



ᓄᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ Thunderbird Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

September 5, 2025 / #1

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

ᓄᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ Thunderbird Families,

As we wrap up the first week of the new school year, I want to thank you for your patience and support as we transition students into their new classes. Our priority is to create optimal learning environments that meet the unique needs of every child, with thoughtful consideration of classroom dynamics and composition. Students will meet their new teachers on **Monday morning**.

It's been a pleasure to welcome both new and returning students and families. I'm excited for the year ahead—one filled with enriching learning experiences and opportunities for social growth.

Personal Devices at School

This year, we continue to follow provincial and district policies regarding personal devices. While cellphones and smartwatches can be helpful outside of school, they often distract from learning. At Thunderbird, we ask students to leave personal devices—including cellphones, smartwatches, and other valuables—at home whenever possible. If devices must be brought to school, they must remain **on silent and stored in backpacks from 9:00 am to 2:58 pm**. For communication during school hours, please contact the school office.

Orange Shirt Day & Truth and Reconciliation

On **Monday, September 29**, Thunderbird will observe **Orange Shirt Day**, a time to honour residential school survivors and their families, and to reaffirm our commitment to reconciliation. We are dedicated to deepening our understanding of Indigenous histories, traditions, cultures, and contributions.

Please note that **Tuesday, September 30** is the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**, a statutory holiday. **School will be closed**.

Getting to School Sustainably

We encourage families to consider environmentally friendly ways of getting to and from school, such as walking or biking. This supports healthy living and helps reduce our ecological footprint. If biking, please ensure bikes are locked and helmets are worn. Bike racks are available at the **Cassiar Street entrance**, as well as in the **primary and intermediate playgrounds**.

StrongStart Registration

StrongStart registration is now open online for children under 4 years old:

<https://strongstartapply.vsb.bc.ca>

The first day of StrongStart is **Wednesday, September 10**.

Optional Student Accident Insurance

The VSB is offering access to two optional student accident insurance plans:

- **IA Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP)**
- **Study Insured**

Both plans provide coverage for accidental injury, unexpected medical/dental expenses, and critical illness. Families can register online:

www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com

<https://specialmarkets.ia.ca/aonbc/home>

Weather-Ready Students

Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather, as students will be outside during recess and lunch in all conditions. An extra set of clothes is also a great idea.

Photo Day

Photo Day is Friday, September 12. Photos will be taken in the morning—dress to impress!

PAC Executive Nominations

The PAC is currently accepting nominations for the **Thunderbird Elementary School Parent Advisory Council Executive**, for various positions, including PAC chair.

The term runs from **September 2025 to September 2026**. No prior experience is required—just a willingness to support PAC initiatives! Elections will take place at this month’s meeting on **Wednesday, September 10**, from **6–7 pm in the school library**. Interested parents or guardians can contact pac_tbrd@vsb.bc.ca and are encouraged to attend.

Once again, welcome back!

Have a safe and restful weekend.

Brad Toews (pronounced TAVES)
Principal
šxʷəxʷaʔəs Thunderbird Elementary School
"A room without books is like a body without a soul." – Cicero

Important Dates 2025 -2026

- **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](tel:604-713-5159) 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!