



wāk'wānəs tə syaq'wəm

Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

September 25, 2026 / #3

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

wāk'wānəs tə syaq'wəm School Community,

Terry Fox Run

Terry Fox Run is on Monday 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>   

Apple Fundraiser

The wāk'wānəs tə syaq'wəm 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>

Be Fair, Be Kind, Be Safe

This week, students participated in a school-wide assembly focused on our Code of Conduct and the values that help make wāk'wānəs tə syaq'wəm a welcoming place for everyone. Together, we explored what it means to **Be Fair, Be Kind, and Be Safe** in our classrooms, hallways, playground, and learning spaces.

These important expectations will continue to be reinforced throughout the year through classroom discussions, school activities, and our daily morning announcements. By working together, we can build a positive, respectful, and safe school community where everyone feels they belong.

Orange Shirt Day & Truth and Reconciliation

Next week, wāk'wānəs tə syaq'wəm will recognize Orange Shirt Day on Tuesday, September 29. This event is held annually to commemorate the residential school experience, honour the healing journey of Survivors and their families, and reaffirm our commitment to the ongoing process of reconciliation.

As part of this important day, students will participate in learning activities focused on truth and reconciliation, using resources from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. These lessons will support students in learning about and commemorating the truth of our shared history, guided by the knowledge and perspectives of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

Every day at wāk'wānəs tə syaq'wəm, we are committed to increasing knowledge, acceptance, empathy, awareness, and appreciation of Indigenous histories, traditions, cultures, and contributions among all students. We encourage students and staff to wear orange on Tuesday, September 29 as a visible reminder that Every Child Matters. 

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Also coming up, Wednesday, September 30, is Canada's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This day reflects Canada's ongoing commitment to reconciliation and ensuring that the tragic history and lasting impacts of residential schools are never forgotten. We encourage all members of our school community to take time on this day to reflect on the past and present injustices experienced by Indigenous Peoples and to consider the role we all play in building a more just, equitable, and inclusive society.

As this is a statutory holiday, wāk'wānəs tə syaq'wəm will be **closed on Wednesday, September 30**, and will **reopen on Thursday, October 1**. 

Welcome Back BBQ

Lastly, next Tuesday, September 29, 2026, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. is our Welcome Back BBQ. We look forward to welcoming both new and returning families.

Have a safe and restful weekend,

Brad Toews
Principal
wāk'wānəs tə syaq'wəm Elementary School

📅 Important Dates 2026 -2027

- **Monday, September 28, 2026:** *Terry Fox Run*
- **Tuesday, September 29, 2026:** *Welcome Back BBQ*
- **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*
- **Friday, October 29, 2026:** *Halloween Dance in the Gym @ 5 – 7pm*
- **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](#)

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!

🦊 Support Our Terry Fox Run!

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

