

THE WESTWIND WAVES NEWSLETTER

March 7, 2025

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



@westwindwaves

SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

As we approach a much-anticipated spring break, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on all learning and growth that our students have demonstrated so far this year. Whether students were learning how to do long division, following the scientific method while designing their own science experiments, participating in literature circles or engaged in the creation of robots that can help solve real-world issues, we are proud of their hard work and all that they have accomplished this term.

The past few months have also been packed with many school-wide events, including our first assembly in Circle, parent-teacher conferences, student leadership initiatives such as the Bottle Drive and Warm Clothing Drive, Sharing Assemblies, the Waves for Cancer Fundraiser, Secret Spirit Days and more! To make our term even more exciting, we experienced two solid weeks of snow, ice and freezing temperatures and two earthquakes to boot!

We're now finally experiencing a few signs of spring and it's lovely to see crocuses blooming in our school garden and feeling some warmth from the sunshine we've been enjoying this past week. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. As we head into the break, we encourage everyone to take this time to relax, recharge, and enjoy quality time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on March 31st, ready for more learning adventures!

WESTWIND BAND CONCERTS

Congratulations to all the Grade 5, 6 & 7 students in Ms. Brulhart's, Mrs. Chum's, Mr. Wedgewood's, Mr. D'Avignon's and Mr. Rollins' classes for putting on two fantastic band concerts last week - one for the school and one for their parents! A huge thank you to Ms. Lam, our music and band teacher extraordinaire, for all of her work with the students, for organizing the concerts and for sharing her passion for music with us all. The dedication from our students and Ms. Lam really shone through!



BOOK SWAP

On Monday, March 10th, students are invited to bring in their gently used books and swap them for some "new to you" books. Students can bring up to FIVE donated books to the library. For every book that is donated, the student will receive a ticket.

On Tuesday, March 11th, students will be invited back to the library to exchange tickets for books donated by the other students. This is a great opportunity to get some fresh books to keep students reading over Spring Break!

Donated books must be:

- in gently used to almost new condition.
- suitable for students at an elementary school grade level

Any toddler/preschool books, adult books or books in poor condition will not be accepted for the exchange.

Division 1 students will help to keep a record of the tickets distributed to each student, so there are no worries about lost tickets. Please note that participation in the Book Swap is completely voluntary.

Looking forward to seeing you in the library learning commons next week!



online now until
MAY 3RD

Student Learning Survey 2025 - Parent Input Needed!

The Student Learning Survey (SLS) has been administered every year in BC public schools since 2001. Prior to 2016/17 it was known as the Satisfaction Survey. It is the only source of province-wide information of children's learning experiences. The results of this survey will be shared back to the school district and school leaders to promote the best pedagogical practices around the province, as well as being used to inform the Ministry of the implementation of the curriculum and of overall student growth and well-being. Your perspective as a parent is valued, and your participation is an important contribution to improving the educational experiences of children.

Parent Access:

1. Go to the following website: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm
2. Click on the "Parents" icon.
3. Select your child's district, school name and language of preference.
4. Complete the survey and click "Submit".

Just be Kind

On Wednesday, February 26th, our school came together for a Sharing Assembly on Pink Shirt Day, also known as Anti-Bullying Day. We heard from Ms. Brulhart's Grade 6 & 7 students who shared poems from the perspectives of the Bully, the Bullied, the Bystander and the Brave, we viewed skits from Mr. Wedgewood's Grade 6 & 7 students that showed the power of standing up for others, and we listened to a gentle song called "Just Be Kind" sung by the Grade 2 & 3 students in Mrs. Hayre and Ms. Pauer's classes. It was powerful seeing our Westwind Waves in a sea of pink as we all stood in solidarity against bullying. Thank you to Ashley, Piper and Alex who were our emcees that day.



BASKETBALL WRAP-UP

Our Grade 6 & 7 boys' and girls' basketball teams' coaches want to thank all the parents and players for their support and commitment to this year's basketball season. It has been a pleasure seeing the players get better each and every game, while showing incredible sportsmanship and comraderie at the same time!

This week, the basketball teams participated in the McMath Feeder School Tournament and we are so proud that our Westwind Waves won the Spirit Award! Our students showed positivity and Kindness to Self and Others by cheering each other on throughout the tournament! Way to go, Westwind Waves!!

Next week, the teams will cap off the season by participating in the Basketball Tournament at SLSS. We wish them the best of luck!

Once again, we thank Ms. Brulhart, Ms. Power, Mr. Wedgewood, Mr. D'Avignon, Mr. Rollins and Ms. Pauer who volunteered so much of their time to organize, coach, referee and sponsor basketball practices, games and tournaments for our students. We appreciate you all!!



GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club is in full swing again! Ms. Bosma, Mrs. Spence and the keen Garden Club members have been starting to grow vegetable seeds inside and planning for our spring beds. We already see our bulbs popping up out of the ground! Thank you for showing Kindness to Place by remembering not to step inside the beds so that our flowers, veggies and plants are not damaged. We are looking forward to getting into the garden more after Spring Break!

DISTRICT TRACK & FIELD UPDATE

As the district reviewed participation at the District Track and Field Meets, it became clear that it is not possible to accommodate for all Grade 3s from each school at each meet, which creates an inequity across schools. In order to ensure effective and equitable planning for the entire district, the meets will be open only to Grade 4-7 students from all schools this year.

That said, some of our Grade 3s will be participating in Track and Field practice stations with the intermediate students ("Track Attack") at school, and some will experience the events as part of their PHE program. The Grade 3 students can look forward to participating at a Track Meet in the future!

FYI, we will announce our Track Meet date as soon as it is confirmed by the district committee. Thank you for your patience.

Significant Dates in our Community

March 2025

Irish Heritage Month: March was declared Irish Heritage Month in the House of Commons in 2022. Irish Heritage Month celebrates Irish Canadians' contributions to Canada's story and serves as an opportunity to learn more about Irish-Canadian history.

March 1: Zero Discrimination Day is a UN recognized day to take action to end the inequalities surrounding income, sex, age, health status, occupation, disability, sexual orientation, drug use, gender identity, race, class, ethnicity and religion that continue to persist around the world. Often used to highlight discrimination of people living with HIV.



March 8: International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women, who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

March 13 & 14: Purim is a Jewish celebration that is a lively festival that commemorates back in the 4th century BC, when Jewish people were saved from a death decree according to the book of Esther.

March 14: Holi is a Hindu festival that celebrates spring, colour, and love.

March 14-16: Hola Mohalla is a colourful 3-day Sikh festival celebrated during spring.

March 17-23: Neurodiversity Celebration Week - A worldwide initiative that challenges stereotypes and misconceptions about neurodevelopmental disorders and learning disabilities.

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March 19-20: Nowruz – Iranian (Persian) New Year is a celebration that marks the end of an old year and the beginning of a new one and is celebrated on the day of the astronomical vernal equinox, which usually takes place on March 21. The celebrations last for 13 days, and it's an opportunity to reflect on the past and set intentions for the future.

March 21: World Down Syndrome Day is a global awareness day which has been observed by the United Nations since 2012. The goal is to help people understand and support those with Down syndrome better. The date being the 21st day of the 3rd month was chosen to represent the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome.



March 30-31: Eid-al-Fitr

Many Muslims in Canada celebrate Eid al-Fitr on the first day of Shawwal in the Islamic calendar. It marks the end of the month-long fast of Ramadan and the start of a feast that lasts up to three days in some countries. The date is dependent on the sighting of the new crescent moon.

EID MUBARAK

March 30 - April 7: Chaitra Navratri A Hindu nine-day festival to celebrate the first day of the Hindu calendar.




IMPORTANT DATES 2024-2025

- Mar 9: Daylight Savings - clocks Spring forward!
- Mar 10-11: 2nd Annual Westwind Library Book Swap
- Mar 11: PAC Hot Lunch
- Mar 11-13: SLSS Basketball Tournament
- Mar 17- 28: Spring Break - School Not in Session
- Mar 31: Back to School
- Apr 7: PAC Meeting on Teams @ 6:30pm
- Apr 16: Big Banana Bonanza
- Apr 18: Good Friday - School Not in Session
- Apr 21: Easter Monday - School Not in Session
- Apr 24: Class & School Panorama Photos
- Apr 29: K & Grade 6 Immunizations
- Apr 29: Term 2 Learning Updates published to MyEd Parent Portal
- May 10: Westwind PAC Parent Dance
- May 16: Non-Instructional Day - School Not in Session
- May 19: Victoria Day - School Not in Session
- May 21: Welcome to Kindergarten Event
- May 26: PAC AGM on Teams @ 6:30pm
- June 6: Sports Day
- June 20: Year-End Assembly
- June 26: Grade 7 Farewell Assembly
- June 26: Final Learning Update Published to MyEd Parent Portal
- June 26: Last Day of School for Students



SPRING
is
COMING

 @westwindwaves



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