



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 #23 – February 20th, 2026



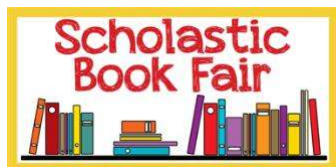
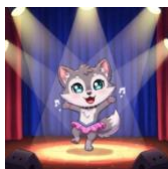
FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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>

WHITESIDE'S GOT TALENT

Ms. LB and Ms. Johnson host our annual talent show at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13 in the gym. We look forward to showcasing the amazing talents and abilities of our Wolfpack. Families are invited to attend.



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 24: DeBeck (boys at DeBeck)

McRoberts' Striker Jamboree: March 3 and 4



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.



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 26 – PAC Hot Lunch – Yummy Slice

February 27 – PAC hot chocolate sales after school

March 2-6 – Fusion Lacrosse Week (Thanks, PAC!)

March 3/4 - McRoberts Basketball Jamboree

March 4 – Kindergarten hearing screening

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)

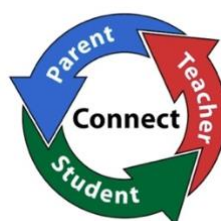
May 20 – Welcome to Kindergarten event

May 20-22 – Gr. 6 Camp at Cheakamus Centre

June 19 – Grade 7 Farewell

June 25 – Final day of school for students

LEARNING CONFERENCES



Whiteside will have an **early dismissal next week at 11:50 a.m. on Wednesday, February 25th** for our second learning conferences of the year. Please check in with your classroom teacher for conference schedules.

SUMMER LEARNING 2026

The Summer Learning program and registration dates are now published on our continuing-education website. You can find summer learning 2026 general information on at <https://ce.sd38.bc.ca/programs/summer-learning>.



FROM OUR WHITESIDE WOLVES:

Cody's Reflections on Whiteside's Olympic Watch Party (Feb. 18th at 8 am) I went to the school with my mom to watch the hockey game. I liked it. It was Canada vs. Czechia. The Canada team was wearing a red team uniform with a black maple leaf. The Czechia team uniform was white with red on their arms and legs. Canada won by 4:3. It was my first time to watch a hockey game. I think it was fun because they always bump together. I wish Canada can win the gold medal.





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TRANSLATE OUR SITE

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



WOLF WEAR WEDNESDAYS

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

EXTENDED ABSENCES

During the year students may be absent from school for an extended period. It is district policy that students may only be absent for 4 (four) consecutive weeks and retain their place in the school. Upon returning, students may have to re-register at the school board office. If Whiteside is full, the district will find space in the nearest available school. Teachers will not provide work for students on extended absences. ***Our extended absence form needs to be completed if you are planning an absence for a week or longer.***



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, April 21.**



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

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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.