NEWSLETTER #24
March 3rd, 2023

SPRING BREAK
Please remember that Whiteside will be closed from March 11 – March 26. We will welcome back our Wolfpack on Monday, March 27.

BREAKFAST CLUB
Breakfast Club is cancelled this week (March 10) to accommodate our music program's temporary move to the gym.

WHITESIDE'S GOT TALENT
Ms. LB and Ms. Johnson host our annual talent show at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 9. We look forward to showcasing the amazing talents and abilities of our Wolfpack.

COMMUNICATING STUDENT LEARNING
Report cards will be posted on the MyEdBC parent portal on Thursday, March 9. We look forward to sharing more about your child's learning in their term 2 reports. (https://myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspen/logon.do)

PARENT SURVEY
Each year the Ministry of Education asks parents, grade 4&7 students, and school staff to complete a learning survey. Please take a little time to visit www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm to share your thoughts and ideas. Your opinions will help guide the future of education in BC.

WEST COAST PLAY
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. To be prepared to be outside in the rain it is important for your child to have appropriate clothing such as:
- A rain jacket
- Rubber boots
- Rain pants
- An umbrella
- A rain hat or coat with a hood
- ***A change of clothes to be kept at school (sweatpants, underwear, socks, t-shirt, etc.)***
- When students use their change of clothes, please send another set to school for the next time.

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 and an invitation link for our next PAC meeting on **February 28th.**

EXTENDED ABSENCES
During the year students may be absent from school for an extended period of time. It is district policy that students may only be absent for 4 (four) consecutive weeks and retain their place in the school. **After 4 weeks, students will be removed from the school register**. Upon returning, students will have to re-register at the school board office. If we have space, your child will be placed in a class, but not necessarily the class they left. It will take a few days for your child to be placed, so he/she cannot begin school on the day you return. 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.***

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, 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.

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!

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 in order 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 at all possible, please do not send food to school containing nuts.

WOLFPACK BASKETBALL
Thank you to our amazing athletes and coaches for a great season. The girls team and the grade 7 boys team will finish their season at the Strikers tournament at McRoberts in April.

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LATE ENTRY & ABSENCES

We understand that things happen in the morning that can derail your normal routines. If students are late in the morning, please ring the doorbell and wait at the main door. A member of our staff will greet the students and bring them to their class. All family members must remain outside.

If you know your child will be away, please call the school office and leave a message at any time (604-668-6209 or 604-668-6154). You can also email absences to whiteside@sd38.bc.ca. Informing the office will prevent unnecessary calls home. Thank you!

PARKING LOT SAFETY

Please help keep our students safe by using the drop off zone for picking up and dropping off students only. ***Please do not leave your car unattended in the drop off zone or park in staff parking spots;*** if you need to come into the school, please park in a parking space closer to South Arm Community Centre. When walking to school, please use the designated paths south and adjacent to the driveway as you enter the school grounds. Please follow arrows to keep our students safe and keep our parking lot accident free.

Please remember the east parking lot is for school and construction staff only. Please do not park or drop off children in this area.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 28/Mar 1	Student Led Conferences (early dismissal)
March 9	Talent Show
March 9	Report cards posted
March 10	Last day before Spring Break
March 27	Whiteside re-opens
April 4-6	Striker Gr. 7 Bball tournament
April 7	Good Friday – school closed
April 10	Easter Monday – school closed
April 24-26	Gr. 6/7 camp
May 17	Welcome to Kindergarten
May 19	Pro-D
May 22	Victoria Day – school closed
May 23	McRoberts Gr. 7 Day
May 25	Spring Fair
June 13	K/1 and 6/7 Immunization
June 16	Sports Day
June 23	Gr 7 Farewell
June 29	Last day for students