

Principal's Report – April 23, 2024

Whiteside Fun!

- Thank you for so many things!
 - Hot lunches
 - Support for presentations and field trips
- Learning Conferences!
- Book fair!
- Basketball – Gr 7 Boys won the McRoberts' tournament
- Talent Show – so many talented Wolves
- Concours and the French Festival at McRoberts
- Class photos in April
- Crêpe workshops for the whole school – 2/3 now and 1/3 in June
- Mme Jaffer made date balls with some classes to celebrate Eid
- Earth Day Assembly
- Coming up:
 - Track Attack and our district track meet – May 27
 - Gr 7 Day at McRoberts (and other secondary schools)
 - Welcome to K – May 22
 - Concerts in May
 - Speed Control – school presentation
 - Ian Masking – cellist school performance
 - Richmond Honor Band
 - Pro-D day – May 17
 - Sports Day

Extended Absences:

- Increase in extended absences
 - Disrupt sequential learning for students
 - Missed learning opportunities
 - Absences of 20 days or longer may result in removing students from our enrolment
 - Currently students on our waitlist
- Notice of Late Return
 - Expectation that students are present for first week of school.
 - If unable to return by Sept. 4, need to complete Notice of Late Return
 - Still need to attend Whiteside by Sept. 11
 - Why do we have this policy:
 - Missed valuable instructional time, therefore missed valuable learning opportunities.
 - Missed valuable teacher and administrative explanations of expectations and routines for the course & school.
 - Missed valuable opportunities to make important social connections at the start of a school year.
 - If a student is not returning on or before September 13, 2023, a school cannot reserve a spot guaranteeing the ability to be enrolled in the school. There may be a need for placement at another school upon the students' late return.
 - In conclusion, the reason for a late return should only be for extremely extenuating circumstances.

Staffing Update

- Welcoming new staff this month:
 - Mme Sadler

Reporting

- Second formal report is published on Thursday
 - More info is available on the school website at: <https://whiteside.sd38.bc.ca/parents/myed-parent-portal>
- Thank you for your ongoing support of learning at Whiteside

Outdoor Education

- Gr. 6 camp – May 1-3 at Camp Elphinstone
- Gr. 7 rafting

Feeding Futures

- Continue to provide breakfast and lunch to students who may need a little extra assistance or security.
- Please let us know if you or anyone you know may need support.

Literacy and SEL

- School focus is Literacy/Reading Comprehension
 - Professional learning this month:
 - Reading and writing assessments
 - Exploring updated reading assessment
 - Preparing for new writing assessment in the fall
 - Reading and writing assessments coming
 - One type of data that helps inform our school focus
 - Reading tips or information added to our weekly newsletter

Safety Drills

- Completed 5 evacuation drills, two earthquake drill, one hold/secure, one lockdown

Morning Routines

- Friendly reminder that entry to Whiteside is through our regular exit doors until 8:45 a.m.
- Please be careful in our parking lot – east side has children entering/leaving

Summer Learning

- Registration for Elementary Enrichment programs began on **Monday, April 22nd**. For more information, see the Continuing Education website: <https://ce.sd38.bc.ca/news/2024/02/summer-learning-2024-new-programs-camps>

Questions:

- Intermediate swimming – June - \$774.38
- Join us at Welcome to K

Student and Family Affordability Fund

- Last year, the provincial government announced the [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.
- At this time, we are requesting that families reach out to Ms. Navin or Mr. Cameron if they are in need of 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 in order to be successful at school.

Notes:

Thank you for supporting our school. Whiteside is a great place to learn, work, and play because the community came together to support each other.