



École Secondaire Windsor Secondary School

FAMILY NEWSLETTER- DECEMBER 2024

We would like to thank the Coast Salish people, specifically the Skwxwú7mesh Nation and Səlilwətał Nation, on whose unceded traditional territory École Windsor Secondary resides.

IMPORTANT DATES:

DECEMBER 1

[International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)

DECEMBER 2

7:30pm - PAC meeting (library)

DECEMBER 3

Review & Completion (no classes)

DECEMBER 6

[National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women \(half-mast\)](#)

Curriculum Implementation Day (no classes)

Grad Portraits - To book your preferred session time, please visit: www.gradsbcc.com/school/wsr (see page 3)

DECEMBER 9

Report Cards published

Grad Portraits

DECEMBER 10

7:00pm-9:30pm - Windsor Music Holiday Concert (Kay Meek Theatre, West Vancouver)

Grad Portraits

DECEMBER 11

Grad Portraits

DECEMBER 12

Grad Portraits & Grad Buddy Photos

DECEMBER 16

5:00-7:00pm - Grad Trivia (multipurpose room)

DECEMBER 17

7:00pm-9:30pm - Windsor Band Holiday Jazz Night

DECEMBER 20

Last day of school before Winter Break

1:00pm - Student Early Dismissal (see page 2)

7:00 - 9:00am - Santa's Breakfast (multipurpose room)

DECEMBER 21

[Winter solstice](#)

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 3

Winter Break (school closed)

DECEMBER 25

[Christmas Day](#) (statutory holiday)

[Hanukkah](#) (Dec 25-Jan 2)

DECEMBER 26

[Boxing Day](#)

[Kwanzaa](#) (Dec 26-Jan 1)

ADJUSTED BELL SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 20

1:00PM - Student Early Dismissal for Santa's Breakfast

Santa's Breakfast Bell Schedule (no tutorial, early dismissal)	
Breakfast	7:00 – 9:05 am
Period 6	9:05 – 9:55 am
Period 7	10:00 – 10:50 am
Period 5	10:55 – 11:45 am
Break	11:45 am -12:05 pm
Period 8	12:10 – 1:00 pm

GRAD PORTRAITS

Grad Yearbook Portrait Sessions are quickly approaching! GradsBC will be bringing their studio to our school to ensure all grade 12 students have access to be included in the school's yearbook and on the legacy wall composite. Sessions will take place in early December. For More Info on Important Dates & to Book your Preferred Session Time, please visit: www.gradsbc.com/school/wsr

The above link will give you specific program details on the services and products you will be receiving from GradsBC; starting with fall portraits all the way to your year end grad events.

Questions? Please call the GradsBC office: 604-461-3722 or info@gradsbc.com



IMPORTANT GRAD DATES

Grad Portrait Sessions & Video Opportunity: December 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 2024

Buddy Photo Sessions (Max 10 ppl): December 12, 2024

Grad Retakes: January 6, 2025

Family Portraits: TBD – Spring 2025 – Please email info@gradsbc.com if you would like to be notified when this booking link becomes live.

WINDSOR PAC

Special fundraiser organized by the Windsor PAC just in time for the holidays. We have commissioned a unique Windsor Wolves Christmas Ornament that will surely add a festive touch to your decorations. This ornament does not have a year engraved on it, making it suitable for families with both current and past Windsor students.

The cost of each ornament is \$22, which includes the tax and a beautiful box. Please note that the ribbon on the ornament will be green, not gold.

To place your order and make the payment, please click [HERE](#). We are aiming to have the ornaments ready for pick up during the second week of December. A reminder email will be sent to you with details on how to collect your order.

Thank you for supporting our fundraiser. Your contribution will make a difference in our school community. **And please forward this to as many Windsor families you know.**



STUDENT SUB-COMMISSION OPORTUNITY

The Student Inclusive Education Committee is a sub-committee of the school district's Inclusion Committee and was created in 2022. The sub-committee provides an opportunity for neurodivergent students, students with disabilities, autistic students and students with intellectual disabilities to share their experiences and perspectives.

Participation is open to students in Grades 6-12. All students have the option to attend meetings with the support of a family member, peer or support person. The sub-committee meeting locations and schedule will be determined with the participants.

If your student would like to participate on this sub-committee for the 2024-2025 school year, please email, InclusiveEducation@sd44.ca and provide the student's name, school, grade and contact information.. The number of sub-committee participants will depend on the number of applicants.



OBU – WINDSOR SISTER SCHOOL EXCHANGE 2025/26

INFORMATION MEETING DECEMBER 10th

Since 2008, Windsor Secondary and Obu High School in Obu, Aichi-ken have participated in a sister-school exchange program. There have been five school exchanges to date, and we are planning a sixth exchange that will be open to all grade 9-11 students in the 2025/26 academic school year. Applications will be accepted starting in January 2025.

In October 2025, the group from Obu High School will arrive for one week of visiting, sightseeing, cultural exchange and participation in learning at Windsor. During their stay, our Obu guests will visit Windsor classrooms as well as the surrounding North Shore community. One day is typically spent exploring an area of interest on the North Shore, and another is spent in an Amazing Race activity where all the students have a chance to explore Vancouver and its surrounding areas in teams. During the week, the Obu students are hosted by Windsor families, usually in pairs, and students/families will be expected to spend time introducing their Japanese guests to Canadian life outside of school hours.

Saying goodbye or 'Sayonara' to our Obu friends is typically hard, but the great news is that we see them all again! The Windsor exchange students will depart in early May 2026 for a two-day stay in Tokyo, and one week in Obu, which also includes a day trip to Kyoto. It is an amazing experience to be reconnected with our Japanese friends, while we participate in various cultural classes at Obu HS including cooking, Japanese tea ceremony and Kodo practice. Windsor students are hosted by their Japanese counterparts, and it's safe to say that everyone receives VIP treatment. It has been exciting to see the true connections that are formed and many exchange students remain friends for years to come.

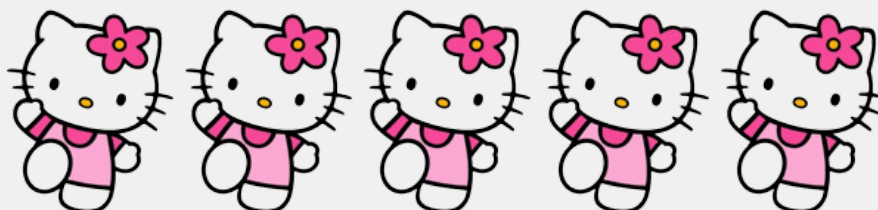
If you think you might be interested in the Windsor/Obu exchange, please join Mrs. Ottenbreit, Mr. Minn and Ms. Hall for the next one in 2025/26! If you are interested, but would like to hear more, please attend the following meeting:

WINDSOR/OBU EXCHANGE INFORMATION SESSION

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

LUNCH BREAK

LIBRARY COMPUTER LAB



ROBOTICS COMPETITION



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



3RD ANNUAL
**ROBOTICS
COMPETITION**

**Calling All Secondary School Students:
Be a Robotics Mentor!**

The Elementary Robotics Competition is back for its third year, bigger and better than ever! With over ten elementary schools competing, we're looking for enthusiastic **Secondary School Mentors** to guide and inspire young robotics teams. This is **your chance** to inspire, lead, and make a difference!

What's in it for You?



- ✓ Potentially Earn up to 40 Volunteer Hours
- ✓ Mentor once or twice a month after school
- ✓ Share Your Passion for Robotics & STEM
- ✓ A volunteer letter with hours will be provided at the end of the competition in April.

How to Apply:

 Email sworley@sd44.ca by: December 13th, 2024
Sign up today and be part of something extraordinary!

What Will You Do?

- Mentor elementary students in designing, building, and programming robots
- Earn volunteer hours supporting teams during practices and competitions.
- Inspire creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving.
- Be a role model for the next generation of innovators.

“The best way to predict the future is to create it.”
– Peter Drucker

DIGITAL MEDIA YOUTH EXPO & CAREER FAIR 2024

Saturday, December 7th, 2024

12 noon till 3pm

This is a FREE COMMUNITY EVENT!

We are excited to invite you to our upcoming Digital Media Youth Expo 2024 offering a FREE community learning experience for those interested in all things DIGITAL MEDIA!

The Digital Media Youth Expo is hosted by the North Vancouver School District's Digital Media Academy (DMA). The Expo is a place to learn about the many educational and employment opportunities available in the Digital Media Industry. The Digital Media Youth Expo is a where students, parents, teachers and the community can meet with representatives from many Lower Mainland Post-Secondary Schools, local and global organizations, industry experts and studios involved in all aspects of digital media. Attending are representatives in Visual Effects, Animation, Film, Sound, Web Design, Game Design along with a host of other realms. DMA students will be available to answer questions about the DMA and the program offerings, as well as showcase what projects they are working on, learning about and inspired by!

Please visit our official EXPO website- <http://digitalmediayouthexpo.ca/>



Digital Media Youth
expo

Free Community Event
Saturday, December 7th, 2024
12 noon - 3:00 pm

QR code with 'dma' text

Logos: dma, SR MEDIA, north shore news, North Vancouver School District (the natural place to learn), Argyle Secondary School, 1131 Frederick Road, North Vancouver, BC, www.digitalmediayouthexpo.ca

The poster features a stylized hummingbird composed of various digital media elements like gears, circuitry, and data points. The background is white with a light blue gradient at the bottom.

ARTISTS FOR KIDS

Artists for Kids and the Gordon Smith Gallery of Canadian Art has released five limited edition prints through an inaugural 2024 Fall Portfolio launch!

The [Artists for Kids Limited Edition Portfolio](#) program began over 35 years ago and is now revered as one of the most significant limited edition collections in Canada. Through the announcement of the 2024 Fall Portfolio release, the program brings together a group of limited edition prints by four Canadian artists who have worked directly with children and youth through Artists for Kids. The spectacular editions by Anna Binta Diallo, Sandeep Johal, Sara Khan, and Samuel Roy-Bois are NOW available for acquisition.

On behalf of Artists for Kids, an **enormous gratitude**, for your support of this grassroots program through your communication and advocacy.

Purchases can be made by visiting artistsforkids.ca or calling the Artists for Kids' office at 604-903-3798.

Don't forget to confirm if you qualify for a [Collector's Program](#) discount!

Want to know more about Artists for Kids and the Gordon Smith Gallery? Sign up for our mailing list to receive exclusive updates: [Gordon Smith Gallery Newsletter](#)

A little history...

Artists for Kids was founded in 1989 with the singular intent to support exceptional art education and enrichment opportunities for young artists. For over three decades, this collective vision has been central to the development of a thriving art education program, including the Gordon Smith Gallery and its Permanent Collection of Canadian Art. Gordon Smith, Bill Reid, and Jack Shadbolt were the founding artist-patrons of Artists for Kids, which brings some of Canada's most significant art curriculum to children, youth, and educators across British Columbia.

In 1988 Bill Reid designed Xhuwaji / Haida Grizzly on a ceremonial drum which is part of the Gordon Smith Gallery's Permanent Collection. In 1990 Reid created an edition of serigraph prints (with printmaker Terra Bonnieman) to be sold through the Artists for Kids Limited Edition Portfolio program.



Photo by Rachel Topham, courtesy of the Gordon Smith Gallery

Xhuwaji / Haida Grizzly was the first Artist for Kids Limited Edition Portfolio print, marking the beginning of a great partnership between Canadian artists and Artists for Kids.

In order to realize a strong vision for arts education, Artists for Kids developed a funding model which supports children and youth, educators, and artists. This model is centred upon the Gordon Smith Gallery Permanent Collection, established as a teaching collection through which artworks by nationally and internationally recognized Canadian artists are acquired by purchase or donation. In conjunction with each acquisition, the artist generously donates an original artwork to be released for sale as a limited edition. Funds raised through the Artists for Kids Limited Edition Portfolio program directly support Gallery programs, artist residencies, camps, scholarships, and bursaries designed for children, youth, and educators.

Acquiring an edition from the Artists for Kids Limited Edition Portfolio is not only an investment in artists and art education, but in building community and understanding through the Arts.

WINDSOR WOLVES - SR. BOYS SOCCER PROVINCIALS

The Windsor Wolves won the AA Sr. Boys Soccer Provincials in Burnaby. They played an incredibly physical game which ended in regulation time 0-0. After a scoreless OT, goal keeper Dylan Spires thwarted two kicks and the Wolves won after sinking all 4 of their penalty kicks during the shootout. Alex Boardman was named Tournament MVP and Ty Whyte was awarded Tournament All Star.



INVICTUS GAMES

On November 18th, Windsor Secondary School Grade 12 students participated in an event at the Seaforth Armory to learn more about the athletes in the Invictus Games. They had the opportunity to meet active Canadian Armed Forces members and Invictus Games Athletes and engage in a Poetry Study lesson with them based on the poem “Invictus” by William Ernest Henley. Windsor students analyzed the poem Invictus with their English teacher, Chantal Dubé. They learned how the power of this poem is used to inspire wounded Veterans competing in the Invictus Games, and use this inspiration in their own lives.



Windsor Students Olivia Hardman, Lisa Zhang, and Matthew Coffin with Prince Harry

I AM is the motto for the Invictus Games and is inspired by the last two lines of Invictus: “I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul.” I AM reflects and defines the Invictus Games’ core purpose: to provide a platform for personal achievement, to compete not just against each other, but against oneself.

The Invictus Games Vancouver-Whistler in February 2025 will bring together over 500 wounded, injured, and sick military service members and Veterans from around the world on a courageous journey of recovery through the healing power of sport. Windsor Grade 12 students had a unique opportunity to interview and co-write poetry based on their experiences and through the themes of the original Invictus poem. Students were able to share their work with the patron of the Invictus Games, Prince Harry. Students learned how their experiences at the Games have transformed their lives and helped them in their quest to be “unconquerable.”

The Poetry Study activity was facilitated as multiple small group circle discussions by serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces and Prince Harry. The focus is on having an open discussion about topics including PTSD and mental health and recovery using the lines of the Invictus Poem to relate back to.



Members of Canadian Armed Forces have been briefed on sharing their experiences of what it means to deploy and then reintegrate into the community and some challenges they face.

Windsor students Nicolo Edralin Alcanse and Eva Stoelting read the poem Invictus during the formal speaking program which included the Squamish Nation Council Member Sxwixwtn Wilson Williams, Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim, Invictus Athletes, and Invictus Games Founding Patron, Prince Harry.

WINDSOR WOLVES - CROSS-COUNTRY

The Cross Country Team performed very well at the Provincials, with special mention to Ruby Coleman who placed 14th in the province, as well as Kayla Sauve, Quinn Coleman and our Sr Boys team who had a strong finish.



WINDSOR LIBRARY & LEARNING COMMONS

Windsor Library & Learning Commons is pleased to showcase the students listed below who have demonstrated their love of reading and literacy. In the past three months, this group of top readers have read a total of **542 books** between them!

The Windsor LLC aims to provide a wide array of resources for all reading levels and areas of interest. This past fall we have committed to building our collection of authentic First Peoples works and Mr. Van Samang's Senior woodworking students are currently building more shelving to assist with this as our numbers of Indigenous fiction and non-fiction titles grow!

To see our library collection, please click on the link below:

[Windsor Secondary Library & Learning Commons Collection](#)

And congratulations on our top reading Windsor Wolves!!

1	Park, Miles Andrew	138
2	Good, Cy Weylin MacLean	109
3	Phillips, Thomas Henry	67
4	Merrett, Kai Benjamin	30
5	Ameeri, Habibullah	23
6	Lage Baltar Teixeira, Livia	19
7	Verma, Ambika	19
8	Thompson, John Karl	18
9	Celler, Clara Judith	15
10	Vennesland, David Lim	14
11	Panagapko, Samantha Emelie	13
12	Whelan, Alexandra	11
13	Fuginska, Aleksandra Sylwia	10
14	Kline, Nico Kenneth	10
15	Verador, Claire Hayley	10
16	Ahmadi Kohanali, Yas	9
17	Gregor, Alicia Shiloh Chae	9
18	Marchenko, Anastasiia	9
19	Payravi, Ryan	9

SCHOOL FEES

Course fees have been added to your account. Please login to [School Cash Online](#) to make the payment. We appreciate the prompt payment of these fees so the teachers are able to purchase the supplies required for this semester as soon as possible.

Note that students with outstanding athletic and school fees will not be able to pick up their Yearbooks or Grad Gowns in June until their accounts are up to date.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

TO REPORT AN ABSENCE:

- Email windsor@sd44.ca (preferred) *

Please remember to include the words
absence or **attendance** in the subject line

- or Call Attendance Line: 604-903-3707

WHEN REPORTING ABSENCES

-You may report an absence on same the day until 3:00 p.m., in advance for a future date if you know ahead of time, or for previous dates that were missed.

Please indicate:

- Student First Name
- Student Last Name (if leaving a voice message please spell the last name)
- Grade
- Date of absence (whole day/portion of the day)
- Explanation for absence ("excused", "ill", "appointment", "vacation").

It is critical that student absence explanations are specific to ensure accurate reporting to the School District and Public Health Unit, when necessary.

- Your name & relationship with the student. (Only messages from parents and legal guardians are accepted)

PARKING AT WINDSOR

Parking is at a premium during the school day and with the need to provide adequate parking for school and district staff, guests, community, and students, we request that everyone adheres to the parking guidelines we have in place.

1. Broadview Lot: Parking is for school & district staff and visitors. Students may not park in this lot. Parents, please park in the available visitor spots. Please do not drop off students in the Broadview parking lot.

2. Lytton Lot: Parking is for staff and students.
If this lot is full, students will need to park off school site.

We have also noted an increase in the number of vehicles parked illegally including in areas clearly marked as no parking. For example, vehicles parked in yellow zones, areas marked for emergency vehicles, and in front of waste disposal bins.

While we have been reluctant to do so, having vehicles towed is an option. Vehicles parked in no parking zones and students who continue to disregard the parking guidelines may be towed. If your vehicle is towed, please contact Payless Auto Towing.

In order to park at Windsor students must:

- register their vehicles in the office
- adhere to the parking regulations
- display decal on their windshield

We continue to encourage students to walk or take transit to school.



FOOD ACCESS FOR STUDENTS

Windsor has had, for a number of years, a food access program available for students in need. This year we increased the visibility and access to food by setting up a hot and cold water station with a microwave on the 300 level. There are a number of breakfast and snack items available. We encourage students to bring a bowl and spoon for some items. We want to make sure that as a community we are looking out for each other and those students who are in need are priority for this program.

KEEP US IN THE LOOP!

Contact information

Please ensure your contact information, especially email and phone number, are up to date. You can see the contact information that Windsor has in MyEd. MyEd is also where you can access your students' timetable, report cards and attendance records.

[My Ed BC Portal Tips & Resources](#)

When changing your mailing address, please attach a copy of proof of address. An example would be a utility bill, BCID, Drivers Licence, credit card invoice etc.

Vacations and Extended Absences

If a student is away for more than a couple of days, parents need to fill in a Student Extended Absence form, to be signed by teachers. The form can be found on the [Windsor website](#).

Thank you for helping us keep up to date!