



WESTCOT WEEKLY

Principal's Message

Dear Westcot Community,

What a fantastic week at our school! It was wonderful to welcome families into the building for Parent-Teacher Conferences and Celebrations of Learning, highlighting the growth and achievements of our students. We also enjoyed a fun-filled ABC Bootcamp Dress-Up Day, plenty of spirited singing of the Turkey Tango, an exciting Outdoor School experience for our Grade 3 students, engaging science workshops in Grade 2, and the start of the Grade 7 volleyball season. Thank you to our students, staff, and families for bringing such energy, enthusiasm, and connection to our learning community this week! 🍁🌟🏐🏈

Ms. Martinez & Ms. Morton



WESTCOT
ELEMENTARY

Volunteers Needed

Parents, please mark your calendars for our upcoming Scholastic Book Fair. It will take place November 3rd, 4th, and 5th. It is a time of great excitement in the school and to make that happen we will need a full crew of volunteers. Please email Mrs. Kim if you are available to help and indicate morning, afternoon, or Wednesday (November 4th) after school.



jkim@wvschools.ca
Many thanks
Mrs. Kim

WPAC Announcements
WhatsApp group



Don't Forget!
Pro-D Day
Next Friday
Oct. 23
[School Website](#)

[District Website](#)



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WESTCOT PAC

**WPAC
Meeting**

Join us for the next WPAC Meeting at
9:30 am Wednesday October 21st.

Link HERE →

<https://meet.google.com/eif-zcts-vbm>

Hot Lunch Ordering is OPEN

CLICK HERE

Monday: Tacos, from Nornelia Fine Tacos
Tuesday: Burgers and hotdogs from Whitespot
Wednesday: Japanese food from Aburi Market
Thursday: Pizza from Boston Pizza
Friday: Chinese food from B-Box



**Westcot Hoodies Are Back –
Order Yours Today!**



Get ready to show your school spirit! Westcot hoodie pre-orders are officially open on Munchalunch starting today, Thursday, and will close on October 16.

Delivery is scheduled for mid-November—just in time for the cooler weather. While a small amount of extra stock will be ordered, quantities will be strictly limited. We strongly encourage parents to place their orders now to guarantee their size!

👉 How to Order: Log in to your account at Munchalunch to place your pre-order today.



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WESTCOT TRAFFIC SAFETY

UNDER
CONSTRUCTION



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Road closure on Westcot Road will continue into September. Please note Westcot Road will be open before 9:00am and after 2:00pm during school days. Please make every effort to arrive at school by 8:45am and utilize the Drive to 5 "park and walk in" as much as possible to help ensure quick and efficient entry to the school

**PLEASE DO NOT
BLOCK THE
CROSSWALKS**



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 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 of quick.

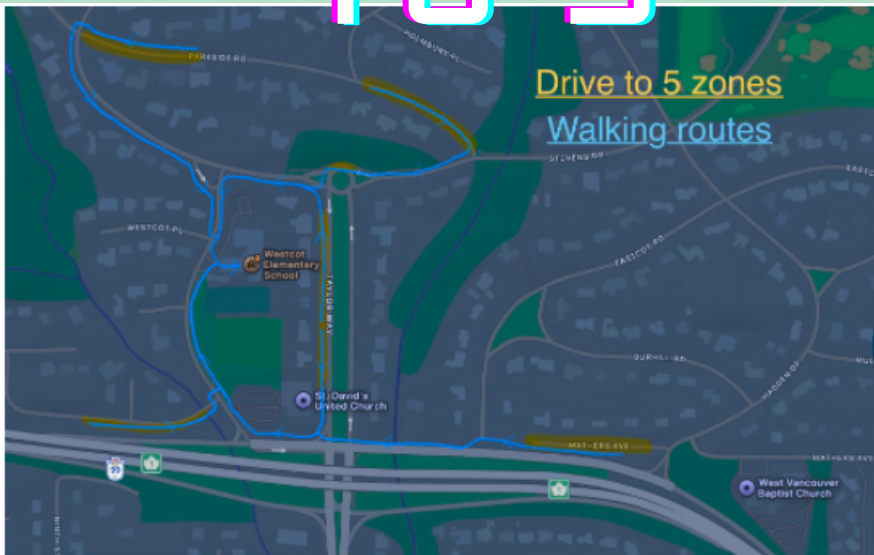
PLEASE
DRIVE
SAFELY AND
RESPECT
SIGNAGE IN
CHURCH
PARKING
LOT

**REMINDER:
NO DROPPING
OFF ON THE
HIGHWAY
ONRAMP**

**THIS IS VERY
UNSAFE**

DRIVE- TO-5

Drive to 5 zones
Walking routes



We're excited to share the Drive-To-5 initiative, a community effort to reduce traffic congestion and get our kids moving a little more each day!

The idea is simple: instead of dropping off and picking up your child at Westcot Rd, drive to a spot about a 5-minute walk away and let your child walk the rest of the way. For younger children, parents are encouraged to walk with them to and from school to where the car is parked.

We've included a map with suggested Drive-To-5 zones and walking routes to help you find the best fit for you.

The more families who join in, the more kids can walk together!



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OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

A safe, welcoming and inclusive school community is something **we create together**. We ask families to review our Codes of Conduct together and talk about what respectful, responsible and caring participation in our community looks like. These expectations apply to **all members of our school community—learners, staff, families and visitors.**

Student Absences

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.



Conduct For Parents & Guardians

Expectations

1 Respectful Communication

Parents & guardians are expected to communicate respectfully and constructively with all members of the school community. This includes in person conversations, email, phone calls, etc.



2 Conduct on School Property

To help maintain a safe and welcoming school environment, parents & guardians must model appropriate behaviour for our students by using responsible language and actions. Adults will not approach or engage with another family's child to resolve conflicts, obtain information, or address concerns. Such matters should be directed to school staff or administration.

We ask that parents & guardians:

- Sign in upon arrival in the school
- Follow staff guidance and direction
- Refrain from entering classrooms without permission

3 Online Conduct

Parents & guardians must use digital communications—including email, social media, and school platforms—in a respectful and responsible way. This means not posting or sharing content that could harm others, such as comments that are unkind, misleading, or that share private information about students, families, or staff. Any online communication about members of the school community is expected to follow these same guidelines, no matter what platform is used.

4 Privacy and Confidentiality

Parents & guardians must respect the privacy of all students, families, and staff and must not share personal or identifying information about others without their knowledge and consent. This includes photos and recordings on any school property.



5 Supporting the Resolution of Concerns

When concerns arise, parents & guardians must follow the established resolution process:

1. Always start by discussing the concern with the adult directly involved (start with the source)
2. Engage with respect and in good faith
3. Respect all parties privacy
4. Work collaboratively to seek a resolution
5. Follow the above process before formal escalation



WESTCOT CODE OF CONDUCT

Safe | Kind | Inclusive | Responsible



At Westcot, learning happens best in a safe, orderly and positive environment. Respect and responsibility help every student feel safe, welcome and ready to learn.

1 Our Shared Values

- Respect yourself, others and the environment.
- Be kind, caring, safe and responsible.
- Take responsibility and be a positive bystander.
- Do your personal best and resolve conflicts peacefully.
- Value diversity, inclusion, tolerance and fairness.

2 Visitors & School Spaces

- Enter through the front doors, report to the office and sign in.
- Make arrangements before entering classrooms or other learning spaces.
- This includes the playground during recess, field and courtyard.
- Follow staff guidance to protect safety and learning.

3 Personal Digital Devices

Phones, smartwatches and other personal devices must be used appropriately throughout the school day, including before school, after school and break times. Staff may permit devices for learning, medical, accessibility or accommodation needs.

4 Conduct That Causes Harm

Conduct is unacceptable when it disrupts learning, disrespects others or creates unsafe conditions. Examples include intimidation, exclusion, bullying, offensive language, violence, theft or damage, weapons, and restricted substances.

5 Reflect, Repair & Restore

Westcot uses a restorative approach. When harm occurs, students are supported to:

- Identify who was affected and involve those who can help resolve the problem;
- Take responsibility, understand the impact and repair the harm;
- Reflect, self-correct and plan what to do differently next time.



Expectations rise with age, maturity, responsibility and self-control.

Expectations consider the student's age, circumstances and individual needs. | Source: Westcot Code of Conduct 2022



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OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Supervision Reminder

A friendly reminder that there is no school-provided supervision before 8:50 a.m. or after 2:50 p.m. Students are welcome to arrive before school and enjoy the playground; however, they must be under the direct supervision of a parent or guardian until the start of the school day at 8:50 a.m. Likewise, after dismissal at 2:50 p.m., students may use the playground when directly supervised by a parent or caregiver. This means that parents and caregivers must remain onsite and actively supervise their children while they are on the playground. It is also a wonderful opportunity to connect with other Westcot families and build community. Thank you for helping us keep all students safe.



HALLOWEEN GUIDELINES



As students and families start to think about costumes, to ensure the day is fun for everyone, please observe the following dos and don'ts:

- ❖ Feel welcome to dress in a costume or not.
- ❖ Continue to avoid costumes that promote cultural stereotypes. If you're looking for information on cultural appropriation vs. cultural appreciation, [click here](#) for a CBC video; and for a great list of questions to ask about whether a costume is appropriate or not, [click here](#) to see information from UBC's Equity & Inclusion Office.
- ❖ Absolutely no weapons (swords, lightsabers, guns, nunchucks etc.) and please make sure costumes are school appropriate.
- ❖ Wear something comfortable that can be worn all day. Remember they will be working and playing throughout the day so please make sure your child is comfortable (lots of face paint for example is uncomfortable).
- ❖ Please arrive in costume – there will be no changing in the washrooms.
- ❖ Avoid masks when possible - if a mask is a critical part of your child's costume they are allowed to wear it on their head but not covering their face - must be removed when working in the classrooms.
- ❖ Students should avoid bringing in Halloween candy to school, as eating high sugar foods, and/or the idea of eating high-sugar foods, often distracts students from learning. A small treat in your lunch is acceptable coupled with other healthy choices. (Please remember we are a nut aware school)

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



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Westcot Elementary School

West Vancouver Schools Admissions

Admissions for the 2027/2028 school year begin on Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. for:

- All Kindergarten students
- All Grade 1-12 in-catchment students

Admissions for Out-of-Catchment and Out-of-District students open at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, January 15, 2027.

For more information about admissions processes, dates, guidelines, and requirements, families should visit the [West Vancouver Schools admissions webpage](#). Families are encouraged to carefully review the documentation requirements before beginning the application process.



Foundational Skills Assessments (FSAs)

From October 1 – November 3, Grade 4 and 7 students across B.C. will complete the FSAs. These assessments measure student progress in literacy and numeracy and provide valuable insight for schools and the Ministry of Education. FSAs are similar to regular classroom activities. Practice materials and more information for families can be found [HERE](#). For questions, please contact Mrs. Martinez.

Feeding Futures

As part of the Ministry of Education and Child Care 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.



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COMMUNITY GUIDELINES & SAFETY

PARENT CHAT
GROUPS (EG.
WHAT'S APP)



COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

- **Keep it positive.** Think of this classroom chat group as a public space with your friends and neighbours.
- **Zero tolerance for hate.** Racist, abusive or otherwise harmful/hateful speech will not be permitted and will result in expulsion from the chat.
- **Do not target people.** This chat is not the right forum for raising problems involving students or other parents. Raise such matters privately and/or with the Principal.
- **Respect children and staff.** Do not use these chat groups to discuss other people's children, teachers or school staff. Raise concerns directly with the teacher and/or Principal.
- **Stay on topic.** Keep conversations focused on our shared school community and contributing positively to it.

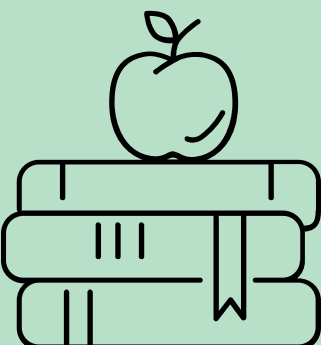


**ATTENTION
PLEASE!**

E-TRANSPORT: Know Before You Buy or Ride

Not all small or electric transportation is treated the same.
Know the Micromobility rules for Personal Electric Vehicles in West Vancouver.

Vehicle Type	Where Can I Ride?	How Old Do I Need To Be?	Max Speed	License & Insurance?	Other Important Rules
 e-bike	Anywhere bicycles can ride	14+ for light e-bikes 16+ for standard e-bikes	Light bikes: 25 km/h Standard: 32 km/h	No license or insurance required	Must have fully operable pedals
 e-scooter	Anywhere bicycles can ride in West Van	16+	25 km/h	No license or insurance required	Solo riders only
 moped/LSM	Public Roads Only	16+	70 km/h	License & insurance required	BC licence plate required
 e-dirt bike	Not on roads, sidewalks, or bike lanes	Not legal at any age on public roads	Not permitted on public roads	Cannot be registered or insured	Not legal on public roads
 mini-motorcycle	Not on roads, sidewalks, or bike lanes	Not legal at any age on public roads	Not permitted on public roads	Cannot be registered or insured	Not legal on public roads



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Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS)

Support for you and your family as you
navigate the Canadian school system

**CHECK OUT THE
UPCOMING WORKSHOPS
& EVENTS!**



SWIS hosts a variety of workshops for newcomers and community events. Our newcomer workshops explore topics such as Canadian culture and systems, employment options, English language, parenting, health and so much more. Our community events explore themes of immigrant inclusion, belonging, and anti-racism.

<https://impactnorthshore.ca/immigrant-service-centre/settlement-workers-in-schools/>





Parent's Guide to Snapchat

General Information

Snapchat is a social media app where people share photos, videos and messages. It also has a location feature and now has AI built in.

13 Snapchat's own policy states that users must be 13 or older. For a person who is younger than 13 to create a Snapchat account, they have LIED about their age.

Unfortunately, students as young as 10 and 11 years have gotten caught up in cyber-bullying and exploitation on Snapchat

Disappearing Snaps

Messages and images (snaps) get deleted after being viewed (or 24 hours after being sent). But there are ways people can screen shot snaps and continue to share around the world.

Did You Know?

In Canada, cyberbullying and child pornography can be criminal offenses. If your child participates in either of these, while using Snapchat (or other social media), you, as the parent, can be held liable for what they have done, and be prosecuted by law.

"Friends"

People you connect with on Snapchat are called "friends" but the app itself will push you to connect with people you do not know. This is not safe.

Snapchat at School

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

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 limitations (boundaries?)





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LITERACY SCREENING INFORMATION

What is Early Literacy Screening?

Early literacy screening is a quick check that helps teachers understand how your child is developing early reading skills, an important part of literacy development. It's not a diagnosis or academic assessment.

It looks at skills such as letter knowledge, sound awareness, and word reading.

Early literacy screening tools are:

- Brief and easy to use
- Developed using research and student data
- Used by classroom teachers
- Designed to help keep children on track with reading

Early literacy screening provides a snapshot of where your child is in their reading journey.



How Does Early Literacy Screening Help My Child?

Early literacy screening helps teachers understand each child's reading skills and learning needs.

Screening helps teachers:

- Identify students who may need extra reading support
- Plan reading instruction for the whole class, small groups, or individual students
- Track student progress in reading over time
- Adjust teaching to better support student learning

Early literacy screening helps identify reading challenges early so support can begin right away.

This gives your child the best opportunity to build strong literacy skills and a solid foundation for future learning.

For more information and resources visit:
<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/literacy-screening>



Early Literacy Screening

Information for
Parents and
Caregivers



Ministry of
Education and
Child Care

What is Literacy?

Literacy is your child's ability to understand language and communicate in a variety of ways.

Literacy includes:

- Speaking and listening
- Building vocabulary
- Reading and understanding text
- Expressing ideas in writing
- Understanding stories and information

Literacy skills are tools that open doors to learning throughout life.



Why is Literacy Important?

Strong literacy skills support lifelong learning and wellness.

Success in Learning

Children with strong literacy skills are better able to:

- Understand classroom lessons
- Learn new subjects
- Share their thinking through speaking and writing
- Complete assignments independently
- Stay engaged and motivated in school

Health & Well-Being

Children with strong literacy skills are also more likely to:

- Build confidence and self-esteem
- Understand health and safety information
- Build independence and problem-solving skills
- Strengthen skills such as memory, attention, and focus

Later in life, literacy helps people:

- Apply for jobs
- Continue learning new skills
- Build social connections with others
- Participate fully in their communities

How Do Children Learn Literacy Skills?

Literacy development takes time, teaching, and practice.

Children will:

- Learn at different speeds
- Find some parts of literacy easier than others
- Build skills over time
- Show progress in different ways

Some children need more time and practice.

This does *not* mean they won't develop strong literacy skills over time.

Early support makes a big difference, and schools are there to help!

Literacy development can also happen at home. Reading together is a great way to build these skills.



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Westcot HIGHLIGHTS



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Calendar



October	21	WPAC Meeting 9:30am (virtual) LINK
	22	Photo Retakes
	23	Professional Development Day (School not in session for students)
	30	Primary Halloween Parade 1:30pm
November	2/6/2026	Scholastic Book Fair
	11	Remembrance Day (School is Closed)
	18	WPAC Meeting Virtual 7:00pm
	27	Professional Development Day (School not in session for students)



**New Bell Schedule for Next
School Year 2026-2027**

Click HERE

**2026/2027 Westcot
School Calendar**

Click HERE



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