



WELCOME TO WHITESIDE GUIDE 2025 – 2026

Whether you are new to Whiteside or a continuing member of our Wolfpack, we would like to provide you with some information that will help to guide you through the year.

COMMUNICATION

EMAIL

Teachers and school administrators will be primarily relying on email to communicate with families. Emails will be sent to the addresses on the students' files. Please carefully check the blue Student Information Verification Form and make any corrections before signing and returning the form to school. We understand that the system sometimes has problems sending emails to qq.com, 163.com (and other number emails), and hotmail.com accounts. You may want to update these addresses.

NEWSLETTER

A weekly newsletter providing a summary of the week's activities and providing you with the dates of upcoming events will be emailed at the end of the week.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

We will also post newsletters, emails or letters going out to the wider school community on the school website at <https://whiteside.sd38.bc.ca/> (no "www"). Electronic versions of the forms below will be posted on the website for ease of translation.

START-OF-SCHOOL HANDOUTS TO BE RETURNED

Please complete and/or sign, and return the following handouts to your child's teacher (or the office):

- Student Information Verification Form (*blue*)
- Participation in Outdoor Classroom and Walking Field Trips Consent Form (*green*)
- Personal Information Consent Form (*yellow*)
- School Supplies and Agendas (*purple*)
- PAC Parent Contact List (*pink*)
- PAC Winter Fundraiser Opt-Out (*pink*)

SCHOOL HOURS and SIGN IN/OUT PROCEDURES

SCHOOL HOURS

- Before 8:40 am – Students **MUST** wait at the location designated for their class.
- Doors Open: 8:40 am – Teachers will greet the waiting students and bring/let them inside the building.
- Recess: 10:10 – 10:25 am
- Lunch: 11:50 am – 12:42 pm. The children will eat lunch in the first 20 minutes, then will be sent outside. (Children who are not done eating may take their food outside to finish.)
- End of School: 2:45 pm – Parents to pick up at the location designated for their children's class.

LATES

Once teachers have already brought in their students from their designated locations, any late students must go to the office at the front of the school and check in before proceeding to class. Arriving on time allows students to settle into their daily routines and to be at their best to start learning. ***Please try to be on time.***

APPOINTMENTS

If your child has an appointment and will be late, please call the Early Warning Line and let us know. When you arrive, remind your child that he or she needs to check in at the office before going to class. If you need to pick them up from school, please come to the office to check them out.

PARENTS IN SCHOOL

For safety we ask any parents volunteering at school or visiting to check in at the office when you arrive. If you need to speak to the principal or vice principal, please email whiteside@sd38.bc.ca or call the office at 604-668-6209 and make an appointment to meet or for one of them to call you back.

IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABSENT

Please call the Early Warning line at 604-668-6154. Make sure to leave the student's full name, division, teacher's name, and the reason for the absence. Please note you can call and leave a message the night before. Alternatively, you can email whiteside@sd38.bc.ca with the same information. Even if you email the classroom teacher, please let the office know as well—teachers can also get sick and may not be checking their email first thing in the morning.

DROPPING OFF LUNCHES

No regular lunch drop offs will be allowed as it is disruptive for students. They frequently get anxious about if and when their lunch will be dropped off. We understand that accidents happen, however, and lunches forgotten in cars or left at home can be dropped off at the office before 11:50 am.

DROPPING OFF OTHER THINGS FOR YOUR CHILD

If your child has forgotten something and you would like to drop it off, please drop it off at the office. The office will let the child know that it has arrived. Please do not go directly to the classroom.

OUTSIDE RECESS and LUNCHES

As the rainy and colder weather arrives, please remember that students should be dressed for the weather. We go outside at recess and lunch, even if it is raining or snowing, so that our students get exercise and fresh air. Consider sending your children with a change of clothes in case they get wet.

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 cycle to school.

If you do need to drive:

- Give yourself plenty of time
- Enter **ONLY** by the west entrance near South Arm Pool
- Turn **RIGHT** to find parking (there are a limited number of spaces available to the left)
- If you use the drop off lane, **DO NOT** leave your car
- Do not park in the Staff parking lot
- Do not drop off children in the Staff parking lot (children will be lining up in this area during pick up and drop off)
- Check carefully for children who may be crossing through the parking lot and **DRIVE SLOWLY**

Please see the map at the end of this handout to better understand how to use our parking lot to keep all of our children safe.

MISCELLANEOUS

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

The Richmond school district uses School Cash Online, an online fee payment system. For safety and efficiency reasons, the district and our school prefer that parents use this service to reduce the amount of cash and cheques coming into school. Online payments also greatly simplify the refunding process in case field trips or other school events are cancelled. If you haven't done so already, please go to the following website to register:

When registering you will need your child's pupil number. This is the number on the top of the blue Student Information Verification Form. If you have not registered previously, you will also receive a School Cash Online letter with your child's pupil number on it. Alternatively, you may email whiteside@sd38.bc.ca for your child's pupil number.

POLICY FOR PERSONAL DEVICES FOR STUDENTS

- **Leave Devices at Home:** To minimize distractions, we are asking that students **do not bring personal digital devices** (like cell phones, smartwatches, etc.) to school.
- **"Away for the Day":** Devices are not to be used at any point during the school day, **including recess and lunch**, unless a teacher has given specific permission for a learning activity.
- **Consequences:** If a student is using a device without permission, it will be **taken away and kept safely in the office** until it can be picked up at the end of the day.

ELECTRIC SCOOTERS

The most important rule for families to know is the **minimum age requirement** in BC.

- **Riders MUST be at least 16 years old** to legally operate an electric kick scooter on public roads in participating communities.

Because of this rule, elementary school-aged children are **not permitted** to ride motorized scooters in bike lanes or on roads.

Other Important Safety Rules

Even though elementary students are not old enough to ride them, it's helpful to know the other main safety rules:

- **Helmets are mandatory.**
- **No passengers are allowed.** Only one person can be on the scooter at a time.
- **Riding on sidewalks is not permitted.** Scooters must be ridden in bike lanes or on roads with a speed limit of 50 km/h or less.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH WHITESIDE

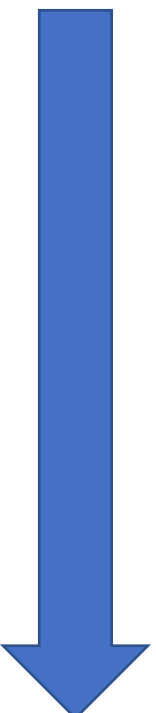
We believe that a strong home-school connection is key to your child's success. Your child's **teacher** is your primary partner in their education, so please don't hesitate to reach out to them first to celebrate achievements or discuss any academic or social-emotional concerns. This open communication ensures we can work together to make this a fantastic year for your child.

**ENTRANCE
ONLY**

**EXIT
ONLY**

Williams Road

**South Arm Parking
(Parent Parking)**



**South Arm
Parking
(Additional
Parent Parking)**

Immediate drop off only (remain in car)

**Staff Parking
(DO NOT PASS THIS
POINT)**

Gym - Whiteside Elementary School