



BOWEN ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL E-BULLETIN

BICS This Week for Families, September 5th, 2024

A message from Mrs. Magrath:

What a great start to the school year! We began the week by welcoming families back on Tuesday and learning more about our phenomenal PAC and ways to be involved. See below for more information and greetings from the PAC.

On Wednesday, we launched our pods: Northwind, Eastwood, Southview and Westshore. All students at BICS are members of a pod and participated in pod activities throughout the day. Pods will be great places for multi-age groups of students to work together on service projects, do buddy reading, celebrate and recognize special events, and so much more. Students learned about our goal of working together to be a Connected, Compassionate, Curious, and Confident community of learners.

Monday

- Return your forms to classroom teachers and complete the online policies and procedures form. See below for more information.
- KGE continues this week. All Kindergarten students attend from 8:35am-12pm each day

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

- Physical Literacy Workshops and assessments in classrooms with Amber and Erin:

- What is physical literacy?
- How are the brain and body connected?
- Why do we need to move every day?

Friday

Upcoming dates:

- September 18th: Open House early dismissal at 1:52pm
 - Families are invited to come tour the classrooms and meet the teachers. The PAC will be hosting an event around 2:30pm with more details to come.
- September 20th: Professional Development Day (school not in session)
- September 24-26th: Camp Elphinstone field experience for Grade 7 students

Class divisions:

Division 1: Ms. Van Schouwen

Division 2: Ms. Stevenson

Division 3: Ms. Ohlhauser and Mr. Forst

Division 4: Ms. Arden

Division 5: Ms. Hicks

Division 6: Mr. Brown

Division 7: Ms. Waurechen

Division 8: Ms. Towne

Division 9: Ms. Nicolson

Division 10 : Ms. Cooke

Division 11: Ms. Thompson

Online Policy and Procedures (To be completed each school year for each student):

Every year, parents are required to complete a new online Policies and Procedures Form for each of their children attending West Vancouver Schools. Failure to complete this form may result in your child being unable to participate fully in classroom and school activities. Click to access the [2024-2025 Policies and Procedures Form](#)

BICS Facility Use

BICS continues to be a central hub for Bowen Island, with West Vancouver Schools committed to ensuring the building remains accessible and that programs and opportunities continue to connect students, families, and the broader Bowen Island community.

As before, all BICS building facilities will remain available to the community. The gym, kitchen, community use room, multi-purpose room, and other spaces will be booked through the West Vancouver School facilities rentals department. For more information regarding rentals, please refer to the West Vancouver Schools Rental Website page: <https://westvancouver.schools.ca/about-facilities/>

Field bookings will continue to be booked through the Bowen Island Community Recreation department.

West Vancouver Schools Rental Information:

Website: <https://westvancouver.schools.ca/about-wvs/facilities/>

Email: rentals@wvschools.ca

Phone Number: 604-981-1399

BICS PAC

We, the executive committee of the PAC, are excited to connect with you and co-create an engaged and supportive parent community this year!

Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend the assembly on Tuesday, it was a joy to get to share about the PAC and connect with you over coffee and danish! (those berry strudels though, amiright?)

If you weren't able to attend the assembly, fear not, let us catch you up!

What is PAC and what's your role?

Many people assume PAC is a committee of parents who get together and do all the things, that you're either "on the PAC or not". While the executive committee are the ones who are organizing and managing, the strength and efficacy of the PAC is only made possible through the joyful participation of many.

You! Us! *All of us!*

The key message we hoped to get across at the assembly was that PAC isn't something you have to join or have an official role in. PAC is all of us, parents who want to:

- Share ideas
- Stay up-to-date on district happenings
- Contribute time, energy and skills to a healthy and thriving community for our children and each other.

How to participate

You can participate as much or as little as you like. When people participate in ways that play to their skills, interests, time and capacity available, we all thrive! Rising tides lift all boats! Many hands make light work! Teamwork makes the dream work! (insert your fave collaborative cliché here!)

If you are interested in volunteering or contributing, and you didn't sign up at the assembly, we have a very short form for you to register your interest. You are not committing to anything by filling out this form, you are simply letting us know that we can reach out with further information and opportunities!

→ [**YES! I'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE!**](#) ←

Upcoming events and important dates

Block Party! **Wednesday, September 18 from 2:30 - 4:00 pm.** On the same day as Meet the Teacher, we hope you can join us for some music, games, snacks and fun!

PAC Meeting. **Thursday, September 26, 5:00 pm.** Please join us for our first PAC meeting and see what all the fun and hype is about! We plan to host meetings on a variety of dates and times to accommodate varied schedules, this will be discussed at the first meeting so let us know what works best for you!

Names and roles of the executive committee members

We are excited to connect with you this year and co-create some awesome community experiences. Let us introduce the “us” that is the executive committee:

Angie Vyner (co-chair)

Tara Forshaw (co-chair)

Quinn Buchanan (treasurer)

Courtney McLachlan (Secretary)

Adam Grieder (DPAC)

Giorgio Riccardi (Member at Large)

Yvette Gabrielle (Member at Large)

Natasha Currah (Member at Large)

Jade Weismiller (Member at Large)

Henry Campbell (Member at Large)

Where to find us

E-mail: bicspac@wvschools.ca

Instagram: bics_pac

Facebook: BICS Matters

Optional Accident Insurance for Families

Each year the school district reminds families that they have the option to purchase insurance coverage against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses, and critical illness. There are many different voluntary plans that provide coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses and critical illness. Families are encouraged to do their due diligence when choosing a provider.

Personal Digital Device Expectations - NEW!

At West Vancouver Schools, we understand that personal digital devices offer students valuable opportunities to collaborate, create, and communicate, enhancing their learning experiences. We also recognize the importance of maintaining focused and safe learning environments for all students. Recently, provincial guidelines and legislation have further highlighted the need to minimize distractions, as digital devices can interrupt class time, interfere with student concentration, and disrupt the educational setting.

To support focused and safe learning environments, West Vancouver Schools is refining our approach to digital device use and will be uniformly applying personal digital device expectations across all schools. Starting this school year, personal digital devices will only be allowed with the explicit permission of a teacher or administrator, who will provide clear guidelines to ensure their use is intentional and directly supports student learning. Additionally, considerations will be made to accommodate students' medical and health needs, accessibility, and accommodation requirements.

Here's what this means for different school levels:

- Secondary Schools: Personal digital device expectations will be in place during instructional time. Instructional time is during classes, assemblies and all school related learning activities.
- Elementary Schools: Personal digital device expectations will apply throughout the entire school day, including before school, after school, and during break times. Cell phones will not be used at all during school hours.

How You Can Help:

To support these updated expectations, we ask parents and guardians to:


1. Familiarize Yourself: Please take the time to read through the [Parent/Guardian Guide to Personal Digital Devices](#) to fully understand the new district-wide expectations. Additionally, review any specific guidelines or expectations provided by your child's teacher(s). Understanding both the general and specific expectations will help you support your child in following the new expectations effectively.
2. Model Appropriate Use: Demonstrate and discuss the importance of limiting device use at home, especially during family time or other important activities. Your behavior sets a powerful example for your child.
3. Encourage Balance: Help your child find a healthy balance between screen time and other activities, such as reading, outdoor play, or family interactions. This will reinforce the focus on learning during school hours.
4. Mindful Communication: Please avoid calling or texting your child during school time unless it's an emergency. Remind your child that school time is for learning, and that messages can wait until after school. If urgent communication is needed, please contact the school office.

5. By working together, we can create a safer, more focused learning environment for all students. These small steps at home can make a big difference in reinforcing the positive changes we're implementing at school. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

West Vancouver Schools

Parent & Guardian's Guide to Personal Digital Devices

Personal Digital Devices include any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or to access the internet, such as cell phones, phones, laptops, tablets, smartwatches and any other portable technology device.




Laptops are the preferred device for school use.

While digital devices can enhance learning in many ways, allowing students to collaborate, create and communicate, it is important that they are used in a mindful and meaningful way.

Personal digital devices should only be used with the permission of a teacher or administrator. Additional considerations will be made to provide for student's health and accessibility needs, and accommodation requirements.


Elementary

Cell phones should NOT be used in elementary school.



Secondary

Cell phones should only be used in class if specifically required for a learning task



What can parents and guardians do to help?

- Understand the digital device expectations at your child's school
- Support and encourage your child's appropriate use of digital devices
- Refrain from contacting your child during the school day. If it's an emergency, contact the school office
- Personally model and encourage digital device limitations (boundaries?)

