



WVSS Information Bulletin

A Weekly Update of School Information for Parents and Guardians

May 9, 2024

This information bulletin includes several updates for families:

1. Park Royal North – School Special Bus starting Friday
2. Grade 12 Graduation 2024 Information
3. Highlander Yearbook – 2023-24 orders
4. Grad Show 2024 – May 9 – June 2nd
5. Grad Assessments – Results and June dates
6. Youth & Vaping – Rockridge Secondary - June 12th
7. Homestay Families Needed
8. 2024 Summer Learning with West Vancouver Schools
9. Career & Counselling Corner Updates
10. First Responders Club
11. WVSS Athletics – Spring Sports Teams
12. Premier Academies and District Programs 2024-25
13. PAC - Grad signs!
14. School Fees
15. Community Events and Information

Important Calendar Reminders

Wednesday April 17 to May 17th – I.B. Exams

Wednesday May 15 – WVSS Zone Band Night – 7pm at Kay Meek

Friday May 17 – Pro D Day – No Classes in session

Monday May 20 – Victoria Day – Schools are closed

Wednesday May 22 – District Honour 10th Anniversary Concert & Celebration – Centennial Theatre

Saturday May 25 – WVSS Grad Banquet – 6pm – Westin Bayshore

Tues & Wed May 28 & 29 – Grade 7 Orientation at WVSS (9AM-12PM)

Thursday May 30 – Collaboration Day – classes start at 9:30am

1. School Special Bus – Park Royal North - starting Friday May 10th

With the #257 bus not running as usual this has caused some capacity issues for Park Royal buses and students arriving on time. West Van Transit will make the following adjustment starting tomorrow until the #257 returns as normal.

NEW: Park Royal North – “School Special Bus” will arrive at 8:03 and leave Park Royal at 8:10am

Students & staff should take this larger (conventional) “SCHOOL SPECIAL” bus at Park Royal. It will be labelled as “school special”. **Students should NOT get on the 8:05 smaller shuttle bus** which cannot accommodate everyone. The “School Special” will wait to pick up students/staff transferring from a Rapid Transit coast mountain bus and then depart at 8:10am, arriving at WVSS for about 8:24am.

2. Grade 12 Graduation 2024 Information – Ticket Sales

Tickets for the Banquet, May 25th and Commencement, June 11th are now on sale. Please refer to the attached [Grad Information Bulletin](#) for all the details on purchasing tickets.

3. Yearbook 2023-24

Greetings all Highlander Parents,

This is a friendly reminder that the **2023/2024 WVSS Yearbooks** are still available for purchase, in limited supply! It is the Yearbook Crew’s aim to convey WVSS Student life, highlights of the year, photos, events, and ultimately represent the school's creativity, fun times, and memories that students have achieved throughout the year. Students will receive the book before the end of the school year, and there will be opportunities to have it signed by teachers, friends, and peers, and to reflect on all the positive moments they’ve experienced at WVSS through the 2023/2024 school year. Thank you so much and please click the link below to purchase the yearbook!

<https://westvancouver.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/26040/105/False/True>

4. Grad Show 2024

West Vancouver Schools presents the Grad Show 2024 opening May 9th – June 2nd at the Ferry Building Gallery in West Vancouver. This is an annual mixed media exhibition by graduation students from Colling School, Mulgrave School, Rockridge Secondary, Sentinel Secondary and West Vancouver Secondary. See [this Poster](#) for all the details.

5. Graduation Assessments – Literacy 12 Results and Numeracy 10

Students who wrote a Graduation Assessment in January can find their results on the MyEd portal. If you wish to re-write in June, please inform Ms. Hee-Jeung Kong in the office. Students who wrote an assessment in April (Literacy 10) should have their results by late May.

The next round of Graduation Assessments will be June 10 to 14 for all grade 10 students who will write Numeracy 10. Students who have not done Literacy 10 or 12 will also write in June. Please see Ms. Tanfara with any questions.

6. Youth & Vaping - Information, Consideration & Impacts – June 12th

Vaping has continued to decline in our schools, and we are committed to ensuring school environments are tobacco and vape free. However, we know that vaping still occurs. In addition to ongoing student education, our schools regularly monitor and supervise all school spaces and post visuals in our schools reminding students that our facilities are vape free. One of the ways we would like to support our

families and youth in learning more about vaping is partnering with Foundry for an upcoming series entitled “Youth & Vaping – Information, Considerations & Impacts” on June 12th at Rockridge Secondary. This evening event will be led by keynote speakers: Lindsay MacDonald and Lauren Wilkinson, both of whom have extensive knowledge surrounding the world of youth and vaping. Registration for this event will come out in mid-May. Topics to be discussed will include: Youth vaping rates, Stats, Products, Industry influence, Health impacts including addictions and local supports for youth.

7. Homestay Families Needed

Each year, the West Vancouver School District welcomes students from around the world to live and study in our vibrant community. We strive to place secondary school international students with families who live in West Vancouver to support each student’s integration into the school and wider community.

1. Share your home and your heart
2. Full-service homestay team support
3. \$28,000* in reimbursements
4. Single placements and 5-month students available

*Based on two international student both hosted from September to June.

If you are interested in hosting an international student, please reach out to our Homestay Coordinators at homestay@wvschools.ca. More information about the homestay program is available on our website at <https://westvancouver.schools.ca/international/>.

8. 2024 Summer Learning with West Vancouver Schools

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 is now open. Elementary registration closes on May 10. Secondary registration closes on June 14.

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](#).

9. Careers & Counselling Corner

Grade 7 to Grade 12 Volunteers needed:

West Van schools is looking for Grades 7-12 student volunteers to support the West Van Schools Pavilion and Stage on May 31st and June 1st. See [this poster](#) for all the details.

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!

10. WVSS Athletics

Spring Sports:

Spring Sports are here! We are off to a strong start with our spring sports.

Information for team meetings and more will be posted near the gym.

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).

11. 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

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

12. WVSS Parent Advisory Council - Grad signs!

Grad 2024 signs:

PARENTS & SUPPORTERS OF WEST VANCOUVER SECONDARY 2024 GRADS

ORDER YOUR YARD SIGN TODAY!

2024 West Vancouver Custom Yard Signs are ready to be ordered. Help celebrate your Grad or to show community spirit to all our WVSS Graduates. Orders are made through WVSS PAC.

Additional signs will be ordered by WVSS PAC to be placed at the front of the school in June.

They are produced locally and will be available by Friday, May 24th, prior to the Grad Banquet, to allow parents to take memorable photos prior to the event.

Cost: \$15 per sign – See the [attached poster](#)

Virtual Parent Workshops – PARENTING TEENS! Please see [this Poster](#) for details on the Virtual Parenting Teen workshops. The next one is “Developing Resilience in Teens” on May 28th. The TEAMS links will be provided closer to the date.

2023/2024 Optional PAC Contribution: 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.

13. 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@wvschools.ca) in the main office if you have any questions or assistance with logging in.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & INFORMATION SECTION

NATIONAL FORUM ON PHYSICAL MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL HEALTH – Active Youth!

Registration details on the attached poster! Sunday, June 2nd at Sentinel Secondary

NATIONAL FORMU OH PHYSICAL MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL HEALTH – Walk with your Doc!

Registration details on the attached poster! Saturday, June 1st at Park Royal South [add posters](#)

An Evening Event with Valerie Jerome!

Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024 – 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Please join us for a discussion with author, education, Olympian and advocate hosted by broadcasters Kevin Evans. This event will be at the Kay Meek Theatre, 1700 Mathers Avenue, West Vancouver, B. C.

Please register [here](#) for this free event!

CMHA Mental Health Week: May 6-12

A Call to be KIND is this year's theme for Canadian Mental Health Associations Mental Health Week and will center on the healing power of compassion. Resources are available at their website:

<https://cmha.ca/mental-health-week/toolkits/>

West Vancouver Memorial Library e-newsletter

The WVML Late April / May 2024 e-newsletter for kids, families and educators is here! We still have lots going on, even with the weather taking a beautiful turn. As always: everything is free, open to all and no library card is required.

See our E-newsletter here: <https://wvmlbc.patronpoint.com/email/preview/200>

West Vancouver Basketball Club Summer Camps

The WVBC is proud to be offering its 16th year of summer camps this July and August. This year, the WVBC will be offering 4 weeks of camps beginning July 8 for players in Grades 2-10. All camps will be held at West Van Secondary School and will be led by former Canadian Men's National Team player and WVS Teacher/ Basketball Academy Head Coach Greg Meldrum. To view the full schedule of camps and to register, please go to <http://www.wvbc.ca>

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.

POPARD Resources and Pro-D for March & April

POPARD has a variety of training opportunities scheduled for April, 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](#) .

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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