



ᓄᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ Thunderbird Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

January 9, 2026 / #17

(604) 713-4611 | thunderbird@vsb.bc.ca |
www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/thunderbird

ᓄᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ Thunderbird Families,

🌟 **Welcome Back and Happy New Year!**

Welcome back from winter break, and Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed a restful time connecting with family and friends. As we begin 2026, this is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the successes and challenges of the past year and look ahead with optimism. It's a time to set new goals or recommit to existing ones, fostering growth and learning.

At Thunderbird, our staff is dedicated to supporting students on this journey. We're excited to provide engaging educational experiences and help students create and achieve their learning goals in a safe, caring environment. Here's to a year filled with growth, learning, and shared success!

🌟 **Black Excellence Day – Thursday, January 15th!**

As a lead-up to Black History Month in February, **Black Excellence Day** is a day to rejoice Black history and learn about Black stories, Black art, and Black people, and a day to stand in solidarity with Black Canadians. Black Excellence Day was created by Ninandotoo Society and takes place on **January 15th each year**.

January 15th is in honour of the great civil rights leader, **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**, who was born on January 15, 1929. We also celebrate the contributions of Black Canadians, and the ongoing civil rights struggles that often go unacknowledged in our history books and school curriculum.

At Thunderbird, we strive to bring diverse histories into our teaching and reflect upon historical injustices, to help us not repeat the indignations of our past.

🎓 **Van Tech Grads of 2031: Grade 7 Family Information Night**

Van Tech is excited to welcome our future Grade 8 students! Each year, they host events to help families and caregivers prepare for the transition. Their first event is an [online Caregiver Information Night](#) on **Tuesday, January 13, 2026**.

No registration required — simply click here: [JOIN MEETING](#) at 6:00pm at the start of the meeting to join.

Recordings and slide decks will be posted [HERE](#) within a week.

🏠 **Elementary District Choice Programs**

VSB is proud to offer a wide range of educational options for different types of learners. Our elementary district choice programs include French Immersion, Mandarin Bilingual, Indigenous Focus, Montessori, and Fine Arts. For further details about each program, please visit the [VSB elementary programs webpage](#). If you'd like to learn more about how these district choice programs are delivered and how they differ from the regular stream, tune in to [episode 13 of the VSB: After the Bellow podcast](#).

🍷 **PAC Events on January 14**

The next PAC meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 14, 2026**, from **6:00–7:00 PM** in the school library.

Babysitting for school-age children attending Thunderbird and dinner will be provided. We hope to see you there!

In addition, the PAC will be hosting a **morning coffee and treat gathering** at **8:40 AM** on **Wednesday, January 14** in the undercover area on the south side of the building, just outside our lunchroom. Stop by for a warm drink and a quick chat!

📌 **Professional Day – Monday, January 12, 2026**

Please remember that next **Monday, January 12, 2026**, is a Professional Day. Please ensure childcare arrangements are made, as staff will be engaged in professional learning and the school will be closed.

With that, welcome back and have a safe and restful weekend.

Brad Toews

Principal

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Important Dates 2025 -2026

- **Monday, January 12, 2026:** Professional Development Day – No School
- **Wednesday, January 14, 2026:** PAC Meeting at 6:00pm in the library
- **Friday, January 30, 2026:** Book for Breakfast @ 8:15am in the Lunchroom
- **Wednesday, February 4, 2026:** PAC Meeting at 6:00pm in the library
- **Friday, February 13, 2026:** Professional Development Day – No School
- **Monday, February 16, 2026:** Family Day Stat Holiday – No School
- **Wednesday, February 25, 2026:** Pink Shirt Day
- **Friday, February 27, 2026:** Book for Breakfast @ 8:15am in the Lunchroom
- **Wednesday, March 4, 2026:** PAC Meeting at 6:00pm in the library
- **Monday, March 11, 2026:** Report Card #2 Goes Home
- **Monday, March 11, 2026:** Family Learning Night 4-6pm
- **Friday, March 13, 2026:** Last Before Spring Break
- **Monday, March 30, 2026:** First Day Back from Spring Break
- **Wednesday, April 1, 2026:** Class Photo Day
- **Wednesday, April 1, 2026:** PAC Meeting at 6:00pm in the library
- **Friday, April 3, 2026:** Good Friday Stat Holiday – No School
- **Monday, April 6, 2026:** Easter Monday Stat Holiday – No School
- **Monday, April 20, 2026:** Professional Development Day – No School
- **Friday, April 24, 2026:** Book for Breakfast @ 8:15am in the Lunchroom
- **Wednesday & Thursday, April 29 & 30, 2026:** Parent Teacher Conferences – Early Dismissal @ 2:00pm
- **Wednesday, May 6, 2026:** PAC Meeting at 6:00pm in the library
- **Thursday, May 7, 2026:** The Big One at 2 PM – Earthquake Drill
- **Friday, May 18, 2026:** Victoria Day Stat Holiday – No School
- **Tuesday, May 19, 2026:** Sports Day
- **Friday, May 29, 2026:** Book for Breakfast @ 8:15am in the Lunchroom
- **Wednesday, June 3, 2026:** Bikefest
- **Wednesday, June 3, 2026:** PAC Meeting at 6:00pm in the library
- **Wednesday, June 17, 2026:** PAC Spring fair
- **Thursday, June 18, 2026:** Grade 7 Grad Ceremony
- **Wednesday, June 24, 2026:** Report Card #3 Goes Home
- **Wednesday, June 24, 2026:** Sunrise Park School Picnic
- **Thursday, June 25, 2026:** Last Day of School for Students

Safe Arrival

If your child will be absent or late, please call **604-713-5159 Ext. 81** or Email tbrdattendance@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. Our meetings are typically held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm and last approximately an hour, from September to June.

The next PAC meeting of 2025/2026 is **Wednesday, January 14, 6-7 pm** in the library. Dinner and babysitting for school aged children are provided. RSVP by returning the paper form sent home or emailing thunderbirdpac@gmail.com.

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

VSBC: After the Bell, Podcast

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!
