



## 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 #18 – January 16, 2026



#### **FREE RICHMOND SOCKEYE TICKETS**

The Richmond Sockeye hockey team has provided Whiteside with a limited number of free tickets to an upcoming game (tickets are valid at any home game). Please visit our office to pick up tickets for you and your family. Tickets are available for immediate family members and only available while supplies last.



#### **GRADE 7 PARENT NIGHT AT MCROBERTS**

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, McRoberts will host a Grade 7 Parent Information Night from **6:00 - 7:00** at McRoberts in the Old Gym (**updated time!**). This evening is for parents who have students registered to attend McRoberts in September 2026.

#### **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](mailto:whitesidepac@hotmail.com) for more information. Our next PAC meeting will be online **at 7:45 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20.**



#### **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 to all students that **registered on Munch-a-Lunch by January 15. Orders are now closed.** This month's meal is Butter Chicken. Dairy free, gluten free, halal, and vegetarian options were available. The Universal Hot Lunch Day will be January 21, 2026.



#### **HOT LUNCH - JANUARY 28**

Our next delicious hot lunch is Yummy Slice on Wednesday, January 28. Please order your lunches on [Munch-a-Lunch](#) by January 21. Thanks, PAC!



#### **PLAY n' EAT – RETURNS ON JANUARY 22**

Our Play n' Eat breakfast club will return on Thursday, January 22 and continue Fridays. Students are welcome to join us in the gym at 8:10 a.m. for light snacks and free games.

#### **FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT**

To recognize and celebrate [Family Literacy Week](#) Whiteside invites our families to visit for a fun night of reading activities. Please join us from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Enter through the gym to get your activity card and begin your literacy adventure.



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

January 20 – Early Learning Family event at 9:15 a.m.

January 21 – Universal Hot Lunch (Butter Chicken)

January 22 – Spirit Day: Blackout Day (wear all black)

January 22 – Play n' Eat begins at 8:10 a.m. in the gym

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 20 – Spirit Day: Crazy hair/hat day

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



#### **EARLY LEARNING EVENT at WHITESIDE**

The Richmond School District welcomes you and your young children (under 5 years old) to our Early Learning for Families event at Whiteside on January

20 from 9:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Join us for fun learning experiences while meeting new friends and building connections at our school. Will's Jams will be here to sing songs and share stories.

#### **WHITESIDE BASKETBALL**

Our Whiteside basketball season has started. Our coaches this year are Mme Howells, Mr. Lenz, and Mr. Cameron. We encourage our grade 6 and 7 students to come out and join the fun. Permission forms were sent home this week and practices have already started. Practice Schedule:

Girls: Monday/Thursday at lunch

Boys: Monday at 8:00 a.m./Wednesdays at lunch

Game schedule:

January 20: Lee (girls at Lee; boys at Whiteside)

January 27: Bridge (girls at Bridge; boys at Whiteside)

February 3: Lee (boys at Lee; girls at Whiteside)

February 10: Bridge (boys at Bridge; girls at Whiteside)

February 24: DeBeck (boys at DeBeck)





Translate Site



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### TRANSLATE OUR SITE

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



### WOLF WEAR WEDNESDAYS

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

### FROM OUR WHITESIDE WOLVES:

Sockeye/Canuck floor hockey from Nil, Leo, Timothy, and Charlotte in Mme Cheng's grade 2/3 class.

Pendant le gymnase, ont fait le hockey a plancher le instructeur est Nick. Il est 17 ans. Il vient du South Dakota. C'était amusant. On a jouer Aleins VS frogs. I really liked it. It was very fun it is not very usual. We really liked it we hope we will do it again.



### 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](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm)



### 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.

### 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. 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! Playing outside will ensure our students get some fresh air and exercise to enliven their day.



### 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.

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### 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>.