



šxʷəxʷaʔəs Thunderbird Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

OUR VSB

April 10, 2026 / #28

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

šxʷəxʷaʔəs Thunderbird Families,

Spring Gardening With SPEC

This spring, our primary students will be working and learning in our school gardens with support from SPEC (Society Promoting Environmental Conservation). SPEC has been a valued partner in our school community for the past 11 years!

The school garden program helps connect children to their local food systems, their classmates, the natural world, and their broader community. Students will have opportunities to plant, observe, explore, and learn through hands-on outdoor experiences that support both curriculum and well-being.

We would like to thank Whole Foods and their Whole Kids program for their generous support of our gardening program.

Parent Teacher CSL Conferences

Our Parent Teacher CSL Conferences (Communicating Student Learning) will be held on **Wednesday, April 29** and **Thursday, April 30**, beginning at **2:00 PM**. Please note that both dates will be **early dismissal days** for students.

For these conferences, families will have the option of booking In-Person or Virtual TEAMS Meetings through our online bookings page: [ONLINE BOOKING](#) (Divisions 1, 2, 3, and 7 only)

Booking information for Divisions 4, 5 and 6 will be sent directly to you by the classroom teacher.

Earth Week at Thunderbird

Thunderbird will recognize Earth Week from **Tuesday, April 21 to Friday, April 24**. To help keep containers out of landfills and support strong recycling habits, we will be collecting refundable containers for the PAC's bottle drive fundraiser.

Families are encouraged to save their empties and send them to school in a clear plastic bag, if possible. All proceeds support our Grade 7 grads. Every container counts!

Vaisakhi — Next Tuesday

Next Tuesday is Vaisakhi. Vaisakhi is a spring festival that takes place every year on the 13th or 14th of April. This year, Vaisakhi falls on Monday, April 14.

Vaisakhi was originally a harvest festival celebrated in Punjab. Over time, it became one of the most important festivals in Sikhism, as it marks the creation of the Khalsa in 1699. The values connected to Vaisakhi include justice, equality, and the creation of a fair and inclusive society.

On Vaisakhi, many Sikhs visit the Gurdwara (Sikh place of worship) in the morning for a service. This is often followed by a large procession through the streets, called a Nagar Kirtan, featuring singing, chanting, and vibrant, colourful outfits. The celebration usually ends with a shared meal with family and friends.

In the Lower Mainland, many people are familiar with the annual Vaisakhi parades—especially those along Main Street and Fraser Street in Vancouver, as well as the large celebration in Surrey, which is one of the biggest Vaisakhi parades outside of India.

I hope you have the chance to experience this amazing festival for yourself!

Have a safe and restful weekend.

Brad Toews
Principal
šxʷəxʷaʔəs Thunderbird Elementary School

- **Monday, April 20, 2026:** *Professional Development Day – No School*
- **Wednesday, April 22, 2026:** *Earth Day*
- **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*
- **Thursday, May 7, 2026:** *The Big One at 2 PM – Earthquake Drill*
- **Wednesday, May 13, 2026:** *PAC Meeting at 6:00pm in the library*
- **Friday, May 18, 2026:** *Victoria Day Stat Holiday – No School*
- **Wednesday, May 20, 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*
- **Tuesday, June 23, 2026:** *Final Report Card 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, May 13, 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!
