

HIGHLANDER HAPPENINGS

GRADE 8 NEWSLETTER



MAY - VOLUME 9

With only a few weeks left until classes end on June 23, we're excited to see our Grade 8 students finish strong. This edition highlights our May events, including welcoming our future Highlanders during the Grade 7 tours!



JUNE 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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					

- June 5:** “Let’s Talk Shop” | WVSS | 6:00 pm-8:30 pm
- June 6:** “Rogue” Fashion & Choir Show Kay Meek Theatre | 7:00 pm
- June 6 & 7:** West Vancouver Community Cultural Fest
- June 11:** Music & Dance Year End Performing Arts Concert | Kay Meek Theatre | 7:00 pm
- June 12:** Film/Media/Animation Evening | Kay Meek Theatre | 7:00pm
- June 13:** Food Truck Friday (more details in the weekly e-bulletin)
- June 19:** WVSS Rock Band Concert | Kay Meek Studio | 7:00 pm
- June 23:** Last Day of Regular Classes
- June 26:** Summary of Learning – Posted on-line
- June 27:** Administration Day – Staff Only

Follow us on **Instagram @wearewvss**

Grade 7 visits: May 27/28

South Campus Gymnasium: Scavenger hunt led by Ms. Baker



Music: Jazz band demonstration with Ms. Shin's senior Jazz Band



Drama: Students learn some improv basics with Ms. Hoyak



French: Ms. Schwartz teaches French through stories and games



Grade 7 visits May 27/28

Math Mania: Mr. Kozak asks students to use Math to solve crazy real-world problems, similar to what google might ask in a job interview.

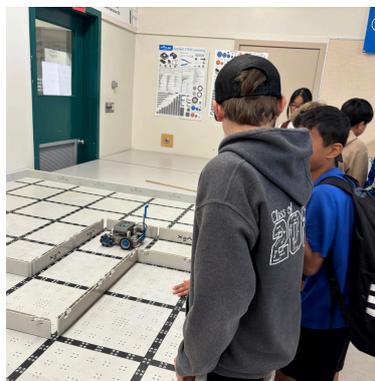


Library: Q & A with Grade 8s and learn about how senior mentors help grade 8s.



Robotics: Robot Maze Escape

Mr. Kirkland led the robotics groups - the first group to program their robot through a small maze won a prize!



Positive impacts in the community

Grade 8 Math Challengers placed 2nd in BC!

#2 in the Province for the Grade 8 Team.

#2 individually for **Eric Zhao** in Grade 8 provincially

#7 individually for **Evan Choi** in Grade 8 provincially

In nearly 30 years of Math Challengers, this marks WVSS's second-best finish—a remarkable achievement. While many teams prepare for months in advance, this group relied primarily on their natural talent and sharp thinking. Special thank you to **Mr. Kozak** for leading the team: *"I am incredibly proud of each and every one of you for your outstanding performance. Next year, we will make sure to keep up our crushing performance."*



“A Tribute to Ms. Ross: The Teacher Who Changed My Life.”

Grade 8 Student, **Kate Huang**, shared her published short story, “A Tribute to Ms. Ross: The Teacher Who Changed My Life” at the West Vancouver Memorial Library on May 13.

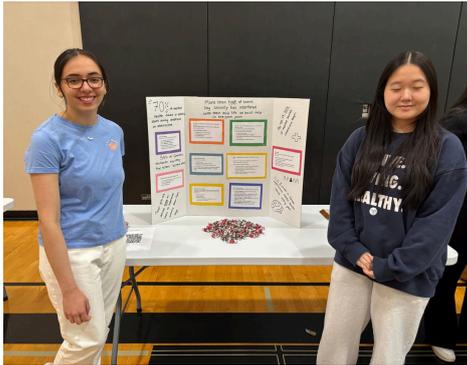
Ms. Ross was one of Kate's most beloved teachers at West Bay, and her passing last October left a deep impression on the community. This story is Kate's heartfelt way of honouring Ms. Ross's legacy and the impact she had on her life.



Celebrating Canadian Mental Health Week (May 5-11)

<https://cmha.ca/mental-health-week/>Canadian Mental Health Week:

WVSS Senior Mentors prepared engaging projects to share with the Grade 8 students.



The displays featured informative content, interactive games, treats, and QR codes for students to access additional resources. We hope students benefitted from engaging in meaningful conversations relating to Youth Mental Health.



Moose Hide Campaign

On Thursday, May 15, the entire school assembled together in support of this Indigenous- led movement for Reconciliation and ending all gender-based violence.



The assembly featured a concert and presentation by Squamish Elder Sahplek (Bob Baker), who shared a traditional song and story, followed by a set from Squamish Nation DJ OShow. The event concluded with a community walk through the neighborhood.



Staff SPOTLIGHT

Ivan Chan

Born and raised: I was born and raised in the vibrant city of Hong Kong.

Post secondary education route:

I studied at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, where I earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Work with Honours.

Teaching assignment this year:

Youth Worker

Favourite genre of music:

I enjoy relaxing to acoustic music.

Favourite food:

Dim sum is definitely my comfort food – especially shrimp dumplings (Har Gow) and BBQ pork buns!



Most adventurous things done:

One of the most adventurous things I've done was solo walking and hiking around Taiwan for 15 days. It was both exciting and challenging – a true leap of faith!

Dream travel destination:

I would love to visit Iceland with my family! The combination of natural beauty – from waterfalls and volcanoes to the Northern Lights – feels like stepping into another world.

Favourite sports/activities:

I enjoy hiking and going to the park with my two daughters.

Fun Facts: I'm a family man who loves cooking and making soup at home. I also really enjoy traveling and exploring new places!

