



ᓃᓂᓂᓂᓂ Thunderbird Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

August 28, 2025/Summer Edition

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

ᓃᓂᓂᓂᓂ Thunderbird Families,

Welcome back to the 2025–2026 school year! I hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer with your loved ones. We're excited to welcome back our returning students and families and extend a warm greeting to those joining the Thunderbird community for the first time next Tuesday.

I aim to send a weekly email on the last school day of each week—typically Friday. These messages will include important updates and information relevant to your child's experience at Thunderbird, so I encourage you to read them regularly.

First Day of School – Grades 1 to 7

The school year begins on **Tuesday, September 2, 2025**, with a **short day from 9:00 to 10:00 am**. Returning students will go to their previous year's classrooms. New students should check in at the office and will be temporarily placed within their grade level until classes are finalized.

Regular Schedule Begins

Starting **Wednesday, September 3**, students will follow our regular schedule: **9:00 am to 3:00 pm**. Families of kindergarten students have already been contacted by their teacher—please refer to the separate schedule provided. If your child will not be returning to Thunderbird this year, please email us to let us know.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Students will follow the same entry and exit routines as last year. Parents and guardians are kindly asked **not to line up with their children**. Instead, children may wait with their families in the school yard until their teacher welcomes them in their designated line. Please note that **school access for parents and guardians is by appointment only**. To ensure student safety, all non-staff adults must enter through the **main office on Cassiar Street** and sign in at reception.

Meal Programs

Our **hot lunch and breakfast programs** resume on **Thursday, September 4**.

- **Lunch:** \$6.60/day (subsidies available). Enrollment forms and menus will be sent home during the first week.
- **Breakfast:** Free for all students and families, starting at **8:15 am**. Please enter through the **primary undercover area** on the southwest side of the school.

When packing food from home, please ensure items are easy for children to open and clean up after themselves.

Bell Schedule – 2025–2026

- Welcome Bell: 8:55 am
- Start of Day: 9:00 am
- Recess: 10:30–10:50 am
- Lunch: 12:10–12:55 pm
- Dismissal: 2:58 pm

Please arrange for **prompt pick-up** at the end of the day. Students will be outside during recess and lunch **regardless of weather**, so please dress them appropriately and consider packing an umbrella and an extra set of clothes.

Class Placement

Our team takes the class placement process seriously and invests significant time in reviewing each student's needs. Placement decisions are made collaboratively by a team of professionals—including the current teacher, Resource Teacher, School Counsellor, and Principal—based on factors such as program needs, maturity, learning styles, and academic balance.

While we do our best to accommodate preferences, it's not always possible to place every student with their preferred teacher or friends. Your support in helping your child understand this is greatly appreciated.

For **combined-grade classes**, rest assured that the Ministry of Education's curriculum for each grade will be fully delivered. Research shows that combined classes can be just as effective for student learning as single-grade classes.

If your child feels disappointed with their placement, please acknowledge their feelings and help them gain perspective. Most students adjust positively as they get to know their new teacher and classmates.

Personal Digital Devices

As of January 2024, the Province of B.C. has mandated updates to school Codes of Conduct to limit student use of personal digital devices during school hours. Devices must be **turned off or on silent and kept out of sight** from **9:00 am to 3:00 pm, including recess and lunch.**

We’re looking forward to a wonderful school year ahead!

Warm regards,

Brad Toews (pronounced TAVES)
Principal
Thunderbird šxʷəxʷaʔəs Elementary School

“A room without books is like a body without a soul.” – Cicero

Important Dates 2025 -2026

- **Tuesday, September 2, 2025:** *First Day for Students – (9:00-10:00am, One Hour Only)*
- **Wednesday, September 3, 2025:** *First Full Day for students (9:00am – 3:00pm)*
- **Thursday, September 4, 2025:** *Lunch and Breakfast Program Begins*
- **Wednesday, September 10, 2025:** *PAC Meeting at 6:00pm in the library*
- **Friday, September 12, 2025:** *Individual Photo Day*
- **Friday, September 19, 2025:** *Professional Develop Day – No School*
- **Monday, September 29, 2025:** *Orange Shirt Day for šxʷəxʷaʔəs T-Bird*
- **Tuesday, September 30, 2025:** *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – No school*
- **Wednesday, October 1, 2025:** *PAC Meeting at 6:00pm in the library*
- **Monday, October 13, 2025:** *Thanksgiving Day Stat Holiday – No school*
- **Monday, October 20, 2025:** *Diwali*
- **Tuesday & Wednesday, October 21 & 22, 2025:** *Parent Teacher Conferences – Early Dismissal @ 2:00pm*
- **Friday, October 24, 2025:** *Professional Develop Day – No School*
- **Wednesday, October 29, 2025:** *Individual Photo Re-Take Day*
- **Friday, October 31, 2025:** *Halloween Parade*
- **Wednesday, November 5, 2025:** *PAC Meeting at 6:00pm in the library*
- **Tuesday, November 11, 2025:** *Remembrance Day Stat Holiday – No school*
- **Friday, November 21, 2025:** *Professional Develop Day – No School*
- **Wednesday, December 3, 2025:** *PAC Meeting at 6:00pm in the library*
- **Wednesday, December 17, 2025:** *Thunderbird Community Centre’s Christmas dinner*
 - *Report Card #1 Go Home*
- **Friday, December 19, 2025:** *Pancake Breakfast and PJ Day - Last Before Winter Break*
- **Monday, January 5, 2026:** *First Day Back from Winter Break*

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 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 first PAC meeting of 2025/2026 is **Wednesday, September 10, 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 thunderbirdpac@gmail.com.

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!