



LUNAR NEW YEAR

Lunar New Year happens this year on **Saturday, February 10, 2024**. This year ushers in the year of the Dragon!

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 2024 theme for Black History Month is: **Black Excellence: A Heritage to Celebrate; a Future to Build.** <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html>



WOLFWEAR IS BACK

Wolf Wear is now available for ordering online (until February 15th)! https://urstore.ca/group/whiteside-wolves_531344
Sample sizes are available outside the office for you or your child to try on. Once ordered with URstore, you cannot amend your order. Please make sure you order the correct size and colour. When ordering, also make sure to indicate the student's (*not* Parent's) Name in the Delivery Instructions section.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION GR. 4&7 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 http://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.



WHITESIDE BASKETBALL

Our Whiteside basketball season is about to start. Our coaches this year are Mme Howells, Mr. Lenz, Mr. McCuaig, and Mr. Pelletier. Our Wolfpack shone in their first games against Anderson. We look forward to taking this success to Lee and Maple Lane next week.

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!



PRO-D DAY and FAMILY DAY

Whiteside will be closed on Friday, February 16th for our district professional development day and on Monday, February 19th for BC's Family Day.



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, February 13th at 6:30 p.m.!** Please reach out to our PAC at whitesidepac@hotmail.com for more information.



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.



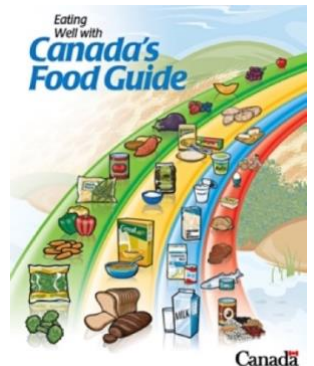
WEST COAST RECESS:

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.



HEALTHY EATING HABITS

Make it part of the meal plan
Making school lunches a part of your meal plan will help you save time and keep you organized. On the weekend, plan school lunches with your kids for the week ahead. Get their input on foods they like, including:



- vegetables and fruits
- whole grain foods
- protein foods

Stock up on healthy on-the-go snacks you can add to their main meal. Think about what you will be making for dinner during the week. Some of the leftovers could be used to make quick and easy lunches the next day. Don't forget to consider your schedule. Think about whether you can easily prepare items in the morning. If not, wash, chop or pack the night before to make mornings easier. Choose what works best for you. Learn more at: <https://food-guide.canada.ca/en/tips-for-healthy-eating/parents-and-children/>



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. We currently provide breakfast and lunch options for students that need extra support during the school week. If you would like to request support for your child at school, please reach out to our principal, Brett Cameron (bcameron@sd38.bc.ca).

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.

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. 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.

RESOURCES FOR READING

It is good to balance reading physical (paper) books and reading online. To support reading at home, here are some websites you can go to for free that will support your child with their reading, both fiction and non-fiction.

- <https://storylineonline.net> The SAG-AFTRA Foundation's Daytime Emmy-nominated, Storyline Online, features celebrated actors reading high quality children's books to inspire a love of reading.
- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com> National Geographic Kids Kids can read non-fiction text too!
- <https://www.starfall.com/h/> Starfall This website is more appropriate for younger learners, K – 3.
- <https://www.timeforkids.com/> Time for Kids More non-fiction text. You can choose the appropriate grade for your child prior to reading an article.



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 1-3	Grade 6 Outdoor Education trip
May 17	Pro-D day
May 20	Victoria day
May 22	Welcome to K event
June 4	Gr. 7 rafting trip
June 27	Last day of school for students