



WINTER BAND CONCERTS AND MUSICAL

Thank you to Ms. LB, our dedicated staff, our stage crew, and all our performers. Our performances were a festive and amazing way to ring in the holidays!



WINTER BREAK

Whiteside will be closed to celebrate the holidays from December 21 – January 3rd. We return at 8:40 a.m. on January 6th for a new year of learning.

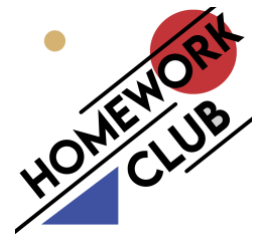


REPORTING STUDENT LEARNING

Our report cards were posted on the MyEdBC parent portal on Thursday, December 19th. We encourage our parent community to log on and review your child's fall report card. Core Competency reflections will be sent home or posted on your child's SD38 portfolio. We hope you and your children enjoy a conversation about their learning together.

HOMEWORK CLUB

Ms. Quan and her team are back for another season of supporting our Wolfpack. Homework Club provides an opportunity for students in grade 4-6 to have a quiet space for extra time and extra support on their school work. If interested, please connect with your classroom teacher for a referral.



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.

SALEEMA NOON'S BODY SCIENCE

Saleema Noon's Body Science program provides age-appropriate sexual health education to empower children and promote open communication within families. The program covers topics like body changes, healthy relationships, and consent in a fun and engaging way. A parent information session will be held via Zoom on January 8th at 6:30 PM, followed by student sessions on January 9th and 10th. We encourage you to attend and learn more about this valuable program! Thank you to our wonderful PAC for providing this learning experience for our Wolfpack!



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.**



PLAY n' EAT FRIDAYS RETURNS - JANUARY

After winter break, we will open our gym for students to join staff, teachers, and student leaders for a morning snack and play time in the gym. More information to come in the new year.

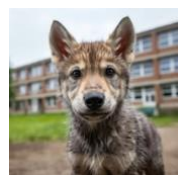
EXTENDED ABSENCES

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.**



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!



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.



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.



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!

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.

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>.



- Jan. 6 First day back from winter break
- Jan. 8 Saleema Noon parent session at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom
- Jan. 9/10 Saleema Noon student sessions
- Jan. 14 MDI begins for grade 5 students
- Jan. 15 Gr. 7 teacher breakfast at McRoberts
- Jan. 21 Hip Hop 101 performance
- Jan. 21 Hannah Beach virtual parent session
- Jan. 23 Spaced Out performance
- Jan. 24 Gr. 7 Snowshoeing trip
- Jan. 27 Pro-D day
- Feb. 14 Pro-D day
- Feb. 17 Family Day
- Feb. 25 Hannah Beach virtual parent session
- Feb. 26 Early dismissal for learning conferences
- Feb. 26 Pink Shirt Day
- Mar. 14 Last day before spring break