

HIGHLANDER HAPPENINGS

GRADE 8 NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY - VOLUME 7



Grade 8s!

You're wrapping up two of three terms and have planned for Grade 9!
Great job reflecting on your Explorations rotations and preparing for an exciting year ahead.

MARCH DATES



- 5-7: WVSS THEATRE: COVEN**
(7:00 PM, KAY MEEK THEATRE)
- 7: LEARNING UPDATE POSTED**
- 11: WVSS SPRING MUSIC CONCERT**
(6:00 PM, KAY MEEK THEATRE)
- 17-28: SPRING BREAK**

March						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	2025		

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FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS!

Explorations rotation

Mr. Lo's metal working class make cell phone holders.



Mr. Zimmerman's media art class editing their "Jumpy Bouncy" videos using Adobe Premiere Pro.



Ms. Shin's Grade 8 Orchestra preparing for the Spring Fling concert:



Ms. Gruber's class learning to weave:





Classroom highlights

Ms. Reeymeyer's French 8 class practiced correct pronunciation and fluency by performing dialogues in French.



Ms. Hewton's Science 8 class learned how light travels in a straight line, causing the image of the flame to flip on the screen.



Athletics

Our Grade 8 basketball teams showed tremendous growth over the season. Well done, athletes, and thank you to our coaches and sponsors.



LET'S READ

Available at the WVSS Library.

Nonfiction feature:

Match Annual 2025

MATCH, the UK's best-selling soccer annual, delivers epic player interviews, the UK & Ireland dream team, and must-know stats. Get the latest on Messi, Ronaldo, Kane, Salah, Mbappé, Bellingham, Haaland, and more!



Fiction feature:

Out of My Dreams by Sharon Draper

Melody, a bright nonverbal tween with cerebral palsy, returns in the final book of this acclaimed series. In the first instalment (now on Disney+), she finds a device that lets her communicate, proving her intelligence to doubting classmates. Now, she's invited to London for a conference on accessibility, facing new challenges and opportunities. This series offers a powerful window into the experiences of those living with disabilities.



Indigenous novel feature:

Walking in Two Worlds by Wab Kinew

A thrilling, high-tech page-turner about a socially awkward teen who feels more success in the virtual gaming world than in her real life on the rez. This thought-provoking story explores real-world teen struggles with identity, toxic masculinity, complicated family and cultural dynamics, as well as generational shifts relating to technology.



Graphic Memoir feature:

A First Time for Everything by Dan Santat

In 1989, 13-year-old Dan Santat reluctantly embarked on a three-week European trip. Fresh off a tough school year, he wasn't expecting much—until new friends, a crush, and a supportive teacher changed his perspective. From his first kiss to getting lost alone at night, this engaging graphic memoir captures the thrills and challenges of self-discovery.



Staff SPOTLIGHT

Ms. Trousdell

Born and raised:

I was born in Hong Kong and moved to Ontario when I was nine years old.

Post secondary education route:

Queen's University - Bachelor of Science (Biology and Geography)
Queen's University - Bachelor of Education
UBC - Masters in Library and Information Studies

Teaching assignment this year:

Teacher-Librarian

Favourite food: Asian Hot Pot, Ramen**Favourite genre of music:**

I studied classical piano for 15 years, so I have an affinity for J.S. Bach, Brahms and Shostakovich. As a teen in the 90s, I listened to a lot of Tori Amos and Steven Page.

Favourite genre of books:

Narrative Nonfiction and graphic novels.

**Most adventurous things done:**

Going on the Leviathan too many times in Canada's Wonderland.
Teaching in Guatemala City and Kuwait City.
Traveling by train through the Golden Triangle in India.
Riding in a tandem bike behind Mr Rauh at a staff event during my first year of teaching at WVSS.

Dream travel destination:

My favourite vacation is camping with my family at Pachena Bay, near Bamfield on Vancouver Island. I've always wanted to take my kids to China, so we are heading to Beijing and Yunnan this summer!

Favourite sports/activities: Reading and eating snacks in my comfy clothes, skiing (very slowly), snowshoeing and cycling. Playing long and complicated board games, and watching my son play hockey.

Fun Facts: Although I only have one cat (a rescue named Syd after Sydney Crosby), I am a proud cat lady. Luckily, Taylor Swift made that a cool thing to be!

Staff SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Rauh

Born and raised: North Vancouver

Post secondary education route:
Capilano University and SFU: Bachelor of Arts (Geography)
UBC: Bachelor of Education
U of Phoenix: Master's of Education

Teaching assignment this year:
Principal

Favourite food: Burger and fries



Dream travel destination: Egypt

Most adventurous thing done: Hiked a volcano in Bali

Favourite genre of music: Classic Rock

Favourite activities:
Cycle, hike, river raft.

Fun facts:
I ride a motorcycle and have completed some epic road trips.