



Thunderbird ᓃᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

October 13, 2023 / #7

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

Thunderbird ᓃᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ Families:

This week, [SPEC](#) (Society Providing Conservation Education) led garden lessons to Thunderbird students. SPEC has been a valued partner with our school community for the past 8 years! We are grateful for their time and expertise they share with our community.

Next week, we will participate in an earthquake drill, [the Great British Columbia ShakeOut](#). The Great British Columbia ShakeOut is an annual opportunity to practice how to be safer during big earthquakes: "Drop, Cover, and Hold On." We used this time to prepare, review, and update our emergency preparedness plans and take stock of our supplies to best respond to a seismic event. Thank you to our PAC for helping us fund a student emergency care kit, meant to provide activities for students if we were not able to occupy the building for an extended time period.

Our Parent Teacher CSL Conferences (Communicating Student Learning) will be held on October 25 and October 26, starting at 2:00 pm. These days will be early dismissal days for children. For the conferences, there will be an option for **In-Person** or **Virtual TEAMS Meetings** through our online booking page [here](#). There will be an option to request a translator, if needed. Booking is now open. Please contact your teacher with any questions, or if you are unable to make these dates.

As Halloween is fast approaching, students and families are beginning to plan their costumes for our annual Halloween parade on October 31, please remember it is meant to be fun and exciting, however, some costume choices run the risk of offending others with costumes that are culturally offensive. It is important not to inadvertently mimic culture by culturally appropriating racial or ethnic groups or wear costumes that promote or normalize violence. Costumes should not include weapons and other props of violence. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in choosing a school appropriate costume.

In anticipation of the City of Vancouver's new draft plan for the Rupert and Renfrew Station Area, they are hosting a series of events to highlight Still Creek and the central role it will play in the plan. From flood protection to habitat and ecology, Still Creek, will be key to the future of the neighbourhood. The [Still Creek Watershed Enhancement Opportunities Study](#) is a new technical study that will guide future work in Still Creek including creek widening and daylighting! The City wants to celebrate this unique neighbourhood amenity with the community, and give everyone a chance to learn more about the creek and update about the community art project with a festival.

Still Creek Festival will be held Saturday, November 4th from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. It will be in the northeast corner of the Grandview Superstore parking lot at 3185 Grandview Highway, beside a daylight portion of Still Creek and the original Fish on Fences Still Creek Mural, that was completed in 2004 when the City released its first Still Creek Enhancement Study. [Stream of Dreams](#) will be at the event, leading activities to paint new wooden fish to update the existing mural, [Still Moon Arts](#) will be leading needle felting activities, including the chance to add to their Community Vision Quilt, a needle-felted way to contribute your ideas for the future of the community, tours of the Beaver Pond(er)ing Lodging sculpture and the chance to try some wearable bird puppets. Chris Hamilton will provide children's entertainment, and there will be face-painting and other child-friendly activities. The event is designed for all ages to have some fun, learn about the future of Still Creek and the upcoming Rupert and Renfrew Station Area Plan. Please see the attached flyers.

Lastly, please remember that next Friday, October 20 is a Professional Day. Please ensure childcare arrangements, as staff will be engaged in professional learning and the school will be closed.

I wish you a safe and restful weekend.

Brad Toews
Principal
Thunderbird Elementary School

"Never put off till tomorrow the book you can read today." - Holbrook Jackson

Important Dates

- Thursday, October 19, 2023: The Great Canadian Shakeout Earthquake Drill
- Friday, October 20, 2023: Professional Development Day – No school for students
- Wednesday, [October 25, 2023: Parent Teacher Conferences](#) – **2:00pm Early Dismissal**
- Thursday, [October 26, 2023: Parent Teacher Conferences](#) – **2:00pm Early Dismissal**
- Friday, October 27, 2023: PAC Morning Coffee @ 8:45am
- Tuesday, October 31, 2023: Halloween / Halloween Parade
- Wednesday, November 1, 2023: PAC Meeting @ 6:00 pm – in the library
- November 6, 2023: Individual Student Photo Retake
- Please return your lunch envelope at the beginning of each month.

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 email and click the link provided to confirm and complete registration.*

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.

Lunch Program

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

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

The next Friday PAC Morning Coffee is October 27, 2023 @ 8:45am

The next PAC meeting of the school year is next **Wednesday, November 1, 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

Kicking off season 2 of [VSB: After the Bell](#), we take a deep dive into VSB’s first Literacy Framework – what literacy is, what the framework does and what it means for student learning. In our matter-of-the-month segment, we turn our attention to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) in the wake of recent anti-SOGI protests and talk about why SOGI education is still important today. 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!
