

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Gator Families,

The past two weeks at WGSS have been very eventful. Coming off the Thanksgiving weekend, we had our informal Learning Update Day to provide students and their families with an early snapshot around their progress. A few days later, our staff and students participated along with many other schools across the district and province in the Great BC Shake Out Earthquake Drill. These safety drills are an important part of doing our best to prepare for an emergency. This week, we hosted our first set of parent-teacher interviews for this school year. We appreciate all the families that were able to come to WGSS and connect with our teachers about student learning. It is important that we have these opportunities to connect and work together to support student learning and success. As always, if you ever have questions or concerns about your child's learning you can reach out to your child's teacher at any time.

The upcoming two weeks will be very busy. Next Friday is Halloween. While the day is an exciting one, full of creative costumes, there are some guidelines to be aware of. We want to make sure everyone gets to experience the holiday in a safe and enjoyable way. In general, all Halloween costumes are expected to align with Langley School District's <u>Student Code of Conduct & Dress Guidelines</u>. For safety reasons, we need to be able to see students faces, so full-faced masks or costumes that completely hide the person are not permitted. This is also true of replica or fake weapons of any kind. Finally, it is important for us to remember that cultures and genders are not costumes. All costumes must be culturally appropriate, which prohibits reinforcing stereotypes, and not involve the altering of skin colour. We want all our Gators to feel respected without worrying about someone parodying our culture or gender identity. Please keep this in mind as you plan your family's costumes.

The following week sees us entering the month of November. For the entire week, we will be hosting Provincial Graduation Assessments (Literacy 10, Numeracy 10 & Literacy 12). Every student must complete these three assessments in order to meet graduation requirements. This session will focus on getting Grade 10 & 12 students in Semester 1 English classes to complete Literacy 10 or 12 assessments. A schedule of times can be found later in the Gator News. To finish off the week, we will be hosting our Fall Music Concert on Thursday evening, where our choral and band students can showcase their learning and talents. Friday will be a busy day, as we host several Post Secondary Institutions in the morning for our grade 12 students. As well, we will be reflecting and remembering together as a school community at our Remembrance Day assemblies. Our student and staff team have done a wonderful job of putting together an assembly that will honour our veterans and the sacrifices that they have made.

Have a great weekend!

Mr Mike Pue Proud Principal



IMPORTANT DATES

October 29th HUB Day

October 30th Queens University Info Session @REP (Cafeteria)

November 3^{rd-6th} Provincial Assessments in Library November 4th Volleyball Senior's Night in Main Gym

November 5th HUB Day November 5th Math Contest

November 5th Parents as Education and Career Coaches (Virtual)

November 6th Waterloo Engineering Info Session @REP (Cafeteria)

November 6th WGSS Fall Concert

November 7th PSI Day (Post-Secondary Info) @ REP (location varies) November 10th Design & Assessment - **Students Not in Attendance**

November 11th Remembrance Day – **School Closed**

November 12th Math Contest

November 13th PAC Meeting in Library @7pm

November 17th SFU Beedie School of Business @REP (Cafeteria)

November 19th Grade 9 Immunizations

November 19th HUB Day Dec 1st – 6th Grad Photos

PSI DAY - Nov 7

Grade 12 students (and parents) will have the opportunity to participate in a mini-fair. WGSS will be hosting 15+ institutions on Friday, November 7. Admission recruiters from participating institutions will be available to provide information and answer questions. All Grade 12s will have an opportunity to browse the booths and speak to reps in the Small Gym during REP time. Students will be called down in two groups: A-L and M-Z.

The following institutions are currently scheduled to attend:

- BCIT
- Camosun College
- Canadian Armed Forces/RMC
- Capilano University
- Corpus Christi + St. Mark's
- Douglas College
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Langara College
- Okanagan College

- Simon Fraser University
- Thompson Rivers University
- Trinity Western University
- University of the Fraser Valley
- University of Northern BC
- University of Victoria
- Vancouver Community College
- Vancouver Island University



LAST TWO WEEKS IN PHOTOS!



ISP Takes on Fright Night!



Pizza making in Foods 8 & 10 classes!



Ms. Epting's Textile 8 pillows!



Senior Girls Volleyball Team Bronze Medal at UFV Tournament!

Instagram: Dwalnutgrovesecondary



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.

*Due to an unprecedented high volume of requests to write the AP Calculus AB and BC exams at WGSS this year, we need to change the AP Exam ordering deadline.

The payment deadline for AP Calculus AB or BC exams is now Friday Oct 24th. All students were given this message during AP Calculus class on Monday Oct 20th. The reason for this change is to allow us to secure spots for all WGSS students currently enrolled in the AP Calculus course. After Friday Oct 24th, any remaining exam spots will be given to WGSS students who are NOT currently enrolled in AP Calculus. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Sharon Henderson shenderson@sd35.bc.ca

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

WGSS GATOR GEAR ARRIVED!

If you ordered **WGSS Gator Gear** in September, your order has arrived. Please ask your student to come to the foyer on <u>Monday, Oct 27 during lunch to pick-up</u>. After this time, your child can pick-up the gear from the office before/after school or during lunch starting on Tuesday, Oct. 28.

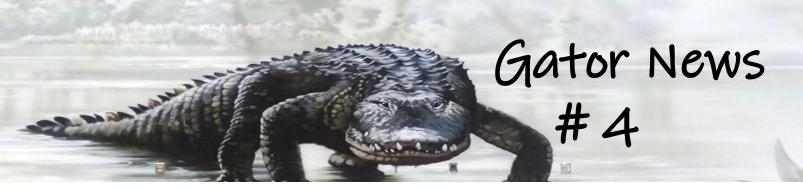
PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENTS

November 3, 4, 5, & 6 we will begin our Provincial Assessments. Students in grade 10 are required to complete a Literacy 10 and Numeracy 10 assessment, and students in grade 12 must complete their Literacy 12 assessment prior to graduation. We will be beginning our assessments with the Semester 1 English classes listed.

Please make note of your child's arrival time if they are in the English classes writing for our first session:

- o AM session arrive by 8:15 AM
- PM session arrive by 11:45 AM

November 2025 Assessment Schedule					
Course	Course Name	Teacher	Term	Block	Session
MENST12-03	ENGLISH 12: ENGLISH STUDIES	Brasnett, S	S1	А	Nov 3 Mon AM
MEFLS10-03	ENGLISH FIRST PEOPLES 10	Fike, C	S1	Α	
MEFLS10-06	ENGLISH FIRST PEOPLES 10	Heer, M	S1	A	
MENST12-07	ENGLISH 12: ENGLISH STUDIES	Heer, M	S1	С	Nov 3 Mon PM
MEFLS10-01	ENGLISH FIRST PEOPLES 10	Brasnett, S	S1	D	INOV S MOII FIM
MLTST10-01	ENGLISH HONOURS 10	Sommerville, C	S1	A	Nov 4 Tues AM
MENST12-01	ENGLISH 12: ENGLISH STUDIES	Fast	S1	В	
MENFP12-02	ENGLISH FIRST PEOPLES 12	Brasnett, S	S1	С	
MENST12-02	ENGLISH 12: ENGLISH STUDIES	Fast, C	S1	D	Nov 4 Tues PM
AELC-12-01	AP ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION 12	Robinson, K	FY	D(Day 1)	
MNMD-10-02	SPORTS JOURNALISM 10	Salter, A	S1	С	
MEFLS10-04	ENGLISH FIRST PEOPLES 10	Fike, C	S1	D	Nov 5 Wed PM
AELC-12-02	AP ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION 12	Robinson, K	FY	D(Day 2)	
MCMPS10-03	ENGLISH 10	Butcher, H	S1	С	Nov 6 Thurs AM
MENST12-11	ENGLISH 12: ENGLISH STUDIES	Butcher, H	S1	D	
AM Session - arrive by 8:15 in the library; assessment runs from 8:30-11:30					
PM Session - a	rrive by 11:45 in the library; assessment runs from 1	2:00-3:00			



GATOR ATHLETIC GEAR ONLINE STORE

If you're interested in purchasing Gator Athletics gear, the online store is selling 3 items from now until Monday, November 3. Please scan QR code below or click here to order now!





NIKE PULLOVER HOODIE



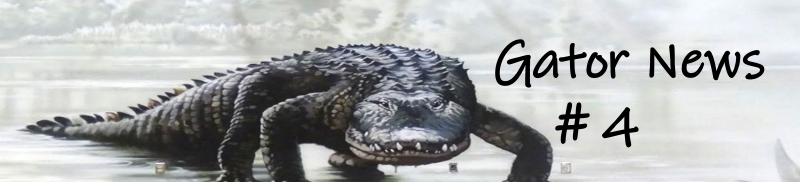




NIKE CORE SS COTTON CREW

CLOSES: November 3rd 2025
SHOP ONLINE AT: https://walnutgroveathleticssale.itemorder.com/





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 but didn't get a chance to email Mr. Pue, there will be a meeting on Thursday, October 30th @ 7:00pm in the library. Hope to see you there!

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.

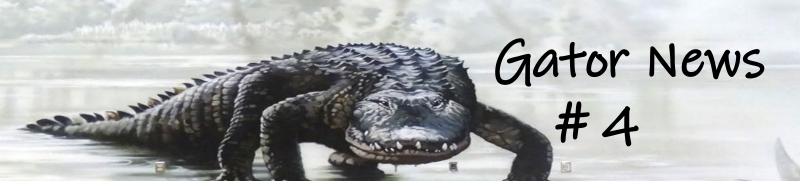
Where can parents/guardians help?

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.



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".
- 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.





EducationPlannerBC, in collaboration with school district partners, invites parents and supporters to join our virtual presentation:

Wednesday, November 5, 2025, from 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.

Learn about post-secondary education in B.C. Did you know there are 25 public post-secondary institutions with over 4,000 programs across the province? Come explore all your opportunities at EducationPlannerBC.

We'll show you how to use EducationPlannerBC's website to search thousands of programs, get to know trades, and discover career paths. Find helpful resources, including financial aid options, admission requirements, FAQs, and the Glossary. Learn how to create an account, save programs, paths, and careers to My List, and apply to post-secondary in B.C.

Have a student that attends a **Fraser Valley Region school**? Register using the QR code or by <u>clicking here</u>.

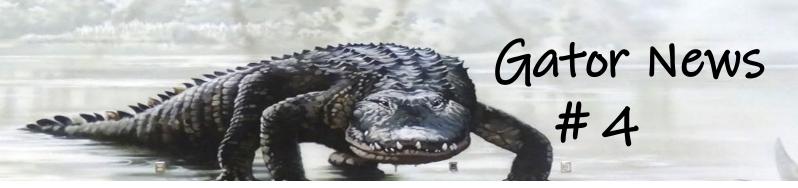


For more information, contact support@educationplannerbc.ca

www.EducationPlannerBC.ca







FRENCH PROMENADE TOUR

Imagine strolling down the Champs-Elysees, tasting fresh croissants in Paris, and soaking up French culture – all over Spring Break 2026!

Our French Promenade tour is filling fast, and there's a great reason to enroll now: prices are frozen until October 31st, 2025! Lock in the lowest rate today and don't miss this unforgettable learning adventure (with a little extra joie de vivre).

Don't miss out on the experience of a lifetime!

Final enrolment deadline is November 26th, 2025 @11:59 EST.

Find out more information and enrol below: EF Educational Tours | French Promenade



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).

ERASE BULLYING REPORT IT TOOL

The **ERASE Bullying Report It Tool** is a way for students to report bullying, threats, or unsafe situations—anonymously 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?**



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.

Interested students should see Ms. Fenato in room 147 to pick up a summary of important information. dfenato@sd35.bc.ca.

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 13th
- December no meeting
- January 15th
- February 12th

- March no meeting
- April 9th
- May 21st
- June 11th

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

Road and Pedestrian Safety

With less daylight hours and as we enter the season of wind, rain, and ice, we are sharing an important reminder from our community partner ICBC to students, staff, and families to help keep our community safe. Drivers should be alert, focus on the road, watch for pedestrians, especially at intersections and transit stops, and always be ready to stop. Pedestrians and travelers on bikes or scooters should be careful at intersections, always use designated crosswalks, remove headphones and devices, and be aware of your surroundings. For more tips read this resource Kids Pedestrian
Safety or visit ICBC's webpage here.

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.

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

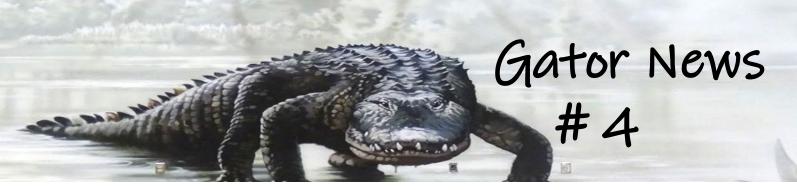
child requires support. If you have any questions or concerns about communication related to situations or emergencies, please reach out to the school.

Information About School Status During Inclement Weather

Snow closures and power outages are an annual occurrence in Langley School District. So, where do you go to get information about the status of schools during periods of inclement weather? If you are able to access the internet via computer or smartphone, current information about Langley schools can be accessed on all school websites or www.sd35.bc.ca. Updates are also posted to X (formerly Twitter) @LangleySchools and Facebook at www.facebook.com/langleyschooldistrict. If you don't have internet connectivity but your phone is working, call a relative or friend in an area that has not been affected by the storm and ask them to check the district website for you. Local radio stations are also informed of school status in Langley. Tune in to CKWX 1130AM, CKNW 980AM, Country Radio 107.1FM, Pulse 107.7 or CBC 690AM or 88.1FM for updates.

Please note that Langley District schools are all considered 'open' until a decision to close is required. Decisions on school closures are usually made by 6:30am. As always, it is a parent's decision whether to send their child to school based on safety and individual circumstances. If you feel it is unsafe for you or your child to travel to or attend an open school for any reason, please keep your child home and report an absence to the school.

X: Dsd35wgss Instagram: Dwalnutgrovesecondary



IMPORTANT PRIVACY REMINDER: RECORDING DEVICES IN SCHOOLS

Guidance for Parents and Students

To protect the privacy and security of all students, staff, and visitors, the Langley School District reminds parents and students that digital recording devices—such as Meta Glasses and AngelSense Trackers—are not permitted at school. This policy is in place to ensure compliance with the BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) and the District's procedures for responsible information management.

Parent Code of Conduct

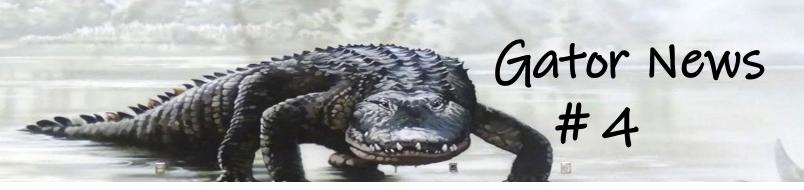
Our Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct expects every parent and guardian to respect the privacy of other students, parents, caregivers, and staff. Using devices that can discreetly record audio or video, like Meta Glasses or AngelSense Trackers, does not demonstrate respect for others' privacy.

Student Use of Recording Devices

According to Administrative Procedure 350 – Appendix A, students may only use recording devices at school for educational purposes, and only with approval from the principal. Devices such as Meta Glasses and AngelSense Trackers do not meet these requirements and should not be brought to school.

Thank You for Supporting Privacy In Our Schools

For the safety and privacy of our school community, please ensure your child does not bring any discreet recording devices to school. If you have questions, contact your school's office or the district Privacy Officer at privacy@sd35.bc.ca.



FROM FRASER HEALTH

Grade 9 Immunizations

Grade 9 immunizations will take place in the Half Cafeteria on 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. Please note that no flu or COVID-19 vaccinations will be provided at the school.



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

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

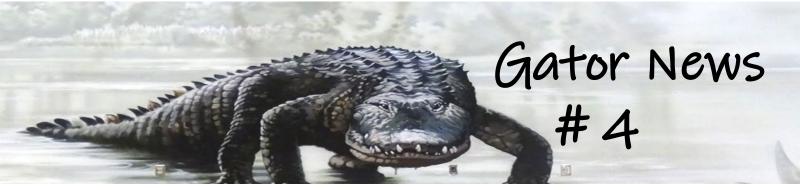
If the child's record is missing vaccines they already had, please do the following:

- 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.



www.fraserhealth.ca
This information does not replace advice given to you by a healthcare provider. School Vaccination information for Parents

Instagram: Dwalnutgrovesecondary October 24, 2025 X: Dsd35wgss



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 <u>Get Vaccinated</u> 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 <u>infant immunizations</u> can wear off. To set young people up for long-term health and well-being, vaccines are offered routinely in kindergarten, gr 6 and gr 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