



ᓃᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ Thunderbird Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

March 1, 2024 / #25

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

ᓃᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ Thunderbird Families:

This week, many of our Thunderbird students had the opportunity to make art with the Van Go program from [Arts Umbrella](#). We made art inspired by mandalas. Mandala means circle in the Sanskrit language. We can see circular flowers and other circular patterns in nature and all around us in the world. We used pastels and water colours. Thank you to [Arts Umbrella](#) for this wonderful opportunity, and to the staff that made it happen.

Imagine a gender equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Thunderbird will be recognizing International Women's Day, Friday, March 8th. At Thunderbird we will focus on the contributions of strong women in our society and our own personal lives.

Next week we will be hosting a [Family Literacy Night](#) on Thursday, **March 7th 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 Wednesday we will have lunchtime soccer for grade 3 girls and up in our gymnasium. Interested students will work with Carrie Serwetnyk, a former forward with Canada's women national soccer team from 1986 to 1991, to learn skills, have fun, and develop a passion for sport. This program brought to us by [Equal Play](#), who's goal is to create positive changes for girls and women on and off the field.

The importance of a [code of conduct](#) cannot be overstated for any organization, especially schools. Simply writing a code of conduct won't automatically change culture and behaviour, but it is road map to acceptable and respectful behaviour that must be created, taught, and revisited often. Thunderbird's Code of Conduct is designed to promote socially responsible behaviours that contribute to a safe, caring, and orderly learning environment. It is intended to encourage cooperation between all members of the school community, children and adults alike. Click here to visit our [Code of Conduct](#).

In April, students in grades 4 and 7 will be taking the Student Learning Survey (SLS). The survey has been administered every year in B.C. public schools since 2001. Prior to 2016-17 it was known as the Student Satisfaction Survey. The SLS provides feedback on the implementation of the curriculum changes, learning environment, student wellness and satisfaction, student belonging and engagement, and career preparation. The SLS is the only source of province-wide information about students' learning experiences through the perspectives of students, parents, guardians/caregivers, and school staff. Schools and districts use the SLS to make informed decisions around long-term planning and goal-setting, and in providing individual students personalized support. In 2021, the student survey underwent a review to accommodate an updated conceptual framework that align questions with the core competencies of the curriculum and the British Columbia's Policy for Student Success. **Please see the attached document.**

In two weeks' time we will be hosting another **Books for Breakfast**. This is an opportunity for families to read together over breakfast at the school. There will be food and coffee provided. Looking forward to seeing you for **Books for Breakfast** on **Friday, March 15 @ 8:15am**. ☺

A friendly reminder to all families who access the Hot Lunch Program; please return your March 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.

Lastly please join us for our March PAC meeting next **Wednesday, March 6th at 6pm**. The PAC is a great way to become involved in your child's educational and school life and to 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. Meetings are typically held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm in the library and are about an hour. Childminding for school aged Thunderbird students is available.

Have a safe and restful weekend.

Brad Toews

Principal

ᓃᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ Thunderbird Elementary School

"Reading is an exercise in empathy; an exercise in walking in someone else's shoes for a while." - Malorie Blackman

Important Dates

- Thursday, March 7, 2024: Family Literacy Night 4 pm – 6 pm
- Friday, March 8, 2024: International Women’s Day
- 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

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.

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 is March 15, 2024.**

The next PAC meeting of the school year is **Wednesday, March 6, 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

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!

Lunch Program

A friendly reminder to all families who access the Hot Lunch Program; please return your March 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.