



# ᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐ Thunderbird Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

February 9, 2024 / #22

(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)

ᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐ Thunderbird Families:

Saturday, **February 10, 2024**, is the Lunar New Year. It marks the first new moon of the [lunisolar calendars](#) traditional to many East Asian countries including China, South Korea, Vietnam and more, which are regulated by the cycles of the moon and sun. 2024 is a [Year of the Dragon](#), more specifically, Wood Dragon, starting from February 10th, 2024, and lasting until January 28th, 2025. Recent years of the Dragon are 2012, 2000, and 1988. If you were born in one of the above years, then you are a Dragon. You will experience your zodiac birth sign year (benmingnian) in 2024, which is considered bad luck. Read more on [How to Make Good Luck in Your Zodiac Year \(Benmingnian\) easily](#). The 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac are Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig. Thunderbird Student Council has a few activities planned for students such as art projects and stories.

**Kindergarten to Grade 6 parents only.** To prepare for the 2024-2025 school year we need to know if your child will be returning to Thunderbird in September 2024. Please fill out our [INTENT TO RETURN FORM HERE](#)

This week, parents and teachers engaged in our second set of conferences to communicate student learning. The teachers enjoyed meeting with parents and guardians to support their students in their educational journeys. Education is a fundamental partnership between the school and family, and meaningful communication is integral to the learning experience. Thank you to all who participated. Please remember, while we have set times for conferences, teachers are available by appointment throughout the year if you have questions or wish to speak about your child's learning. Feel free to reach out any time.

On Friday, January 26, the provincial government announced measures to improve student safety online. This included information about restricting cell phones in schools to be put in place by the next school year. Currently, in the VSB, several measures are in place to guide the appropriate use of cell phones and other devices. These include the [District Student Code of Conduct](#) and [Acceptable Use of Technology](#) administrative procedures.

At Thunderbird, the expectation for students is that cell phones stay home, if possible, or remain in bags during school hours. Staff will work with the Ministry of Education and Child Care to ensure that any necessary changes are implemented ahead of September 2024. More information will be shared as it becomes available. Learn more about the provincial government's [announcement](#).

Join us on **February 23 at 8:15 am** for our first **Books for Breakfast** in our lunchroom! **Books for Breakfast** is an opportunity for families to read together over breakfast at the school. There will be a variety of breakfast options and books! We encourage parents and guardians to attend with their children! Hope to see you there.

As part of the Vancouver Police Department's youth outreach program the VPD and Thunderbird will be hosting a noon-hour basketball game on **Wednesday, February 21** with our grade 6 and 7 students. This game is meant to connect the VPD with the community, foster positive relationships, and enhance social responsibility amongst young people.

Thunderbird Staff, in collaboration with the Thunderbird PAC, will be hosting a [Family Literacy Night](#) on **Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**. This night will begin with an Indigenous Welcome from Musqueam Artist Jody Sparrow, followed by fun Literacy Stations run by teachers, and a demonstration of Jody's work in the gym. Also, there will be a showcase of student artwork in the library. At 5:30 pm, we will have pizza and refreshments in the lunchroom. Please RSVP for this event [here](#)

Next week is an extra-long weekend for our students; there is a **Professional Day on Friday, February 16**, followed by the statutory holiday, Family Day, **on Monday, February 19**. I hope you all have the opportunity to spend time with loved ones and enjoy the company of family and friends. Please make any needed childcare arrangements, as the school will be closed to students on these days.

Have a safe and restful weekend.

Brad Toews  
Principal  
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"In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you." - Mortimer J. Adler

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### Important Dates

- February 2024: Black History Month
- 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 and *Books for Breakfast*
- 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 and *Books for Breakfast*
- Saturday, March 16, 2024 – Monday, March April 1, 2024: Spring Break
- Monday, April 1, 2024: Easter Holiday – School Closed
- Tuesday, April 2, 2024: School Reopens after spring break
- Wednesday, April 3, 2024: PAC Meeting @ 6:00 pm – in the library
- Monday, April 22, 2024: Professional Development Day
- Friday, April 26, 2024: PAC Morning Coffee and *Books for Breakfast*
- Tuesday, April 30, 2024: Class Photographs

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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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### 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 **February 23, 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](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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### Working for the VSB

The Vancouver School District in partnership with the Burnaby School District, offers a [6-month Education Assistant program](#). The next EA cohort begins in April 2024 and can lead to job working for a Metro Vancouver school district, including Vancouver and Burnaby. The program is now accepting applications: <http://www.burnabyccce.ca/courses/education-assistant-diploma/>