



Ms. R. Corneil
Principal/Directrice

Ecole élémentaire James Whiteside Elementary School
9282 Williams Road, Richmond, B.C. V7A 1H1
Tel: 604-668-6209 Fax: 604-668-6419
Early Warning: 604-668-6154
Email Address: whiteside@sd38.bc.ca



Ms. M. Wong
Vice Principal / Directrice
adjointe

Newsletter #5: January 4, 2017



The New Year is here, and as the days begin to get longer, teachers are focused on the most important learning segment of the year - the time between Christmas and Spring Break. We have many opportunities on the horizon for students. While some students are taking swimming lessons, or getting ready to have a full French immersion experience in Quebec, there are also many exciting learning activities happening in every classroom.

For the rest of the 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”. Teachers have already begun the “scanning” process; a process used to determine where we need to focus our energy as a staff and school. While we are developing a common understanding as a staff, we will also be inviting both parents and students into this process throughout the winter and spring. You will soon be asked to join discussion groups, fill out questionnaires, and participate in other forms of information gathering.

School Safety – Changing our Habits:



While we recognize the importance of community at Whiteside, we are also in need of developing a process in which we know who is in the school at all times. For our students to be safe, we will be asking anyone who enters the school to **sign-in at the front door and put on a visitor badge**. We will also be asking parents to drop off and pick up students at the external doors closest to the classroom instead of entering the school. **Please expect further correspondence through newsletters and conversations with students.**



PAC Corner & Important Dates:

PAC meeting - Thursday, January 19th, at 6:30

Spring Fair Planning Meeting – Thursday, January 19th, following the PAC meeting

½ PRO-D – Dismissal at 11:30 AM

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

Dressing For The Weather

While it is cold outside, students are still expected to be outside for both recess and lunch. Please dress your child appropriately for the conditions. This would include: a winter jacket, a toque and proper footwear.





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.

