



Whitney Public School

January 2021 Newsletter



Message From the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year to everyone! We hope you had a restful holiday break. As I write this, we are getting ready to participate in our school-wide scavenger hunt – I am looking forward to getting outside and completing as many of the things as I can! A huge shout out to the educators for organizing this fun event. We look forward to seeing everyone back at the school, currently looking at Jan. 25 as our in-person return date. You will have heard from your classroom educators about online learning expectations – and we will be handing out devices on Tuesday, January 12th. We look forward to seeing everyone online next week! **Please reach out to your teacher if there is a reason you cannot be online any day and you will be marked absent for that day. The expectation for attendance is just like in-person school. We will not be answering the phone at the school, so email is the best way to reach us.**

I have been very impressed by the learning that has been happening in the Google Classrooms – by students and by educators. Nothing replaces seeing everyone’s smiling faces IRL, but the photos and stories sure help!

Usually at this time, I announce that we are planning to start our skating program as soon as possible- this year we have to wait and see what we will be able to do, please stay tuned! The students and staff will be invited to choose our #oneword2021. Ask your child what they have chosen as their one word. It has become an annual tradition here at WPS.

January 27th is Family Literacy Day - visit <http://abclifeliteracy.ca/> for ideas and activities to try at home (we have also included some ideas in this newsletter). We will be celebrating with a Spirit Day - Dress like your favourite storybook character.

There are many ways you can be involved in your child’s school and education! I encourage you to talk to your child about their day at school and to read with your child every day - even older kids benefit from reading aloud.

May you have a year that is filled with joy, laughter, brightness and hope! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate in contacting us at the school.

Jessica Poff

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Principal of Whitney Public School



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<i>1st Inst Block</i>	<i>08:45 - 10:45</i>
<i>Recess</i>	<i>10:45 - 11:00</i>
<i>2nd Inst Block</i>	<i>11:00 - 12:00</i>
<i>Lunch</i>	<i>12:00 - 1:00</i>
<i>3rd Inst Block</i>	<i>1:00 - 3:00</i>
<i>Recess</i>	<i>3:00 - 3:15</i>
<i>Dismissal</i>	<i>03:15</i>



@Whitney_Public School

Family Literacy Day - Wednesday, Jan. 27th

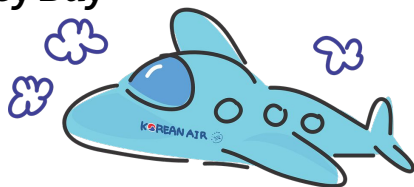
Family Literacy Day, held annually on January 27, was developed by ABC Life Literacy Canada in 1999 to celebrate adults and children reading and learning together, and to encourage Canadian families to spend at least 15 minutes a day enjoying a learning activity together.

2021 Theme - Travel the World Together!

Here are some ideas:

- 1. Go online Research a country that interests you on the internet with your family.** Find out things like the language they speak, their currency, and popular food, music and sports
- 2. Flags of the world.** Look up colourful flags from different countries and try drawing them together.
- 3. Ciao!** Teach your family how to say hello and goodbye in different languages.
- 4. Greetings from abroad!** Imagine you're on a vacation and write a postcard to a friend or family member. Describe the weather, what it's like and what activities you're doing
- 5. Map the world.** Look at a blank world map and try to name each continent and ocean. For more of a challenge, try identifying countries or even cities.
- 6. Family vacation.** Research your next family vacation online together, even if you don't have one planned. Look up how much it will cost to travel there, hotels and activities, and put together a budget for your trip.
- 7. Get cookin'!** Find a recipe for a popular international dish, such as butter chicken or paella. Follow the recipe together as a family and enjoy the meal you've cooked.
- 8. Family history.** Research your family's history and culture. Learn about your family traditions (how about starting a new one!)
- 9. Sounds of the world.** Go to YouTube as a family and play some popular songs from other countries. Dance and move to different tunes and hum along, trying to guess what the lyrics mean.
- 10. A to Z** Test your family's geographic knowledge by trying to name a country for every letter of the alphabet. Hint: there is one for every letter except X.

Enjoy Family Literacy Day
together on
Wednesday,
January 27th, 2021!



Busing for 2020 - 2021

Jim & Edith Robinson -- Bus Operator

Bus Driver: Joe - Route #346



R&L Bus Lines - Laurie Evans - Bus Operator

Bus Driver: Tammy - Route #349

Important Dates

Jan. 4th-22nd - Online Learning for all

Monday, Jan. 25th - Friday, Feb. 5th - Kindergarten
Registration for 2021-2022

Wednesday, Jan. 27th - Literacy Day at School -
Theme: "Travel the World Together!" Dress as your
favourite storybook character.

Thursday, Jan. 28th - Virtual Transition
Information Meeting - MVDHS at 6:30pm

Thursday, Jan. 28th - Bell Let's Talk Day

Illness

If your child is not well in the morning, please do the COVID-19 online school screening at: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/> to determine whether they should go to school and how to follow up with their symptoms. Thank you for your continued support in keeping everyone healthy!

Kindergarten Registration for 2021-2022

If you have a student who will be four years old by December 31st, 2021 and would like to start Kindergarten at Whitney Public School in September 2021, please see the last page of this newsletter for instructions to register your child. Registration takes place from:

Monday, January 25th - February 5th, 2021



Inclement Weather & Bus Cancellations

Winter is here! On cold days the children will be kept indoors if the weather (with windchill) is -22 C or colder, otherwise students need to be dressed properly for the weather. Reminder: When school buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not run for the remainder of the day.

To be informed of **bus cancellations** you can visit the **Tri-Board website at www.triboard.ca** and click on Delays and Cancellations. You can also sign up for email notifications of delays and cancellations. To do this go to the website and click on Delays and Cancellations then click on subscribe and follow the directions. Check your email and confirm the subscription. You can also follow Tri-Board bussing on Twitter—Tri-Board@triboardbus or on Facebook

Healthy Snacks

Many thanks to Food for Learning, PC Childrens' Charity and Camp Madawaska for grant money provided that enables Whitney Public School to offer delicious, healthy snacks to our students everyday!

We appreciate your generosity!



Parent Council

The purpose of the Whitney Public School Parent Council is to provide a forum where parents/guardians, community and school staff representatives can meet and discuss items pertaining to Whitney Public School and provide advice to the principal.

Council meets a minimum of 4 times during the school year. The dates will be posted on the calendar and all meetings are open to the Whitney Public School community.

Milk Orders

This year you can order milk online for your child through our School Cash system. If you have any questions about how to get set up to do this, feel free to call the school anytime at 613-637-2171.

Winter use of playgrounds present a greater risk to students. Frozen ground does not provide a protective surface for falls. OSBIE has been a long-time advocate of playground safety programs that include, but are not limited to, the provisions of the CSA Standard CSA-Z614- 98, and any preceding Guidelines.

It continues to be RCDSB practice that our playground remains closed to RCDSB students through the winter months.



CLOSED

School Cash (Ordering items online)

We are hoping to have ALL parents and guardians at WPS register with School Cash to make ordering items at school easy! Please call the office if you'd like some help to register or you can follow the instructions we have attached below.



For safety and efficiency reasons, Renfrew County District School Board would like to reduce the amount of Cash & Checks coming into our school. Please join the thousands of parents who have already registered and are enjoying the convenience of paying ONLINE! It takes less than 5 minutes to register. Please follow these step-by-step instructions, so you will begin to receive email notifications regarding upcoming events involving your child(ren).

NOTE: If you require assistance, select the **GET HELP** option in the top right hand corner of the screen.

Step 1: Register

- If you have not registered, please go to the School Cash Online home page <https://rcdsb.schoolcashonline.com/> and select the "Get Started Today" option.
- Complete each of the three Registration Steps
*For Security Reasons your password, requires **8 characters**.
Of those 8 characters you need , one uppercase letter, one lowercase letter and a number.

Step 2: Confirmation Email

A registration confirmation email will be forwarded to you. Click on the link provided inside the email to confirm your email and School Cash Online account.
The confirmation link will open the School Cash Online site prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password just created with your account.

Step 3: Find Student

Note: Student Number is Not Required

This step will connect your children to your account.

- Enter the School Board Name
- Enter the School Name
- Enter Your Child's Name & Birth Date
- Select Continue
- On the next page confirm that you are related to the child, check in the Agree box and select Continue
- Your child has been added to your account

Step 4: View Items or Add Another Student

If you have more children, select "Add Another Student" option and repeat the steps above. 5 children can be added to one parent account.

If you do not wish to add additional children, select "View Items For Students" option. A listing of available items for purchase will be displayed.

2021-2022 Kindergarten Registration

Registration for JK/SK Children – Monday January 25 – Friday February 5, 2021

To find out which school your child will attend, visit
<http://www.rcdsb.on.ca/en/parents/registration-and-transfers.asp>

Bilingual Kindergarten Program

As part of a five-year plan to grow our French Immersion programming across the District, your attendance boundary school may offer a rich and dynamic bilingual play-based learning environment for your child. Check out the RCDSB [website](#) to find out more details about our Bilingual Kindergarten Program.

There are two ways to register your child for kindergarten.

Online Registration

To register your child for JK/SK for September 2021 use our online system anytime by visiting
<http://www.rcdsb.on.ca/en/parents/registration-and-transfers.asp>.

If you are interested in a licensed child care program, please be sure to complete the School-Based Extended Day Program Family Survey at the end of the online registration!

In-Person

In person registration may not be available for 2021 due to COVID-19 protocols. Please contact the elementary school nearest you for specific arrangements.

Both registration methods require you to bring the following documents to your school. If you have questions about the registration process, contact the elementary school nearest you.

Required Documentation (Bring to school at a time designated by the school in accordance with COVID-19 protocols):

- Completed, signed and dated registration form (access the form online, complete it and bring it to school)
- Proof of address (home phone/cable/internet bill) or proof of tenancy/ownership (Ontario Property Assessment Notice or lease agreement or property tax bill)
- Proof of student's age (birth certificate, registration of birth card or passport)
- Student's immunizations records. [Immunization Questionnaire](#) (this form must be printed & filled out in ink)
- Proof of custody where applicable (custody orders, court ordered Guardianship)
- Immigration documents where applicable

Extended Day/Before and After Program for Children between Ages of 3 - 12

In an effort to better understand parent interest and determine the viability of establishing Before and After care at sites across the District, we are asking you to declare whether you would enroll your child in a School-Based Extended Day/Before and After Program for students from Junior Kindergarten up to age 12.

School-Based Extended Day/Before and After Programs operate within the school by an Early Childhood Educator with options for before and after school care and are meant to complement regular school day programming. They are contingent on enrolment and are funded from parent fees. Subsidies may be available from the County of Renfrew <http://www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca/documents/childcare/FeeSubsidyApplicationForm.pdf>.

The School-Based Extended Day Program Family Survey form can be completed from the *Online Registration portal* if you are new to RCDSB and completing the online registration form or from the *Google Survey link* <https://forms.gle/yYSmL5ZTuoJSAc2r7> at the *Board's website* <http://www.rcdsb.on.ca> select the *Extended Day/Before and After Program* page from the *Programs* drop down menu.