



## **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, we honoured the [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#). In addition to wearing orange, Ms. Brasnett, our Indigenous Worldviews and Perspectives department head, Ms. Beaudry, and Ms. Brasnett's English First People's 12 class and BC First People's 12 class put together a fantastic learning opportunity for our staff and students to do together. Students were asked to put together, as a class, a collaborative Orange Shirt Day poster.

As students were constructing their collaborative poster, staff had a number of resources available to them to help facilitate conversations and discussion. Here is a sample of those resources:

- [Article](#) on the recent discoveries at St. Mary's Residential School in Mission, BC
- [Video clip](#) entitled 94in94 Calls to Action Campaign
- [Summary](#) of the 94 Calls to Action



There are two critical pieces to Truth and Reconciliation. First, the idea of Truth. This is a necessary first step to take as a non-Indigenous person in terms of listening and learning about the generational impacts of residential schools on Indigenous families and culture. One of the misconceptions about this first idea is that we have learned the truth already and we don't need to do that anymore. Seeking to understand is something that will always be a part of this important day and a critical piece to Truth and Reconciliation. The process will be ongoing, and our understanding and compassion will continue to deepen. Second, the idea of reconciliation. What steps and actions can we take as non-Indigenous people, and as a society to work towards reconciliation? These are important questions that our students and staff considered as part of the learning and activities that were put together for Orange

Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.



Thank you again to Ms. Brasnett, Ms. Beaudry and our English 12 First Peoples and BC First Peoples 12 classes for putting together a rich learning opportunity for our staff and students.

On Thursday, October 12 our students and staff will be engaging in our Informal Learning Update Day. All our students will be getting an update from all their semester courses. This is a great opportunity for families to connect with their children about their progress. We would encourage you to ask your children for their Informal Learning Update when they arrive home. The Informal Learning Update can also serve as a tool for discussion at our upcoming Parent/Teacher Interviews.

Those interviews will take place the following week on October 25 and 26. Separate, detailed information will be communicated about how to sign up and the details in terms of schedule. Parents will be able to schedule in-person appointments with teachers. If anyone needs a phone call appointment or a Teams (online) appointment, please reach out to the teacher directly to arrange a day and time. I do encourage you to please make those connections with your child's teachers. It is an invaluable way to stay involved and informed with your student's education and also have any questions answered about your child's progress.

As we enter the weekend, we continue to have wonderful, summer-like weather. I hope you and your family have a chance to connect, relax and consider and appreciate the people and things in your lives for which you are thankful.

Have great Thanksgiving long weekend everyone.

Sincerely,

*J. Lyndon*

Proud Principal





# Gator News

## #3

### IMPORTANT DATES

October 9	Thanksgiving Day (school closed)
October 10	PAC Meeting @ 7PM
October 11	Photo retakes
October 12	Informal Learning Updates (formerly Interim Reports)
October 17	WGSS Club Day
October 20	Pro D Day (students do not attend)
October 25	Parent/Teacher interviews, early dismissal at 1:55PM
October 26	Parent/Teacher interviews, early dismissal at 1:55PM

### 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](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. **This link will close at midnight on October 9.**
- 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](mailto:info@vibrantphotos.ca) or call 604-380-3388.





# Gator News #3



CLASS OF 2024

GRAD CRUISE





# Gator News #3



October 6, 2023

Twitter: @dsd35wgss

Instagram: @walnutgrovesecondary





# Gator News #3

## **AMAZING GATORS DOING GREAT THINGS!**

Ms. Epting's Textiles Level 1 class has been busy painting and sewing Trick or Treat bags for the kids at BC Children's Hospital who don't get to be home for Halloween. This is a big event and what a fantastic way for our students to give back to the community!





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## WGSS ATHLETICS

Fall Sports are in full swing!

Fall Sports include Volleyball, Sr Boys Soccer, Aquatics, and Cross Country. Students and families are always welcome to attend home games to cheer on our Gator Athletes! All home games are listed at [www.wgssathletics.ca/schedules](http://www.wgssathletics.ca/schedules).

We are excited to see what this season has in store! Follow along on instagram @wgssathletics

Here are a few highlights thus far:



*Grade 8 Girls Volleyball*





# Gator News #3



Cross-Country