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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Students and Families:

This past week was Diversity and Respect Week at Walnut Grove Secondary and around the District. Students and staff put together a number of activities and theme days for students and staff to engage with. It was a wonderful week of highlighting and celebrating the diversity in our school community. I extend my sincere thanks to our students and staff who have put together these learning opportunities for our school this month and I also extend thanks to our school community for celebrating diversity, raising important questions, and challenging us as a school community to continue to learn and grow in the areas of equity, diversity, and inclusion. Special thanks to Mr. Trampleasure, Ms. Brasnett and Ms. Beston for supporting this week and helping to organize it.



A few highlights from the week include Monday's presentation from *3 Crows Productions* where grade 11 and 12 students saw the presentation of [Qwalena](#), which is a story based presentation where students learn about anti-racism, create awareness of the Indian Act and the intergenerational impacts of Residential Schools, while strengthening communities through education. On Thursday at lunch, students put together a variety of minor games that students could try out in the main foyer; the theme was on ensuring that games were accessible to all students. Also on Thursday during REP time, students engaged in a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion survey. We look forward to seeing the results of that and unpacking them with students and staff.

Next Tuesday, our students and staff engaged in our Informal Learning Update process. **Please watch for those coming home with your child on Tuesday.** As you know, we emailed information home pertaining to our upcoming parent/teacher interviews on Wednesday March 12th and Thursday March 13th. Please be sure to sign up following the instructions provided if you are interested. Instructions can also be found further along in this newsletter and on our website. If you are unable to book an appointment with a teacher, please contact that teacher directly to set up an alternate time.

As mentioned previously, we have been engaged in our course planning process these past few weeks. On February 21, course requests were due in MyEd BC. This week and into next week we are following up with students who had not yet completed their course requests for next school year. One of the things that we want to continue to emphasize is



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that we have asked students to choose their courses wisely. We build our timetable based on student course requests. As such, there is not always an opportunity for a student to change their courses once we have built the timetable. We will do our normal course verification process after Spring Break. I encourage you to have conversations with your child, once again, about their course requests to ensure that it reflects their needs, their areas of interest and that it also supports their potential future pathways.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend,

Mr. Jeremy Lyndon

Proud Principal



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IMPORTANT DATES

February 28	Online Booking for Parent-Teacher Interviews Opens at 3:30pm
March 3 – 7	Informal Learning Updates Sent Home
March 5	HUB Day
March 9	Online Booking for Parent-Teacher Interviews Closes at 11:59pm
March 11	Dry Grad Meeting – 6:30-7:30pm
March 11	Spring Music Concert @ 6:30pm
March 12 & 13	Parent Teacher Interviews – Dismissal @ 1:55pm
March 14	Last Day Before Spring Break
March 31	School Re-Opens after Spring Break
April 1	Dry Grad Meeting – 6:30-7:30pm
April 2	HUB Day
April 8	PAC Meeting
April 11	Design & Assessment Day – Students Not in Session
April 18	Good Friday – School Closed
April 21	Easter Monday – School Closed

IMPORTANT GRADUATION DATES & DEADLINES



March 12	Dry Grad 50/50 Deadline at 11:59pm
March 14	Dry Grad 50/50 Draw at 2:00pm
April 2	Online Ordering Deadline for Ceremony Tickets
April 2	Completed Grad Walk Field Trip Form due on School Cash Online
April 2	Dinner & Dance Tickets Available to Purchase on School Cash Online
April 17	Hard Copy of Dinner & Dance Guest Passes due at Office
May 9	Online Ordering Deadline for Dinner & Dance Tickets
May 15	Table Captains Submit all Required Dinner & Dance Paperwork

PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent-Teacher interviews will be held on Wednesday, March 12th from 2:20pm to 4:30pm, and Thursday, March 13th from 2:20pm to 7:30pm (with a dinner break for staff from 5-5:50pm). Appointments are booked online for in-person interviews. Online booking will open at 3:30pm on Friday, February 28th and close at 11:59pm on Sunday, March 9th. Please go to wgss.schoolappointments.com to register. *Please note that even if you have registered for appointments in previous sessions, you must re-register for the March 2025 session.*



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DIVERSITY AND RESPECT WEEK

This week, we at WGSS were thrilled to celebrate Diversity and Respect Week. This is a district-wide initiative to take some time to celebrate the diverse community that we have within our school and in the larger community. We use this week to reflect on the challenges and difficulties faced by members of marginalized communities as well as honour the

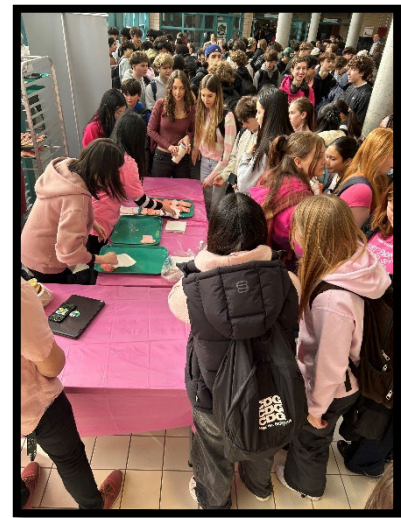
culture and contributions that they bring.

Over the course of the week, our students had the opportunity to view a live performance by the 3 Crows

Productions and take time to learn about Powwows. On Wednesday, our Pastry Arts class helped us to take part in Anti-Bullying Day by baking pink shirt sugar cookies. In honour of Black History Month, Student Council hosted a movie night, and students took part in a school-wide quiz contest to learn about Black History within

Canada. Our rainbow-themed spirit day also aimed to bring about visible recognition and support of our 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals. And our Gator X Games allowed students the chance to appreciate accessibility and inclusion through planned games and activities with our Complex Resource crew.

These types of activities and others that took place help bring our diverse school community together and bring about respect and kindness toward one another. While this week specifically serves to highlight these topics, these are lessons that we encourage everyone to take with them to bring about respect for diversity.



At WGSS, We All Belong.



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FROM OUR DISTRICT

Screenagers - Elementary School Age Edition: Community Screening and Expert Q&A - April 9, 2025

Physician and filmmaker Delaney Ruston examines the growing impact of screen time on young children, exploring the challenges families and educators face in managing digital use. Through personal experiences, expert insights, and the latest research, the film addresses key issues such as social media pressures, video gaming, screen time limits, and the effects of early exposure to technology.

Offering practical strategies for fostering healthy digital habits, *Screenagers: Elementary School Age Edition* is a must-watch for parents, teachers, and caregivers looking to guide children toward balanced tech use. View trailer: <https://youtu.be/EzzzeCny6oU>

FREE EVENT: Join other Langley parents and caregivers for a 55-minute documentary screening followed by a Q&A with expert panelists.

[Eventbrite Ticket Page](#)

[Facebook Event Page](#)

Y-Minds: FREE Program for Teens, Youth, and Adults

Y Mind is a FREE seven-week group program for teens, youth, or adults who are managing mild-to-moderate anxiety, stress, or worry. Two facilitators guide the group through evidence-based coping strategies based on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), mindfulness, and self-compassion. Group sizes are kept small, with 8 to 12 participants per group to facilitate peer support and connection.

Participants may self-refer, no diagnosis of anxiety is needed, and you do not need to be a YMCA member. All Y Mind Teen and Y Mind Youth participants receive a free YMCA membership for up to 14 weeks, including 10 free guest passes to bring a friend to the Y.

To join Y Mind, you must first register [here](#) for an information session where you will meet the group facilitators and complete an intake for the program. Spaces are limited, so inquire ASAP to guarantee your spot at an information session.



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Youth Train in Trades and Academic Dual-Credit Programs: Applications Open & Due Soon!

SD35 offers programs in association with Post Secondary organisations like BCIT, KPU, VCC and UFV in Electrical, Automotive Service Tech, Professional Cook, Piping and Plumbing, Hairstyling, Landscape Horticulture, Welding, Carpentry, Early Childhood Education, Biomedical and Health Sciences. Students earn post-secondary credits while still in high school, tuition free! Applications for the 2025/2026 school year are open and due in April.

There are program-specific Information Sessions that you may attend ([click here for details](#)). We have a team from KPU visiting our school for a session for students over Lunch in the library on **Tuesday, March 5th** to talk about the Bio Medical and Health Science program. Please encourage your child to attend this valuable session if they are considering a career in a related field.

Please connect with the Career Advisors, Lindsey Verbeek or Shalini Bajaj at the Career Centre in room 250 for any information, resources and support.



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This Month in the Arts - March 2025

The Arts are alive and well in Langley schools! Please check out the poster below for a quick glance and overview of all of the amazing Arts events and activities happening across schools in the Langley School District in March!

THIS MONTH IN THE ARTS
March

1	HADESTOWN Brookwood Secondary School BSS Theatre 7:00 pm
3	JAZZ CAFE DW Poppy Secondary School DWP Small Gym 6:30 pm
3	NIGHT OF MUSIC Aldergrove Secondary School ACSS Gym 6:30 pm
5	SPRING 'POPS' MUSIC CONCERT RE Mountain Secondary School REMS Main Gym 7:00 pm
1 6-8	THE LIGHTENING THIEF Langley Secondary School LSS Main Gym 7:00 pm
1 6-8	THE WIZARD OF OZ DW Poppy Secondary School DWP Small Gym 7:00 pm
10	ELEMENTARY ZONE MUSIC CONCERT DW Poppy Secondary School DWP Small Gym 7:00 pm
11	SOUND OF SPRING MUSIC CONCERT DWP Secondary School DWP Small Gym 7:00 pm
11	SPRING MUSIC CONCERT Walnut Grove Secondary School WGSS Main Gym 7:00 pm



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**YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD
STUDIO FOR FINE ARTS!**

LOCAL ART CLASSES

Igniting hearts and minds so profound and talented art shines



OPEN LEARNING CLASSES

INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING IN A GROUP SETTING:

Teachers provide one-on-one instruction within a group setting on individual, self-directed art projects or pieces, leading to a classical art education. Demo-guided, group-level learning is for our youngest student class.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| ART ANGELS (AGES 5-7) | • OIL |
| JUNIOR ARTISTS (AGES 8-12) | • ACRYLIC |
| TEENS (AGES 13-17) | • WATERCOLOR |
| ADULTS (AGES 18+) | • CHARCOAL |
| SENIORS (AGES 60+) | • PASTEL |
| | • COLOURED PENCILS |
| | + MORE 2D MEDIUMS |

SPECIALTY COURSES

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO TRY A NEW ART FORM, BUT DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO START?

A variety of Specialty Courses are offered seasonally. They run from 4 weeks up to 8 weeks, taught by artists skilled in the form.

Some examples include:

- WATERCOLOUR THEORY
- CHINESE BRUSH PAINTING AND CALLIGRAPHY
- URBAN SKETCHING
- ACRYLIC LANDSCAPES
- 2-D COLLAGE

PORTFOLIO PREPARATION PROGRAM

APPLYING TO ART SCHOOL?

Prepare yourself for post-secondary art programs under the guidance of qualified art teachers. Pursue your career, receive tailored instruction, and form a strong portfolio.

BOOK GROUP OR PRIVATE CLASSES, BIRTHDAY PARTIES, PAINT NIGHTS, SPRING AND SUMMER CAMPS, AND MORE!



CONTACT US

- (604) 455-0344
- www.theartschool.com
- @langleyartschool
- #215 20780 Willoughby Town Centre Drive, Langley V2Y0H5

COME AND JOIN US!



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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)





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FROM OUR COMMUNITY



Gordon Greenwood Elementary is hosting a family fun night on Friday, May 30th for the community. They are reaching out to see if there may be any students who would be interested in helping volunteer at their event and would be happy to sign off on any volunteer hours if needed.

Anyone interested in helping can email them directly at ggepac@hotmail.com or reach out to their principal at AJoo@sd35.bc.ca.



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FROM OUR PAC

Happy Friday from your WGSS PAC!

We hope the second semester got off to a good start for everyone.

The PAC has been quite active since the Christmas holidays. At our January meeting, we discussed and approved a second round of funding requests for student clubs and societies.

In case you didn't know, every school PAC can apply for and receive funds from the BC Gaming Commission on a yearly basis. The amount given by the Gaming Commission varies by school size, but is generally around \$20 per student, and is given to the PAC to disburse for eligible extracurricular requests and projects around the school. Disbursement of these funds is tightly regulated by BC Gaming Commission guidelines.

Our first round of funding disbursements is generally done in November, and if there are funds left over, we open up a second round of requests in the New Year. At this second round, we were happy to be able to approve all eligible requests.

We just held our February meeting this week. Among other topics, we discussed the timely topic of mental health supports available for students. The WGSS Counselling Department offers a wealth of information on their website: <http://wgsscounselling.weebly.com/>. We're also continuing to discuss "succession planning" - recruiting a new PAC executive for the coming school year. Most of the current executive is either graduating or not eligible for another term. Open positions for the new school year include President, VP, Treasurer and Secretary. Please consider volunteering for your PAC. As the parent of a high school student, it can sometimes feel challenging to stay connected to events around the school, if not the district. Being a part of the PAC helps you stay informed and be a part of your child's high school journey.

Finally, please donate to your PAC if you can. We generally do not fundraise, because most of the school's fundraising centers around Dry Grad, and we have no wish to compete with that. Funds donated to the PAC do not fall under regulated guidelines, which means we have a lot more leeway in how we use the funds to support students and the school. Any amount helps, and we are incredibly grateful for your support. You can donate at <https://www.schoolcashonline.com/>. Please select your student, and then scroll down to "PAC Dondations". Your WGSS PAC thanks you sincerely!



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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!





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Dragon Boat Youth Program

**Learn how to paddle, drum, and race in a dragon boat!
Open to Grades 8 - 12. No experience required.**

Program: April 1 to June 21/22 - 2025

Practices: 2xwk Tuesday & Friday 4:15-5:45 (Flexibility for school and life!)

Location: Fort Langley Canoe Club, Fort Langley

Regattas (Races): May 3, May 31, June 21/22 - 2025

Price: \$100 (GST included) - Includes paddles, safety equipment, coaching plus 3 regattas at Dragon Zone in False Creek (Science World)

Contact: youth@fortlangleycanoeclub.ca



To register - www.fortlangleycanoeclub.ca/youth-program/



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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

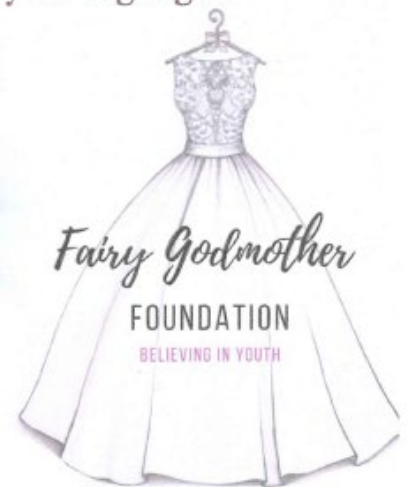
Let us help you feel like the star you truly are on your big night!

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





The four Rotary Clubs of Langley are proud to announce the tenth annual SASSY Awards Langley.

In the previous nine years, SASSY is proud to have awarded just over \$114000.00 to Langley youth. SASSY stands for “Service Above Self” Student Youth. Incorporating Rotary’s guiding motto, the awards aim to recognize and celebrate the leadership achievements of Langley youth who exemplify the ideals of Rotary by making a positive impact in our Langley communities.

Awards focus on students who have shown demonstrated, committed leadership of a group or task. Nominations are now being accepted in seven categories for youth aged 15 to 21 living in, and/or who have made a significant impact in leadership roles within the Township or City of Langley.

The awards will be presented as part of the awards show on Thursday May 8th, 2025, at the Chief Sepass Theatre, located in the Langley Fine Arts School. An applicant must also be available, if chosen for the top three in one of the seven categories, for interviews on Saturday morning, April 12th, 2025.

You must be available and attend both the **April 12th** judging and the **May 8th** Awards Show to be eligible to receive a cash and recognition award. Please put these dates on your calendar!

Each Category Award Winner (one in each of the seven categories) will receive: • \$1,200 Cash Award • SASSY Recognition Award Each of the two runners up in the seven categories will receive a \$600.00 cash award.

More information is available at: www.sassyawardslangley.ca



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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 [School Cash Online](#). 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.

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

- March (No Meeting)
- Tuesday, April 8th
- Tuesday, May 13th
- Tuesday, June 10th (Regular PAC Meeting **and** Annual General Meeting)

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, 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!



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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**