



ᑭᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ Thunderbird Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

October 17, 2025 / #7

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

ᑭᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ Thunderbird Families,

Celebrating Diwali

The Festival of Lights This year, Diwali (or Dipawali) falls on **Monday, October 20th**. Widely celebrated across India and by Indian communities around the world, Diwali is considered the most significant holiday of the year. The name comes from the Sanskrit word *avali*, meaning “row,” referring to the row of clay lamps (diyas) traditionally lit outside homes to symbolize the inner light that protects from spiritual darkness. For many, Diwali holds the same cultural and spiritual importance as Christmas does for Christians—a time for reflection, celebration, and togetherness. If you have the opportunity, we encourage you to explore and enjoy one of the many vibrant Diwali festivals happening throughout the Lower Mainland this weekend. Wishing all who celebrate a joyful and luminous Diwali!

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher, communicating student learning (CSL), conferences will take place on **Tuesday, October 21** and **Wednesday, October 22**, beginning at **2:00 PM** on both days. Please note that students will be dismissed early to accommodate these meetings.

Families will have the option to book either an In-Person or Virtual TEAMS Meeting through our online booking page. When booking, it is essential to **select the correct teacher** from the drop-down menu—**please do not choose the “Anyone” option** as this will result in scheduling errors.

If you have questions or are unable to attend on these dates, we encourage you to reach out directly to your child’s teacher to make alternative arrangements. We look forward to connecting with you and sharing your child’s learning journey!

Parking Reminder for Student Safety

For the safety of our students and staff, we kindly remind parents that the Thunderbird staff parking lot located at the back of the school is reserved exclusively for staff use. Families should not use this area for drop-off or pick-up at any time. If you are dropping your child off at the Community Centre childcare facility in the portable, please use the Community Centre parking lot off Cassiar Street or find suitable street parking nearby. We ask that you walk your child in from these designated areas. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important matter.

Grade 8 Mini Schools

As our Grade 7 students begin preparing for their transition to high school, we’d like to highlight the Mini School Programs offered by the Vancouver School Board. These programs provide enriched learning opportunities and unique school experiences designed to support students’ academic and personal growth.

Families are encouraged to explore the options available by visiting [the VSB Mini School Programs page](#) and reviewing [the Grade 8 Mini School Brochure](#).

 General registration runs from **November 10 to December 15, 2025**. We recommend starting early to learn more about the programs and application process.

Halloween Parade

With Halloween just around the corner, excitement is building as students and families begin planning costumes for our annual Halloween parade on **October 31st**. We love seeing the creativity and spirit this event brings to our school community!

As you prepare, please keep in mind that costumes should be fun, respectful, and school-appropriate. We kindly ask families to avoid costumes that may be culturally insensitive or that mimic racial or ethnic groups. Additionally, costumes that promote or normalize violence—including those with weapons or violent props—are not permitted.

School Closure – Professional Development Day

Please note that next week, on **Friday, October 24**, the school will be **closed** for a professional development day. We kindly ask families to make appropriate childcare arrangements, as classes will not be in session.

With that, have a wonderful weekend,

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

Important Dates 2025 -2026

- **Monday, October 20, 2025:** *Diwali*
- **Tuesday & Wednesday, October 21 & 22, 2025:** *Parent Teacher Conferences – Early Dismissal @ 2:00pm*
- **Friday, October 24, 2025:** *Professional Development 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 Development 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 next PAC meeting of 2025/2026 is **Wednesday, November 5, 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](#)

VSBC: After the Bell, Podcast

Podcast episodes are released at the end of every month. Subscribe to **VSBC: After the Bell** on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#) or wherever you listen to podcasts!
