



November-December Family Bulletin

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Fall Highlights

Dear Van Tech Community,

We are excited to share the latest happenings within our vibrant school community. From French 9s' cheese tasting to the Summit 8s' Hobbit Banquet, and thoughtful discussions about Truth and Reconciliation happening in multiple courses, our aim is to make learning interesting and enriching.



At Van Tech, learning extends beyond classrooms. By the end of December, many of our students will have experienced engaging field trips, including visits to BCIT, City Hall, Trout Lake, wilderness camps, the Chan Centre, Chinatown, and the Vancouver Convention Centre Education and Career Fair. These experiences provide a real-world context to what students learn in the classroom.

Our school is home to various clubs, each contributing to a sense of belonging. The Agency empowers students to make a difference in the world, while the Gender Sexuality Alliance fosters a supportive environment. These clubs, along with many others, contribute to the strong sense of community at Van Tech.

Our Athletics and Fine Arts programs not only build skills but also friendships and teamwork. These programs offer authentic learning experiences beyond traditional classrooms.

Behind the scenes, our dedicated Student Council works to support student clubs and promote student voice within the school. At Van Tech, students and staff collaborate, learn, and grow together, building a sense of community every day.



Please mark your calendars for the Mid-semester Learning Updates, to be published on MyEd on November 24th by 3 pm. These updates offer a snapshot of your child's learning and engagement in Core Competencies. For those interested in in-person discussions, Parent/Caregiver-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for December 14th. We look forward to seeing you there!



Thank you for being an integral part of our Vancouver Tech community. Together, we are shaping a future where a love for learning lasts a lifetime.

Reporting

What is the purpose of assessment?

The purpose of assessment is to facilitate learning and move it forward in an equitable and inclusive way. It helps students answer three questions about their learning:

- Where am I now?
- Where am I going?
- How do I get there?

Quality assessment is ongoing and responsive. It informs the instruction cycle and provides **teachers** with evidence to plan. It helps **families** understand and support their children's learning. Most importantly, it provides **students** with meaningful feedback to guide their learning and help them reflect on their growth.

How will my child be assessed?

All students will receive **Written Learning Updates** (Report Cards) and **Informal Learning Updates** such as telephone calls, e-mails, and conferences. Written Learning Updates will also include self-reflection and goal setting, as well as descriptive feedback. The new Provincial Reporting Policy requires that students in Grades 8 and 9 will receive grades on a four-point proficiency scale (*Emerging, Developing, Proficient, Extending*), while students in Grades 10-12 will still receive a letter grade and percentage.

The grade **"IE" (Insufficient Evidence)** indicates that the student has not yet demonstrated minimally acceptable performance in relation to the learning standards. For students in Gr. 10-12, an "IE" may be converted to an F (Fail) at the end of the course. Should your child receive an "IE" for any of their classes, the teacher will identify what learning standards (competencies and

content knowledge) they need to demonstrate and create a support plan for the student. This plan will outline the actions to be taken by the student and school to help the student provide sufficient evidence of learning. **Please reach out to your child's teacher(s) to discuss an *Insufficient Evidence* "IE" grade.**

Please note: all student work must be submitted prior to the end of the semester to be assessed and evaluated for the Semester 1 Summary of Learning unless specified by the teacher. Please note that Semester 1 courses are designed to be completed by the end of Semester 1 and teachers may not be able to accept and assess work after the semester ends.

When are Learning Updates published?

Semester	Learning Update: <i>Interim Report</i>	Learning Update: <i>Mid-Semester Report</i>	Learning Update: <i>Parent-Teacher Conferences</i>	Learning Update: <i>Summary of Learning</i>
1	Oct. 13, 2023	Nov. 24, 2023	Dec. 14, 2023	Feb. 9, 2024
2	March 8, 2024	April 26, 2024	May 9, 2024	June 26, 2024
Linear Course (all year)	Nov. 24, 2023	Feb. 9, 2024 April 26, 2024	Dec. 14, 2023 May 9, 2024	June 26, 2024

What if I have concerns about my child's progress?

If you have questions about your child's progress, or your child receives an "IE" (*Insufficient Evidence*) for any of their classes, please reach out to their teacher(s) directly. Click [HERE](#) for our staff directory.

Core Competencies 8-12

Core Competencies are sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need in order to engage in deep, lifelong learning. Along with literacy and numeracy foundations, they are central to BC's K-12 curriculum and assessment system and directly support students in their growth as educated citizens. Vancouver students are required to reflect on Core Competencies and set goals of their choice three times every school year. All Van Tech students participated in these activities earlier this month, and their work has been uploaded to their Grade Core Competency TEAM. We invite students to share their work with their parents/caregivers. Student development in Communication, Thinking, and Personal and Social Core Competencies at school often looks different than it does at home, so we encourage parents/caregivers to have conversations with their children about how Core Competencies can be developed in all aspects of their lives.

How to access Written Learning Updates on MyEd

Your child's Interims are currently available on their MyEd BC account. Written Learning Updates (Report Cards) will be published on these accounts by 3pm on November 24th. Follow these steps for access:

- Go to <https://myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspen/logon.do>
- The MyEducation BC Login ID is your child's student number.
- If you haven't logged in before, the default MyEducation BC Password is set by the district to: Dist\$2024
- If you've forgotten your Password, or if it has expired (passwords must be reset every 90 days), see the reset instructions here: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5038/account-management>

VSBC MyEd HELP PAGE: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5038/account-management>

It is recommended that you download and save a copy of the Learning Update for future reference. Learning Updates are NOT saved on MyEd. Only the most recent Learning Updates are posted on student accounts.

Parent/Caregiver – Teacher Conferences

Parent/Caregiver - Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday December 14, in the Main Gym. Students will be dismissed from classes at 2:00 pm. There are 2 sessions of conference times; Session 1: 3:15 – 4:30 pm, and Session 2: 5:15 – 7:00 pm. Families and caregivers will be able to make an appointment online using [School Appointments](#). Details and registration instructions will be available on the Van Tech website and sent to families after the November 24th Written Learning updates are published.

Parent Advisory Council Information

We invite all parents/caregivers of Van Tech students to join us for Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings. The meetings are an opportunity for folks to hear from, and ask questions of, the school administration. We welcome suggestions for topics for future meetings. Our meetings follow a hybrid model of in-person and remote. Agendas, minutes and Zoom links can be found on the [PAC webpage](#). If you have questions, please contact the PAC chair: chairvt@gmail.com

Join us at the next meeting on Tuesday, November 28th, at 7pm in the library or on Zoom. All are welcome! This month we'll hear from several Student Groups regarding their activities.

Your 2023-2024 Pac Executive: Lindsie Tomlinson (Chair), Shawna Deagle (Treasurer), Shawn-Patrick Carnahan (Secretary)

Holiday Hampers



Can Van Tech Support your Family?

Inflation has forced more and more families into food insecurity and the Van Tech community is here to help. Each year, we organize a Holiday Hamper event to support families who need financial and food support during the holiday season. Last year we supported over 130 families, and we know the number will be higher this year. If your family could benefit from a Holiday Hamper this year, please let Mr. Van (nvaniersel@vsb.bc.ca) know and he'll arrange for a Hamper to be delivered to your home during the final week of school before the Winter Break (December 20th to 22nd). Please note, if you received a hamper last year, you will automatically be on our list for this year, and we will reach out to you in early December to arrange a delivery.

Can You Support our Families and Hamper Drive?

The Van Tech community has come together to support hundreds of our families over the last seven years. The expectation is that we will have a record need this year. At the same time, unfortunately, the community organizations that help provide almost half our hampers are having to cut back because of their own demand. We are committed to not saying no to any family in need and helping every family that asks. To do this, we rely on our families that are able to support. Watch for information about collecting food and donations to build our Holiday Hampers from Friday, December 1st until Friday, December 15th. If you are able to make an online donation, you will receive an instant tax receipt for any donation of \$20 or more. Just follow these steps:

1. Click the link here: <https://vsb.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/1869/196/false/true>
2. Choose "S- Vancouver Technical" as the Fund Destination.
3. Put "Holiday Hampers" into the optional message box.

If you have questions, please contact Mr. Van (nvaniersel@vsb.bc.ca).

Grade 12 Information

Post-Secondary Information

We encourage Grade 12 students and their families to regularly review the [Scholarship and Post-secondary Channel](#) on the Teams Student Hub. Here you'll find the latest information on programs, admissions, and scholarship opportunities.

Winter Formal

The Gr. 12 Winter Formal will be held on Tuesday, December 19th from 6 - 9pm in the cafeteria. Tickets for Grads will be \$20 and will be sold at lunch on November 20th and 21st. Students must get a consent form signed by parents PRIOR to purchasing a ticket. The forms will be available outside Ms. Bighorn's room (409) or on the Grad bulletin starting Tuesday, November 14th.

Grad Photos

Visit <https://artona.com/schools/VANT> to book your Grad Photo appointment. Photo sessions for Van Tech students are at Artona, 353 W 7th Ave, from November 26th - December 1st. A 100% fully refundable \$60 deposit is required at the time of your photo session and is a store credit. You do not need to purchase anything for your photo to be on the school composite and in the yearbook. For more information, contact Artona via live chat at <https://www.artona.com/> or email csr@artona.com.

Graduation Assessments

Results

To view and download a copy of your child's results for any Graduation Assessment, go to [Student Transcripts Services](#), click on Current Student, and register for a BCeID (or login if you already have one). You will need your child's information as noted on the page. You will receive an email via the email you entered. Click the link in the email to confirm. Once you have created an account to access the site, click on "Graduation Assessment/Provincial Exam Results" to view results.

Note: this site is where you are also able to "View Your Transcript," "Send/Order Your Transcript," as well as other options. The Ministry transcript contains only your completed courses, not in-progress courses.

Upcoming assessments

The Grade 10 Numeracy and Grade 12 French Immersion Literacy 12 assessments will be held in January 2024. **Details will be sent out in the New Year.**

Grade 9 Immunization Clinic

Grade 9 Immunization Clinic consent forms from *Vancouver Coastal Health* have been distributed. These individual forms detail your child's vaccination history and list the recommended vaccinations for 2023-2024. The Van Tech clinic will be on **December 6th**. Students will be called down via the PA in alphabetical order to the cafeteria. Please ensure that your child wears a **short-sleeved shirt** and **has breakfast / snack** on the day of the clinic. If you have any questions or concerns, contact our Public Health Nurse, Bianca Lindner, at 604 786 2223 or bianca.lindner@vch.ca

Career Education 8/9

Career Education 8 and Career Education 9 will be delivered over TEAMS this year. Please remind your child to check their grade TEAM in late November to view the first assignment. Career Education courses are part of the grade level package of courses and are Ministry requirements. Most assignments are based on career exploration and being an educated citizen of the world. We will share more information with students during upcoming Grade assemblies during FIT and through posts on the Student Hub.

Athletics

As the fall athletics season draws to a close, we want to congratulate all our teams for representing our school with pride and passion during the season. Big props to the Senior Girls Volleyball team, the Juvenile Boys Soccer team, and the Senior Boys Soccer team, who all brought home silver medals from the city playoffs.

We now move to the winter season, which includes basketball, curling, girls' hockey, table tennis and wrestling. Interested students should check the Athletics Channel in the Student Hub. #gotechgo

Photo: Elsa Rahim Gr. 9, Anya Schimuner Gr. 8, Elizabeth Dicken Gr. 10, Ella Rigby Gr. 10, Claire Sinkewicz Gr. 8



Photo: Theatre 8

Fine Arts

Theatre 8's performs *Soundscapes* on November 15th at 7 pm in the Drama Studio. The play by Claudia Haas and Sarah Kraning, follows a young girl named Iris who has synesthesia. Directed by Ramona Orr & Mateo Sanchez. The suggested donation is \$7.

The Music Department hosts its annual *Jazz Cabaret Fundraiser* on November 16th in the cafeteria, from 6-9pm. Babysitting services for \$10 per child is available. If you or someone you know would like to access the Livestreamed event, please go to [School Cash Online](#) and fill out the donation form for \$10 by Tuesday, November 14th. To arrange babysitting or for instructions on how to access the LiveStream, email akilburn@vsb.bc.ca AND eariebert@vsb.bc.ca.

Members of the Van Tech community are invited to the annual *Winter Music Concerts*. December 6th is the *Night of Bands* and December 13th is the *Night of Orchestras and Choirs*. Both events will be held in the auditorium at 6:45pm (doors at 6:30).

VSB: After the Bell, podcast season 2

[This month](#) we talked to community partners from Adopt-A-School and South Vancouver Neighbourhood House. We spoke about their impact to school communities and how students and teachers can access their resources. For matter of the month, we delve into an important and sometimes controversial subject: BC's Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA). Helen McGregor shared the significance of the test for students, parents, and educators.

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 to catch the latest episode!

General Reminders

Forms

Starting in September, several VSB consent forms were moved to a digital format. Please visit <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca/> and enter your child's PEN and birthdate to give consent (or decline) for each form. Parents/caregivers can revoke their consent at any time.

Student Absences & Attendance

To report your child's absence, please contact the school at 604-713-8215 (then select option #1) and leave a message. Please include the date of absence, student number, student name, and reason for absence (ie, sick, appointment). Note: Students cannot report their own absence.

Extended Absences

Any students who will be away for an extended period (trave, medical etc.) should see their grade counsellor to complete an extended absence form.

Student Fees

School Cash Online is the preferred method of payment for all school fees. Please double check if your child owes any outstanding fees. You can register by following the steps on: <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

Student Pick-up/Drop-off and Parking

Traffic signs are in place along Penticton Street to allow space for school buses to drop-off and pick-up students. Thank you for being compliant with city bylaws. Please note that several drivers have been ticketed in the past by the City of Vancouver. You can drop-off and pick-up students past the traffic signs further south along Penticton Street. Students may park on Penticton Street in designated parking areas.

Flexible Instructional Time

A reminder that FIT happens every day except Wednesday, for 40 minutes. Monday and Friday FIT runs 8:40 - 9:20 am. Tuesday and Thursday FIT runs 1:20 - 2:00 pm. Students sign up for Tuesday and Thursday FIT sessions using <http://vantech.myweeklyplanner.net> They are expected to be in the building in an area supervised by a staff member. For Monday and Friday FIT, students in the building are expected to be engaged in a learning activity of their choice. Students do not need to sign up for these FIT days, but if they're in a teacher's learning space, they must sign-in to the Green Book for attendance in the case of an emergency.

Important Upcoming Dates

November 13	Day in Lieu of Remembrance Day - no school
November 14	Collaborative Day - 1:35 pm dismissal
November 15	Quarter 2 begins for Gr. 8 Fine Arts Rotation & Gr. 9 Electives (Nov 15 - Jan 31)
November 16	Soundscapes, 7pm, Drama Studio
November 24	Non-Instructional Day - no classes
November 24	Mid-Semester Learning Updates Published
November 26 - December 1	Grad Photos, Artona
November 28	PAC meeting, 7pm, Library
December 6	Term 3 begins for Gr. 8 Applied Skills Rotation (Dec 6 - Jan 31)
December 6	Grade 9 Immunization Clinic
December 6	Winter Concert: Night of Bands
December 12	Collaborative Day - 1:35 pm dismissal
December 13	Winter Concert: Night of Orchestras and Choirs
December 14	Parent/Caregiver Teacher Conferences - 2:00 pm dismissal
December 18	Rotation (BADC)
December 19	Gr. 12 Winter Formal
December 22	Last day of school before the Winter Break
January 8	School resumes after Winter Break

Wishing you a happy and restful Winter Break!



Mr. Roberto Moro
Principal (Gr. 12)



Mr. Adam Tuerlings
Vice Principal (Gr. 9 & 11)



Ms. Janet Thompson
Vice Principal (Gr. 8 & 10)