



WVSS Information Bulletin

A Weekly Update of School Information for Parents and Guardians

February 15th, 2024

This information bulletin includes several updates for families:

1. West Vancouver Secondary Theatre Company presents “The Hobbit”
2. Ministry of Education and Child Care – Substance Use Prevention Presentation
3. Student Learning Survey- for Parents in grade 10 and 12
4. Career & Counselling Corner Updates
5. Grade 12 – Scholarship Updates
6. Premier Academies and District Programs 2024-25
7. PAC – Optional Donation
8. WVSS Athletics – Spring Sports Teams
9. School Fees
10. Community Events and Information

Important Calendar Reminders

Friday Feb 16 – Reading Break – School is closed

Monday Feb 19- BC Family Day – School is 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!

Wednesday Feb 28 - new Grade 8 Explorations Rotations (Day 2) start

Thursday Feb 29 – Collaboration Day (class starts at 9:30am) / No FIT

Thursday Feb 29 – new Grade 8 Explorations Rotations (Day 1) start

Friday March 8 – Learning Update 2 Posted to MyEd

Wednesday March 13 – Day of Awesome

Friday March 15 – last day of classes before Spring Break

March 29 & April 1 – Good Friday & Easter Monday Holidays

Tuesday April 2 – First day back to classes

1. WVSS Theatre Company Presents: "The Hobbit"

THE HOBBIT: Or There & Back Again. See [Poster here](#)

7PM Feb 21-23 at the Kay Meek Centre

\$15 tickets (available at the door or in advance during lunch at WVSS starting Feb. 12)

"Even dragons have their endings..." and it's time for you to join Bilbo, Gandalf, and a team of mighty dwarves on our epic adventure across Middle Earth to defeat the tyrant, Smaug the Dragon! Our family-friendly production includes dangerous battles, narrow escapes, grand feasts, and of course live music featuring the WVSS Rock Band students. West Vancouver, will you accept this quest? Come and test your courage Feb. 21-23 at the KMC. Tickets are \$15, available at the door or in advance during lunch at school starting Feb. 12.

2. Safe Schools Presentations for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers- Substance Use

The Ministry of Education and Child Care, in partnership with adolescent Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Hayley Watson, will be hosting free virtual sessions on youth substance use for parents/guardians, caregivers and caring adults on **February 20th and 28th, 2024**. Dr. Watson will provide valuable insights, practical tips, and resources to equip participants with the tools needed to guide their children and youth toward making positive choices when it comes to substance use.

Key Takeaways for Participants:

- Learn why children/teenagers are drawn to substances.
- Understand what causes and maintains substance use disorder and needs.
- Increase your child's ability to make positive choices about substances.
- Acquire practical conversation tools for discussing substances in the home.

Participants must register in advance due to limited capacity. Session dates are:

- February 20th, 6:00 – 7:30 pm PST - [Click here to Register](#)
- February 22nd, 6:00 – 7:30 pm PST – [Click here to Register](#)
- February 28th, 6:00 – 7:30 pm PST – [Click here to Register](#)

3. Student Learning Survey- for Parents in grade 10 and 12

The Student Learning Survey (SLS) has been administered every year in B.C. public schools since 2001. The SLS provides feedback on the implementation of the curriculum changes, learning environment, student wellness and satisfaction, student belonging and engagement, and career preparation. The SLS is the only source of province-wide information about students' learning experiences through the perspectives of students, parents, guardians/caregivers, and school staff. Schools and districts use the SLS to make informed decisions around long-term planning and goal-setting, and in providing individual students personalized support.

Our grade 10 and 12 students will be surveyed in the Science 10 and English 12 classes in the coming weeks. The parent and guardian/caregiver survey is now available online at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm. Just choose "Direct Access" – District 45 West Vancouver and then your preferred language – there are 18 languages available. The survey will be open until **Friday, May 3rd**, and will take approximately **30 minutes to complete**. Your responses are voluntary and anonymous, and your child will not be identified as a result of your participation in the survey. Any personal or identifying information will be deleted before results are stored. Data will be stored and accessible only within Canada.

4. Careers & Counselling Corner

Parents as Education and Career Coaches (PECC) on **Wed. March 13, 2024**, from **6:30pm to 8pm**.

EducationPlannerBC and SD 45 West Vancouver invite parents, families, and student supporters to join our virtual workshop:

Learn how you can support your student in planning for their future. The information will be especially helpful for families with students in Grades 10-12.

The session is engaging and informative, and includes a website tour followed by a Q&A.

Topics include:

- B.C.'s post-secondary education landscape, including institutions and credentials
- Program and admission requirements, and application dates
- Costs of post-secondary and options for financial aid
- Career exploration resources, including **Find Your Path**
- Using new tools such as **My List** to save and compare programs
- Applying for admission through EducationPlannerBC.ca

Hosted on MS Teams webinar. Registration is required.

Register using [the link here](#). For more information: support@educationplannerbc.ca

Contact: LAlldred@wvschools.ca

Full link: https://teams.microsoft.com/registration/hYv2MdUvHkCipL2oXTKUsA,023L0iDNq00Zc8VMR-jypA,J6X-52eg8ketebErLeDcOA, cjPEssfrkueuDfA_S9JYA,oN-VU8mAUE2I6UQlItaViA,yOiclHjtTOGb0ZbUCU-Bdg?mode=read&tenantId=31f68b85-2fd5-401e-88a4-bda85d3294b0

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 an apprenticeship. If you are interested in hiring for any of the above, please contact Linda Caruth, lcaruth@wvschools.ca for more information.

Dream It, Be It Career Fair – March 6th 4- 7pm, Carson Graham Secondary

Dream It, Be It targets 16–21-year-old high school students or recent high school graduates who identify as female, transgender, non-binary, and Two-Spirit. This event will provide attendees with access to alternative career options, enhanced job opportunities, and support to live their dreams. See this **POSTER** for details.

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.

5. Grade 12 - 2024 Provincial Scholarship Awards (Secondary)

Scholarship Information for Parents of Gr. 12 Students

School Based Scholarship Applications, along with other Scholarship opportunities, are posted on our counselling website. <https://wvsscounselling.weebly.com/>

Students receive information on scholarships in their CLC 12 classes and through the Counselling office.

Please reach out to Linda Caruth, lcaruth@wvschools.ca if you have any questions about the process.

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.

6. 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

Illuminate Choral Ensembles (formerly the District Honour Choir Program) are open for auditions!

The Illuminate Ensembles are offered to students in Grades 8-12 across the West Vancouver School District who show an aptitude for and interest in choral singing. The choir courses will be held weekly on Tuesday nights at West Vancouver Secondary School. The Illuminate Treble Ensemble meets from 3:30–5:00 pm, the Illuminate Mixed Ensemble meets from 5:15-6:45pm, and the Lighthouse Ensemble (an invitational touring ensemble) meets from 7:00-9:00pm. Designed as courses to challenge and extend the learning of the district's finest choral singers, students must meet the pre-requisites for the course before applying. Pre-requisites can be found on the WV Schools website [here](#)

CARPENTRY: Youth Train in Trades applications open for 2024-2025

The West Van School District's Carpentry Program: Youth Train in Trades is for students who are keenly interested in acquiring industry recognized skills and certification in carpentry, construction and related trades. By completing this program students receive 16 credits (4 courses) towards high school graduation, in addition to Level 1 Carpentry Training. Students learn lifelong skills, participate in work experience, and have an opportunity to learn right on the job site! To learn more about the program visit <https://westvancouver.schools.ca/programs/youth-train-carpentry/train-in-trades-application-form/>. If you have any questions, please email Parnaz Kashani: pkashani@wvschools.ca

Youth Work in Trades

If your child is interested in pursuing a trade or just gaining experience in the trades industry, then the YWT program may be for them. Students can do an apprenticeship in a recognized trade and receive course credit, while also taking courses required for graduation. For any inquiries, please contact Linda Caruth: lcaruth@wvschools.ca

7. 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.

8. 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).

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

Volunteer with North Shore Highlands Challenger Baseball!

The Highlands Little League Challenger Baseball Division is seeking volunteers ≥ 13 years of age to help fill the role of "Buddy" for our upcoming 2024 season. This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone seeking a fun, rewarding experience working with youth and adults with disabilities, in an outdoor sports setting!

What does a Buddy do?

Each Highlands Challenger player is partnered with a “Buddy” - a volunteer who acts as partner, guide, protector and friend during game days. Buddies are responsible for keeping their player safe on the field, assisting their player with batting, running bases, and catching, and being supportive and uplifting to both their player and all the players at the field.

Challenger players look forward to the fun and friendship that comes with seeing their Buddy each week, and Buddies can look forward to not only a great time on the field, but also to gaining a greater appreciation of diversity and enhanced capacity for inclusion.

How can you get involved?

The 2024 Challenger season will run from Sat Apr 13/24 to Sat Jun 29/24 inclusive, with games played each Saturday from 10:00 to 11:15-11:30am (11 games total for the season). An all-day Jamboree event for all BC Challenger teams will also be scheduled in June for those able to attend, with details and location to be announced.



Want to get involved and join the Highlands Challenger Family? Please contact Highlands Buddy Coordinator Sophie Mariano at challengerbuddies@gmail.com or scan the QR Code for more information.

POLAR PLUNGE to support Special Olympics BC - Feb 29th

It is that time of the year for the North Shore Polar Plunge to support the Special Olympics BC; it will be held on February 29th, 2024 (1000 -1100 hours). West Vancouver Police Department, North Van RCMP, North Shore Rescue, and Law Courts will also attend.

Join WVPD and others for this refreshing dip at Ambleside Beach. You can scan the attached QR code in this email to donate or check out the website [North Shore Polar Plunge | PolarPlunge SOBC](https://www.northshorepolarplunge.com) ([crowdchange.ca](https://www.crowdfunder.com/crowdchange.ca))

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 between 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 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](#)

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