



**CONCOURS – FRENCH FESTIVAL**

This year the Richmond School district is hosting the second annual Festival Culturel Francophone at McRoberts on April 16 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.. This event is open to everyone, regardless of age, background, or language proficiency. We welcome you to come and celebrate with us, meet new people and learn about French culture. Admission is free, so bring your friends and family.



**SMILE - CLASS PHOTO DAY**

April 17 is class photo day. Our photographers will be on site to take group, class, and school photos in the morning.



**HOT LUNCH – APRIL 19**

Our next hot lunch is Pizza Day on April 14. Please remember to send a recess snack and water bottles. Thank you, PAC!



**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, April 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.



**WHITESIDE READING INFORMATION OF THE WEEK**

Model reading fluently by practicing reading aloud with your child.

Having children read aloud daily, both with and without feedback, helps them develop the skills of reading **accuracy, fluency,** and comprehension. The boxes below show several approaches to use when reading aloud together.

When reading aloud with children:

- Model and provide feedback on proper tone, pausing, and which words to emphasize.
- Set a slow, steady pace, slowing down for words that are challenging. Gradually increase the pace, moving on to more difficult books. Remind the child that reading fluently does not necessarily mean reading quickly.
- Use familiar books. Make sure that the book is appropriate to the child's reading ability/ Of the book is too difficult, children can develop poor reading habits.

**GRADE 6 CAMP UPDATE**

Please join us on Wednesday, April 10th at 6:00 for a short family meeting for Grade 6 students heading to Camp Elphinstone. This meeting will be held on Teams and can be accessed using the sent in our newsletter email.



**PARKING LOT SAFETY**

Please help keep our students safe by using the drop off zone for picking up and dropping off students only. **Please do not leave your car unattended in the drop off zone or park in staff parking spots;** if you need to come into the school, please park in a parking space closer to South Arm Community Centre. When walking to school, please use the designated paths south and adjacent to the driveway as you enter the school grounds. Please follow arrows to keep our students safe and keep our parking lot accident free.



**WEST COAST PLAY**

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. To be prepared to be outside in the rain it is important for your child to

have appropriate clothing such as:

- A rain jacket.
- Rubber boots
- Rain pants
- An umbrella
- A rain hat or coat with a hood
- **\*A change of clothes to be kept at school (sweatpants, underwear, socks, t-shirt, etc.)**
- When students use their change of clothes, please send another set to school for the next time.



**BREAKFAST CLUB**

We invite our students to join us in the gym every Friday morning at 8:10 a.m. for some breakfast snacks and playtime. Entry is through the gym doors.

**MORNING ROUTINES AT WHITESIDE**

Our Wolfpack are expected to enter school from their outside doors until 8:45 a.m. Please ensure that your children make their way to the back of the school to meet their teachers. This ensures that all children are met by their teacher or supervising adult and can begin the day with their class. Play n' Eat is on Friday mornings only. Only students in our breakfast program may enter the gym early during the week. We do not have morning supervision for students.



**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!



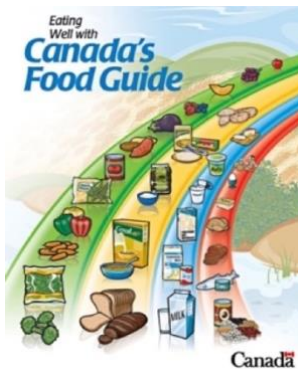


**HEALTHY EATING HABITS**

**Information Regarding Use of Screen Time During Eating Time**

Did you know that mealtime screentime is increasing? Screen time is often associated with unhealthy eating habits. For instance:

- if your child is distracted by a television show or video game while they eat, they may not be able to recognize when they are full. It is also easy for your child to associate screen time with enjoying a favourite food.
- less formal eating arrangements, (like a classroom) discourage the use of utensils and encourage snack style meals that are simple to pack and prepare. This can lead to distracted children eating more high calorie snack food at school when watching screens.
- children consume fewer available fruits and vegetables prepared by their family when they are viewing screens, and more sugary beverages.
- distraction with screens while eating reduces a child's ability to assess normal cues that regulate healthy food intake and reduces a child's capacity to remember what they have just eaten (a phenomenon referred to as consumption amnesia).



**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. We currently provide breakfast and lunch options for students that need extra support during the school week. If you would like to request support for your child at school, please reach out to our principal, Brett Cameron ([bcameron@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:bcameron@sd38.bc.ca)).

**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.



**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.



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| April 2  | Whiteside re-opens                   |
| April 16 | Concours/French Festival @ McRoberts |
| April 17 | Class photos                         |
| April 25 | Term 2 reports published             |
| May 1-3  | Grade 6 Outdoor Education trip       |
| May 13   | Speed Control concert                |
| May 17   | Pro-D day                            |
| May 20   | Victoria day                         |
| May 22   | Welcome to K event                   |
| May 27   | Track Meet                           |
| May 24   | Ian Maskin concert                   |
| June 4   | Gr. 7 rafting trip                   |
| June 14  | Sports Day                           |
| June 21  | Grade 7 farewell celebration         |
| June 27  | Last day of school for students      |