



Ms. R. Corneil  
Principal/Directrice

**Ecole élémentaire James Whiteside Elementary School**  
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Ms. M. Wong  
Vice Principal / Directrice  
adjointe

### Newsletter #6: February 1, 2017

As we move into February, teachers are continuing to develop engaging programs for our students. While many of our grade 7 students are returning from Quebec, bringing back “once in a lifetime” memories, other students have experienced local activities, such as swimming at Watermania and snowshoeing at Mount Seymour. Many exciting learning experiences are also happening right in the classrooms as teachers continue to learn alongside students by participating in the many professional development activities offered by the Richmond School District.

#### Additional Teaching Time Provided



Due to a decision made by the Supreme Court of Canada, money has been returned to school districts to support teachers with the needs of their many students. At Whiteside Elementary School, we have been able to add additional teacher time to help with students that struggle with literacy and numeracy. This additional teaching time will come into effect immediately.

#### School Safety – Changing our Habits:

While we recognize the importance of community at Whiteside, we have also been in need of developing a process to track who is in the school at all times. This will protect the safety of our students, staff and visitors. Your child should have brought home a letter outlining these procedures. **We will be asking parents/ family members to drop students off at the front lobby or door outlined by the teacher (and notice), and not wander the halls of the school.** Anyone who is volunteering, or participating in school functions will be asked to **sign-in at the front door and put on a visitor badge.** Please see the letter or website for more explicit instructions.



#### The Vancouver Sun Run: April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

Students have begun training for the Sun Run, but we welcome anyone new who would like to join. Practices for students in Grades 5, 6, and 7 are on Monday and Friday mornings from 8:00 until the start of school, and Wednesdays after school at 3:10. Students in Grades 2, 3 and 4 may join the Wednesday afterschool practices.

#### Traffic Before and After School

It has come to our attention that parents and other family members are NOT FOLLOWING the appropriate guidelines for our parking/ drop –off spaces, making it inefficient and unsafe. Please respect the following:

1. If your child is old enough and lives close by, consider having him/her *walk* to and from school – with a buddy. Alternatively, arrange a drop off/pick up location nearby (if your child is old enough to responsibly walk a small distance).
2. If you do drive your child, please budget enough time. We don’t want you to rush. On rainy days, traffic is slower and there are more cars entering our parking lot.



Budget extra time. Students are welcomed at school as early as 8:45 am (15 minutes before school starts) so please don't leave your drive to the last moment.

3. We have had great success with the single entrance through our *western* most driveway (nearest South Arm). This really helps with the flow of traffic. Thank you.
4. After school, if you drive to pick up your child, **please pull into a stall**. As you enter our parking lot you may either go left (east – towards the front of the school) or right (west – towards South Arm pool). Regardless, please park in a stall. The drop-off/ pick-up lane is not meant for parking – you are to remain in your car.



### Informal Reporting Season –



**Early Dismissal at 2:00 PM: February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017**

Depending on whether or not your child is working with a portfolio/ conference system, or a report card system, the February informal reporting sessions will be different. If you received an interview in December you will be receiving an informal report in paper format, not another conference. If you did not receive an interview in December, teachers will be asking you, to sign-up for a conference on the 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>.



The Book Fair will be occurring from Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please ensure that if your children bring money for books, that it is placed where it won't get lost.

#### PAC Corner

PAC meeting –  
Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>,  
at 6:30PM

PAC Movie Night –  
Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, at  
6:30PM (Trolls)

Spring Fair Planning  
Meeting – Thursday  
February 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30PM

**Thank you to the PAC  
who have secured  
\$2500 to make our  
spring fair fabulous!**

#### Important Dates:

BC FAMILY Day –  
School Closed Monday,  
February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017

PRO-D – School Closed  
Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>,  
2017

EARLY DISMISSAL –  
Parent-Teacher  
Conferences / Informal  
Reports Home –  
Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> &  
Wednesday, February  
22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017.



Deadline to Return Notice of Intent to Attend & Transfer Applications – Friday, February 10, 2017



Anti-Bullying Pink Shirt Day – Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017