

# HIGHLANDER HAPPENINGS

## GRADE 8 NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER, 2024 - VOLUME 2



### GRADE 8s!

What a fantastic first month of school!

It has been a wonderful start to the year with students transitioning well into high school.

### OCTOBER DATES



- 10:** CLUBS DAY
- 14:** THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
- 22:** PHOTO RETAKES
- 25:** PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY  
(SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION)
- 31:** COLLABORATION DAY: 9:30AM START

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## September highlights!

### HOUSE GAMES

Mr. Kozak led the grade 8s in house games. Each student is on a 'house team', which is their team until they graduate!

**Grizzlies = Red**  
**Orcas = Black**  
**Thunderbird = Yellow**  
**Wolf = White**

It was a beautiful sunny day and wonderful to see the students get to know each other on Day 2 of grade 8!



Mr. Kozak leading the games

Mr. MacGillivray and Meldrum tallying points





## Pinnacle Pursuit Team Building Day

Grade 8s finished their first week of high school at Ambleside engaging in team-building activities with their house teams!

It was another beautiful sunny day, filled with interactive and fun activities!



**Ms. Rice helping out**



**4 way tug of war.....and the ORCAS were victorious!**



## Terry Fox Run

Thank you to the PHE department for organizing a walk/run for Terry with their PHE classes. Students watched a moving video about Terry Fox and his call for action to find a cure to cancer.

## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Thank you to Ms. Cormier for organizing week-long events to commemorate National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Staff and students ended the week with a school-wide assembly and nature walk to honour our National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.



Looking for ways to get involved?

## CLUBS DAY IS COMING UP....

**OCTOBER 10**

Students will have the opportunity to visit the booths set up in the gym. There are **60 clubs to choose from!** This is an incredible opportunity to connect with students in other grades who share the same interests.



# Staff SPOTLIGHT

## Ms. Rice

**Born and raised:** North Vancouver

**Post secondary education route:**

UBC: B.A in political Science

UBC: B.Ed

City University: M.Ed in School  
Counselling

**Dream travel destination:**

Argentina as I've never been to South  
America.

**Teaching assignment this year:**

Grade 8/9 Counsellor

**Most adventurous thing done:** I moved to the  
Northwest Territories for two years to teach  
in a community of 450 people. It was such an  
interesting experience for me.

**Favourite food:** Definitely sushi!

**Favourite genre of music and books:**

Christmas music and graphic novels!

**Favourite sports/activities:** Volleyball and  
Softball...and down time. I love down time.

**Fun facts:** I love working in the school system.  
Working with a team of adults who value the  
healthy development of kids is such a joy.  
Healthy kids build healthy futures.





# Staff SPOTLIGHT

## Mr. Plant

**Born and raised:** North Vancouver.

**Post secondary education route:**

UBC: Bachelors in Kinesiology

UBC: BEd

Queen's University: Inclusive Ed

**Teaching assignment this year:**

Gr.8/9 Learning Support Teacher

**Favourite food:** Hands down, it is pizza!

**Genre of music & books:** Hip Hop, Country and Rock music. I read fictional crime: specifically Michael Connelly novels.

**Dream travel destination:** New Zealand and Japan.

**Most adventurous thing done:** I'm a fan of rollercoasters!

**Favourite sports/activities:** Coaching, being a dad, watching NFL games on Sundays (esp. Seattle Seahawks!) exploring new places in the outdoors.

Played football in university and played competitive club rugby for a long time.

**Fun facts:**

My father is a WVSS grad and my parents both worked at WVSS. I played rugby for 36 years...from September, 1988 until July 2024!

I've been an extra on two TV shows; one being 21 Jump Street (sadly, no scenes with Johnny Depp) and I met the actor Chris Hemsworth (Thor in the MCU) at a rugby game!

