



šxʷəxʷaʔəs Thunderbird Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

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

www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/thunderbird

February 12, 2026 / #22

šxʷəxʷaʔəs Thunderbird Families,

We are now into February which is always a busy month with lots to acknowledge and celebrate; Black History Month, Valentine's Day, Pink Shirt Day, Family Day and the beginning of Ramadan to name a few!

❤️ Valentine's Week: Celebrating Kindness

This week, we celebrated Valentine's Day at our school. Valentine's Day can have different meanings for different people. In our school context, it is about expressing love through kindness and offers an opportunity for students to show kindness toward everyone in their class, school, and families.

Teachers celebrated Valentine's Day within their classrooms in a variety of ways, all focused on reinforcing the importance of kindness and caring for others.

📋 Intent to Return – 2026–27 School Year

Kindergarten to Grade 6 parents only: To help us plan for the 2026–27 school year, we need to know whether your child will be returning to Thunderbird in September 2026.

Please take a moment to complete our [Intent to Return Form](#) below to indicate your plans for next year:

👉 [INTENT TO RETURN FORM HERE](#)

Thank you for your support as we plan for the upcoming school year.

🚩 Lunar New Year – February 17

On February 17, many families in our school and around the world will be celebrating Lunar New Year. Lunar New Year is a special time marked by reflection, renewal, and new beginnings. It is celebrated in many cultures and countries, including China, Korea, Vietnam, and others, each with their own traditions and customs.

Lunar New Year celebrations often include spending time with family, sharing special meals, cleaning and decorating homes to welcome good luck, and enjoying music, stories, and cultural traditions. Red decorations, lanterns, and envelopes are commonly used to symbolize good fortune, happiness, and prosperity.

This year marks the beginning of the Year of the Horse, which is often associated with energy, kindness, perseverance, and moving forward with confidence.

At school, we recognize Lunar New Year as an opportunity to celebrate the diversity within our community and to learn about the many cultures and traditions that make our school such a special place. We wish all those who celebrate a joyful and healthy Lunar New Year.

🎉 Happy Lunar New Year! 🎉

🌙 Ramadan – A Time of Reflection

Ramadan is a special month observed by many Muslim families in our school community and around the world. In 2026, Ramadan begins on **February 17 and ends on March 19**.

During Ramadan, Muslims focus on reflection, gratitude, generosity, and caring for others. Many adults fast from sunrise to sunset, while children often participate in age-appropriate ways by learning about kindness, patience, and helping others.

We recognize that students may observe Ramadan in different ways and encourage continued understanding, respect, and kindness toward one another as part of our inclusive school community.

February Long Weekend Reminder

This weekend will be an extra-long weekend for our students. There is a Professional Development Day on **Friday, February 13**, followed by the Family Day statutory holiday on **Monday, February 16**.

I hope you can spend time with loved ones and enjoy the company of family and friends. Please make any necessary childcare arrangements, as the school will be closed to students on these days.

Have a safe and restful long weekend.

Brad Toews
Principal
šxʷəxʷaʔəs Thunderbird Elementary School

Important Dates 2025 -2026

- **Friday, February 13, 2026:** Professional Development Day – No School
- **Monday, February 16, 2026:** Family Day Stat Holiday – No School
- **Tuesday, February 17, 2026:** Lunar New Year
- **Tuesday, February 17, 2026:** Ramadan Begins
- **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:** PAC Meeting at 6:00pm in the library
- **Friday, April 10, 2026:** Class Photo Day
- **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, March 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!