



Thunderbird ᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

January 19, 2024 / #19

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

Thunderbird Families:

I hope all were able to enjoy the snow this week. Vancouver and the surrounding area received record snowfall, which prompted Vancouver and neighbouring School Districts to make the difficult decision to close schools. These decisions are not made lightly and are intended for the safety of students, staff, and the community at large. I know that snow can present challenges for families. If any items, such as toques, mittens, coats, or other cold-weather wear are needed, please contact the office and we will do our best to help.

This Monday was Black Excellence Day. As a lead-up to Black History Month, Black Excellence Day is a day to rejoice Black history and learn about Black stories, Black art and Black people, and a day to stand in solidarity with Black Canadians. Black Excellence Day was created by Ninandotoo Society and takes place on January 15th each year, or the preceding Friday if it falls on a weekend or holiday. January 15th is in honour of the great civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who was born on January 15, 1929. We also celebrate the contributions of Black Canadians and the ongoing civil rights struggles of Black Canadians that often go unacknowledged in our history books and school curriculum. At Thunderbird, we strive to bring diverse histories into our teaching and reflect upon historical wrongs, to help us not repeat the shames of our past.

The Vancouver School Board, District #39, and its students, staff and parent community are participating in the 2024 Ministry of Education's electronic and anonymous [Student Learning Survey](#) in cooperation with all other school districts throughout the Province. Parents/Guardians of grade 4 and 7 students at Thunderbird can complete this electronic anonymous survey **any time before May 3, 2024**.

This survey is intended to help the Ministry of Education and school districts plan – allowing parents and students to tell us about their education experience in their school and district. Students in Grades 4 and 7, and their parents and all staff in B.C. public schools are invited to take the annual online satisfaction survey about their school experience.

For parents to complete the survey:

1. Go to any computer that has up-to-date internet browser access at home, work, or school and access: <https://www.awinfosys.com/SurveyFull1/central/main/access.asp>
2. Scroll down to the "**Parent**" section - Direct Access. Select **39 Vancouver** from the pull-down menu next to *District. The school* will then appear, and you select **Thunderbird Elementary**. You can then select your desired language and click the **Log On** button.
3. Complete the survey by clicking on the "radio buttons" for each question. Move to the next set of questions by clicking on **Arrow Button** in the bottom right corner of the screen. If you make a mistake, you can click the back **Arrow Button**.
4. When you have finished the survey, you will get a message thanking you and you are done.

Thank you for participating in this provincial project.

A reminder **for Grade 7 Thunderbird Families**, Van Tech Secondary School is hosting an **online** information session for current Grade 7 students and their parents for those who are interested in attending Van Tech next year. The online session is scheduled for **Monday, January 22nd from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm**. Please refer to the attachment on where to register for this information session and further details.

Also, next week, support the PAC and our grade 7 students with a bottle drive! **All proceeds benefit graduation activities!** Simply save your empties and send them to school Monday, January 22 to Friday, January 26. We accept all refundable beverage containers including cans, drink boxes or pouches, tetra packs, plastic or glass bottles and milk containers. **EVERY CONTAINER COUNTS!**

You can support the PAC year-round by donating your refundable beverage containers at any Return-It Express. Use the school's phone number (604-713-4611) to log in at a kiosk, print a tag and tag your bag. That's it! We appreciate your support!

For a full list of containers, see here: <https://www.return-it.ca/beverage/products/>

For the safety of our students and staff, we remind parents that the Thunderbird staff parking lot at the back of the school should not be used by families for drop off and pick up at any time. This area is for staff only. Parents dropping their children off at the Community Centre childcare facility in the portable should use the Community Centre parking lot off Cassiar Street or street parking, and walk their children in. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Have a safe and restful weekend.

Brad Toews
Principal
Thunderbird Elementary School

“Let’s be reasonable and add an eighth day to the week that is devoted exclusively to reading.” - Lena Dunham

Important Dates

- Friday, January 26, 2024: PAC Morning Coffee @ 8:45 am
- February 2024: Black History Month
- Wednesday, February 7, 2024: PAC Meeting @ 6:00 pm – in the library
- Wednesday, February 7, 2024: Parent Teacher Conferences – **2:00 pm Early Dismissal**
- Thursday, February 8, 2024: Parent Teacher Conferences – **2:00 pm Early Dismissal**
- Saturday, February 10, 2024: Lunar New Year
- Friday, February 16, 2024: Professional Development Day
- Monday, February 19, 2024: Family Day (No School)
- Friday, February 23, 2024: PAC Morning Coffee
- Wednesday, February 28, 2024: Pink Shirt Day
- Thursday, March 7, 2024: Family Literacy Night 4 pm – 6 pm
- Sunday, March 10, 2024: Ramadan Begins
- Tuesday, March 12, 2024: Report Card #2 Goes Home
- Friday, March 15, 2024: PAC Morning Coffee
- Saturday, March 16, 2024 – Monday, March April 1, 2024: Spring Break
- Tuesday, April 2, 2024: School Reopens after spring 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 the email and click the link provided to confirm and complete registration.*

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 **January 26, 2024.**

The next PAC meeting of the school year is next **Wednesday, February 7, 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!
