley Environmental Awareness Program) at Fort Langley Elementary to discover how hands-on, place-based learning can inspire students to follow their curiosity, build resilience, and make connections to the land.

WHEN: Thursday, October 1st, 2026

WHERE: Fort Langley Elementary - Library

TIME: 5:00PM



For more information, visit: <https://www.sd35.bc.ca/page/1518/leap-langley-environmental-awareness-program>



LEAP (Outdoor Education) PARENT INFORMATION SESSION: Thursday, October 1, 2026

Imagine your child's classroom in the open air! Join us on Thursday, October 1st @ 5pm at Fort Langley Elementary for our LEAP (Langley Environmental Awareness Program) Information Session. This meeting is for families interested in Kindergarten enrolment for the 2027-2028 school year, as well as any current grade 1-7 students who might want a change and an opportunity to learn in the great outdoors. For more about the outdoor education program and to watch our new stunning promotional video please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdXcrUJSzfl>.

SAFER SCHOOLS TOGETHER PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

Safer Schools Together is once again providing Family Information Sessions on a variety of topics. These are good opportunities for parents and guardians to increase their knowledge on the evolving world of digital citizenship, social media, AI, etc. Sessions are recommended for those in care of children aged 10 & up.

The first two sessions available are titled:

- Establishing Safe, Caring, and Respectful Digital Communities
- Establishing Family Practices for Safeguarding Against Cyberbullying and Sextortion

<https://pages.saferschoolstogether.com/erase-family-sessions>

 Attention Grad Families!

It's time to start collecting **baby photos and grad quotes** for the 2026–2027 yearbook!

We are asking all graduating students to submit one baby/childhood photo and their grad quote using the form below.

Deadline to submit: December 4, 2026

Please encourage your grad to submit their form before the deadline so they can be included in this special part of the yearbook.

Grad Baby Photo & Quote Form:

[Grad Baby Photos & Grad Quotes – Yearbook 2026–2027 – Fill out form](#)



SEPTEMBER HEALTH MESSAGING – FRASER HEALTH

As part of its health promotion for students and families, our community partner Fraser Health is sharing important information on various topics. The theme for September is Back to School Health. Please share the following information below in your next newsletter or communication to families. This information has been shared on the District's social media channels.

BACK TO SCHOOL HEALTH (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 back to school health. Please see below for helpful reminders to support your child.

TIPS FOR PARENTS FOR A HEALTHY BACK TO SCHOOL SEASON

As children head back to school, parents face the familiar challenge of managing busy schedules, school routines and inevitably, health concerns.

Help set the stage for a healthy school year with Fraser Health's **Healthy Back to School Guide**.

The guide provides information on a variety of ways to keep children healthy during a school year. For instance, fostering healthy routines for sleep, mealtimes and physical activity can greatly support your child's health and wellness.

Staying healthy during the school year is also about protecting children from illnesses that can spread quickly in classrooms. It is important to make sure children wash their hands properly, and to keep them home if they are feeling unwell.

Another way to protect your child's health is to ensure their immunizations are up to date. Vaccines help prevent several serious illnesses and infectious diseases, for example, measles. Please check that you (if born in or after 1970) and your children have received at least two doses of a measles-containing vaccine. Find out how to check your immunization records **here**.

Vaccines are available at many **pharmacy locations**, physician offices, and at all **public health units**.

If you are new to B.C. or Canada, provide your immunization records to public health at **fraserhealth.ca/immunizationform**.



Need fast access to health advice? Call Fraser Health Virtual Care

Our Fraser Health Virtual Care registered nurses and dietitians can provide convenient, fast health advice and information for busy families. With options for phone or web chat consultations, families receive medical advice from nurses with emergency experience. It can save you time and may help you avoid having to visit a clinic or emergency department. Nurses can also connect you with an Urgent and Primary Care Centre, if needed.

How to reach Fraser Health Virtual Care

1. **Dial 1-800-314-0999.** For an interpreter, say your language in English.
2. For web chat, go to fraserhealth.ca/virtualcare and click the blue chat bubble in the right corner to start.

Available 10am to 10pm every day, including statutory holidays. After hours, call 8-1-1.

Learn more about Fraser Health Virtual Care, other care options and more at:
[Fraserhealth.ca/VirtualCare](https://fraserhealth.ca/VirtualCare)