



SCHOOL CLOSED – PRO-D

Whiteside will be closed on Monday, January 27th for our school pro-d day.



FAMILY LITERACY WEEK

Family Literacy Week is coming up from January 26th to February 2nd! This year's theme is "Learn to be Green Together," so let's explore ways to be kind to our planet as a family.



Even just 15 minutes a day of reading or learning together can make a big difference. Snuggle up with a book about nature, research ways to reduce your carbon footprint, or get creative with recycled materials. We will celebrate Family Literacy week with our annual Family Literacy Night at Whiteside on February 5 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Let's make learning fun and help our planet at the same time!



WHITESIDE BASKETBALL

Our Whiteside basketball season has started. Our coaches this year are Mme Howells and Mr. McCuaig. We also host intramurals 3 v 3 basketball for grade 5/6 students. Our game schedule is attached to our weekly email. Our first games are at Bridge on Tuesday (G) and Thursday (B).



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION PARENT SURVEY

Each year the Ministry of Education asks parents of grade 4&7 students, and school staff to complete a learning survey. Please take a little time to visit to share your thoughts and ideas. Your opinions will help guide the future of education in BC.
http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm

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.



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.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Every February, people in Canada are invited to participate in Black History Month festivities and events that honour the legacy of Black Canadians and their communities. The 2025 theme for Black History Month is: **Black Legacy and Leadership: Celebrating Canadian History and Uplifting Future Generations.**
<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html>



SPIRIT DAY – SPORTS DAY

We invite our Wolfpack to share their love of sports on Friday, January 31 by wearing their favourite jersey or their own athletic gear.



PLAY n' EAT

Our Play n' Eat breakfast club will continue every Friday morning at 8:10 a.m.



DIGITAL DEVICE POLICY

Last year, 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!

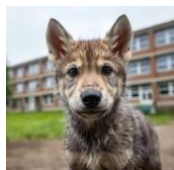


PAC MEETINGS

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 online on **February 18th at 6:30 p.m.**

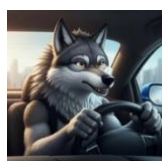
LET'S TALK ABOUT SPARE CLOTHES...

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.



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!



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.

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.***



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>.



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| Jan. 27 | Pro-D day (school closed) |
| Jan. 31 | Spirit Day: Sports Day (wear jersey or gear) |
| Jan. 31 | Hot lunch (Yummy Slice) |
| Feb. 5 | Family Literacy Night at 4:00 p.m. |
| Feb. 7 | Hot lunch |
| Feb. 13 | Spirit Day - Red, pink or white day |
| Feb. 14 | Pro-D day (school closed) |
| Feb. 17 | Family Day (school closed) |
| Feb. 25 | Hannah Beach virtual parent session |
| Feb. 26 | Early dismissal at 11:50 a.m. - learning conferences |
| Feb. 26 | Pink Shirt Day |
| Mar. 14 | Whiteside's St. Patrick's Day – wear green |
| Mar. 14 | Last day before spring break |