

HIGHLANDER HAPPENINGS

GRADE 8 NEWSLETTER



MAY - JUNE 2026

It is hard to believe our Grade 8 students have completed their first year of high school!

Their kindness, enthusiasm, and hard work has made this a successful transition to high school and their positive energy has earned high praise from staff throughout the year!

Grade 8s at the B.C. Provincials in Track & Field



September dates to note:



- **Sept 8:** First Day of School - alternate schedule - detailed information will be shared at the end of the summer.
- **Sept. 9:** 8:30am-3:00pm - Regular schedule & rotation of classes: Day 2 - 1, 2, 3, 4



IN THE CLASSROOM

Mr. Havlak's students dissect eyeballs!

They used hands-on exploration to locate and identify structures like the lens, retina, and optic nerve of a real preserved **sheep eye**.



They compared these structures to the parts of a box camera they had previously built, identifying how eyes and cameras use the same properties of light to function.



WVSS MOOSEHIDE CAMPAIGN

Moose Hide Campaign Day is an Indigenous-led movement to end gender-based violence.

Following learning about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People, students took action after a school-wide assembly.



District Knowledge Keeper and Squamish Nation Elder Sahplek (Bob Baker) shared songs and stories alongside Spakwus Slolem (Eagle Dancers). Sergeant Rhodes and Constable Westwood of the WVPD supported the event by helping mark the route for the student walk.

Thank you, Ms. Cormier, for organizing this important event.



ILLUMINATE CONCERT

The Illuminate District Choral Program presented its year-end concert, 'Take This Gift'.



Featuring auditioned singers from across WV Schools, including many WVSS students, the concert showcased a variety of musical genres and cultures, including Liberia, Latvia, India, and Korea, making for a wonderful evening of choral music.



A special thank you to **Ms. Fulton** for her exceptional leadership as Choir Director, and to the choir's pianist, **Ms. Choi**, for expertly accompanying the students across a wide range of musical styles.



SENIOR MENTORS

The grade 11/12 Senior Mentorship class prepared a "Wellness Fair" for grade 8 students.



The Senior Mentors presented research projects on topics such as: Sleep Hygiene, Nutrition and Energy, Benefits of Friends and Social Connections on Mental Wellbeing and more.



Grade 8 students were invited to engage with QR codes, games, and interactive information to learn more about how to build strong Mental Health. Thank you to **Ms. Taylor** and **Ms. Rice** for organizing this meaningful event



GRADE 7 VISITS

With almost 200 students visiting our school over the 2 days, our Senior Mentors did an exceptional job leading the students throughout 6 stations around the campus

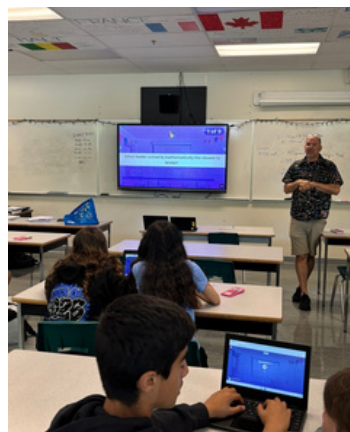
Ms. Earland's chickens ... and intro to Science



Drama with Ms. Hoyak



Math Mania with Mr. Kozak

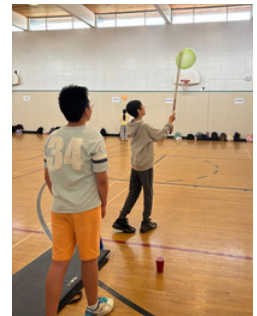


GRADE 7 VISITS cont...

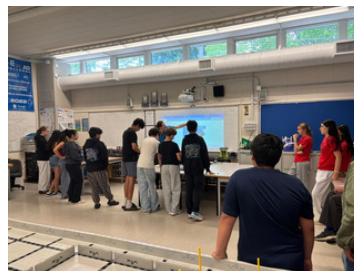
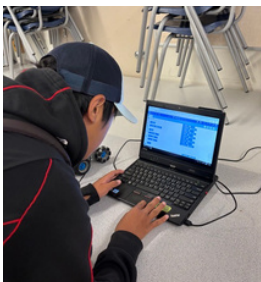
Q & A with current Grade 8s and Ms. Rice



Mr. MacGillivray's Leadership Class ran relay races



Robotics with Mr. Kirkland



The morning ended with a BBQ lunch in the south campus courtyard. A huge thank you to **Mr. Rauh, Ms. Krieger, & Mr. Chan** for setting up and organizing the BBQ, and thank you to all the teachers involved.



The WVSS Performing Arts Year End Concert

Grade 8 Band, led by **Mr. Mee**, who did an exceptional job working with the grade 8s.



Mr. Mee leading the jazz band while playing along with them.



WVSS Concert Band, led by **Mr. Daudlin**.



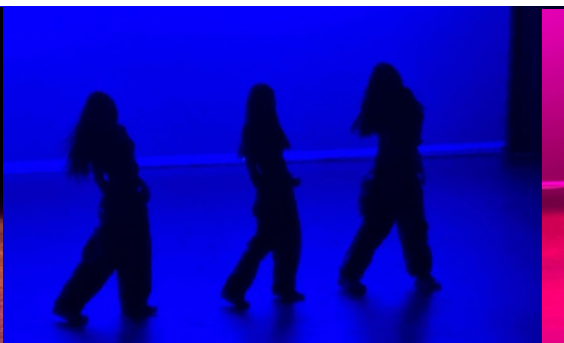
Thank you, **Mr. Daudlin**, for your commitment to helping students shine on stage.
Thank you, **Mr. Mee**, for doing an superb job working with the gr. 8s this year.

DANCE CLASS & CREW

WVSS Dancers showcase their skills presenting intricate choreography and synchronized dance moves.



Thank you to **Ms. Fulla** for the many hours of planning and preparation that went into making this performance possible.



YEAR END WVSS CARNIVAL

The Student Council did a fantastic job organizing a super festive year-end carnival for the entire school community.

Thank you to the **Student Council** members and to **Ms. McKee and Ms. Towers** for helping organize this super fun event!

Lemonade/Freezie Stand

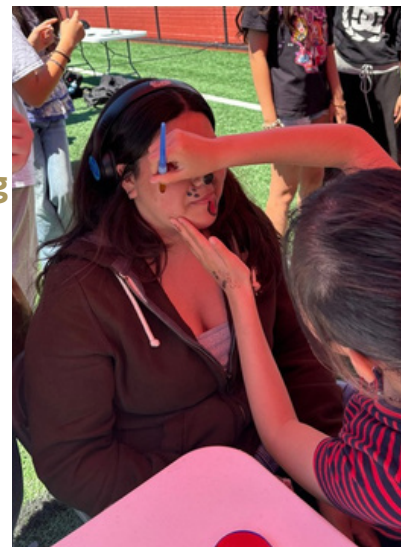


Archery



Connect 4

Face painting



Watermelon Eating Contest



Slip and Slide

ATHLETIC AWARDS

Gr. 8 Rugby



Gr. 8 Volleyball



Mountain Biking



Gr. 8 Girls Basketball



Gr. 8 Boys Basketball



Junior Ultimate



GRADE 8 ATHLETES OF THE YEAR



Words of Wisdom from the Class of 2026 to the Class of 2030

Work hard!

Participate in sports and social activities

Connect with your teachers

Join choir

Try something new in your classes!

Get involved in things



Take lots of photos so you can remember it all

Be kind and respectful - as you'd want to be treated

Enjoy Grade 8 - enjoy the moment - be present

Make as many friends as you can

Make friends with people in your classes even if they're not in your usual friend group

Get out of your comfort zone

Enjoy the journey, even walking from south to north