

THE WESTWIND WAVES NEWSLETTER

January 24, 2025

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



@westwindwaves

Sitting in Circle at our Sharing Assembly

We sat in Circle for the first time at our Sharing Assembly today. A circle symbolizes equality, connection and inclusivity, and promotes a sense of shared participation and belonging. This practice is deeply rooted in many Indigenous cultures where circles are used for important discussions and community building. We are proud of our Westwind students for listening so attentively and respectfully today. Thank you to Mr. Victoria's Gr. 3/4 class for sharing a poem about Circle, Mrs. Hayre's Gr. 2/3 class for their choral read of a New Year's Resolution poem and the Leadership Club for their work on organizing the Warm Clothing and Blanket Drive. A shout out to our emcees: Kaiden, Cindy and Nettie. Well done!



SCHOOL SPORTS

BASKETBALL SEASON has begun!

With a new year comes Basketball season! This year Westwind will have two teams:

Gr. 6/7 Boys - Coaches: Mr. D'Avignon and Mr. Wedgewood
Gr. 6/7 Girls - Coaches: Ms. Brulhart and Ms. Power

Practices have already started and our boys' team has their first Away game on Tuesday. We look forward to cheering our teams on!

Ms. Power and Mr. Rollins will also be sponsoring a weekly open gym at lunch for Grade 5 students who would like to learn some basic basketball skills and have an opportunity to shoot hoops.

Driver forms have been sent home with the Gr 6/7 players. Thank you in advance to parents who are able to drive students to and from their away games.



GRADE 7 TRANSITION TO GRADE 8

It's hard to believe that it's already time for our Grade 7s to think about high school! The counsellors from McMath and Steveston-London Secondary Schools are visiting us to talk about program planning and answer questions about high school life. Keep an eye out for Course Selection sheets or email links that will be coming home to you in the coming weeks!

WHICH HIGH SCHOOL WILL MY GRADE 7 CHILD BE ATTENDING?

Grade 7 students are automatically registered to attend their neighbourhood catchment secondary school based on the current residential address we have on file.

A friendly reminder that if Grade 7 families change their residence, and the address change results in a new secondary school catchment, families will need to complete a Change of Residence Form and return it to the office with proof of the new residence. You are welcome to use this form to change your address and return it to Westwind until Friday, January 31, 2025. If the change of address occurs after that date and it results in a new secondary catchment, families will need to register through Central Registration as part of the Priority 2 or Late Registration protocol.

If you are considering submitting a Transfer Request, [the form is currently available on the district website](#). Completed forms are to be emailed directly to the chosen high school between February 3-28.

SECRET SPIRIT DAYS AT WESTWIND!

The staff have been having some fun introducing Secret Spirit Days at Westwind! At the beginning of the week, one or two staff members wear a certain Spirit Day theme. If students or other staff think they've figured out the theme, they are welcome to join in the next day. This continues throughout the week and the Secret Spirit Day theme is announced on Friday. So far, we have had two secret themes... were you able to figure them out?



NOTICE OF INTENT TO ATTEND 2025-2026



Planning for the 2025-2026 School Year has begun! A few weeks ago, your children brought home a blue notice, the “Intent to Attend” Form. This form is due back to school now. The information gathered will help with our staffing and classroom planning for next year. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

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.

Last week, students from Divisions 1 - 5 attended a presentation to learn about the role of the BC Cancer Foundation and the importance of their research.

Please join us in helping the BC Cancer Foundation achieve its vision of a world free from cancer by sponsoring our page. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far. With the generous donations we have received so far, incredibly, we have already passed our goal! Please continue to spread the word to send in donations and let's see how much we can raise in support of the BC Cancer Foundation.

To make a donation online, use the link for our “Westwind Waves for Cancer” page below. This fundraising page will be open until February 20th, with our final wrap-up assembly happening on February 21st.

<http://donate.bccancerfoundation.com/goto/Westwindwaves4Cancer>



No matter the amount, your gift will make a difference - it all adds up!

**BC
CAN
CER** FOUNDATION





**THE WESTWIND
LEADERSHIP CLUB
Warm Clothing & Blanket Drive**

JANUARY

31

**Warm Hearts, Warm Lives:
Supporting Mental Wellness**

The Grade 7 Leadership Club is organizing a warm clothing and blanket drive to help Pathways Clubhouse, an organization that provides essential services and a sense of belonging to individuals with mental health challenges.

The one-day collection will happen on Friday, January 31st.

Please bring all donations to your classroom.

Late donations can be dropped off at the front office.

What we are looking for:

Warm adults and children's clothing
(coats, sweaters, hoodies, sweatpants, rain gear, etc.)

Winter or Rain boots

Winter Accessories

(toques, gloves, scarves, NEW socks only)

Blankets

Our school's contributions will directly impact individuals who rely on Pathways Clubhouse for support.





January 27th is Family Literacy Day

READING TOGETHER PHOTO CONTEST

Take a fun photo of your family reading together. Email your photo to Ms. Nunn at our school library website: westwind.library@sd38.bc.ca by Thursday, January 30th. Photographs will be displayed around the school and some on our school Instagram page. For each photo received, families will receive an entry to win 1 of 4 book prizes. Winning entries will be drawn on Friday January 31st. Be creative!

*One entry per family please.



WESTWIND COMMUNITY FRIDGE

Our Community Fridge has proven very popular, which is great! The fridge allows our school to provide healthy food choices for students who may need an additional snack, or have forgotten their snack, or are still hungry during the day. The aim is to ensure everyone has access to healthy food without barriers or stigma. Students are welcome to make a choice based on what they know they need. This might take some time for learners to understand and we encourage parents to have a chat with their children about when coming to the fridge might be a good choice for them.

Sometimes students need reminders to think about whether they should be accessing the fridge. For example, if students are coming to take a snack before they have eaten the food they brought from home, or if they are taking snacks because they don't like the food they brought from home, they may need to pause and think. This is a good learning opportunity for students to try to understand that they should take what they need when they need it, but they should also be aware that the fridge is there to support others who perhaps don't already have food.

We are grateful for the Feeding Futures program that supplies some of the food offered in our Community Fridge and helps us to enhance student food security at Westwind.



DID YOU KNOW?

What if my child needs to leave school EARLY?

When possible, please send a note in your child's agenda and/or email your child's teacher in advance with the time your child needs to leave. We appreciate your understanding that classrooms are busy places and to please allow enough time for your child to gather their belongings, 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 (e.g. recess at 10:10am or lunchtime at 11:50am) to limit disruptions to our learning environment. Thank you for your kind consideration!

THANK YOU!



HAVE A WONDERFUL

LONG WEEKEND!

CONTACT INFORMATION



If you have any new contact information (phone numbers, email, residential address or emergency contact information, etc.) please email the school office westwind@sd38.bc.ca so we can update your child's file.

STUDENT ABSENCES



If your child is going to be absent or late, please phone the Early Warning phone number to leave a message (we cannot accept text messages).

**EARLY WARNING VOICE MAIL:
604-668-6498**

Students who arrive late are asked to please sign in at the office upon arrival.

Significant Dates in our Community

January 2025



January 24: World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture



January 27: International Holocaust Remembrance Day

The anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. This day of remembrance was established to honour the six million Jews, and millions of other victims of the Holocaust and Nazism. The United Nations calls on individuals to hold memorial services and undertake educational initiatives to learn more and help prevent such tragedies from occurring in the future.

January 29: Lunar New Year

Also known as the Spring Festival, Chinese New Year, Tet for Vietnamese Canadians, or Solnal for Korean Canadians – Lunar New Year is celebrated in Canada and several other countries. It is one of the largest celebrations for Canada's Chinese population, and it is also celebrated by Canadians from Vietnam, Korea and Southeast Asia. This year marks the Year of the Snake.

January 29:

Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia

National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia



IMPORTANT DATES 2024-2025

- Jan 27: Professional Development Day - No School
Jan 27: Family Literacy Day
Jan 30: Reading Together Photo Contest - photos due via email to Ms. Nunn
Jan 31: Warm clothing and Blanket Drive donation drop off
Feb 12&13: Early Dismissal @ 1:45pm for Learning Updates
Feb 14: Professional Development Day - No School
Feb 17: Family Day Holiday - No School
Feb 21: Westwind Waves for Cancer Wrap Up Assembly
Feb 26: Pink Shirt Day
Feb 27: Band Concert for Families - 1:30 pm
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



At Westwind, we show kindness to self, others and place.