



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 #22 – February 12th, 2026



Day on February 15. Enjoy the extra-long weekend!

LONG WEEKEND ALERT

Whiteside will be closed for our professional development day on February 13 and for Family

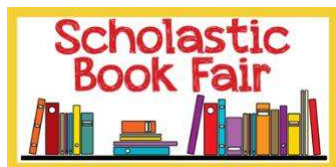


February 13 – Pro-D Day (school closed)
February 16 – Family Day (school closed)
February 17 – PAC meeting online at 7:45 p.m.
February 20 - Spirit Day: Crazy hair day
February 23/24 – Festival Franco at the Richmond Oval
February 24-26 – Book Fair in the library
February 25 – Pink Shirt Day
February 25 – Early dismissal at 11:50 a.m.
February 25 - Learning Conferences (learning update #3)
February 27 – PAC Hot Lunch – Yummy Slice
March 2-6 – Fusion Lacrosse Week (Thanks, PAC!)
March 3/4 - McRoberts Basketball Jamboree
March 13 – PAC Hot Lunch
March 13 – Talent Show
March 13 – Last day before spring break
March 30 – First day back after spring break
April 3 – Good Friday (school closed)
April 6 – Easter Monday (school closed)
April 21 – Class Photos and Panorama
April 23 – Term 2 report cards posted online
May 15 – Pro-D day (school closed)
May 18 – Victoria Day (school closed)
May 20-22 – Gr. 6 Camp at Cheakamus Centre
June 19 – Grade 7 Farewell
June 25 – Final day of school for students

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Every February, people in Canada are invited to participate in Black History Month festivities and events that honour the legacy of Black Canadians and their communities. The 2026 theme for Black History Month is: **30 Years of Black History Month: Honouring Black Brilliance Across Generations — From Nation Builders to Tomorrow's Visionaries.**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html>



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR – FEB. 24/25

Join us at the Whiteside library for our Scholastic Book Fair on Tuesday, Feb. 24 (2:45–4:30 p.m.) and

Wednesday, Feb. 25 (12:00–4:00 p.m.) to support our school and build your home libraries! We are actively seeking volunteers to help run the event (children are welcome to join you), so please email whiteside.library@sd38.bc.ca if you can help.

WHITESIDE BASKETBALL

Our Whiteside basketball season is underway. Our coaches this year are Mme Howells, Mr. Lenz, and Mr. Cameron. We encourage our grade 6 and 7 students to come out and join the fun. Practice Schedule:

Girls: Monday/Thursday at lunch

Boys: Monday at 8:00 a.m./Wednesdays at lunch

Game schedule:

February 17: Bridge (boys at Bridge; girls at Whiteside)

February 24: DeBeck (boys at DeBeck)



PLAY n' EAT – FRIDAY MORNINGS

Our Play n' Eat breakfast club returned this week and will continue Fridays. Students are welcome to join us in the gym at 8:10 a.m. for light snacks and free games.

UNIVERSAL HOT LUNCH

Utilizing Feeding Futures as well as National School Food Program funding, the Richmond School District has piloted a universal hot lunch program at selected elementary and secondary schools. The Universal Hot Lunch program will continue for the rest of the year. Ordering is now open on munchalunch.com.



Translate Site



Select Language

TRANSLATE OUR SITE

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



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, February 17.**





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FROM OUR WHITESIDE WOLVES:

These are speeches provided by our grade 7 students, Elin, Wish, Vivi, and Joylene at the Reach to Teach banquet on February 11, 2026. Reach to Teach is a community outreach program that connects schools with professional artists to provide students with specialized, high-quality instruction and public showcase opportunities in visual and performing arts. Their final projects are on display at the Steveston post office.



We are here to represent Whiteside's division 2 and would like to say thank you for inviting us to the Reach 2 Teach visual arts program. We really enjoyed the time with your team. The activities were fun and creative. We learned new skills and had a chance to try things that we don't usually do in class. Our instructor Ms. Lauren was kind and encouraging, which made us feel comfortable and excited to participate. This program gave us a lots of memories and taught us how to be more creative. We started with an artist study of Henri Matisse. Then we moved on to other activities such as roller painting, creating self portraits, and building 3-dimensional paper sculptures. Overall, this was a great experience and we learned a lot. Thank you once again. We are very grateful to be part of reach 2 teach!

Today, me and Joylene would like to represent our classmates and friends at Whiteside in thanking everyone involved with the Reach 2 Teach program. Reach 2 Teach's drama lessons with Dr. Martin taught us how to be creative and express our true selves by making up stories to tell our classmates. We also got to meet with students from other schools to interact and do exercises with them; each drama session, we always had delicious food provided through this program. We also did many fun activities, including mirroring each other, doing fun vocal warmups, and writing scripts to present to each other. One of the best parts was learning about the 4 aspects of a dramatic scene. We learned to answer who we are in the scene, who we are talking to, what we want and whether we get it. This made our performances much more engaging for the audience that was watching us. Reach 2 Teach's drama program taught by Dr. Martin helped all of us build up our confidence and express our actual selves. Thank you Reach 2 Teach!

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. 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! Playing outside will ensure our students get some fresh air and exercise to enliven their day.



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.



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>.



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.