



ᓃᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ Thunderbird Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

April 12, 2024 / #29

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

ᓃᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ Thunderbird Families:

This Saturday is Vaisakhi. Vaisakhi is a spring festival which happens on the 13th or 14th April every year. This year, Vaisakhi takes place on Saturday, April 13. Vaisakhi was originally a harvest festival in the Punjab until it became Sikhism's most important festival. It celebrates the creation of the Khalsa order in 1699. It promotes justice and equality and the creation of a more equal and just society. On Vaisakhi, Sikhs go to the Gurdwara (Sikh place of worship) in the morning for a service, followed by a procession through the streets with lots of singing, chanting and colourful clothes. The procession is called the Nagar Kirtan, which concludes in a special meal with family and friends at the end of the day. Many Vancouverites may be familiar with the sight of annual colourful Vaisakhi parades, locally occurring along Main and Fraser streets in Vancouver, and in Surrey, which hosts the largest Vaisakhi parade in the world outside of India. I hope you have the opportunity to witness this amazing festival for yourself!

Two Mondays from now, there is a Professional Day, **Monday, April 22, 2024**. Please make any needed childcare arrangements, as the school will be closed to students on this day.

Thunderbird will recognise Earth Week from **April 22 to Friday, April 26**, which kicks off with Earth Day on Monday April 22 (Which is a pro-d day!). To keep containers out for landfills and to support recycling habits, we will be collecting refundable containers for the PAC's bottle drive fundraiser. Simply save your empties and send them to school in a clear plastic bag, if possible. All proceeds go to our grade 7 grads. Every container counts! For a full list of containers, see here: <https://www.return-it.ca/beverage/products/>.

[Summer School registration](#) will open on **Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at noon**. The VSB Summer School offers a wide range of Ministry funded courses; from remedial, which provides extra help, to enrichment, which extends student learning. Please consider enrolling! Course catalogs can be found online here: <https://media.vsb.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/2024-sl-program-brochure.ab18ec71539.pdf>

The Saint James Music Academy (SJMA) is now accepting student applications for September 2024. Their goal is to create a community of learning where children and youth are inspired by the challenges and joys of making music together. At SJMA, choirs & orchestras are communities of music-making where each child discovers the important role they play through cooperation, team building, and the collective pursuit of excellence. They welcome children and youth with all levels of experience into their Junior and Senior programs. A light meal is provided to all students before class begins, and their program **is offered free of charge** to our families. You can visit their website to learn more at www.sjma.ca or call us at 778-709-7731.

The application link for their program is here: https://sjma.formstack.com/forms/application_form

Sign up is now open for the PAC's Family Photo Fundraiser on **Saturday, April 20, 2024**. Visit the sign up page at <https://streetstudio.ca/thunderbird> to book your time. See the flyer attached for more info and pricing.

The PAC's monthly after school Lemonade and Treat Sale this month will be held next **Friday, April 19 @ 3:00pm**.

Have a safe and restful weekend,

Brad Toews
Principal
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"People can lose their lives in libraries. They ought to be warned." - Saul Bellow

Important Dates

- Saturday, April 13, 2024: Vaisakhi
- Monday, April 22, 2024: Professional Development Day
- Monday, April 22, 2024: Earth Day
- Friday, April 26, 2024: PAC Morning Coffee and *Books for Breakfast*
- Tuesday, April 30, 2024: Class Photographs
- Wednesday, May 1, 2024: PAC Meeting @ 6:00 pm – in the library
- Thursday, May 2, 2024: ShakeOut BC Earthquake Drill
- Monday, May 20, 2024: Victoria Day Statutory Holiday – No School
- Friday, May 24, 2024: Sport's Day in the morning
- Friday, May 31, 2024: PAC Morning Coffee and *Books for Breakfast*
- Wednesday, June 5, 2024: PAC AGM @ 6:00 pm – in the library
- Sunday, June 16, 2024: Father's Day
- Thursday, June 20, 2024: Grade 7 Moving Forward Ceremony - AM
- Friday, June 21, 2024: National Indigenous People's Day
- Monday, June 24, 2024: Report Card #3 Goes Home
- Wednesday, June 26, 2024: School Picnic – Sunrise Park
- Thursday, June 27, 2024: Last of School

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 April 26, 2024.**

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

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!
