



École élémentaire James Whiteside Elementary School

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

NEWSLETTER #13 – NOVEMBER 28, 2025



WINTER BAND CONCERTS AND MUSICAL

Ms. LB is busy preparing this year's winter concerts and school musical. Please save the following dates to watch your children shine:

Dec. 10 – Band Concert (gr. 5-7) at 1:30 pm/7:00 pm

Dec. 16 – Musical (Gr. K-5) 1:30 pm/6:30 pm

Seating may be limited to 2 members for each family. We encourage families to attend our afternoon performance, when possible, to ensure every family can attend. Doors open 15 minutes prior to showtime. Thank you.



LET'S TALK ABOUT SPARE CLOTHES...

With the soggy season upon us, it is more important than ever that students have a spare change of clothes at school. Especially the little ones! Please

make sure to include pants, socks, shoes and shirts!



VOLLEYBALL SEASON

Congratulations to our WolfPack volleyball team, and their coaches, Mme Jien and Mr. McCuaig! Thank you for a great season



WOLF WEAR WEDNESDAYS

To show our school spirit, we invite our students, staff and community to wear their favourite Wolf gear every Wednesday!

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. 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, January 20.**



WHITE SPOT HOT LUNCH – DECEMBER 12

Our amazing PAC and Hot Lunch team is offering White Spot on December 12th. Please visit [Munch-a-Lunch](https://munch-a-lunch.com) to place your order by December 5.

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.



FROM OUR WHITESIDE WOLVES:

Our Mud Kitchen,
by Melody (Div. 11)

At Whiteside, we have a mud kitchen. There are so many kids, but me, my friends and Kindergarten kids like playing in the mud kitchen. There are lots of pans and some spoons in the sand box. At the mud kitchen, the kindergartens throw the pans and we don't like it because we might get muddy. I like using a bowl, put it on the mud and using our foot and pushing mud on it. But your shoes will get muddy so I change my shoes. Me and my friends have fun playing at the mud kitchen!



SNOW DAYS

On a snow day, our school will remain open if possible. No announcement will be made saying that schools will be open. **Only closures will be announced** via the SD38 Twitter account, school and district websites, School Messenger alerts and on the radio at CKNW AM 980, News AM 1130, CBC AM 690, Fairchild AM 1470, CHQM FM 103.5. Closures will be announced as early as possible.



UNIVERSAL HOT LUNCH PILOT

Utilizing Feeding Futures as well as National School Food Program funding, the Richmond School District will be piloting a universal hot lunch program at selected elementary and secondary schools during the months of December and January. It is anticipated that **a lunch will be offered to all students at Whiteside once each month.** We will be using the MunchaLunch ordering platform which families use to order other hot lunches from the school. More details will be shared in the coming weeks.



December 1 – Pro-D Day

December 3 – Will's Jams performance for EFI primary – pm

December 3 – LFI parent presentation for grade 5 families

December 10 – Winter band concert (1:30/6:30)

December 12 – Cozy Sweater Day

December 12 – White Spot hot lunch

December 16 – Winter musical (1:30/6:30)

December 18 – Term 1 reports published

December 18 – Winter Wonderland at Minoru

December 19 – PJ Day

December 19 – Last day before winter break

January 5 – Whiteside re-opens

January 5 – Confi-DANCE program begins

January 29 – Gr. 7 parent night at McRoberts

January 20 – PAC meeting online at 7:45 p.m.

January 30 – Gr. 7 snowshoeing field trip



LATE FRENCH IMMERSION REGISTRATION

As you may be aware, the Richmond School District offers full time, Late French Immersion programs beginning at Grade 6 at James Whiteside and John Diefenbaker Elementary schools. The Late French Immersion program is a unique District program designed for 10 and 11 year-old students who have completed grade 5, who do not speak French but who are interested in becoming functionally bilingual (French and English). In grade 6, 100% of the BC curriculum is taught with an emphasis on students acquiring French language skills: reading, writing and speaking. Students do not receive English Language Learner (ELL) support in grade 6. In grade 7, English Language Arts are reintroduced while other subjects continue to be taught in French.

Program Information Virtual Meeting:

If you are interested in learning more about Late French Immersion, please join our Virtual Information meeting on **December 3rd, 2025 at 6:00 PM.**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

[Click here](#)

Meeting ID: 229 724 015 019 1

Passcode: iH7eH3pd

Application Information:

The applications for admission to Late Immersion program is open until January 16th, 2025 for the 2025/2026 school year. To apply please complete the District Options Online Application: <https://dpoapplication.sd38.bc.ca>

The application does not constitute registration.



Richmond School District 38 is excited to welcome kindergarten registration applications for children born in 2021, turning 5 in 2026. These children will begin kindergarten in September 2026. Online registration opens on November 1, 2025. Please visit our website <http://www.sd38.bc.ca/kindergarten> for more information about our online registration process, required documents, important dates, and FAQs.

Families are encouraged to register any time during the Priority 1 registration period (November – January) for the best chance at attending their catchment school. All registration applications received any time during the Priority 1 registration period will receive placement decisions by February 2025.

Instead of in person information evenings this year, we have posted short videos that provide our new parents with information about the registration process, English Language Learner (ELL) assessments, and District Program Options – Early French Immersion and Montessori. These videos are available in English and Mandarin. Please view the videos at <http://www.sd38.bc.ca/kindergarten>.

PARKING LOT SAFETY: A FRIENDLY REMINDER

Drop-off and pick-up times can get hectic! Let's work together to keep our parking lot safe for everyone. Please remember these important points:

- *Drive slowly and cautiously:* Children can be unpredictable, so always be alert and watch for pedestrians.
- *Use designated parking spaces only:* Do not park in the fire lane or drive-thru lane, as this blocks traffic flow and creates hazards.
- *Hold your child's hand:* Always supervise young children and hold their hands when walking through the parking lot.
- *Be aware of your surroundings:* Look for moving vehicles and be mindful of blind spots when backing up.

Thank you for your cooperation in making our school a safe place for all!



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 (phones, tablets, smart watches, or computers) 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.



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.



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.