



Thunderbird ᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐ Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

October 27, 2023 / #9

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

Thunderbird Families:

The teachers enjoyed meeting with parents and guardians at our first Parent Teacher CSL Conferences (Communicating Student Learning). I heard many great successes and plans to support learning. Education is very much a fundamental partnership between Student, School and Family, and meaningful communication is integral to the learning experience. We honour the care and guidance families give to their children and appreciate the support to teachers and the school to further student learning and to create positive relationships with the common purpose of raising competent, compassionate and kind young people who are ready to make positive and impactful contributions to society. We look forward to meeting once again in February of 2024 for CSL Conferences. If anything arises between now and then, please feel free to contact your teacher at any time.

A friendly reminder to all families who access the Hot Lunch Program; please return your November Hot Lunch Envelopes to the school as soon as possible. These envelopes help us project the number of meals we need for the month, so returning them on time is very important. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Tuesday is our Halloween parade. 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.

Also, Halloween is a time for spooky thrills and imagination. But the holiday also brings some extra risks for children and teens. Did you know that child pedestrian injuries are more likely on Halloween than on any other night of the year. Help keep Halloween fun and safe for your family with these tips.

- **Always accompany young children** on their neighborhood rounds. If trick-or-treating doesn't start until after dark where you live, consider checking with your town or park district for Halloween activities offered earlier in the day. Research shows that evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. are the riskiest times of day for child pedestrians.
- **If your older children are trick-or-treating alone**, plan and review the route that is acceptable to you. Agree on a specific time when they should return home and get flashlights with batteries for everyone.
- **Talk with kids about the risk of distracted walking.** This includes text messaging, talking on or looking at the mobile phone and listening to music.
- **Cross the street as a group in established crosswalks.** Most (62%) child pedestrian traffic fatalities occurred mid-block, rather than at intersections. Make sure kids know not to cross the street between parked cars or out of driveways or alleys.
- **Don't assume cars will stop just** because they have the right of way. Motorists may have trouble seeing trick-or-treaters.
- **Stay on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk.** If no sidewalk is available, walk at the far edge of the roadway facing traffic. Only go to homes with a porch light on and, ideally, a well-lit pathway.
- **Remember:** it's about having fun; injuries are never fun.

Also, the Thunderbird PAC clothing sale has been extended to October 31st. Orders can be placed online <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com> or on the paper form.

Lastly, [kindergarten registration](#) for children born in 2019 begins on November 1, 2023. All kindergarten applicants are required to apply to their English catchment elementary school. This includes families who wish to apply for choice programs (Early French Immersion, Montessori, Indigenous Focus School, Early Mandarin Bilingual, Nootka Fine Arts) and/or a cross boundary placement. The priority registration period for kindergarten opens on November 1, 2023, and closes at 4 pm on January 31, 2024. In catchment students who apply within this period will be given priority for placement at Thunderbird before late applicants.

I wish you a safe and restful weekend.

Brad Toews
Principal
Thunderbird Elementary School

“Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or a duty. It should be offered as a gift.” - Kate DiCamillo

Important Dates

- Tuesday, October 31, 2023: Halloween / Halloween Parade
- Wednesday, November 1, 2023: PAC Meeting @ 6:00 pm – in the library
- Wednesday, November 1, 2023 – Wednesday, January 31, 2024: [Kindergarten Registration \(Students born in 2019\)](#)
- November 6, 2023: Individual Student Photo Retakes
- Wednesday, November 8, 2023: Aboriginal Veteran’s Day
- Friday, November 10, 2023: Remembrance and Aboriginal Veteran’s Day School Assembly
- Saturday, November 11, 2023: Remembrance Day
- Monday, November 13, 2023: Holiday in lieu – **No school**
- Friday, November 17, 2023: PAC Morning Coffee @ 8:45am
- Friday, November 24, 2023: Professional Development Day – **No school for students**
- Friday, December 1, 2023: Report Cards Home
- Wednesday, December 6, 2023: PAC Meeting @ 6:00 pm – in the library
- Wednesday, December 13, 2023: Christmas Store
- Wednesday, December 20, 2023: TBCC Christmas Dinner

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.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.*

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 are the Morning PAC Coffee @ **8:45am**, and the After School Student Hot Chocolate fundraiser @**3:00pm, October 27, 2023.**

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!