

**School Website**

**District Website**



**Daily Health Check** It is important that parents **continue** to do a thorough **DAILY HEALTH CHECK**. At school we have always followed the same procedures regarding student illnesses - when children are sick and not well enough to be at school and participate **fully in all aspects of the day**, for any reason, parents will be contacted and asked to pick up their child. The purpose of this has always been to ensure the child receives the care they need and that the illness is not spread at the school.

**Student Absent from School? Please Call the Callback Line 604-981-1276. (Not the Office) before 8:00 am**

As part of the Westcot safety program all students are accounted for each day as either absent or present. A Call Back program is in place to check on students who are absent if no contact with the school has been made. We will continue to carefully monitor all absences and ask that you use this central communication rather than or as well as emailing individual classroom teachers. Parents can help with the overall efficiency of this process by informing the school if your child is going to be absent. Simply call the callback line at **604-981-1276**.

**Provincial Professional Development Day** No School for students Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>

**Bollywood Dancing at Westcot** Thank you to our WPAC for sponsoring this amazing opportunity for us at Westcot. Bollywood Week is Oct. 23 - 27<sup>th</sup>. Karima Essa is a three-time Canadian National Dance champion and Vancouver's very own Bollywood star. An incredibly charismatic and passionate performer, choreographer and instructor, she has used her one-of-a-kind Bollywood talent to entertain diverse audiences at festivals, theatres and in schools across Canada. In 2014, her love for Bollywood took her to the screens in Mumbai, India, as a two-time finalist on Omni TV's reality show, Bollywood Star. With style, grace and a flair for the dramatic, she has been captivating adult and young audiences for decades. Since first showcasing her Bollywood Star School show in schools in 2018, she has performed this show in 200 + schools. Karima's new focus is on celebrating that all bodies can dance by bringing the Body Positivity movement to Bollywood Dance in schools and communities.



**Diwali: Festival of Lights - November 12, 2023.** This year our students at Westcot will have the opportunity to learn about India's biggest holiday of the year. Diwali, or Dipawali, is **India's** biggest and most important holiday of the year. The festival gets its name from the row (*avali*) of clay lamps (*deepa*) that Indians light outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects from spiritual darkness. Over the centuries, Diwali has become a national festival that's also enjoyed by non-Hindu communities. For instance, in Jainism, Diwali marks the nirvana, or spiritual awakening, of Lord Mahavira on October 15, 527 B.C.; in Sikhism, it honors the day that Guru Hargobind Ji, the Sixth Sikh Guru, was freed from imprisonment. Buddhists in India celebrate Diwali as well. If you would like to help organize a display of information in the library for our students or have ideas about how we can share Diwali with our Westcot Community please reach out to Karen Parhar [karenparhar@hotmail.com](mailto:karenparhar@hotmail.com) (Karina, Rianna and Hannah's Mom)



**Interested in an After School Ski Group?** Grouse Mountain conducts group lessons on weekdays for schoolchildren (7+ y.o.) led by certified instructors. The price for a 4-day program is very attractive: \$200-220 per student, including tax, depending on the day of the week. The minimum number of kids in a group is 15. This grants 2 free passes for supervising parents. From Alex's experience (Gr 2), Grouse program was the best out of the three mountains around. I'm ready to help organize this and be one of the supervisors in the afternoons (2:30, 4:30 or 6:00 pm) any day, but we need 14 more kids and a volunteer supervisor experienced with groups. My contact email is [dmitry@tuzoff.com](mailto:dmitry@tuzoff.com). The program details are available here: <https://www.grousemountain.com/school-group-lessons>.

**Toonies for Tremors and The Great British Columbia Shakeout:**

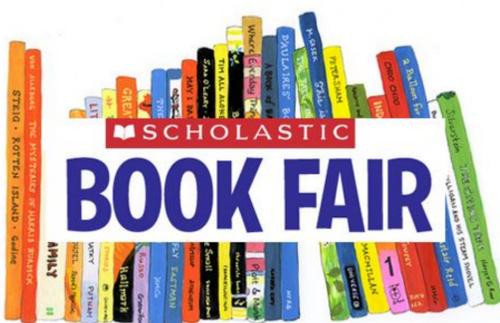
**Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>** Westcot will participate in the province wide "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" drill called **The Great British Columbia ShakeOut**. All classes will review their Drop, Cover and Hold techniques. In addition, we will take an inventory of our classroom Emergency Bags with resources generously provided for each student by our Westcot Parent Advisory Council (WPAC). Thank you to our office team for updating each classroom bag. In order to continue to fund and replenish Emergency stores, all students are asked to contribute a **toonie for tremors** using School Cash Online (SCO).



**Our WPAC Westcot Parent Advisory Committee** depends on the kindness of many volunteers to run the various events and programs offered to enhance learning and opportunities. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to make our Hot Lunch Program roll out so smoothly! WPAC will be putting out calls for volunteers as the need arises. There are big jobs and small jobs; ongoing or one-time; day and evening. There is no obligation to add your name to the Volunteer Form. This list will be used as events and opportunities arise. Would you like to get involved in some of the exciting events at Westcot? We'd love to have you. Please sign up [HERE](#).

**Calling for Scholastic Book Fair Volunteers** Parents, our Scholastic Book Fair is fast approaching. This is always a very exciting time in our school, but it takes a whole team to pull it off successfully. Mrs. Hunt and Mrs. McKay are hoping for parent volunteers to help us with book fair sales during this happy, busy time. Please let us know if you can help on any of these dates by emailing Mrs. Hunt: [jhunt@wvschools.ca](mailto:jhunt@wvschools.ca)

- Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> 8:40-12
- Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> 12:30 - 3:00
- Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> 2:45 - 4:15
- Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> 8:40 - 12
- Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> 12:30 - 3:00
- Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 8:40 - 11:00
- Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 12:30 - 3:00



**Fun Lunch** Fun Lunch ordering at Westcot is now open for hot lunch orders that will be delivered to school every Monday ~ Thursday with a rotating menu in each week. To order, click [HERE](#) After making your selections please go the very last menu > click 'Finished' > Next > Submit. Then follow the steps to make your online payment. **Please note that only paid orders will be processed.** Please only create an order if you are prepared to pay at the same time. Please note there is a 10 day window between an order and when lunch will begin at school.



If you have any questions, please email [westcotlunch@gmail.com](mailto:westcotlunch@gmail.com) Please remember to send all necessary cutlery with your child. Cutlery will not be provided. Thank-you for supporting Westcot PAC!

**Bringing Your Own Cutlery** Please make sure your child is bringing their own cutlery. We also want to remind you that the "pack-it-in/pack-it-out" policy is in effect which means that students are expected to pack out their lunch waste, such as leftover food and lunch containers. Students must bring their own pack and drink of the lunch and there will be no mid-day drop offs and deliveries of food items (or any other items). **We are a Nut Aware school. Please do not send nut based foods in students snacks or lunches.**

**District Events**

**Kindergarten and In-Catchment Gr 1-7 Registration For 2024-25 School Year Opens October 16<sup>th</sup>** If you, or anyone you know, has a child born in 2019, please note that registration for Kindergarten 2024/25 opens at 8:00am, Monday October 16<sup>th</sup>. Registration also opens at this time for any in-catchment families with children going into Grades 1-7. The online registration application can be found [HERE](#) after 8:00 am on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Please note out of catchment Grade 1-7 registrations and out of district applications for secondary schools are not accepted until January 15, 2024.

**Community Connections**

 The WVML September / October 2023 e-newsletter for kids, families and educators is here!

[September/October 2023 Update from WVML \(patronpoint.com\)](https://www.wvml.ca/updates/2023/09/2023-10-23-update)

<b>October</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Caribou Math Test #1 (Fruit Salad Game included) Opens 7:30 am from home</b>
	<b>19</b>	<b>Shake Out BC Earthquake Drill</b>
	<b>20</b>	<b>Provincial Professional Development Day (No school for students)</b>
	<b>23- 27</b>	<b>Bollywood Workshops</b>
	<b>25</b>	<b>WPAC Meeting 9:30 am (Virtual)</b>
	<b>27</b>	<b>Photo Retakes</b>
	<b>31</b>	<b>Halloween</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>6-10</b>	<b>Scholastic Book Fair</b>
	<b>10</b>	<b>Remembrance Day Assembly 11:00</b>
	<b>13</b>	<b>Remembrance Day Holiday (Schools Closed)</b>
	<b>14</b>	<b>Reading Break (Schools Closed)</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Professional Development Day (No school for students)</b>
	<b>7</b>	<b>Immunization (Grade 6)</b>
	<b>8</b>	<b>Communicating Student Learning Term 1 Reports</b>



**Follow us on X (formerly twitter)** Check out our Westcot page: [https://twitter.com/westcot\\_school](https://twitter.com/westcot_school). **Follow us to share in the stories of our learning.**

