



WVSS Information Bulletin

A Weekly Update of School Information for Parents and Guardians

December 21, 2023

This information bulletin includes several updates for families:

1. Winter Holidays, Early Dismissal & January return
2. Grade 7 to 8 Information Night: January 9, 2024
3. Traffic Congestion and Solutions
4. Graduation Assessments – January 2024
5. PAC – Coffee Morning & Optional Donation
6. 2024 Provincial Scholarship Awards
7. School Fees
8. WVSS Athletics – Winter Sports Teams
9. Community Events and Information

Important Calendar Reminders

Friday Dec 22 – Last day of classes for 2023 and early Dismissal at 12:00

Monday Dec 25 to Tuesday Jan 5 – WINTER BREAK

Monday Jan 8 – School Opens for 2024

Tuesday Jan 9 – Grade 7 into 8 Parent Information Evening – 7:00 pm - Kay Meek

Saturday Jan 13 – VIQRC Robotics Tournament – South Campus – 8:30 – 4:00

Monday Jan 22 – I.B. Parent Information Evening – 7:00 pm – Kay Meek

Monday Jan 22 – 26 – Grad Assessments

Thursday Jan 25 – Collaboration Day

Monday Jan 29 – DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Tuesday Jan 30 – Parent/Teacher Conferences

Tuesday Jan 30 – Course Planning Evening for parents of Grades 8 – 11 – 7:00 pm

1. Winter Break, Early dismissal and return to school on January 8th, 2024

Friday December 22 is the last day of school for 2023. Students will be dismissed at 12:00 pm tomorrow. We are wishing our Highlander families a restful and safe Christmas holiday and a wonderful start to the New Year. We look forward to seeing students back at school on Monday January 8th at 8:30am.

2. Grade 7 to 8 Information Night – Tuesday January 9 at 7pm

WVSS will be hosting our annual “Incoming Grade 8 Information Night” on Tuesday January 9th at 7pm in the Kay Meek Theatre. The evening is intended for grade 7 families interested in WVSS for 2024-25. Please see [this poster](#) and our [Invitation Letter](#) for details. The evening will begin at the Kay Meek Theatre (1700 Mathers Avenue) with a presentation and conclude with a tour of the school. Parking is along Mathers and we encourage families to arrive by 6:45pm, where possible. Any questions, please call the school at 604-981-1100. We look forward to welcoming our future Highlanders!

3. Traffic Congestion - arrive early and drop off further away

With construction well underway, there is an increase in traffic around WVSS. We are asking parents to help us by arriving earlier and dropping off students farther away from the school. We encourage students to use public transit, bike, or to walk to school to reduce traffic congestion and environmental impact. In addition, with darker days and rainy weather, student safety is paramount. Please remind students to use the marked crosswalks and look both ways. Using reflective tape and bright clothing make a considerable difference in visibility as well. Thank you for your help, Highlander families.

4. Graduation Assessments – January 2024

January 22-26th, grade 12 students will write the Literacy 12 Graduation Assessment. Students in grade 11 and 12 who missed the Literacy 10 Assessment and/or Numeracy 10 may also need to write. Students will receive information via Google classroom and they will receive individual memos indicating the date and time of their assessment. Please see the following [Grad Assessment 2023-2024 attachment](#) for an overview of our Graduation schedule for 2023-2024. Please note that Graduation Assessments are required for graduation purposes. Students should prepare for these assessments and attempt the sample assessments. Sample assessment and more information on Graduation Assessments can be found [HERE](#)

5. WVSS PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Save the Date: January 24th, 2024

NEW YEAR 2024 COFFEE MORNING - OPEN TO ALL PARENTS

ON: Wednesday 24th JANUARY 2024

AT: WVSS SCHOOL CAFETERIA (NORTH CAMPUS – MIDDLE FLOOR – CENTRAL)

TIME: 9.00AM

With holiday celebrations behind us and lots of new things going on including traffic changes and building works join the WVSS PAC and Principal, Mr. Rauh for an update coffee morning.

Mr. Rauh and the WVSS PAC Executive will be available to answer any questions you may have. It is also a great opportunity to meet other parents and feel connected to the school.

Optional PAC Donation - School Cash Online

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) would like to thank West Vancouver Secondary School parents who make the annual contribution to WVSS PAC to support your children in both the classroom and in extra-curricular and sporting activities. The 2023/2024 Optional PAC Contribution is available on **School Cash Online**. **You have the option to choose one of three donation amounts: \$25, \$50, or \$75. You can contribute more than once and at any time throughout the year!** Please see the [PAC optional Donation attachment](#) for all the details. See [Mandarin translation](#) and [Farsi Translation](#). To allow us to continue with this support this year, please include the PAC Optional Donation on your School Cash Online fee payment. Your donations enhance your child's school experience in so many ways. Your PAC donation works alongside the BC Gaming Grant funds that the PAC applies for each year.

6. 2024 Provincial Scholarship Awards (Secondary)

Grade 12 (and grade 11) WVSS students should be looking into obtain scholarships and now is the time to start your research! The Ministry of Education and Child Care awards 13,500 scholarships to eligible graduating students annually. Please review this [Scholarships Program infographic](#) to understand the variety of scholarships offered by the Ministry. More information can be found on the [BC Achievement](#), [District/Authority](#), [BC Excellence](#), or [Pathway to Teacher Education](#) scholarship web pages. Contact scholarships@gov.bc.ca if you have questions.

7. School Fees 2023-2024

The 2023/2024 School Course Fees are now available for payment on School Cash Online as of Monday, October 23rd. All school fees and field trips are added to this site and can be paid easily online with this website: <https://westvancouver.schoolcashonline.com/>. If you have not signed in before, you will need your child's Student Pupil number which can be found on MyEd or on a previous report card. You can find [Registration Instructions here](#). Please contact Taryn Patterson (tpatterson@wvschools.ca) in the main office if you have any questions or assistance with logging in.

8. WVSS Athletics

Practice times for winter teams: These have been made by coaches and the facilities schedule and links to the league schedule can be found at <https://www.highlandersathletics.ca/leagues/homeHighlanders.cfm?leagueID=0&clientID=5626&link=Highlanders>

Please check the Athletics Bulletin Board (between New and Old Gym) for Winter sport information:

Basketball Grade 8 Boys Coach: Mr. Hunter

Basketball Grade 9 Boys Coach: Mr. Meldrum

Basketball SR Boys Coach: Mr. Eberhardt, Mr. Panah

Basketball Grade 8 Girls Coach: Mr. Daudlin

Basketball JR Girls Coach: Mr. Mathers, Ms. Towers (teacher sponsor)

Basketball SR Girls: No team this year

Skiing/Snowboarding: Ms. Lambie, Ms. Lawson

Wrestling: Mr. Huh, Ms. Walton (teacher sponsor) Google Classroom Code [yp3mqz2](#)

COMMUNITY EVENTS SECTION

Cybersafe Parent Presentation – January 23, 2024– 7:00 pm Kay Meek

Our approach to cyber safety is to address the root causes that would lead to exploitation, as well as provide tangible strategies to break down vulnerabilities that would lead children and youth into online sexual exploration. Please see this [Poster](#) for more information.

West Vancouver Recreation Centre Happenings:

Winter Break camp registrations are now open:

<https://westvancouver.ca/parks-recreation/recreation-programs-services/recreation-activities/camps>

Browse your recreation activities and programs here:

<https://westvancouver.ca/parks-recreation/recreation-programs-services/recreation-activities>

Are you new in West Vancouver? Come, discover and join us:

<https://westvancouver.ca/newcomers>

GENERAL REMINDERS

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 of 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.

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.

Google Calendar Link

We have created a WVSS google calendar for students that includes the days (regular, FIT, Collab and the block rotation) plus significant student events. If you would like to subscribe to this calendar, please follow this [link](#) and add it to your google calendar.

WVSS APP – Timetable, schedules and more!

We are working on making sure the APP is up to date! Signing in Problems? Let the office know or see Ms. Tanfara or Ms. Fraser. The APP is an important tool to keep students and families up to date and headed to the right class!! Details on how to sign up for the WVSS APP can be found here: <https://wvss.appazur.com/help/flyer>. Thanks for signing up Highlander students and families!

Student Drop off, Parking and Punctuality

A reminder to our highlander families to kindly not park in the staff parking lots when dropping off students. We encourage students to use public transit, bike, or to walk to school to reduce traffic congestion and environmental impact. When needed, students can be dropped off on Mathers or Inglewood. Finally, our teaching staff love it when students arrive on-time or early! Classes start every day, except for Collaboration days, at 8:30am.

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. Patterson in the accounting office or email tpatterson@wvschools.ca with any questions

District Policies & Procedures Form – Please complete

All parents/guardians must complete a [West Van District Policy and Procedures online release form](#) for each of their children within the district. This form covers many areas including use of school internet, use of devices on school networks, Google Apps for Education consent and media parental consent form. Due to privacy laws, *this form is required*. For assistance, please contact Ms. Naomi Fraser at 604-981-1100 or wvss@wvschools.ca

Student Lockers (Grade 9-12) – Google Form Required

Grade 9 - 12 students wanting a locker must request by completing this [Locker Request 2023](#) Google form (<http://bit.ly/WVSSlockers2023>). You will be emailed your locker information once the request is processed. **Grade 8's do not need to complete this form as they will be assigned lockers.** Please see Ms. Patterson in the accounting office or email Ms. Taryn Patterson tpatterson@wvschools.ca with any questions.

Optional Accident Insurance for Families

Each year the school district reminds families that they have the option to purchase insurance coverage against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses, and critical illness. There are many different voluntary plans that provide coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses, and critical illness. Families are encouraged to do their due diligence when choosing a provider.

Useful Links

[WVSS website:](#)

[WVSS Counselling Page:](#)

[WVSS Athletics Website:](#)

[West Vancouver Schools District Website](#)

Follow Us On...



@wearewvss



[@wearewvss](https://twitter.com/wearewvss)