

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Gator families,

It is hard to believe that we are already into November. I hope everyone enjoyed a fun and safe Halloween. Walnut Grove students and staff brought plenty of energy and creativity to the day, with costumes that highlighted both imagination and school spirit. A big thank you goes to our Student Council for organizing the annual costume contest and the many activities that helped make the week so enjoyable. I was also proud of the thoughtful choices our students made, helping to create an inclusive environment where everyone could participate comfortably and feel welcome.

Our student-athletes continue to represent WGSS with pride. Several teams have advanced through district competition and are now turning their attention to the Eastern Valley Championships. This past Tuesday, we had the opportunity to recognize our Grade 12 athletes on the Senior Boys and Girls Volleyball teams during Senior Night celebrations. It was an amazing night, recognizing their dedication and efforts to the program during their time here at WGSS. I want to pass on my congratulations to all our athletes and coaches on a successful season so far, and best wishes as many teams continue their journey through the playoffs.

The excitement is also building in our Musical Theatre program. Casting has now been completed for this spring's production of Wonderland, and rehearsals are underway. We look forward to showcasing the incredible talents of our students when performances take place on May 6-8 and May 13-15. Additional ticket information will be shared with families in the coming months.

Music will also take centre stage at WGSS next week. Our Fall Music Concert takes place Monday evening and will feature the hard work and dedication of our student musicians. On November 12, we are also pleased to host the District Band Concert, welcoming secondary school bands from across the district. Thank you to Mr. Angell and Mr. Rogers for the countless hours they invest in providing these meaningful performance opportunities for students.

As this newsletter is being written, preparations are underway for our Remembrance Day assemblies next week. Students and staff have worked together to create a thoughtful ceremony that will honour the service and sacrifice of veterans. I would also like to acknowledge National Indigenous Veterans Day on November 8. This day recognizes the significant contributions of Indigenous veterans and serves as an opportunity to reflect on the discrimination many faced upon returning home from military service, including barriers to benefits, loss of Indian status, and the expropriation of land. I encourage our community to take time over the coming days to learn, reflect, and remember all those who have served and continue to serve. A reminder that schools will be closed on November 11 in observance of Remembrance Day.



Looking ahead, we are excited to host our first pep rally of the year on November 17. As well, we are quickly approaching the end of Term 1 and the release of formal learning updates. November 20 will be a Design and Assessment Day, with students not in attendance. Staff will spend the day engaged in professional learning related to Communicating Student Learning and preparing formal learning updates. These reports will be available through MyEdBC on November 27. Families are encouraged to ensure they can access their MyEdBC accounts in advance. If you have questions regarding your child's progress in a course, please do not hesitate to connect directly with the classroom teacher.

Thank you for your continued support of Walnut Grove Secondary. Have a wonderful weekend!

Mr Mike Pue
Proud Principal





IMPORTANT DATES

November 9: University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) Information Session during REP (Library)
November 9: WGSS Fall Concert, 7:00 p.m. (Gym)
November 10: University of Calgary Information Session during REP (Location TBD)
Remembrance Day Assemblies (Gym)
November 11: Remembrance Day (Students not in attendance)
November 12: District Band Festival, 7:00 p.m. (Gym)
November 20: Design & Assessment Day (Students not in attendance)
November 27: Learning Updates issued in MyEducation BC
November 27: McMaster University Information Session during REP (Library)
November 30 - December 5: Grad Photos (Booking Required)

NEW FROM OUR SCHOOL

🎓 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

BOOKING GRAD PHOTO

Grad Cap & Gown and Fashion Photos are coming up soon! Photo sessions will take place at the school.

The sitting fee is $35 and includes the following year-end memorabilia: Diploma Folder, Grad Certificate, Grade Composite, Individual Ceremony Photo, Banquet Photo, Grad Group. Book Here



AN UNFORGETTABLE EUROPEAN HISTORY EXPERIENCE!

We are excited to share an opportunity for students to participate in an educational tour of Northern Europe, exploring some of the most significant historical sites of the 20th century. This tour will take place during Spring Break 2028.

Join Ms. Barberis, Ms. Kelly, and Mr. Goertzen on a journey through Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France, bringing history to life with visits to significant sites connected to the First and Second World Wars, the Holocaust, and the Cold War.

Highlights of the itinerary include a guided tour of Berlin, including the remains of the Berlin Wall and Brandenburg Gate; a visit to the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp Memorial Site; and a panel discussion exploring the history and legacy of the Cold War. In the Netherlands, students will visit the Anne Frank House, the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, and the Freedom Museum, which explores the liberation of the Dutch people during the Second World War.

In Belgium and France, students will explore the battlefields and memorials of the First World War, including Vimy Ridge, Beaumont-Hamel, and the Menin Gate, where we will attend the moving Last Post ceremony. We will also visit the Juno Beach Centre and other significant D-Day sites in Normandy before concluding our journey with a guided tour of Paris.

Beyond the historical sites, students will experience the culture and character of Europe, from Amsterdam's iconic canals and the traditional Dutch villages of Volendam and Zaanse Schans to the landmarks of Paris, including the Eiffel Tower and Arc de Triomphe.

This tour offers students a unique opportunity to connect classroom learning with the places, people, and events that shaped our modern world. It promises to be an enriching educational experience and a trip to remember!

Parent Information Meeting:
Thursday, November 26th at 6 pm.
Ms. Barberis's Room (Room 243)

Students and parents interested in learning more about this exciting opportunity are encouraged to attend! Please RSVP: RSVP - Gators Go to Europe





SCHOOL REMINDERS

DRY GRAD CONTACT

We are looking forward to an amazing year for our Grads of 2027. Our Dry Grad Committee is made entirely of parents and is responsible for planning the Dry Grad event that follows the Grad Dinner & Dance. The Dry Grad committee also holds fundraising initiatives to support Dry Grad. All Grade 12 parents/guardians are invited to attend our Dry Grad Meetings which are held at 7pm in the WGSS Library.

Next Meeting Dates: Monday, November 9

If you have any questions about the Dry Grad Committee or how you can get involved, please email our Dry Grad Parent Contact for 2026/2027 Kim Wishinski at kim.wishinski@gmail.com.

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.

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**.

STUDENT TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY: EXPLORE ITALY & GREECE

Sign up by November 20

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.

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





FAMILY PHOTO FUNDRAISING

Hello Families!

Mountain West Studios is excited to be providing family photo sessions as a fundraiser! The sessions will take place on **November 26th, 2026** at the school in the School Theatre. This environment allows us to provide quality portrait sessions within a comfortable location. Our goal is to provide portraits that CELEBRATE YOU and your Family.

This is a fundraiser! 100% of the sitting fee goes directly back to the school, and each family will receive a complimentary 8x10 print.

To book your Family portrait sitting, please visit this link: Walnut Grove Family Sitting



If you have any questions after reviewing our sign-up page, please contact our customer service team.

Mountain West Studios
Phone: 1.888.644.4494
Email: help@mountainwest.ca



DISTRICT INFORMATION

SETTLEMENT WORKSHOPS FOR NEWCOMER PARENTS

To support newcomers to Canada, the following workshops are being offered at James Anderson Learning Center, SWIS portable beginning at 10am. The workshops are a great way to learn about Canadian schools and to meet other newcomer families.

- November 13 - MyEdBC Parent Portal
- November 27 - Student Inclusive Conferences
- December 4 - All About ELL

ROAD, PEDESTRIAN, AND SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

With fewer 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.

An important note for drivers, when a school bus has its red lights flashing, drivers travelling in either direction must stop. Students may be crossing the road to get to or from the bus. Please stop, stay alert, and do not proceed until it is safe.

For more tips read this resource Kids Pedestrian Safety or visit ICBC's webpage here.

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 CKNW 730AM, Country Radio 107.1FM, Pulse 107.7FM, CBC 690AM or CBC 88.1FM for updates.



In the event of inclement weather, the District may implement a delayed start or early dismissal at school sites. This information will be communicated to families via one or more of these methods: SchoolMessenger, email and/or text and on the District website. For District bus riders, schedules may change depending on the school status. Bus riders will be notified of changes via one or more of these methods: My Ride K-12 App, email, phone, and/or District website.

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.

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

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GRADES 10 & 11)

The Langley School District Foundation is seeking applications from students in Grades 10 and 11 to join its Youth Advisory Committee for the 2027 calendar year. The Youth Advisory Committee meets once or twice throughout the school year and provides students with an opportunity to share their perspectives, offer feedback on Foundation initiatives, and help inform projects and priorities that support students across the District. Students interested in leadership, community involvement, and making a meaningful impact are encouraged to apply. **Application Deadline: November 15, 2026**

Apply Here: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/FfRCrJmLRY



GIFTS AND GATHERINGS - READY, SET, LEARN SESSIONS

Gifts and Gatherings is a 90 min program from 8:30 - 10am hosted weekly at one of the Langley Strong Start sites. Any family member or caregiver is welcome to participate along with children ages 0-5 years. Families will explore activities that emphasize indigenous perspectives, highlighting the many interconnected gifts of land, people and animals. Experiences may include: art, sensory exploration, story-time, table top activities and more. During each session, participants will receive a gift that will allow families to continue to explore their learning at home. The program is intended to build connections between families and the school and to support children in their transition into Kindergarten. Please see the flyer below with locations and dates: Gifts and Gatherings

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.

FROM OUR PAC

PAC MEETING DATES

Meetings will start at **7:00pm** in the WGSS library. The meeting in June doubles as a regular meeting as well as the Annual General Meeting.

Here are the remaining dates for PAC Meetings for the 2026 – 2027 school year:

Date	Date
November 16th	January 18th
December – No Meeting	February 22nd
March – No Meeting	April 5th
May 3rd	June 7th

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



Dry Grad Fundraising Hockey Night





FROM FRASER HEALTH

Healthy Screen Use

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 Healthy Screen Use. Please see below for helpful reminders to support your child.

Why Does Screen Time Matter?

Children and families are increasingly spending time on screens such as TVs, computers, tablets, smartphones and gaming devices. Too much screen time can take away from activities that are essential for healthy development, like spending time with family and friends, playing outdoors and getting a good night's sleep.

Choosing Quality Screen Time at Home

Not all screen time is the same. Educational screen time, such as homework, online classes or video calls with family, can be beneficial and support learning and connection. Recreational screen time includes activities like watching videos, gaming or scrolling on devices for entertainment. Too much recreational screen use can have negative impacts on childhood growth and development, such as:

Less time for social interaction and family connection.

Less physical activity and outdoor play.

Less opportunity for creativity, reading and other offline interests.

Negative impacts on mental well-being and behaviour.



How Much Screen Time is Recommended?

According to the Canadian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines:

Ages 5 and older: Limit to less than two hours per day.

Simple ways to encourage healthy screen habits

The Canadian Paediatric Society highlights the "four M's" to help families build healthy routines:

Manage: Set clear rules and limits, such as creating a family media plan.

Meaningful use: Encourage content that supports learning and active engagement.

Model: Show healthy screen habits in your own daily routines.

Monitor: Watch for signs that screen use is replacing important offline activities.

Helpful resources

Fraser Health Screen Time for Children / Fraser Health Screen Time Brochure for Caregivers - Ages 5-12



STAYING HEALTHY THIS WINTER (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 how to stay healthy this winter. Please see below for helpful reminders to support your child.

Keep Your Children Free From Respiratory Illnesses This Winter
As the weather gets colder and more time is spent indoors, we are 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 against flu and COVID-19.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use alcohol-based sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- 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. When children remain healthy, they are better able to focus on learning, playing and doing the activities they love. Their parents and caregivers also have less disruptions in their personal and work routines.

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
Getting your child **vaccinated on schedule** is one of the best ways to protect their health. 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.

Protection is long lasting for most vaccines, except for whooping cough. This vaccine is one of the **infant immunizations** that can wear off and needs to be given again around Kindergarten and Grade 9 to provide protection. 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.
- Provide these immunization records 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**

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**