

HIGHLANDER HAPPENINGS

GRADE 8 NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2025

GRADE 8s!

It has been a pleasure getting to know you and seeing how quickly you have adapted to our big campus.

You have already shown yourselves to be eager learners who bring great energy to every class!



October dates to note

- 2:** Clubs Day | WVSS Gym | Students will go with their class
- 5:** World Teacher's Day
- 13:** Thanksgiving Day (School closed)
- 21:** School Photo Re-Takes (8am-10am)
- 23:** Learning Update #1 posted on MyEd
- 24:** Professional Development Day (School not in session)
- 28:** WVSS Fall Concert | Kay Meek Theatre | 6:30pm
- 30:** Collaboration Day (School begins at 9:30am)
- 31:** Halloween - Wear a costume if you wish!

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	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

2025



Senior Mentors

On September 3, the grade 8s met their senior mentors for the first time.



Senior Mentors support Grade 8 students as they transition from elementary to high school by offering guidance, encouragement, and organizing activities for their group throughout the year.



Team Building Event at Ambleside

On September 19, students enjoyed themselves as they worked in teams to plan, strategize, make decisions, and help each other.



The day was filled with activities to boost **critical thinking, communication, and responsibility.** It focused on building trust and fostering **a sense of belonging** and commitment to the school community.



Truth and Reconciliation

On September 29, students and staff honoured our National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

The school wide assembly included performances with Eagle dancers, a recording with Niigaan Sinclair and song and story with Sahplek, district Knowledge Keeper.



In orange shirts, to honour Indigenous children affected by the residential school system, students and staff participated in a walk for Reconciliation.



Staff SPOTLIGHT

Ms. Rice

What is your role at WVSS?

I'm the gr 8-9 counsellor at WVSS. I provide academic and personal/social support by acting as a link between the students, parents, and teachers.

What inspired you to become an educator?

Kids are fun!...Also, being an educator and part of a school community is such a vibrant opportunity to make a difference. "Be the change you hope to see in the world" is a quote by Ghandi that inspires me to teach about respect while doing my best to model respect.

What's your favourite part about working with Grade 8 students?

I like being part of the transition from elementary school to high school. Students begin September with apprehension and nervous excitement and watchin them quickly gain confidence is impactful.



If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

I would go back to Labrador and Newfoundland. I love the expanse of vast wilderness and I would like more time to further explore the east coast of Labrador.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?

It depends on the time of year...I love kayaking, swimming, skiing, baseball, volleyball, running, biking, golfing, or hiking. I also really like being lazy and relaxing with friends and family. Also, I take Tango lessons!

What is one piece of advice you would give to Grade 8 students?

By the end of grade 8, be sure you have learned how to be organized, be on time and how to manage your homework. These skills will be invaluable for your success in the senior years at WVSS.

Staff SPOTLIGHT

Ms. Frith

What is your role at our school?

Grade 8/9 Vice Principal

What inspired you to become an educator?

All my student jobs involved teaching and service; I was a piano teacher, ski instructor, tutor, and a busser at the Beach House. I discovered the joy of helping others learn and building meaningful relationships.

What's your favourite part about working with Grade 8 students?

It's a big transition for them, and I hope to make it as smooth as possible while supporting their growth and change.

Can you share some fun facts about yourself that students might not know?

I graduated from WVSS (Ms. Metcalfe was my teacher!), I ski raced for WMSC, I'm fiercely competitive when I play board games, and love watching Survivor and The Amazing Race.



If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Seychelles - for the incredible beaches and bungalows on the water.

Favourite novel?

The Nightingale by Kristen Hannah

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?

Spending time with my family, playing the piano, Bar Method, hiking, and walking the seawall.

What's one piece of advice you would give to Grade 8 students?

Be kind to yourself and to others.