



# Gator News

## #4

### **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

As you may already be aware, the Ministry of Education and Childcare has made some changes to the way in which student learning is reported. As a School and as a District, we have been slowly making the transition in our reporting practices. For more information on this please see the [New Reporting Order Resources for Parents/Caregivers](#). One of the new items in the reporting order is the requirement for students to reflect on the [Core Competencies](#). To begin, we will be focusing on the Thinking Competency. Next week, on October 24, we will be showing students what is expected of them in terms of the core competency reflection process and also the tool that they will be using to capture their reflections. Please ask your child to share this information with you in the near future.

As you know, last week our students and staff engaged in our informal learning update process (formerly known as interim reports). I hope that this information was helpful to students and families and that you had an opportunity to discuss your child's learning and progress in their courses. Next week we are hosting our parent-teacher interviews; I hope you have had a chance to make an appointment to connect with your child's teachers.

In the coming weeks at WGSS, we have a number of events and activities that are being planned for our school community. As mentioned above, we are rolling out the core competency reflection tool next week. We are also hosting our Club Day on October 24 where students will have an opportunity to learn about what clubs and extra-curricular activities are available to them. Our Music Department will be hosting two events here at WGSS: the first is the District Band Concert which will take place on October 24; the second is our Fall Music Concert which will take place on October 30. Also upcoming is our Halloween Spirit Day, on October 31. While we certainly encourage students to participate, dress up, and enjoy the fun of Halloween, we also have some guidelines around costumes that we need students to observe to ensure that everyone can enjoy the day. Please see information further along in this newsletter.

Last year we showed our students the documentary "Screenagers." We also hosted a parent evening where we showed the documentary to parents and hosted a panel discussion afterwards. A new version of "Screenagers" has been released this year and it is centred on vaping. We will be showing that documentary to students on November 16 during REP time. We will once again be hosting a parent screening of the documentary and hosting a panel discussion on November 22. Please mark your calendars!



Finally, 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 2100 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.

I wish you all a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

*J. Lyndon*

Proud Principal



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### **IMPORTANT DATES**

October 24	WGSS Club Day
October 24	District Band Festival, 5PM @ WGSS
October 25	Parent/Teacher interviews, early dismissal at 1:55PM
October 26	Parent/Teacher interviews, early dismissal at 1:55PM
October 30	Fall Music Concert, 5PM @ WGSS
November 1	Dry Grad Parent Meeting, 7PM in WGSS Library
November 6-17	Grad 2024 portraits/yearbook photos (see info in this newsletter)
November 10	Report Card/Design & Assessment Day (students do not attend)
November 13	School closed in recognition of Remembrance Day
November 22	Parent screening of the documentary "Screenagers" (more information to follow)

### **WGSS PAC EXECUTIVE 2023/24**

- President: Anuschka Brhelle
- Vice President: Stephen Northrup
- Treasurer: Julie Croft
- Secretary: Karen Roeck
- DPAC Rep: Kristen Faulkner

<https://www.wgsspac.ca/>

### **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES RESOURCE**

Not sure what questions to ask your child's teacher at your parent-teacher conference? The District is sharing this resource to help families plan for their meeting. Families can review this three-page resource for some ideas, questions, and things to consider. Teachers, staff, and families work together to ensure student success in our schools. Read [here](#).

A reminder that bookings for parent/teacher interviews closes on Sunday, October 22 at 11:55PM. Please see [OnlinebookinginstructionsOctober2023.pdf](#) for instructions on how to book an appointment.



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### **HALLOWEEN COSTUMES**

As Halloween approaches, this is a reminder of the importance of being culturally sensitive as you choose your costumes. As clothing from various cultures is not a costume, but often part of sacred rituals or beliefs, dressing as such is considered cultural appropriation. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, cultural appropriation is defined as “the act of taking or using things from a culture that is not your own, especially without showing that you understand or respect this culture.” As you move forward with planning costumes for your family, please take this information into your consideration. As always, we want all students and staff to learn in a healthy, safe, and inclusive learning environment. For additional guidelines around Halloween costumes at WGSS, please see below:

#### **SAFETY:**

##### **1) WE NEED TO SEE FACES**

Full faced masks or costumes that completely hide the person are not permitted as they can be scary for some students and pose a safety risk with regards to us knowing who is in our school building.

##### **2) WE NEED TO BE SAFE IN TODAY’S AGE**

Replica or fake weapons of any kind are not permitted. Examples of exceptions might be a toy lightsaber or small foam knight’s sword. It should be obvious to any observer that the prop in question is a toy and non-functional.

##### **3) WE ARE A SCHOOL THAT PROMOTES HEALTH & WELLNESS FOR ALL**

Costumes that promote the use of illegal substances/activities and that portray violence are not permitted.

#### **RESPECTFUL:**

##### **4) THIS IS OUR WORKPLACE**

Students are not permitted to wear anything suggestive or provocative in nature. (underwear as outerwear is not acceptable).

##### **5) WE ARE KIND**

Students must show respect to other students by not touching, defacing, or insulting other students' costumes.





## **PROVINCIAL LITERACY 10 AND 12 ASSESSMENTS** **NOVEMBER 2023**

Grade 10's and 12's who have English in Semester 1 will be writing the Provincial Literacy 10 and 12 Assessments (LTE) during the week of October 30-November 3 in the WGSS Library. In general, this assessment is meant to be a more wholistic view of our students' literacy skills, as they near graduation, as opposed to student's understanding of content from a particular English.

All Grade 10's and 12's are required to write this assessment, and this assessment:

- is meant to be reflective of life, not just one English class
- completed online
- marking rubric is out of 4
- **If you do not write this assessment in this session, you need to make other arrangements with the school for an alternate session.**

When do students write?

- All students must show up during their allotted time.
- We appreciate that you may be missing one class, however, all our teachers are aware of this schedule and have planned around it.
- We don't want students who are ill coming to school, however, this assessment is **necessary to graduate**. Please contact Ms. Florko through Teams if you are ill.
- Most students will be completed within two hours; however, the assessment is available online for three hours for those who need extra time.

On the day of writing the assessment, students, please be aware:

- **Bring your student ID card or picture ID.**
- Be prepared to put your phone, purse, earphones, etc. away from the computer.
- No food in the Library.
- **For those students who traditionally write exams in a Resource room, please contact your Case Manager if you wish to write there.**

When will students write?

- AM session arrival at 8:15AM and write from 8:30 – 11:30AM
- PM session arrival at 11:45AM and write from noon – 3:00PM



How do families prepare? Where can I find more information?

- This is not an assessment you can “cram” for.
- More information on Literacy can be found at <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/provincial/grade-12-literacy-assessment> and <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/provincial/grade-10-literacy-assessment>
- Please take some time to familiarize yourself with this site prior to sitting for the assessment.

### **Oct 30 (Monday)**

#### **AM**

- LTE10: S1A Sommerville and Findlay classes
- LTE10: Grade 11/12s who are missing LTE10
- NME10: Grade 11/12s missing NME10

#### **PM**

- LTE10: S1D Sommerville and Rolleman classes

### **Nov 1 (Wednesday HUB – DCBA)**

#### **AM**

- LTE12: S1D Fast, Sweeney, and Yule classes

#### **PM**

- LTE12: S1A Fast and S1B Robinson classes

### **Nov 2 (Thursday)**

#### **AM**

- LTE12: S1C/D Brasnett classes

#### **PM**

- LTE12: S1B Stam and Sweeney classes

### **Nov 3 (Friday)**

#### **AM**

- LTE12: FYD Robinson AP English 12 classes



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### WGSS CHARITY MARKET

Walnut Grove Secondary's Entrepreneurship 12 class is seeking donations from community members to put in our WGSS Charity Market: a fundraiser for BC Children's Hospital. It is hosted, organized, and put on by this semester's Entrepreneurship 12 students. They will all have tables selling products, services, or carnival-like games. Net proceeds will go to BC Children's Hospital, the charity the class chose.

The WGSS Charity Market will be running from Wednesday, December 6 to Friday, December 8 at lunch time (and REP time on Friday).

The goal is to give our Entrepreneurship students experience in project management, event marketing, and running a small business from idea creation to completion. We will also be accepting applications for student vendors from outside our class to get more school engagement.

### GRAD 2024 PORTRAITS/YEARBOOK PHOTOS

**Portraits will take place at the North Langley Community Church from November 6-17**  
***All grads must be photographed for the yearbook and class composite.***

Please use [www.signupgenius.com/org/2024\\_WGSS\\_Grad\\_Photo\\_Sign-Up](http://www.signupgenius.com/org/2024_WGSS_Grad_Photo_Sign-Up) to book your appointment. We ask that you read **all the information** carefully. You will find answers to the majority of, if not all, your questions. Please contact Vibrant Photos directly at 604-380-3388 if you still require assistance.

Choose either the full portrait sitting (\$50) **or** yearbook only sitting (no charge). Please sign up for ONE photo slot only.

Check the box next to the time slot and type of photo you would like. At the bottom of the screen, click on the "submit and sign-up" button. You will then complete your registration and that's it. You're done!

If you choose the full portrait option, the sitting fee is \$50 and must be paid at the time you book your appointment. This option will allow you to have both the formal grad portraits as well as the casual photo sitting. Your 16 proofs will be available for viewing online about one week after all photos are completed.

The yearbook only option is **free**, but you still must sign up in the **yearbook only** slots to have your formal portrait taken. This will ensure your photo will be included in the yearbook and all other special grad related events.



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## **INFORMATION ABOUT SCHOOL STATUS DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Snow closures and power outages are an annual occurrence in 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](http://www.sd35.bc.ca). Updates are also posted to X (formerly Twitter) @LangleySchools and Facebook at [www.facebook.com/langleyschooldistrict](https://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 child to school based on safety and individual circumstances. If you feel it is unsafe for you or your child to travel to or attend an open school for any reason, please keep your child home and report an absence to the school.

## **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES & RESPONSE**



Health and safety are a priority in the Langley School District. Schools follow emergency procedures to ensure students, staff, and any visitors in our schools or sites are safe when unexpected incidents or events happen.

At the start of every school year, administrators, teachers, and staff review these emergency procedures. Schools practice a set number of drills annually in preparation for unexpected situations.

The District encourages families to become familiar with these staff emergency procedures and the drills that are completed in our schools. You can read them in the Staff Emergency Procedures Poster [here](#) or find them posted in areas throughout our buildings.

If you have any questions or concerns about emergency procedures, please get in contact with your child's teacher or administrator.





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## GATOR ATHLETICS

This week, Gator Nation celebrated our incredible Grade 12 athletes who have been dominating the fall sports season!



The atmosphere was electric as a sea of supporters turned out in force for Volleyball Senior's Night, showing unwavering love for our senior players. The cheers and drums were absolutely deafening, echoing through the halls of WGSS, creating an unforgettable night that our athletes will hopefully cherish forever!



Langley Playoffs are fast approaching for our Volleyball stars, and we can't wait to see them bring their A-game to the court as they work towards earning their spot in the EVAA championships.







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Cross Country athletes were a force to be reckoned with, as they fearlessly raced through the monsoon that drenched our community on Monday afternoon. They turned adversity into adventure, charging through the swampy terrain of the Aldergrove Bowl with unwavering determination. Proving to us that Gators do LOVE the swamp. The XC teams are gearing up for the EVAA Championships on Wednesday, October 23rd! Their grit, resilience, and undeniable spirit will shine brightly as they chase glory and excellence on the cross-country course.

This Sunday is the EVAA Championship for the Swim Team and they are ready to make waves. Our swimmers have been working tirelessly, and we're eagerly anticipating their incredible performance in the pool!





## **DRY GRAD NEWS**

Please support your 2024 WGSS Grads!

Our first fundraiser is with the Joseph Richard Group or restaurants including The Italian Osteria & Cheese Bar, S & L Kitchen and Bar, Townhall, Oak and Thorne and The Henry plus others.

We have signed up for a group sponsorship under the name "WGSS 2024 Dry Grad."

Please consider downloading their app and choosing our fundraiser. Then when you dine at any of their restaurants and you pay using the app, we will receive 10% of the bill towards our fundraiser to a maximum of \$1,000.

Here is the how to guide: [JRG Group Sponsorship How To \(1\).pdf](#).

Thank you for your support!

WGSS 2024 Dry Grad Fundraising Committee

**The next Dry Grad Meeting is Wednesday, November 1 at 7 PM WGSS Library.**