November 13, 2026

Dear Westsyde Families,

It has been a busy few weeks at Westsyde! Before sharing some highlights, I want to thank you for your patience this week while our phone lines and email were down for a couple of days. We know this made reaching the school difficult, and we appreciate your understanding.

On October 30, we held the first of our three Recognition Rallies, celebrating the hard work and talents of our students and staff. These rallies are a fantastic reminder of the good things happening at Westsyde and the pride we share in our community. I also want to thank our staff and coaches for the time, care and encouragement they give our students to help bring out the best in them. This is what we mean when we talk about Pride in Self, Pride in Others and Pride in Community. Congratulations to everyone recognized at the rally!

This week also gave us time to pause and reflect at our Remembrance Day Assembly. The ceremony was incredibly moving and showcased many of our students' talents, including a multilingual reading of *In Flanders Fields*. Thank you to all the students who participated, to Mr. Weisgerber and Mr. Sawka for their direction, and to Ms. Richards for supporting our students' beautiful artwork. The ceremony gave us an opportunity to look beyond ourselves and honour those who have served and sacrificed for our freedom.

It is hard to believe that today marks the end of Term 1! The weeks leading up to the holiday break will go quickly, so regular attendance and staying on top of schoolwork are especially important. Please encourage your child to keep putting in the effort and to ask for help when they need it. We want every student to reach their potential, and we are here to help them make that happen.

Lastly, please remember that the school's fourth annual Empty Bowls event takes place on December 3, in support of the Kamloops Food Bank. Tickets are available in the office: $25 for adults and $15 for students. We hope you will join us for an evening of entertainment, good food and a silent auction. As well, everyone who attends will take home a ceramic bowl and a cozy made by our very own students. We love this event, and we know you will too!

Important Dates:

November 16, 2026	Term 2 Begins
December 1, 2026	Learning updates released on MyEd and paper copy given to students
November 30, 2026	Non-Instructional Day - District Pro D
November 30 - Dec 4	Grad Photos
December 3, 2026	Empty Bowls Fundraiser - 5pm in the WSS Theatre
December 8, 2026	Grade 8 Mosaic changeover
December 11, 2026	WSS hosts district wide Lahal Games Tournament

Thank you for your continued support of our school and community.

Domenic Comita
Proud Principal of Westsyde Secondary