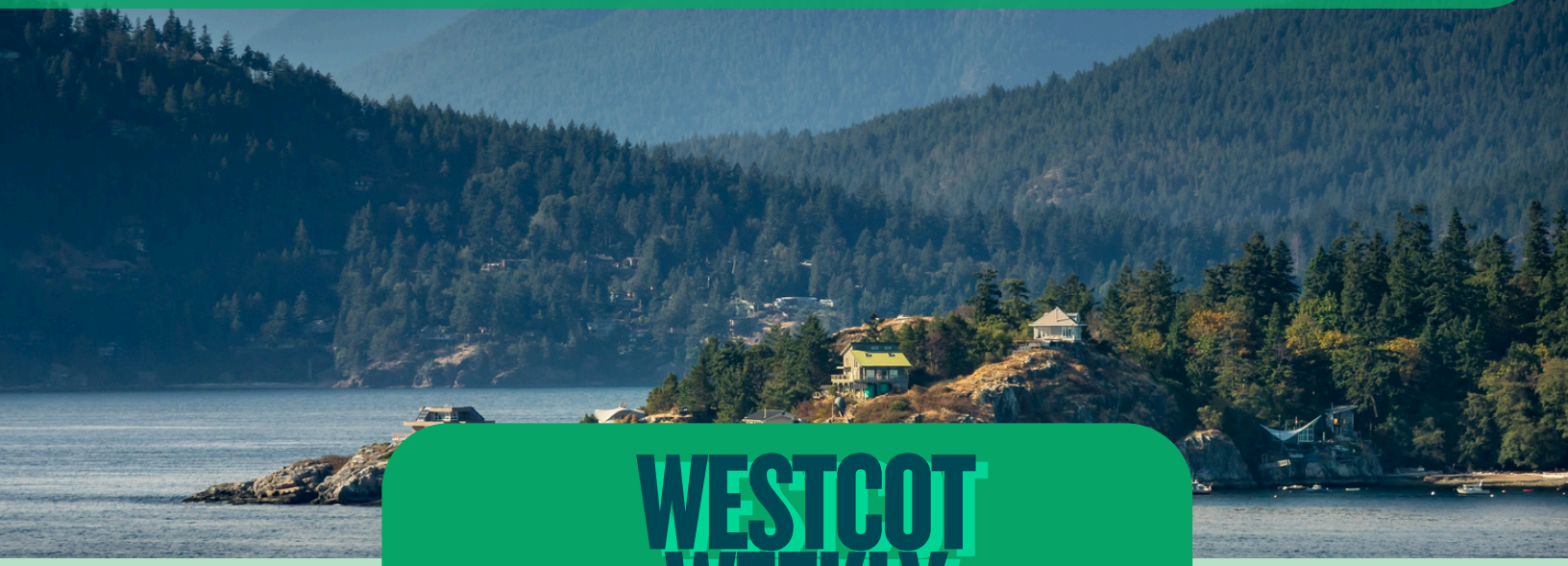
NOV.5, 2026 VOL. 10



WESTCOT WEEKLY

Principal's Message

Dear Westcot Community,

What a wonderful week of learning and community at Westcot! Students enjoyed a fun and festive Halloween, and it was a joy to see their creativity and excitement throughout the week. Students also continued learning Squamish language and culture, helping strengthen their connection to the local lands and traditions. Our volleyball teams demonstrated great teamwork and sportsmanship in recent games, and classes have begun preparing for our upcoming Remembrance Day Assembly. We would also like to thank our teacher candidates for a successful two-week practicum. We are pleased that they will continue to be part of our school community one day each week as they build on their teaching experiences and connections with our students and staff.

Ms. Martinez & Ms. Morton

Don't Forget!

Remembrance Day Nov. 11

[School Website]

[District Website]

BOOK FAIR

Thank you to all of the amazing parent volunteers who helped make this year's Book Fair such a HUGE success!



Thank you!

WPAC Announcements

WhatsApp group

@westcot_school @westcot_elementary

WESTCOT PAC

The holiday season is just around the corner, and we're excited to kick off our Holiday Plant Sale Fundraiser! 🎄🌿
This is a wonderful opportunity to bring some festive cheer into your home while supporting our school community!
All funds raised will go toward future playground upgrades and improvements, helping us create an even better outdoor space for our students to play, explore, and grow.
Whether you're looking to decorate your home for the holidays or purchase a thoughtful gift for family and friends, your participation will help make a difference!
🎁 How to Participate:
Shop: Browse our selection of beautiful holiday plants and greenery through our online fundraising website.
Order: Place your order by November 9.
Support: Every purchase helps us get one step closer to our playground improvement goals!
🌿 SHOP & SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL HERE: Growing Smiles 📅 ORDER DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 9
Please feel free to share the fundraising link with grandparents, extended family, friends, and neighbours. The more support we receive, the more we can accomplish for our students!
Thank you for your continued generosity and support. Together, we can make our playground an even more amazing place for our kids!
Happy Holidays and Happy Shopping! 🎄❤️,
WPAC





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







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WESTCOT TRAFFIC SAFETY

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Road closure on Westcot Road will continue into November. 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



PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY AND RESPECT SIGNAGE IN CHURCH PARKING LOT

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.

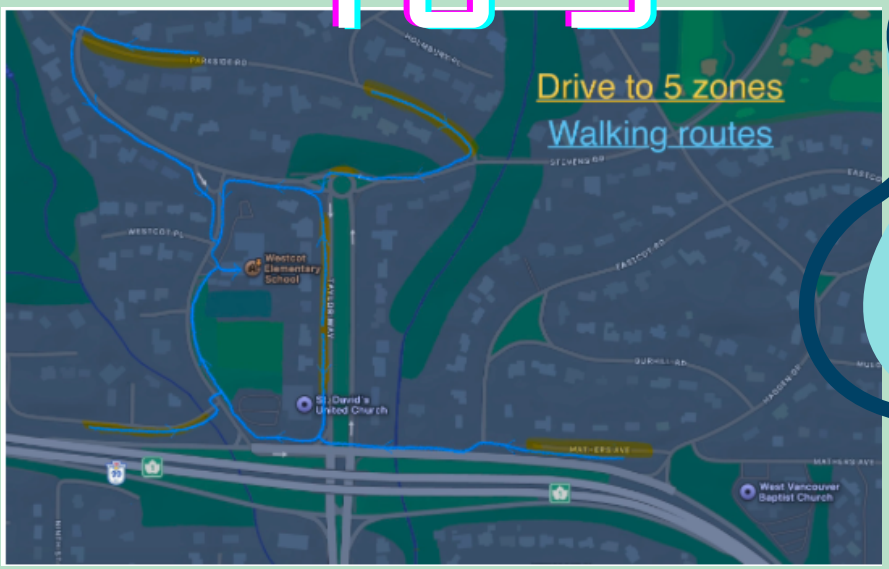
Do not park in front the cross walk. We need to keep sight-lines clear.

- 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.

REMINDER: NO DROPPING OFF ON THE HIGHWAY ONRAMP

THIS IS VERY UNSAFE

DRIVE-TO-5



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.







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OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Daylight Savings

With B.C. remaining on permanent daylight saving time, clocks will not turn back this Sunday, November 1, and winter sunrises will be later.

We would like to remind families to take extra care travelling to school during these darker mornings and support consistent sleep routines at home as the days grow shorter.

On Sunday, please take a moment to check your digital calendars, alarms and devices. Ensure you have the latest updates installed and confirm that upcoming calendar entries and scheduled times are displaying correctly.

Personal and Accidental Injury Reminder

West Vancouver Schools reminds families each year that personal injury or accident-related costs are not covered by the district or its insurance provider. To help protect against expenses associated with accidental injury, unexpected medical costs, or critical illness, families may wish to explore voluntary accident insurance plans. A variety of providers offer different levels of coverage, and families are encouraged to review their options carefully and select a plan that best meets their needs.



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.

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.



COMMUNITY GUIDELINES & SAFETY

PARENT CHAT GROUPS (EG. WHAT'S APP)

WEST VANCOUVER SCHOOLS

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

WEST VANCOUVER POLICE

stay safe

Check It Out

EW IYP Program - Cyber-Security and AI Explorers

West Vancouver Schools is excited to be running a new IYP program called “Cyber-Security and AI Explorers”. Our pilot offering of this program is for West Vancouver School students who are currently in Grade 7 or 8. The program will begin on November 19th and will run on Thursday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:45 until March 11th, 2027. There will be no sessions during Winter Break. The cost for this is $300.00.

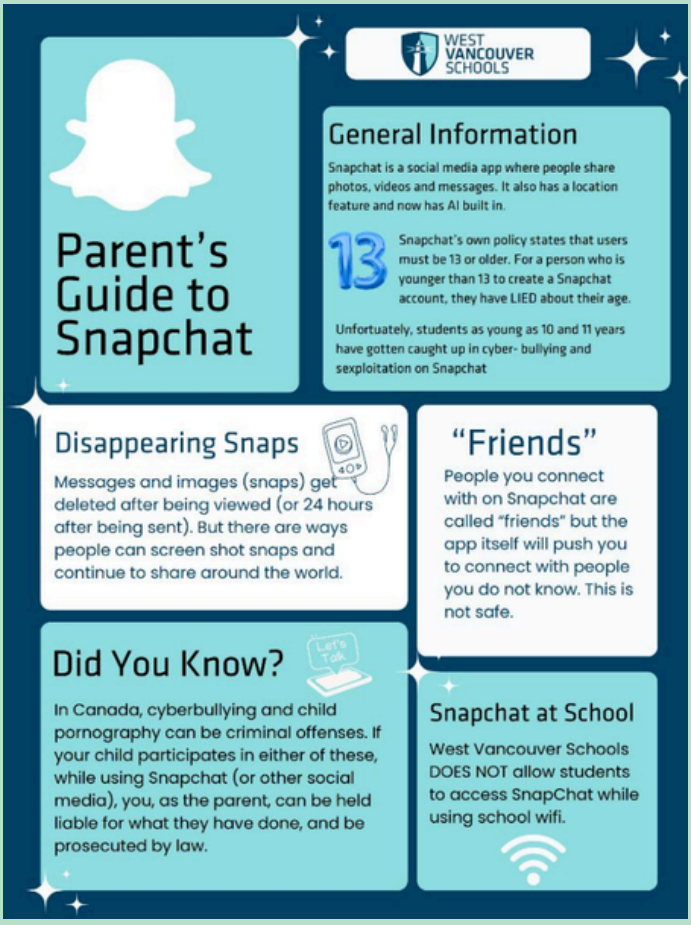
Sessions will take place in one of the computer labs at West Van Secondary. Students will be taught by West Vancouver Schools teaching staff and mentored by senior students in the district’s CS/QC/AI class.

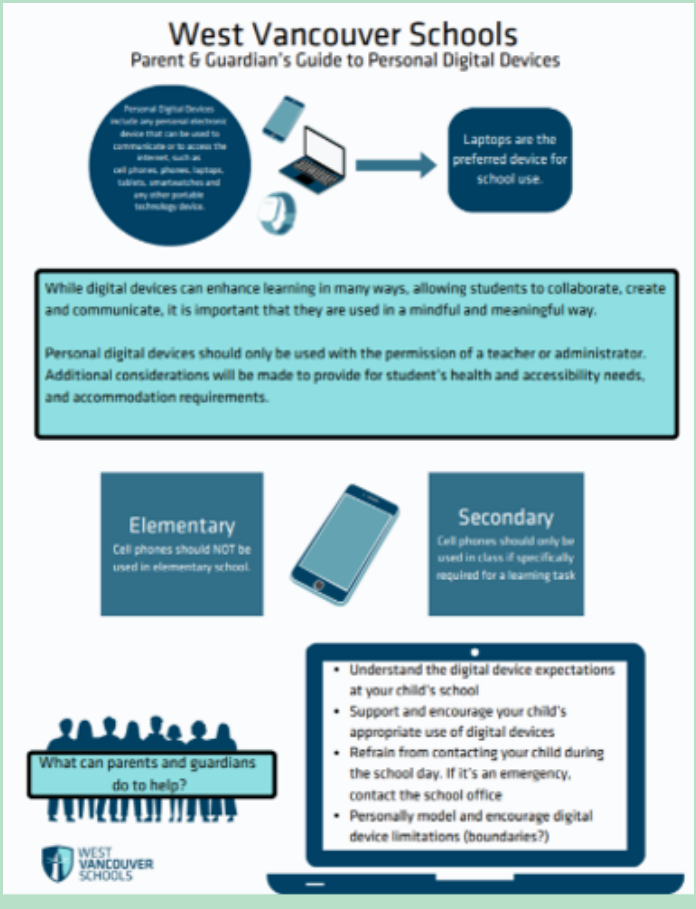
Students will explore concepts in Artificial Intelligence, Cyber-Safety and Security through activities, labs and games. There may be an opportunity for an optional hackathon that students can choose to participate in.

For more information or questions, contact Ms. Wilson at cwilson@wvschools.ca

To register, please fill out this form.

If interest is very high, we may offer a Tuesday afternoon session as well.





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

BRITISH COLUMBIA | 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.











Westcot HIGHLIGHTS







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WEST VANCOUVER SCHOOLS

Westcot Elementary School

Calendar



	11	Remembrance Day (School is Closed)
	18	WPAC Meeting Virtual **7:00pm**
	27	Professional Development Day (School not in session for students)
December	4	Term 1 Learning Update published
	18	Holiday Sing-a-Long / Last day of school before Winter Break

New Bell Schedule for Next School Year 2026-2027

Click HERE

2026/2027 Westcot School Calendar

Click HERE



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