



WINTER BAND CONCERTS AND MUSICAL

Ms. LB is busy preparing this year's winter concerts and school musical. Please save the following dates to watch your children shine:

Dec. 10 – Band Concert (gr. 5-7) at 1:30 pm/7:00 pm
Dec. 17 – Musical (Gr. K-5) 1:30 pm/6:30 pm
Seating may be limited to 2 members for each family. We encourage families to attend our afternoon performance, when possible, to ensure every family can attend. Thank you.

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, School Messenger alerts 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.



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. Please reach out to our PAC at whitesidepac@hotmail.com for more information. Our next PAC meeting will be **on January 21st at 7:00 p.m.**

EXTENDED ABSENCES

During the year students may be absent from school for an extended period of time. It is district policy that students may only be absent for 4 (four) consecutive weeks and retain their place in the school. Upon returning, students may have to re-register at the school board office. If Whiteside is full, the district will find space in the nearest available school. Teachers will not provide work for students on extended absences. **Our extended absence form needs to be completed if you are planning an absence for a week or longer.**



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.



LET'S TALK ABOUT SPARE CLOTHES...

With the soggy season upon us, it is more important than ever that students have a spare change of clothes at school. Especially the little ones! Please make sure to include pants, socks, shoes and shirts!

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!

PARKING LOT SAFETY: A FRIENDLY REMINDER



Drop-off and pick-up times can get hectic! Let's work together to keep our parking lot safe for everyone. Please remember these important points:

- *Drive slowly and cautiously:* Children can be unpredictable, so always be alert and watch for pedestrians.
- *Use designated visitor parking spaces only:* Do not park in the fire lane or drive-thru lane, as this blocks traffic flow and creates hazards.
- *Hold your child's hand:* Always supervise young children and hold their hands when walking through the parking lot.
- *Be aware of your surroundings:* Look for moving vehicles and be mindful of blind spots when backing up.

Thank you for your cooperation in making our school a safe place for all!



WEST COAST RECESS:

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



DARE:

Our grade 5 and 6 students will celebrate their learning in DARE with their graduation at 1:30 p.m. on December 3rd in our gym.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Richmond School District 38 is excited to welcome kindergarten registration applications for children born in 2020, turning 5 in 2025. These children will begin kindergarten in September 2024. Online registration opens on November 1, 2024. Please visit our website <http://www.sd38.bc.ca/kindergarten> for more information about our online registration process, required documents, important dates, and FAQs.

Families are encouraged to register any time during the Priority 1 registration period (November – January) for the best chance at attending their catchment school. All registration applications received any time during the Priority 1 registration period will receive placement decisions by February 2025.

Instead of in person information evenings this year, we have posted short videos that provide our new parents with information about the registration process, English Language Learner (ELL) assessments, and District Program Options – Early French Immersion and Montessori. These videos are available in English and Mandarin. Please view the videos at <http://www.sd38.bc.ca/kindergarten>.

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.



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.



- Dec. 3 DARE grad at 1:30 p.m.
- Dec. 10 Winter Concert
- Dec. 13 Cozy sweater day
- Dec. 13 Hot lunch (White Spot)
- Dec. 17 Winter Musical
- Dec. 19 Reports published to MyEdBC
- Dec. 20 PJ day
- Dec. 20 Last day before winter break
- Jan. 6 First day back from winter break
- Jan. 8 Saleema Noon parent session at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom
- Jan. 27 Pro-d day (school closed)