



## École élémentaire James Whiteside Elementary School

9282 Williams Road, Richmond BC V7A 1H1

604-668-6209 | whiteside.sd38.bc.ca

Brett Cameron, *Directeur/Principal* | Sara Lai, *Directrice Adjointe/Vice Principal*

### NEWSLETTER #1 – SEPTEMBER 5, 2025



Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful summer filled with sunshine, laughter, and special moments with friends and family. The school felt quiet without you, and we are so excited to welcome our students back and fill our hallways with energy and joy once again!



This week, students were placed in their classes for the 2025-2026 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](mailto:whitesidepac@hotmail.com) for more information. Our first PAC meeting will be online **at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 16.**

#### TERRY FOX RUN

This year, Whiteside is so proud and excited to participate in the Terry Fox School Run on Thursday, September 12. 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/99319> 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 We will begin collecting Toonies for Terry (coin donations at school) on Tuesday.



If Whiteside raises \$1000, our beloved music and band teacher, Ms. LB, will cut 8" off her hair!



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

Just a reminder that school will be closed for our first professional development day of the year on **Monday, September 22**. Whiteside will also be closed in observance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Our Orange Shirt Day assembly will be held on Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### SCHOOL HOURS 2025-2026

Students welcomed for learning	8:40 a.m.
Recess	10:10 – 10:35 a.m.
Lunch	11:50 – 12:42 p.m.
Students dismissed	2:45 p.m.



#### STAFFING UPDATE

We are pleased to welcome our new staff members who have joined the Whiteside community this year:

Mme Jien – LFI 7

Mme Cheng – EFI 2/3

Ms. Masaki – Gr. 5/6

Ms. Fu – EA

Ms. Kumar – EA

Ms. Yasir - NHS

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.

#### SCHOOL FEES

Every year we collect \$35 for our school fees which includes all basic supplies for our students for the year. There is an extra 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.



#### 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.

#### STUDENT PHOTO DAY

Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> is Photo Day here at Whiteside. Edge Photography will be taking individual pictures for families to purchase if they choose.





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#### **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.

#### **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.



#### **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.

#### **2025-2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Please visit our website or see our weekly email for next year's school calendar.



#### **Translate Site**



Select Language

#### **TRANSLATE OUR SITE**

Did you know you can translate our [whiteside.sd38.bc.ca](http://whiteside.sd38.bc.ca) website? ☺



#### **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



#### **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](http://www.insuremykids.com) for more information.



Sept. 12 – Terry Fox Run

Sept. 15 – HUB cycling begins for div. 1-6

Sept. 22 – Non-Instructional Day (school closed)

Sept. 25 – Meet the Teacher Night

Sept. 29 – Orange Shirt Day Assembly

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

Oct. 8 – Individual photos

Oct. 13 – Thanksgiving (school closed)

Oct. 22 – Early Dismissal (students dismissed at 11:50)

Oct. 24 – Provincial Pro-D (school closed)

Oct. 27-31 – School wide dance classes