



wak'anəs tə syaq'əm Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

October 9, 2026 / #5

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

wak'anəs tə syaq'əm School Community,

Grade 8 Transition: Mini School Programs

As our Grade 7 students begin preparing for their transition to high school, families may wish to explore the variety of educational opportunities available through the Vancouver School Board's Mini School Programs. These programs provide unique learning experiences designed to meet a range of student interests and strengths.

For more information, please visit the VSB Mini School Programs webpage: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/mini-school-programs>
You can also view the Grade 8 Mini School Brochure here: https://media.vsb.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/2026-2027_secondary-choice-programs-brochure_final-2.a8052389994.pdf

We encourage families to review the available options and application requirements as they plan for the transition to Grade 8.

Meet Our School Nurse

The wak'anəs tə syaq'əm school nurse is Michelle Jones, would like to say hello! Michelle is a **Public Health Nurse (PHN)** who works with students, families, and staff to support health promotion and prevention initiatives that help keep our school community healthy. As our school nurse, she provides a variety of services and supports that contribute to student well-being and overall school health.

This year's school immunization clinics will take place on **February 9, 2027** and **June 3, 2027**. The February clinic is primarily for **Grade 6 students** and other students with outstanding immunization needs, while the June clinic is primarily for **Kindergarten students** and other students who require immunizations. Information and consent forms will be sent home prior to the clinics. If you have any questions or would like to connect with **Michelle Jones**, please contact the school. 📞❤️

ShakeOut Earthquake Drill

Next week, our school will be participating in the Great British Columbia ShakeOut, an annual province-wide earthquake drill designed to help communities practice how to stay safe during a major seismic event. The key message is simple: "Drop, Cover, and Hold On."

This important drill gives students and staff an opportunity to practice emergency procedures, review safety expectations, and ensure we are prepared in the event of an earthquake. We encourage families to discuss earthquake preparedness at home and reinforce these safety practices with their children.

Ready for the Weather

Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather each day, as students spend recess and lunch breaks outdoors throughout the year. Having an extra set of clothes at school is also a great idea, particularly during the wetter months or for younger students who may need a change of clothing.

Being prepared for the weather helps students stay comfortable, active, and ready to learn throughout the day. 🌧️👕☀️

School Photo Information

Our school photo proofs are now available online through Vibrant Photography. Families can view their child's photos and place orders directly online. 📄 **Please see the attached photo information sheet for instructions** on accessing and ordering photos.
Photo Retake Day: October 21, 2026

Reminder: Parent-Teacher Goal Setting Conferences

Our Parent-Teacher Goal Setting Conferences are coming up on Wednesday, October 21, and Thursday, October 22. These conferences provide an excellent opportunity for families and teachers to connect and collaboratively establish goals for the school year. Teachers are looking forward to meeting with families and partnering together to support each student's success. Individual teachers will be reaching out directly to schedule conference times. **Please note that there will be an early dismissal at 2:00 p.m. on both Wednesday, October 21, and Thursday, October 22 to accommodate conference scheduling.**

Thanksgiving Closure Reminder

This **Monday, October 12** is a statutory holiday in observance of Thanksgiving. As such, the school will be closed for the day, and no staff will be on site. We kindly ask families to make alternative childcare arrangements as needed.

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on gratitude, togetherness, and the changing season. We hope you enjoy a warm and restful long weekend with family and friends. Regular classes will resume on **Tuesday, October 13**. 🍂

Have a safe and restful weekend,

Brad Toews
Principal
wak'anəs tə syaq'əm Elementary School

Important Dates 2026 -2027

- **Monday, October 12, 2026:** *Thanksgiving Day Stat Holiday – No school*
- **Wednesday, October 14, 2026:** *PAC Meeting*
- **Thursday, October 15, 2026:** *The Great Shakeout – Earthquake Drill*
- **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 30, 2026:** *Halloween Dance in the Gym @ 5 – 7pm*
- **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 is accessible*
- **Friday, December 18, 2026:** *Last Day of School Before Winter Break*
- **Monday, January 4, 2027:** *First Day Back from Winter Break*
- **Monday, January 11, 2027:** *Saleema Noon Parent Night – please see newsletter post*
- **Tuesday, February 9, 2027:** *Grade 6 Immunizations*
- **Friday, February 12, 2027:** *Professional Develop Day – No School*
- **Monday, February 15, 2027:** *Family Day Stat Holiday – No school*
- **Tuesday, March 9, 2027:** *Report Card #2 is accessible*
- **Friday, March 12, 2027:** *Last Day of School Before Spring Break*
- **Monday, March 29, 2027:** *Easter Monday Stat Holiday – No school*
- **Tuesday, March 30, 2027:** *First Day Back from Spring Break*
- **Monday, April 19, 2027:** *Professional Develop Day – No School*
- **Tuesday, April 27, 2027:** *Composite/Class Photo Day*
- **Wednesday & Thursday, April 28 & 29, 2027:** *Parent Teacher Conferences – Early Dismissal @ 2:00pm*
- **Thursday, May 6, 2027:** *The Big One @ 2! – Earthquake Drill*
- **Thursday & Friday, May 6 & 7, 2027:** *Grade 7 Camp Summit*
- **Thursday, May 20, 2027:** *Sport's Day*
- **Friday, May 21, 2027:** *Professional Develop Day – No School*
- **Monday, May 24, 2027:** *Victoria Day Stat Holiday – No school*
- **Wednesday, May 26, 2027:** *On Our Way to K! – New Kindergarten Welcome*
- **Tuesday, June 2, 2027:** *Spring Concert @ 11am and 4pm*
- **Thursday, June 3, 2027:** *Kindergarten Immunizations*
- **Wednesday, June 23, 2027:** *Grade Seven Moving Forward Ceremony*
- **Thursday, June 24, 2027:** *Report Card #3 Go Home*
- **Tuesday, June 29, 2027:** *Last Day of School!*
- **Tuesday, September 7, 2027:** *First Day for Students – (9:00-10:00am, One Hour Only)*

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 14 at 7:pm** 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!
