



šxʷəxʷaʔəs Thunderbird Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

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

www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/thunderbird

January 16, 2026 / #18

šxʷəxʷaʔəs Thunderbird Families,

💡 Black Excellence Day

Yesterday, some classes acknowledged Black Excellence Day as part of our lead-up to Black History Month in February. This day is dedicated to celebrating Black history, amplifying Black voices, and learning about the rich contributions of Black Canadians through stories, art, and culture. It's also a time to stand in solidarity and reflect on the ongoing fight for civil rights.

Black Excellence Day, created by the Ninandotoo Society, is observed annually on January 15th—a date chosen to honour the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., born on January 15, 1929. Alongside his remarkable impact, we acknowledge the achievements of Black Canadians and the struggles that are too often overlooked in our history books.

At Thunderbird, we remain committed to bringing diverse perspectives into our classrooms and examining historical injustices, so that we can learn from the past and work toward a more equitable future.

📋 Student Learning Survey – Parents of Grade 4 & 7 Students

The Vancouver School Board, District #39, and its students, staff and parent community are participating in the 2026 Ministry of Education's electronic and anonymous [Student Learning Survey](#) in cooperation with all other school districts throughout the Province. Parents/Guardians of grade 4 and 7 students at Thunderbird can complete this electronic anonymous survey **any time before May 1, 2026**.

This survey is intended to help the Ministry of Education and school districts plan – allowing parents and students to tell us about their education experience in their school and district. Students in Grades 4 and 7, and their parents and all staff in B.C. public schools are invited to take the annual online satisfaction survey about their school experience.

For parents to complete the survey:

1. Go to any computer that has up-to-date internet browser access at home, work, or school and access: <https://www.awinfosys.com/SurveyFull1/central/main/access.asp>
2. Scroll down to the “**Parent**” section - Direct Access. Select **39 Vancouver** from the pull-down menu next to **District**. **The school** will then appear, and you select **Thunderbird šxʷəxʷaʔəs Elementary**. You can then select your desired language and click the **Log On** button.
3. Complete the survey by clicking on the “radio buttons” for each question. Move to the next set of questions by clicking on **Arrow Button** in the bottom right corner of the screen. If you make a mistake, you can click the back **Arrow Button**.
4. When you have finished the survey, you will get a message thanking you and you are done.

Thank you for participating in this provincial project.

✓ Emergency Drills Completed Successfully

Over the last two weeks, students successfully participated in two emergency drills: a **lockdown drill** and a **fire drill**. Students followed instructions well and demonstrated that they know how to respond appropriately in the event of an emergency. These drills are an important part of ensuring safety and preparedness at Thunderbird.

🎁 Thank You for Supporting Our Bottle Drive!

Last week, the PAC held a bottle drive with all proceeds benefiting Grade 7 graduation activities. Thank you to everyone who supported us and brought in refundable containers! We raised just shy of **\$100.00** for our grads—way to go!

You can continue to support the PAC year-round by donating your refundable beverage containers at any **Return-It Express** location. Tags for your plastic bags are available in the office.

Have a safe and restful weekend.

Brad Toews, Principal
šxʷəxʷaʔəs Thunderbird Elementary School

Important Dates 2025 -2026

- **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, February 4, 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](#)

VSB: After the Bell, Podcast

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!
