



**WINTER HOLIDAYS**

To celebrate the winter holidays, Whiteside will be closed from December 22<sup>nd</sup> – January 5<sup>th</sup>. We will reopen for a new season of learning on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup>.



**WINTER BAND CONCERTS AND MUSICAL**

Thank you to Ms. LB, our dedicated staff, our stage crew, and all our performers. Our performances were a festive and amazing way to ring in the holidays!

**Our Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, & Community Calendar**

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				7	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

- 2 International Day for Abolition of Slavery
- 3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 6 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
- 9 International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime
- 10 Human Rights Day
- 7-15 **Hannukah** 🕯️
- 8 Bodhi Day 🌸
- 21 Winter Solstice (Northern Hemisphere)
- 24 **Christmas Eve** †
- 24 Quviasukvik Begins
- 25 **Christmas** †
- 26 Kwanzaa Begins



**FEEDING FUTURES**

Recently, the provincial government announced a new Feeding Futures School Program Fund, designed to assist

schools in the development and enhancement of school meal programs and other nutritional supports for students.

If you would like to request support for your child at school, please reach out to our principal, Brett Cameron (bcameron@sd38.bc.ca). We are gathering information and look to provide ongoing support wherever possible. Implementation plans are underway, and we want to ensure families are aware, and as always, able to reach out if they require support. All requests will be treated with dignity and your privacy will be respected. We want to work with families to ensure that your children have everything they need to be successful at school. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can help.

**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](mailto: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.

**SNOW DAYS**

On a snow day, our school will remain open if possible. No announcement will be made saying that schools will be open. **Only closures will be announced** via the SD38 Twitter account, school and district websites, and on the radio at CKNW AM 980, News AM 1130, CBC AM 690, Fairchild AM 1470, CHQM FM 103.5. Closures will be announced as early as possible.



**WHITESIDE WEBSITE**

Our Whiteside website (<https://whiteside.sd38.bc.ca/>) hosts important information and reminders. Please visit to check our calendar, read the newsletter, see our school story, sign up for SchoolCashOnline or Munch-a-Lunch, and more!



**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, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.!** Please reach out to our PAC at [whitesidepac@hotmail.com](mailto:whitesidepac@hotmail.com) for more information.

**REPORTING**

**STUDENT LEARNING**

Our report cards this year will be posted on the [MyEdBC parent portal](#) on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. We



encourage our parent community to log on and review your child's fall report card. Core Competency reflections will be sent home or posted on your child's SD38 portfolio. We hope you and your children enjoy a conversation about their learning together.



**HEALTHY EATING HABITS**

Why healthy snacks are good for you:

You can enjoy snacks as part of your day. If you make healthy choices, snacks can:

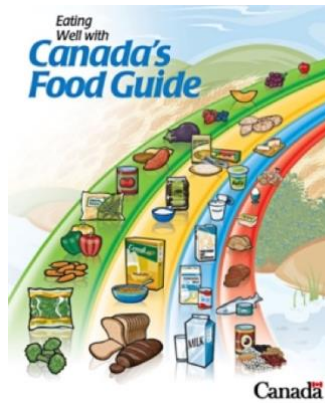
- keep you energized
- help support good health
- provide important nutrients
- be an important part of daily eating habits
- help satisfy your hunger between mealtimes

Young children can benefit from snacks as they:

- have small stomachs
- may have trouble eating all of the foods they need at mealtime

Learn more at:

<https://food-guide.canada.ca/en/tips-for-healthy-eating/parents-and-children/>



**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.



- Jan. 8 Whiteside re-opens
- Jan. 15-19 Jess Dance workshops
- Jan. 29 Pro-D day
- Feb. 16 Pro-D day
- Feb. 19 Family Day
- Feb. 28/29 Early dismissal for conferences
- Mar. 14 Talent show
- Mar. 14 Last day before Spring Break
- April 2 Whiteside re-opens
- May 17 Pro-D day
- May 20 Victoria day
- June 27 Last day of school for students

**EXTENDED ABSENCES**

During the year students may be absent from school for an extended period of time. It is district policy that students may only be absent for 4 (four) consecutive weeks and retain their place in the school. Upon returning, students may have to re-register at the school board office. If Whiteside is full, the district will find space in the nearest available school. Teachers will not provide work for students on extended absences. ***Our extended absence form needs to be completed if you are planning an absence for a week or longer.***



**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

Richmond School District 38 is excited to welcome Kindergarten



registration applications for children born in 2019, turning 5 in 2024. These children will begin Kindergarten in September 2024. Online registration opens on November 1, 2023. Please visit our website [www.sd38.bc.ca/kindergarten](http://www.sd38.bc.ca/kindergarten) for more information about our online registration process, required documents, important dates, and FAQs.

Videos detailing Kindergarten registration have been made available on our District website, providing new parents with guidance on the registration process, English Language Learner (ELL) assessments, and District Program Options (Early French Immersion and Montessori). These videos are available in English and Mandarin. Please view the videos at [www.sd38.bc.ca/kindergarten](http://www.sd38.bc.ca/kindergarten).

January						
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			

Tamil Heritage Month

1	Kwanzaa Ends
1	Ochetookeskaw - Kissing Day - Hand Shaking Day (Méts)
2	Mid Winter Ceremony
14	Maghi ☺
15	Black Excellence Day
17	Raoul Wallenberg Day
17	Guru Gobindh Singh Birthday/Prakash ☺
21	Lincoln Alexander Day
24	World Day for African & Afrodessendant Culture
25	Mahayana New Year ☺
27	International Holocaust Remembrance Day
29	National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia