



Gator News #8

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It's a little later than normal, but here we are at the start of the Winter Break! Throughout the month of December, in addition to all the amazing learning opportunities that students and staff are engaged in, our school community has also taken the time to embrace the festive spirit and have some fun. We kicked off the month of December with our Music Departments Christmas Concert. It is always a fabulous way to kick off the holiday season. As a follow up to the foyer decorating and the Christmas tree competition, our students and staff engaged in the annual door decorating activities. There were some pretty amazing doors that helped to lift everyone's spirits as we enjoyed the month of December at WGSS! In addition, our students and families have been participating in the food drive, put on jointly with the RCMP, facilitated by our School Liaison Officer Constable McLaren and our GQ Ambassadors. Our Gators have come through and shown that they understand the spirit of giving as classes have collected many items to be donated to the local food banks for the holiday season. Well done Gators!





Gator News #8

Yesterday, we hosted the annual Grad Pancake breakfast with Santa and this afternoon finished the week with our student council hosting our annual Christmas Assemblies. Our students and staff put on a wonderful showcase of their talents, humour and good cheer throughout our assemblies! Thank you to our students and staff for putting on such a wonderful experience for our school community. Special thanks to our student council and their work to host the annual "Wonderful Week of Christmas."

When we return in the New Year, the remainder of the semester goes quite quickly and then before you know it, especially this year, because we return on January 8th. Second semester will be upon us in no time! So that you are able to mark your calendars, the last day of regular classes for semester one will be January 25th. January 26th, 29th and 30th are Transition Days. Most students will not be in attendance on those days. Our grade 9 students will be presenting their mini-capstone presentations on one of the days and our grade 12 students who are completing CLC 12 in first semester will also be presenting their capstone projects. Please see below for additional details on the schedule for those Transitions days. Semester two begins on January 31st.

Wishing you and yours all the best that the holiday season has to offer and all the best for a happy, healthy, New Year.

Sincerely,
J. Lyndon
Proud Principal





Gator News #8





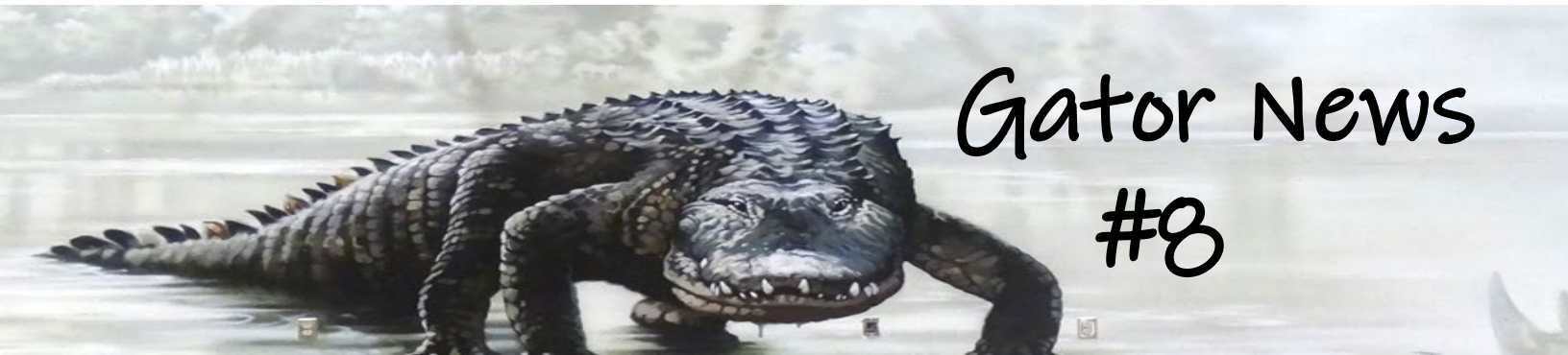
Gator News #8





Gator News #8





Gator News #8

IMPORTANT DATES

December 21	Last day of classes before Winter Break
December 22	School closed
January 8	School re-opens
January 10	HUB Day
January 16	Grade 9 immunizations
January 17	HUB Day

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.



There are also many grad portrait packages in the WGSS main office that have not been picked up. Reminder to grads to come by the office before/after school or at lunchtime.

Any grads wishing retakes, please sign up using the link below. Portraits will be held at the Vibrant Photos studio in Maple Ridge.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/2024_Vibrant_Photos_Studio_Grad_Retakes_January_28



Gator News

#8

JANUARY 2024 GRAD ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

Tuesday, January 16

Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (arrive by 8:45, library)

- **LTF12** - Évaluation de littératie de la 12e année – Français langue seconde-immersion (written component)

All semester one FRAL12 students

Monday, January 22

Time: 8:30 am to 11:30 am (arrive by 8:15, library)

- **Literacy 10**
 - for grade 10s in semester one English who missed the November assessment session and any grade 11/12s who have not written the Literacy 10 assessment
- **Literacy 12**
 - for grade 12s in semester one English who missed the November assessment session

* All students scheduled to write in the above session on January 22 should have received a Teams message confirmation.

Tuesday, January 23

Time: 8:30 am to 11:30 am (arrive by 8:15, library)

- **Numeracy 10**
 - for grade 11/12s who have not yet written the Numeracy assessment

* All students scheduled to write in the above session on January 23 should have received a Teams message confirmation.

Wednesday, January 24

Time: during D block (library)

- **LTF12** - Évaluation de littératie de la 12e année – Français langue seconde-immersion (oral component)

All semester one FRAL12 students

January 15 – 26

- **Numeracy 10**
 - for selected students who have been contacted by their resource teacher with day, time, and location for their assessment.



SEMESTER TRANSITION DAYS

To help prepare and support students for success, the District is sharing information with families regarding upcoming Semester Transition Days with our secondary schools. Although this is not indicated in the District calendar, please note the following days:

Friday, January 26 2024, Semester Transition Day

Monday, January 29 2024, Semester Transition Day

Tuesday, January 30 2024, Semester Turn Around Day (**no students in attendance**)

What are Semester Transition Days?

As part of the District's Strategic Plan goals, schools are highlighting student transitions with various activities including but not limited to the following:

- Capstone Presentations and Celebrations for Grade 12 students
- Mini-Capstone Presentations for Grade 9 students
- Student Celebrations of Learning
- Additional Student Support Opportunities
- School visits from Grade 7 students from feeder schools for orientation

What does this mean for students?

- Not all students will be attending school on any or all of these days.
- Students who need to be at school on one or all of these days will receive communication from their school or teacher.

The following groups of students will be scheduled in these times:

- Grade 9s will be scheduled to attend between 9:30 am – 11:00 am on Friday, January 26.
- Grade 11s will be making appointments with Counsellors for grad chats on January 26, 29, and 30.
- Grade 12s will be scheduled to attend noon – 2:00 pm on January 26 for Capstone Presentations.
- Many of our GQs and Student Council members will be assisting with our transition event for Grade 7 students on Monday, January 29.
- Grade 8 and 10 students will not be in attendance on Friday January 26, Monday, January 29, and Tuesday, January 30.

These days are structured with the intention to ensure a smooth transition for our students and help foster student learning. If you have any questions, please speak with an Administrator.



Gator News #8

AMAZING GATORS DOING GREAT THINGS!

Elena Facer is a Grade 12 student who completed her Capstone Project this semester. Her project consisted of a book swap for the students at Alex Hope Elementary. She organized and hosted the event on December 19th all day at the school.

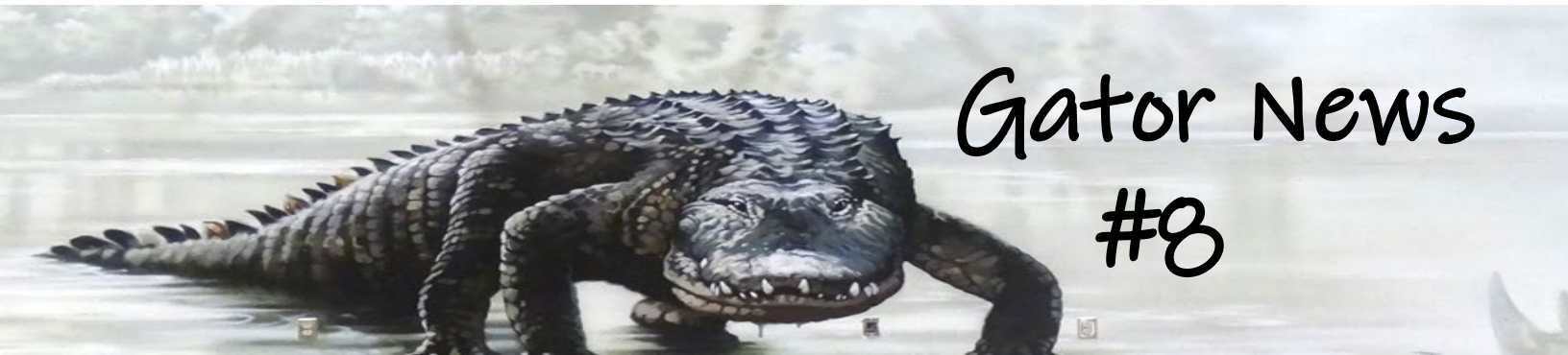


Over the course of the month, she collected just over 1100 books from the students at Alex Hope and the community of Walnut Grove and Fort Langley. The project was to promote literacy and a love of reading in the students, something that Elena values deeply. She had the goal

that every kid would get to take home a new book to read over winter break, a goal that she accomplished! Students were not only able to take gifts for themselves but also as gifts for others in their life this holiday season.

While not every book found a home with a student, the left-over books were offered to teachers at Alex Hope or will find a home with organizations in need.





Gator News

#8

GATOR MATHLETICS

This semester, Gator Mathletes from all grades competed in one or more contests including the Lynx Math Contest, the Canadian Open Math Challenge, the American Math 10 Contest or the American Math 12 Contest and the Canadian Intermediate Math Contest or the Canadian Senior Math Contest.

Lynx Math Contest awards:

Harry	Z.	Honourable Mention - Canada - Gr 12 Bronze - BC Gold - Zone
Joshua	Z.	Honourable Mention - Canada - Gr 12 Bronze - BC Gold - Zone
Hanson	W.	Honourable Mention - BC - Gr 11
Hasnain	S.	Honourable Mention - BC - Gr 12 Silver - Zone
Felix	Y.	Honourable Mention - BC - Gr 12 Bronze - Zone
Hangyul	K.	Honourable Mention - BC - Gr 12 Bronze - Zone
Danny	Z.	Honourable Mention - BC - Gr 12 Bronze - Zone
Ace	L	Honourable Mention - BC - Gr 12 Bronze - Zone
Ray-lin	Z.	Honourable Mention - BC - Gr 12
Daniel	C.	Performance with Distinction
Benjamin	G.	Performance with Distinction
Leo	W.	Honourable Mention - Zone
Belina	Z.	Performance with Distinction
John	S.	Performance with Distinction
Ryan	Q.	Performance with Honours
Panth	P.	Performance with Honours
Peter	C.	Performance with Honours
James	Z.	Performance with Honours

AMC 10 Awards:

1. Hanson H. (top 25% writers); 2. Angelina Y. (top 25% writers); 3. Soul J.

AMC 12 Awards:

1. Harry Z. award with honours, AIME qualifier
2. Felix Y. award with distinction, AIME qualifier
3. tie: Joshua Z. and Belina Z., AIME qualifiers
5. Hasnain Syed, AIME qualifier



CIMC Awards

Medal winners (tie): Soul J. and Horton C. (top 2.5% of all writers)
Additional Certificate of Distinction winners (top 25% of all writers):
Hanson H., Yaoyao Z., Yen Z., Jioh K., Danny L.

CSMC Awards

Harry Z. - Perfect Score; plaque and \$500 prize, Canadian Honour Roll, medal winner (top 0.008%)
Danny Z., Hangyul K. and Felix Y. – Canadian Honour Roll
Additional Certificates of Distinction (top 25% of all writers):
Joshua Z., Daniel C., Hasnain S., Jason S., Belina Z., Jason G., James .Z., Ray-lin .Z., Hanson W., Benjamin G., Jason Y., Leo W., Woojin S., Ace L., Lisa G., Minyei K., John S.

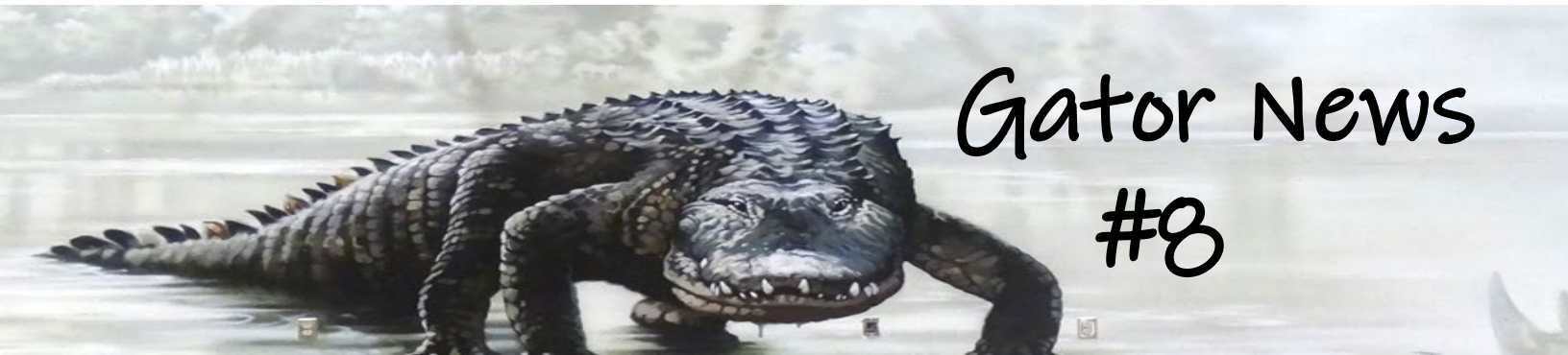
COMC

Top 3 WGSS scores (award/rankings still to be determined)
1. Harry Z.
2. Felix Y.
3. tie: Hanson W. and Hangyul K.

Certificates and awards will be given out at an awards ceremony in June 2024.

In second semester, we will be competing in Pascal, Cayley, Fermat, Math Challengers, Euclid, Fryer, Galois, Hypatia and Gauss.

Walnut Grove students interested in joining these competitions are asked to contact RPark@sd35.bc.ca or DSarkey@sd35.bc.ca to be added to the club TEAM where students sign up to write contests and are invited to join us in the library Fridays after school for Mathletics Club where we prepare for competition.



Gator News #8

GATOR ATHLETICS

Senior Boys Volleyball: 7th Place Finish at Provincials in Victoria, BC

Our Senior Boys Volleyball team wrapped up a successful season at the provincial level, securing a commendable 7th place at the championships held in Victoria, BC. The team faced tough competition but demonstrated resilience, grit, and impressive teamwork throughout the tournament.

Notable individual achievements include Jakub Antosik, not only winning the spike competition for the highest bounce but also earning himself an All Star Award. Isaiah Williams received an honorable mention, highlighting his contributions to the team's success.



Basketball Season Kickoff: Strong Start for All Teams

As the basketball season gains momentum, Walnut Grove Secondary's basketball teams have hit the ground running, already demonstrating remarkable skill, strategy, and determination. Join us for home games as we watch our teams' exciting seasons. A full list of WG Basketball Home Games can be found at www.wgssathletics.ca/schedules



Grade 8 Girls Basketball Triumphs at Huskey Classic

The Grade 8 Girls Basketball team celebrated a significant victory at the Huskey Classic tournament. Their stellar performance showcased not only individual skill but also effective teamwork, setting a positive tone for the remainder of the season.



Senior Boys Curling: Preparing for February Competitions

The Senior Boys Curling team is gearing up for their February competitions. The team surely has an exciting season ahead. Stay tuned for further updates as our student-athletes continue to make strides on their way to the provincial stage.

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.

The Dry Grad committee will be looking for help for various things before the actual day of the Dry Grad.

- We are looking for someone to look into getting food donations for the event. This needs to be looked into after Christmas.
- We will need someone to help with handing out and keeping track of raffle tickets when they are done up for Spring.
- We will need parents to make sure they are helping youth get the raffle tickets out.
- We will be having a Pub Night at Jimmy Mac's April 13th, 5 PM, tickets will be \$30. And if anyone has any donations they could give for that night, that would be great.
- For the Dry Grad, we will need people to set up, security, and clean up. We will need quite a few volunteers for this one so please try and get the time off work to help out.

New fundraiser just announced!

Dirty Bird Jewellery will donate 50% of the price of any permanent bracelet purchase to help raise money for WGSS Dry Grad. Must be purchased by or for a graduating student of WGSS or a family member of a graduating student. Appointment must be booked between December 2023 and June 2024. See flyer at the end of the Grad Newsletter for more details.

Ongoing fundraisers:

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, January 10
at 7 PM WGSS Library.**



Gator News #8

DIRTY BIRD JEWELLERY

DRY GRAD FUNDRAISER

50% of the price of any Permanent Bracelet purchase will be donated to help raise money for dry grad!

CONDITIONS:

- Must be purchased by or for a graduating student of WGSS or a family member of a graduating student
- Appointment must be booked between December 2023 & June 2024

WHAT IS PERMANENT JEWELLERY?

Permanent Jewellery is a piece of jewellery that is secured with a small weld instead of a clasp

CONTACT US:

Contact us to book your appointment at our home studio, located in Langley!

- (778) 549-1805
- IG: @dirtybirdjewellery
- www.dirtybirdjewellery.com





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!