



Gator News

8

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Students and Families:

It is hard to believe but here we are almost at the end of our first semester already and the mid-way point of the 2024-2025 school year. As a reminder from our last newsletter, the last day of regular classes for semester one will be January 23rd. January 24th, 27th and 28th are Transition Days. Most students will not be in attendance on those days. Our Grade 9 students will be presenting their mini-capstone presentations on January 24th and our Grade 12 students who are completing CLC 12 in first semester will also be presenting their capstone projects. On January 28th we will be hosting our grade 7 students. Huge thank you to Ms. Stubbings and our GQ Ambassadors who have planned a wonderful morning for our grade 7 future Gators. Please see additional details on the schedule for those Transitions days in this newsletter. Semester two begins on January 29th.

Between now and the end of first semester, should you have any questions about your child's progress in any of their classes, please connect with the classroom teacher directly. We will be publishing Semester 1 Summary of Learning Reports in MyEd BC on February 7th. Please be sure you are able to login to MyEd BC so that you don't miss out on being able to access the Summary of Learning for your child. Students should also be ensuring that they are able to login to MyEd BC as they will need to be able to do that for course planning and course selection purposes.

As we wrap up first semester, we are also preparing for second semester. As you know, students were able to submit a course change request for second semester earlier this week. Our counselling team has been working through the course change requests and will continue to do so into next week. Please note that, just as in September, we may not be able to accommodate the course change request. Our timetable is very full and there is minimal opportunity to movement. Also, we are unable to accommodate late requests for course changes. Once our counsellors process the course request changes that have already been submitted, we need to shift our focus to course planning and starting to gather information and course requests from students for the 2025–2026 school year.

Course planning for the 2025–2026 school year is coming up quickly. Throughout the month of February, there are a variety of course planning events that are happening. We will be hosting our virtual course planning assemblies with students, we will be hosting course planning parent nights and we will also be hosting a variety of special program information sessions such as our AP Information Session, Edge Program information session and our Grade 7 Open House. Please be sure to stay connected by reading our



newsletter and subscribing to social media for important dates and information. In addition, please be sure to check out our course planning website: <https://wgsscourselguide.ca>. There is a wide range of details information about programs, course planning processes etc. It is an invaluable resource.

The end of semester is always a busy time of year; however, it is also a wonderful time of year where students and staff are bringing their courses to a close and celebrating the learning and growth that they have achieved throughout the semester. Thank you to our students and staff for all their hard work so far this semester, and of course for their focus and diligence as they bring our first semester to a successful close.

Mr. Jeremy Lyndon

Proud Principal



Gator News # 8

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, January 23	Last Day of Semester 1 regular classes
Friday, January 24	Transition Day (see info. in this newsletter)
Monday, January 27	Transition Day (see info. in this newsletter)
Tuesday, January 28	Semester Turn Around Day (students do not attend)
Wednesday, January 29	Semester 2 starts
Wednesday, February 5	HUB Day 1

NOTICE TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS IN GRADE 11 (GRADUATES OF 2026)

The counselling team will be holding targeted sessions for students currently in Grade 11, focusing on university entrance requirements and course planning. If you're wondering about the courses you'll need for your chosen faculty, this is your chance to get tailored information.

****Please note: these sessions are specifically for Grade 11 students . Other grade levels will not be accommodated at this time****

****Location: Cafeteria****

****Grad Chats Schedule:****

****Friday, January 24th****

- 12:00 - 12:30 PM: Bachelor of Arts
- 12:30 - 1:00 PM: Bachelor of Science
- 1:00 - 1:30 PM: Bachelor of Engineering
- 1:30 - 2:00 PM: Bachelor of Nursing
- 2:00 - 2:30 PM: Commerce/Business

****Monday, January 27th****

- 12:00 - 12:30 PM: Commerce/Business
- 12:30 - 1:00 PM: Nursing
- 1:00 - 1:30 PM: Engineering
- 1:30 - 2:00 PM: Science
- 2:00 - 2:30 PM: Bachelor of Arts

We look forward to helping you plan for your future!
Thank you.

Rachelle Twemlow (she/her/hers)



Gator News # 8

SEMESTER TRANSITION DAYS

To help prepare and support students for success, the District is sharing information with families regarding upcoming Semester Transition Days with our secondary schools. Although this is not indicated in the District calendar, please note the following days:

Friday, January 24 2025	Semester Transition Day
Monday, January 27 2025	Semester Transition Day
Tuesday, January 28 2025	Semester Turn Around Day (students do not attend)

What are Semester Transition Days?

As part of the District’s Strategic Plan goals, schools are highlighting student transitions with various activities including but not limited to the following:

- Capstone Presentations and Celebrations for Grade 12 students
- Mini-Capstone Presentations for Grade 9 students
- Student Celebrations of Learning
- Additional Student Support Opportunities
- School visits from Grade 7 students from feeder schools for orientation

What does this mean for students?

- Not all students will be attending school on any or all these days.
- Students who need to be at school on one or all these days will receive communication from their school or teacher.

The following groups of students will be scheduled in these times:

- Grade 9s will be scheduled to attend between 9:00 am – 9:45 am on Friday, January 24.
- Grade 12s will be scheduled to attend 10:30 am – noon on Friday, January 24 for Capstone Presentations.
- Many of our GQs and Student Council members will be assisting with our transition event for Grade 7 students on Monday, January 27.
- Grade 8 and 10 students will not be in attendance on Friday January 24, Monday, January 27, and Tuesday, January 28.

These days are structured with the intention to ensure a smooth transition for our students and help foster student learning. If you have any questions, please speak with an Administrator.



Gator News # 8

One of the most important measures of student success is the measure of student transitions, when students successfully move on to the next step in their educational journey. This might include a student who goes from one course to the next course (e.g., English 8 to English 9), from one grade to the next grade, from one level of school to the next level of school (e.g., middle to secondary), or to post-secondary opportunities. At the end of each semester, secondary schools have Transition Days, in which staff create opportunities for students to demonstrate key transitions goals and growth and assist them in their transitions. Successful transitions are vital for students to build on the successes they have had, and prepare them for the new challenges in their new classroom, new school, etc. The Transition Days also allow for students to complete and present their major careers requirements. Some of the activities that occur during Transition Days in different secondary schools include:

- Mini-Capstone presentations by Grade 9 students;
- Capstone presentations by Grade 12 students;
- Careers and Capstone Fairs;
- Grade 7 visits to the secondary school;
- Other connections and activities between schools to assist in student transitions;
- Provincial Literacy and Numeracy Assessments for Grade 10 and 12 students.

At the end of Semester 1, secondary schools also will have a Semester Turnaround Day, to be able to complete the many tasks that are necessary in ending one semester and starting another, including reviewing semester-end student report cards and re-working student timetables.

The dates this year for the end of Semester 1 are:

- Friday, January 24 – Transition Day
- Monday, January 27 – Transition Day
- Tuesday, January 28 - Semester Turnaround Day
- Wednesday, January 29 - Semester 2 Begins

If you have any questions about semester end activities, please contact the school's Administration.



Gator News # 8

FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

At any time, a WGSS youth or their family member is welcome to contact a staff member for assistance with information about available confidential school and community-based resources and support.

Below is information we wanted to share as we all navigate these times.

ORGANIZATION	INFO	CONTACT	WEBSITE/CONTACT
Langley Christmas Bureau	Call to book an appointment. Currently taking applications for hampers.	604-530-3001 20245 Industrial Avenue, Langley	https://www.langleychristmasbureau.com/client-hamper-application/
Grocery Hampers	Available weekly	Langley Food Bank Sources	https://langleyfoodbank.com https://www.sourcesbc.ca/our-services/sources-langley-food-bank/
Further Food Supports	Gateway of Hope Raphael House		http://www.gatewayofhope.ca https://www.rafaelhouse.ca/
Community Integration Specialist	Assists with connection to housing, employment, income assistance, and community services	604-860-5736/Office 778-359-0105 Kapil Sharma (he/him)	kapil.sharma@gov.bc.ca
211	Income assistance, disability, community living, employment support, housing/shelter, and social supports	211 – Talk to a Navigator 24/7	https://bc.211.ca/agency-details/ministry-of-social-development-and-poverty-reduction-msdpr-9488485/
Breakfast Club at WGSS	Monday-Friday before school. Open to all students	In the cafeteria	Join us for a nutritious meal to start the day



DROP-OFF AND PARKING AT WGSS

We have received some feedback with respect to the parking lot and drop-off and pick-up before and after school. As you know, we have a very large school population. We have over 2200 students attending WGSS this year. Consequently, the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up can be very busy and our school grounds and surrounding roadways become very congested. Based on feedback from students and families, we thought it would be helpful to send a few reminders:

- Please do not drop-off or pick-up students along Walnut Grove Drive. This is unsafe.
- If you can drop-off or pick-up your student in a neighbouring area that is not as busy, that would be helpful.
- If you can stagger your drop-off times (a little earlier) or pick-up times (a little later) that would also help to alleviate congestion.
- Please be mindful of blocking lanes if you are coming through the front of the school:
 - Please make room for our buses to be able to park and maneuver in the parking lot.
 - Please do not park in the lanes in front of the parking stalls; this holds up traffic and prevents cars from leaving the parking spots.
 - Please do not park in the designated bus zones.

As always, the health and safety of our students and families is paramount and we appreciate your cooperation with helping to ensure that our transition times are safe for all our students, families, and staff.

INFORMATION ABOUT SCHOOL STATUS DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER

Snow closures and power outages are an annual occurrence in the Langley School District. So, where do you go to get information about the status of schools during periods of inclement weather? If you can access the internet via computer or smartphone, current information about Langley schools can be accessed on all school websites or www.sd35.bc.ca. Updates are also posted to X (formerly Twitter) @LangleySchools and Facebook at www.facebook.com/langleyschooldistrict. If you don't have internet connectivity but your phone is working, call a relative or friend in an area that has not been affected by the storm and ask them to check the district website for you. Local radio stations are also informed of school status in Langley. Tune in to CKWX 1130AM, CKNW 980AM, Country Radio 107.1FM, Pulse 107.7 or CBC 690AM or 88.1FM for updates.



Please note that Langley District schools are all considered 'open' until a decision to close is required. Decisions on school closures are usually made by 6:30am. As always, it is a parent's decision whether to send their student to school based on safety and individual circumstances. If you feel it is unsafe for you or your student to travel to or attend an open school for any reason, please keep your student home and report an absence to the school.

WINTER HEALTH TIPS FROM FRASER HEALTH

Health, safety, and wellness continue to be a priority in our schools. To help support our students and families, we are sharing important information from our community partner Fraser Health about winter health. Please see below for helpful reminders to support your student.

Keeping Your Student Healthy During Winter

As the chilly winter season is upon us, there's a few extra things you can do to help keep your student healthy and well. Navigate this season with these essential tips.

Bundle Up For The Cold

Dressing appropriately for the cold weather is vital in keeping your student comfortable and protected. Wearing multiple layers is a great way to trap body heat and provide insulation against the cold.

Keep a warm hat, gloves, scarves and insulated boots handy. Remind your student to wear these items before heading outside to play or going to school.

Protect Against Winter Illnesses

Winter brings an increased risk of colds and flus. Make sure your student is getting enough sleep, eating a variety of foods and staying hydrated by drinking plenty of water. Ensure your student receives their annual flu vaccine and talk to a health care provider about any additional vaccines that may be recommended. Teach your student good respiratory etiquette such as regular hand washing, covering their coughs and sneezes and staying home when sick. If they are sick and cannot stay away from others, they can wear a mask to reduce the risk of spreading their illness. Learn more about masks here: [Masks \(bccdc.ca\)](https://www.bccdc.ca)

Keep Their Bodies Moving

While colder weather may limit outdoor activities, it's crucial to keep your student active during winter as regular physical activity boosts their immune system and keeps them energized. Encourage indoor play and activities such as dancing, yoga or interactive



Gator News # 8

video games that promote movement. Look for winter programs at local community centres or indoor sports facilities.

Find more tips for a healthy winter: <https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/winter-health>

FROM OUR DISTRICT

Social Media Awareness Family Sessions

ERASE will be holding FREE virtual sessions on social media awareness for parents and caregivers. Here is the link for an upcoming communication with families for them to access these valuable sessions: <https://pages.saferschoolstogether.com/erase-family-session>

LEAP (Outdoor Education)- Parent Information Session on Thursday, January 23rd

Imagine your child's classroom in the open air! Join us on **Thursday, January 23rd at 5pm** at Fort Langley Elementary for our LEAP (Langley Environmental Awareness Program) Information Session. This meeting is for families interested in kindergarten enrolment for the 2026-2027 school year, as well as any current grade 1-6 students that might want a change and an opportunity to learn in the great outdoors. For more about the outdoor education program and to watch our new stunning promotional video please visit: <https://bit.ly/2T2os8r>.

LSS Sports Academies Information Night

Are you looking for a way to fuel your passion for hockey, baseball or softball while still achieving your academic goals? Langley Secondary's sports academies may be the perfect fit! These high-performance skills-based programs combine on-and off-field or ice training, strength and conditioning education, and BC school curriculum. Hockey Academy participants will have at least 40 on-ice sessions during the semester, while Baseball/Softball students will spend two blocks every day in academy programming.

Learn more at an upcoming information session, which is scheduled for 7pm on February 11th at Langley Secondary School in the Learning Commons. See poster [here](#) for details. For info on baseball/softball read [here](#) or hockey read [here](#). Please note, this information session does NOT include information on the Langley Secondary Soccer Academy.



Gator News # 8



LSS Sports Academies Information Night

Baseball Semester 1

Softball Semester 1

Hockey Semester 2

Students can attend LSS all year or for the semester of Academy

Langley Secondary School
Learning Commons
Tuesday, February 11, 2025 7pm

This night is an opportunity for students and parents to find out information regarding the Baseball, Softball and Hockey Academies Offered at LSS. For any further information please contact: tbannister@sd35.bc.ca



Gator News # 8



SD35 Career Education



PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE

Exploring Langley School District's Trades & Career Opportunities

Join us for this family information evening as we highlight the district's career programs and pathways to post-secondary success!



WHEN:

February 4, 2025
6:30 pm- 8:00 pm

WHERE:

Langley Events Centre
7888 200 Street, Langley



LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR FUTURE!!

CONNECT WITH POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS!!

PARENTS & STUDENTS WELCOME!!



Gator News # 8

UP TO **\$20,000**
IN SCHOLARSHIPS



2025 Challenge

Design a culturally sensitive and environmentally responsible solution to reduce human-caused wildfires in the local Harrison Lake area, while minimizing negative impacts on First Nations cultural practices, ecosystems, and wildlife.

More Information



LEARN MORE AND
ENTER YOUR SECONDARY
TEAM AT
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/4E48JED](https://bit.ly/4E48JED)





Gator News # 8

FROM OUR COMMUNITY



Free Winter Program for Families!

Learn about healthy eating, physical activity, and building long-lasting habits as a family in Generation Health Community. This 10-week program for families with children ages 8 to 12 is FUN and interactive!

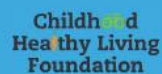
Delivered through YMCA BC starting February 2025 on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings.

Families who join this program will receive a complimentary YMCA membership.

Register today!



gv.ymca.ca/generation-health-community
generationhealth@bc.ymca.ca





Gator News # 8

Fairy Godmother Foundation

Are you in need of grad wear for prom?

The Fairy Godmother Foundation is here to help! We provide FREE grad wear (dresses, suits, shoes, accessories) to students who may not be able to afford them, ensuring everyone has the chance to celebrate this special milestone.

Who Can Apply?

Any high school student in need of assistance with prom attire.

How to Apply:

Visit your school counselor and let them know you'd like to be considered for assistance.

Once applications are reviewed your councillor will contact you with further details

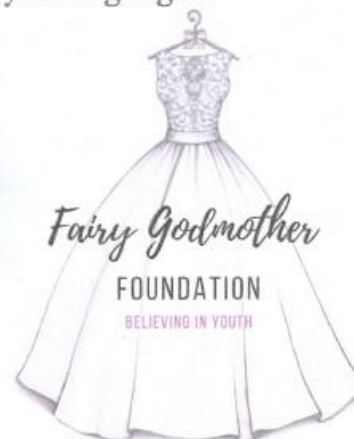
Let us help you feel like the star you truly are on your big night!

Our team is excited to work with you to find the perfect outfit for your prom night!

The Fairy Godmother Foundation –
Where every student deserves to shine!

Apply ASAP as space is limited

For more information, ask your counsellor





WGSS PAC NEWS

Find us on Facebook/ Meta as “WGSS PAC”, or on our website: wgsspac.ca, or email us at contact.wgsspac@gmail.com.

As before, the WGSS PAC would like to ask families to donate if you can. Donations to the PAC can be made through SchoolCashOnline. Your donations help the PAC fund scholarships for graduating students, as well as school projects that benefit students for which we can't use Gaming Commission funds. We are grateful for any amount - every little bit helps us make this school more awesome for our kids.

Happy holidays from your WGSS PAC! We wish you all a restful break from everything school-related! 😊

Here are the dates for upcoming PAC Meetings for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

- February 11
- March – no meeting
- April 8
- May 13
- June 10 (Regular PAC Meeting and Annual General Meeting)



Gator News # 8



ONE & DONE FUNDRAISER

**No selling required!
Just your support!**

Now that elementary school is behind you, you're probably ready to leave behind all those requests to sell or volunteer! We get it, and we won't ask you to do either.

However, the PAC still needs your support. We continue to fund important school programs and requests that go beyond the standard curriculum, enriching our students' educational experience.

Please consider making a contribution through our ONE-AND-DONE fundraiser. A simple donation—no selling, no volunteering required—just your generous support to help keep these programs going!



Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to donate on School Cash Online towards PAC Donations

- ✓ \$15 - Bidding wars at a silent auction? No, thanks!
- ✓ \$10 - Chasing down corporate sponsors? No, thanks!
- ✓ \$5 - Selling chocolates or wrapping paper to my friends and family? No, thanks!
- ✓ Other - I love this school and I am happy to help!





WGSS DRY GRAD NEWS

We encourage all parents/guardians of Grade 12 students to attend and learn how you can help and get involved in organizing a great and safe event for the Grads of 2025!

You can also find us on Facebook at *Walnut Grove Secondary Dry Grad 2025*.

All meetings will be held in the **WGSS Library from 6:30-7:30PM**

Tuesday, January 28 – FOOD & DECORATING COMMITTEE ONLY

Tuesday, February 18 – SECURITY, FIRST AID & BAG CHECK-IN ONLY

Tuesday, March 11

Tuesday April 1

Tuesday April 22

Tuesday May 20

Tuesday June 3 – LAST MEETING

- Don't forget to donate all your refundable cans & plastic bottles to the Dry Grad Return-it account!! Details here: [Return-It Depot](#)
- Our WGSS Dry Grad Committee is currently running the following fundraiser: [WGSS Dry Grad-Langley School District Foundation](#)
- [Class of 2025 50/50 Fundraiser](#) *New* See flyer below for details!



Gator News # 8

OUR BIGGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR!!



Walnut Grove Secondary School
Walnut Grove Dry Grad 2025

Winner takes half
OF THE JACK POT

Help support grads of 2025 make their night special



**ORDER TICKETS
HERE TO WIN:**

<https://wgssdrygrad2025.rafflenexus.com/>

OR SCAN QR CODE



Important dates

Deadline: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 11:59 p.m.

Draw date: Friday, March 14, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

**Thank you for supporting dry grad
for our 2025 graduating students**