



Welcome back to another wonderful year of learning at Whiteside! Laughter and smiles have returned to the classrooms of Whiteside. We'd like to thank our amazing parent community for your support in getting the students ready for a successful return to school. We're looking forward to another fun-filled and rewarding year!



This week, students were placed in their classes for the 2024-2025 school year. Our teachers and staff spend a lot of time crafting well balanced classes that meet the needs of all learners. We are excited to see all our Wolfpack shine in their classes this year!



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 first meeting will be scheduled soon! Please reach out to our PAC at whitesidepac@hotmail.com for more information. Our first PAC meeting will be online **at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 17.**

TERRY FOX RUN

This year, Whiteside is so proud and excited to participate in the Terry Fox School Run on Thursday, September 19th. To date, our school has raised thousands of dollars for cancer research! Terry never quit on his dream of a world without cancer, and neither will we. This year, our goal is \$1000, and you can donate in support of cancer research <https://schools.terryfox.ca/32913/donate> while building fantastic school spirit! Thank you for supporting our school in the fight against cancer and showing your no-quit attitude in honour of Terry! #terryfoxschoolrun @terryfoxfoundation



NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY and the NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Just a reminder that school will be closed for our first non-instructional day of the year on **Friday, September 20th**. Whiteside will also be closed in observance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Monday, September 30th. Our Orange Shirt Day assembly will be held on Friday, September 27th.

STUDENT PHOTO DAY

Friday, October 9th is Photo Day here at Whiteside. Edge Photography will be taking individual pictures for families to purchase if they choose.



STAFFING UPDATE

We are pleased to welcome our new and returning staff members who have joined the Whiteside community this year:
Ms. Lai – Vice Principal
Mme Hartmann – LFI 6
Mme Rogak – LFI 7
Ms. Dineen – Learning Resource
We are excited to welcome them to Whiteside!



STUDENT PACKAGE OF FORMS:

Next week, we will send home a package of permission forms and information forms to be filled out and returned to your child's teacher. It is important that we have up-to-date information, including contact numbers and appropriate medical information. During the year if anything changes, please let Ms. Huh know in the office as soon 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) 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.

SCHOOL FEES

Every year we collect \$33 for our school fees which includes all basic supplies for our students for the year. There is an additional Cooking and Craft fee (\$22) for students in our Kindergarten and K/1 classes only.



There is an additional \$7 fee for school planners. Planners are an excellent way for grade one to seven students (grade 1-7 only), staff, and children to communicate school assignments and upcoming events. We encourage our students and their families to review their planner regularly.

There may also be additional costs for educational field trips during the year. Teachers and staff will be sharing a list of potential field trips and their associated cost shortly. Please use [CashOnline](#) to make your payment early. Please contact the office if you have questions about our school fees or need assistance in paying.



PARKING LOT SAFETY

With school starting up, it is important to remind both drivers and pedestrians to keep traffic safety in mind and remain alert during their commutes.

Here are some tips for drivers, pedestrians, and parents from ICBC to make travelling to and from school safe for everyone.

Drivers

Stick to the Speed Limit

A 30 km/h speed limit is in effect in school zones from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every school day, unless otherwise posted. In playground zones, a 30 km/h speed limit is in effect every day from dawn to dusk.

Scan Crosswalks and Intersections from Left to Right as You Approach

Watch for pedestrians waiting to cross, especially during school hours.

Leave Your Phone Alone

Distraction is the leading factor for drivers in crashes involving pedestrians and cyclists.

Notice if Other Drivers are Slowing Down or Stopping

If a vehicle is stopped in front of you or in the lane next to you, they may be yielding to a pedestrian, so proceed with caution and be prepared to stop.

Give Yourself Enough Stopping Distance

You need more time to stop when you're driving fast. At a slower speed, motorists have better chance to react when children or others are crossing the road. This could be the difference that saves a life.

Watch for School Buses

When their lights are flashing, vehicles approaching from both directions must stop.

Pedestrians

Cross Only at Marked or Controlled Crosswalks

Do not jaywalk or cross when it isn't your turn.

Look Both Ways Before Crossing the Street

Ensure it is safe to cross from both directions of traffic before setting foot on the crosswalk.

Make Eye Contact with Drivers Approaching the Crosswalk

Be certain they see you and that they've committed to slowing down to a stop.

Double-Check Lights and Signals are Working at Controlled Crosswalks

Make sure that the flashing traffic lights are operational and haven't timed out before crossing.

Wait Until the Crossing Guard Says It's Safe to Cross

If your school has a crossing guard, follow their instructions before crossing – they will make sure it's safe before guiding you across.

Parents

Let Your Child Enter and Exit Your Car on the Side Closest to the Sidewalk

It's safest to drop off and pick up as close to the sidewalk as possible. Do not allow your child to cross mid-block.

Before Starting Your Car, Check for Small Children Hidden from Your View

Walk around your car and always look carefully for pedestrians when backing up.



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.



OPTIONAL STUDENT INSURANCE:

The "InsureMyKids®" accident insurance program offers protection against the potentially high costs of any injury resulting from unexpected accidents and is especially valuable for families who:

- do not have medical or dental plans,
- have limited plans, as it may help supplement health and dental benefits, or
- have active children who enjoy sports and outdoor activities.

Please visit www.insuremykids.com for more information.



Sept. 19 – Terry Fox Run

Sept. 19 – Meet the Teacher Night

Sept. 20 – Non-Instructional Day (school closed)

Sept. 27 – Orange Shirt Day Assembly

Sept. 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (school closed)

Oct. 9 – Individual photos

Oct. 14 – Thanksgiving (school closed)

Oct. 23 – Early Dismissal (students dismissed at 11:50)

Oct. 25 – Provincial Pro-D (school closed)