



ᓃᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ Thunderbird Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

May 2, 2025 / #31

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

ᓃᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ Thunderbird Families:

On May 8, we will be participating in a Provincial wide earthquake drill meant to help staff and students prepare in the event of an earthquake. The school and its staff have a comprehensive plan and delegation of roles for adverse events to help keep students as safe and comforted as possible. In the event of a real earthquake, students would evacuate to our gravel field on the northwest corner of the school property, or to Sunrise Park on Rupert Street, if the field was unusable, where a controlled student release would occur. Please let the office know if any changes are needed to be made to the student release forms that parents or guardians filled out at the beginning of the year.

A reminder, as we approach the end of the school year, staff are now beginning to have conversations around school and class organization for 2025-2026. When determining class composition, grade combinations, and student placement, many factors are considered in the process. Staff examines academic progress, individual learning styles, student relationships and interactions, specific and collective student learning needs, class balance, and other pertinent insights provided by the educational professionals who work with your child. School organization and classroom composition is a complex, lengthy, and thoughtful process, that looks at the needs of all learners to determine the best possible educational environment for student learning. Parents or guardians who have specific and relevant information regarding their child's learning style and school relationships that are important for the school to be aware during this process, are welcome to email their teacher, or the administration at thunderbird@vsb.bc.ca before **Friday, May 30**. The school will not take requests for student placement to specific teachers.

The Vancouver School Board, ᓃᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ Thunderbird Elementary, and the AIRS Artist in Residence Studio program invites you to the **I AM: Resilience and Reciprocity**, opening night on **May 20 @ 4:30 – 7:00pm at the Vancouver School Board Student Gallery, 1580 West Broadway Avenue**. This exhibition will run from May 20 to June 3. The AIRS Artist in Residence Studio program works in partnership with the Vancouver School Board, including ᓃᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ Thunderbird, to reclaim space for the arts in public elementary schools and provide equitable access to high quality and socially just art making experiences through long term artist studio residencies. years exhibition, **I AM: Resilience and Reciprocity**, encapsulates themes across all 18 studio programs this year. As we head into a time of restraint and uncertainty, these capacities that the arts cultivate, are more important than ever, in providing spaces of joy and agency through creative expression and expanding the horizons of children's imagination towards a more compassionate and equitable shared world. We hope to see you there. Please see the attached invitation.

Also, as your child transitions through elementary to secondary grades, it's crucial to support them in navigating the digital age. Van Tech is excited to invite you to our upcoming Family Night event on Thursday, May 15th. This special evening will provide a hopeful and practical perspective on social media and youth mental health, featuring the final installment in our Screenagers Trilogy series, Screenagers: Growing up in the Digital Age. Here's the film trailer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivzV5E17_HQ

Event Details:

- Date: Thursday, May 15th (7-9 pm)—Doors Open at 6:30 pm
- Location: Van Tech Auditorium, 2600 East Broadway
- Cost: Free of Charge (light refreshments will be available, and free parking is available onsite)
- Suggested Age for Viewing: 9 years and up – Grade 4 and up!

To Reserve Your Spot: Please RSVP at <https://forms.office.com/r/HLEKjLc9Lj>

Film Description: *Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age* is an award-winning documentary that explores the impact of screen time on children and families. Through personal stories and expert insights, the film delves into the challenges of social media, video games, and internet addiction, offering practical solutions to help kids find balance in the digital world.

Feel free to bring your children and friends along to share in this informative and engaging experience. After the film, there will be a panel Q&A discussion to address your questions and concerns. Our previous parent nights have been highly engaging, informative, and well-attended, offering valuable opportunities for families to connect with the school community and families from across the district.

Last week, the PAC hosted a bottle drive in celebration of Earth Week—and it was a win-win! Not only did we raise \$114.20 for the Grade 7 graduation fund by collecting 1142 refundable containers, but we also helped keep bottles and cans out of landfills. Thank you to everyone who chipped in!

Let's keep the momentum going! Help our students hit their \$250 goal *and* do something great for the planet. Drop off your refundable beverage containers at any Return-It Express location until June. Just use the school's phone number (604-713-4611) at the kiosk, print a label, and tag your bag. Every container counts—for our grads and for the Earth!

Lastly, please join us for our May PAC meeting **next Wednesday at 6 pm**. 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. Childminding for school-aged Thunderbird students is available, as well as a light pizza dinner.

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

- **Wednesday, May 7, 2025:** *PAC Meeting @ 6:00pm in the library*
- **Monday, May 5-7, 2025:** *Grade 6/7 Camp*
- **Monday, May 19, 2025:** *Victoria Day Stat Holiday – No school*
- **Friday, May 23, 2025:** *Sports Day*
- **Friday, May 30, 2025:** *Books For Breakfast*
- **Wednesday, June 4, 2025:** *PAC Meeting @ 6:00pm in the library*
- **Wednesday, June 18, 2025:** *PAC Spring Fair*
- **Thursday, June 19, 2025:** *Grade 7 Graduation*
- **Wednesday, June 25, 2025:** *Report Card #3 Goes Home*
- **Wednesday, June 25, 2025:** *Sunrise Park Fieldtrip*
- **Thursday, June 26, 2025:** *Last Day 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 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, May 7, 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!
