



šxʷəxʷaʔəs Thunderbird Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

December 20, 2024 / #16

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

šxʷəxʷaʔəs Thunderbird Families:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students, staff, and parents for their support so far this school year. Our school is a tight-knit community, dedicated to raising capable, well-rounded, and compassionate young people; and this can only be done as a community dedicated to learning. I am heartened to see the kindness, commitment, and hard work that our students display, day in and day out. As we enter the New Year, I am optimistic for the future and am positive this work will continue into the new year. With that, I wish you all a safe, peaceful, and joyful winter season and a happy New Year.

This Wednesday, the Thunderbird Community Centre hosted its annual Christmas Dinner, and it was a success. Students, their families, and community members were greeted with warm wishes, gifts for the children, and a fantastic turkey dinner. A big thank you to Lorraine and the entire community centre team for making this event possible. It truly stands out as one of the best school events of the year.

This year, Chanukah 2025 begins at nightfall on December 25, 2024, and ends at nightfall on January 2, 2025. Chanukah (also spelled Hanukkah), the Festival of Lights, is an 8-day celebration commemorating the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after its destruction in 164 BCE. It also celebrates the miracle of a small amount of oil burning for eight days. Chanukah is typically celebrated at home, with the lighting of the menorah and the recitation of blessings each night. Traditional foods fried in oil, such as jelly donuts (sufganiyot) and potato pancakes (latkes), are enjoyed to honor the miracle of the oil. The game of Dreidel is also a popular tradition. Given its proximity to other winter holidays, many families exchange gifts during Chanukah. Happy Chanukah!

Today, students were treated to a pancake breakfast, with music from the Van Tech Band, and a few songs sung by our students. It was great to celebrate the winter season together in such a festive way. Thank you to all the staff who lent a helping hand, to Ms. Kilburn for leading the Van Tech band, and to the Thunderbird Community Centre for lending us equipment. It was a combined effort that contributed to its success.

Please see the attached [Thunderbird Community Centre Winter Recreation Guide](#) brochure for their latest offerings starting in the new year.

When we return from our winter break on January 6, 2025, PAC will be hosting a bottle drive supporting our grade 7 grads. Over the break, please save your clean refundable bottles and other refundable containers and bring them to school in a clear plastic bag to be returned to our local Return-It depot. Thank you for your support! See attached.

Please remember the school will be closed from Saturday, December 21, 2024, and will reopen on Monday, January 6, 2025, for a regular school day.

Happy Holidays!

Brad Toews

Principal

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"There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all." - Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

Important Dates

- **Monday, January 6, 2025:** *First Day Back from Winter Break*
 - **Wednesday, January 8, 2025:** *PAC Meeting @ 6:00pm in the library*
 - **Monday, January 20, 2025:** *Professional Development Day – No School*
 - **Friday, January 31, 2025:** *Books For Breakfast*
 - **Wednesday, February 5, 2025:** *PAC Meeting @ 6:00pm in the library*
 - **Friday, February 14, 2025:** *Professional Development Day – No School*
 - **Monday, February 17, 2025:** *Family Day Stat Holiday – No school*
 - **Monday, February 24, 2025:** *Pink Shirt Day*
 - **Friday, February 28, 2025:** *Books For Breakfast*
 - **Friday, February 28, 2025:** *Parent Reading Workshop – Kindergarten to Grade 2 @ 9am – 10:30am in the lunchroom*
 - **Friday, February 28, 2025:** *Ramadan Begins*
 - **Wednesday, March 5, 2025:** *PAC Meeting @ 6:00pm in the library*
 - **Monday, March 10, 2025:** *Report Card #2 Goes Home*
 - **Wednesday, March 12, 2025:** *Family Learning Night 4pm – 6pm*
 - **March 17-28, 2025:** *Spring Break – School Closed*
 - **Monday, March 31, 2025:** *First Day Back from Spring Break*
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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 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 2024-2025 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 PAC meeting is **Wednesday, January 6, 6-7 pm** in the library. Dinner and babysitting for school aged children are 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!

PAC T-Shirts - \$10.00

Children's *ᓃᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ* **Thunderbird T-shirts** in orange or pink, sized xs - xxl are for sale through the office. All proceeds go to support PAC events benefitting students and families.

Snow Closures

As the weather is getting colder, we remind parents that at this time of year and throughout the winter, snow is always a possibility. In the event of snow, please check our [school website](#), the [Vancouver School Board website](#) or the list of media outlets below for information on school closures **after 6:30am**
