

THE WESTWIND WAVES NEWSLETTER

January 10, 2025

<https://westwind.sd38.bc.ca/>

 @westwindwaves

WELCOME BACK AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2025

Happy New Year to all Westwind families! We hope you all had a wonderful and restful winter break, filled with joy and relaxation. It was lovely to see many of you at our “Surfin’ the Timewaves: the Rockin’ Jukebox” musical in December. Congratulations to all students and staff for a fantastic rockin’ performance!

As we settle back into our routines, we’re looking forward to all the new opportunities to learn, grow, and explore. We will be diving deeper into our theme of kindness, finding ways to be inclusive, being accepting of all, and expanding on our skills and strategies to resolve conflicts in kind and peaceful ways when they arise. Staff and students will be learning more about Restorative Justice and using Circles, not only to build community but also to honour Indigenous traditions. In many Indigenous cultures, the Circle represents unity, equality, and interconnectedness. It is a place where everyone’s voice is valued, and all perspectives are heard. Whether it’s for sharing feelings, solving problems, or working together as a team, Circles help students learn to listen with respect, speak with kindness, and support one another. By sitting in a Circle, we come together as equals, embracing the values of respect, cooperation, and community that are central to many Indigenous teachings. We look forward to sitting in Circle at a future assembly together.

Westwind Waves for Cancer



In collaboration with the BC Cancer Foundation, and in support of one of our intermediate students who is currently going through chemotherapy treatments, our Gr. 6/7 teachers have organized a fundraiser to support cancer research and treatment. On January 16th, students from Divisions 1 - 5 will attend a presentation to learn about the role of the BC Cancer Foundation and the importance of their research. This is a great opportunity for our Westwind students to show kindness to others.

Monetary contributions to support our fundraising initiative can be made to the BC Cancer Foundation website (our Westwind fundraising page will be shared soon) and will be open until February 20th. On Friday, February 21st, there will be a wrap-up assembly at which our final fundraising amount will be shared. More details will be shared in our next Westwind Waves Newsletter. Thank you in advance for your support!

THE WESTWIND LEADERSHIP CLUB FOOD DRIVE



A huge shoutout to our Grade 7 Leadership Team for their incredible efforts in organizing this year's food drive for the Richmond Food Bank Society! Their hard work, dedication, and teamwork paid off as they rallied our school community to collect an impressive amount of food donations for those in need in just one day! The team took charge of planning, promoting, and coordinating the drive, showcasing their leadership skills and compassion. Thank you, Grade 7 leaders, for showing kindness to others and for making a meaningful difference in our community!

Take CARE
OF Others





HOT TOPICS OF THE MONTH



Learning Update (Report Card) on MyEducationBC

Learning Updates (Report Cards) were published in your MyEducation Parent Portal before the break. A quick link to the MyEd Parent Portal is available on our school website, as well as instructions on how to access the MyEd Parent Portal. Please email the office if you have any issues with logging in: westwind@sd38.bc.ca



Personal Digital Device Policy Changes (Policy 104G-A)

In January 2024, the Ministry of Education and Child Care mandated all school boards in British Columbia to update their Codes of Conduct to include restrictions on students' personal digital device use.

Elementary School students (K-7):

- Students should not have personal digital devices in their possession during the school day unless permission is granted by the supervising staff for educational purposes. This includes during recess and lunch or while outside on the playground or on school property.
- It is recommended that students do not bring personal digital devices to school.

To view the complete policies and guidelines, please visit the district website.



Student Absences and Arriving to School on Time

If your child is going to be absent or late, please phone the Early Warning phone number to leave a message **604-668-6498**. At this time, our office phones do not accept text messages and the Westwind school email is not monitored quickly enough in the morning.

Students who arrive late are asked to please sign in at the office upon arrival. You will be contacted by the school office if you have not notified us of your child's absence or if they have not signed in late.

For extended absences or vacations (longer than ~ 5-8 school days), parents should notify the teacher and/or school office in writing. This is a perfect opportunity to send us an email to westwind@sd38.bc.ca. As well, an Extended Absence Form may need to be completed.

PARKING LOT REMINDERS



**NEW
UPDATE**

DO NOT BLOCK ANY DRIVEWAYS.

Please show kindness to our neighbours and do not park in front of their driveways. Bylaw officers may ticket you if parked illegally.

DRIVE-THRU LANE: NO stopping or blocking the drive through lane to allow traffic to flow smoothly. Keep moving please.

Our school parking lot is RESERVED for Westwind and District STAFF.

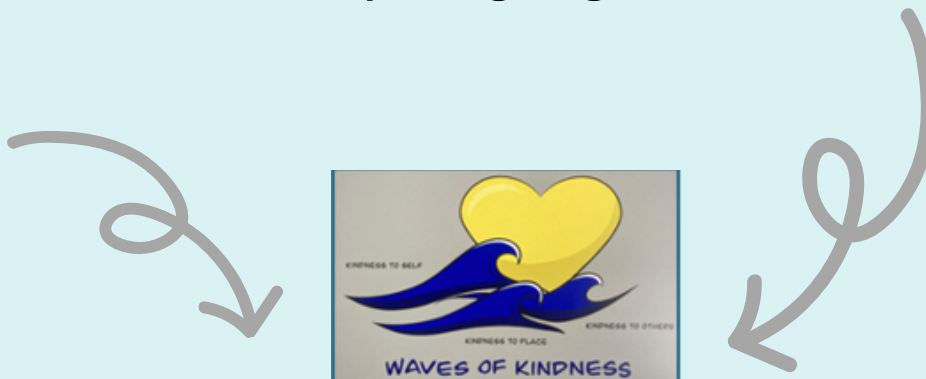
Parking spots are not meant for pick-up/drop-off purposes.

DROP-OFF / PICK UP ZONE: Drivers MUST STAY with their vehicle. NO parking in this lane, please.

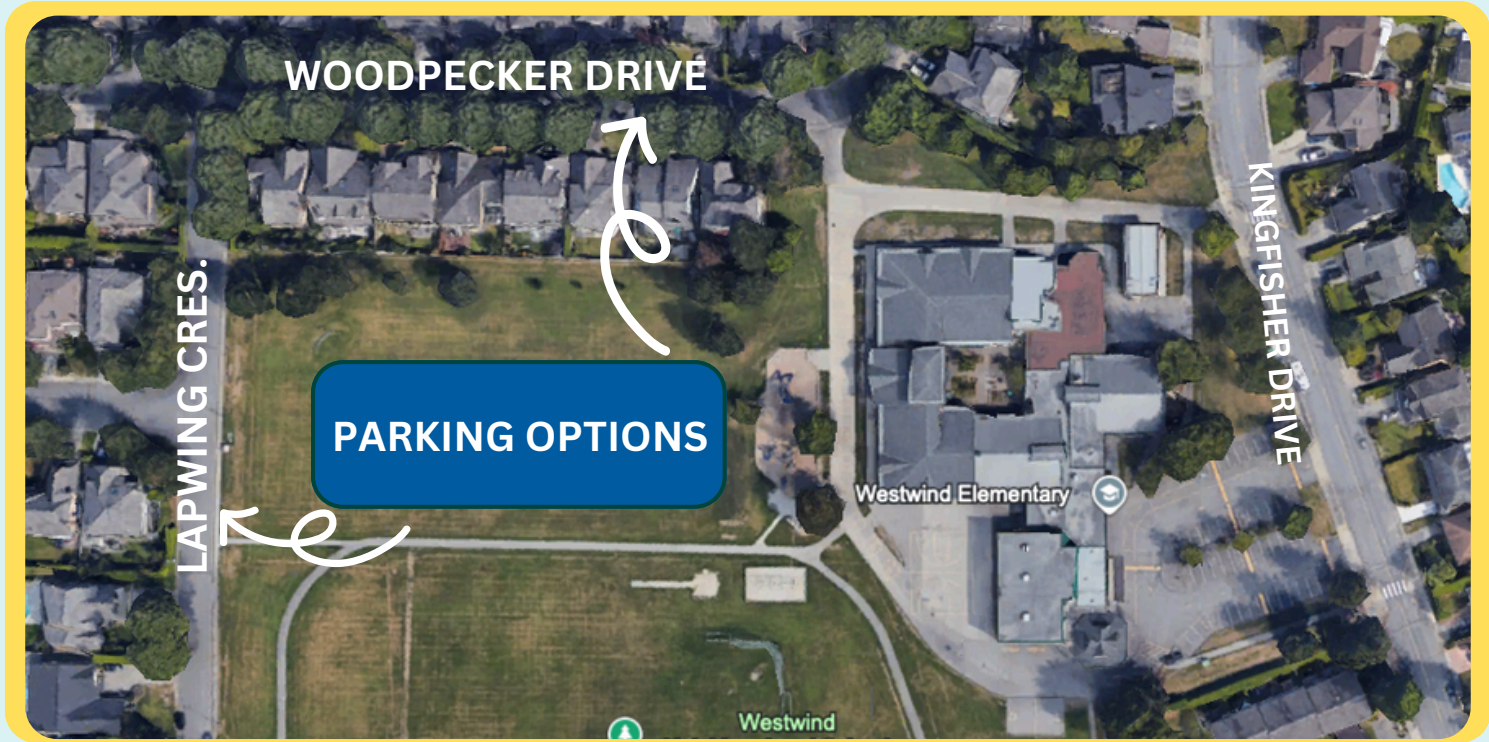
Tips from experienced parent parkers suggest the following viable **parking options** to consider instead of coming into our parking lot:

- Lapwing Crescent (West of the school)
- Woodpecker Drive (North of the school)
- You can also park on Kingfisher, but please pay attention to the no parking signs and don't block the crosswalk or our neighbours' driveways!

See the next page for a detailed diagram of other parking options and our parking lot guidelines.



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IMPORTANT DATES 2024-2025

- Jan 13: PAC Meeting
Jan 27: Professional Development Day - No School
Feb 12&13: Early Dismissal @ 1:45pm for Learning Updates
Feb 14: Professional Development Day - No School
Feb 17: Family Day holiday - No School
Mar 17- 28: Spring Break - No School
Apr 18: Good Friday - No School
Apr 21: Easter Monday - No School
Apr 29: Learning Updates #2 Published to MyEd Parent Portal
May 16: Professional Development Day - No School
May 19: Victoria Day holiday - No School
Jun 6: Sports Day!



Dress for the weather!

winter coat rain coat rain or waterproof snow boots mittens hats scarf extra clothing including socks

 @westwindwaves



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