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# The Westwind Wave

October 12, 2023

## District Cross-Country Fun Run

Our school-wide runs on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays have been providing the main training for our runners as we prepare for the District Cross-Country Fun Run that is happening at 3:30pm next Tuesday, October 17. We've also added in some additional training in the form of actual races that happen at lunch times. Last week we had the grade 2s, 3s and 4s volunteer to race (had over 150 racers) and we were incredibly impressed with the turnout and effort. On Wednesday we had the Kindergarteners and grade 1s race, after the grade 2s modelled for them what the race looked like. Perhaps you saw that on our Instagram account @westwindwaves? It was awesome to see! If your child would like to join the Westwind Cross-Country Running team (for runners K to 7), it is not too late. Come to the office to get a permission form and hand it in by this Friday!

Westwind continues our school-wide runs on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (weather permitting) for the rest of the school year. Thank you, parents, for setting your children up with proper running shoes and clothing for the days they have PE and our school-wide runs.

Following the District Race on October 17<sup>th</sup> we'll be showcasing some of the photos taken at the race at an upcoming assembly, as well as in our yearbook. If you have some pictures to share, please send them to [westwind@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:westwind@sd38.bc.ca) or airdrop them to Mr. Juhasz while at the school office. Thank you, parents, for assisting with driving!



## Family Teams

Several times per year, our students get together in their Family Teams to collaborate, cooperate, lead, learn and have fun. We have 40 teams in total, and the teams are comprised of a variety of students ranging from Kindergarten to Grade 7. We call them Family Teams because it is like a family, working together to build our school community. The most exciting time is when Family Teams get together during Sports Day in May/June, but until then, we team build. We will be having our first Family Teams session on October 31st when we do our pumpkin carving.



## Scholastic Book Fair!

This year's Scholastic Book Fair is coming soon. Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> in the Library. Funds raised from the Book Fair help supplement our library programs. Past purchases included books, author visits, maker materials and tech for the library.

We are looking for parent volunteers to help supervise as students make their purchases.

Shifts are:

A.M. 8:50 - 11:30 (except Monday until 11:45)

P.M. 12:50 - 3:30

A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board at the front entrance to the school.

The Book Fair will be open late, from 4:00 - 6:00 pm during conferences on Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Ms. Nunn if you would be available to volunteer for this later shift on Wednesday.

## Pumpkin Carving Event – Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>

We ask that each student come to school on Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> with a Pumpkin in a plastic bag. The size of the pumpkin should be something that they can carry themselves to school, and home again after school. We do have some carving tools at school, but if students could also bring their own carving tools (from the Dollar Store). *Please do not bring a knife.* We also ask that you cut out a hole in the pumpkin ***from the bottom*** and empty out its contents “prior” to bringing it to school on the 31<sup>st</sup>. In our Family Teams, with the assistance of staff and student leaders, students will carve out their pumpkin and we'll make a 450 pumpkin display in the gym!

- Pumpkin in plastic bag
- Students can carry on own
- Emptied out ***from the bottom***
- Tools from Dollar Store



## Halloween “Trick or Treating” with respect...

Halloween is one of the more exciting days of the year. However, we need to be aware that celebrating Halloween needs to be fun for ALL and not at the expense of equity seeking groups. Halloween offers an opportunity to have meaningful conversations about costume choices and requires consideration. In doing so, it is important to keep in mind that we need to be sensitive to groups that have been marginalized through mimicry and cultural appropriation during Halloween and other ‘dress up’ events.

*A few things to keep in mind:* It's good to keep in mind that the following are NOT Costumes...

- Race (black face/brown face)
- Culture (Indigenous regalia/dreadlocks)
- Religious Faith (religious figures/gods/saints/gurus/hijab)
- Gender (gender switching for humour or to mock)
- Trauma (weapons)

## Cold and Flu season is on the horizon...

Thank you in advance for erring on the side of caution and keeping your child home to rest/recover if they are feeling unwell. Not only will your child recover more quickly with rest, you'll also be ensuring that no other children or staff are catching what your child has.

If your child is going to be absent or late, please phone the Early Warning phone number to leave a message: 604-668-6498.

Also, the rains are coming – so let's be prepared. We will continue to go outside for recess and lunch, even in the rain, so please make sure that your child has the proper clothing to stay warm and dry in inclement weather. It is possible that we'll stay inside if it is raining particularly hard, but generally speaking, we'll be outside. For us tough and resilient Canadians, there is no bad weather, just bad gear. If your child is unable to avoid puddles etc., feel free to plan ahead and have a spare set of clothes in your child's backpack or locker.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***What if my child is absent or will be late ...***

Please keep your child at home if he/she is sick. Leave a message on the Early Warning phone number: 604-668-6498. Please call every day that your child is sick or provide the absence dates. (Absences longer than one week require an Extended Absence form to be completed.) Late students should always sign in at the office. Thank you.

### ***What if my child forgets a lunch or a water bottle...***

Students should let their teacher know and a snack may be provided, or a parent may be called. Any lunch drop-offs should be brought to the school office lunch table to limit disruptions to the classroom. Our water fountains are fully operational.

### ***What if my child has an appointment or needs to leave early...***

Please send a note in your child's agenda with the time your child needs to leave and/or email your child's teacher with the time your child needs to leave (preferably the night before). Please allow enough time for students to gather their belongings before they leave, walk down to the office and sign out. As a courtesy to your child's teacher and classmates, if possible, please have your child leave at a natural break (ie: recess 10:10am or lunchtime 11:50am). Thank you.

## Feeding Futures School Program Fund

Recently, the provincial government announced a new Feeding Futures School Program Fund, designed to assist schools in the development and enhancement of school meal programs and other nutritional supports for students.

If you would like to request support for your child at school, please reach out to our Principal Mr. Juhasz ([bjuhasz@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:bjuhasz@sd38.bc.ca)). We are gathering information and look to provide ongoing support wherever possible. Implementation plans are underway, and we want to ensure families are aware, and as always, able to reach out if they require support. All requests will be treated with dignity and your privacy will be respected. We want to work with families to ensure that your children have everything they need in order to be successful at school. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can help.

## Westwind Volleyball

The volleyball coaches are excited about the upcoming season. They'll be practicing on Tuesdays and Thursdays at lunch and they have scheduled 10 games (*subject to change*) with several different schools. Parent drivers will be needed for the 5 away games.

Thank you Ms. Randhawa and Mr. D'Avignon for volunteering your time to coach the team!

Volleyball Game schedule:

Tuesday, October 24th (AWAY) Westwind at Diefenbaker

Thursday, November 2nd (HOME) Byng at Westwind

Tuesday, November 7th (AWAY) Westwind at Byng

Tuesday, November 14th (AWAY) Westwind at Dixon

Thursday, November 16th (AWAY) Westwind at Steves

Tuesday, November 21 (HOME) Byng at Westwind

Thursday, November 23 (HOME) Steves at Westwind

Thursday, November 30 (HOME) Diefenbaker at Westwind



## BECOME HOMESTAY at the RICHMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Be a host for an international student for a month, semester or year. Richmond International Education (RIE) Homestay Program is looking for local families to offer a welcoming home.

**Contact us to find out more about this enriching opportunity.**

[study@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:study@sd38.bc.ca)

604-668-6217



**RICHMOND**  
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION  
ENRICHING GLOBAL MINDS



## 2023-2024 IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

Tuesday, October 17	District Cross Country Fun Run – Garry Point 3:30pm
Wed, Oct 18 & Thur, Oct 19	Early Dismissal for Learning Updates (1:45pm)
Friday, October 20	Provincial Professional Development Day
Monday, November 6	Student Photo Retake Day
Friday, November 10	Remembrance Day Assembly
Monday, November 13	Remembrance Day Stat Holiday
Friday, December 1	Professional Development Day
<b>Mon, Dec 25 to Fri, Jan 5</b>	<b>Winter Vacation</b>
Monday, January 8	Return to School
Monday, January 29	Professional Development Day
Wed, Feb 14 & Thurs, Feb 15	Early Dismissal for Learning Updates (1:45pm)
Friday, February 16	District-wide Professional Development Day
Monday, February 19	Family Day Holiday
Thursday, March 14	Last day of school before Spring Break
<b>Friday, Mar 15 to Thur, Mar 28</b>	<b>Spring Vacation</b>
<b>Friday, March 29</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
<b>Monday, April 1</b>	<b>Easter Monday</b>
Tuesday, April 2	Return to School
Friday, May 17	Professional Development Day
Monday, May 20	Victoria Day Holiday
Friday, June 7	Sports Day (rain out day – Fri, Jun 14)
Tuesday, June 25	Grade 7 Farewell Assembly
Thursday, June 27	Year End Assembly / Last Day of School for Students