



WVSS Information Bulletin

A Weekly Update of School Information for Parents and Guardians

March 14, 2024

This information bulletin includes several updates for families:

1. Spring Fling Music Concert - April 16th
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. PAC – Optional Donation
9. School Fees
10. Community Events and Information

Important Calendar Reminders

Friday March 15 – last day of classes before Spring Break

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

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

Tuesday April 2 – First day back from Spring Break & Easter (Day 1 -3124)

Tuesday April 2 – Spring Fling, WVSS Music concert tickets now available -\$5.00

Monday April 8 - Summer Learning Registration opens at 8am

April 15 – 18 – Literacy 10 Graduation Assessments - All Grade 10s

Tuesday April 16 – Spring Fling, WVSS Music Concert at 6:30 pm – Kay Meek

Thursday April 25 – Collaboration Day: Classes start at 9:30am (No FIT)

1. WVSS Performing Arts Presents: SPRING FLING! Music Concert, Tuesday, April 16, 6:30 PM, Kay Meek Grosvenor Theatre

The West Vancouver Secondary Performing Arts is pleased to present **Spring Fling!** on Tuesday, April 16 at 6:30 PM in the Kay Meek Grosvenor Theatre. This annual Spring music concert will feature performances by the Junior Concert Band, Senior Concert Band, Concert Choir, Chamber Choir, Orchestra, Jazz Band and Rock Band. Tickets for the concert are \$5 with proceeds supporting the programs. Tickets will be available starting Tuesday, April 2 from teachers (Ms. Fulton , Ms. Shin & Mr. Daudlin), at the main office or at the door of the concert. We look forward to seeing you there

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

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

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 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.

9. School Fees 2023-2024 Overdue

2023/2024 School fees are now overdue. Please log in here to pay your outstanding fees:

<https://westvancouver.schoolcashionline.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@wvschools.ca) in the main office if you have any questions or assistance with logging in.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & INFORMATION SECTION

Measles Vaccinations Prior to Spring Break Travel

Measles is a contagious, airborne virus. There is a high risk of measles cases being brought back to B.C. due to ongoing measles outbreaks globally and decreasing vaccination coverage rates in Canada. Public Health Agency of Canada and the Provincial Health Officer and the BC Centre for Disease Control have issued statements advising individuals to check their measles immunization records and to vaccinate against measles prior to Spring Break travel. Vaccine appointments can be booked through local public health units.

Youth Action Grants

Youth Action Grants of up to \$750 are available to BC youth aged 12-19 to deliver projects that:

- Promote well-being.
- Build connections.
- Tackle inequalities.

Applications should be informed by findings from the BC Adolescent Health Survey (mcs.bc.ca/ahs) and supported by at least one adult. Application forms are available at mcs.bc.ca/youth_action_grants
Questions? Email: yag@mcs.bc.ca Phone : 604.291.1996 ext 235

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>


Digital Resources to Combat the Exploitation and Trafficking of Minors

[The Prevention Project](#) is a project that Tiana Sharifi and the Ally Global Foundation have been working on and is now public and ready to share. The Prevention Project is an online hub of free, interactive digital resources to combat the exploitation and trafficking of minors in Canada. Developed in consultation with survivors and education experts, these resources have been created to empower children and youth (Grades 3-12) with knowledge on safe relationships, cybersafety, the risks of trafficking, red flags of grooming, and so much more. We have also created it with safe adults in mind, adding facilitation tips to each page, and making all resources free to download through the library page.

Substance Use Prevention Presentation: A Guide for Parents – Presentation with Dr. Watson

On February 22, Dr. Haley Watson in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Child Care presented on Substance Use Prevention – A Guide for Parents. The presentation covered the following topics:

- What causes substance use in youth?
- What skills do young people need to prevent/overcome this?
- How can parent communicate effectively to encourage this skill building?

The presentation can be found in the portal  [Substance Use Prevention Slides - Dr. Hayley Watson \(Feb 22\).pdf](#) and the video recording can be found at the following site: [Substance Use Prevention Recording](#)

POPARD Resources and Pro-D for March & April

POPARD has a variety of training opportunities scheduled for March & April of 2024. POPARD training events (and registration links) are posted on their website at <https://autismoutreach.ca/upcoming-training-dates/>

Adaptive Soccer Program

The West Vancouver Soccer Club is expanding their adaptive program for Neurodivergent players and are going to be offering Spring Break Camps. The link for registration can be found [HERE](#)

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.



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**](#)