



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Gator Families,

It is hard to believe that we are already through September and into October, our second month of the school year. Students and staff are settled into the semester and are engaging in learning activities, participating in clubs and extra-curricular activities and finding ways to contribute to the fantastic culture that we have here at WGSS. On Tuesday, we hosted our annual Club Days. The cafeteria was packed full of students, passionate about their club and what it has to offer. It was amazing to witness for the first time and see the excitement of the other students realize all the opportunities that we have to offer. For a full list of available clubs, please visit the Club Directory on our school website.

For the grads of 2026, October 2 was our first annual grad gala. Everyone had an amazing night celebrating their time together and dancing the night away. We are also currently in the process of organizing the parent-led dry grad committee. More information will be coming out soon.

Looking ahead, there are some important opportunities upcoming to help build that connection between home and school to support students in their learning. Next week, we will be hosting our Informal Learning Updates. Students should be bringing home a brief snapshot of how their learning is progressing in their classes. Please make sure you check in with your children to review their progress. Just a reminder that Parent Teacher Interviews are scheduled for October 22 & 23. This is another great opportunity to connect with your child's teachers.

As well, all of our Grade 9 students will have an assembly during Wednesday's HUB time (October 15th). Our Career Education teachers will be explaining the process and criteria for students to develop their mini capstone presentations. This is an incredible opportunity for students to share an area of passion in their own learning, not to mention an important step in their educational journey, and we encourage parents to discuss these projects with their children.

Wishing you all a fantastic long weekend,

Mr Mike Pue

Proud Principal



Gator News

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IMPORTANT DATES

October 13 th	Thanksgiving - School Closed
October 14 th	Informal Learning Updates Issued
October 15 th	HUB Day
October 16 th	SFU Visit in Library at 10am
October 22 nd -23 rd	Parent Teacher Interviews – 1 Hour Early Dismissal
October 24 th	Professional Development Day – Students Not in Attendance
October 29 th	HUB Day
November 3 rd -7 th	Grad Assessments in Library
November 5 th	HUB Day
November 5 th	Math Contest
November 7 th	PSI Day (Post-Secondary Information)
November 10 th	Design & Assessment - Students Not in Attendance
November 11 th	Remembrance Day – School Closed
November 12 th	Math Contest
November 13 th	PAC Meeting in Library @7pm
November 17 th	SFU Beedie School of Business @REP (Cafeteria)
November 19 th	Grade 9 Immunizations
November 19 th	HUB Day
November 21 st	Learning Updates Issued in MYED

AP EXAM REGISTRATION

AP Exam Registration runs from October 16th to October 31st. Information can be found on our website under the student life tab.

Students currently enrolled in an AP course will be able to pay for exams on School Cash Online starting Oct 16th.

Students not currently enrolled in an AP course, can register for an AP Exam by filling in the AP Exam Request form and following the directions on our website.

Wondering if you should write an AP Exam?

- A HUB is being offered Wednesday Oct 15th in the library for any students curious about AP Exams.



Gator News # 3

LAST TWO WEEKS IN PHOTOS!



WGSS staff walking in the Spirit of Reconciliation on Truth and Reconciliation Day!



Great day out in Chilliwack for Cross Country! 3 top 10!



Senior Girls won Bronze at Douglas College Tournament! (3rd out of 48 teams!)



Gator News # 3

LAST TWO WEEKS IN PHOTOS!



Our Grads had so much fun at the Grad Gala last week!



Ms. Tomlinson's students performing their Pantomime scenes!



Club Day!



ATTENTION GRAD 2026 FAMILIES!

We are looking to form our Dry Grad 2026 Committee! If you are interested in being a part of this group to support our grads of 2026, please email Mr. Pue (mpue@sd35.bc.ca) no later than October 24, 2025. Thank you!

What is a Dry Grad?

- Dry Grad Event immediately follows the Grad Dinner Banquet (this year it is on June 23, 2026, at Aria Banquet Hall).
- Dry Grad is organized & supervised by parents to ensure grads can continue to celebrate their achievement in a safe, fun way.
- The WGSS teachers & administrators are not involved in planning Dry Grad, but the school does support the event.
- Activities at a Dry Grad may include professional performers, dancing, movies, inflatable events, arcade or carnival attractions or open mike & prizes.
- Dry Grad ticket prices are subsidized by parent fundraising efforts and are a separate cost to the Dinner Banquet. No grad will be left behind due to cost.
- All graduates and guests are required to sign a waiver prior to purchasing a Dry Grad ticket. Ticket sales are typically in the spring after all fundraising is completed.

Where can parents/guardians help?

A committee of parents/guardians meet monthly to plan and budget for the WGSS Dry Grad each year and the positions are:

- Chairperson, Treasurer, Fundraising, Activity Booker, Décor Doers, Food Planners, Transportation, Communications, Volunteer Coordinator, etc.

People unable to attend the meetings can help by:

- Staying informed through website and eventually Facebook if committee chooses to use that platform
- Supporting fundraising efforts
- Volunteering for bigger fundraising events
- Volunteering at the official Dry Grad event
- Can't help in person? Consider a donation to 'WGSS Dry Grad' through the school office to help lighten the load.



PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent-Teacher interviews will be held on Wednesday, October 22 from 2:20pm to 7:30pm, and Thursday, October 23 from 2:20pm to 4:30pm. Appointments are booked online for in-person interviews. Online booking will open at 3:30pm on Friday, October 10 and close at 11:59pm on Sunday, October 19. Please go to wgss.schoolappointments.com to register. ***Please note that even if you have registered for appointments in previous sessions, you must re-register for the October 2025 session!***

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

2025/2026 ADMIN AND COUNSELLING TEAM

Vice-Principal by Student Last Name

A-HK: Ms. Florko
HL-PA: Mr. Powell
PB-Z: Ms. Harradine

Counsellor by Grade and Student Last Name

Gr. 8 & 9 A-LA Ms. Viefhues
Gr. 8 & 9 LB-Z Ms. Alexander
Gr. 10 A-B Ms. Miller
Gr. 10 C-F Ms. Viefhues
Gr. 10 G-SP Mr. Adrian
Gr. 10 SQ-Z Ms. Alexander
Gr. 11 & 12 A-HK Ms. Twemlow
Gr. 11 HL-Z Ms. Miller
Gr. 12 HL-PA Ms. Miller
Gr. 12 PB-Z Ms. Twemlow



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.



FROM OUR SCHOOL

Imagine standing beneath the Eiffel Tower, practicing your French at a café, or walking through centuries of history at the Palace of Versailles. Experiences like these don't just create lifelong memories - they help students grow more confident, independent, and connected to the world.

Right now, is the best time to make it happen. If you enroll by **October 31st**, you'll lock in:

- A **\$205 price freeze**—secure the lowest monthly payments.
- A **\$200 enrolment discount**—our best offer of the season.

This tour will be an adventure you'll never forget—and one you'll be talking about for years to come.

There are a limited number of spots left to fill so don't hesitate for too long! To find out more please contact Ms. Neuscheler or Mr. Lincke (UNeuscheler@sd35.bc.ca PLincke@sd35.bc.ca).



Avignon, 2026

Would you like to travel to Avignon, France?



WGSS is hosting a 10-day travel exchange for 24 students
Estimated student cost: \$2800

Travel dates: March 22-April 1, 2026

Hosting dates: approx. April 22 to May 1, 2026

Eligible students: Grade 8, 9 and 10 students in 2025/2026.

If you are interested, please see Ms. Fenato in room 147 to
pick up a summary of important information.

The information meeting for parents will be held on
Wednesday, October 29 at 6:30 pm in the library.



There are still a few spaces remaining
for this incredible opportunity!

ARGENTINA 2026

Would you like to travel to Buenos Aires, Argentina? See Iguazú Falls?



WGSS is hosting a two-week travel exchange for 24 grade 10 and 11 students. Estimated student cost: \$2900

Travel dates: **March 10-24, 2026**. We will depart the week prior to spring break.

Hosting dates: Approximately September 29-October 11, 2026

Eligible students: Grade 10/11 students in 2025/2026.

If you are interested, please contact Ms. Fenato in room 147, or by email at dfenato@sd35.bc.ca.



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:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| • November 13 th | • March – no meeting |
| • December – no meeting | • April 9 th |
| • January 15 th | • May 21 st |
| • February 12 th | • June 11 th |

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



FROM OUR DISTRICT

Student in Distress and School Safety

Health and safety are a priority in the Langley School District. Our schools follow procedures to help keep students, staff, and the community safe. Depending on the situation, communication to parents/caregivers is needed to keep families informed about incidents in our school, such as during lockdowns, hold & secures, and room clears, or in the event of a student in distress. Sometimes these situations may not be emergencies but events that require a school response. It is important to note that the decision to send communications to families is dependent on a variety of factors including the nature of what happened, who has witnessed or was directly impacted by what happened, as well as student and staff privacy. Communication is unique and dependent on the specific situation; there are times when a student is in distress, yet the situation may or may not require a message or letter to families. In addition to communication with parents/caregivers, teachers and staff may debrief with students after an incident that may have upset them. In some cases, the school counsellor may offer support to students in need. As always, we want families to let us know if your child requires support. If you have any questions or concerns about communication related to situations or emergencies, please reach out to the school.

Byelection Day - October 25

On Saturday, October 25th, many school gyms across the District will be used as Township of Langley Byelection polling stations from 8am – 8pm. As guided by Section 81 of the Election Act “accommodation in a school that is the property of a board of school trustees under the School Act must be made available by the board for use as a voting place.”

Please take note of extra pedestrian and vehicle traffic in the area of these sites on this day. The District appreciates the support and cooperation from families and members of our community. The District is encouraging everyone who is eligible to do their civic duty and vote. For a list of school sites being used, visit the District website [here](#).



FROM FRASER HEALTH

Keep Your Children Free From Respiratory Illnesses This Winter

As the weather gets colder and we spend more time indoors, we're more likely to get sick with things like colds, flu or COVID-19 because these illnesses spread more easily in enclosed spaces.

Everyone should take these steps to protect themselves and limit the spread of respiratory illnesses:

- Get vaccinated for flu and COVID-19 if you are eligible.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use alcohol-based sanitizer if soap and water is not available.
- Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, mouth and nose.
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow.
- If you have flu-like symptoms, stay home and away from people at higher risk of serious illness. If you are sick and cannot stay away from others, wear a mask. Learn more about masks [here](#).

Vaccinations for Respiratory Illness

Vaccinations prepare our immune system to recognize and respond to viruses. When children get immunized, they are less likely to get sick or pass along illness to others and better able to focus on learning, playing and doing the activities they love.

Register your children with the [Get Vaccinated](#) system so you can be reminded to get flu or COVID-19 vaccinations when they are due. Seasonal respiratory vaccinations are available from pharmacies, public health units and some primary care providers.

School-Aged Immunizations

As children get older, the protection from some [infant immunizations](#) can wear off. To set young people up for long-term health and well-being, vaccines are offered routinely in kindergarten, grade 6 and grade 9 with catch-up opportunities in other grades. Getting your child vaccinated on schedule is one of the best ways to protect their health.

All routine school-aged immunizations are free in British Columbia. If your child is not up-to-date with their vaccines, please make an appointment with a public health unit, family doctor, nurse practitioner or pharmacy. If your child's record shows their vaccines are not current, but they did get vaccines from a health care provider outside of public health:

- Contact the health care provider who immunized your child and ask for a copy of the immunization record.



- Report these immunizations to Public Health online at: <http://www.fraserhealth.ca/immunizationform>

Learn more about school-aged immunizations, including how to access your child's records, here: [Children and youth immunizations – Fraser Health Authority](#)

Grade 9 immunizations will take place November 19. Consent forms will be sent home a few weeks prior so please watch for them! For more information, click [here](#) or see flyer below.



School Vaccination Information for Parents

Getting vaccinated on schedule is the best way to protect yourself from many dangerous diseases. Public health regularly checks immunization records for students in Grades 6-12 to help make sure they are up to date on vaccines.

We offer all routine vaccines needed for students in Grades 6-12 when students are in school.

Families can check their child's immunization records online to see if they need any vaccines by logging into immunizationconsent.gov.bc.ca/s/ then looking at "Immunization forecast".



Give consent for the child's vaccines online

This year, students, parents, or caregivers of students in Grades 6-12 have the option to provide consent for vaccines online. You can fill out consent now or any time before the school clinic.

To give online consent for immunizations, scan this QR code or go to immunizationconsent.gov.bc.ca/s/.



If vaccines are needed, please see [Vaccines | HealthLink BC](#) for more information on the specific vaccine your child needs.

Parents, students or caregivers who complete the online consent, will receive a letter closer to the time of school immunizations so you are aware of when the school clinic is occurring.

If consent is not completed online, students will receive a letter and paper consent form from the school close to the time of immunization. The letter will let you know when the consent needs to be returned by.

What if the child had vaccines but they are not on their immunization record?

If the child's record is missing vaccines they already had, please do the following:

1. Find the paper record at home, if one was given to you at the time of vaccination.
2. If you do not have records at home, contact the health care provider who gave the vaccines and ask for a copy of the immunization record.
3. Report the immunizations either of these ways:
 - Submit it online by either scanning this QR code or going to FraserHealth.ca/immunizationform.





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?](#)