

HIGHLANDER HAPPENINGS

GRADE 8 NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2025

GRADE 8s!

You have showed wonderful school spirit this month! From Clubs Day, to the the Terry Fox Run and your creative and fun Halloween costumes, it's been a great month of participation and positive energy!



November dates to note

- 11:** Remembrance Day (School closed)
- 24:** Professional Development Day (School not in session)
- 27:** Collaboration Day (School starts at 9:25am)
- 28:** Learning Update #1 posted online

NOVEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	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	1	2	3	4	5	6

CLUBS DAY

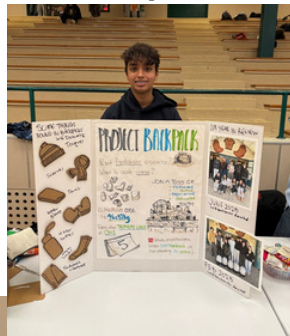
On October 2, the gym buzzed with excitement as over 65 clubs promoted their clubs and invited new members to join!



[Link to all clubs](#)



Students browsed, mingled, and joined clubs that sparked their interest – a perfect way to dive into school life!



TERRY FOX RUN

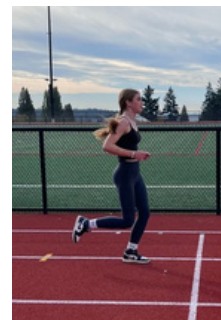
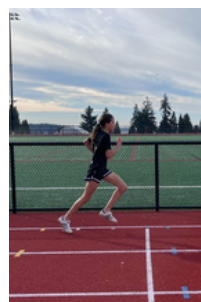
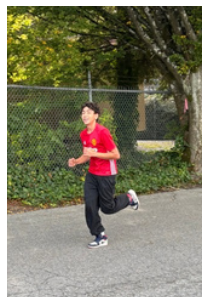
Our staff and students kicked off the annual Terry Fox Run with amazing energy and school spirit! The grade 8s and 9s ran or walked the course with tons of enthusiasm before the senior grades took their turn.



A special *thank you* to **Ms. Baker and the PHE Leadership class** for organizing this event . It was wonderful to see everyone out together, supporting a great cause and keeping Terry's inspiring legacy alive!



Mr. Harvey and our fastest runners!



Our wonderful staff



EXPLORATIONS ROTATIONS

DANCE

Ms. Fulla's focus on push-ups and planks boosts her students' strength, performance, and confidence. Her excellent form inspires enthusiastic participation.

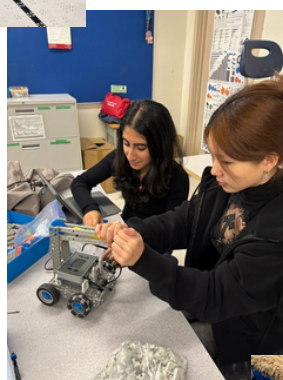


ROBOTICS

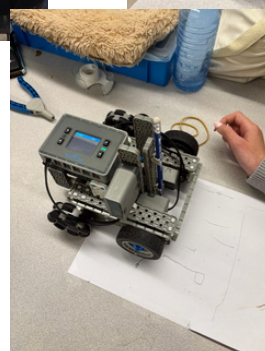
Stacking blocks using Clawbot and block based programming.



Mr. Kirkland's Robotics class featured robots writing capital letters using the pen holder robot and block based programming.



Preparing for robot soccer on the final day of the robotics rotation.



ATHLETICS

Rugby

The Grade 8 Boys Rugby team learned the fundamentals of the game while building teamwork, confidence, and school spirit along the way.



A special thank you to the coaches:
Mr. Harvey, Mr. MacGillivray, Mr. Plant,
and student-coach **Hudson Henriques.**
Their time and effort were greatly
appreciated!



The Grade 8
volleyball team has
shown great growth
and determination
throughout their
playoff run.

Volleyball



Huge thank you to **Mr. Davidoff, Ms. Pelych**
and manager **Bahar Moeini (gr.11)** for their
incredible coaching
and unwavering
support!

ATHLETICS

Cross Country

The Cross Country team had a fantastic season! A huge thank-you to **Ms. Buchanan, Mr. Dignum, and Mr. Ros** for their incredible dedication and support in coaching this dedicated team!

Oliver Kolkea (gr. 11) and Terry Wang (gr.12) at the Provincials



Emma Gregorian - the North Shore Champion, 3rd at Vancouver Sea to Sky Zones, and 46th out of 247 gr. 8-10 girls at the Provincials.

Kiasha Amirahmadi, Parker Johnson, Charlie Katevatis

Winter sports coming up!

Grade 8s! Make sure you're always checking the athletic board for updates!

Wrestling - stay tuned for updates on the athletic boards

Basketball - Tryout times have been posted:

- **Nov. 4** - Gr. 8 Boys New Gym 3-5pm (tentative, depends on volleyball result this afternoon - stay updated)
- **Nov. 5** - Gr. 8 Boys New Gym 3-5pm
- **Nov. 10** - Gr. 8 Girls Old Gym 3-5pm
- **Nov. 13** - Gr. 8 Girls Old Gym 3-5pm

FALL FEST '25

PERFORMING ARTS

On October 28, the Kay Meek Theatre came alive with energy and talent as our incredible students took the stage to showcase their performing arts skills.



A special thank you to the teachers who worked tirelessly in these first few months to prepare the students:

Mr. Daudlin, Ms. Fulla, Ms. Fulton and Mr. Mee.



HALLOWEEN

Mr. Kozak's Math 8E class in great costumes on Halloween!



WVSS annual Halloween Costume contest...and third place overall went to grade 8 student, Madison Ralph!



Pie Eating Contest, won by Melody Niemann in grade 10



Staff SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Kirkland

What is your role at our school, and how long have you been here?

2nd year at WVSS. I teach the Gr.8 Robotics Rotation, the IYP robotics academy and Senior Drafting.

What inspired you to become an educator?

My father was a teacher, and it was something I was always considering. I think education is very important and I appreciate the optimism of students.

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

The creative designs and decorations that grade 8 students bring to their robots.

Fun fact about yourself?

I briefly played keyboard in a Hamilton Ontario Band until I moved to BC. The group is "Lost Faculty", and they are putting even better songs on Spotify these days. Check them out!

What was your favorite subject when you were in Grade 8?

Science – I remember the chemistry and physics labs



If you could instantly learn a new skill or talent, what would it be?

I would love to instantly learn to play the guitar. Currently I can play 4 chords (poorly).

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

Grade 8 is a transitional time that I remember being challenging, but things got better for me with maturity. Don't sweat the small things!

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

Japan – to try the food the experience the culture. I would go in the winter so that I could ski as well. Japow!

What do you enjoy doing outside of school (hobbies, sports, activities)?

I like hiking, skiing, beach volleyball and paddling. Things that get me outside.



Staff SPOTLIGHT

Ms. Fulla

What is your role at our school, and how long have you been here?

I teach English, Dance, and Yoga (and could teach SS). I started teaching at WVSS in 2006.

What inspired you to become an educator?

Teaching has been part of my life since age 15, when I began training younger dancers in my basement. I loved the connections formed and the joy of seeing others grow and discover their potential. I began choreographing competition pieces, and by graduation, it was clear that teaching was my dharma, my gift and purpose.

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

Grade 8 students come with brilliance, colour and a fervour for learning. I enjoy helping them build foundational skills—organization, confidence, and independence—as they navigate the start of high school.

Fun fact: I have done belly dancing and used to perform in Greek Restaurants, which was super fun and invigorating!

What was your favorite subject when you were in Grade 8? I loved English and Art. Writing helped me explore humanity, reading revealed connection, and art offered reflection and creativity, and I was sparked by my inspiring teacher.

Do you have a favourite book, movie, or TV show you'd recommend?

Book - Daisy Jones and the Six.

Music - Rock'n'roll...the 70s...Hollywood and Sunset Strip.

TV - all-time favourite is "Peaky Blinders"

Movie - "Dirty Dancing." Patrick. Swayze. And Dance. Need I say more?



Staff SPOTLIGHT

Ms. Fulla continued

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

Life's journey is about discovering your true self. Stay curious, be kind, follow work that inspires you, and keep loved ones close. Life is a cha-cha—two steps forward, one back—but always keep dancing.

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

Bali — the energy there is palpable. Daily rituals and offerings bring such peace and connection to spirit. It's a yoga haven with delicious, healthy food, sunshine year-round, friendly smiles, and scooter adventures. Pure bliss!

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?

I am constantly moving my body and teaching in a variety of studios for Dance and Yoga. I also love spending time with my partner Shawne, and our Frenchie Bean and two cats: Tiger and Stormy. I love a good chat and catch up with friends and Ramen...any noodles really! Nature walks ground me and I love a good episode of Rupaul's Drag Race!

