



# Thunderbird ᓄᓂᓄᓂᓄᓂᓄᓂᓄᓂ Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

December 1, 2023 / #14

(604) 713-4611 | [thunderbird@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:thunderbird@vsb.bc.ca) | [www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/thunderbird](http://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/thunderbird)

## Thunderbird Families:

This week, Thunderbird welcomed Ocean Wise, an organization which connects to youth through digital, in-person and mobile programs that encourage ocean literacy and fosters a sense of stewardship of our waters. Ocean Wise set up the Ocean Wise Sea Dome, an immersive ocean adventure that brought marine magic to the school using an inflatable six-metre dome to project 4K footage showing connections between ocean health, climate change, and our daily lives. Our students learned about the Arctic and changes in the sea ice, as well as tropical reefs and the impacts of ocean acidification. They also learned how salmon habitats can be preserved right in BC through enhanced stewardship.

Next week, Chanukah 2023 starts at nightfall on December 7, 2023, and ends at nightfall on December 15, 2023. Chanukah (also spelled Hanukkah), the Festival of Lights, is an 8-day celebration that commemorates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after it was destroyed in 164 BCE. It also celebrates the burning of a small amount of oil that miraculously burned for eight days. Chanukah is typically celebrated at home. Each night, a menorah is lit, and blessings are said. A common tradition is to eat foods fried in oil to commemorate the burning of the miracle oil – think jelly donuts (sufganiyot) and potato pancakes (latkes)! It's also popular to play the game Dreidel. Given its proximity to other winter holidays, it has also become a tradition for many families to exchange gifts on Chanukah. Happy Chanukah!

Next Wednesday, we will fly our flag at half-mast to mark the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. This National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women is about remembering those who have experienced gender-based violence and those who we have lost to it. It is also a time to act. Achieving a Canada free from gender-based violence requires educating ourselves on gender-based violence, supporting survivors in our actions, and speaking up against harmful behaviours.

Please join us for our December PAC meeting **next Wednesday at 6 pm**. 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 contribute to a sense of community within the school and between the school, home, and neighbourhood. Childminding for school-aged Thunderbird students is available, as well as a light pizza dinner.

Also, on **Wednesday, December 20th**, the Thunderbird Community Centre will be hosting a community Christmas Dinner. This dinner has been a much-cherished event in the neighbourhood for years. Please see the attachment or see the Community Centre for more information.

Lastly, over the past few weeks, teachers have been busy assessing and evaluating student learning and working to prepare the first-term report cards. Report Cards are going home **today!** If you have questions regarding your child's reports, please contact your child's teacher.

With that, I wish you a safe and restful weekend.

Brad Toews  
Principal  
Thunderbird Elementary School

Reading is essential for those who seek to rise above the ordinary." - Jim Rohn

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## Important Dates

- Wednesday, December 6, 2023: PAC Meeting @ 6:00 pm – in the library
- Wednesday, December 13, 2023: Christmas Store
- Wednesday, December 20, 2023: TBCC Christmas Dinner
- Friday, December 22, 2023: PAC Morning Coffee @ 8:45 am
  - 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

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## Safe Arrival

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

**Please do not call the school office.**

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## School Cash Online – Student Payment System

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

Visit <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.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 the email and click the link provided to confirm and complete registration.*

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## Lunch Program

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

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## 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 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 6:00 pm and last approximately an hour, from September to June.

The next Friday Morning **PAC Coffee @ 8:45 am** and After School Student **Hot Chocolate fundraiser @3:00 pm** is **December 22, 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](mailto:pac_tbrd@vsb.bc.ca).

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

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## VSBC: After the Bell, Podcast

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

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## 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 opens 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.