



WVSS Information Bulletin

A Weekly Update of School Information for Parents and Guardian

March 9, 2023

This information bulletin includes several updates for families:

1. Spring Break
2. Summer Learning with West Vancouver Schools
3. PAC Spring Fundraisers – Ordering Now!
4. DPAC Event: Hayley Watson Learning Opportunity
5. Grade 10 & 12 Parents – Student Learning Surveys
6. WVS District 2023/24 Budget Input Survey
7. Counselling Corner
8. Sleep Week is April 3 – 6
9. Sports: Try-Outs Coming
10. WVSS Premier Sports Academies-Accepting Registrations
11. New Course Offering- Computer Information Systems 12: Cybersecurity & Artificial Intelligence
12. Student Workers
13. Homestay Families Needed
14. Community Reminders

Important Calendar Reminders

Friday, March 10: Deadline for WVS Budget Survey

Monday, March 13 to Friday, March 24: SPRING BREAK

Monday March 27: First day of classes after Spring Break

Monday March 27Scholarship applications due

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

Monday, April 3- Thursday April 6: Sleep week begins!
Thursday, April 6: PJ day – wear your PJs!
Thursday, April 6: Gr. 9/10 Immunization Clinic - for missed fall immunizations
Friday, April 7: Good Friday – SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday, April 10: Easter Monday - SCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday, April 13: PAC Welcome Back Coffee Morning 9am
Thursday, April 20: Semester 2 Mid-Term Reports Posted
Monday, April 20 – 28: Grad Assessments
Tuesday, April 25: Last day for PAC plant orders
Thursday, April 27: Do 1 Give day
Monday, May 1 – 19: I.B. Exams
Thursday, May 4: Last day for PAC Verdant skincare orders

1. Spring Break: March 13th to March 24th

We are wishing all our Highlander families a safe and enjoyable Spring Break! Friday March 10th is the last day of classes before the 2-week break. We look forward to welcoming our students back on Monday March 27th, rested and ready to re-engage in learning!

2. 2023 Summer Learning with West Vancouver Schools

Are you interested in learning during the summer? West Vancouver Schools will be offering a robust Summer Learning Program for both elementary and secondary students during July 2023.

Online registration for both the elementary and secondary Summer Learning programs opens on **Monday, April 3 at 8:00 AM.**

More information about courses, locations, attendance etc. can be found on the Summer Learning information flyers ([elementary](#) or [secondary](#)) or on the [Summer Learning Website](#).

3. 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:

Growing Smiles: order until April 25th <https://westvansecondary.growingsmilesfundraising.com/home>

Verdant Skincare: order until May 4th. *Choose 'Pick-up' when placing order, to join fundraiser.*

<https://verdantskincare.ca> Please see [Mandarin Translation](#) and [Farsi Translation](#).

WVSS PAC thanks you for your support.

CALENDAR DATES FOR PAC EVENTS:

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).

4. DPAC Parent event: Hayley Watson Learning Opportunity – April 24

On Monday April 24 at 7pm at Kay Meek, Open Parachute founder, Hayley Watson is returning to West Vancouver to facilitate a parent session. Here are links to posters for the [DPAC parent session](#)

5. 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!

6. 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.

7. Counselling Corner

Scholarship Season is here. Please remind your gr. 12 student that scholarship applications are due on March 27th by 3pm (after spring break). The **School Based Scholarship Application** link is <https://wvsscounselling.weebly.com/wvss-school-based-scholarships.html>

The **District Scholarship application** is posted on their CLC 12 google classroom.

Please email Mrs. Caruth at lcaruth@wvsschools.ca for more information.

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. Registration link <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

8. Sleep Week: April 3 - 6

Mark your calendars for West Vancouver School's Sleep Week from April 3 – 6th ! Get excited (or sleepy) as it is PJ day on April 6th. See this poster for more information. [Sleep Week Poster for Families](#)

9. 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

10. 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

11. 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>

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

Learn more! Apply to host!



COMMUNITY UPDATES

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>

Capilano University Offering Summer Camps and Summer Sports Camps

Capilano University will be offering some amazing Summer Camp and Summer Intensive Series opportunities for Youth ages 7-17 years old. Please see the posters: [Summer Series](#) and [Blues Sport Camp](#).

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.

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 link to apply: <https://www.tks.world/vancouver-summit>

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.

Follow Us On...



Useful Links

[Link to previous E-Bulletins](#)

[WVSS website:](#)

[WVSS Counselling Page:](#)

[WVSS Athletics Website:](#)

[West Vancouver Schools District Website](#)