



**THE NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION**

Just a reminder that school will be closed in observance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on **Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**. This day provides an opportunity for all Canadians to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools. This may present itself as a day of quiet reflection or participation in a community event. Schools in our district will be engaged in a variety of activities leading up to September 30th to ensure that students understand the significance of this day in our community and in our nation.

**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](mailto:whitesidepac@hotmail.com) for more information. Our next PAC meeting will be in the Whiteside Library at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 15.**

**CHECK IN AND CHECK OUT**

If your child is arriving late to school, please check in at the office through the front entrance. If your child needs to leave school early, please sign your child out at the office and wait at the front entrance for them.



**STUDENT PHOTO DAY**

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



**OUTDOOR ED – GRADE 6 CAMP**

Our Grade 6s are going to the Cheakamus Centre in Squamish for this year's outdoor ed camp. Thank you to the teachers and staff for organizing this amazing experience. Please remember to submit your forms ASAP and payment by October 1<sup>st</sup>.



**BIKE AND SCOOTER SAFETY**

We see a lot of our Wolfpack riding and scooting to school every day. Way to go! To be safe on the streets and paths, everyone must wear helmets when riding or scooting. Wearing a helmet is the law in B.C. and you could be fined for not wearing one, or worse. Also, please do not ride or scoot on our drop off lane. Visit [this link](#) for more information about bike safety and see below for information about e-scooters.

**DIGITAL DEVICE POLICY**



In January 2024, the Ministry of Education and Child Care mandated all school boards in British Columbia to update their Codes of Conduct to include restrictions on students' personal digital device use. Students should not have personal digital devices in their possession during the school day unless permission is granted by the supervising staff for educational purposes. This includes during recess and lunch or while outside on the playground or on school property. It is recommended that students do not bring personal digital devices to school.

**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.



**DARE:**

In October, students in grade 5 and 6 will participate in the DARE program with the Richmond RCMP. The DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program equips students with the knowledge and skills to make safe and responsible choices, helping them avoid involvement with drugs, alcohol, and risky behaviors. Through engaging lessons and discussions, the program empowers children to build confidence and make positive decisions that will benefit them throughout their lives.



**FSAs for Grade 4 and 7:**

In October students in grade 4 and 7 will complete the Foundation Skills Assessment. The Foundational Skills Assessments (FSAs) help us understand your child's progress in key areas like reading, writing, and math, providing insight into their learning. These assessments allow both teachers and parents to identify strengths and areas where additional support may be needed, ensuring each student reaches their full potential. This assessment is one of many that provides information about student learning at Whiteside and throughout the province.



**WEST COAST RECESS:**

During recess and lunchtime breaks, students are expected to always be outside 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.



**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.

- Sept. 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (school closed)
- Oct. 1 FSAs begin
- Oct. 1 DARE begins
- Oct. 9 Individual photos
- Oct. 10 Emergency Thursday (Fire Drill)
- Oct. 14 Thanksgiving (school closed)
- Oct. 15/16 Outdoor Ed at Cheakamus
- Oct. 17 Emergency Thursday (Earthquake Drill)
- Oct. 18 Hot lunch (sushi)
- Oct. 23 Learning Conferences (11:50 a.m. dismissal)
- Oct. 24 Emergency Thursday (Hold and Secure)
- Oct. 25 Provincial Pro-D
- Oct. 29 Halloween Party at 5:30 p.m.
- Nov. 1 Hot lunch (pizza)
- Nov. 8 Remembrance Day assembly
- Nov. 11 Remembrance Day (school closed)
- Nov. 14 TCO2 for Gr. 4-7
- Nov. 15 Hot lunch (Subway)
- Nov. 25 Pro-D (school closed)
- Nov. 29 Hot lunch (pizza)
- Dec. 13 Hot lunch (White Spot)