

Principal's Report – February 20, 2024

Whiteside Fun!

- Happy Family Day!
- Thank you for so many things!
 - Hot lunches
 - Jess Dance
 - Reading Family Teams event
 - Look forward to more Family Teams events in the future
 - Supporting our Family Literacy Event
 - Field Trips
 - RAG
 - Children's Art Festival
 - Science World
 - McNair drama
 - Valentine's Day!
 - Basketball season
 - Gr 7 boys
 - Gr 6/7 girls
 - Gr 6 boys
 - Strikers Tournament before spring break
 - Play n Eat on Friday mornings
- Coming up:
 - Pink Shirt Day next week
 - Book Fair next week
 - Tuesday, February 27th from 2:45-4:30;
 - Wednesday, February 28th from 1:45-4:30; and
 - Thursday, February 29th from 1:45-3:00.
 - Talent Show
 - Spring Break
 - Last day is Thursday, March 14
 - Class photos in April
 - Concerts in May
 - Speed Control – school presentation
 - Ian Masking – cellist school performance
 - Richmond Honor Band

Staffing Update

- Welcoming new staff this month:
 - Ms Rogak – taking Mr McCuaig's class
 - Mr McCuaig accepted a district teaching position for the remainder of the year.
 - Mr. McCuaig and Ms. Rogak will be working together to support their students and create a smooth transition plan.

Reporting

- Learning Conferences with students on Feb. 28/29
 - Teachers will connect, if they have not already done so, to schedule conference times.

- Triad or student led
 - An informal reporting structure – teachers will provide feedback on student learning
 - Students take an active role in describing their learning and sharing goals
 - Parents also partake equally. Some guiding questions you could ask are:
 - What are your proudest achievements from this term?
 - Can you tell me about a book you've enjoyed reading recently?
 - What did you learn from it?
 - What reading strategies help you understand your book more?
 - Can you show me some of your favorite projects or activities you've done in class?
 - How do you feel you've improved in [specific subject] since the beginning of the year?
 - Can you demonstrate something you've learned in math, science, or another subject?
 - Who are your friends in class, and how do you work together?
 - What do you find most fun or exciting about school?
 - Can you share a story about a challenge you faced and how you overcame it?
 - How do you feel about your progress in learning to [specific skill, like reading, writing, or math]?
 - What are you looking forward to learning or doing next in school?
- Second reports will be sent home at the end of April.

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.

Portfolio and Tech Update:

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Literacy and SEL

- School focus is Literacy/Reading Comprehension
 - Professional learning this month:
 - Narrowing our focus on reading comprehension strategies
 - Adding reading tips or information to our weekly newsletter
 - ~~Secondary focus is building a social responsibility/leadership framework~~

- Working with district team to create a matrix of expected behaviours and goals at Whiteside
- After listening to students, HOWL will be the acronym
 - H – honest, helpful, hard working
 - O – open minded, optimistic
 - W – welcoming, wise
 - L – learning, leadership, love, loyalty
- 2 year process with district support
- Will continue to create a framework to guide our Wolfpack

Safety Drills

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

Questions:

- Hot lunch in safe

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.