



# Thunderbird ᓄᓂᓄᓂᓄᓂᓄᓂ Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

September 15, 2023 / #3

(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 settle into the new school year, we're thrilled to see students enjoying their classrooms and reconnecting with old friends while forming new bonds with both peers and staff. A warm welcome goes out to our newest additions, the kindergarten students, who have now transitioned to full-time attendance after a successful gradual entry. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the kindergarten team, staff, and older students for their efforts in making the kindergartners feel right at home.

Now that we're in full swing, we'd like to remind you of some important matters and upcoming events.

**School Fees:** School fees are now due. At Thunderbird, we prioritize students' access to school resources and programs and never want financial concerns to be a barrier. We will never deny access to school programming or resources to students. If you require assistance or prefer to arrange installment payments, please contact the school administration.

**Attendance:** If your child will be absent or arriving late, kindly notify our office team through our safe arrival line. You can reach us at 604-713-5159 ext. 81 or via email at [tbrdattendance@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:tbrdattendance@vsb.bc.ca). Students arriving after the 9 am bell should sign in at the office and obtain a late slip before proceeding to class. To ensure a smooth start to the day, we encourage you to have your child arrive at their designated drop-off area by 8:55 am.

**Forms and Consent:** Verification forms were sent home this week. Please review the verification form carefully and make note of any necessary changes. Kindly complete all consent forms, sign them, and promptly return them to the school.

**Lunch:** For students who are not on our lunch program, please ensure a lunch is packed and brought to school at the beginning of the day. The office does not have the capacity to accept and deliver lunches for students. The office will not accept third party food deliveries, such as Uber Eats and Skip the Dishes.

**Nutrition Programs:** Our hot lunch and breakfast programs are now in full operation. **The breakfast program**, starting at 8:15 am, is available to all students free of charge. Research tells us good nutrition, especially in the morning, helps students show up at school prepared to learn. Improvements in nutrition make students healthier and contributes to fewer absences. Studies show that malnutrition leads to behavior problems, and that sugar has a negative impact on child behavior. However, these effects can be counteracted when children consume a balanced diet that includes protein, fat, complex carbohydrates, and fiber. Students will have more time in class, and students will have fewer interruptions in learning over the course of the school year. With that, we encourage all to come and take advantage of our breakfast program. Please enter through the primary under covered area at the southwest side of the school. The **lunch program** is now underway. Please remember to return the signed lunch envelopes for September, and monthly after that.

The Vancouver School District and our community partners are committed to having safe, caring, and inclusive schools. If a student makes a threat of violence or harm to other students, staff, or the school community the school will initiate the VSB student risk threat assessment process. Please click [https://sbvsbstorage.blob.core.windows.net/docs/4eeb8ea6-fd20-4909-b08d-93941eeb0daa\\_VSB%E2%80%9320Student%20Threat%20Risk%20Assessment%20Protocol-Fair%20Notice.pdf](https://sbvsbstorage.blob.core.windows.net/docs/4eeb8ea6-fd20-4909-b08d-93941eeb0daa_VSB%E2%80%9320Student%20Threat%20Risk%20Assessment%20Protocol-Fair%20Notice.pdf) to see the **Vancouver School Board's STUDENT THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL**. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Also, Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the school's first Professional Day. Please ensure childcare arrangements, as staff will be engaged in professional learning and the school will be closed.

On Wednesday, September 27 at 5:00pm to 6:30pm please join us for our *Meet the Teacher and PAC* 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.

Thunderbird Elementary is proud to be participating in the Terry Fox School Run. Please join us and continue the legacy of one of our greatest Canadian heroes. Donate at: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/ThunderbirdElementary> Thank you for joining us in the fight against cancer!

Also, Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the school's first Professional Day. Please ensure childcare arrangements, as staff will be engaged in professional learning and the school will be closed.

Have a safe and restful weekend.

Brad Toews  
Principal

"A children's story that can only be enjoyed by children is not a good children's story in the slightest." - C.S. Lewis

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## Important Dates

- Friday, September 22, 2023: Professional Development Day – No school for students
- Wednesday, September 27, 2023: Meet the Teacher and PAC Night
- Friday, September 29, 2023: [Orange Shirt Day](#)
- Monday, October 2, 2023: [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#) – No school
- Wednesday, October 4, 2023: PAC Meeting @ 6:00 pm – in the library
- Friday, October 6, 2023: Thunderbird [Terry Fox Run](#) - [Donate Here](#)

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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

The next PAC meeting of the school year is next **Wednesday, October 4, 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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