wəkʷaṅəs tə syaqʷəm
Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

OUR VSB

October 22, 2026 / #7 | **Website / Phone 604-713-4686**

wəkʷaṅəs tə syaqʷəm School Community,

Reminder: Halloween Celebrations

Halloween is next weekend, we are looking forward to celebrating together! This year, Halloween will be recognized at the school on Friday, October 30, with a variety of fun activities taking place throughout the school day.

As per Vancouver School Board guidelines, costumes should be fun, respectful, and school-appropriate. We ask families to avoid costumes that may be culturally insensitive or that represent racial or ethnic groups. Costumes that promote or glorify violence, including those featuring weapons or violent props, are not permitted. We kindly ask that students do not wear costumes to school prior to October 30, as costumes can become a distraction to teaching and learning during class time.

We look forward to seeing the creativity and school spirit our students bring to these Halloween celebrations!

Artist in Residence Spotlight: Niloufar Samadi

This year, our school is fortunate to welcome three talented Artists in Residence who will work with students throughout the year. In this edition, we are pleased to introduce Niloufar Samadi, an Iranian interdisciplinary artist based in Vancouver.

Niloufar holds a Master of Fine Arts in Interdisciplinary Arts from Simon Fraser University and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre. Her work brings together film, performance, installation, and collaborative art practices to explore themes of transformation, identity, storytelling, and connection. Through her artistic practice, she encourages participants to engage their creativity, curiosity, and imagination while exploring how ideas, experiences, and identities continue to evolve over time.

Students will have opportunities to learn from Niloufar's unique approach to art-making, which values collaboration, experimentation, and creative thinking. We are excited to see how her work inspires our learners and supports meaningful artistic experiences across our school community.

Be sure to watch for upcoming newsletters, where we will highlight the other two Artists in Residence who will be working with our students this year.

Emergency Preparedness Drills

Over the past several weeks, students have participated in a series of emergency preparedness drills, including a lockdown drill, fire drill, and earthquake drill. Students followed directions carefully and demonstrated a strong understanding of the safety procedures used in each situation.

As part of our earthquake preparedness practice, students reviewed and rehearsed the “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” procedure, which helps protect individuals during seismic activity. Regular emergency drills are an important part of maintaining a safe school environment. They provide opportunities for students and staff to practice emergency response procedures and help ensure that our plans and supplies remain up to date and ready for use if ever needed.

School Closure – Professional Development Day October 23

Please note that tomorrow, Friday, October 23, is a Professional Development Day and classes will not be in session. School will be closed to students as staff engage in professional learning and planning. We appreciate families making any necessary childcare arrangements for the day.

Have a safe and restful long weekend,

Brad Toews
Principal
wəkʷaṅəs tə syaqʷəm Elementary School

🗓 Important Dates 2026 -2027

- **Friday, October 23, 2026:** *Professional Develop Day – No School*
- **Friday, October 30, 2026:** *Halloween Dance in the Gym @ 5 – 7pm*
- **Sunday, November 1, 2026:** *Kindergarten Registration Opens (students born in 2022)*
- **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*
- **Wednesday, 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 November 18 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!