

White Rock Elementary School

We're on the Web!

Newsletter 01/13/25
Volume 1, Issue 7

<https://www.surreyschools.ca/whiterockelem>

Principal: Jas Atwal
Vice-Principal: Sally Song



January Newsletter..

Hello all,

Welcome back to a new and exciting school year in 2025! We hope you had a restful and enjoyable break. As we embark on this journey together, we look forward to fostering a supportive and engaging learning environment for all our students. Let's work hand in hand to make this year a memorable and successful one. Thank you for being a vital part of our school community. Here's to a fantastic year ahead! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if need be.

Take care,

Jas Atwal
Principal

Contents

January News	1
Kindergarten Registration	1
Upcoming Calendar / Bells	2
Lates/Lunches/Visitors	2
Weather/Clothes	3
School Closures	3
Black Excellence Day	3
Basketball Season	3
Lunar New Year	
Drop Off/Entrance	4
Scents / Allergies	4
PAC Meeting Jan 22	4
Illness / Cell Phones	4
Fine Arts Parent Info Night	4
Grade 7 Bonding Night	4
Spirit Wear Ordering	5

Kindergarten Registration Starts...

It's time to register for KINDERGARTEN. Those children who will turn 5 before January 1, 2026 are eligible to begin school in September 2025. Registration will begin on Monday, January 13th and can be done through the online school District website.

To register, take pictures (to attach) or (scan and attach) the citizenship for both the parent and your child, proof of residency, and proof of guardianship. For proof of residency, we require any three of the following: purchase or rental agreement, income tax statement, property tax statement, utility bill, drivers licence, Care Card, BC identification or a signed letter from your landlord. These can also be scanned and attached (or take pictures to attach).

It is very important to register as quickly as possible as the District bases the teacher allocation based on our enrollment. Thank you for your assistance in getting registrations in as soon as possible.

Please refer to the following link for the choice fine arts lottery:
<https://www.surreyschools.ca/page/987/kindergarten-choice-lottery>

All students entering Kindergarten need to register with their own catchment school and then register for the lottery program from January 27-February 14 if they are interested.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Kindergarten Registration Starts
- ◆ Black Excellence Day (Wear Black)
- ◆ Lunar New Year (Wear Red)
- ◆ Grade 7 Bonding Event

Upcoming Calendar Events / Bells...

Calendar of Upcoming Events

(January is Tamil Heritage Month in Canada)

- Jan 13 Kindergarten Registration Begins
- Jan 14 EMS Grade 7 Parent Night 6 pm
- Jan 15 Black Excellence Day-Wear Black
- Jan 16 Fine Arts Parent Information Night 7 pm
- Jan 20 Pajama and **Drop Everything And Read Day**
- Jan 22 PAC Meeting 6 pm in Fine Arts Room
- Jan 24 Grade 7 Bonding Night (4:30 pm-10 pm)
- Jan 29 Lunar New Year (Wear Red)
- Jan 31 Twin Day

(February is Black History Month in Canada)

- Feb 5 Early Dismissal 1:27 pm
- Feb 11 Notable Presentations Grade 5 in Gym
- Feb. 10-14 Jump Rope for Heart
- Feb 14 Valentines Day
- Feb 17 Family Day Holiday (No School)
- Feb 21 Non-Instructional Day (No School)
- Feb 26 Pink Shirt Day (Wear Pink)
- Feb 24-28 Kindness Week
- Feb 28 Ramadan Begins

(March is Irish Heritage Month in Canada)

- Mar 4 Class Photos
- Mar 5 Social Studies Fair
- Mar 8 International Women's Day
- Mar 14 Report Cards Go Home
- Mar 14 Last Day Before Spring Break
- Mar 15-30 Spring Break (No School)
- Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day (Wear Green)
- Mar 31 Good Friday (No School)
- Mar 31 Eid al Fitr

SCHOOL HOURS

- 8:20 - Playground Supervision Begins
- 8:30 - Students may enter the building
- 8:35 - Start of Morning Classes
- 10:15 - Recess
- 10:30 - End of Recess
- 11:43 - Lunch Play (All Students)
- 12:08 - Bell to come inside and eat
- 12:28 - Start of afternoon classes
- 2:28 - Dismissal
- 2:43 - Playground Supervision ends

Office Hours (Phones)

8:00 am—3:30 pm—Monday to Friday

All students should be picked up after the bell or walk directly home. They should not left on the playground on their own. There is no staff supervision outside after 2:43 pm.

Lates and Absences

Please call and let us know if your child will be late or absent. We call you if you have not called in so we can ensure the safety of your child. If we are not available to pick up the phone, please leave a message on the answering machine. This would help us at the office immensely.

(604-531-5731)

Lunches/Water Bottles

We recommend that all students bring water bottles and lunches to school daily in the morning. If you need to drop off a lunch, please label the lunches and place them on the table in the hall by the office.



Parent Visitor Protocol

All visitors must report to the office of the school due to safety reasons. One of our office staff will be happy to assist you. You can contact your child's teacher to make an appointment if necessary.



School Closures Information...

Sometimes extreme weather conditions or other circumstances can cause class cancellations at a school, or district wide on short notice. In the event of class cancellations, the Surrey School District will post information on its web site at www.surreyschools.ca and provide updates to the following radio stations:

CKNW - 980 AM or www.cknw.com News 1130 AM or www.news1130.com CBC Radio - 690 AM or www.cbc.ca/bc

The District will do its best to communicate the status of schools by 7:00 am.

If there is a closure mid day for any reason, we will keep all students until parents or guardians are contacted and pick up occurs. All students should check in to the office and should never return home on their own without contact made by the school staff. **Please discuss this safety protocol with your children.**

Basketball Season

The Basketball season has just begun with the Grade 7 boys and girls practices taking place during the school day, before and after school. The games for boys will be on Wednesdays and the girls games will take place on Thursdays. The staff have prepared permission slips for the boys and girls teams. If your child is interested in playing, they must hand in the forms by next week.



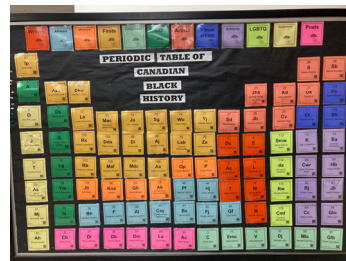
Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year is the most important holiday in China and Chinese communities around the world. It is not only celebrated in China. Vietnam, Korea, Malaysia, and Singapore also practice the Lunar New Year holiday. The two-week celebration includes family and friends, feasting and fireworks, parties and parades. Please wear **red or traditional clothing** on Jan. 29 if you wish.



Black Excellence Day

Monday, January 15th is Black Excellence Day which aims to highlight past and present struggles of Black and other racialized Canadians. Black Excellence Day is a new initiative in BC and aims to spark important conversations about anti-racism and unity among various ethnic groups. Our students will be learning about Black Canadians that have had a positive impact in Canada in different areas in January and February. Some classes will also log on to an online Black Excellence Day presentation.



Weather News

Please make sure your child is dressed for the weather. We try to give all students a play break and fresh air at Recess and Lunch. We will only have an inside day during extreme weather conditions. Some students have had to call home to get a change of clothes after Recess or Lunch as they have slipped and fallen. It is not a bad idea to have a change of clothes at the school or in their backpack, particularly the primary students.

Scent Allergies...

Some staff and students are allergic to the chemicals that are in many scented products like shampoos, perfumes, hand creams, lotions and deodorants. Please do not wear scented products at school as it is having a negative impact on their health.



Fine Arts Program Parent Information Night - January 16

The District will be hosting an online meeting for those interested in learning about the Fine Arts program. The presentation will be available on Microsoft Teams online and the Meeting ID and passcode is below:

Meeting ID: 281 580 822 838

Passcode: ZC95Gg9K



Technology / Phone Use / Misuse...

Cell phones have become a distraction for some of our students. The need to get on social media and communication groups through apps like Discord and Snapchat has become a concern for staff at the school. If you choose to send your child with a phone for safety reasons, the phones should be kept in backpacks and only used before and after school to connect with parents. Phones can be locked up in the teachers cupboard so they are not lost or misused. We have school phones at the office or classroom if they need to get a hold of parents.

Recently, we have had larger issues with students at home using chat groups to post negative messages and images. Please monitor your child's social media, text and chat groups. Threats, violence, intimidation, harassment cyber-bullying and racism are against our code of conduct and are taken seriously. Students should not be posting information or images that are inappropriate or demeans others. Screen shots can be helpful to deal with any negative comments. Please report incidents right away.

Drop off and School Entering Guidelines

Please drive slowly and safely when dropping off and picking up your child near the school grounds. For safety reasons and congestion, we are asking:

- **ALL STUDENTS ENTER THROUGH THEIR EXTERIOR CLASSROOM DOORS FOR THE BOTTOM FLOOR CLASSROOMS.**
- **UPSTAIRS CLASSROOM ENTRY SHOULD BE DONE FROM THE FRONT OR BACK ENTRANCE ONLY. THE STAIRWELLS CLOSEST TO THE ENTRY POINT SHOULD BE USED TO GO UPSTAIRS.**
- **ALL PARENTS SHOULD DROP OFF THEIR CHILDREN TO THE EXTERIOR CLASSROOM DOORS OR EXTERIOR ENTRANCE DOORS ONLY AND NOT DROP OFF STUDENTS INSIDE THE HALLWAY DOORS**
ALL VISITORS REPORT TO THE OFFICE

PAC Meeting-Jan. 22nd

The PAC will be holding their next PAC Meeting on January 22nd at 6 pm. Babysitting will be provided. All parents at the school can attend the PAC Meeting and have input/find out about what the PAC is planning for the year. We hope to see you there. Here are the next Hot Lunch Dates. Thank you to our volunteers who donate their time to organize the orders and deliver the food on Thursdays.

Jan. 16	Bar Burrito
Jan. 23	Kesari
Jan. 30	White Spot
Jan. 31	Hot Dog Day
Feb. 6	Boston Pizza
Feb. 13	Hillcrest Bakery/Orange Julius
Feb. 20	Fuel Catering
Feb. 27	Cobs
Feb. 28	Hot Dog Day
Mar. 6	Fresh Slice/Booster Juice
Mar. 13	Bar Burrito

If you have not ordered food for this term, you still can. Please log into Munch a lunch. You can connect with the PAC at whiterockpac@gmail.com

WRE Spirit Shirts

White Rock Elementary now has a new store where staff, students and parents can purchase Spirit Clothing with the branded White Rock Logo. Orders will close January 31 and be delivered in mid-February.

There are several colour options available beyond the ones shown on the front page. Click the option of clothing you want and then choose the colour and size options. There are youth and adult sizes.

Click below to order:

<https://whiterockspiritwear2025.itemorder.com>

