

August 29th, 2024

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### Hawks Highlights

Sept	3rd	<b>First Day of School for Grades 1-7</b> Grade 1-3 8:40-9:40 Grade 4-7 9:00-10:00
	13th	<b>Individual Photo Day</b>
	17th	<b>#1 Cross Country Meet Grades 3-7</b>
	19th	<b>Terry Fox Run</b>
	20th	<b>Professional Development Day - no classes</b>
	24th	<b>#2 Cross Country Meet Grades 3-7</b>
	25th	<b>Curriculum Night 5:00 pm</b>
	27th	<b>Orange Shirt Day</b>
	30th	<b>National Day of Truth and Reconciliation - School not in session</b>



We look forward to welcoming Cedardale learners, families, and some new staff members next week!

#### September 3rd

Learners are asked to arrive at their designated time and **meet on the grass field** where they will be met by their teachers from last year or another familiar face and guided into classrooms from there. Learners may wish to bring a water bottle for this shortened day while teachers and learners reconnect after the summer and review the expectations for the school year. Staff are ready to welcome new learners and help them to get settled alongside their peers.

- Grade 1-3 learners 8:40 am – 9:40 am
- Grade 4-7 learners 9:00 am – 10:00 am

#### September 4<sup>th</sup> onwards

Full Day for Grade 1-7

- Grade 1-3 learners 8:40 am – 2:40 pm
- Grade 4-7 learners 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

#### Parent and Guardian Checklist for before September 3rd:

- Read the Cedardale Handbook (email attachment)
- Complete [Policy and Procedures Forms](#)
- Be familiarized with WVS Personal Digital Devices Policy (below)
- Be sure to have ordered [school supplies](#)
- Review the [Year at a Glance](#)

#### Policy and Procedures Forms & Emergency Contact Forms - Action Item!

Please take the time as soon as possible to complete our online Policy and Procedures Forms: <https://eforms.sd45.bc.ca/Account/Login?rr=Form/PandP>.

It is very important that each learner has these forms filled out in order to participate in all school-based opportunities (i.e., Terry Fox Run, community walks, accessing digital resources, using school wifi, etc).

Each learner will also be sent home with a package containing information and important (paper) forms which must be filled out and returned to the school by **Monday, September 25th**. It is necessary to provide the office with the most up-to-date contact information which is used to contact families in case of emergency as well as to communicate important information from the school. Please review the Student Verification Form carefully as the contact information within represents the information we have on file. Without this, you will not receive timely communication from the school or school district. **Be on the lookout for this package next week!**

#### 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:

- **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.**
- **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.

#### How You Can Help:

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

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Mindful Communication:** Please avoid calling or texting your child during school time. Remind your child that school time is for learning, and that messages can wait until after school. If there is an emergency or urgent communication is needed, **please contact the school office.**

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, smart watches, tablets, smart TVs, 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.

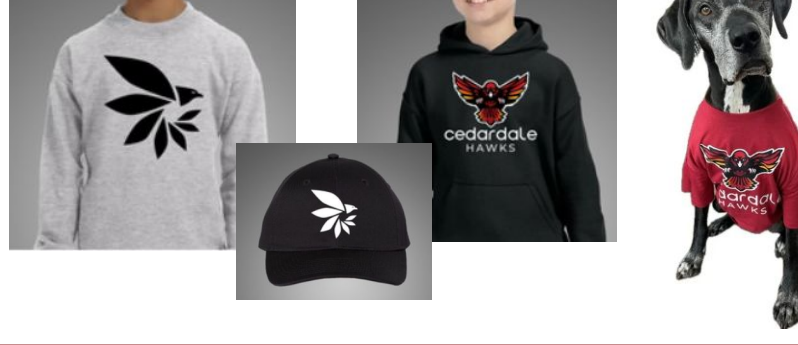
**Secondary**  
Cell phones should only be used in cases if specifically required for a learning task.

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?)

#### Cedardale Spirit Wear - get your gear for the new school year!

Click [here](#) to order Cedardale t-shirts, hoodies, and more! Red sports logo t-shirts and back!



#### 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.

#### Lights Up Theatre - Thursdays - Expression of Interest

Sing Dance Act Shine! At Lights Up After school, your child can experience the joys and benefits of musical theatre by taking part in our afterschool programs led by our talented and experienced Lights Up Musical Theatre Schools staff. These classes are a unique introduction to our weekend musical theatre programs and provide students with an enriching, rewarding, and most of all, fun after school activity right at the bell!

Please email Mme Hayes @ [khayes@wvschools.ca](mailto:khayes@wvschools.ca) if your child would be interested in this user pay afterschool opportunity on **Thursdays**.

#### Before and After School Programs & Community Connections

##### Stay Tuned for Returning User Pay Opportunities:

**Hoops Basketball - Mondays & Fridays**

**West Coast Kung Fu - Wednesdays**

**French Lessons from Ecoline - Mondays & Thursdays**

**Possible new opportunity:**

**Lights Up Theatre - Thursdays (see above)**