



FEBRUARY IS 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 2026 theme for Black History Month is: **30 Years of Black History Month: Honouring Black Brilliance Across Generations — From Nation Builders to Tomorrow's Visionaries.**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html>



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.



FROZEN YOGURT DAY – FEBRUARY 6

Our next delicious offering from our PAC is frozen yogurt day on February 6. Thanks, PAC!



KIND MIND MONTH AND CELEBRATION

The **Kind Mind** initiative by BC Children's Hospital is a mental health awareness program designed to empower students and families with tools for building resilience, emotional wellness, and kindness. Throughout this past month, our school community has engaged in learning activities and fundraising efforts to support vital mental health resources for children across the province. This shared journey has helped us spark important conversations about feelings and how to support one another inside and outside the classroom. To celebrate our hard work and community spirit, we are ending the program on a high note with a school-wide celebration. On **February 4**, students will come together for an energetic and uplifting dance party hosted by the legendary DJ Rock'n Beau!

WHITE SIDE 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.

Practice Schedule:

Girls: Monday/Thursday at lunch

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

Game schedule:

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

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

February 24: DeBeck (boys at DeBeck)

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
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February 4 – Kind Mind Dance

February 6 – PAC Frozen Yogurt Day

February 12 – PAC Hot Lunch (Sushi Lovers)

February 13 – Pro-D Day (school closed)

February 16 – Family Day (school closed)

February 20 - Spirit Day: Crazy hair day

February 23/24 – Festival Franco at the Richmond Oval

February 24-26 – Book Fair in the library

February 25 – Pink Shirt Day

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

February 25 - Learning Conferences (learning update #3)

February 27 – PAC Hot Lunch – Yummy Slice

March 3/4 - McRoberts Basketball Jamboree

March 13 – PAC Hot Lunch

March 13 – Talent Show

March 13 – Last day before spring break

March 30 – First day back after spring break

April 3 – Good Friday (school closed)

April 6 – Easter Monday (school closed)

April 21 – Class Photos and Panorama

April 23 – Term 2 report cards posted online

May 15 – Pro-D day (school closed)

May 18 – Victoria Day (school closed)

May 20-22 – Gr. 6 Camp at Cheakamus Centre

June 19 – Grade 7 Farewell

June 25 – Final day of school for students

FROM OUR WHITESIDE WOLVES:

Learning in Mme Bourlon and Mme Pollock's class This week, Division 4 worked on assembling rubber band cars. The day before the build, Mme Pollock showed the class some videos and design ideas to lead us in the making of the cars. The day of the build, Div. 4 got to experiment with multiple materials. Many used hot glue guns skewers, cardboard and straws to help them make the cars and because these were rubberband cars they also used rubber bands to propel the cars. After some time to build, some tested their cars. Most cars needed adjustments or changes and after the students made those changes, they were very proud of their work. The students' opinions about this project; one student thought this project was fun for the class, another student said "this project was really fun because we got to get them to actually work", one person said that "it was fun to make cars because we got to be creative". The last student said, "I thought this was fun because we didn't have to sit at our desk and do a worksheet". Overall, students thought this project was fun and we would all recommend it to everyone and anyone. By Miriam G and Kaley R.



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TRANSLATE OUR SITE

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

UNIVERSAL HOT LUNCH

Utilizing Feeding Futures as well as National School Food Program funding, the Richmond School District has piloted a universal hot lunch program at selected elementary and secondary schools. Our Universal Hot Lunch program will continue for the rest of the year. Please look out for sign up dates as all students need to order online one week prior to each hot lunch day.



PLAY n' EAT IS BACK

Our Play n' Eat breakfast club returned this week and will continue Fridays. Students are welcome to join us in the gym at 8:10 a.m. for light snacks and free games.

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, February 17.**



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.



WOLF WEAR WEDNESDAYS

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

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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.



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>.