

White Rock Elementary School

We're on the Web!

Newsletter 01/12/24
Volume 1, Issue 5

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

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January Newsletter..

Hello all,

Happy New Year and welcome back. We would like to welcome new families that are now part of our school community. We have grown to over 600 students for 2024. The weather has been very cold and wet recently. Please have your child dress for the weather. We tend to go out every day for recess and lunch unless there are extreme weather conditions. 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
Pick up and Drop Off	4
Scents Allergies	4
PAC Meeting Jan 18	4
Illness /Cell Phones	4
Fine Arts Parent Info Night	4
Grade 7 Bonding Night	4

Upcoming Events

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

Kindergarten Registration Starts...

It's time to register for KINDERGARTEN. Those children who will turn 5 before January 1, 2025 are eligible to begin school in September 2024. Registration will begin on Monday, January 15th 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 29-February 16 if they are interested.

Upcoming Calendar Events / Bells...

Calendar of Upcoming Events

(January is Tamil Heritage Month in Canada)

- Jan 15 Black Excellence Day-Wear Black
- Jan 15 Kindergarten Registration Begins
- Jan 17 Fine Arts Parent Information Night 7 pm
- Jan 17 International Holocaust Remembrance Day
- Jan 18 PAC Meeting 6 pm
- Jan 20 Grade 7 Bonding Night
- Jan 22 Pajama and **Drop Everything And Read Day**
- Jan 29 National Day of Remembrance of Quebec Mosque Attack and action against Islamophobia
- Jan 31 Notable Presentations Grade 5 in Gym

(February is Black History Month in Canada)

- Feb 7 Early Dismissal 1:27 pm
- Feb 9 Lunar New Year (Wear Red)
- Feb 10 Lunar New Year
- Feb 14 Valentines Day
- Feb 19 Family Day Holiday (No School)
- Feb 23 Non-Instructional Day (No School)
- Feb 26-29 Kindness Week
- Feb 28 Pink Shirt Day (Wear Pink)
- Feb 29 Grade 4-7 Science Fair

(March is Irish Heritage Month in Canada)

- Mar 8 International Women's Day
- Mar 10 Ramadan Begins
- Mar 15 Report Cards Go Home
- Mar 15 Last Day Before Spring Break
- Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day (Wear Green)
- Mar 18-29 Spring Break (No School)
- Mar 29 Good Friday (No School)
- Apr 1 Easter Monday (No School)
- Apr 2 First Day Back (From Spring Break)

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
- 11:40 - Lunch Play (All Students)
- 12:05 - Bell to come inside and eat
- 12:30 - Start of afternoon classes
- 2:27 - Dismissal
- 2:42 - 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 2:42 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. Mr. Fryer and Mr. Baerg 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.

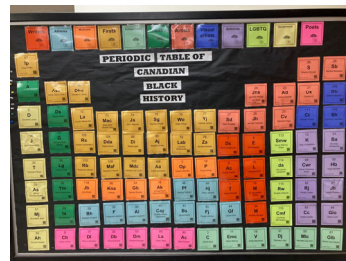


Illness Protocols

If your child is not feeling well please do a daily health check to determine if they should stay home. If your children are repeatedly coughing, sneezing or have flu like symptoms, it would be better to keep them at home. We do not want ill students to pass on their illness to other students or staff. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

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 17

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: **277 070 874 671**
Passcode: **Vx5PRJ**

Cell Phone Use...



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. We have school phones at the office or classroom if they need to get a hold of parents. In addition, we have school computers and ipads that teachers book for educational activities. Cell phones do not need to be carried around with students and if they are out it is only when used in the class under the direct supervision of the Classroom Teacher. Phones can be locked up in the teachers cupboard so they are not lost or misused. We have had issues with some students using their phones for non educational reasons. If your child uses their phone inappropriately they may be asked to not bring it to school again. This includes any phone use in bathrooms or taking pictures or videos of others without proper consent.

Drop off and Pick Up Safety Policy..

Please drive slow and safe when dropping off and picking up your child near the school grounds. In addition:



- ALWAYS HAVE YOUR CHILDREN EXIT TO THE SIDEWALK SIDE OF THE VEHICLE
- Never open the door to the interior of the street to exit out as cars may be passing
- Please drive slowly in front of the school.
- Look both ways before exiting the drop off area to go back in the passing lane
- Do not double park on the street as it creates unnecessary congestion
- Park one block down the street and walk to pick up your children
- Watch carefully for pedestrians and please obey the crossing guard signals.

PAC Meeting-Feb. 16th

The PAC will be holding their next PAC Meeting on February 16th 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. 18 Hillcrest Bakery	Feb. 22 Fresh Slice/ Booster Juice
Jan. 25 F.U.E.L	Feb. 29 Boston Pizza
Feb. 1 White Spot	Mar 7 Hilcrest Bakery
Feb. 8 COBS	Mar 14 F.U.E.L
Feb. 15 Kesari	

The PAC would like to thank the community for their coin drive donations in December. We are getting close to paying for a new set of ipads.

The PAC will be holding a limited concession on Thursday's during the hot lunch days. They will be selling some additional items like chips and juice boxes starting on January 18. Students who are interested may bring a few dollars to purchase items.

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. As soon as your order is paid, it will be processed and shipped to the school.

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://whiterockelementaryspiritwear.itemorder.com>

