

WESTCOT WEEKLY



Principal's Message

Dear Westcot Families,
We have been enjoying a stretch of crisp, frosty, and beautiful winter days, and it has been wonderful to see our students making the most of them. These clear days above the fog have provided many opportunities for outdoor play, fresh air, and exploration of our beautiful school grounds. Time spent outside continues to support student well-being, connection, and joy—something we value deeply at our school.

Wishing everyone a joyful end to the week,
Ms. Martinez and Ms. Morton



Don't
Forget!

Pro-B Day
January
30th

[School Website](#)

[District Website](#)

Join WPAC Representatives for our
first **SPRING FLING** Planning Meeting

**Wednesday Jan 28 at 2pm in the Music
Portable**



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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?



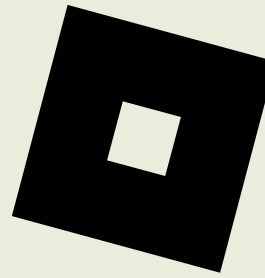
- Understand the digital device expectations at your child's school
- Support and encourage your child's appropriate use of digital devices
- Refrain from contacting your child during the school day. If it's an emergency, contact the school office
- Personally model and encourage digital device boundaries



Social Media & Digital | West Vancouver Schools

Please view our Video Resources for information about WVS throughout the years

[westvancouver.ca](https://www.westvancouver.ca)



Roblox at School

West Vancouver Schools DOES NOT allow students to access Roblox while using school wifi.



Did You Know?



Experts who study sextortion and online predatory behaviour cite Roblox as a prime app for these "bad actors" to use to befriend victims. They will lure a child in by posing as a peer and then convince the child to "meet" them on another platform such as WhatsApp or Discord, where they can be more intimate. Boys between the ages of 9 and 15 are prime targets.

Personal Digital Devices Reminders

Over the first term, students and staff have worked hard to follow the West Vancouver Schools Personal Digital Device (PDD) expectations. Classrooms are more focused, transitions are smoother, and students tell us they can concentrate better without the pull of their phones. Thank you to families for reinforcing these habits at home. As we return to school after the winter break, please help us keep this momentum going by reminding your children of the digital device expectations while at school.

What's expected at school:

- Elementary (K-7): Cell phones are not used during the school day, including before and after school and at recess and lunch times. Laptops may be used to support learning during instructional time, only with explicit staff permission.
- Secondary (8-12): Cell phones and other digital devices should only be used during instructional time with explicit staff permission. Device use should be intentional, supervised, and tied to learning.

How families can help:

Parents and guardians are encouraged to support schools by demonstrating these expectations whenever possible. This includes limiting adult cell phone use in and around school and refraining from contacting your child during school hours.

For a one-page overview of expectations, [see our Parent & Guardian Infographic.](#)



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West Vancouver Schools Admissions Information

K-12 admission applications for both in-district and out-of-district students opens on January 15! If you have students in your family or network who are looking to join our district, please help spread the word about this important date.

West Vancouver Schools offer a wonderful opportunity to be part of a community that values excellence in education. Our schools take pride in creating meaningful learning experiences and providing opportunities that support the growth, well-being, and success of every student.

To learn more about registration expectations and processes, please visit our admissions page:

[West Vancouver Schools Admissions](#)

We look forward to welcoming new students and families to our vibrant and supportive school community!

Please click on the following private unlisted links to view the recording of the *Sounds of the Season Holiday Showcase*

[Part 1 Sounds of the Season](#)

[Part 2 - Sounds of the Season](#)

[Part 3 - Sounds of the Season](#)



Feeding Futures

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 their school principal 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.



WESTVANRUN

West Van Run! March 7th and 8th

We invite students and families to take part in this fun, community run and enjoy special discounted registration. Parents and students can register for \$45 using the code WVSCHOOLS, and children can join the Kids 1K for \$15 using the code WVKIDS. These codes can also be used by other family members who would like to participate.

Whether you prefer walking, jogging, or running, this event welcomes all ages and abilities. It's a great way for families to be active together and supports our shared commitment to health and well-being across West Vancouver Schools.

Register here - <https://www.westvanrun.com/schools>



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Important

Student Privacy



Westcot Elementary School

We are so grateful for the strong sense of community at our school and truly appreciate parents and guardians for being present and engaged in school life. To help protect student privacy and ensure that all children feel safe and comfortable, please do not photograph or film other people's children during school activities or on the school property. This includes concerts, assemblies, sports, field trips, the field and the playground. As a school community, we are committed to respecting the privacy of all students and staff. In addition to this, if you have a concern about a student, please speak directly your child's teacher or Ms. Martinez or Ms. Morton. Parents/guardians should not approach or correct other families' children. Thank you for helping us keep every child safe, respected and supported.



DISTRICT WEATHER PROCEDURES



With winter approaching, please be aware of our weather-related closure process. The district aims to keep schools open. Any decision to close schools for the safety of children will be made by the Superintendent. Parents, students, and staff will be informed of the Superintendent's decision via the school district website at www.westvancouver.schools.ca and a School Messenger email. We endeavour to communicate this information to parents and staff by 6:00 a.m. on the day of closure.



WESTCOT TRAFFIC SAFETY



Pick up and Drop Off

Thank you to all the families who help to keep our pick up and drop off as quick and orderly as possible. Thank you for having backpacks ready, coats on and having students exit quickly when you are in a Drop only Zone. Thank you for not blocking driveways or parking on sidewalks and curbs and thank you for never stopping to let your children off in the middle of the road. Just a few reminders to keep in mind to keep our students safe, traffic flowing and neighbours happy.

- Please avoid getting out of your car in our 2 drop student zones. We have room for 6 cars in these spots. Move forward and merge quickly to free the spot. (One marked yellow in this photo).
 - Please do not enter the staff driveway at any time - before/after school, when using Before and After School Care or at mid day pick ups...
 - Use the Accessible spaces only if you are entitled to them, we have students and families who need them. Even for a quick stop - it's not ok.
- Do not park in front the cross walk. We need to keep sight-lines clear.
- Please be respectful of the privilege of parking at St. David's Church while we are still able to do so.. Park in designated spots, respect no parking zones and make your pick up and drop off quick.



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DPAC *parent evening with* Sarah Ward on Executive Functioning

Wednesday, January 28th
\$20 per ticket

Sarah Ward is an internationally recognized expert in executive function. Her practical, research-informed strategies are widely regarded as groundbreaking in supporting student learning and independence.

Drawing from executive function coaching approaches used with elementary, secondary, post-secondary students and adults, this session will help build academic success by exploring time management, task prioritization, long-term project planning and the development of independent learning habits.

REGISTER HERE

**KAY MEEK THEATRE
1700 MATHERS AVE
WEST VANCOUVER**

**6:30 -
8:30 PM**



What Parents will Gain From This Evening



Understand

Parents will gain a clear, reassuring understanding of how executive function skills develop over time, why children may struggle with organization and time management, and what is developmentally typical at different ages.



Learn

Parents will learn practical, easy-to-use strategies they can apply at home to strengthen their child's time awareness, organization, study routines and follow-through for academic success.



**WEST
VANCOUVER
SCHOOLS**

DPAC

GRADE 4 - 7 LITERACY WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS:

**TUESDAY
JAN 27th
5:30-6:45PM**

**WELSH HALL
West Vancouver
Memorial Library**


STRENGTHENING LITERACY FOUNDATIONS FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Join us for an engaging evening designed for parents of students in Grades 4 - 7.

Learn about the curriculum, practical strategies, resources, and ideas to help your child strengthen their literacy skills and thrive as a learner.

Topics Covered



- Creating conditions that support learning, independence, and academic success
- Strengthening literacy skills and practices across subjects
- Reading to understand, communicate, and connect




Presenters:

Mary Parackal, Vice Principal of Early Learning
Michelle LaBounty, District Principal of Teaching & Learning
Tricia Yurkowski, District Foundational Skills Teacher
Shannon Ozirny, Head of Youth Services - West Vancouver Memorial Library

Register here!

WEST VANCOUVER SCHOOLS
A world of opportunity



**west vancouver
MEMORIAL LIBRARY**



Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Computing District Program

Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Computing is a hands-on, project based course offered to students who are attending Rockridge, Sentinel or West Van Secondary. Students learn the theory and apply it to practical projects in the fields of Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Computing. They also have an opportunity to prepare for external certifications in Cybersecurity, Networking, Internet of Things, Programming, CompTIA, and Data Science. Students can participate in local, national, and international competitions such as CyberPatriot (<https://www.uscyberpatriot.org/>), Young Defenders of the North (<https://www.instagram.com/p/DHqs2PtM4Dw/>), picoCTF (<https://picoctf.org/>) from Carnegie Mellon University, Quantum Arcade Game Jam (<https://knowledgeflow.org/initiative/ubcs-year-of-quantum-arcade-game-jam/>) from UBC, and others. The course aims at helping students prepare material they can use for university applications.

More details about the course is available here <https://cybersecurityand.ai/>

If interested, please sign up at <https://westvancouver.schools.ca/programs/cybersecurity-ai/>

There are only 4 spots left for students who will be in Grade 8 next year (2026 - 2027). Dr. Chugani will contact those shortlisted to schedule a meeting and go over the course schedule, requirements, and expectations. Please contact him (mchugani@wvschools.ca) if you have any questions prior to applying.

(Our team from the 2024 - 2025 class who ranked 2nd in Canada last year)





HOT LUNCH



Ordering Open! Please note there is a 10 day window between an order and when lunch will begin/ be available at school.

Click here

- Tacos on Monday
- White Spot on Tuesday
- Inncognato on Wednesday
- Boston Pizza on Thursday
- Aburi Market on Friday

Community Connections & Events



WHAT'S THE WESTCOT PAC ALL ABOUT?

The Westcot Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is made up of every parent and guardian at Westcot. If you have a child at the school, you're already part of the PAC. Our executive team simply helps coordinate efforts and act as a bridge between families, school staff, and administration — but the PAC is all of us, working together to make Westcot the best it can be for our kids.

We focus on collaboration, inclusivity, and transparency, always keeping students at the heart of what we do. Our fundraising and community-building events are designed to be meaningful, manageable, and aligned with the school's goals. It's not just about raising money — it's about bringing families together and helping every student feel supported and connected.

What does the PAC do?

The PAC helps make school life more fun, connected, and enriching. We've supported learning opportunities like Bollywood dance workshops, ArtStarts performances (including Goh Ballet), and guest speakers for Orange Shirt Day. We also love bringing our community together through events like Courtyard Coffee on the first day of school — welcoming both new and returning families — and showing appreciation for our amazing teachers with World Teachers' Day lunches. And of course, we can't forget the always-popular Spring Fling!

Everything we do is about building community, supporting our students, and celebrating what makes Westcot such a warm and vibrant place to learn and grow.

Want to get involved? You're invited!

Whether you have an hour to spare or want to dive in more regularly, there's a place for you. Every parent is welcome, and every contribution makes a difference.

If you're interested in helping out, you can sign up [here](#).



FUNDamental Basketball with Mr. B is back for the Spring session (Feb- June). 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 3/4/5 BOYS MONDAYS](#)

[Grade 3/4/5 BOYS/GIRLS Beginners](#)

[WEDNESDAYS](#)

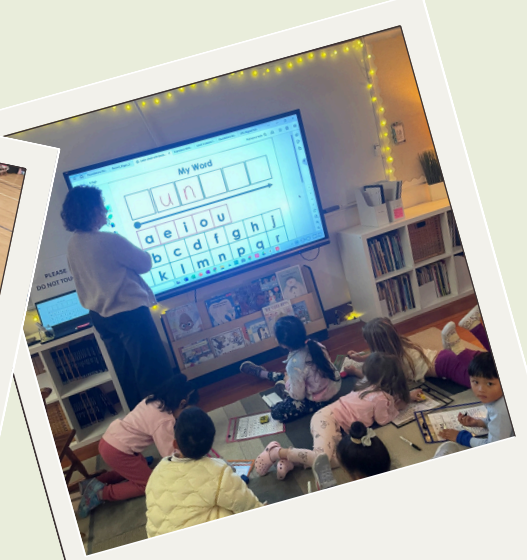
[Grade 5/6/7 BOYS THURSDAYS](#)

[Grade 5/6/7 GIRLS FRIDAYS](#)



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Westcot HIGHLIGHTS



Calendar

January	30	Professional Development Day
February	10	Lunar New Year Celebration
	13	Reading Break
	16	Family Day Holiday
	18	WPAC Meeting 9:30am
	25	Pink Shirt Day
March	6	Norooz Event
	13	Last day before Spring Break



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