

HIGHLANDER HAPPENINGS

GRADE 8 NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2026

Grade 8s: Mid-Year and Going Strong!

It's hard to believe that Spring Break is right around the corner and you have already made choices for Grade 9 courses! Well done!



2026							MARCH						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	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	31										

2026							APRIL						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	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								

March/April dates to note

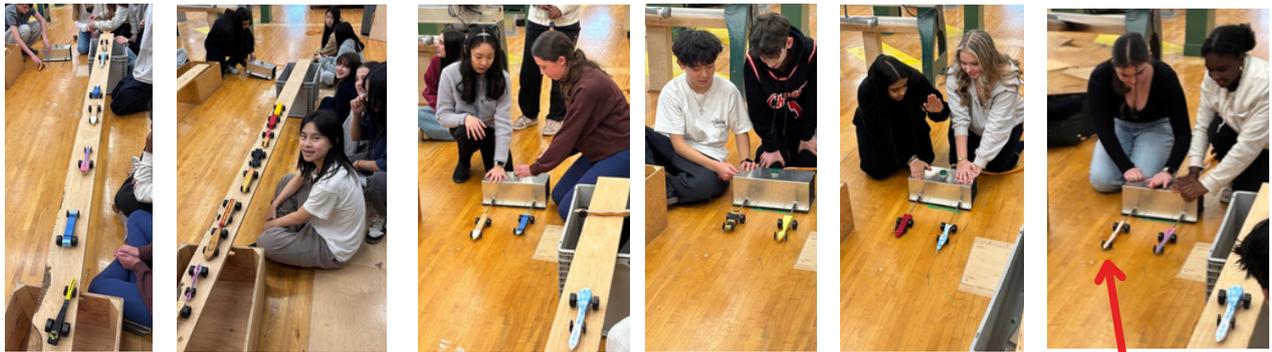
- **March 5:** Collaboration Day - Classes begin at 9:30am
- **March 6:** Learning Update #2 Posted Online
- **March 10:** Lockdown Drill - 11:40am (*note new day/time*)
- **March 10 - 12:** Theatre Production | Kay Meek Studio | 7:00pm
- **March 16 - 27:** Spring Break (School not in session)
- **April 3:** Easter Friday (School not in session)
- **April 6:** Easter Monday (School not in session)
- **April 13-17:** WVSS Talent Shows
- **April 14:** WVSS Spring Concert | Kay Meek Theatre | 6:30pm
- **April 23:** Collaboration Day - Classes begin at 9:30am



IN THE CLASSROOM

Mr. Herrington's Woodworks

Students revved up their creativity in the final woodworking challenge, designing, painting, and racing their own cars. The creator of the fastest car won a chocolate bar and serious bragging rights!



Block 1-3 Winner:
Rose Szott
Block 1-4 Winner:
Nikan Keshtkaran

Mr. Zimmerman's Media Arts

Students learned about **Pixilation** - a stop-motion animation technique where actors are photographed frame-by-frame, acting as "human puppets" to create surreal, magical, or impossible movements.



High-Energy Lunch in the South Campus Gym!

Students have been making the most of Open Gym at lunchtime and during FIT! The gym has been full of energy and school spirit!



A big thank you to **Mr. Ivan Chan** (WVSS Youth Worker) for supervising and keeping the space safe, welcoming, and fun for everyone.



We appreciate Mr. Chan making this opportunity possible for our students!



ATHLETICS

WRESTLING

Congratulations to **Cooper Brett** for winning his weight class, which included boys in Grades 8-12. Thank you to **Ms. Walton** for her work as the teacher sponsor and to Sentinel teacher **Mr. Huh** for his great coaching.



BASKETBALL

Congratulations to the Grade 8 Girls' and Boys' Basketball teams on a fantastic season!

Your teamwork and dedication were inspiring!

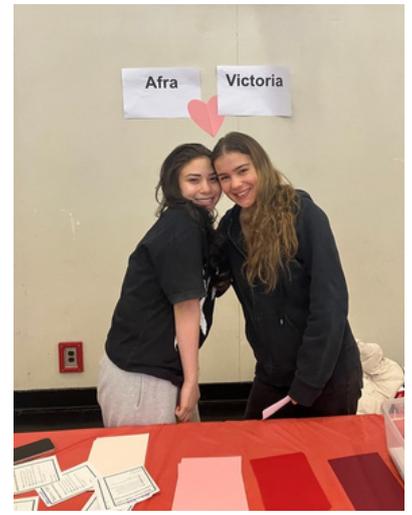
A big thank you to **Ms. Taylor, Mr. Daudlin, Mr. MacGillivray & Mr. Ros** for their incredible coaching and commitment to the teams.



VALENTINE'S FUN FIT EVENT

Our first annual Valentine's FUN FIT brought our Grade 8 students together with their senior mentors for a morning of connection and school spirit.

Senior Mentors



Students met their senior mentors and rotated through a variety of activities:

- Creating Valentine's cards for a friend or family member
- Adding messages to our "Sharing Kindness" wall
- Snapping photos at a festive photo station



VALENTINE'S FUN FIT EVENT



PHOTO STATION! Students loved taking photos with our Valentine's backdrop and all the fun props! Smile! 😊



VALENTINE'S DOUGHNUTS TO END THE EVENT!



Students who completed the stations received a **sprinkled doughnut** and a **juice box** to wrap up the event.

We look forward to continuing this new tradition in the years ahead.



PINK SHIRT DAY

3 Degrees of Kindness

Our pink shirt day was a huge success! Thank you **Ms. Cormier, Ms. Larway, Ms. Earland and the Student Council** for the various activities planned throughout the day, spreading the message to **"SPRINKLE KINDNESS."**

Students made beaded pins and friendship bracelets.



3 degrees of kindness mural and jolly rancher heart candies.



Cards signed for Tumbler Ridge Secondary and a card for Maya, a survivor who is recovering in hospital in Vancouver.



A big thank you to **Ms. Bean** and her Foods class for baking beautiful heart-shaped cookies! They were sold for \$1 each, with all proceeds supporting the Pink Shirt Foundation.



Staff SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Herrington

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

Grade 8-12 Woodworking teacher for 4 years .

What inspired you to become an educator?

One of my best friends was in a program to become a Technology Teacher (Wood Shop, Automotive, Metal Shop...) and he inspired me to take the program. I have always enjoyed working with people, and I have an obsession with making things, so becoming a shop teacher seemed like a perfect combination of the two.

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

The level of unhindered creativity that they have when creating their keychain projects.

What's a fun fact about yourself that students might not know?

I helped setup a Katy Parry concert in Whistler with a friend who worked for an event company.

Favorite subject when you were in Grade 8?

English/Creative Writing

Favourite TV show?

Mythbusters series from the Discovery Channel.



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

I would love to play a musical instrument.

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

Learn from your mistakes, as they are merely feedback of what needs to be changed. The more you make, the more you learn.

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

New Zealand as I have just binged watched the Lord of the Rings Series. I would love to go visit Hobbiton and some of the other locations where they filmed various parts of the movies.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?

I like to double-down on making things. I tend to do a lot of renovations at my house, either fixing things or simply beautifying it with more woodworking features.

Staff SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Zimmerman

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

I've been at WVSS since 2013 and teach Media 8, Media 9, Film 11/12, Animation 11/12.

What inspired you to become an educator?

I worked for years at a summer camp and decided to make working with youth my full-time vocation.

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

I love the energy of the grade 8 classroom and the opportunity to introduce students to ideas that they can explore in the higher grades at WVSS. I love to laugh with students and getting a chance to meet all of the grade 8 students over the course of the year.

Can you share a fun fact about yourself that students might not know?

Way-back in the 1900s I tried to start up a Clothing company called Board Dorks Inc. selling skateboard and snowboard clothing. [!!!!]

Favorite subject when you were in Grade 8?

I have more memories of running in the field playing games with friends than any specific courses in grade 8...

Favourite movie you'd recommend?

For grade 8s, I think the Secret Life of Walter Mitty is a good example of solid filmmaking, which we study in grade 9.



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

I can sew, but being able to sew REALLY well would be very cool.

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

Keep an open mind. Try everything, but REALLY try things. There are a lot of things you can learn when you choose to invest time and energy in something, even if it seems like it would be something you aren't obviously interested in.

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

Japan - it is a spectacular place. I spent a summer there in 1988 and it has a very special place in my mind.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?

Running, home renovations, making many, many small clay suitcases. (I am very happy when I am making things, or in the forest running with my dog)

