Westcot Elementary School

Thursday, August 29, 2024 **Westcot Weekly Bulletin**

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 Please) 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.**

Opening Day and Week for Grade 1 – 7 students…..

The schedule on September 3:

Similar to last year, our students will make their way to the gravel field **independently** where they will be greeted by our Westcot staff. Students will line up and enter with their grade group for a welcome and orientation to the new school year.

- 9:00 - 10:00 am Grade 1 -7

Students will be walked out to meet their families at the end of the day.

September 4th and onwards, Grades 1-7 scheduling will look as follows:

- 8:40 am - 2:40 pm Grades 1 - 4
- 8:50 am - 2:50 pm Grades 5 - 7

Kindergarten students will follow the Gradual Entry plan shared in July.

Students will continue to line up **at the start time** on the **gravel field**. They will be walked out at the end of the day. Please establish a meeting location offsite for your children to connect with you. Children **directly supervised by an adult** are welcome to play on the playground at the end of the day.

Students not in attendance by September 5: Will not have a guaranteed spot at Westcot. Students must be present in class by September 5th at the latest to be registered.

Courtyard Cafe Our Westcot Parent Advisory Council (WPAC) invites all Westcot parents to the courtyard on Opening Day, Tuesday, September 3rd . Bring a mug and stay to enjoy some coffee and conversation. Meet some new friends, connect with old friends and celebrate the start of a new year at Westcot.

Westcot Wednesdays: September 11th Start Date Let's continue to show Westcot spirit and pride each Wednesday Tigers - special announcements, joke of the day, schoolyard beautification…. Join staff and students in wearing of the green and gold. Westcot tshirts will available for $10.00 cash at the Courtyard Cafe. There will also be Westcot Beanies and Hoodies for Sale by our WPAC.

Lights Up Musical Theatre Sing Dance Act Shine! Sing Dance Act Shine! At Lights Up Afterschool, 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 afterschool activity right at the bell!

FALL SHOW! SCOOBY DOO!

Scooby Doo, Where are You?! This Fall, we will be putting on a musical specially written for our afterschool students based on the "Scooby Doo" cartoons and series. Join the Mystery Inc. Gang and solve the mystery of the spooky theme park with us!

Students are supervised from the bell. No need to pick up your child until 5pm! Performance for parents on the last day of classes!

After School Thursdays **Oct 10 -Dec 5 (9 SESSIONS)**

2:45-5PM (K-4 students supervised from 2.30pm)

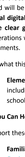
GRADES: K to 7
Fee: $365* (*plus GST)

https://lightsuptheatre.ca/afterschool/westcot/

FUNdamental Basketball with Mr. B is back for the Fall session. If you need more information or would like to register, please click the links below. Spaces are limited, the form will no longer accept responses once it is full.

Grade 6/7 GIRLS/BOYS Basketball Fall Registration

Grade 4/5 GIRLS/BOYS Basketball Fall Registration



Medication at School It is most important that you inform the school about serious medical conditions or allergies that may affect your child. For your child's safety, please don't assume we've already been told about your child's medical condition. Remember you must:

At the beginning of each school year (or when medication is to start), complete and return to the school a medication administration card signed by the physician. **Cards are available from the school from Mrs. Satchell**. Please contact her if you require a Medication form. rsatchell@wyschools.ca. Provide the medication in a container clearly labeled with child's name, medication name, dosage and medication's expiry date.

District Events

IMPORTANT

District On-line Release Forms All Parents in the district are asked **annually** to complete a West Van District Policy and Procedures online form for **each** of their children within the district. This form covers many areas including use of school internet, use of privately owned electronic devices on school networks and media parental consent form. Please CLICK HERE to access this Policy and Procedures form. **It is very important these forms are completed promptly.** Those students with incomplete forms will not be able to use electronic devices in class, access their google classroom, go on walking field trips, plus more. Google classroom is the platform teachers will use to communicate with their students and parents.

Personal Digital Device Expectations 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 Westcot School:

- **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).
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. 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 at 604-981-1270.**

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.

School Cash Online We are very excited to announce that our school will continue to offer School Cash Online, which provides you with the convenience of paying online for school items such as trips, club/athletic fees, and spirit wear. **If you registered in a previous school year you will not need to reregister.**

Please follow the link below to register online (it takes less than 5 minutes!). Once you have registered your child, you will be able to see when they have a new item posted online for purchase. You also have the option to be notified whenever your child has a new school expense due, so you will know ahead of time when you need to pay.

New users - To set up an account and explore the system, please follow the instructions below. **You will receive the PIN referred to in Step 3 in a separate email sent by R. Satchell**

Register Online:

Step 1: Please click on this link: westvancouver.schoolcashonline.com

Step 2: Register by selecting the "Get Started Now" and following the steps.

Step 3: After you receive the confirmation email, please select the "click here" option, login in and add each of your children to your household account. To do this, you will need your student's **PIN number, last name, and date of birth**. This will be emailed to you separately.

Community Connections

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.

September	3	**Opening Day Grade 1 - 7** (9:00 - 10:00) **WPAC Courtyard Cafe**
	4	**Grade 1 -4** (8:40 - 2:40) **Grade 5 - 7** (8:50 - 2:50)
	4	**Kindergarten Gradual Entry Begins (see July letter for your time)**
	11	**Westcot Wednesday Wearing the Green! Show your Westcot Spirit!**
	12	**Individual Student Photos**
	13	**Family Friday 2:15 pm**
	17	**Terry Fox Run Toonies for Terry Wear your Red and White**
	18	**WPAC I Meeting 9:00 am**
	20	**District Professional Development Day (No school for students)**
	27	**Orange Shirt Day**
	30	**National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Schools Closed)**
October	2	**Parent Teacher Interviews 11:30 Dismissal**
	3	**Parent Teacher Interviews 11:30 Dismissal**
	14	**Thanksgiving Day Holiday (Schools Closed)**

Follow us on X (formerly twitter) and Instagram

Check out our Westcot page: https://twitter.com/westcot_school

Westcot Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/westcot_elementary/