



Ms. R. Corneil
Principal/Directrice

Ecole élémentaire James Whiteside Elementary School
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Mr. M. Ward
Vice Principal / Directeur adjoint

Newsletter #1: September 14, 2017

Please note that this newsletter is posted on our school website on the first of every month. In the online version the hyperlinks to web pages are live, saving you the time of re-typing the web links into your browser.

What a wonderful beginning to the school year! Students spent the first few days traveling from teacher to teacher, working on community building and Growth Mindset activities, and as we reach the end of the second week of school, students are settling into their classes and beginning their learning journey for the 2017/2018 school year.

You are bound to see many new faces as you are traveling around the school. While one of our classes does not have its permanent teacher, the district is working hard to ensure that we fill this position quickly. Until this time, Mme Sladen, an experienced French teacher, will be ensuring that the students will have all of the essential elements that are important in beginning their grade 5/6 year in French Immersion.

New Faces

As the 2017/2018 school year begins, you will notice that there are many new faces around the school – some staff, and some new families. Please take the time to stop and welcome them to our school.

The new staff that we are welcoming are:



Mitch Ward: Vice-Principal

In the English program: Rita Chen, Gr. 1., Vivian Lam, Gr. 2, Jessica Eguia, Gr. 2/3, Sippi Lee, Gr. 4/5, Jordan McCuaig, Gr. 6/7

In the Early French Immersion program: Jessica Chan, Gr. 2/3, Daisy Valentino, Gr. 6/7

In the Gr. 6 Late French Immersion program: Jacob Pelletier

Learning Resources: Bill Moscovich

Communication

Communication with your child’s teacher is always the best method for fostering success for your child in school. Please contact your child’s teacher if you have any questions about their progress or their educational program.

B.C.’s Redesigned Curriculum and Core Competencies

We are currently participating in a very important era in education. The BC curriculum has been reconstructed to allow students greater opportunities to think critically about many topics, including understanding the needs of our quickly changing world. Included in these changes are what we call the “Core Competencies”. An increased focus has been placed on Communication, Creative Thinking, Positive Personal & Cultural Identity, Personal Awareness & Responsibility and Social Responsibility. To better understand what these changes mean to both you and your child(ren), you can visit the curriculum portion of the BC Education website, found at <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca>.



As the school year develops, you will continue to hear the term, “Growth Mindset”. This term supports the idea that a child’s intelligence can be grown or developed with persistence, effort and a focus on learning. Some students believe that they are “not good at math”, or “can’t learn” something. New understandings of the brain show that neuroplasticity exists, meaning that new neural pathways can be developed creating new learning. To do so, students have to be comfortable failing and continuing to work at what they are finding difficult. You can listen to the leading expert, Carol Dweck, talk about Growth Mindset at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiiEeMN7vbQ> or watch Train Ugly videos, used with students at <http://trainugly.com/mindset/> to better understand the concept.

PAC Corner

The first PAC meeting will be tonight, Thursday September 14th at 6:30pm in the library. All parents are welcome and childminding is provided.

All parents are part of the Parent Advisory Committee. Our PAC is a vital part of our school and we would welcome your participation at our monthly meetings where important topics are discussed and decisions for the well-being of our students are made. PAC meetings are held once a month.



Social Responsibility at Whiteside

Social Responsibility is a big focus for students at Whiteside as they learn about how to be LEADers referring to our LEAD matrix:

- L = Look for Solutions
- E = Express Kindness
- A = Accept Others
- D = Do the Responsible Thing

In a few weeks, our Grade 6 and 7 students will participate in a Leadership Conference to help develop their skills as leaders in the school. They will listen to guest speakers, participate in group and teambuilding activities, and learn individual leadership skills as well. Our Grade 6 and 7 students are encouraged and expected to take on leadership roles in the school that include leading K-7 “teams” of students in social responsibility activities, helping with school jobs such as peer leaders, crossing guards and office monitors.



Breakfast Club Friday Mornings at 8:00 A.M.

The Breakfast Club is organized and sponsored by a number of teachers, including myself, and some of our student leaders. Student leaders serve toast with cream cheese and jam, granola bars (nut free) and juice. Students are involved in “open” gym activities before the start of the school day. Students can drop in any Friday before school.



Inside and Outside Recesses and Lunches

We are lucky to have had such amazing weather and I am pleased to see so many students walking and riding their bikes to school. As the rainy and colder weather arrives, please remember that students should be dressed for the weather; we do go outside at recess and lunch in drizzly weather (but remain inside if it is pouring). The children need the activity breaks and return to class more focused.



Driving Parents



Our parking lot is a very busy place. If your child is old enough and you live close by, we would encourage him/her to walk or ride to school. Please look at the map on the school website found at <http://whiteside.sd38.bc.ca/news/2017/09/12/ready-go> to better understand how to use our parking lot.

Signing In



If you are in the school (beyond the school lobby) between 8:55 and 3:00, please take a visitor pass and sign in to the school. This ensures that we know who is in the school while classes are in session. The front lobby does get busy at the end of the school day, so if you can have your child meet you outside, this will relieve some of the congestion.



meet the
teacher
night



Meet the Teacher Night will be occurring on Thursday, September 28th. Students can visit their classrooms and teachers between 5:00pm and 6:00pm, and then head outside for a picnic which will occur between 5:30pm and 7:00pm. Students should have received a package with information on how to pre-order food for that night. Thank you to the Whiteside PAC members who are making this picnic possible!



Our annual Terry Fox run will occur on Friday, September 30th in the afternoon. We will be raising money for cancer research the weeks before this event, with some fun incentives to be announced soon.