



École élémentaire James Whiteside Elementary School

9282 Williams Road, Richmond BC V7A 1H1

604-668-6209 | whiteside.sd38.bc.ca

Brett Cameron, *Directeur/Principal* | Sara Lai, *Directrice Adjointe/Vice Principal*

NEWSLETTER #6 – OCTOBER 10, 2025

SHAKEOUT BC – OCTOBER 16

Next week, our students will participate in the **Great BC ShakeOut**, an annual province-wide earthquake drill. This brief, practical exercise helps children practice the crucial steps of "Drop, Cover, and Hold On," ensuring they know exactly how to stay safe if a major earthquake were to occur. Participating in the drill builds confidence and replaces fear with muscle memory, empowering every child to respond calmly and correctly in a real emergency.



PAC HALLOWEEN PARTY

Our amazing PAC is Halloween party and dance is on October 23rd. Our gym will transform into a spooky party at with games, treats, a costume contest, and more family fun.



RUN CLUB IS BACK!

Mme David-Harel, Mme Swordy, and Mme Lai brought back run club. All students are welcome. Please meet in the gym at 8:10 a.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays. Our Cross Country Fun Run at Garry Point is scheduled for October 29th.

PAC MEETINGS

PAC are amazing resources for our entire school community. A strong PAC bonds our school community with our families. PAC is an excellent way for our families to connect directly with the action at our school as well as develop relationships within the parent community. Our first meeting will be scheduled soon! Please reach out to our PAC at whitesidepac@hotmail.com for more information. Our next PAC meeting will be online at **7:45 p.m. on Tuesday, October 21.**



STUDENT PHOTO DAY

Our school has been hand-picked to be part of an exciting, environmentally-friendly initiative for ordering school photos! Instead of receiving an order form with proofs, students will instead receive their proofs only, along with instructions to order online using Edge's new ordering site. Online ordering not only helps to reduce wasted paper, but it also unlocks access to free shipping and innovative specialty products that are not available via the paper order form! Order online today at edgeimaging.ca/order. If you have any questions, call Edge at 1-888-416-3343.



HOT LUNCH – SUBWAY – OCTOBER 31

Our next hot lunch will be spooooky subs on Subway Day on October 31. Please see the attached flyer for more information and place your orders until October 24 at Munch-A-Lunch.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING:

Whiteside would like to wish our students, families, and community a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend. School will be closed on Monday.



VOLLEYBALL SEASON

Our Wolves have started to bump, set, and spike in our gym. Mr. McCuaig, Mme Jien and our intermediate students started our new volleyball season this week. We look forward to seeing you at our home games soon! Go Wolfpack!

October 29 – vs. Bridge at Whiteside

November 5 - @ Bridge

November 18 - @ Lee

November 26 – vs Lee at Whiteside

LEARNING BUDDIES NETWORK

AT WHITESIDE

Whiteside is happy to welcome back the Learning Buddies Network, an engaging after-school program for our students. It pairs local high school and college volunteers with a small group of younger children to build foundational literacy and numeracy skills in a fun, one-on-one setting. This partnership is a fantastic way to boost academic confidence and foster positive mentorship right here in our community.



READING INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Next week, our teachers and staff will launch a new, targeted primary reading intervention program to build strong early literacy skills for all students. Using data from the

Acadience Reading screener and district assessments, we are creating flexible, cross-class small groups where resource and classroom teachers collaboratively deliver high-impact instruction to address specific student needs and accelerate development.

LEARNING CONFERENCES

We have an early dismissal at 11:50 a.m. on October 23 to host our fall learning conferences. These conferences are a great opportunity to connect with the school and discuss your child's learning. Please check in with your classroom teacher for more information.



WOLF WEAR WEDNESDAYS

To show our school spirit, we invite our students, staff and community to wear their favourite Wolf gear every Wednesday! This Wednesday, October 15, we also encourage our Wolfpack to wear Blue Jays gear to support our baseball team!



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CHECK IN AND CHECK OUT

If your child is arriving late to school, please check in at the office through the front entrance. If your child needs to leave school early, please sign your child out at the office and wait at the front entrance for them.



ALLERGY ALERT:

All families should be aware that Whiteside School has many students with severe, life-threatening food allergies. Some classrooms may be designated nut free to protect the health of these students. Please help us limit the nut products entering our school overall, as the impact on a student can happen anywhere in the school. If possible, please do not send food to school containing nuts.



FSAs for Grade 4 and 7:

In October students in grades 4 and 7 will complete the Foundation Skills Assessment. The Foundational Skills Assessments (FSAs) help us understand your

child's progress in key areas like reading, writing, and math, providing insight into their learning. These assessments allow both teachers and parents to identify strengths and areas where additional support may be needed, ensuring each student reaches their full potential. This assessment is one of many that provides information about student learning at Whiteside and throughout the province.

BIKE AND SCOOTER SAFETY

We see a lot of our Wolfpack riding and scooting to school every day. Way to go! To be safe on the streets and paths, **everyone must wear helmets** when riding or scooting. Wearing a helmet is the law in B.C. and you could be fined for not wearing one, or worse. Also, please do ride or scoot on our drop off lane. Visit this link for more information about bike safety and see below for information about e-scooters.



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TRANSLATE OUR SITE

Did you know you can translate our whiteside.sd38.bc.ca website? ☺



WHITESIDE WEBSITE

Our Whiteside website (<https://whiteside.sd38.bc.ca/>)

hosts important information and reminders. Please visit to check our calendar, read the newsletter, see our school story, sign up for SchoolCashOnline or Munch-a-Lunch, and more information.



DIGITAL DEVICE POLICY

In January 2024, the Ministry of Education and Child Care mandated all school boards in British Columbia to update their Codes of Conduct to include restrictions on students' personal digital device use.

Students should not have personal digital devices in their possession during the school day unless permission is granted by the supervising staff for educational purposes. This includes during recess and lunch or while outside on the playground or on school property. It is recommended that students do not bring personal digital devices to school.

WEST COAST RECESS:

During recess and lunchtime breaks, students are expected to be outside at all times this year. Students are strongly encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather. You may also send a change of clothes to school just in case your child gets wet. Playing outside will ensure our students get some fresh air and exercise to enliven their day.



October 13 – Thanksgiving (school closed)
October 16 – ShakeOut BC at 10:30 a.m.
October 20 – Grade 6 Outdoor Ed meeting (online)
October 21 – PAC meeting at 7:45 p.m. online
October 22 – Early Dismissal (students dismissed at 11:50)
October 22 – Learning Conferences
October 23 – PAC Halloween Party
October 24 – Provincial Pro-D (school closed)
October 27-31 – School wide dance classes/finale
October 29 – Cross Country Fun Run at Garry Point
November 3 – Photo retake day
November 10 – Remembrance Day assembly
November 11 – Remembrance Day
November 20/21 – PAC family photo nights
December 1 – Pro-D Day
December 10 – Winter band concert
December 16 – Winter musical
December 18 – Term 1 reports published
December 19 – Last day before winter break