



ÉCOLE SENTINEL SECONDARY E-BULLETIN

Sentinel Secondary E-Bulletin

Thursday December 11th, 2025

Calendar Upcoming

| Date | Day | Event | Notes |
|--|-----|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| December 17 th | Wed | Winter Concert-Juniors | Day 2-3, Evening Concert@7pm |
| December 18 th | Thu | Winter Concert-Seniors | Day1-2 |
| December 19 th | Fri | Last day of Term1 | Early Dismissal@12pm |
| December 22 nd -January 2 nd | | Winter Break – School is closed | |



[2025–2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR](#)

New This Week



Inside Sentinel

- Sentinel Music Program Winter Concerts
- Lost and Found Reminder
- Grade 7 into 8 Open House Information Night for Students & Parents
- New Student Lunch Account Program
- Grad Assessment Update



Clubs and Actives

- Sentinel Stage Presents The Dining Room - Tickets Available now!

Traffic Reminder

Please drive safely and carefully when arriving at and leaving the school.

We kindly ask all parents and students to follow our pick-up and drop-off protocols to help keep everyone safe and ensure traffic flows smoothly. Thank you!



Inside Sentinel

Sentinel Music Program Winter Concerts

Kick off the holiday season with the spectacular sounds of the Sentinel Music Program! Our students have been working tirelessly to prepare a showcase filled with exceptional musicianship and inspiring teamwork. Join us for an unforgettable series of performances that celebrate their dedication and passion for music!

Performance Schedule:

❖ Wednesday, Dec 17th:

- **Period 2-3:** In-school performance for Juniors – all ensembles
- **7:00 PM: Main Evening Concert** - All ensembles perform for friends and family. Donations at the door.

❖ Thursday, Dec 18th:

- **Period 1-3:** In-school performance for Seniors (all ensembles except Grade 8 Band)

Fundraising Focus: This is a key fundraiser for our music program. All proceeds from this event will go towards our ambitious long-term goal of purchasing a new set of timpani. Your support brings us closer to securing these essential instruments for our percussion section. [Click here to donate online.](#)

We look forward to seeing you there!

Lost and Found Reminder

Please check the Lost and Found box in front of the Cafeteria and collect any items that belong to you before December 19th. All unclaimed items after this date will be donated. Thank you!

Grade 7 into 8 Open House Information Night for Students & Parents

Do you have a student currently in Grade 7? Join us for an Information Night for incoming Grade 8 students interested in attending Sentinel. Event scheduled for Wednesday, January 7th, 2026 from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. No registration required. All are welcome. Please click [HERE](#) for more information.

Sentinel – New Student Lunch Account Program

We're introducing an optional Student Lunch Account Program designed to make cafeteria purchases easier for families and faster for students. Parents can load funds online, and students pay using a secure QR code. Please see more details in the [PDF](#) poster.

Benefits for families:

- One-minute setup
- Easy reloads anytime
- Balance and purchase visibility
- No cash or cards needed
- Secure and privacy-protected

This program reduces lineups and keeps lunch payments simple and predictable.

Full instructions are in the PDF above. Should you have any questions, please feel free to email: accounts@geminifoods.ca

Learning Update #1 is available to be downloaded

Student Learning Updates #1 is posted on the MyEducation family portal and ready to be downloaded.

Family Portal Important Notes:

Important! Make sure to download and save the Learning Updates for future reference. The portal will close by July 2026, and you will not be able to access the reports after that period.

- ✓ My Education Family Portal Link: www.myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspen
- ✓ Login Guide: [Logging-In-Quick-Guide-Family.pdf](#)
- ✓ Username/Password/Recovery: – Please record your username and password. Furthermore, confirm you have set up your ‘password recovery’ function to allow you to reset your own password. [Log In/Password Recovery How to Video](#)
- ✓ MyEducation BC Family Portal Instructions: [Family Portal instructions webpage](#)
- ✓ If you need support with your family portal account, please email us at sentinelportalhelp@wvschools.ca

2025/2026 Yearbooks

The 2025/2026 Yearbooks are now available for purchase through School Cash Online. Don't miss out on capturing this year's memories - [click here](#) to secure your copy! Please note, parents must complete the online Policy and Procedure forms above at Required Forms section so your child photos can be included in the yearbooks.

Graduation Assessments Updates

All grade 12 students will be writing their Literacy 12 Assessment(s) in January. Students - please check your emails in the coming weeks for information on date and times. Grade 10 students will write their Numeracy 10 Assessment in April and their Literacy 10 assessment in June.

Graduation Assessments 2025-2026

| DATES | ASSESSMENT | GRADE LEVEL |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| January 12-20, 2026 | Literacy 12 (LTE12) | All Gr. 12 students |
| January 12 -13, 2026 | Évaluation de littératie de la 12e année (LTF12)**Written | All French immersion Gr.12 students |
| January 12-20, 2026 | Évaluation de littératie de la 12e année (LTF12)**Oral | All French immersion Gr.12 students |
| April 20-24, 2026 | Numeracy 10 | All Gr. 10 students |
| June 8-19, 2026 | Literacy 10 (LTE10) | All Gr. 10 students |
| June 8-19, 2026 | Missed or re-writes: Literacy 12 & Numeracy 10 Littératie 12 (June 8 or 9) | Gr. 10 and Gr.12 students |

Clubs and Activities

Sentinel Stage Presents The Dining Room - Tickets Available now!

This February, join Sentinel Stage for a seat in The Dining Room. An unforgettable, witty, and heartfelt portrait of family life. The faces, families, traditions, and relationships change, but the room remains a constant witness to generations of memories. Don't miss out on this production that celebrates the stories we share around the table.

The Dining Room runs from February 3rd to February 7th, 2026, in the Studio Theatre at the Kay Meek. Tickets are just \$15 in advance and are available now at sentinelstage.ca and would make a wonderful Christmas gift for students, friends and family!

15th Annual Pajama Drive

Dec. 1 - Dec. 12

12 Days

138 Pairs of Pajamas

The 15th Annual Pajama Drive for Admiral Seymour fundraiser continues until Friday, Dec. 12th. We are raising money to provide a new pair of PJ's for each of the 138 students at Sir Admiral Seymour Elementary, an inner city school on the edge of Vancouver's Downtown East side. Too many of these vulnerable kids are living in poverty. Please help us provide a warm pair of pajamas for each of them to wear this winter. Let's show them we care.

Donations can be made in participating classes or with School Cash Online using this [link](#).

Thank you to all who have already donated!! For more information, please contact Ms. Takahashi at jtakahashi@wvschools.ca

Math Contest

CNML 8: We are also pleased to open registration for the CNML 8 Math contest taking place on Tuesday, February 24th during period 2-3. The CNML 8 is a short contest that's great for students looking to get entry level experience with Math contests. The cost for registration is \$2. Please see Mr. Ma in room 257 to register. The last day for registration is Friday, December 12th. Late registrations may not be accepted.

Inside West Van Schools

AI Literacy Lessons

This school year, our district is introducing a series of AI literacy lessons to help students build essential knowledge and understanding of artificial intelligence. Approximately once a month, students will participate in short, age-appropriate lessons that explore key concepts and responsible use of AI. This month, primary students learned about what Artificial Intelligence is, intermediate students explored bias and effective prompting, and secondary students examined prompting, bias, and hallucinations. As AI becomes increasingly present in our everyday lives, these lessons are designed to provide our students with an understanding of the technology, as well as the skills to use it safely, ethically and responsibly.

Parents Guide to Social Media and Digital Devices

Please find the latest West Vancouver District Parents Guide to Social Media and Digital Devices [HERE](#).

Parent Literacy Workshops

Join us for an engaging session on supporting your child's literacy and language development. Presented by West Vancouver Schools in partnership with the West Vancouver Memorial Library, these workshops will explore practical strategies to foster a love of reading, build foundational skills, and create strong home-school connections. Sessions will include insights from district educators and library staff, highlighting local resources that help every child thrive academically. Check more information on the poster [HERE](#)!

All sessions will take place in Welsh Hall at the West Vancouver Memorial Library. Session dates are as follows:

- *January 27th - Parents of Grades 4 – 7 students*
- *March 3rd – Parents of Grades 8 – 12 students*

Physical Activity and Physical Literacy

Physical literacy is the motivation, confidence, physical competence, knowledge and understanding to value and participate in physical activities for life. Children and youth become physically literate through physical activity, which develops **movement skills** that **enable participation** in activities as they age. Getting active early increases the likelihood that participation and its benefits will continue into adulthood. West Vancouver School District aims to provide safe and varied opportunities for movement. Please click [HERE](#) to find out more resources.

West Vancouver Schools Admissions Timelines

Admissions for the 2026/2027 school year began on Wednesday October 15th at 8:00 am for all Kindergarten students and all Grade 1 –12 In-catchment students.

Admissions for Out-of-Catchment and Out-of-District students opens at 8:00am on Thursday, January 15th, 2026.

For more information about admissions processes, dates, guidelines, and information, please visit <https://westvancouver.schools.ca/admissions/> Please carefully read the information regarding documentation procedures before starting the application process.

Parent Guide to Discord

Please review the most updated WVS Parent Guide to Discord [HERE](#). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Food Security Plan

As part of the Ministry of Education and Childcare Feeding Futures initiative, the West Vancouver School District has established a food security structure to confidentially assist students and families. The West Vancouver School District Food Security Plan will help students and families by providing confidential financial support for families facing food insecurity. Families are encouraged to reach out directly to our principal, Mr. Mike Finch at MFinch@wvschools.ca or to feedingfutures@wvschools.ca if they need support with food-related costs. Please be assured that all requests will be addressed with sensitivity, respect, and confidentiality.

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.

PAC News

Staff Holiday Luncheon

We're kicking off the holiday season - it's time to start preparing for our Holiday Teacher & Staff Appreciation Luncheon!

This year we'll be hosting all events *school-wide*, which means *every parent is welcome* to take part in every event (we won't be dividing responsibilities by grade anymore) -- we'll work together as one community.

You're welcome to contribute homemade/delicious food or monetary donations (for Holiday gift cards & Valentine's Day "Sweet Boxes") or your helping hands for set-up or clean-up on the special day - December 16th.

Together, we can show our amazing teachers and staff how much we appreciate everything they do — in the classroom and beyond. ❤️

Sign up [HERE](#) for your food/drink donation or e-transfer your monetary donation to sentinelpac@gmail.com

Questions? Please contact Gem Chu: gemchuchu@gmail.com

Connect with PAC

Join our PAC meeting, volunteer with a [Team](#), or connect with your Grade Parents' [WhatsApp group](#) to stay involved in our school community.

School Traffic

Parents, please support your teen to walk, cycle, scooter or use public transit to get to and from school each day!

If you must drive a car, use one of the 26 drop-off spots near the school - see map - so that your teen can walk a few steps; it's safer and healthier for everyone!

<https://westvancouver.schools.ca/ecole-sentinel-secondary/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2025/03/Sentinel-Secondary-School-Map-December-3.pdf>

Student Resources

Calendar & Block Rotation

Our **2025–2026 School Calendar** on the website is back up and running! Please click [HERE](#) to subscribe. It includes all major school events and holidays.

❖ **Block Rotation Schedule** [HERE](#) (Oct 27th -Dec 19th ,2025)

- ❖ **Flexible Instruction Time** on Mondays and Thursdays from 11:00 am - 11:50 am.
- ❖ **Staff Collaboration** is the last Thursday of the month from 8:30am - 9:25am. Classes start at 9:30am. Dismissal time will be 2:45pm.

Sentinel's Counselling Department

Counsellors are here to assist students with academic planning as well as mental health support and so much more! Counsellors are assigned by student's last name.

Lisa Ulinder (last names A-F) lulinder@wvschools.ca

Rebecca Britten (last names G-LIT) rbritten@wvschools.ca

Stefan Huskilson (last names LIU-SAM) shuskilson@wvschools.ca

Alex Thureau (last names SAN-Z) athureau@wvschools.ca

For more information from our counselling team please visit

<https://westvancouver.schools.ca/counselling/>

Clubs Day – Discover the New Club list!

Check out the new and updated club list [HERE](#) from our Clubs Day! Whether you're looking to explore a hobby, try something different, or meet new friends, there's a club for everyone. Don't miss your chance to get involved, have fun, and make the most of your school year!

Locks & Lockers

Grade 8

All grade 8s have been assigned a locker and will receive a lock and their assigned locker in their 1-1 class. Students **MUST** use the lock and locker assigned to them. Students may not use personal locks. Students are to keep their lock for their entire high school experience.

Grade 9-12

Students in grades 9-12 have not been assigned a locker but may request a locker at the link below. Students **MAY NOT** use an unassigned locker. If a student needs a lock, please go to the accounting office. Link for Locker Request: <https://forms.gle/9mTNzFLzptq3EySZ8>

Locker Assistance, please email Allison Carruthers at acarruthers@wvschools.ca

Annual Student Parking Pass

For those students parking at the school, please purchase a student's parking pass using School Cash Online and bring the receipt to the Accounting Office. If you need assistance with

[SchoolCash Online](#) please email our Accountant, Allison Carruthers at acarruthers@wvschools.ca

Absent or Excused?

Attendance Notifications – Parent Guide

We kindly ask parents and guardians to notify the school of any absences, late arrivals, or early dismissals. Please email all attendance-related matters to: sentinelattendance@wvschools.ca

When emailing, please include:

- ❖ Student's **full legal name and grade**
- ❖ **Time** of absence, late arrival, or early dismissal
- ❖ **Reason** for the absence

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

Please send emails **by 2:30pm on the day of the absence.**

If an email is not received by this time, an automatic attendance mark may be applied, and a phone call may be made to the parent/guardian by the end of the day.

Steps to Follow to Be Excused from Attendance**Absence / Illness**

- Notify school via email

Late Arrival

- Students arriving late should go directly to class
- Parents/Guardians email school to notify

Early Dismissal

- Email school with dismissal the time
- Coaches will notify us for school spots early dismissal but feel free to reach out if you have questions.

Long-Term Absence (more than 5 school days)

Please complete the [fillable Long Term Absence Form](#) and return it to the office

Our Leadership Team & Contact Details

ADMINISTRATION

- **MR. MIKE FINCH – PRINCIPAL (GRADE 12)**
 MFINCH@WVSCHOOLS.CA
- **MS. CRYSTAL TANFARA – VICE PRINCIPAL (GRADES 8 & 10)**
 CTANFARA@WVSCHOOLS.CA
- **MR. SHAWN ANDERSON – VICE PRINCIPAL (GRADES 9 & 11)**
 SHAWNANDERSON@WVSCHOOLS.CA





STAY CONNECTED

-  INSTAGRAM: [@SENTINEL_SD45](https://www.instagram.com/SENTINEL_SD45)
-  X (TWITTER): [@SENTINEL_SD45](https://twitter.com/SENTINEL_SD45)
-  WEBSITE: [SENTINEL SECONDARY SCHOOL](https://www.sentinelsecondaryschool.ca)

2025–2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR

- [VIEW CALENDAR](#)

CONTACT US

-  GENERAL INQUIRIES: SENTINEL@WVSCHOOLS.CA
-  ATTENDANCE: SENTINELATTENDANCE@WVSCHOOLS.CA
-  MYEDUCATION HELP:
SENTINELPORTALHELP@WVSCHOOLS.CA
-  TEACHERS & STAFF: [STAFF DIRECTORY](#)