



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This is our first newsletter since returning from Spring Break, so also my first opportunity to welcome you all back from Spring Break. I hope you and yours had a wonderful break and were able to do the things that you love, that bring you joy and that help you to re-charge as we enter the final leg of the school year. With our return from Spring Break there is always a sense of energy and enthusiasm, which is fantastic, because we have certainly hit the ground running these past two weeks.

As always, there are many amazing things happening at WGSS. Since returning from Spring Break our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion department heads have helped us to honour those students and families who are celebrating Ramadan as well as Sikh Heritage Month. One Season, the restaurant associated with our Professional Cook Training



Program has opened. This past Tuesday we hosted the District Choral Festival at WGSS. It was a fabulous event where numerous schools from around the District showcased their choirs and put on a wonderful evening of live music for each other and their families. This morning Ms. McKay and our Leadership students hosted our Spring pep rally which was such a fun way to end the week and celebrate the wonderful culture we have here at Walnut Grove Secondary!

As we continue into the Spring, we will look forward to our upcoming Musical Theatre program's presentation of *Legally Blonde*. The staff and students always put together such a wonderful show and I am really looking to seeing this year's production. You will find more information and links to order tickets in this newsletter.

As you are likely aware, towards the end of April, we will be publishing our Term 1, Semester 2 report cards. As always, if you have any questions about how your student is progressing, please don't hesitate to reach out to teachers directly.

I wish you all a wonderful Easter long weekend.

Sincerely,

J. Lyndon

Proud Principal



Gator News

#13

UPCOMING DATES

Friday, April 7
Monday, April 10
Monday, April 17
Monday, April 24
Wednesday, May 3
Wednesday, May 10

Friday, May 19
Monday, May 22

Good Friday (school closed)
Easter Monday (school closed)
Design & Assessment Day (students do not attend)
Term 1 Semester 2 Report Cards
Hub 1 Day (Math, SS, PHE, Tech Ed, Languages)
Hub 2 Day (Arts, Computers, Home Ec, English/ELL, Science, Careers)
District Pro D Day (students do not attend)
Victoria Day (school closed)

GRADUATION 2023

A reminder for families to please ensure they have reviewed the Grad 2023 package for information and timelines. The first deadline is fast approaching to order ceremony tickets online by April 14. Information is also available at <https://www.wgss.ca/news-events/news/view/grad-2023-info-package/> and on our website.

Also, Vibrant Photos is offering a last opportunity for grad photos on April 20th at Robert Bateman Secondary in Abbotsford or May 5th in their Maple Ridge studio.

If you would like photos done, please email Vibrant photos directly at dawn@vibrantphotos.ca

CAREER CENTRE NEWS

Additional career opportunities can be found in the District Career Ed Newsletter published bimonthly. Click [this link](#) to get connected and subscribe to receive updates on events and news.

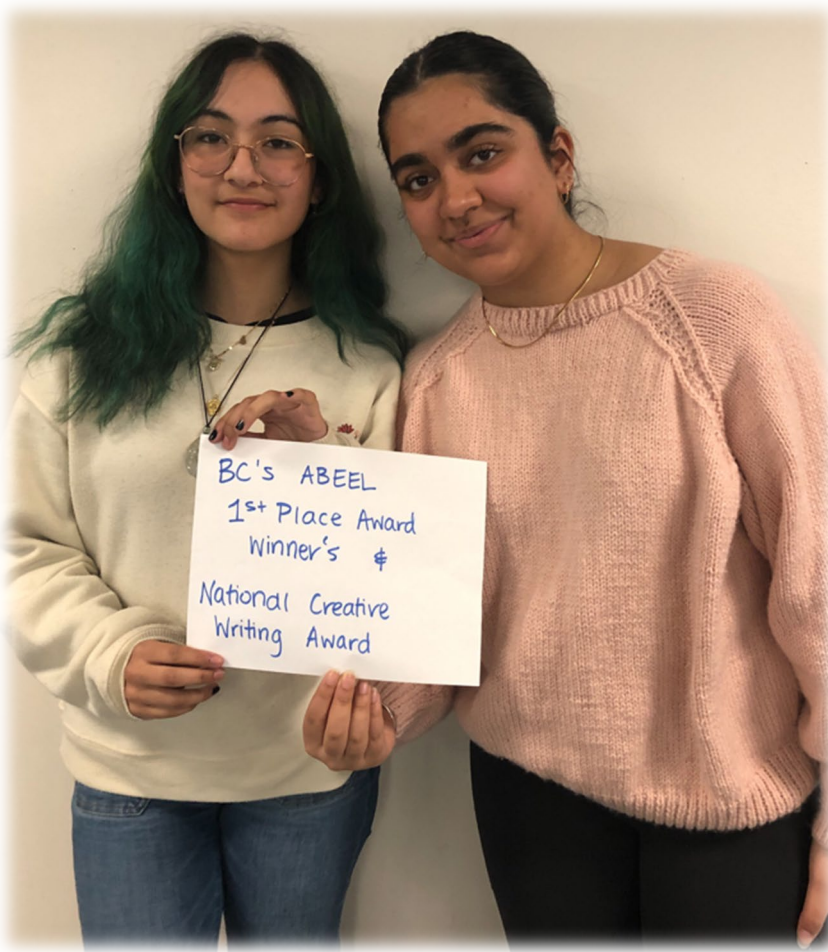


Gator News

#13

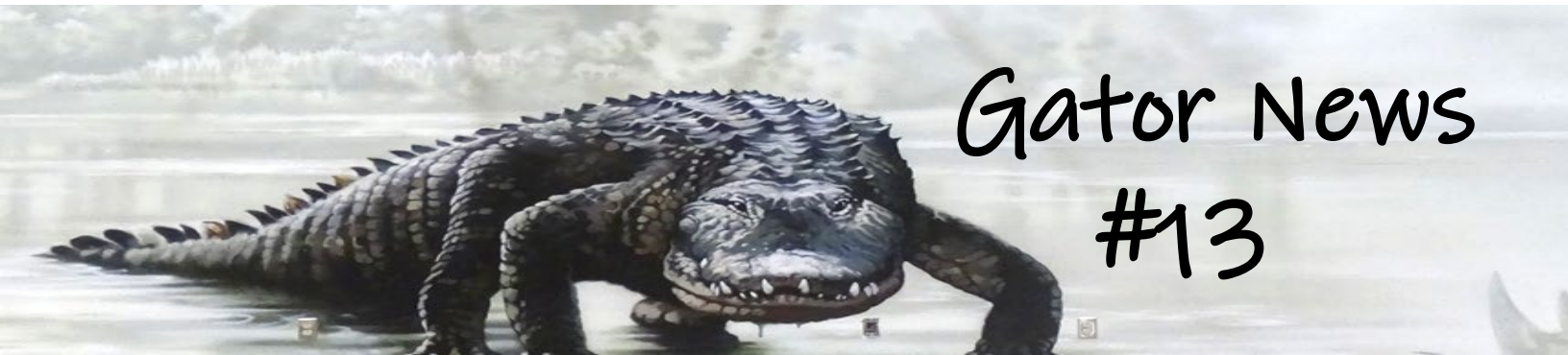
AMAZING GATORS DOING GREAT THINGS!

Congratulations to our Grade 11 students Kate Ang and Avani Kundan for their submission, [Travels with a Time God](#) to the ABEEL Shaping the Future Sponsorship Program. The prompt was "what is your vision for creating safer communities where there is a reduction of violence brought on by systemic racism, specifically Anti-Black racism?" Their piece describes the journey through a future Langley and Metro Vancouver that is more inclusive and accepting of all religions, ethnicities, cultures, and abilities. They have won the 1st Place Regional Award for British Columbia and the National Creative Writing Award. Both students will each receive \$4,750 in bursary funds toward their post-secondary education. Congratulations Kate and Avani!



The ABEEL Foundation (Non-Profit Organization) stemmed from an employee-led group within the EllisDon Corporation. We help to raise awareness and promote education on how we can stop racism within organizations and the communities in which these organizations serve.

The ABEEL Foundation's Shaping the Future Sponsorship Program enables youth to share their vision for a world that is more inclusive of the Black experience, ultimately helping in building a better, safer, and more inclusive world.



Congratulations to Ms. Vaters' Semester 1 Foods class who made and sold cookies to raise money to help support Canuck Place Children's Hospice.

Today we presented Canuck Place with a cheque for almost \$1500! We are proud of the work they did and their efforts in giving back to the community!

GATOR ATHLETICS

Our Spring Sports are underway. We have many athletes participating in a variety of sports this season. Girls Soccer, Lacrosse, Ultimate, Track and Field, Badminton, Rugby, and Golf have all just started their seasons. You can [check out their schedules on our website](#) to see where and when they are playing games. We are excited to have both Lacrosse and Badminton competing for the first time this year.

Another exciting athletics event that occurred recently was the BioSteel All Canadian Basketball Game. The BioSteel All Canadian Basketball Games feature the top 24 senior male and female Canadian high school basketball players who are either Canadian-born or enrolled in a Canadian institution. The top 24 athletes come together in Toronto to work with Canadian coaches and trainers in a series of events including on-and-off court training, practices, and scrimmages in front of NBA scouts and GMs, community outreach, the Nike Skills Challenge, and the Boys and Girls All Canadian Games, broadcast live on TSN. Our very own Keira Pemberton was a participant in the game this past weekend. You can [read more about it here](#).



Gator News #13



THE BOX OFFICE IS NOW OPEN!

WGSS Theatre in the Grove presents *Legally Blonde The Musical*! Show dates are May 4-6 and 11-13 at 7PM and May 13 at 2PM. Tickets are \$15 and all seats are general seating.

There is also a "Dinner and a Show" option on May 4 and 11 for \$30 per ticket. This includes a three-course meal prepared by our VCC PC1 students.

Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.showtix4u.com/events/theatreinthegrove> or use the QR code below:






Gator News

#13

PACIFIC COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Pacific Community Resources provides youth & family support, education programs, employment services, counselling & housing support in Greater Vancouver. More information can be found at <https://pcrs.ca/>

Hum, whistle or sing	Splash cold water on your face	Wrap yourself in a blanket	Take 3 deep breaths
Chew on ice	VIRTUAL MINDFUL MONDAYS A MENU <i>for sensory & nervous system practices to help find calm.</i> <i>Try one!</i> 		Take a walk outdoors
Text or call a friend			Draw or doodle
Run your hands under warm water	Fan your face & feel the moving air	Find a smooth rock & roll it in your hands	Drum or tap your fingers



Gator News #13



SCHOOL DISTRICT

Langley

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM



HOMESTAY FAMILIES NEEDED

Have a life changing experience and welcome an international student into your home!

Homestay families are provided **\$1050/month** to offset costs!

Visit our International Student Program website (Homestay section):

www.studyinlangley.com

and complete the online Homestay Application.





Gator News #13

DRY GRAD NEWS

Are you getting excited yet? Graduation, including Dry Grad, is less than 12 weeks away! We need many volunteers for many rolls. Look for a Volunteer sign up email in April where you can sign up for various rolls for the Dry Grad Event and the Kick-Off Party!

Please reach out to us at wgssdrygrad2023@gmail.com so we can add you to our mailing list and follow us on Facebook at WGSS 2023 Dry Grad Parent Group. The next Dry Grad parent/guardian meeting is Tuesday, May 2 at 6:30pm in the WGSS Library.

Dry Grad Fundraisers

Thank you to everyone who came out to support our Pub Night fundraiser. A great time was had by everyone we made a profit of **\$5830!**

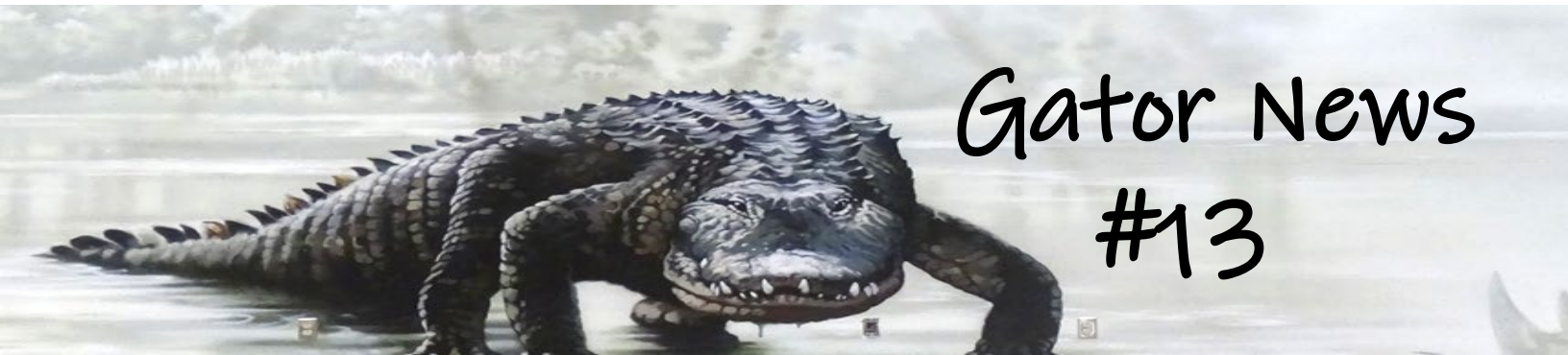
Raffle Tickets

Raffle tickets were handed out March 28 and details emailed to grad families. If you haven't see the tickets, please ask your grad. All tickets, sold or unsold, must be returned by April 14 in order to purchase a Dry Grad ticket. Cash prizes of \$1000, \$500 and \$250 plus a prize to the grad who sells the most tickets! All the proceeds go directly to the Dry Grad Event! Draw date is April 26th!

TOL Firefighters

We would like to thank TOL Firehall 8 for the very generous donation of \$2280 to Dry Grad!





Dollar and Cents

Through June 6th, consider buying your Dollar Store purchases through the Dollar and Cents stores located in Langley (Willowbrook) and Coquitlam. Mention WGSS Dry Grad and 20% of all purchases goes directly to our Dry Grad. See flyer on the next page for more details



Join our Community Fundraiser!



WGSS Dry Grad 2023

For every purchase made from **Feb. 10th – June 6th, 2023**

using the account name of

WGSS Dry Grad 2023

Dollars and Cents will donate **20%** of the value in sales accrued.

* No other customer discount program can be used in conjunction: such as the Teacher's Program, B2B Program, Senior's Program, nor will any points accrue towards the greeting card/balloon program.

In-store promotional discounts will of course, be honoured.

Coquitlam Location: Westwood Plateau Village Unit D-01, 1410 Parkway Boulevard, Coquitlam, BC V3E 3J7

Langley Location: Creekside Place Unit 108, 20121 Willowbrook Drive, Langley, BC V2Y 2T5

STORE HOURS:

Monday – Wednesday 9am to 7pm Thursday & Friday 9am – 8pm Saturday 9am-7pm Sunday & Holidays 10am-6pm

Thank you for shopping local and independent!



Don't forget about our two on-going fundraisers.

- Consider a direct donation through the Langley School Foundation (tax deductible) using this link <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/langley-school-district-foundation/p2p/WGSSDryGrad2023/> or scan the QR code



- Donate your refundable recycling to the WGSS 2023 Grad class! Please see the last page of this newsletter for all the information!



Gator News #13

WALNUT GROVE SECONDARY DRY GRAD 2023 FUNDRAISER



Please consider donating your recycling funds
to our Walnut Grove Graduation Class of 2023

Take your cans, glass, and plastic bottles in
clear or clear blue plastic bags to
**Return-It Walnut Grove Bottle and Return
Centre**

At the label kiosk enter this number:

604-908-9597

and place the label on your bag.

All funds will go to the
2023 WGSS Graduation class.
Thank you for your support!