



Newsletter #6 – October 13th, 2023



PAC HALLOWEEN PARTY

The Whiteside Halloween Party is BACK! Tickets are available for \$8 per child by pre-order

on MunchaLunch & will be sold for \$10 at the door. The activities are geared towards K-Gr. 5. All ages are welcome to attend. *Children in K-Gr. 4 must have a guardian stay with them during this event. Grade 5 and up must be signed in at the front door.*

“Trick or Treat” Others with Respect

The time to plan costumes is upon us. Halloween can be fun. However, we need to be aware that celebrating Halloween needs to be fun for ALL and not at the expense of equity seeking groups. Halloween offers an opportunity to have meaningful conversations about costume choices with colleagues and students and requires consideration. In doing so, it is important to keep in mind that we need to be sensitive to groups that have been marginalized through mimicry and cultural appropriation during Halloween and other ‘dress up’ events. A few things to keep in mind: It’s good to keep in mind that the following are NOT Costumes:

- RACE (black face/brown face)
- CULTURE (Indigenous regalia/dreadlocks)
- RELIGIOUS FAITH (religious figures/gods/saints/gurus/hijab)
- GENDER (gender switching for humour or to mock)
- TRAUMA (hangman’s noose/weapons)



PAC MEETINGS

PAC are amazing resources for our entire school community. A strong PAC bonds our school community with our families. PAC is an excellent way for our families to connect directly

with the action at our school as well as develop relationships within the parent community. **Our next meeting is on Tuesday, October 17th at 6:45 p.m.!** Please reach out to our PAC at whitesidepac@hotmail.com for more information.



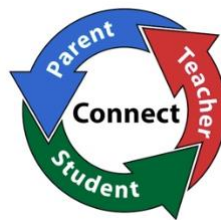
STUDENT PHOTO DAY

Our school has been hand-picked to be part of an

exciting, environmentally-friendly initiative for ordering school photos! Instead of receiving an order form with proofs, students will instead receive their proofs only, along with instructions to order online using Edge’s new ordering site. Online ordering not only helps to reduce wasted paper, but it also unlocks access to free shipping and innovative specialty products that are not available via the paper order form! Order online today at edgeimaging.ca/order. If you have any questions, call Edge at 1-888-416-3343. **Photo retake day is Thursday, November 16th at 9:00 a.m.**

PRO-D DAY – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

Whiteside will be closed on Friday for our provincial pro-d day.



LEARNING CONFERENCES

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for October 18/19. These conferences are a great opportunity to connect with the school and discuss your child’s learning. *This year our conferences*

will be completed in person. Alternate arrangements can be made individually with your classroom teacher. Teachers will connect with you to schedule conference times. Please note that these two dates are Early Dismissal Days with 1:45 pm dismissal times to accommodate the conferences.

CHECK IN AND CHECK OUT

If your child is arriving late to school, please check in at the office through the front entrance.



If your child needs to leave school early, please sign your child out at the office and wait at the front entrance for them.

STUDENT AFFORDABILITY FUND

Recently, the provincial government announced a new, one time [Student and Family Affordability Fund](#). This fund is designed to assist families who require financial assistance with school-related costs such as school and course fees, workbooks, specialty supplies, field trips and other school-related charges and costs. The additional funding will also be used to support school meal programs and other nutritional supports for students.



Currently, we are requesting that families reach out to our principal, Brett Cameron (whiteside@sd38.bc.ca) if you need assistance with school supplies, fees, or other school-related costs. As always, all requests will be treated with dignity and your privacy will be respected. We want to work with our families to ensure that our students, your children, have everything they need to be successful at school. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can help.



EMERGENCY DRILLS

Frequently throughout the year our staff and students practice emergency drills.

These include fire, earthquake, and hold and secure drills. We recently completed our first fire/evacuation drill. Our Wolfpack did a great job leaving the school calmly and quietly. Classes exit through their common doors and muster on the field. We encourage you to have conversations with your family about these events. **Our #ShakeOut earthquake drill will be on October 19, 2023.**



Our Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, & Community Calendar

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

German Heritage Month
Canadian Islamic History Month
Community Inclusion Month
Latin American Heritage Month
Women's History Month

- 1 National Seniors Day
- 2 Statutory Holiday for National Day of Truth & Reconciliation
- 9 Thanksgiving
- 10 World Mental Health Day
- 11 International Day of the Girl
- 6 Sukkot Ends 🕊
- 7-8 Simchat Torah 🕊
- 15-24 Navaratri 🕊
- 18 Persons Day
- 19 Spirit Day
- 20 Installation of Scriptures as Guru Granth ☸
- 24 *Dussehra* 🕊
- 24 Youth Climate Action Day



ALLERGY ALERT:

All families should be aware that Whiteside School has many students with severe, life-threatening food allergies. Some classrooms may be designated nut free to protect the health of these students. Please help us limit the nut products entering our school overall, as the impact on a student can happen anywhere in the school. If possible, please do not send food to school containing nuts.

WEST COAST RECESS:

During recess and lunchtime breaks, students are expected to be outside at all times this year. Students are strongly encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather. You may also send a change of clothes to school just in case your child gets wet. Playing outside will ensure our students get some fresh air and exercise to enliven their day.



- Oct. 18/19 Learning Conferences (1:45 p.m. dismissal)
- Oct. 20 Pro-D Day (school closed)
- Oct. 30 Hot lunch
- Oct. 31 HUB Cycling begins for intermediate.
- Oct. 31 Halloween costume parade
- Nov. 10 Remembrance Day Assembly
- Nov. 10 Hot lunch
- Nov. 11 Remembrance Day
- Nov. 13 Remembrance Day observed – school closed
- Nov. 20 Pro-D Day (school closed)
- Nov. 24 Hot lunch
- Dec. 7 Grade 6/7 immunizations
- Dec. 12 Winter Concert – 6 p.m.
- Dec. 15 Hot lunch
- Dec. 19 Winter musical – 6 p.m.
- Dec. 21 Reports published
- Dec. 22 Last day before Winter Break