



Newsletter #15 – December 15th, 2023



WINTER BAND CONCERTS AND MUSICAL

Thank you to Ms. LB, our dedicated staff, our stage crew, and all our talented musicians. Our intermediate concert was an amazing success. Our musical is next!

Dec. 19 – Musical performance at 1:15 pm/6:30 pm Seating is limited to 2 members for each family. We encourage families to attend our afternoon performance, when possible, to ensure every family can attend. Thank you.



WINTER HOLIDAYS

To celebrate the winter holidays, Whiteside will be closed from December 22nd – January 5th. We will reopen for a new season of learning on Monday, 8th.



REPORTING STUDENT LEARNING

Our report cards this year will be posted on the [MyEdBC parent portal](#) on Thursday, December 21st. We encourage our parent community to log on and review your child's fall report card. Core Competency reflections will be sent home or posted on your child's SD38 portfolio. We hope you and your children enjoy a conversation about their learning together.



NOISY READING BREAKFAST

Instead of our open gym, we would like to invite our Wolfpack and their families for an early morning of reading and hot chocolate (coffee for the adults ☺). Bring a blanket, a favourite book (or choose one from our book baskets) and please join us in the gym on Friday morning. Our gym opens at 8:15 a.m.

Our Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, & Community Calendar

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
2	International Day for Abolition of Slavery					
3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities					
6	National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women					
9	International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime					
10	Human Rights Day					
7-15	Hannukah 🕯️					
8	Bodhi Day 🌸					
21	Winter Solstice (Northern Hemisphere)					
24	Christmas Eve †					
24	Quviasukvik Begins					
25	Christmas †					
26	Kwanzaa Begins					



FEEDING FUTURES

Recently, the provincial government announced a new Feeding Futures School Program Fund, designed to assist schools in the development and enhancement of school meal programs and other nutritional supports for students.

If you would like to request support for your child at school, please reach out to our principal, Brett Cameron (bcameron@sd38.bc.ca). We are gathering information and look to provide ongoing support wherever possible. Implementation plans are underway, and we want to ensure families are aware, and as always, able to reach out if they require support. All requests will be treated with dignity and your privacy will be respected. We want to work with families to ensure that your children have everything they need to be successful at school. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can help.

STUDENT AFFORDABILITY FUND

Recently, the provincial government announced a new, one time [Student and Family Affordability Fund](#). This fund is designed to assist families who require financial assistance with school-related costs such as school and course fees, workbooks, specialty supplies, field trips and other school-related charges and costs. The additional funding will also be used to support school meal programs and other nutritional supports for students.



Currently, we are requesting that families reach out to our principal, Brett Cameron (whiteside@sd38.bc.ca) if you need assistance with school supplies, fees, or other school-related costs. As always, all requests will be treated with dignity and your privacy will be respected. We want to work with our families to ensure that our students, your children, have everything they need to be successful at school. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can help.

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. **Our next meeting is on Tuesday, January 16th at 6:30 p.m.!** Please reach out to our PAC at whitesidepac@hotmail.com for more information.



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

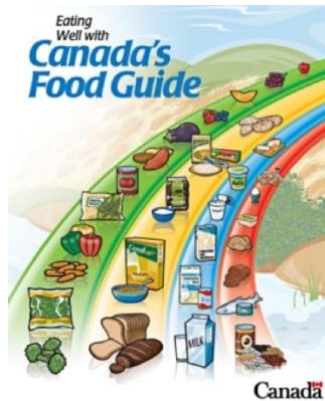
Our Whiteside website (<https://whiteside.sd38.bc.ca/>) hosts important information and reminders. Please visit to check our calendar, read the newsletter, see our school story, sign up for SchoolCashOnline or Munch-a-Lunch, and more!



HEALTHY EATING HABITS

Picky eating

Picky eating can be a challenge for parents in establishing healthy eating habits in young children. Some children hesitate to try new foods. Children are more likely to accept a new food the more often they are exposed to it. An unfamiliar food can be offered again later if it is rejected the first time.



You can help overcome picky eating by:

- making routines
- offering foods more than once
- planning your meals and snacks
- involving your kids in meal preparation

Learn more at:

<https://food-guide.canada.ca/en/tips-for-healthy-eating/parents-and-children/>

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. 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.***



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Richmond School District 38 is excited to welcome Kindergarten



registration applications for children born in 2019, turning 5 in 2024. These children will begin Kindergarten in September 2024. Online registration opens on November 1, 2023. Please visit our website www.sd38.bc.ca/kindergarten for more information about our online registration process, required documents, important dates, and FAQs.

Videos detailing Kindergarten registration have been made available on our District website, providing new parents with guidance on 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 www.sd38.bc.ca/kindergarten.

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.



Dec. 19	Winter musical – 1:15/6:30 p.m.
Dec. 21	Winter Wonderland skating
Dec. 21	Reports published
Dec. 22	Last day before Winter Break
Jan. 8	Whiteside re-opens
Jan. 15-19	Jess Dance workshops
Jan. 29	Pro-D day
Feb. 16	Pro-D day
Feb. 19	Family Day
Feb. 28/29	Early dismissal for conferences
Mar. 14	Talent show
Mar. 14	Last day before Spring Break
April 2	Whiteside re-opens
May 17	Pro-D day
May 20	Victoria day
June 27	Last day of school for students