



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Gator Families,

I hope that everyone is doing well as we transition into the second half of Semester 1. It has been a busy few weeks here at WGSS. As mentioned in the last Gator News, we were just getting ready to host the Remembrance Day assemblies. I wanted to recognize Mr Angell, Mr Curson, Ms. Harradine, Ms. Kelly, and Mr Rogers, as well as all the students who helped organize and lead a thoughtful and honouring Remembrance Day Assembly for all of the school.

Thank you as well to Ms. Kim and Ms. Yule, along with Senior and Junior Leadership students who put together an amazing Pep Rally to celebrate the successes of our Fall sport student-athletes. It was also a wonderful opportunity to generate excitement about the upcoming Winter athletics season and to bring our school community together! Coming out of the pep rally, our athletics teams saw continued success on the field, on the court and in the pool. You can read more about the achievements later in the Gator News.

Later today, we will be publishing the Semester One Formal Learning Update. Please make sure you take a moment to login to MyEd BC to review your child's Learning Update. As well, please continue to reach out to teachers if you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress. You can find more information about logging in to MyEd BC later in the Gator News and can also access support through the MyEdBC Help website link:

<https://www.sd35.bc.ca/myedbc-family-student-portal-help>

Next week, as part of the Learning Update process, students with the support of staff will be spending time reflecting on their learning and connections to the core competencies. Students are expected to post reflections in the SPACES app. I encourage you to take some time and review their reflections with them.

Speaking of feedback, student voice is an important mechanism in ensuring our school can provide an excellent learning experience. As you hopefully saw in an email sent out earlier this week, on December 3, students will be provided the opportunity to complete the "Tell Them From Me Survey". The information gathered in this survey provides the school with trends and themes that help to guide our decision making around supports and goals for the school.

The next few weeks will go by quickly as we continue into the second half of the semester and approach the Winter Break. We are grateful to our school community for all their hard work and contributions to making WGSS such a great place to work and learn.

Mr Mike Pue

Proud Principal



IMPORTANT DATES

November 21	Learning Updates Issued in MYED
December 1 – 6	Grad Photos
December 1	Grade 8 Exploration Rotation 2 Ends
December 2	Grade 8 Exploration Rotation 3 Begins
December 2	Dry Grad Meeting at 7PM (Library)
December 10	WGSS Christmas Concert
December 19	Last Day Prior to Winter Break!
January 5	School Re-Opens after Winter Break
January 9	SASSY Awards Scholarship Presentation @REP (Cafeteria)
January 12 & 15	WGSS Local & District Scholarship Workshop @REP (Cafeteria)
January 16	Local & District Scholarship App Available on Teams (for Grads)

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



Gator News # 6

LAST TWO WEEKS IN PHOTOS!



Senior Girls Volleyball Team successfully defended their 4A EVAA Championship, defeating Mission! Good luck to players at the 4A Provincial Championships in Kelowna at the end of the month!



Junior Boys Volleyball Team beat Abby Christian in the finals! The boys demonstrated an unreal battle as it went to three sets!



Junior Boys Soccer Team beat crosstown rival RE Mountain 2-1 in the EVAA Championship! Congrats to Coach Toch and the team!



WGSS proudly sent 10 swimmers to the 2025 Provincial Championships. We are incredibly proud of every athlete who qualified and represented our school with heart, discipline and sportsmanship.



GRAD PORTRAITS

There is still time to book your grad photos if you haven't already done so!

To book your preferred location and session, please visit these links:

Dec 1-4, 2025 - Grad Cap and Gown/Fashion - Pet Friendly!

[Walnut Grove Individual Grad Sitzings](#) @ Willoughby Church - 20525 72 Ave, Langley

December 5-6, 2025 - Grad Cap and Gown/Fashion - No Pets

[Walnut Grove Individual Grad Sitzings](#) @ Walnut Grove Community Centre - 8889 Walnut Grove Dr, Langley

Dec 6, 2025 - Buddy/Friendship and Family Groups - No Pets

The sitting fee is \$10 per person, per group, and includes 1 complimentary 5x7 for each participant.

[Walnut Grove Buddy Sitzings](#) @ Walnut Grove Community Centre - 8889 Walnut Grove Dr, Langley

Your sitting fee is \$35 and includes the following year-end memorabilia: diploma folder, grad certificate, composite, 5x7 individual ceremony & banquet photos, 8x10 grad group photo, and a memory book.

***Please Note:** All Grads must be photographed to be included in the yearbook. If you require a yearbook only photo sitting, please contact the Mountain West Grad Coordinator at 604-433-0551 ext. 113. You will not be able to book this type of session online. There is no sitting fee for this option.

For more information on how to prepare for your grad sitting, please click **[here](#)**.
Have Questions?

Email: **help@mountainwest.ca** ; Phone: 1.888.644.4494



****Attention Parents of Grade 12 students****

Help celebrate the Class of 2026 with a safe, fun, and unforgettable Dry Grad celebration! Dry Grad is an alcohol and drug-free event organized by parents to give graduating students a night to remember! The event will be held following the dinner-dance on June 23rd through the early hours of June 24th, 2026. It is an event filled with entertainment, prizes, and memories that last a lifetime!

Unlike school-sponsored events, Dry Grad is entirely parent-run and funded through community donations, fundraising, and volunteer efforts. We need you! The school supports the initiative, but does not provide direct funding, making parent involvement essential to its success.

Join us to share your ideas and be a part of creating a meaningful send-off for our graduates!

Have ideas? We'd love to hear them! Please reach out to:
wgssdrygrad2026@gmail.com

Any specific inquiries can also be sent directly to:

Chair: Michelle Sparrow: michellesparrow@gmail.com

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 2nd at 7pm in the WGSS library



Gator News # 6



WGSS Dry Grad 2026

Fundraising Sales Goal: \$5,000.00



Help us reach our fundraising goal while stocking up on premium chocolates for the holiday season. Every order placed through our link earns up to 30% back for the 2026 Dry Grad.

Click here to order - <https://fundraising.purdys.com/2225645-134649>

Please share this link with family and friends so they can order too!

Pick-up will be at WGSS on Dec 15. Stay tuned for more details re: pick-up times.



Gator News # 6

Fairy Godmother Foundation

Are you in need of grad wear for prom?

The Fairy Godmother Foundation is here to help! We provide FREE grad wear (dresses, suits, shoes, accessories) to students who may not be able to afford them, ensuring everyone has the chance to celebrate this special milestone.

Who Can Apply?

Any high school student in need of assistance with prom attire.

How to Apply:

Visit your school counselor and let them know you'd like to be considered for assistance.

Once applications are reviewed your councillor will contact you with further details

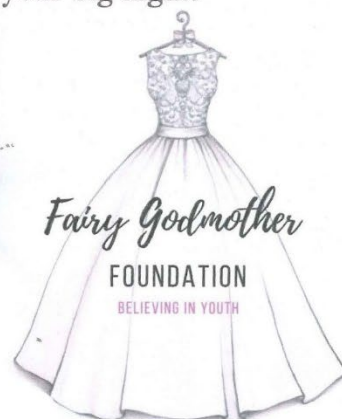
Let us help you feel like the star you truly are on your big night!

Our team is excited to work with you to find the perfect outfit for your prom night!

**The Fairy Godmother Foundation –
Where every student deserves to shine!**

Apply ASAP as space is limited

For more information, ask your counsellor





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.



FRENCH PROMENADE TOUR

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Hear ye, hear ye! Spring Break 2026 is calling — and Paris is on the line!

If you haven't made your Spring Break plans yet and dream of strolling the streets of Paris or soaking up the sun in the south of France, this is your chance! Pack your curiosity and your camera — adventure (and croissants!) await!

But don't wait too long, folks — the final deadline to enroll is **Wednesday, November 26, 2025!** There's still room on the tour, so grab your spot before it's gone!

See Ms. Neuscheler or Mr. Lincke for all the details — you don't want to miss the trip of a lifetime!

“Read all about it — Paris and Provence, here we come!”

ERASE BULLYING REPORT IT TOOL

The [ERASE Bullying Report It Tool](#) is a way for students to report bullying, threats, or unsafe situations—anonynously 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?](#)



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We would like to let you know about an exciting opportunity for a cultural exchange to Avignon, France that is taking place later this school year for students in grades 8, 9 and 10. It involves a ten-day trip to the Provence region in the south of France with daily guided excursions to sites in and around Avignon, while being hosted by a family from our partner school, La Salle. Travel dates are March 22- April 1, 2026, and hosting dates are approximately April 22- May 2, 2026.

Here are a just a few of the many advantages:

- It allows our students to experience and appreciate French culture firsthand.
- It's less expensive than a traditional trip. (estimated cost: \$2800)
- Our hosts are very welcoming and experienced.
- Students will have the opportunity to travel with their peers.
- Everyone makes new friends.
- There are no hotel stays.
- It's fully guided at every stage so it's especially safe.

If you are interested in finding out more about this France Exchange, please contact Ms. Deborah Fenato at dfenato@sd35.bc.ca as soon as possible. Last year's exchange was a great success, and we would very much like to provide more students with this opportunity!



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:

- 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!



Gator News # 6



ONE & DONE FUNDRAISER

**No selling required!
Just your support!**

Now that elementary school is behind you, you're probably ready to leave behind all those requests to sell or volunteer! We get it, and we won't ask you to do either.

However, the PAC still needs your support. We continue to fund important school programs and requests that go beyond the standard curriculum, enriching our students' educational experience.

Please consider making a contribution through our ONE-AND-DONE fundraiser. A simple donation—no selling, no volunteering required—just your generous support to help keep these programs going!



Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to donate on School Cash Online towards **PAC Donations**

- ✓ **\$15** - Bidding wars at a silent auction? No, thanks!
- ✓ **\$10** - Chasing down corporate sponsors? No, thanks!
- ✓ **\$5** - Selling chocolates or wrapping paper to my friends and family? No, thanks!
- ✓ **Other** - I love this school and I am happy to help!





Gator News # 6

FROM OUR DISTRICT

MyEducationBC

Family Portal

The graphic shows a laptop, a tablet, and a smartphone, all displaying the MyEducationBC Family Portal interface. The laptop screen shows the British Columbia logo and the MyEducationBC logo. The Langley Schools logo is also present.



Login ID: sd35-xxxxxxx
OR email address given to the school
both logins and passwords are case sensitive.
Logins should be all lower case.



One login ID
should give parents access to all their
children's information.



Passwords are good for 90 days to
protect your child's data and you will be
prompted to change your password.



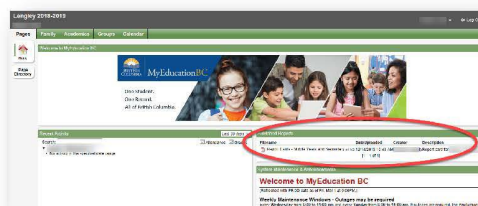
Published Learning Updates
It is recommended that you save the PDF
documents as the report card is only
posted on the Family Portal for a limited
time.



Forgot password?
Please click "I forgot my password" on the log
on screen or please submit a request [here](#)



How to use the Family Portal
Please visit our website [here](#).



Need Help?

Please submit a request through our
website
[https://www.sd35.bc.ca/page/382/
myedbc-request-for-assistance-form](https://www.sd35.bc.ca/page/382/myedbc-request-for-assistance-form)



For more information
[https://www.sd35.bc.ca/page/329/myed
bc-family-student-portal-help](https://www.sd35.bc.ca/page/329/myedbc-family-student-portal-help)

SD35 Family Portal 2025



School District Foundation Annual Report

We are thrilled to share our [2024/25 Annual Impact Report!](#) We invite you to take a few moments to explore the profound effects of our community's generous support.

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.



FROM FRASER HEALTH

Dental, Hearing, and Vision 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 Dental, Hearing, and Vision Health. Please see below for helpful reminders to support your child.

Make Dental, Hearing and Vision Checks Part of a Healthy Routine

It's important for your child to have regular eye exams and routine dental checkups. This can help find issues early and lead to better outcomes. It is also important to recognize any hearing loss early as this is essential for speech and language development.

Dental

Tooth decay and other oral health concerns are the most common preventable chronic diseases in children. Establishing good oral hygiene habits early and ensuring regular dental checkups are essential for your child's oral health.

To find a local dentist who is accepting new patients, visit the BC Dental Association's [Find a Dentist database](#).

If your family is experiencing financial challenges and doesn't have extended health coverage, there are [programs](#) available to help make dental care more accessible. You can also reach out to the dental program at your local public health unit at [Dental Care - Fraser Health](#) to learn about community resources and support.

Vision

[BC Doctors of Optometry](#) (BCDO) recommends children receive their first eye exam when they are six to nine months old, with a follow up exam at least once between the ages of two and five, and then yearly once they enter school. You can find an optometrist accepting new patients near you on [BCDO's website](#). In BC, one basic eye exam per year is free up to the age of 18. Some optometrists may charge a user fee of about \$35-50 per visit, so be sure to ask about any fees before you make an appointment. Find more information on BCDO's [Children's Resources](#) page.



Hearing

Good hearing is essential for speech and language development and plays an important part in a child's social and emotional growth. It is important to recognize hearing loss early and seek out testing and treatment if needed. Fraser Health's Public Health community audiologists provide free hearing services for children from birth to 19 years of age. If you have a concern about your child's hearing, referrals can be made by a parent or caregiver, a health care provider or education professional to your [local public health audiology \(hearing\) clinic](#).

Find more information on child health screenings and how to access free vision, hearing and dental exams on [Fraser Health's website](#).

Youth Clinics

Let your teen know about our youth clinics. Located throughout the Fraser Health region, these clinics offer free and confidential sexual health care to youth, with age eligibility varying by site and service. Learn more about the services available at youth clinics [here](#).