



WVSS Information Bulletin

A Weekly Update of School Information for Parents and Guardian

March 2, 2023

This information bulletin includes several updates for families:

1. Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences
2. WVSS Performing Arts Presents: SPRING JOY!
3. Summer Learning with West Vancouver Schools
4. Grade 10 & 12 Parents – Student Learning Surveys
5. WVS District 2023/24 Budget Input Survey
6. PAC Spring Fundraisers – Ordering Now!
7. Spring Sports Try outs
8. WVSS Premier Sports Academies-Accepting Registrations
9. New Course Offering- Computer Information Systems 12: Cybersecurity & Artificial Intelligence
10. Youth Train in Trades 2023/2024
11. Emerging Tech Conference – April 1
12. Student Workers
13. Homestay Families Needed
14. Youth Climate Activism Award
15. Parents as Education and Career Coaches - March 8th
16. Winter Coat Drive
17. Camp Ignite Opportunity
18. Community Reminders

Important Calendar Reminders

Thursday, March 2: Linear Reports Posted

Thursday, March 2: Additional PT Conference bookings can be made

Friday March 3: PT Conference Bookings close – 10:00pm

Tuesday, March 7: Parent/Teacher Conferences – On-Line / Student Dismissal at 12:35pm

Wednesday, March 8: WVSS Spring Concert – 7:00pm– Kay Meek
Wednesday, March 8: Parents as Education & Career Coaches – 6:30 pm, online
Friday, March 10: Deadline for WVS Budget Survey
Monday, March 13 to Friday, March 24: **SPRING BREAK**
Tuesday, March 28: Lockdown Drill – 10:45 am
Thursday, March 30: WV Zone Concert – 7:00pm – Kay Meek
Monday, April 3: Summer Learning registration begins
Thursday, April 6: Gr. 9 Immunization Clinic - Those who missed fall immunizations
Friday, April 7: Good Friday – School Closed
Monday, April 10: Easter Monday – School Closed

1. Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences – March 7th - 1:30 – 4:00

REGISTRATION OPENED FEB 23rd @ 9:00 a.m. Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for Tuesday, March 7th. These meetings are for semester two and linear courses. Meetings will be virtual using Google Meet. Registering for appointments using School Appointments Online has already started at <https://westvan.schoolappointments.com/admin/>. Two bookings per student per family may be made at this time. **More bookings can be made after March 1st. Bookings will close at 10:00 pm on Friday, March 3rd.** Student's lists of courses and teachers can be found under the Family tab on the MyEducation BC portal <https://myeducation.gov.bc.ca/asp/en/logon.do> or by asking your student.

If using MyEd remember to have the schedule set to LIST VIEW not MATRIX VIEW. Please see the attachments [here](#) and [here](#) for all the information for parent teacher conferences and booking appointments. Students will be dismissed at 12:35 p.m. on March 7th. There will be no X-Block unless indicated by your teacher.

2. WVSS Performing Arts Presents: SPRING JOY! Wednesday March 8 at 7pm Kay Meek

The West Vancouver Secondary School Performing Arts Department is pleased to present their annual spring concert – **Spring Joy!** Featuring performances by the following groups: Junior Concert Band, Senior Concert Band, Concert Choir, Chamber Choir, Dance Crew Dance Level 1 & 2, and Rock Band. Tickets for the concert are \$5 with proceeds supporting the programs. Tickets are available from the teachers (Ms. Castro, Mr. Daudlin & Ms. Fulton). Tickets also available at the main office and will be on sale at the door of the concert. We look forward to seeing you there!

3. 2023 Summer Learning with West Vancouver Schools

Save the date! Summer Learning registration opens on Monday, April 3 at 8:00 a.m. For more information, please refer to the Summer Learning information flyers ([elementary](#) or [secondary](#)) or the [Summer Learning Website](#).

4. Ministry of Education 2023 Student Learning Survey – Gr 10 & 12 Parents

Live now! Grade 10 and 12 parents /guardians are asked to complete the Student Learning Survey 2023 at the following link: <https://www.awinfosys.com/SurveyFull1/central/main/access.asp> . The Student Learning Survey gathers information on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective. Please see [this attachment](#) showing the Parent Log on screen. Scroll down to the “parent section” and use the “Direct Access – No Logon number” on the right side. Feel free to call the school at 604-981-1100 if you need assistance! THANK YOU, Highlander Families!

5. School District Budget and Survey – March 10th deadline

Our school district is welcoming community members interested in providing feedback regarding the School District Budget for next year to go to the following website and complete the survey: [Budget Feedback 2023-2024 | West Vancouver Schools](#). The survey will remain open until March 10th.

6. PAC Spring Fundraisers: Growing Smiles Spring Plants & Verdant Skincare

Ordering now open! The PAC has two exciting spring fundraisers: Growing Smiles Spring Plants, and Verdant Skincare! Growing Smiles beautiful spring plants including hanging baskets, patio planters, veggies, petunias, marigolds and more! Verdant is an amazing local skincare company that is committed to nature, using only locally sourced, organic ingredients, to heal and maintain your skin. Our fundraisers are perfect for Mother’s Day, thank-you gifts, treating yourself and your loved ones! Funds raised will help the PAC to support: scholarships, curricular purchases in support of the school, staff appreciation lunch, meet the teacher nights, and more! Pick-up all items at the South Campus Cafeteria on Thursday May 11th from 12:30-3:00pm. Please see the following links for more information and to place your orders: <https://westvansecondary.growingsmilesfundraising.com/hom>. WVSS PAC thanks you for your support. Please see [Mandarin Translation](#) and [Farsi Translation](#).

CALENDAR DATES FOR PAC EVENTS:

Thursday 2nd March: Orders open for Spring Fundraiser Growing Smiles/Verdant Skin
Thursday 13th April: 9 am -10 am - SAVE THE DATE - Welcome Back Coffee Morning (at WVSS Cafeteria)
Tuesday 25th April: Last orders Spring Fundraiser
Thursday 11th May: 12.30 pm-3.00 pm - Pick up Spring Fundraiser
Thursday 11th May: 7 pm - SAVE THE DATE - Speaker Event/General Meeting - Ian Kennedy and Liz Hill, Directors of Instruction at the West Vancouver Schools District (WVSS Library).

7. Sports: Try Outs Coming!

A big congratulations to all our Winter teams on their seasons! Try Outs and Information will be coming out for our Spring Sports in the coming weeks. Please check the Athletics Board outside the North Campus Gyms for information. Also follow us on **Instagram @wvss_athletics**

Spring teams:

JR & SR Tennis: Mr. Cowan and Mrs. Finch
JR & Sr Badminton: Mr. Davidoff and Mrs. Reemeyer
SR Girls Soccer: Mrs. Walton and Community Coach Mr. Ahern

JR Boys Rugby: Mr. Harvey
SR Boys Rugby: Community Coach/Contact Mr. Franklin and Mrs. Lotz
SR Girls Rugby: Mr. N. Panah
SR Ultimate: Ms. McDonald, Mr. Graham, Community Coach Mr. Ketcheson
Grade 8 Football: (will start in April) Mr. Kozak, Community Coach Mr. Donaldson, Ms. McKee
Track and Field: Mr. Dignum, Mr. Stead, Community Coach Mrs. Buchanan
Golf: Mrs. Cameron, Mr. Ros
Mountain Biking: No Team this year

8. WVSS Premier Sports Academies Registrations

The WVS Premier Sports Academies are accepting registrations for the 2023-2024 school year. Please note the following tryout dates for students going into Grade 8 to 12 this September. Students register online for the Basketball Academy (<https://westvancouver.schools.ca/academies/basketball>) and Volleyball Academy (<https://westvancouver.schools.ca/academies/volleyball>) and the Academy Office will provide further communication regarding the try outs.

VOLLEYBALL ACADEMY TRYOUTS

Wednesday March 29th 3:30 to 5:00 West Van Secondary New Gym

Thursday March 30th 3:30 to 5:00 West Van Secondary New Gym

BASKETBALL ACADEMY TRYOUTS

Tuesday April 4th (RTC 1 & 2) 3:30 to 5:00 West Van Secondary Old Gym

Wednesday April 5th (Development) - 3:30 to 5:00 West Van Secondary Old Gym

9. NEW Course Offering – Computer Information Systems 12: Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence

Open to students from all three secondary schools, while priority is given to students entering Grade 12 in September, Grade 11s may also apply. Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence is a hybrid (in-person and virtual) course being offered by West Vancouver Schools. These areas of study impact many aspects of our lives today and demand for trained professionals in these areas is growing exponentially. Cybersecurity: In Canada, the unemployment rate for Cybersecurity professionals is 0%. In this course, students will learn about Digital Citizenship, Cybersecurity, Cybercrimes, Viruses, DDoS, Phishing, Cryptography, the Internet, how to stay safe online, and will also get Cybersafe certified. Students will also compete in CyberTitan (<https://www.cybertitan.ca/>) – one of Canada's largest cyber defense competitions. Artificial Intelligence: We are impacted by AI every single day, as it includes self-driving cars that navigate roads independently, face filters in apps, healthcare for early detection and treatment, sports to maintain player fitness, agriculture for pest and disease control, and smart home assistants such as Alexa, Siri, and Cortana. Students will learn about Artificial Intelligence ethics, training data & bias, machine learning, neural networks, and computer vision. We will use some of Google's Artificial Intelligence software to gain a better understanding of how AI works and its applications. Apply Here: <https://westvancouver.schools.ca/programs/cybersecurity-ai>

10. Youth Train in Trades 2023/2024

The Carpentry program at our school, still has some spots available for the September 2023/2024 intake. If your child is currently in grade 10 or 11 and has an interest in obtaining a Level 1 Carpentry

Certification, they can talk to their counsellor about including it in their course selections for next year. It would be offered on alternate days throughout the school year. The registration link is below. <https://westvancouver.schools.ca/programs/youth-train-carpentry/train-in-trades-application-form> For more information, contact Linda Caruth, Careers & Counselling Assistant, lcaruth@wvschools.ca

11. Emerging Tech Vancouver Summit – April 1, Free event – Sign up!

Free conference for students who want to geek out on entrepreneurship, start-ups, emerging tech, and cool science. During the conference, students will have the opportunity to meet people from fast-growing start-ups in the Vancouver community and get to choose from different breakout workshops to learn about entrepreneurship, AI, Gene Editing, Quantum Computing and a few others. Past TKSummits have featured speakers and mentors from companies like Microsoft, Uber, Google, Meta, and more. Co-Founder and Chief Scientist at [D-Wave](#) (a quantum computing company) will be our keynote for the day. See [this Poster](#) for details.

12. Student Workers, International Programs

See [this poster](#) for all the details. Closing date is April 14th.

13. Host Families Needed – Exciting 2024 Fee Increase

Apply now and welcome a student for the upcoming 2023/2024 school year. Did you know? Hosting fees of \$1,100 per student per month. Many families will host two students which can provide up to \$22,000 per year income subsidy. Effective February 1, 2024 the fees increase to \$1,400 per student per month! Don't miss out, placing students starts now. See below message from an actual student letter joining our program this fall. Open your home for this amazing opportunity for all family members.

"I genuinely believe that Canada is the place where I belong to. It has everything I'm looking for: contact with nature, beautiful landscapes, friendly people, security, and excellent public schools. But, the main reason why I chose Canada is the people; I will be welcome and feel at home"

Call Homestay Manager Martina Brazeau for more information at 604.341.0515 or visit our webpages

14. Youth Climate Activism Award

This award honours students who are taking meaningful steps towards improving the outlook for our planet with respect to climate change. Prize of up to \$1,000. See [this Poster](#) for all the details.

15. Parents as Education and Career Coaches – March 8, 6:30pm

Please join Education Planner BC and WVS for a virtual evening of "Parents as Education and Career Coaches". This information will be especially helpful for families with students in Grades 10-12. Wednesday, March 8th 6:30 - 8 pm, Hosted on Teams. Contact WVS post-secondary advisor, Leesa Alldred lalldred@wvschools.ca for any questions. See [this Poster](#) to register!

16. WVSS Winter Coat Drive – Feb 26 to March 8

WVSS Students are hosting a coat drive between February 26th and March 8th. Jackets and any winter clothing are appreciated (Mittens, hoodies, hats, windbreakers, etc.). Any donations can be placed in the bins we have set up in front of the textiles room. Bins will be accessible every day from February 26 through March 28. With the One Warm Coat Foundation, all winter jackets and apparel will be repaired and upcycled before being donated to the homeless in our community.

17. Camp Ignite Opportunity

Become a Camp Ignite Participant. Girls in Grades 11 & 12 are invited to apply for this unique opportunity to train at the Vancouver Fire Rescue Centre for 3 days - apply <https://campignite.com/join-us>

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Public Health Resources for Families

Please see the following attachments from our public health nurse: [Vaccine Catch-Up Poster](#) - where families can receive immunizations in the community. Our Public Health Nurse is Sophia Knowles. She can be reached at sophia.knowles@vch.ca

GENERAL REMINDERS

Attendance Notice: Email wvss@wvschools.ca

We are asking that student absences be communicated through email where possible. This will allow for staff to enter absences into the system faster. Please email wvss@wvschools.ca. If this is not possible, please call the school office at 604-981-1100. All student absences must be excused by a parent or guardian. Students not feeling well must report to the office before leaving the school.

District Policies and Procedures Release Form: Please Complete 1 Per Child

All Parents (except for international students' families/ homestays) are required to complete a West Van District Policy and Procedures online release form for each of their children. For students to participate in field trips, and other activities, this form **MUST** be completed. **Parents and Guardians - Please [CLICK HERE](#) to access this form and complete as soon as possible.** Questions, please contact wvss@wvschools.ca or call 604-981-1100.

School Fees – Online as of October 24

WVSS school fees will be available for payment through School Cash Online. If you have any questions about school fees or using [School Cash Online](#) please reach out to Jenny Madill at jmadill@wvschools.ca or call 604-981-1100.

Stay Informed: Keep Your Address & Contact Information Up to Date!

All Parents and Guardians will be emailed this e-bulletin weekly to keep you up to date with our school information and upcoming events. Our student absence system will make daily contact by telephone or email to alert parents of unexcused absences. Occasionally, we do send documents and information to homes by regular mail. To ensure that you stay informed in all these ways, please email the school office at wvss@wvschools.ca and let us know if you change your email, phone contact information or move to a new address.

Student Parking

Students wishing to park in the WVSS student parking lot must complete a registration form and obtain a parking decal both of which can be found in the main office. Please note that there is a cost of \$10.00. Please see Ms. Madill in the office or at jmadill@wvschools.ca with any questions.

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Useful Links

[Link to previous E-Bulletins](#)

[WVSS website:](#)

[WVSS Counselling Page:](#)

[WVSS Athletics Website:](#)

[West Vancouver Schools District Website](#)