

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER #2

Nov. 1st, 2022

Message from the Principal

Hello Westview Community,

It is hard to believe that November is upon us and we are approaching the middle of our first semester. The energy throughout the building is supportive and positive among students and staff as we see a return to activities that were in place prior to March 2020.

Please take this opportunity to chat with your student about things that are going well for them and areas that they could make improvements or seek extra help. As always, please feel free to reach out to me at cathryn_blanco@sd42.ca with any comments or questions.

MyClass & Report Cards

Report cards will be available for downloading from MyClass on Nov 16. School District 42 does not provide printed report cards for all students or parents.

All parents and students should be using MyClass to view, save and print the report card. We are asking that you please check to see that you have access to your MyClass account by logging in prior to report cards coming out.

Please see our website

<https://secondary.sd42.ca/wss/myclass-accounts-accessing-your-account/> for instructions and more information. If you are having difficulty accessing your account, please email MyClass@sd42.ca.

Please note, Westview does not provide printed report cards for all students or parents but if you do not have access to print a copy, you can request one at the office.

The WildCatfé is BACK!

Marketing 11/12 students have an amazing opportunity to participate in managing a small business! They just opened last week, and it's been a great success already! Ms. Orologio and her Marketing 11/12 students are selling delicious smoothies and luxury coffee beverages! Can't wait to see how this project expands.

SOGI

What is SOGI?

SOGI stands for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. Creating a sense of belonging for students from diverse identities is a crucial part of our school culture at Westview, and the provincial curriculum supports us in this endeavor with SOGI123.

SOGI123 is a provincial mandate and set of resources that helps teachers create a classroom environment that is inclusive of all students. It also helps school administration create policy that helps students from all backgrounds feel safe in the school environment.

Lastly, it reminds us that everyone has a sexual orientation and gender identity, and that homophobia and transphobia negatively affect all children, not just queer children. SOGI123 provides resources to ensure school materials accurately reflect the lived experiences of the entire community.

More information about SOGI123 is available at sogieducation.org

Study Stars (aka Homework Club)



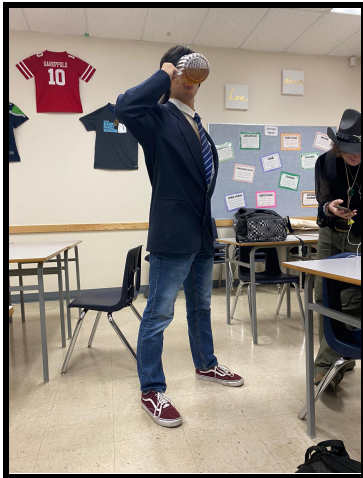
Has launched Tuesday, November 2nd. This student organized and student led initiative will provide help with homework or a quiet space to do your work! Computers are available for those that require access to technology!

The Homework Club is on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the CLC room 1027 for free tutoring from 3pm-4pm. All students are welcome!

Halloween Spirit Week at Westview

Throughout Spirit Week, we had fun theme days like PJ Day and Formal Day to include some fun and excitement in school this week. Anything-But-A-Backpack Day was a highlight, with some people bringing litter boxes, wheelbarrows, animal crates, and other creative objects to carry school supplies around for the day.

The much anticipated "Adam Sandler" day saw a fun mix of movie references and laid-back athletic wear that the man himself made popular this past summer. All in all, a good deal of fun was had, and we look forward to seeing the unique costumes people wear on Halloween! Here are a couple pics!



Fall Choir Concert

The Fall Choir Concert was held Oct 25th. This was our first concert in over 2 years. It featured four modern songs and many Westview soloists. Check out the video here <https://sites.google.com/view/westviewmusic/home>

We would like to thank our poster creator, sound, photography and videography students for helping us out: Emma H, Alex, Eli, Kaylib and Luna.

Our next concert is scheduled for January 25th, 2023 in the WSS gym. All are welcome to attend. This concert will feature the choir, jazz band and two elementary bands.

Students interested in taking band 8-12 are still able to sign up for Semester 2. See Mrs. Jensen in the music room.



Clubs

Below is a list of some of the many clubs that are running this year. Each club has a teacher sponsor as well as a regular meeting time. All the information is below. If you wonder what happens, drop by and check it out or go chat with the teacher.

Art Club	Ms. Cruikshank	Room 1152	Thursdays @ 3-4:00pm
Board Game Club	Ms. Garneau	Library	Wednesdays @ 2:45pm
Book Club	Ms. Eddy	Room 1003	TBA
Breakfast Club	Shannon Moody	Room 1077	Tues @ 7:45-8:30am
Carving Club	Ms. Zagar	Room 1071	Mondays @ 2:45
Choir Club	Mrs. Jensen	Room 1180	Tuesday's @ Lunch (Semester 2 only)
Drama	Ms. Allen	Room MPR	Monday's @ 3-4:30pm
Feminist Fight Club	Ms. Orologio	Room 1061	Tuesdays @ Flex
Homework Club	Sr. Students	Room 1027	Tues/Wed @ 2:45-3:45pm
Pride Club	Ms. Poirer, Mx. Ford, Ms. Eddy	Room 1003	Thursdays @ Lunch
Running Club	Ms. Eddy, Coach Mac	Front Foyer	Wednesday @ 3pm
Weight Room Club	PE teachers	Weight Room	Daily @ 2:45-4pm

Fall Sports Update

Athletic Leadership will be hosting World Cup Soccer viewing parties. Students will need to get their "Viewing Passport" signed by classroom teachers and pay a small entrance fee that will be donated to charity that will be needed for admittance. Full details to come!

Outdoor Club will be starting November 8th after school! The club will meet regularly to learn about spending time outdoors (trip planning, safety, equipment and more), but also, importantly, to plan hiking, snowshoeing and other activities we will do as a group to get outside! All students are welcome! See Coach Mac for more info.

Running Club happens each Wednesday after school! We meet in the front foyer and students choose their challenge with 2, 5, 7 and 10km routes. We leave at 3pm sharp! Speak with Coach Mac or Ms. Eddy for details!

Volleyball - This volleyball season we had 50 Westview students participate on teams from grade 8-12. We are super proud of their growth this season! While it is too late to join a team, there will be skills camps hosted starting in April, all students are welcome on a drop-in basis.

Basketball & Basketball Academy

November brings the official start of the high school basketball season. We are currently hosting tryouts for student-athletes who are interested in playing basketball this year.

Students and parents could check the bulletin board outside the gym for updates, listen to the announcements, and follow on Instagram for tryout information. You can also contact Katie_Macleod@sd42.ca for more details about basketball at Westview.

The Basketball Academy is up and running, with 70 student-athletes attending classes outside the timetable in the mornings. These dedicated student-athletes arrive for class at 7am!

We have welcomed eight Grade 8 students, and 18 International student-athletes to our Hooper family this year. International student-athletes from Germany, Japan, Thailand, Spain and Italy have come to Westview to be a part of the Basketball Academy.

Student-athletes in the Basketball Academy have been volunteering in the community, coaching youth basketball programs for children in Kindergarten - Grade 3. This opportunity to teach fundamental basketball and athletic skills to littles provides valuable learning and leadership opportunities for our Academy student-athletes, and we have so much fun! [Follow **westview_basketball_academy** on Instagram to see what we are up to!](#)

School Processes

The Physical Health and Education Department would like to remind families and students of 3 key rules surrounding safety in PHE that need some more attention.

1. **PE strip is mandatory** for all PE classes. This is a change of workout appropriate clothes (no jeans) that students use just for PE class and not the entire day. Appropriate footwear that is non-slip and supportive must be worn (no boots, slippers or open toe shoes).
2. **Phones are not allowed** in our gym spaces unless explicitly stated by the teacher. This includes headphones. They should be in lockers for safekeeping.
3. **All belongings should be locked up** in a personal or PE locker during class time (including flex and after school activities) for safekeeping. Bags in the gym are a safety issue, and therefore must be LOCKED in a locker to prevent items from going missing or being tampered with. Locks are available for \$5 from the PE office.

Enforcing these rules has been an ongoing battle for our staff. Please have a conversation with your student to ensure they are clear on the expectations and how you can support them (reminders of strip or purchasing locks). If you have questions, please email your student's PHE teacher.

What to do when sick

The most important task for all students, staff and visitors to complete prior to coming to school every day, is the daily health check. The BC Centre for Disease Control has updated its guidance on when to get a COVID-19 test and when to self-isolate.

SD42 has created a “**What to do when sick**” flowchart for a summary of this updated guidance. This flowchart is posted below and is also available on the district website at <https://www.sd42.ca/coronavirus-district-response/>

Grad 2023 Update

All Grad info, forms and links will be up on our Website

<https://secondary.sd42.ca/wss/grad-2023/>. We have also sent out a Parent Portal message with forms as well.

Grad photo sign up - photos are set by appointment between Nov. 7-10th. If you need to still book an appointment, go to our school website

<https://secondary.sd42.ca/wss/grad-2023/>

Grad Parent Meeting #2 - There will be a Grad Parent Committee meeting at 7:00pm, Monday, November 22nd in the WSS Library. This meeting is intended for parents who want to be involved in fundraising and planning our school's Grad Dinner & Dance and Dry Grad events which happen in early June 2022.

Dry Grad Fundraising

Support this year's Dry Grad and the earth at the same time! Check out the link and start your shopping! <https://fundraising.tru.earth/WSSDryGrad2023>

***Shipping is free on orders of \$50 or more. Orders less than \$50 have a flat fee of only \$5!



WSS Counselling Corner

As parents, we didn't grow up in the age of smartphones and yet here we are trying to navigate it with our teens. In this section of the parent newsletter, Westview Counsellors are hoping to support parents as you and your teen traverse the tech terrain.

This month: Social Media - The Good, the Bad & the Balance

Social media was such a key tool during the pandemic to keep our teens connected to their friends and in that way, it's a gift. It can also be a place to pursue interests, find like-minded people and show off your talents. But in other ways social media can take a toll on the social and emotional health of our teens. When our teens see filtered and idealized versions of their peers or idols their self-esteem can be impacted. Social media can also become a place of derision through bullying and exclusion.

So, what can we do as parents to protect our teens from the harmful effects of social media?

1. Educate yourself! How are your teens connecting and communicating online? A communication app on their phone such as WhatsApp, SnapChat, or Facebook? Online game(s)? TikTok? The more you know about the apps they're using the more you can understand how to protect them.
2. Communicate! Like other tough-to-have conversations, the grown-ups have to initiate the hard and awkward talks that often have your teen rolling their eyes. Talk to them about the risks of sharing online. They might know this already but to hear from parents too will make them think one more time about what they're posting.
3. Create & Enforce the Rules! This might be the hardest one and it can apply to more than just social media usage. There is no one right answer for who should be on which platforms and at what age. That is for you to determine. But whatever is decided, enforce those rules and be prepared to uphold the consequences. It's not unlike insisting they wear sunscreen; they'll fight you every slippery & slimy step of the way, but you know it's because you love them and don't want to see them burned.

Soccer Academy - Coach's Corner

Senior boys soccer team finished the regular season in first place, with a 6-1 record resulting in a berth into the playoffs. First game of the playoffs is this Thursday, Nov. 3 at home, kick-off is at 3:30pm. Opponent to be determined!

What's happening in the Classroom!

PSYCHOLOGY with Ms. Whitelaw

First off, we have a group from community services coming to talk to my psychology class about careers in the field and share their experiences working in psychology based programs.

They include:

Kristy Rogge – Director of Operations, Community Services

Tamara Williams – Supervisor of Alicia's Wish

Alicia Erenli – Manager of Foundry and Youth Housing

Kim Mapson – Manager of Community Programs and Family Services

Then we have a team of three urban planners from the municipality (City of Maple Ridge) coming in to discuss careers in urban planning and design and their work in the community, including several previous planning projects and community initiatives.

They will be giving my human geography class insight into how they plan transportation networks, make the community safer and more inclusive, etc. they will also be giving feedback to our students on their Community Action Plan projects as they focus on one area in need of improvement in Maple Ridge. It's a unique opportunity for kids to work with professionals and experts in the field.

Important Dates

- **Nov. 7-10** - Grad Photos by Appt. in WSS Library (see website for more details)
- **Thursday, Nov 10** - Pro D day - No School for students
- **Friday, Nov. 11** - Remembrance Day (stat holiday for staff and students)
- **Monday, Nov. 16** - Report Cards are LIVE for viewing online at 12:00pm
- **Thursday, Nov. 18** - Gr. 12 PSI meetings 9:30am-11:30am
- **Monday, Nov. 22** - Dry Grad Parent Meeting 7pm (Library conference room)
- **Tuesday, Nov. 22** - Library Open House 6-8pm
- **Friday, Nov. 25** - Rock Climbing Field Trip
- **Monday, Nov. 29** - PAC ZOOM Meeting 7pm

Key Contacts

The following list of Counsellors and Administrators and their grades are listed below:

- Ms. O’Leary (Counsellor - Gr. 9, 11 & 12s A-L)
 - lauren_oleary@sd42.ca
- Ms. Sharpe (Counsellor - Gr. 8, 10 & 12s M-Z)
 - shannon_sharpe@sd42.ca
- Mr. Kater (Vice Principal - Gr. 8 & 10s)
 - steve_kater@sd42.ca
- Ms. Girbav (Vice Principal - Gr. 9 & 11s)
 - anne_girbav@sd42.ca
- Mrs. Blanco (Principal - Grade 12s)
 - Cathryn_Blanco@sd42.ca

Please do not hesitate to email the Principal if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Cathryn Blanco

Principal, Westview Secondary School

-Inspiring & encouraging students to strive for excellence!

