



## WEST VANCOUVER SECONDARY E-BULLETIN

### *A Weekly Update of School Information for Parents and Guardians*

**January 16, 2025**

#### **NEW UPDATES:**

**1. Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence Course - Gr.11/12 Students**

#### **REMINDERS:**

2. PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE SIGN UP!
3. PAC Coffee Morning: Jan. 22 at 9am
4. PHE Outdoor Education Program - 2025/26
5. IB Information Night: January 20, 2025
6. FAST (First Aid Swim Training) Program
7. Personal Digital Device Expectations for 2025
8. Safe Driving around WVSS
9. Winter Weather
10. Homestay families needed
11. Community Connections and Events

#### **Calendar Reminders**

**January 20-23:** Literacy 12 Assessments

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

**January 22:** PAC Coffee morning - 9:00am



**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. Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence Course:**

**Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence** is a hands-on project based course offered to students in Grades 11 and 12 who are attending Rockridge, Sentinel or West Van Secondary.

Students learn the theory and apply it to practical projects in the fields of Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence. Students have an opportunity to prepare for external certifications in Cybersecurity, Networking, Internet of Things, Programming, CompTIA, and Data Science from Cisco Networking Academy.

Students can also participate in international competitions such as CyberPatriot, Desmos Math Art Contest, and others. The course aims at helping students prepare a portfolio they can use for university applications.

More details about the course are at <https://cybersecurityand.ai/> and students can sign up at <https://westvancouver.schools.ca/programs/cybersecurity-ai/>.

Please email Dr. Mahesh Chugani ([mchugani@wvschools.ca](mailto:mchugani@wvschools.ca)) with any questions or for more information.

### **2. PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES – Virtual - January 29th, 2025**

**REGISTRATION OPENS January 17th, @ 9:00 a.m.**

Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, January 29th from 1:00 – 3:00pm and 3:30 – 5:00 pm.

These meetings are for all WVSS courses. Meetings will be virtual using Google Meet.

You may create an account and register for appointments using School Appointments Online starting at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, January 17th.

<https://westvan.schoolappointments.com>



Please note:

- 4 bookings per student per family may be made at this time.
- More bookings can be made after January 23rd. Bookings will close at 10:00 pm on January 27th.
- Student's lists of courses and teachers can be found under the Family tab on the MyEducation BC portal <https://myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspern/logon.do> or by asking your student.
- If using MyEd, remember to have the schedule set to LIST VIEW not MATRIX VIEW.
- [HERE](#) are the instructions for how to book appointments
- [HERE](#) are the instructions for how to take part in the google meet interviews on January 29th. Students will be dismissed at 12:00 p.m. on January 29th.

### **3. NEW YEAR 2025 PAC COFFEE MORNING**

**OPEN TO ALL PARENTS**

**ON:** Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2025

**AT:** WVSS SCHOOL CAFETERIA (NORTH CAMPUS – MIDDLE FLOOR –CENTRAL)

**TIME:** 9.00AM

With holiday celebrations behind us and lots of new things going on including the new track being completed, join the WVSS PAC and Principal, Mr. Rauh for an update coffee morning . Mr. Rauh and the WVSS PAC Executive will be available to answer questions you may have. It is also a great opportunity to meet other parents and feel connected to the school. See you on the 22<sup>nd</sup>!

### **4. PHE Outdoor Recreation Program**

Ready to take your PHE experience to the next level? The district is offering a PHE Outdoor Recreation program for grades 10-12, with grade 9 students eligible by PHE teacher recommendations. Students in the program will experience many outdoor adventures such as kayaking, sailing, snowshoeing, and skiing, and will participate in multi-day backpacking and kayaking trips. Throughout the year, students will work towards certifications such as Avalanche Safety, Remote First Aid, Belaying, and Paddle Canada (Kayaking). When we're not out on exciting trips, we stay local, honing our skills like knot tying, shelter building, teamwork, and compass reading, or playing



games. This course is about learning how to recreate responsibly while having fun as you encounter new challenges and explore the natural world. And the best part? No experience is necessary—just bring your enthusiasm and a desire to be outside.

If you're ready to get outside, try new things, and make unforgettable memories, check out the program on the West Vancouver Schools website for more details and application information: West Vancouver Schools Outdoor Recreation Program.

<https://westvancouver schools.ca/programs/outdoor-recreation>

### **5. IB Information Session January 20 7pm, Kay Meek Centre**

*For parents and students (grade 9 and 10)*

Are you interested in the International Baccalaureate programme at WVSS? IB is a 2-year enriched university-preparation programme. Students can take the full IB Diploma, or choose 1 to 3 IB subjects. We also offer a pre-Diploma year for grade 10 students.

Please join us for a presentation about the programme.

You can also find lots of information on our website:

<https://westvancouver schools.ca/ib/>

### **6. 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!](#)

### **7. Personal Digital Device Expectations for the New Year**

As we begin a new term, we'd like to remind students and families of our Personal Digital Device (PDD) expectations, which have been key to fostering focused and engaging learning environments.

Students are expected to use personal digital devices only with the explicit permission of a teacher or administrator, ensuring their use is intentional and supports learning.

Families can continue to support this by:

- Encouraging balanced screen time at home.
- Avoiding calls or texts to students during school hours.
- Modeling mindful device use when on school property and at home.



## **8. 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.

## **9. 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.

## **10. Homestay Families Needed!**

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

## **11. 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/2025/01/2425-Community-Connections-Ebulletins-Jan-15.pdf>

**Stay Informed: Keep Your Address & Contact Information Up to Date!**

