



WVSS Information Bulletin

A Weekly Update of School Information for Parents and Guardians

February 1st, 2024

This information bulletin includes several updates for families:

1. Parent Teacher Conference Feedback
2. I.B. Testing Dates
3. Career Corner: Students for Hire, Course Planning, Exchange
4. Grade 12 Updates
5. Premier Academies and District Programs 2024-25 – Featuring Yoga, FAST & Cybersecurity
6. PAC – Optional Donation
7. WVSS Athletics – Spring Sports Teams
8. 2024 Provincial Scholarship Awards
9. School Fees
10. Community Events and Information

Important Calendar Reminders

Friday Jan 2 – School Photos for new students, missed photos or retakes

Monday Feb 5 – Grad Photo Retakes – at WVSS (please book your time!)

Thursday Feb 13 – IB testing – 3:00 pm

Friday Feb 16th – DISTRICT READING BREAK – School Closed

Monday Feb 19th – BC FAMILY DAY – School Closed

Wednesday Feb 21 – 23 – WVSS Theatre - The HOBBIT! 7pm – Kay Meek

Saturday Feb 24 – VIQRC Robotics – Elementary School - Provincials! North Gyms

Sunday Feb 25 – VIQRC Robotics - Middle school - Provincials! North Gyms

Wednesday Feb 28 – Pink Shirt Day (Anti-bullying Day) – Wear your pink shirt!

Thursday Feb 29 – Collaboration Day (class starts at 9:30am)

1. Parent Teacher Conference feedback

We held the parent teacher conferences virtually on Tuesday, January 30th from 1-3 and 3:30-5:30pm. We are looking for feedback about the timing, format, and efficacy. We are hoping parents are guardians would complete the form both if they attended and if they didn't attend. Please complete this [form](#) so that your voice is heard.

2. I.B. Programme Testing date:

Students in grades 9 & 10 who are interested in doing the International Baccalaureate programme (Course or Diploma) need to take a critical test to be considered for admission. If you have already taken the test this year or last year you do not need to take it again. Testing takes place in room W346.

- Tuesday, February 13 - 3pm

Information about the IB programme at WVSS can be found on our website:

<https://westvancouver.schools.ca/ib/>

3. 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, icaruth@wvschools.ca for more information.

North Shore Lions Youth Exchange- August 2024!

The North Shore Lions are offering their annual Youth Exchange to Chiba, Japan in August 2024 for 15 & 16 year old students. This is a 2- week exchange, living with a Japanese family and experiencing the Japanese culture. If interested, come to the Counselling department for more information and a QR Code to access the application forms that will be available starting February 1st, 2024.

4. Grade 12 updates

Grad Photo Retakes: Monday Feb 5th (10am – 4pm) : **BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT below!**

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.) . **Students should 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.

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

Outdoor Recreation Programme

If you enjoy camping, kayaking, sailing, skiing and playing outside, the **Outdoor Recreation Program** is an exciting way for you to earn your PHE 9-12 credit! For more information, please visit:

[Outdoor Recreation Program](#) or contact dlambie@wvschools.ca or bhammett@wvschools.ca

6. WVSS PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

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. 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>

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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS SECTION

Bowen Island Library

The Bowen Library is running a free Study Club program for high school students starting in the new year for any interested students:

1. Wednesdays at 4-5 pm, Jan 10- Feb 28
2. Held in the Bowen Library Flex Room
3. Those interested in volunteer peer tutoring can email info@bowenlibrary.ca

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 from 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](#)

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