



WEST VANCOUVER SECONDARY E-BULLETIN

A Weekly Update of School Information for Parents and Guardians

December 19, 2024

NEW UPDATES:

1. FAST (First Aid Swim Training) Program

REMINDERS:

2. Parent as Education and Career Coaches virtual event: January 7, 2025
3. West Vancouver Schools Registration Opens January 15th, 2025
4. Personal Digital Device Expectations
5. Grad Assessments: January 13-24, 2025
6. IB Information Night: January 20, 2025
7. Safe Driving around WVSS
8. Winter Weather
9. Homestay families needed
10. Community Connections and Events

Calendar Reminders

December 23- January 5: School Closed for Winter Holidays

January 6: School Re-Opens - Classes begin at 8:30am

January 7: Parents as Education and Career Coaches presentation



January 8: Open House for incoming Grade 8 families - WVSS Gym - 6:30pm

January 13-24: Graduation Assessments - Literacy 12

January 15: West Vancouver Schools Registration Opens

January 20: IB Open House for Grade 8-10 families - Kay Meek Theater - 7:00pm

January 27: District Professional Development Day (School not in session)

January 29: Parent Teacher Interviews - 1:00-3:00pm & 3:30-5:00 pm

January 30: Collaboration Day – Late Start at 9:30am

1. FAST (First Aid Swim Training) Program

Applications for the 2025-2026 School Year Are Now Open!

The **First Aid Swim Training (FAST) Program** is a unique opportunity for students to develop the essential skills and confidence to become successful lifeguards while also building leadership and resilience.

By the end of the program, students will earn **key certifications** that are prerequisites for the **National Lifeguard Course**, which they can take independently at age 15 or older. Completing the National Lifeguard Course qualifies students to work as lifeguards, opening doors to meaningful, in-demand employment.

Certifications earned in FAST include:

- **Bronze Medallion**
- **Bronze Cross**
- **Standard First Aid & CPR-C**

Program Highlights:

In addition to earning certifications, the FAST Program provides a practical foundation in:

- **First Aid Training:** Building strong emergency response skills



- **Swimming and Stroke Development:** Improving confidence and technique in the water
- **Cardiovascular and Resistance Training:** Developing fitness and endurance
- **Leadership Development:** Encouraging teamwork, communication, and responsibility

This program is ideal for students interested in aquatics, leadership, and gaining valuable job-ready skills.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE AND APPLY NOW!](#)

2. Parents as Education and Career Coaches

EducationPlannerBC invites parents, families, and student supporters to join our virtual presentation on **Tuesday, January 7, 2025: 6:30pm-7:45pm**

- Registration is required. [Register here.](#)
- The session will be on MS Teams.

Learn about post-secondary education and career opportunities, as well as tools to best support your student in planning for their future. The information will be especially helpful for families with students in grades 10-12.

Come explore our website! Search thousands of programs, get to know trades, and discover career paths. Find helpful resources, including financial aid options, admission requirements, FAQs, and the Glossary. Learn how to create an account, save programs, paths, and careers to My List, and apply to post-secondary in B.C.

- For more information: support@educationplannerbc.ca
- School district contact: Leesa Alldred LAlldred@wvschools.ca
- Also note, we will not be recording the session. We will, however, email all registrants the next day with some links and resources shared during the presentation.



3. West Vancouver Schools Registration Opens January 15th, 2025

K-12 registration for both in-district and out-of-district students opens on January 15! If you have students in your family or network who are looking to join our district, please help spread the word about this important date.

West Vancouver Schools offer a wonderful opportunity to be part of a community that values excellence in education. Our schools take pride in creating meaningful learning experiences and providing opportunities that support the growth, well-being, and success of every student.

To learn more about registration expectations and processes, please visit our admissions page: [West Vancouver Schools Admissions](#)

We look forward to welcoming new students and families to our vibrant and supportive school community!

4. Personal Digital Device Expectations

As we reflect on the first four months of the school year, we're proud to recognize the progress we've made together in implementing our Personal Digital Device (PDD) expectations. Thanks to the collective efforts of our students, families, and staff, we've seen a significant improvement in how digital devices are used in our schools. This has fostered more focused and engaged learning environments, aligning with our shared goal of supporting student success.

This success would not have been possible without everyone's ongoing support and commitment. While we celebrate these strides, it's important that we remain consistent in maintaining these expectations and continue to remind and support students to ensure this positive momentum is sustained.

Why We're Doing This

The purpose of these expectations is to minimize distractions and maximize learning opportunities. Digital devices, when used appropriately, are powerful tools for collaboration, creativity, and communication. However, ensuring they don't interrupt instructional time or disrupt the learning environment remains a priority.



What You Can Continue to Do

Here are some ways families can help reinforce these expectations at home:

1. Celebrate Progress -Acknowledge your child's efforts in adhering to the guidelines and discuss how this has positively impacted their focus and learning.
2. Reinforce Healthy Habits - Continue encouraging a balanced approach to device use at home by promoting activities like reading, outdoor play, and family time.
3. Model Consistency - Show your support by modeling mindful device use when on the school grounds or in the school building AND during shared family time.
4. Support School Communication - Please avoid contacting your child during instructional time, this includes communication through phones and smartwatches. Remind them that non-urgent messages can wait until after school. If urgent communication is needed, please contact the school office.
5. Stay Engaged - Revisit the Parent/Guardian Guide to Personal Digital Devices to refresh your understanding of the expectations and discuss them with your child.

Thank you for your partnership and continued support in making this initiative a success.

5. Grad Assessments: Jan. 13-24, 2025

From January 13-24th, **ALL grade 12 students** will write the Literacy 12 Graduation Assessment. Grade 12 Students will receive information via their **school email** indicating the **date and time of their assessment**.

Please note that this Graduation Assessments **is required for graduation purposes**. Students should prepare for this Literacy 12 assessment and attempt the sample assessments. Sample assessment and more information on Graduation Assessments can be found [HERE](#).

If students have questions, they can see Ms. Frith in the office or email at sfrith@wvschools.ca.



6. IB Information Meeting Monday, January 20, 7pm

Students in grade 8-10 and their families are invited to the **Kay Meek Theatre** to learn more about the IB Programme at WVSS. We offer a Pre-Diploma year for grade 10s, as well as the IB Diploma and IB Course (Certificate) Programmes in grade 11 & 12.

See our website for information: [Welcome to the IB Diploma Programme at WVSS!](#)

7. Safe Driving around WVSS:

Parents/Guardians/Student Drivers: This is an important reminder to practice safe and legal driving on Mathers and Inglewood Avenue. **U-turns, speeding, stopping in the middle of the road to drop off a student are illegal.** We have seen far too many people not follow the proper driving rules and we are very concerned an accident will take place.

8. Winter Weather

With the temps dropping and possible winter conditions upon us - Please check the [school district website](#) for the most current information on school closures.

9. Homestay Families Needed!

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/>.

10. Community Connections and Events

To stay updated with community events in West Vancouver, please check out this link:

<https://westvancouver.schools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2425-Community-Connections-Ebulletins-Dec19.pdf>



On behalf of the WVSS Staff, we wish you a safe, restful and wonderful winter break with family and friends.

