WEST VANCOUVER SCHOOLS

WEST VANCOUVER SECONDARY E-BULLETIN

WVSS is an IB World School

October 29, 2026

📅 Important Dates & Calendar Reminders

- **Frid. Oct 30:** Interim Reports Published on MyEd
- **Sat. Oct 31:** Happy Halloween!
- **Mon. Nov. 2**: Key to Scholarships Webinar (see below)
- **Wed. Nov. 4:** Grade 9 Take Our Kids to Work Day
- **Wed. Nov. 11**: Remembrance Day - School Closed
- **Thur. Nov. 26**: Collaboration Day (Classes begin at 9:25am)
- **Frid. Nov. 27:** Professional Day (Classes not in session)

⚡ Pending Action Items

- **Oct 30 (Fri)**: Language Challenge Exam applications due to counselling office
- **Oct 30 (Fri)**: Interim Reports published on MyEd
- **Nov 17 (Tues)**: Holiday plant sale orders due by 5:00pm

NEW UPDATES

School Readiness: Keys to Student Success

Parents & Guardians: We encourage you to discuss these points with your child(ren) at home. Your support at home directly aligns with our efforts at school, as well as our Framework for Enhanced Student Learning (FESL) which focuses on fostering School Readiness.

1.Maximize Success with On-Time Starts: Arriving punctually positions students to capture essential learning, start the day with confidence, and make the most of every class.

- Build Habits for the Future: Strong attendance and punctuality directly reflect and predict long-term achievement, mirroring the key habits needed for success both at school and in the workplace.

- Canadian K–12 data shows that daily habits, especially arriving on time in the morning, directly correlate with course completion and skill retention, serving as the strongest foundation for future career reliability: ED Can Network Article: School Absenteeism in Canada

2. Build Confidence Through Night-Before Prep: Charging devices, organizing backpacks, and choosing outfits before bed sets up a smooth, stress-free morning.

Celebrating Highlander Success

Featured at the end of the bulletin: Every last Thursday of the month, we will highlight Highlanders who shine in our school programs. Check out our first Highlander Success stories of 2026-2027 below!

Permanent Daylight Saving Time

With B.C. remaining on permanent daylight saving time, clocks will not turn back this Sunday, November 1, and winter sunrises will be later.

We would like to remind families to take extra care travelling to school during these darker mornings and support consistent sleep routines at home as the days grow shorter.

On Sunday, please take a moment to check your digital calendars, alarms and devices. Ensure you have the latest updates installed and confirm that upcoming calendar entries and scheduled times are displaying correctly.

REMINDERS

NEW IYP Program - Cyber-Security and AI Explorers



West Vancouver Schools is excited to be running a new IYP program called “Cyber-Security and AI Explorers”. Our pilot offering of this program is for West Vancouver School students who are currently in Grade 7 or 8. The program will begin on November 19th and will run on Thursday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:45 until March 11th, 2027. There will be no sessions during Winter Break. The cost for this is $300.00.

Sessions will take place in one of the computer labs at West Van Secondary. Students will be taught by West Vancouver Schools teaching staff and mentored by senior students in the district’s CS/QC/AI class.

Students will explore concepts in Artificial Intelligence, Cyber-Safety and Security through activities, labs and games. There may be an opportunity for an optional hackathon that students can choose to participate in.

For more information or questions, contact Ms. Wilson at cwilson@wvschools.ca

To register, please fill out this form.
If interest is very high, we may offer a Tuesday afternoon session as well.

Fun and safe Halloween reminders

Halloween is just a week away! As students get ready for school celebrations and trick-or-treating, West Vancouver Schools reminds families to keep safety and respect for others part of the fun.

At school:

- Student costumes must allow for safe movement, participation in learning activities and independence during the school day.
- Please leave masks, costume weapons and excessive make up at home.
- Costume choices should be respectful and align with our school and District Codes of Conduct to help ensure Halloween is safe, welcoming and enjoyable for everyone

In the community:

- The WVPD has asked us to remind families to please reinforce respect for neighbours, private property and community spaces.
- We encourage children and youth to celebrate responsibly and demonstrate the kindness, courtesy, and respect that help make our community a safe and enjoyable place for everyone.

Thank you for helping students celebrate Halloween safely, respectfully and responsibly.

Scholarship Information Webinar, Monday, Nov. 02, 6:00 - 7:15PM

Don't miss this very informative Key to Scholarships Session offered virtually on **Nov. 02 at 6:00PM.**

- Students in all grades and parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. It is never too early to get started. This comprehensive presentation covers topics ranging from building your scholarship foundation to crafting a strong personal statement. **Contrary to popular belief, students do not need 95% averages or international achievements to win scholarships**. Through this seminar, we will debunk common scholarship myths and break down the complex process into a manageable form. Please see the link provided above to join this session.
- No preregistration is required.
- **This session will not be recorded.**

Admissions 2027/28

West Vancouver Schools Admissions
Admissions for the **2027/2028 school year** begin on **Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.** for:

- All Kindergarten students
- All Grade 1-12 in-catchment students

Admissions for **Out-of-Catchment and Out-of-District students** open at **8:00 a.m. on Friday, January 15, 2027**.

For more information about admissions processes, dates, guidelines, and requirements, families should visit the West Vancouver Schools admissions webpage. Families are encouraged to carefully review the documentation requirements before beginning the application process.

Counselling Corner - Language Challenge Exam

Students in gr. 10-12, who are eligible, can write an exam for level 11 or 12 credit for the following languages:

- Farsi, French, Japanese Korean, Mandarin, Punjabi, Spanish and American Sign Language 11.

Please read the application and information on the requirements **THOROUGHLY** prior to filling out the application. Click here

Note *that for Universities in Canada, a second language credit is no longer required for admissions.*

Applications are due to the WVSS counselling office no later than Friday, October 30th, 2026. Please contact Linda Caruth, lcaruth@wvschools.ca if you have any questions.

School Fees 2026-2027

The 2026-2027 School Course Fees are now available for payment on School Cash Online. All school fees and field trips are added to this site and can be paid easily with this website: School Cash Online .

- If you have not signed in before, you will need your child's Student Pupil number which can be found on MyEd or on a previous report card.

- You can find School Cash Online - Registration Instructions.pdf here.

Please contact Ms. Bornea (jbornea@wvschools.ca) in the main office if you have any questions or assistance with logging in.

Policy & Procedure Form AND Student Verification Form

- ➢ **Action Item**: All Parents MUST complete a West Van District Policy and Procedures online release form for each child every year: 2026–2027 Online Policies & Procedures Form.
- ➢ **Action Item:** Student Verification Form is **PAPER COPY.**
- ➢ Questions, please contact Ms. Rebecca Avotins at West Vancouver Secondary School

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WVSS – Student Lunch Account Program

We offer an optional Student Lunch Account Program designed to make cafeteria purchases easier for families and faster for students. This program reduces lineups and keeps lunch payments simple and predictable.
Here are the full instructions: Student Account Program - SD45 - Gemini Foods.pdf

Support: accounts@geminifoods.ca. Should you have any questions, please feel free to email: accounts@geminifoods.ca. If you would like to connect with us, please email Tony@geminifoods.ca and Geoff@geminifoods.ca

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Transportation & Safety

Safety First: E-Bike Helmet & Age Restriction Reminder

With the increase in e-bikes on campus, we ask parents to remind students that **helmets are mandatory** when riding to and from school. Additionally, please ensure your child meets the **legal age requirements to operate their specific e-transport device**.

Please review the WVPD E-Transportation with your child to ensure they are riding safely and legally.

Safe Driving Around WVSS

The safety and well-being of our students is always our top priority. We kindly ask for everyone's cooperation in driving safely and responsibly around campus. **Please remember to adhere to speed limits, avoid U-turns, and use designated drop-off areas rather than stopping in the middle of the road.**

These simple actions make a big difference in ensuring all our students get to and from school safely each day, especially as the days become shorter. Thank you for working with us to keep our school community safe!

Student Parking

Students wishing to park in the WVSS student parking south lot, located below the track and along the fence leading up to the back of the school, must complete a **registration form and obtain a parking decal**. Both are available in the main office. Please note that there is a **$20.00 fee**. If you have any questions, please see Ms. Bornea in the accounting office or email Ms. Bornea at jbornea@wvschools.ca.

PAC Updates



WVSS PAC is fundraising with the sale of a beautiful selection of winter holiday plants: Poinsettias, festive wreaths, elegant outdoor greenery and more! Fundraising will help the PAC support scholarships, curricular purchases, staff appreciation events, meet the teacher nights and more. Please visit the following link to place your order:

https://westvansecondary.growingsmilesfundraising.com/home

- The deadline to order is **Tuesday, November 17th at 5:00 p.m**.
- Order pick-up is **Thursday, December 3rd between 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the South Campus Cafeteria.**

PAC Optional Donations

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) would like to thank West Vancouver Secondary School parents who make the annual contribution to WVSS PAC to support your children in both the classroom and in extra-curricular and sporting activities.

The 2026/2027 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 the attachment here PAC Optional Donation 2026-27 for a list of some of the things the PAC supported last year, as well as some further details. To allow us to continue with this support this year, please include the PAC Optional Donation on your School Cash Online fee payment. Your donations enhance your child's school experience in so many ways. Your PAC donation works alongside the BC Gaming Grant funds that the PAC applies for each year.

🎒 School Essentials

Clubs

- For a full list of clubs, please see: WVSS Clubs 2026-2027

School Supplies

- Here is a recommended list of supplies for students:
  WVSS SCHOOL SUPPLIES LIST 26_27.pdf

Bell Schedules

- For our updated schedules please refer to BELL SCHEDULES

2026-2027 Calendar

- Here is our School Calendar 2026-27

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, social media posts, staff and school contacts 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 and late arrival to class 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.

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.

SMS Text Messaging for Parents/Guardians

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.

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.

North Shore Settlement Workers In School (SWIS) Team

The Impact North Shore SWIS team offers many events and workshops for families across the community who are new to the BC School system. For more information, please see Link for Info

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Additional Notices

- **Parent Code of Conduct:**
  - Parent/Guardians - please review the following Conduct for parents
- **E-Transport: Know Before you Buy or Ride - WVPD**
  - Please review this important information from the West Vancouver Police Department regarding e-transport: WVPD E-Transportation
- **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 Accommodation 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

CELEBRATING HIGHLANDER SUCCESS

CONGRATULATIONS to **Parastoo Mafi, Baran Moradi, Yasamin Shafieiardestani** and **Shayna Tehrani** from WVSS who won **3rd place from amongst all the BC teams** at this cybersecurity hackathon!

The Event: October 15, 2026: 27 teams from across BC competed in the Young Defenders of the North Cybersecurity Hackathon at the SFU Wosk Centre in Vancouver.

The Challenge: Teams of four investigated a simulated cyber attack using digital literacy and problem-solving skills, then presented their findings and a future safety plan to industry professionals.

The Outcome: A panel of judges awarded the top three teams—including two from West Vancouver Schools—offering students hands-on experience in the cybersecurity field.

From left to right: Shayna Tehrani, Parastoo Mafi, Baran Moradi, Yasamin Shafieiardestani

