



wak'an'əs tə syaq'əm

Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

September 18, 2026 / #2

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

wak'an'əs tə syaq'əm School Community,

Welcome Back BBQ

Join us on Tuesday, September 29, 2026, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. for our Welcome Back BBQ. We look forward to welcoming both new and returning families. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with staff, fellow families, and members of the PAC, learn about the year ahead, and build community within our school.  A barbecue will be available, and an order form has been sent home. If you do not receive one, there are extras available at the office.

Apple Fundraiser

The wak'an'əs tə syaq'əm PAC is excited to bring back its annual Apple Fundraiser! This year's apples once again come from Sun Oka Fruit Farms, a century-old Okanagan orchard and multiple-time winner of *Canada's Best Apple*. Our school earns \$8 to \$10 from every box sold, helping support resources that enrich students' academic, physical, and social growth. Orders must be placed online by **Monday, October 6, 2026**, and all orders must be picked up after school on **Thursday, October 15, 2026**. Please share the order link with family and friends, and thank you for supporting our school community! **Order here:** <https://tinyurl.com/y9txnmxb>

Important Reminders

Now that we are in full swing, here are a few important reminders for families:

School Fees

School fees are now due. At wak'an'əs tə syaq'əm, we are committed to ensuring all students have access to learning resources and school programs. Financial circumstances should never be a barrier to participation. If you require assistance or would like to arrange a payment plan, please contact the school administration. All requests will be handled with discretion and care.

Attendance

If your child will be absent or arriving late, please notify the office through the Safe Arrival line at **604-713-5159 ext. 12** or by email at beqsafearrival@vsb.bc.ca. To help ensure a smooth start to the day, we encourage students to arrive by **8:55 a.m.**

Forms and Consent

Verification forms are being prepared and will be sent home next week. Please review them carefully, make any necessary updates, and return all signed forms as soon as possible. Keeping student information current helps us communicate effectively with families and support student safety and well-being.

Serious Health Conditions

If your child has a life-threatening allergy or serious medical condition, please let the school know and update this information each year. Current health information helps us respond quickly and effectively in an emergency. Thank you for helping us keep all students safe.

Cross Country Season is Here!

Our Cross Country mini meets will take place after school at **Clinton Park on September 23, October 1, October 7, and October 14. The District Meet will be held on October 20 at Trout Lake.** Important: Please return consent forms as soon as possible. Good luck to all of our runners!   

Terry Fox Run

Our school community will be participating in the Terry Fox Run on September 28, as we come together to celebrate Terry's legacy of courage, determination, and hope while supporting cancer research.

A special thank you to Ms. Marino, who is organizing this year's event. Students will have the opportunity to take part in this meaningful tradition and demonstrate our school's commitment to helping others.

Donation Link here: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/138386/donate>   

Professional Development Day

Our first Professional Development Day is on this coming **Monday**, 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. 

Have a safe and restful long weekend,

Brad Toews (pronounced TAVES)

Principal

wak'an'əs tə syaq'əm Elementary School

📅 Important Dates 2026 -2027

- **Monday, September 21, 2026:** Professional Develop Day – No School
- **Monday, September 28, 2026:** Terry Fox Run
- **Tuesday, September 29, 2026:** Orange Shirt Day
- **Tuesday, September 29, 2026:** Welcome Back BBQ
- **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** or Email 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 next PAC meeting of 2026/2027 is October TBA 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](#)

VSBC: After the Bell, Podcast

In the VSB’s podcast, **VSBC: 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 **VSBC: After the Bell** on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#) or wherever you listen to podcasts!

🦊 Support Our Terry Fox Run!

Donate by scanning the QR code or [CLICKING HERE](#). ❤️🏃🏃

