



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

If you can believe it, we are already nearing the end of September! As I mentioned in our last newsletter, the positive energy and buzz in the building has been fantastic as we have started another school year! I am thankful to our students and staff for working so hard to help us begin the school year well. Last night we hosted our Meet the Teacher evening. We had many families throughout the school connecting with staff and learning about their student's schedules and daily routine. I am appreciative of the staff who gave up their evening with their families to meet all our WGSS families. I am also appreciative of our GQ Ambassadors (Gator Quality Ambassadors) who were in the hallways welcoming families and helping folks navigate their way throughout the building. They did an awesome job!

Today, we hosted our Post Secondary Institution Day! Our senior students were able to choose several sessions hosted by a variety of Post Secondary Institutions. It was a very successful event and I know many students were inspired by some of the opportunities that are ahead of them after they finish their high school journey with us. Huge thank you to Ms. Twemlow and our counselling department as well as Ms. Dorland and Ms. Pawar for putting together this fantastic morning for our students.

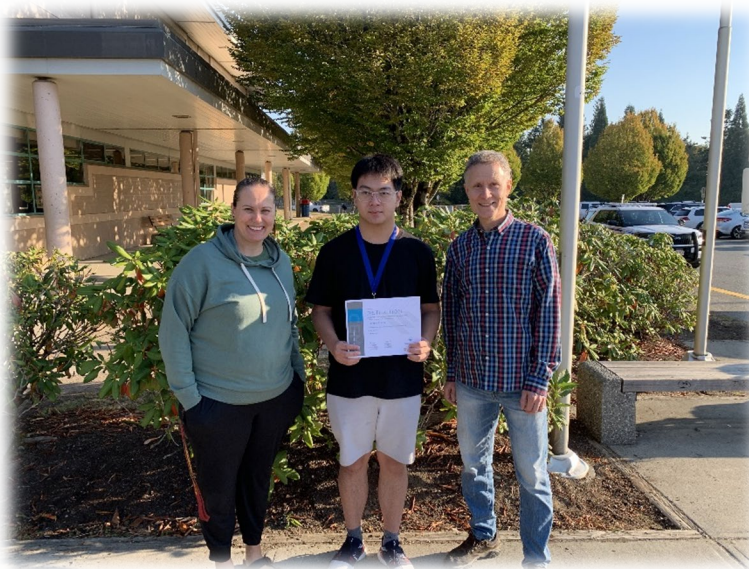
On Wednesday, we hosted our first HUB Day of the school year. I am hoping that you had an opportunity to read the letter that we sent home about HUB Time. If you did not get a chance to see the letter, you can see it here [PLC Time Letter to Families - Sept 15 - 2023.pdf](#) We hosted an assembly for our grade 8s during HUB Time. Hayley Honeyman, a WGSS graduate of 2016, spoke to our students about her journey through high school and offered advice and support to student to help them make the most of their time here at WGSS. It was a wonderful message.

Beginning in October, our Breakfast Program will begin again. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers and community members who support our program and staff who help to facilitate. It is through the dedication and generosity of others that we can host programs like our Breakfast Program at WGSS. The WGSS Breakfast program is hosted in the cafeteria Monday through Friday from 8:00 am – 8:35 am. Our Breakfast program is a fantastic community and culture builder. Everyone is welcome to attend the Breakfast Program.



As we settle into the school year, if you could please help us build good habits with students that would be appreciated. Here are some ways that you can help:

- Please help students be on time. We know that sometimes mornings can be hectic, but we do encourage our students to be on time for classes. Of course, we understand that things come up and it is not always possible, but we do hope for our students to be punctual.
- Please help keep our students safe. We have noticed a number of parents dropping their students off on Walnut Grove Drive. **Please do not stop in the roadway and drop your student off on the street.** This is unsafe. As you know our parking lot is very busy during peak drop-off and pick-up times, so if you can drop-off in surrounding areas or encourage your student to walk or ride a bike, that is great.
- If you have questions or concerns about something related to your student's classes, please be sure to reach out to the teacher first. We have included some resource from the District with respect to how best to communicate with the school and staff. Please see those details later in the newsletter.



Recently, one of our students, Harry Zhang, competed in the Euclid Math contest. He achieved a very high level, earning both a medal and financial award. Harry was in the top 0.05% of all writers in Canada! Harry reached out to us saying that he wanted to donate his winnings back to the school. He has donated funds to both the Math Department and the Learning Support Services department at WGSS! Congratulations Harry on

both your achievement on the Euclid Math Contest, and your generous spirit! The WGSS Community thanks you for your contribution.



As we transition into the last week of September, please note some upcoming dates on the following page. Please also be sure to download MySchoolDay app for our block rotation and other important information.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

J. Lyndon

Proud Principal



Gator News

#2

IMPORTANT DATES

September 27	HUB Day
September 29	Every Child Matters Day (show support and wear orange)
October 2	Truth & Reconciliation Day (school closed)
October 3	Grad 2024 boat cruise
October 6	School Improvement Day (students do not attend)
October 9	Thanksgiving Day (school closed)
October 11	Photo retakes
October 20	Pro D Day (students do not attend)

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Your students' 2023/24 school photos are now available online for viewing and ordering! Please see [Order school photos 2023-24.pdf](#) for information. If your student does not have their QR code that was handed out on Photo Day, you can enter their student number to access photos.

The final opportunity for 2023/24 school year photos is Wednesday, October 11. This will be for students who were absent on the original photo day or students who wish to have retakes. If you are wanting **retakes**, please note the following:

- retakes will not be done for students who wish only an ID card
- you must sign-up for retakes at:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/WGSS_2023Fall_Final_Photo_Day_Sign-Up.
- **Do not use the sign-up link if you were absent on the original photo day. This link is for retakes only!** Please read the information from Vibrant Photos included on the sign-up page.
- there will be a \$5 charge when signing up online to confirm your retake spot and the \$5 will be deducted when ordering your package.

Questions? Please contact Vibrant Photos at info@vibrantphotos.ca or call 604-380-3388.

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY

As a school, we have updated our [WGSS Plagiarism Policy.pdf](#). It now better reflects current instructional and assessment pedagogy as well as online and digital tools such as Chat GPT. Teachers have been sharing this with students throughout the month of September. This will also be uploaded to our website for reference.



SPAIN EXCHANGE

WGSS has been hosting 24 Grade 10 students and two teachers from La Salle Paterna near Valencia since September 12. They have enjoyed a variety of activities and destinations during their time here including dragon boating, Grouse Mountain, Britannia Mine Museum, Fly Over Canada, the Vancouver Art Gallery and Stanley Park. We will be hosting the students in classes



on Tuesday, one day before they depart for home on Wednesday and then our 24 hosting students will have the opportunity to visit Valencia to enjoy the sites in that area on March 10-24 of next year. It has been a wonderful experience for both travellers and hosts!





Gator News #2

TERRY FOX RUN

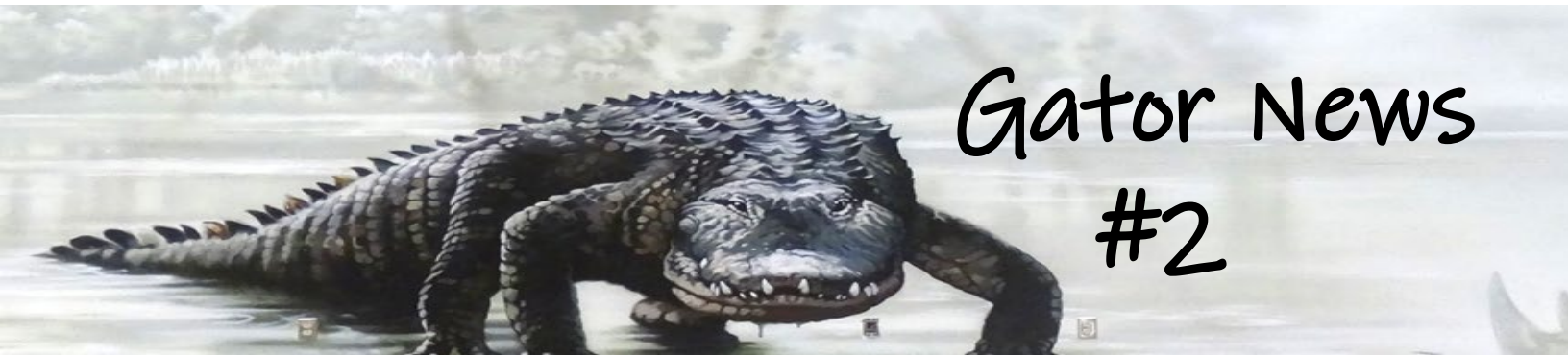
In some of our feeder schools, the Terry Fox Run is held in September to honour Terry's legacy. While we recognize Terry's Marathon of Hope, we celebrate Terry a little differently at WGSS.



Every June, we put on a schoolwide event called Tuff Wally. We combine the Terry Fox Run/Walk and fundraising efforts with an obstacle course race. Between the two events, we raise a significant amount of money for the Terry Fox Foundation. We start off with an assembly and explain to the students what is happening, and we help motivate them to fundraise.

One week later, the entire school will participate in a Terry Fox Run/Walk. At the end of that week, there will be the obstacle course race called the Tuff Wally. The Tuff Wally is not only a race, it is a school-wide celebration and fundraiser. There are plenty of crowd events such as a bouncy castle, dunk tank, and a stage where the resolutions to the fundraising challenges happen.

Last year, we raised nearly \$30,000 as a school community to contribute to the cause. We look forward to another successful Tuff Wally inspired by the dedication and perseverance of our Canadian hero, Terry Fox.



NEW REPORTING ORDER RESOURCES FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

Below is the link to the Ministry website which contains all the resources for parents/caregivers around the changes to reporting in the new Ministry Reporting Order.

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/reporting/resources-for-parents-and-caregivers>

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR SCHOOL

Schools and families continue to work together to ensure success for students. If you have an issue or concern but don't know who to speak with, the District encourages you to read these helpful Communicating with your School guidelines for parents/guardians found on our District website [here](#). As an additional reference, review this one-page resource [here](#).

FAIR NOTICE RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS/FAMILIES

The Langley School District is committed to a safe and supportive environment for all. Our schools take all threatening comments and behaviours seriously. Our schools follow procedures when responding to threat-making behaviour to help keep students, staff, and the community safe. The following resource [here](#) outlines what information students and families need to know in relation to how the District responds to threat-making behaviour in our schools. Everyone has a role in helping keep our students safe. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your school administrator.

BC DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY HELPING IDENTIFY SYSTEMIC RACISM

The District is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion and creating compassionate learning communities. We support our community partners in helping promote anti-racism and implementing strategies to help eradicate racism. The province has launched the BC Demographic Survey to help identify systemic racism in government services. The survey is available in 15 languages and takes 15 minutes. We encourage members of our community to complete the survey which closes on October 15th. Fill out the survey [here](#) or read more [here](#).



Gator News #2

DRY GRAD 2024

ARE YOU THE
PARENT/GUARDIAN OF A
GRADE 12 STUDENT?

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE FIRST
DRY GRAD 2024 MEETING ON
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4 AT
7:00PM IN THE WGSS LIBRARY