



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 #16 – DECEMBER 19, 2025

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM WHITESIDE

Whether you're celebrating Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, or simply enjoying time with loved ones, we hope your holiday season is filled with peace and happiness. Wishing you a restful winter break and a wonderful start to the new year!



WINTER HOLIDAYS

To celebrate the winter holidays, Whiteside will be closed from December 20th – January 4th. We will reopen for a new season of learning on Monday, 5th.



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!



REPORTING STUDENT LEARNING

Our report cards this term were posted on the [MyEdBC parent portal](https://myedbc.ca) on Thursday, December 18th. 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.

UNIVERSAL HOT LUNCH PILOT

Utilizing Feeding Futures as well as National School Food Program funding, the Richmond School District will be piloting a universal hot lunch program at selected elementary and secondary schools during the months of December and January. Lunch will be provided on Wednesday to all students that registered on Munch-a-Lunch this week. This month's meal is Spaghetti and Meatballs. Dairy free, gluten free, halal, and vegetarian options were available. Our next Universal Hot Lunch will be January 21, 2026.



FROM OUR WHITESIDE WOLVES:

The Band Concert – Fabiola, Stella from Div.6

Last week, Whiteside had two band concerts.

The show choir performed first. Then it was the grade 5/6 band. Then the grade 7 and 5/6 band performed. After was the grade 7 band, then Jazz band. There were around 73 kids performing.

Fabiola: I was very nervous at the concert. I remember some flaws. Like when we were playing "We Got the Spirit". We were stopped which, for some people, it was embarrassing.

Stella: I like playing instruments. I like to play in front of people – but not by myself. The concert was a great opportunity!



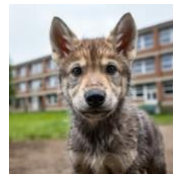
WOLF WEAR WEDNESDAYS

To show our school spirit, we invite our students, staff and community to wear their favourite Wolf gear every Wednesday!

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.



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!

Translate Site



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TRANSLATE OUR SITE

Did you know you can translate our whiteside.sd38.bc.ca website? ☺



January 5 – Whiteside re-opens

January 5 – Confi-DANCE program begins

January 13 – TCO2: Children of the Streets parent presentation (online at 6:00 p.m.)

January 20 – PAC Meeting online at 7:45 p.m.

January 21 – Universal Hot Lunch (Butter Chicken)

January 29 – Gr. 7 parent night at McRoberts

January 29 – Family Literacy Night

January 30 – Grade 7 snowshoeing field trip

February 4 – Kind Mind Dance

February 13 – Pro-D Day

February 15 – Family Day (school closed)

February 23/24 – Festival Franco

February 25 – Pink Shirt Day

February 25 – Early dismissal at 11:50 a.m.

March 3/4 - McRoberts Basketball Jamboree

March 13 – Talent Show

March 13 – Last day before spring break

March 30 – First day back after spring break



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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.



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 at **7:45 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20.**



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.

LATE FRENCH IMMERSION REGISTRATION

As you may be aware, the Richmond School District offers full time, Late French Immersion programs beginning at Grade 6 at James Whiteside and John Diefenbaker Elementary schools. The Late French Immersion program is a unique District program designed for 10- and 11-year-old students who have completed grade 5, who do not speak French, but who are interested in becoming functionally bilingual (French and English). In grade 6, 100% of the BC curriculum is taught with an emphasis on students acquiring French language skills: reading, writing and speaking. Students in this program do not receive English Language Learner (ELL) support in grade 6. In grade 7, English Language Arts are reintroduced while other subjects continue to be taught in French.



Application Information:

The applications for admission to Late Immersion program is open until January 16th, 2025, for the 2025/2026 school year. To apply please complete the District Options Online Application: <https://dpoapplication.sd38.bc.ca>

The application does not constitute registration.



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 (phones, tablets, smart watches, or computers) 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.

Richmond School District 38 is excited to



welcome kindergarten registration applications for children born in 2021, turning 5 in 2026. These children will begin kindergarten in September 2026. Online registration opens on November 1, 2025. 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>.



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.