



Gator News

#7

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Yesterday afternoon and evening, our staff came together to transform our main foyer and surprise our students in the morning with a festive atmosphere to enjoy throughout the month of December! It is one of my favourite things that we do as a staff for our students and school community. It is amazing to see all the smiles and photos as students come through the main foyer for the first time and see all the decorations, and indeed throughout December.

As you know, we published the first formal learning update of the year (term 1, semester 1 report card) last Friday. I hope that you have been able to look at the learning update and discuss it with your child. If you have any questions or concerns about the way in which your child is progressing in their learning, please connect with the teacher directly.

We are approaching the end of our Fall athletics season and with it came our first pep rally of the school year. Ms. McKay and her Leadership in Athletics class put together a fantastic pep rally for our students to experience. All our Fall athletes and teams were celebrated for their commitment, dedication, hard work and success throughout their season of play. We had a number of teams that won the Eastern Valley championships, and we also had some teams participate in the provincial championship tournaments as well! Thank you to our student-athletes and their coaches for representing WGSS well as Gator Ambassadors both in our community and around the province. We look forward to our Winter Athletics season starting soon!

Over the last few weeks, students were engaged in a variety of learning activities related to our Substance Awareness week. We hosted our student viewing of the most recent version of the documentary *Screenagers*. We also hosted our parent viewing of *Screenagers* where we had a panel of staff and community supports available for conversation and questions. In addition, we hosted several assemblies over the last



couple of weeks for each grade centred on Substance Awareness. Huge thank you to Ms. Blessing for her efforts in organizing and putting together our Substance Awareness week activities. There was a lot of good learning and I hope that you have been able to continue the conversations with your child at home as well. As a reminder, next Friday, we are once again doing the *Tell Them from Me* survey with our students. Please refer to the [Tell Them From Me Parent Letter](#) that was sent home November 23. Initiatives like Substance Awareness Week are often shaped by the feedback that we get from students from surveys like *Tell Them from Me*.

In the coming weeks, students and staff will be busy in the classroom continuing their learning as we enter the second half of the semester. We also have several events happening throughout the month of December including our annual Door Decorating, a RCMP/Student joint food drive, our Christmas band and choir concert, our grad pancake breakfast and on the last day before the break, our annual Christmas assembly. I appreciate all the efforts of our students and staff who put together these amazing events and experiences for our school community.

I wish you all a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

J. Lyndon

Proud Principal





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IMPORTANT DATES

December 7	WGSS Christmas Concert @ 7pm
December 21	Last day of classes before Winter Break
January 8	School re-opens
January 10	HUB Day
January 17	HUB Day

WGSS/RCMP FOOD DRIVE

On Monday, December 4, WGSS will be starting a Food Drive in conjunction with our local RCMP Officers. The collection will run from December 4-18. On December 6, the RCMP will be out in front of the school to collect from parents dropping off.

There will be a friendly competition between each A block class to collect the most non-perishable food items and grocery store gift cards (each dollar on the card will count as one can!) Please encourage your students to donate as much as they “can” to this very worthy cause!

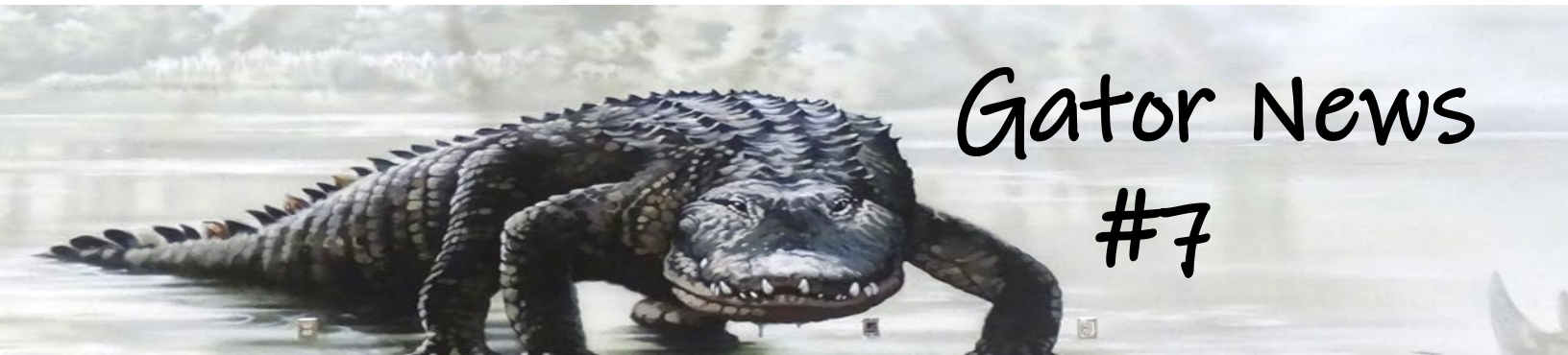
SCREENAGERS: UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Screenagers: Under the Influence documentary at WGSS was viewed by the student population on November 16 and a parent screening on the evening of the November 22. The counselling department has provided [a resource sheet](#) with links to podcasts, websites, and books on parenting and focused on screens, vaping and the concerns affecting teens today.

GRADUATES OF 2024

Graduates need to order their cap & gown and diploma before December 31, 2023 using <https://forms.office.com/r/HQwUrU0ZJ0>. **Please read each question on the form carefully.** Accuracy is of the utmost importance as items are ordered based on what YOU enter! If you have questions regarding cap & gown/diploma order, please contact asargeant@sd35.bc.ca.

More information regarding the Grad Ceremony on June 17 and the Grad Dinner & Dance on June 24 will be shared with Graduates and families in early 2024.



QUITNOW

The [QuitNow website](#), funded by the Ministry of Health, has a new, dedicated mini-site and updated resources for youth interested in quitting or reducing their vaping. Feedback provided by the Youth Advisory Council at McCreary Centre Society and from young people across BC helped inform the development of these resources.

SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS FAMILY SESSION

In partnership with the Ministry of Education and Childcare's *erase* strategy, due to high demand, an additional "Social Media Awareness" Family Session will be offered on December 5 at 6:30pm. This 60-minute session will be held virtually via Zoom.

To register for this session please click on the link below:

[*Family Session: Establishing Safe, Caring, & Respectful Digital Communities*](#)
[*Tickets, Tue, Dec 5, 2023 at 6:30 PM | Eventbrite*](#)

THE LUCKY LANGLEY 50/50 RAFFLE

THE Lucky LANGLEY 50/50

SUPPORTING:

- ♥ MENTAL WELLNESS
- ♥ LITERACY
- ♥ STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES
- ♥ & FOOD PROGRAMMING

**ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
THE LANGLEY SCHOOL
DISTRICT FOUNDATION**

Order your tickets here: <https://lsdf.rafflenexus.com/>



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AMAZING GATORS DOING GREAT THINGS!

Students in Mr. Gordon's Drawing & Painting 11/12 class working on acrylic abstract pieces based on musical instruments drawn from observation. For many students, it was their first acrylic on canvas piece as well as the largest piece some have ever done!





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The anonymous art show at North Van Arts is designed as a fundraiser for the gallery to aid in the running of art programs and the general workings of the gallery. Artists can submit up to three canvases that must be eight inches square. The pieces sell for \$100 with half the proceeds going to the gallery and half to the artist.



Over 30 WGSS students participated this year, and many have sold their paintings. The show is online and at the gallery, but all sales are done online. Last year we had approximately the same number of students participating, and the show raised over \$46000 featuring over 700 paintings from all levels of artists from the community. It was an exciting event with the students being able to sell their work and for some it was the first time they have painted in acrylics and sold anything. Using art to help raise funds for the arts is a very satisfying experience.





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November 22 was National Kimchi Day! Our Korean Culture Club spoiled WGSS in bringing Kimchi and Ramen for 100s of Gators!



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CAREER NEWS

For students considering Fire and Rescue as an occupation, Langley Fire Rescue Service is offering a career exploration opportunity to work and volunteer as a firefighter in the City of Langley. Open to Grade 12 students only. Application due December 8, 2023. Please contact Ms. Pawar for more information ppawar@SD35.bc.ca.



Career Exploration: Work And Volunteer Experience

LANGLEY CITY FIRE RESCUE SERVICE


90+ Hours Work And Volunteer Experience!

Considering Fire and Rescue as an Occupation?

This program provides a basic overview of Fire Rescue Services and experience working as a Fire Fighter in the City of Langley. Selected students will work at a City of Langley Fire Hall and work the same "4 days on, 4 days off" schedule as their assigned platoon. Apply for this District Work And Volunteer Experience Opportunity now! **Open to students in grade 12 only!**

Shifts worked:
Day Shift: 3pm-6pm
Night Shift: 6pm-10pm
Sat/Sunday Shifts: 8am-6pm

Apply Now!
Limited seats!



See your Career Advisor for more info & an application!
Applications Due Dec 8, 2023!



DRY GRAD NEWS

Please check out our FB page at *WGSS Dry Grad 2024 Parent Group* or email wgssdrygrad2024@gmail.com if you have any questions.

JOSEPH RICHARD GROUP

Another fundraiser is with the Joseph Richard Group of 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](#).

VANCOUVER CANUCKS DRY GRAD FUNDRAISER



The Vancouver Canucks and the Dry Grad Committee are excited to offer an exclusive ticketing offer for the students, family, and friends of Walnut Grove Secondary School. Cheer on your Vancouver Canucks while taking advantage of this special rate. These will make great Christmas gifts.

For every ticket purchased, \$10 will go towards the Dry Grad Committee of Walnut Grove Secondary! Thank you for your support.

<https://fevo-enterprise.com/group/Walnutgrove>

The next Dry Grad Meeting is Wednesday, December 6 at 7 PM WGSS Library.



WALNUT GROVE SECONDARY DRY GRAD 2024 FUNDRAISER

Please consider donating your recycling funds to our Walnut Grove Graduating Class of 2024!

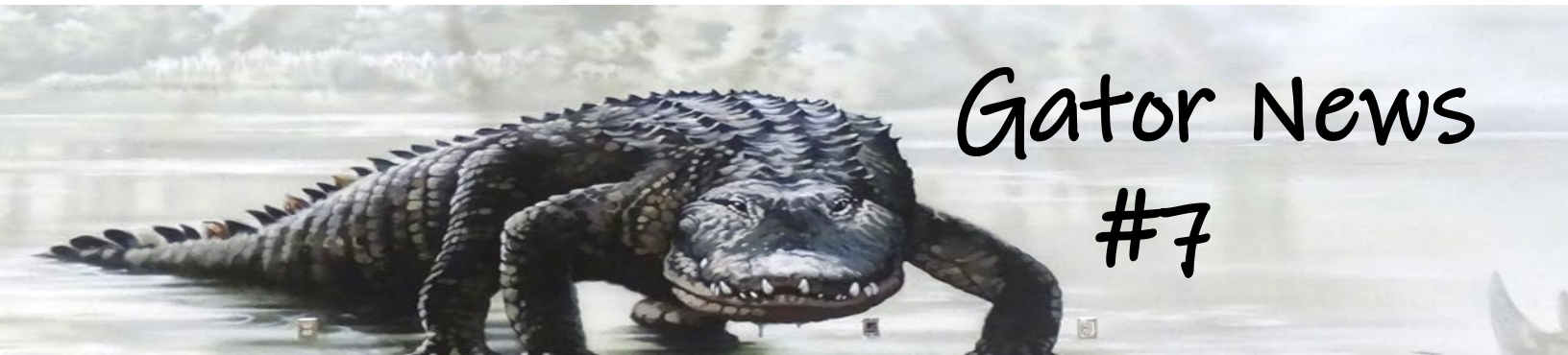
Take your cans, glass and plastic bottles in clear or clear blue plastic bags to **Return-It Express Walnut Grove Bottle & Return Centre**

At the label kiosk enter the number [604-111-2024](tel:604-111-2024) and place the label on each of your bags.

All funds will go to the 2024 WGSS Graduation Class

Thank you for your support.

WGSS Dry Grad Fundraising Committee



Join our Community Fundraiser!

Walnut Grove Secondary

For every purchase made, **up to May 13th, 2024**

using the account name of

WGSS Dry Grad

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

Facebook - dollarsandcentsstores * Instagram – dollarandcent

Thank you for shopping local and independent!