



ᓄᓂᓄᓂᓄᓂ Thunderbird Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

January 10, 2025 / #17

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

ᓄᓂᓄᓂᓄᓂ Thunderbird Families:

Welcome back from the winter break, and Happy New Year to all! I hope you enjoyed a restful break connecting with family and friends. As we step into this new year, it provides a valuable opportunity to reflect on the successes and challenges of the past year. It's a time to set new goals or recommit to existing ones, fostering positive growth in our lives. The Thunderbird staff is dedicated to supporting students on this journey. We're excited to introduce students to new and exciting educational and learning opportunities each day. Our goal is to help students create and achieve realistic learning goals in a safe and caring environment. Here's to a year of growth, learning, and collective success!

Next Wednesday is Black Excellence Day. As a lead-up to Black History Month, Black Excellence Day is a day to rejoice Black history and learn about Black stories, Black art and Black people, and a day to stand in solidarity with Black Canadians. Black Excellence Day was created by Ninandotoo Society and takes place on January 15th each year, or the preceding Friday if it falls on a weekend or holiday. January 15th is in honour of the great civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who was born on January 15, 1929. We also celebrate the contributions of Black Canadians and the ongoing civil rights struggles of Black Canadians that often go unacknowledged in our history books and school curriculum. At Thunderbird, we strive to bring diverse histories into our teaching and reflect upon historical wrongs, to help us not repeat the shames of our past.

For parents and caregivers of primary grade students (kindergarten to grade 2), you are invited to attend a reading workshop hosted by the One-to-One Literacy Society. Adults will spend 60 minutes in an interactive workshop learning positive reading strategies to support their young readers at home. After the workshop, adults will have time to read and practice some of the strategies with their child. We hope to see all kindergarten to grade 2 parents there! The workshop will be held on **Friday, February 28, 2025, from 9:00 am to 10:30 AM** in the lunchroom, immediately after Books for Breakfast. Please see the attached PDF for information and how to register.

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 6:00 am:

- CKNW (980 AM)
- CBC (690 AM, 105.7 FM)
- CJVB (1470 AM)
- CFHG (96.1 FM)
- CKWX (1130 AM)
- BCTV/Global (Cable channel 11)
- CITY TV (Cable channel 13)

Please remember that Monday, January 20, 2025, is a Professional Day. Ensure childcare arrangements are made, as staff will be engaged in professional learning and the school will be closed.

Thank you to all who participated in our bottle drive. Proceeds will go towards funding grade 7 graduation activities and other PAC initiatives, as well as ensuring recyclables are properly recycled with our environment in mind.

With that, welcome back and have a safe and restful weekend.

Brad Toews

Principal

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“Wear the old coat and buy the new book.” - Austin Phelps

Important Dates

- **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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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 *ᑭᑎᑭᑎᑎᑎᑎ 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**
