



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 #26 – March 13th, 2026

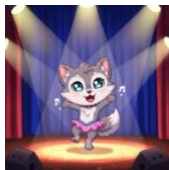


SPRING BREAK

Please remember that Whiteside will be closed from March 14 – March 29. We welcome back our Wolfpack on Monday, March 30.

WHITESIDE'S GOT TALENT

Congratulations and thank you to our amazing performers, Ms. LB and Ms. Johnson for an afternoon filled with beautiful songs, awesome dancing, and incredible talent.



SPRING BREAK FUN IN RICHMOND

The City of Richmond is offering some low-cost and free family-friendly events and activities over the upcoming [Spring Break \(March 14-29\)](#).

Make the most of the school break with swimming, skating, nature adventures, exhibitions and more. Explore exciting day camps, drop-in fun and registered activities (in-person and online programs for all ages).

PARENT GUIDE TO

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Please visit our school website, whiteside.sd38.bc.ca, to view our district guide to emergency preparedness to better understand our district procedures, emergency drills, communication protocols, and the student reunification process.



PAC PURDY'S SALES

This holiday season, support Whiteside Elementary by purchasing Purdy's chocolates—perfect gifts for family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors! 25% of proceeds go back to the school.

Order Deadline: Friday, March 20th

<https://fundraising.purdys.com/campaign/000027782>

Order Pickup: Wednesday, April 1st from 2:30PM - 3:00PM in the school gym

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



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>.

March 30 – First day back after spring break

April 3 – Good Friday (school closed)

April 6 – Easter Monday (school closed)

April 10 – Track Attack begins

April 15 – McRoberts band concert at Whiteside

April 21 – Class Photos and Panorama

April 23 – Term 2 report cards posted online

May 11 – Track Meet at Minoru

May 15 – Non-Instructional 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

FROM OUR WHITESIDE WOLVES:

Reflections from Division 3 from their trip to the Richmond Art Gallery:

Our class visited the Richmond Art Gallery, specifically the Chromophiliacs exhibit. It was a very interesting experience, the art plentiful of colour and emotions put into the art. Each and every artist's works perfectly epitomized themselves, and you could truly see a piece of every artist's personality and rich culture through their work. The art activity was also very amusing, easy, and fun. It perfectly allowed students to express their creativity. Overall, I had a very enjoyable time at the Richmond Art Gallery. — **Maya**

Each time I come to the art gallery, I have a very fun and memorable time. We started off by getting a tour of the different art, which was very interesting to see how each artist expressed their different culture, life experiences, origins, and personalities. There was one art piece that we observed, that we recreated to fit our own personalities, art styles, and likes. The art was inspired by ovoids, with decorations such as stitches, paper circles, beads and buttons, and animals and cool figures were created. I had a lot of fun being alongside my friends, creating our own, unique ovoid-inspired art pieces. What I probably enjoyed most about this experience is how much creative freedom we had. We got to create whatever character—or shape we wanted, while being able to use many different colour schemes and materials. This art gallery experience was overall a very fun, memorable, and creatively open experience. — **Ocea**



PLAY n' EAT – FRIDAY MORNINGS

Our Play n' Eat breakfast club is on Friday mornings. Students are welcome to join us in the gym at 8:10 a.m. for light snacks and free games.



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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION PARENT SURVEY

Each year the Ministry of Education asks parents of grade 4&7 students, and school staff to complete a learning survey. Please take a little time to visit to share your thoughts and ideas. Your opinions will help guide the future of education in BC.

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm

TRANSLATE OUR SITE

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

IMPORTANT: HOT LUNCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Thank you to our PAC for providing yummy hot lunches. We need more volunteers to join us on our PAC hot lunch days to organize and distribute the meals to our students. Without the hard work of this team, our hot lunches can't happen. If you can help, please email our team at jameswhitehotlunch@gmail.com.

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.



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.***



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.



WOLF WEAR WEDNESDAYS

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