

**LEARNING CONFERENCES**

Whiteside will have two *early dismissals next week at 1:45 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>.* for our second learning conferences of the year. Please check in with your classroom

teacher for conference schedules.

**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>

**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.



**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.



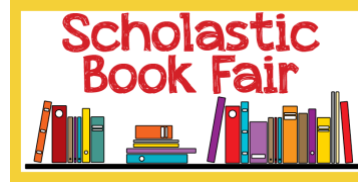
**WHITESIDE WEBSITE**

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.



**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.**

**SUBWAY DAY HOT LUNCH - MARCH 8**

Our next Hot Lunch Day will be on Friday March 8<sup>th</sup> featuring Subway sandwiches with choose your own toppings. Please order online by going to the school website [whiteside.sd38.bc.ca](https://whiteside.sd38.bc.ca) and clicking on the link under the MunchaLunch icon, or visit <https://munchalunch.com/login>



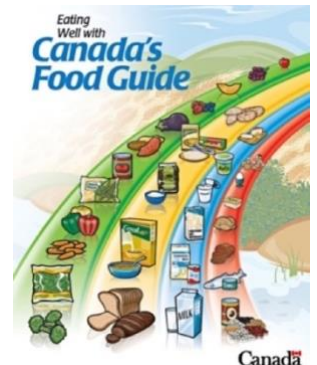
**PAC MEETINGS**

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, April 16<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.



**HEALTHY EATING HABITS**

Kids sometimes complain about having too much food or too little food in their lunch. Sometimes they don't eat their food at all. If this happens, try asking them about when they eat each item and why they avoid others. It could be that they:



- don't have enough time to eat
- eat their lunch during snack time
- have trouble opening the packaging of a lunch or snack item
- find the food either too warm or too cold by the time they eat it

Finding the reason they are not eating their lunch can help you pack healthy lunches they will enjoy eating. Don't forget to pack water. Include a reusable bottle so they can fill it up throughout the day.

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)).



**WHITESIDE READING INFORMATION OF THE WEEK**

Through reading aloud, providing print materials and promoting positive attitudes about reading and writing, you can have a powerful impact on children's literacy and learning.

- Invite a child to read with you every day.
- When reading a book where the print is large, point word by word as you read. This will help the child learn that reading goes from left to right and understand that the word he or she says is the word he or she sees.
- Read a child's favorite book over and over again.
- Read many stories with rhyming words and lines that repeat. Invite the child to join in on these parts. Point, word by word, as he or she reads along with you.
- Discuss new words. For example, "This big house is called a palace. Who do you think lives in a palace?"
- Stop and ask about the pictures and about what is happening in the story.
- Read from a variety of children's books, including fairy tales, songbooks, poems and information books.

**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.



Reading well is at the heart of all learning. A child who can't read well, can't learn. Help make a difference for a child

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.



**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.

- Feb. 28 Pink Shirt Day
- Feb. 28/29 Early dismissal for conferences
- Mar. 8 Hot lunch
- Mar. 14 Talent Show
- Mar. 14 Last day before Spring Break
- April 2 Whiteside re-opens
- April 17 Class photos
- April 25 Term 2 reports published
- May 1-3 Grade 6 Outdoor Education trip
- May 13 Speed Control concert
- May 17 Pro-D day
- May 20 Victoria day
- May 22 Welcome to K event
- May 24 Ian Maskin concert
- June 4 Gr. 7 rafting trip
- June 21 Grade 7 farewell celebration
- June 27 Last day of school for students