



Thunderbird ̓x^w̓x^waʔəs Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

November 10, 2023 / #11

(604) 713-4611 | thunderbird@vsb.bc.ca | www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/thunderbird

Thunderbird Families:

This week we acknowledged our veterans at our annual Indigenous Veterans' Day and Remembrance Day assembly, featuring students from across our school community. Thank you to the students and staff who helped create and participated in this important assembly. The students recited heart felt poems, sang songs, and reflected upon the courage and sacrifices of our veterans. It was a touching performance.

[Kindergarten registration](#) for children born in 2019 **is now open**. All kindergarten applicants are required to apply to their English catchment elementary school. This includes families who wish to apply for choice programs (Early French Immersion, Montessori, Indigenous Focus School, Early Mandarin Bilingual, Nootka Fine Arts) and/or a cross boundary placement. The priority registration period for kindergarten opened on November 1, 2023, and closes at 4 pm on January 31, 2024. In catchment students who apply within this period will be given priority for placement at Thunderbird before late applicants.

A friendly reminder to all families who access the Hot Lunch Program; please return your November Hot Lunch Envelopes to the school as soon as possible. These envelopes help us project the number of meals we need for the month, so returning them on time is very important. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

This Sunday, November 12 is Diwali, or Dipawali. It is India's biggest and most important holiday of the year. The festival gets its name from the row (*avali*) of clay lamps (*diyas*) that Indians light outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects from spiritual darkness. This festival is as important to Indian cultures as the Christmas holiday is to Christians. I hope you have the chance to partake in one of the many festivals happening through the Lower Mainland this weekend.

As the days become darker earlier, we remind students to be safe when around the community. At school, students should be picked up by a trusted adult, or when age appropriate, walk home in groups or pairs. The school has supervision on the playground 20 minutes before and after school. When accessing the breakfast program early in the morning (opens at 8:15 am), please enter through the primary under covered area on the southwest side of the school and remain inside until supervision is available outside.

Lastly, this weekend is a long weekend; the school will be closed Monday, November 13, 2023, in lieu of the statutory holiday, Remembrance Day. I hope all have a chance to reflect upon the sacrifices made by Canada's veterans, and perhaps participate in one of many events in our communities tomorrow. Lest we forget.

With that, have a safe and restful long weekend.

Brad Toews
Principal
Thunderbird Elementary School

"Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing." - Harper Lee

Important Dates

- Sunday, November 12, 2023: Diwali
- Monday, November 13, 2023: Remembrance Day – No school
- Friday, November 17, 2023: PAC Morning Coffee @ 8:45am
- Friday, November 24, 2023: Professional Development Day – No school for students
- Friday, December 1, 2023: Report Cards Home
- Wednesday, December 6, 2023: PAC Meeting @ 6:00 pm – in the library
- Wednesday, December 13, 2023: Christmas Store
- Friday, November 17, 2023: PAC Morning Coffee @ 8:45am
- Wednesday, December 20, 2023: TBCC Christmas Dinner
- Friday, December 22, 2023: PAC Morning Coffee @ 8:45am
 - PJ Day
 - Pancake Breakfast
- Wednesday, November 1, 2023 – Wednesday, January 31, 2024: [Kindergarten Registration \(Students born in 2019\)](#)
- Saturday, December 23, 2023 – Sunday, January 7, 2024: Winter Break
- Monday, January 8, 2024: School Reopens after winter break

Safe Arrival

If your child will be absent or late, please call **604-713-5159 Ext. 81** or Email tbrdattendance@vsb.bc.ca by 9:00 AM.

Please do not call the school office.

School Cash Online – Student Payment System

Please take five minutes to register, even if your preference is to pay in cash.

Visit <https://vsb.schoolcashonline.com>. Then click “Register”. You will need your child’s usual first name, last name, and birth date to register. An email will be sent to you from school cash online. *Please open email and click the link provided to confirm and complete registration.*

Lunch Program

Please return your lunch envelope at the beginning of each month.

PAC News

The Thunderbird Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is now up and running for the 2023-2024 school year. The PAC is a great way to become involved in your child’s educational and school life and contribute to the school. The PAC’s main roles are to promote the education and welfare of students, encourage parent involvement in the school, advise the school on matters relating to the school, and to contribute to a sense of community within the school and between the school, home, and neighbourhood. Our meetings are typically held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm and last approximately an hour, September to June.

The next Friday Morning PAC Coffee @ 8:45pm, and After School Student Hot Chocolate fundraiser @3:00pm is November 17, 2023.

The next PAC meeting of the school year is next **Wednesday, December 6, 6-7 pm** in the library. Dinner and babysitting provided.

RSVP by returning the paper form sent home or emailing pac_tbrd@vsb.bc.ca.

PAC Information and meeting minutes can be found: [HERE](#)

VSB: After the Bell, Podcast

Podcast episodes are released at the end of every month. Subscribe to **VSB: After the Bell** on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#) or wherever you listen to podcasts!