



WEST VANCOUVER SECONDARY E-BULLETIN

## WVSS is an IB World School



January 15, 2026



### Important Dates & Calendar Reminders

- **Frid. Jan. 16:** Registration for Parent/Teacher Conferences Opens (details below)
- **Mon. Jan. 19:** IB Information Meeting for Parents of Grade 9/10 Students | 7:00pm | Kay Meek Theatre
- **Mon. Jan. 19-22:** Literacy 12 Graduation Assessments
- **Wed. Jan. 21:** Yoga Teacher Training Course Information Session | 6:00pm | WVSS Library
- **Wed. Jan. 28:** Early dismissal at 12:00pm
- **Wed. Jan. 28:** Parent Teacher Interviews | 1:00pm-3:30pm & 3:30pm-5:00pm | Virtual Online (Instructions below)
- **Wed. Jan 28:** DPAC Parent Evening - Sarah Ward on Executive Functioning | 6:30pm-8:30pm | Kay Meek Theatre (Registration link is in the PAC section)
- **Thurs. Jan. 29:** WVSS PAC Coffee Morning | **9:30am** (new time) | WVSS Cafeteria
- **Thurs. Jan. 29:** FAST (First Aid Swim Training) Program Information Night | 6:00pm | Rockridge Secondary School
- **Thurs. Jan. 29:** Collaboration Day - Classes begin at 9:30am
- **Frid. Jan. 30:** District Professional Day (School not in session)


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## **NEW UPDATES**

### **Grad Information**

**Grad Photo Retakes:** There is an opportunity for grads to have their portraits retaken on January 30th. Here is the link for sign up: [Edge Imaging | Booking Your Appointment](#)

**Grad 2026 Prom:** Grads! This is a great way to celebrate your upcoming graduation! Don't miss out on ticket sales!

 Friday, February 27, 2026  7pm - 11pm at the Stanley Park Pavilion

- DJ hosted dancing, Photobooth, Food Stations and passed canapés
- Tickets: \$100 - on sale on School Cash Online from Monday, February 2 to Friday, February 20
- Guest Applications (non WVSS grade 12s only) available in the counselling office.

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### **West Vancouver Schools Premier Academy**



The 2026-2027 **Premier Academies and District Programs** are open for registration! Please visit [District Programs | West Vancouver Schools](#) for further information.

**Premier Academies:** Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Fencing, Field Hockey, Soccer, Tennis, Volleyball

**Premier Programs:** Carpentry, Cybersecurity (AI and Quantum Computing), Early Childhood Education, Fashion Industry, FAST, Illuminate Choral Ensembles, Outdoor Recreation, Professional Cook 1, Yoga Teacher Training, YELL Entrepreneurship 12

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## **West Van Run! March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>**

We invite students and families to take part in this fun, community run and enjoy special discounted registration. Parents and students can register for \$45 using the code **WVSCHOOLS**, and children can join the Kids 1K for \$15 using the code **WVKIDS**. These codes can also be used by other family members who would like to participate.

Whether you prefer walking, jogging, or running, this event welcomes all ages and abilities. It's a great way for families to be active together and supports our shared commitment to health and well-being across West Vancouver Schools.

**Register here - [Schools](#)**

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## **Feeding Futures Initiative**

As part of the Ministry of Education and Childcare [Feeding Futures initiative](#), the West Vancouver School District has established a food security structure to confidentially assist students and families. The West Vancouver School District Food Security Plan will help students and families by providing confidential financial support for families facing food insecurity. Families are encouraged to reach out directly to their school principal or to [feedingfutures@wvschools.ca](mailto:feedingfutures@wvschools.ca) if they need support with food-related costs. Please be assured that all requests will be addressed with sensitivity, respect, and confidentiality.

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## **REMINDERS**

### **Parent - Teacher Conferences: Virtual - January 28, 2026**


**Registration opens January 16, 2026 at 9:00am**

Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for **Wednesday, January 28, 2026** from 1:00-3:00pm and 3:30pm-5:00pm.

These meetings are for all WVSS courses. Meetings will be **virtual using Google Meet**.

You may create an account and register for appointments using [School Appointments - West Vancouver Secondary School](#). Registration opens at 9:00am on Friday, January 16, 2026.

Please note:

- ☐ 4 bookings per student per family may be made at this time.
- ☐ More bookings can be made after January 22nd. Bookings will close at 10:00pm on January 26th.
- ☐ Student lists of courses and teachers can be found under the Family tab on the MyEducation BC portal [MyEducation BC](#) or by asking your student.
- ☐ If using MyEd, remember to have the schedule set to LIST VIEW not MATRIX VIEW.
- ☐ Instructions for how to book appointments:  
 [PT Conference Bookings instructions for parents 2026.pdf](#)
- ☐ [HERE](#) are the instructions for how to take part in the google meet interviews on January 28th. Students will be dismissed at 12:00pm on January 28th.

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## Yoga Teacher Training Course Information Session

 Wednesday, January 21  6:00pm at WVSS Library

The district's 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training course is an 8-credit course (4 PE credits and 4 Yoga credits) that will provide students in grades 9 to 12 with the skills needed to effectively and safely teach yoga to all levels of students. The total cost for the program is \$100 for the year. The course follows the guidelines set out by Yoga Alliance and students receive certification as Yoga Alliance 200-hour Yoga Teachers. Registration is now open. For more information or to register visit [200 Hour Yoga Teacher Training | West Vancouver Schools](#) or email Mariam Pirbhai [mpirbhai@wvsschools.ca](mailto:mpirbhai@wvsschools.ca)

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## FAST (First Aid Swim Training) Program Applications for the 2026-2027 School Year Are Now Open!

**Program Information Night:**

 Thursday, January 29  6:00pm at Rockridge Secondary School, Room W211

The First Aid Swim Training (FAST) Program is a unique opportunity for students to develop the essential skills and confidence to become successful lifeguards while also building leadership and resilience.

By the end of the program, students will earn key certifications that are prerequisites for the National Lifeguard Course, which they can take independently at age 15 or older.

Completing the National Lifeguard Course qualifies students to work as lifeguards, opening doors to meaningful, in-demand employment.

**Certifications earned in FAST include:**

- Bronze Medallion
- Bronze Cross
- Standard First Aid & CPR-C

**Program Highlights:**

In addition to earning certifications, the FAST Program provides a practical foundation in:

- **First Aid Training:** Building strong emergency response skills
- **Swimming and Stroke Development:** Improving confidence and technique in the water
- **Cardiovascular and Resistance Training:** Developing fitness and endurance
- **Leadership Development:** Encouraging teamwork, communication, and responsibility

This program is ideal for students interested in aquatics, leadership, and gaining valuable job-ready skills.

CLICK [First Aid Swim Training \(FAST\) | West Vancouver Schools](#) TO LEARN MORE AND APPLY NOW!

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## **Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Computing Course**

<https://westvancouver.schools.ca/programs/cybersecurity-ai/>

**Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Computing** is a hands-on, project based course offered to students in Grades 10-12 who are attending Rockridge, Sentinel or West Van Secondary.

Students learn the theory and apply it to practical projects in the fields of Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Computing. They have an opportunity to prepare for external certifications in Cybersecurity, Networking, Internet of Things, Programming, CompTIA, and Data Science. Students also participate in international competitions such as CyberPatriot and others. The course aims at helping students prepare material they can use for university applications.



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## 2026-2027 West Vancouver Schools Admissions

K-12 admission applications for both in-district and out-of-district students opens on **January 15!** If you have students in your family or network who are looking to join our district, please help spread the word about this important date.

West Vancouver Schools offer a wonderful opportunity to be part of a community that values excellence in education. Our schools take pride in creating meaningful learning experiences and providing opportunities that support the growth, well-being, and success of every student. To learn more about registration expectations and processes, please visit our admissions page: [West Vancouver Schools Admissions](#)

We look forward to welcoming new students and families to our vibrant and supportive school community!

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## West Vancouver Schools Personal Digital Device Update

As we begin the new year, we are asking all students and families to recommit to reducing cell phone use and to the school district's Personal Digital Device expectations. Consistent routines after the break help students re-engage quickly, keep instruction on track, and reduce distractions in shared spaces.

### Expectations at a glance:

- Cell phones and other digital devices should only be used during instructional time with explicit staff permission. Device use should be intentional, supervised, and tied to learning.

### Family actions that make a difference:

- Minimize adult cell phone use in and around school
- Refrain from sending your child texts or calls during the school day; contact the office for urgent needs only.
- Review the school district's guidelines for personal digital device expectations.
- Help your child understand that when schoolwork requires technology that they need to choose a laptop over a phone as it helps to reduce distractions and support learning

For a one-page overview of expectations, [see our Parent & Guardian Infographic](#). Thank you for working with us to uphold these important expectations.



## IB Student Info Sessions



Mon. Jan. 19: Information Meeting for Parents of Grade 9/10 Students 🕒 7:00pm in the Kay Meek Theatre

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## WVSS – New Student Lunch Account Program


We're introducing an optional **Student Lunch Account Program** designed to make cafeteria purchases easier for families and faster for students. Parents can load funds online, and students pay using a secure QR code.

### Benefits for families:

- One-minute setup
- Easy reloads anytime
- Balance and purchase visibility
- No cash or cards needed
- Secure and privacy-protected

This program reduces lineups and keeps lunch payments simple and predictable.

If you have questions, please contact Tony at [Tony@geminifoods.ca](mailto:Tony@geminifoods.ca) or Geoff at [Geoff@geminifoods.ca](mailto:Geoff@geminifoods.ca)

**Here are the full instructions:**  Student Account Program - SD45 - Gemini Foods.pdf  
Support: [accounts@geminifoods.ca](mailto:accounts@geminifoods.ca)

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## **Graduation Assessment Dates**

Please note that these Graduation Assessments are **required for graduation purposes**.

**Parents/Guardians:** Please avoid booking appointments during school hours during these assessment dates as they can only be completed during designated ministry time slots. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Ms. Frith at Sofia Frith

**January 19-22, 2026:** Grade 12 students write the *Literacy 12* assessment.

**June 8–12, 2026:** Grade 10 students write the *Numeracy 10* assessment.

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## **West Vancouver Highlander Athletics**

You can now watch all of the Highlander basketball teams home games on our livestream by going to: [hudl.fan.com](https://hudl.fan.com) and just type in "**West Vancouver Secondary**" in the search bar

We also have a YouTube network with all of our basketball games archived: [West Van Highlanders Athletics - YouTube](#)

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## **Collaboration Time 2025-26**

Please note that classes begin at **9:30am** on Collaboration Days. **Next Collaboration date is January 29, 2026**

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## **Optional Accident Insurance for Families**

West Vancouver Schools reminds families each year that personal injury or accident costs are not covered by the district or its insurance provider. To help protect against expenses from accidental injury, unexpected medical costs, or critical illness, families have the option to purchase voluntary accident insurance plans. A variety of providers offer different levels



of coverage, so families are encouraged to review their options carefully and choose a plan that best meets their needs.

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## WVSS APP

Students and families can use our WVSS APP to see their daily schedule, see a map of the school, obtain school announcements, see all calendar events and so much more!

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## Google Calendar Link

The WVSS google calendar for students includes the days (regular, FIT, Collab and the block rotation) plus significant student events. If you would like to subscribe to this calendar, please follow this - [WVSS Student Calendar](#) and add it to your Google calendar. If you'd like to open it in Outlook or other applications, use [WVSS Student Calendar](#)

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## Attendance Notices

**Student absences** should be communicated through email at

**West Vancouver Secondary School**

- ★ If this is not possible, please call the school office at 604-981-1100.
  - ★ All student absences must be excused by a parent or guardian.
  - ★ If students are unwell during the day, they must report to the office before leaving the school.
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## Extended Absence Forms

This is a reminder to families that if a student is missing 4 or more days due to an extended absence, they must have this [Extended Absence Form](#) completed and signed by all their teachers and an administrator. Copies are available for pick up at the north campus and south campus offices. Thank you for your attention to this.

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## SMS for Parents/Guardians



Option to receive text message for school emergencies or other important alerts: Part of the SD45 communication system allows families to opt into receiving important information additionally by text. For parents/guardians who would like to be notified of a school

emergency such as power outages, severe weather or safety alerts via SMS **please text a “Y” or “Yes” to 978338 to ensure you are on the list.**

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## **PAC News and Parent Education**

### **DPAC Parent Evening with Sarah Ward on Executive Functioning**

 Wednesday, January 28  6:30pm - 8:30pm at the Kay Meek Theatre

For registration and more detailed information:

 **DPAC Parent Night Sarah Ward January 2026.jpg**

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### **NEW YEAR 2026 PAC COFFEE MORNING**



**OPEN TO ALL PARENTS**


 Thursday, January 29  **9:30am** at the WVSS Cafeteria (North campus, middle floor)

With holiday celebrations behind us and lots of new things going on, join the WVSS PAC and Principal, Mr. Rauh for an update coffee morning . Mr. Rauh and the WVSS PAC Executive will be available to answer questions you may have. It is also a great opportunity to meet other parents and feel connected to the school. See you on the 29<sup>th</sup> !

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### **PAC Donation - School Cash Online**

The 2025/2026 **Optional PAC Contribution** is available on School Cash Online. You have the option to choose one of three donation amounts: \$25, \$50, or \$75. You can contribute more than once and at any time throughout the year!

Please see this link,  **PAC Optional Donation 2025-26.pdf** , which highlights some of the things the PAC supported last year, as well as some further details.

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## Parents guide to Social Media and Digital Devices:

[Parents Guide to Social Media and Digital Devices](#)

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## Physical Activity and Physical Literacy: Children and Youth Ages 5-17


For detailed information, please see the link [HERE](#)

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### **Additional Notices**

- **Safe Driving Around WVSS:**
    - Parents and students are reminded to drive **safely and legally** around campus. Please avoid U-turns, speeding, and stopping in the middle of the road for drop-offs.
  - **Homestay Families Needed:**
    - WVSS is looking for families to host international students. If interested, contact **Homestay Coordinator** or visit [West Vancouver Schools International](#)
  - **Community Connections and Events:**
    - Stay engaged with the community by visiting [Community Connections and Events](#)
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### **Useful Links**

 **Reporting Absences/Lates:** [West Vancouver Secondary School](#)

 **WVSS Website:** [West Vancouver Secondary School](#)

 **Counselling Page:** [West Vancouver Counselling](#)

 **Athletics Website:** [Athletics](#)

 **West Vancouver School District:** [West Vancouver Schools](#)

 **Follow Us:**  @wearewvss

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