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Newsletter #4: December 1, 2016

As December is upon us, I can formally say, as the principal of Whiteside, that I have both literally and figuratively gotten my feet wet. I appreciate that there are many activities and opportunities at Whiteside that support students with a wide array of needs and strengths. Everyone has a place where they can shine. The Remembrance Day assembly was a beautiful demonstration of the caring and respect our students can show, with many performances and reflections. As we head towards the holidays, we have both a musical and a band concert to look forward to, thanks to the hard work of Ms. Lozovsky-Burns. Whiteside is truly a fabulous community.

As we continue through the 2016/2017 school year, we will be asking parents to support us in developing an understanding of our strengths and needs as we grow as a school. What used to be called the School Planning Council has been replaced with **BC's Framework For Enhancing Student Learning**. This is a new format for creating "multi-year district and school plans that are updated annually". After the winter break, we will be participating in a process called "scanning"; a process used to determine where we need to focus our energy as a staff and school. Parents will be invited into this process through discussion groups and questionnaires. Stay tuned...



Reporting



With two types of reporting occurring, you can expect to either be participating in portfolio conferences on the week of December 5th or receiving a summative report on Thursday, December 15th.

Band Concert

On Thursday, December 8th, at 7:00 p.m., grade 6 and 7 band students will be showcasing their skills. There will be a demonstration for the rest of the school at 1:30 p.m. on the same day.



Winter Concert

Our Christmas Musical will be presented on Tuesday, December 13th, at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Please bring non-perishable food items to support the food-bank collection.

Each day, students are encouraged to bring items that do not contain one of the top 10 allergens:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Dec. 1 – No soy | Dec. 7 – No wheat |
| Dec. 2 – No shellfish | Dec. 8 – No mustard |
| Dec. 6 – No sesame | Dec. 9 – No tree nuts (almonds, cashews, etc.) |



Donations are being collecting until Wednesday, December 14th.



Holiday Wish



As many of you know, we are supporting a number of families with our Holiday Wish program. Please ensure that your unwrapped gifts are in by Friday, December 9th.



Monday, December 5th - PRO-D (School Closed)

Tuesday, January 3rd – Friday, January 13th at Watermania for Divisions 14 & 15

Monday, January 9th – Mt. Seymour for Snowshoeing & Snow Tubing for Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6.

PAC Corner

Friday, December 2nd - 9:15 a.m.
PAC meeting

Friday, December 9th – Hot Lunch

PAC looking for “Early Warning” volunteers for Wednesday mornings.

The Secret Life of Pets



Movie Night



The PAC will be supporting a family movie night on Friday December 9th. Come and enjoy **The Secret Life of Pets**. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. The film is from 6:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Please bring an allergy-free item for the Food Bank to be entered in a raffle to win a copy of the movie.

Snow Days At Whiteside

What To Expect:

Snow days cause inconvenience for all of us. Closing schools is a difficult decision for the school district – trying to weigh the safety of all with the repercussions for working families. To help assist families, we would like to outline what you can expect from us on a snow day.

The following things will happen:

1) Schools will be OPEN unless conditions reach civic emergency proportions. Radio announcements will only announce those schools that are CLOSED. Most of these will be private schools. For information, please listen to radio CKNW 980AM, NEWS 1130AM, CBC 690AM, 1470AM, CHQM 103.5FM or watch on television CBC, BCTV, City TV and CTV. Please do not phone the school. Staff will be too busy planning the day and ensuring students are safe and will not be able to answer the phone.

2) A “snow day” will not be a regular school day, as many students and teachers may be absent. We will ensure that the children are cared for and are safe. Many alternate activities may be planned so that students who are absent will not miss any work.



3) School will remain open until 3:00 p.m. and in the event that we have to close early, students will not be sent home without contacting parents first.

As parents, you have some choices on snow days:

- Students are not required to attend school on a snow day if you feel that their safety or your own safety may be at risk. You may keep them home.
- Make plans in advance for what you and your family will do on a snow day.
- You may send your child / children to school knowing that they may be participating in alternate activities for the day.

In summary, please plan that schools will be open in the event of snow. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at the school.

Incentive Outdoor Academy:
an academically driven outdoor leadership program at
MacNeill Secondary School

The Incentive Program at MacNeill attracts high achieving, academically motivated students. Through the enriched curriculum and outdoor leadership opportunities, students are able to expand their horizons and challenge themselves mentally and physically.

Students join our program in grade 8 and stay until grade 10, enjoying a warm, supportive atmosphere of about 80 students and 4 teachers. Highlights of the program include a 3-day biology field trip to Bamfield Marine Science Center, kayaking, sailing, snow hikes, PNE physics, an annual science fair, and much more. Some of the outdoor activities offer students the opportunity to gain nationally recognized certifications. No prior outdoor experience is required. Students in the program can participate in and benefit from MacNeill Secondary programs such as clubs, sports teams, and band.



Depending on activity choices, yearly fees for the program can range from \$1000-2200. These costs include electives, PE, enrichment field trips, and two overnight trips (3 days and 6 days).

Come and find out more! Info presentations:
Thurs. January 26 at 7:30 pm in Room 226 MacNeill Secondary
Tues. Jan. 31 at 7:30 pm in Room 226 MacNeill Secondary

For application information and to find out more, go to our website:
<http://macneill.sd38.bc.ca/incentive>



As a reminder, for safety purposes, all visitors and parents are to sign in and report to the office if you are volunteering at the school, and use a blue visitor tag.



The last day of school before the holiday break is Friday, December 16th.



Happy Holidays! See you back on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2017.