



WVSS Information Bulletin

A Weekly Update of School Information for Parents and Guardians

January 18th, 2024

This information bulletin includes several updates for families:

1. Parent/Teacher Conferences - Virtual – January 30th, 2024
2. Graduation Assessments – January 2024
3. I.B. Information Evening Grades 9 & 10
4. Career Corner : Students for Hire and Grade 12 Updates
5. Premier Academies and District Programs 2024-25 – Featuring Yoga and FAST
6. PAC – Coffee Morning & Optional Donation
7. Cybersafe Parent Presentation – January 23, 2024
8. 2024 Provincial Scholarship Awards
9. School Fees
10. WVSS Athletics – Winter Sports Teams
11. Community Events and Information

Important Calendar Reminders

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

Monday Jan 22 to 26 – Graduation Assessments: Literacy 12 all grade 12s

Tuesday Jan 23- Cyberspace Parent presentation – 7:00 pm – Kay Meek

Wednesday Jan 24 – PAC New Year Coffee at 9am – North Cafeteria

Thursday Jan 25 – Collaboration Day – classes start at 9:30am

Monday Jan 29 – DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY - no classes in session

Tuesday Jan 30 – Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:00 – 3:00pm and 3:30 – 5:30pm (on google meet)

Tuesday Jan 30 – FAST information night – 5:30pm at Rockridge

Wednesday Jan 31 – Course Planning 2024-25 Evening

Monday Feb 5 – Grad Photo Retakes – at WVSS

1. Parent/Teacher Conferences – Virtual - January 30th, 2024

REGISTRATION OPENS January 18th, @ 9:00 a.m. Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for Tuesday, January 30th from 1:00 – 3:00 and 3:30 - 5:30pm. These meetings are for all WVSS courses. Meetings will be virtual using Google Meet. You may create an account and register for appointments using School Appointments Online starting at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 18th. <https://westvan.schoolappointments.com/> Four bookings per student per family may be made at this time.

More bookings can be made after January 25th. **Bookings will close at 10:00 pm on January 26th.** If you were unable to schedule an appointment with a teacher, you can contact them by email after the conference. Student's lists of courses and teachers can be found under the Family tab on the MyEducation BC portal <https://myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspn/logon.do> or by asking your student. If using MyEd, remember to have the schedule set to LIST VIEW not MATRIX VIEW. [HERE](#) are the instructions for how to book appointments and [HERE](#) are the instructions for how to take part in the google meet interviews on January 30th. **Students will be dismissed at 12:00 p.m. on January 30th.**

2. Graduation Assessments – January 2024

January 22-26th all Grade 12 students will write the Literacy 12 Graduation Assessment. Students should have received information via Google classroom and emails 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](#)

3. IB Information Evening for grade 9 & 10 students and parents

WVSS offers the International Baccalaureate, an academically challenging program for students in grades 11&12. We also have a pre-diploma program for grade 10 students. If you are interested in finding out more, please come to an information evening on **Monday January 22, 7pm** in the Kay Meek Theatre. Information about the program and admissions can also be found on our website: <https://westvancouver.schools.ca/ib/>



4. Careers & Counselling Corner

Students for Hire-If you own a business or work for a company that is looking for staff, our work experience students are looking for meaningful work placement opportunities. We also have a long list of students who are ready and willing to work and help out with odd jobs, anything from gardening to dog walking. If you are in the trades industry, we also have students interested in pursuing apprenticeships. If you are interested in hiring for any of the above, please contact Linda Caruth, lcaruth@wvschools.ca for more information

Grade 12 updates – January 2024

Literacy 12 Graduation Assessments: January 22-25

Grade 12s should check their school emails and the grade 12 google classroom for information on when and where they write for the week of January 22-25. English 12 teachers also have the schedule, and a copy will be in the office. Please make sure to try sample assessments and review the scoring guides. Any questions, see your English teacher or Ms. Tanfara in the office (ctanfara@wvschools.ca). Let's aim for those 3 and 4s Highlanders!

Grad Photo Retakes: Monday Feb 5th (10am – 4pm)

Edge Imaging is excited to be coming to West Vancouver Secondary School for your graduation photo retake day on Monday Feb 5th 10 am – 4pm (FIT DAY) Please book an appointment if you need a retake of your portrait session or if you have missed the previous photo days. Students can sign up for their appointments using the link below. [Edge Imaging | Booking Your Appointment](#)

Casual Portraits --- Personal lifestyle photos will be available if you wish in addition to the formal grad portraits. Please wear your favorite outfit. We encourage you to bring any personal accessories such as sporting equipment, musical instruments, etc. to commemorate this special milestone.

Traditional Portraits --- For the formal grad portrait sittings Edge Imaging will provide the gowns, sash, and cap. Gentlemen, please wear a dress shirt and tie. Ladies, please wear a mandarin collar or a V-neck. Please take note that the gown colour is black, and the sash colour is red.

Grad Prom 2024: January 26 at 7pm

Friday, January 26, 7 to 11 pm

Stanley Park Pavilion

Catered appetizers and food stations, DJ and Photobooth

Tickets: \$100 on School Cash online

See Ms. Walton/ Grad committee with any questions.

5. Premier Academies and District Program Registration is Open!

The 2024-2025 Premier Academies and District Programs are open for registration! Please visit <https://westvancouver.schools.ca/programs/> for further information.

Premier Academies: Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Fencing, Field Hockey, Robotics, Rugby, Soccer, Tennis, Volleyball

Premier Programs: Carpentry, Cybersecurity and AI, Fashion Industry, FAST, Honour Choir, Outdoor Recreation, 200 Hour Yoga, YELL Entrepreneurship 12

Yoga Teacher Training Course Information Session –February 12th, 6:30 pm – West Vancouver Library

The district's 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training course is an 8-credit course (4 PE credits and 4 Yoga credits) that will provide students in grades 9 to 12 with the skills needed to effectively and safely teach Yoga to all levels of students. The total cost for the program is \$100 for the year. The course follows the guidelines set out by Yoga Alliance and students receive certification as Yoga Alliance 200-hour Yoga Teachers. For more information or to register visit <https://westvancouver.schools.ca/200-hour-yoga-teacher-training> or email Todd Randall trandall@wvschools.ca

FAST (FIRST AID SWIM TRAINING): Applications for the 2024-2025 school year are NOW OPEN

FAST is a young lifeguard education program that allows students to develop the essential skills to be successful and confident lifeguards. At the completion of the FAST program students will have obtained

all the required certification prerequisites necessary to enroll in the National Lifeguard Course, which students can take independently when they are 15 years of age or older. Completion of the National Lifeguard Course is the final credential necessary to qualify an individual to work as a lifeguard.

In addition to developing strong first aid skills, the FAST program also focuses on providing students with a practical foundation in resistance and cardiovascular training, swimming, stroke-development, and leadership. Please [click this link](#) to learn more and to apply to the program.

FAST PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION

Date: Tuesday January 30th, 2024

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Room W211 - Rockridge Secondary School

6. WVSS PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

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 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.schoolcashionline.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.

10. WVSS Athletics

Spring Sports:

Spring Sports are coming soon! We are looking forward to a strong start with our spring sports. We hope to offer all the teams listed below. Each team needs a qualified coach and a corresponding teacher sponsor support as well as a full roster to be able to run in the Spring.

Grade 8 Football
Co-Ed Junior and Senior Tennis
Co-Ed Junior and Senior Badminton
Junior and Senior Boys Rugby
Senior Girls rugby
Co-Ed Junior and Senior Ultimate
Co-Ed Junior and Senior Track and Field
Junior and Senior Girls soccer.

Information for upcoming tryouts and team meetings will be posted near the gym as the winter season winds down near the end of February.

All parents/guardians who are interested in helping support and or coach any of the spring seasons please reach out to Mr. MacGillivray (cmacgillivray@wvschools.ca) and or Mrs. Lambie (dlambie@wvschools.ca).

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

Mental Health and Wellness Resources and Supports

Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) has prepared new resources and videos on the Non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) and Suicide Prevention. Resources can be found at the following links: [Healthy MindsBC: Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Video Series and Resources](#) and [CYMH Mental Health and Wellness Resources and Supports](#)

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 parking on Mathers (during our construction phase) 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](#)