



# wāk'ānās tē syaq'ām Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

September 11, 2026 / #1

[Website](#) / Phone 604-713-4686

wāk'ānās tē syaq'ām School Community,

## **First Week Wrap Up!**

As we wrap up the first week of the new school year, I would like to thank you for your patience as we transition students into their new classes. Our goal is to create learning environments that best support the needs of all students, with thoughtful consideration given to classroom composition and dynamics. Students have already met their new teachers and will be lining up in their new class lines on Monday morning to go directly into their new classrooms.

It has been wonderful to see both new and returning students and families around the school this week. As someone who is new to the school community, I would also like to thank everyone for the warm welcome I have received. I am looking forward to getting to know our students, families, and staff better throughout the year and to all that we will accomplish together.

## **Orange Shirt Day & National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**

On Tuesday, September 29, 2026, wāk'ānās tē syaq'ām will observe Orange Shirt Day, a time to honour residential school survivors, their families, and their communities, while reflecting on the ongoing journey toward truth and reconciliation. Throughout the day, students will participate in age-appropriate learning opportunities to deepen their understanding of Indigenous histories, cultures, perspectives, and contributions.

Families are encouraged to have their children wear orange as a visible reminder that *Every Child Matters*.

Please also note that Wednesday, September 30, 2026, is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a statutory holiday. School will be closed on this day.

## **Active & Sustainable Travel to School**

We encourage all families to consider environmentally friendly ways of getting to and from school, such as walking or biking. These choices help reduce our environmental impact, support healthy and active lifestyles for our students, reduce traffic congestion around the school, and contribute to a safer environment for everyone during arrival and dismissal times.

If your child bikes to school, please ensure they wear a helmet and securely lock their bike. Bike racks are available at the front entrance on Kitchener Street.

Thank you for helping us promote safe, healthy, and sustainable travel to and from school. 

## **Cross Country Starts Shortly!**

We are excited to announce that Ms. Bondi and Mr. Bondi will be coaching our team this year. Mr. Bondi brings a wealth of experience in education and leadership, and we are grateful to have both coaches supporting our student athletes. Stay tuned for more information about registration, practice schedules, and upcoming meets!   

## **Professional Development Day**

Our first Professional Development Day is coming up quickly, on Monday, September 21, 2026, and there will be no school for students.

On this day, staff will be engaged in professional learning and collaboration to support student success and enhance teaching and learning across the school. We thank you for your support and encourage families to mark this date on their calendars. 

## **School Photo Day & Retakes**

**Photo Day** is coming up on **Monday, October 5, 2026**. Photos will be taken during the school day, so be sure to dress to impress! 

If your child is absent or if you'd like a retake, **Photo Retake Day** will take place on **Wednesday, October 21, 2026**.

We look forward to seeing everyone's smiles! 

## **PAC Meeting**

Please join us for our first PAC meeting of the year on Tuesday, September 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the library and [online](#).

The PAC is a great way to become involved in your child's educational and school life and to contribute to the school community. PAC supports student learning and well-being, encourages parent involvement, advises the school on relevant matters, and helps build connections between the school, home, and neighbourhood.

Have a safe and restful weekend,

Brad Toews (pronounced TAVES)

Principal

wāk'ānās tē syaq'ām Elementary School

---

### Important Dates 2026 -2027

- **Tuesday, September 15, 2026:** PAC Meeting @ 7:00pm in the Library
- **Monday, September 21, 2026:** Professional Develop Day – No School
- **Monday, September 28, 2026:** Terry Fox Run
- **Tuesday, September 29, 2026:** Orange Shirt Day
- **Wednesday, September 30, 2026:** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – No school
- **Monday, October 5, 2026:** Individual Photo Day
- **Monday, October 12, 2026:** Thanksgiving Day Stat Holiday – No school
- **Wednesday, October 21, 2026:** Individual Photo Re-Take Day
- **Wednesday & Thursday, October 21 & 22, 2026:** Parent Teacher Conferences – Early Dismissal @ 2:00pm
- **Friday, October 23, 2026:** Professional Develop Day – No School
- **Sunday, November 6, 2026:** Diwali
- **Wednesday, November 11, 2026:** Remembrance Day Stat Holiday – No school
- **Friday, November 20, 2026:** Professional Develop Day – No School
- **Thursday, December 10, 2026:** Winter Concert – 11am in the gym
- **Friday, December 11, 2026:** Pancake Breakfast and PJ Day
- **Tuesday, December 15, 2026:** Report Card #1 Go Home
- **Friday, December 18, 2026:** Last Day of School Before Winter Break
- **Monday, January 4, 2027:** First Day Back from Winter Break

---

### Safe Arrival

If your child will be absent or late, please call [604-713-5159 Ext. 12](tel:604-713-5159) or Email [begsafearrival@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:begsafearrival@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. Meetings are typically held once a month, from September to June.

The first PAC meeting of 2026/2027 is September 15 in the library and [online](#)

Childminding is provided for parents attending in person. Please arrive a few minutes early to drop off your child(ren).

PAC Information and meeting minutes can be found: [HERE](#)

---

### VSB: After the Bell, Podcast

In the VSB's podcast, **VSB: After the Bell**, you'll hear directly from experienced educators, subject matter experts and students on topics that relate directly to our VSB community. Whether you tune in to a pre-recorded episode or join us for a live session, we're happy to have you with us during these open and honest conversations about education.

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!

---