



# Thunderbird ᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐ Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

September 8, 2023 / #2

(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,

As we conclude our first week of the new school year, I extend my gratitude for your patience as we work to transition students into their new classes. Our priority is to create optimal learning environments that cater to the unique needs of each child, carefully considering classroom dynamics and composition. Students will be meeting their new teachers on Monday morning.

It's been an absolute pleasure to see both new and returning students, along with their families. I'm excited about the promising school year ahead, filled with enriching learning experiences and social growth opportunities.

On Friday, September 29, 2023, Thunderbird will be commemorating [Orange Shirt Day](#). This annual event holds great significance as we reflect on the experiences of residential school survivors and their families, reaffirm our commitment to the healing journey, and continue our path towards reconciliation. At Thunderbird, we are committed to fostering greater awareness, and appreciation for Indigenous histories, traditions, cultures, and contributions among all our students.

Monday, October 2, 2023, is a statutory holiday – [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#). School will be closed on this day.

In the spirit of embracing environmentally conscious practices, Thunderbird encourages active transportation such as walking or biking to and from school. This not only reduces our ecological footprint, but also promotes a healthier lifestyle. For those who choose to bike to school, remember to secure your bike with a lock and wear a helmet. Bike racks are conveniently located at the front entrance on Cassiar Street, as well as on the primary and intermediate playgrounds.

While personal devices and cellphones have their merits outside of school, they can pose as distractions during the learning process. We acknowledge the challenge of balancing technology use, social media engagement, student safety, and classroom focus. At Thunderbird, we kindly request that students leave personal devices, including cellphones, and other valuables at home whenever possible. Should they need to bring a cellphone to school, please ensure it is on silent mode and stored inside their backpacks from 9:00 am to 3:03 pm. In rare instances that require students to contact home, or vice versa, during school hours, students and parents or guardians can communicate through the main school office.

The VSB is offering parents access to two voluntary student accident plans which offer coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical/dental expenses, and critical illness. The two companies that are offering this product are the IA Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP) and Study Insured. Families can register online to purchase and participate in either of these plans by using the URL's provided below:

<https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>  
[www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com](http://www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com)

During recess and lunch breaks, students will be enjoying the outdoors come rain or shine. Please ensure they are dressed appropriately for the weather and have an extra set of clothes if needed.

Next Friday is individual student photo day. Photos will be taken in the morning; Dress to impress!

On Wednesday, September 27 at 5:00pm to 6:30pm, please join us for our *Meet the Teacher* evening. The evening will begin promptly at 5:00pm in the lunchroom with a quick greeting and introduction of our teaching staff, followed by two 20-minute sessions in which parents and guardians are welcomed to visit their child's classroom. After the sessions, there will be a mingle with light refreshments in the lunchroom. Please enter the lunchroom through the south side undercover area.

This year, we have some staff changes. I'd like to say goodbye to Nancy Espinoza - counsellor, Ms. Lana - student support, Ms. Corrine – student support, Jennaya – Indigenous Enhancement Worker, and Paula – office support. They will be missed. Conversely, I'd like to welcome, Ms. Khunguray (Ms. K) – office support, Kate Goodwin – counsellor, and Ms. Brenie – student support.

Finally, my door is always open to address any questions, concerns, suggestions, or compliments pertaining to your child's safety and educational journey. Remember to keep an eye on the calendar items below and regularly visit our website for school and district updates.

Once again welcome back and have a safe and restful weekend.

Brad Toews  
Principal

“Reading is a basic tool in the living of a good life.” - Mortimer J. Adler

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## Important Dates

- Wednesday, September 13, 2023: PAC Meeting @ 6:00 pm – in the library
- Thursday, September 14, 2023: First full day for kindergarten students
- Wednesday, September 27, 2023: Meet the Teacher Night
- Friday, September 15, 2023: Individual Student Photos
- Friday, September 22, 2023: Professional Development Day – No school for students
- Friday, September 29, 2023: [Orange Shirt Day](#)
- Monday, October 2, 2023: [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#) – No school
- Friday, October 6, 2023: Thunderbird [Terry Fox Run](#)

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## Safe Arrival

If your child will be absent or late, please call **604-713-5159 Ext. 81** 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 email and click the link provided to confirm and complete registration.*

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## School Fees

The School Supply Fee for 2023-2024 will be \$35 per student. This fee covers basic consumable school supplies used for students’ personal use such as paper, writing tools, glue, erasers, exercise books and art supplies. Supplies are provided for the full year. *Parents do not have to purchase supplies.* The agenda fee for Grade 3-7 students will be \$6 and Jump Math workbooks (2) will be \$24, if applicable.

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## PAC News: SEPTEMBER MEETING AND ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Welcome back from the PAC! The first PAC meeting of the school year is next **Wednesday, September 13, 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). The September meeting includes the annual elections for the following PAC Executive positions: Co-Chair, Treasurer, Fundraising Coordinator and Secretary. Attend next week’s meeting or email the PAC if you’re interested in joining the Executive. The more folks we have involved with the PAC, the more the PAC can do for the school!

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