



**FAMILY DAY**



Whiteside will be closed on Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> for BC's Family Day. Enjoy the extra time with your family.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

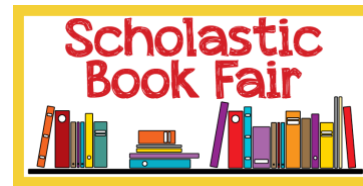
Every February, people in Canada are invited to participate in Black History Month festivities and events that honour the legacy of Black Canadians and their communities. The 2024 theme for Black History Month is: **Black Excellence: A Heritage to Celebrate; a Future to Build.** <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html>



**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 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.!** Please reach out to our PAC at [whitesidepac@hotmail.com](mailto:whitesidepac@hotmail.com) for more information.



**WHITESIDE BOOK FAIR**

We are excited to invite you to our upcoming Scholastic Book Fair. This event is an opportunity for students of all ages to build their home libraries and further their love of reading. As always, all purchases benefit our school. The Book Fair will take place **Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> from 2:45-4:30; Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:45-4:30; and Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:45-3:00.**



**HOT LUNCH – YUMMY PIZZA – FEBRUARY 23**

Our next hot lunch day this month will be pizza from Yummy Slice Pizza.

**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](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.



**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.



**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 Anderson and Errington next week.

**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!



**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**

***Involve your kids and get their feedback***

Follow the healthy eating recommendation to [involve your kids](#) in packing lunches. Involve your kids in planning and packing their own lunches for school. This can help:

- improve their [food skills](#)
- get your kids to try new foods
- make your kids feel part of the process
- decrease the amount of food that comes home uneaten

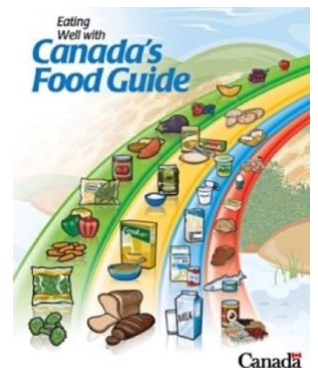
Organize your kitchen so that lunch making supplies are all in one place. This includes items such as reusable:

- bags
- cutlery
- napkins
- lunch boxes
- food containers

Kids should know which containers are theirs and where they belong. This will help them pack and unpack their lunch boxes.

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](mailto:bcameron@sd38.bc.ca)).

**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.



**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](mailto: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.



**WHITESIDE READING INFORMATION OF THE WEEK**

Every Child, Every Day: Six Elements of Effective Reading Instruction by Richard Allington

This simple approach to literacy learning benefits all students, kindergarten to grade 12. These are six elements of reading every child should experience every day.

1. Every child, everyday reads something they have chosen themselves.
2. Every child reads accurately. Research shows that reading at 98% or higher accuracy is essential for reading acceleration.
3. Every child reads something he or she understands. This takes a lot of reading and rereading of text that students find engaging.
4. Every child writes about something personally meaningful. When they write about something they care about, they use conventions of spelling and grammar because it matters that their ideas are communicated.
5. Every child talks with their peers about reading and writing. Research has demonstrated that conversation with peers improves comprehension and engagement with text.



Feb. 19	Family Day
Feb. 20	PAC meeting
Feb. 23	Hot Lunch – Pizza
Feb. 28	Pink Shirt 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