



WVSS Information Bulletin

A Weekly Update of School Information for Parents and Guardians

March 7, 2024

This information bulletin includes several updates for families:

1. Learning Report #2 – Friday March 8
2. Parent Messages in Yearbook 2023-24
3. 2024 Summer Learning with West Vancouver Schools
4. Career & Counselling Corner Updates
5. Grade 12 – Scholarship Updates
6. WVSS Athletics – Spring Sports Teams
7. Premier Academies and District Programs 2024-25
8. DAPC Virtual evening with Diana Divecha, PH.D
9. PAC – Optional Donation
10. School Fees
11. Community Events and Information

Important Calendar Reminders

Thursday March 7 – DPAC event - Diana Divecha, PH.D – Virtual workshop

Friday March 8 – Learning Update 2 Posted to MyEd

Wednesday March 13 - Parents as Education and Career Coaches – Virtual workshop

Friday March 15 – last day of classes before Spring Break

Wednesday March 20 – last day for grade 12 parent to submit yearbook messages

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

Monday April 8 - Summer Learning Registration opens at 8am

1. Formal Learning Update #2 (Report Card) – Friday March 8th

On March 8th, you will receive the Term 2 Learning Update. Parents and students will be alerted by email on Friday afternoon when the report cards are ready to be viewed. For each course, your child in grade 8-9 will receive a proficiency level and in grade 10-12 a letter grade/percentage in addition to

descriptive feedback about your child's strengths, areas for growth, as well as their learning habits and engagement. All grade 12s will also receive a "grad status update" to confirm that they are on track to graduate.

To learn more about grade 8-12 reporting please visit this website

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/reporting/resources-for-parents-and-caregivers> where you will find a video, set of slides and the answers to most of your questions. For quick reference – [here is a one pager](#) for parents and caregivers from the Ministry of Education.

2. Grade 12 Parent Messages in Yearbook – 2023-24

The yearbook staff is inviting parents of grade 12 graduating students to submit short messages to your graduate to be included in the yearbook! Please email your message to Adrienne Gruber (AGruber@wvschools.ca). Please include the full name of the student in the subject line, and make sure your message is 50 words or less. The final deadline to submit your message is March 20th, 2024.

3. 2024 Summer Learning with West Vancouver Schools – April 8th at 8am

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 2024. Online registration for both the elementary and secondary Summer Learning programs opens on Monday, April 8 at 8:00AM. 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](#).

4. Careers & Counselling Corner

Parents as Education and Career Coaches (PECC)

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/hYv2MdUvHkClpL2oXTKUsA,023L0iDNq00Zc8VMR-jypA,J6X-52eg8ketebErLeDcOA,_cjPEssfrkueuDfA_S9JYA,oN-VU8mAUE2l6UQlItaViA,yOiclHjtT0Gb0ZbUCU-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.

CAMP IGNITE Mentorship Program - August 2024!

The Camp Ignite Mentorship program is open to girls in grades 11 – 12 (ages 15 – 18) living in British Columbia. This is an amazing confidence builder and encouragement to realize your future possibilities. The camp runs from August 8th to 11th, 2024 and the deadline for applications is May 1st, 2024. See [CAMP IGNITE 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. 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).

7. 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

2024-25 Baseball Academy Open House on Monday, March 11 at 7pm – West Van Secondary (Room C302)

Please join us for an information session on the West Van Schools Baseball Academy. Our coaches will provide detailed information on this outstanding program and will answer any questions that you may have. The Academy is an excellent way to incorporate technical and tactical training within the school timetable and helps to prepare students for team tryouts and post-secondary endeavors.

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

8. WVSS DPAC PARENT EVENT – March 7th, 2024 – Virtual

Please join us for an evening with Diana Divecha, PH.D. We are all connected: How families can support children's K – 12 Peer Relationships. In order to receive your link to the virtual event, please register at DPAC@wvschools.ca **March 7th 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**

9. 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.

10. School Fees 2023-2024 Overdue

2023/2024 School fees are now overdue. Please log in here to pay your outstanding fees: <https://westvancouver.schoolcashonline.com/>. If you have not signed in before, you will need your child's Student Pupil number (not the PEN number) which can be found on MyEd or on a previous report card. You can find Registration Instructions here. Please contact Taryn Patterson (tpatterson@wvsschools.ca) in the main office if you have any questions or assistance with logging in.

COMMUNITY EVENTS SECTION

Executive Functioning Group & Coaching (for students 16+)

Compass Clinic is currently offering a 9-week program for a group of students ages 16 and above who are struggling academically or personally due to Executive Functioning. There will be 2 weekly sessions: a group session and a one-on-one session. More information and the flyer can be downloaded from [here](#). Compass Clinic also offers personalized Executive Functioning coaching and support for students. Reach out to the Compass Clinic for more information and to discuss how they can help <http://compassclinic.ca>

POPARD Resources and Pro-D for March & April

POPARD has a variety of VIRTUAL training opportunities scheduled for March & April of 2024

- Mar 12 (3:30-4:30pm) or
- Mar 13 (12-1pm) Friendships: Strategies & supports for Autistic Children & Youth

POPARD training events (and registration links) are posted on their website at

<https://autismoutreach.ca/upcoming-training-dates/>

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.

Understanding Sextortion in Today’s Digital Landscape – March 12th 9am

Join us for a complimentary educational session where we will discuss the intricacies of sextortion, how it can happen, best practice for supporting targets/ victims, and essential insights on how to protect yourself and today's youth in the digital age.

Date: March 12, 2024

Location: Live Streamed to your location (via Zoom)*

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Pacific Standard Time

A Safe Schools Complimentary Educational Session [Register here](#)

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](http://bit.ly/WVSSlockers2023) 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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