



# šxʷəxʷaʔəs Thunderbird Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

OUR VSB

May 1, 2026 / #31

(604) 713-4611 | [thunderbird@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:thunderbird@vsb.bc.ca) |  
[www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/thunderbird](http://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/thunderbird)

šxʷəxʷaʔəs Thunderbird Families,

## **Earthquake Drill – May 7**

On May 7, our school will be participating in a province-wide earthquake drill to help staff and students prepare in the event of an earthquake. The school has a comprehensive emergency plan and clear roles in place to help keep students as safe and calm as possible.

In the event of a real earthquake, students would evacuate to the gravel field at the northwest corner of the school property, or to Sunrise Park on Rupert Street if the field is unusable. A controlled student release would take place from one of these locations.

Please contact the office if any updates are needed to the student release forms completed at the beginning of the year.

## **Red Dress Day – May 5, 2026**

On **May 5, 2026**, we recognize **Red Dress Day**, a National Day of Awareness to honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and to hold space for the stories of those who are still missing.

The red dress is a powerful symbol of presence, love, and remembrance. It reminds us that each missing person is deeply valued and continues to be carried in the hearts of their families and communities. This day invites us to listen with respect, acknowledge ongoing injustices, and reflect on our shared responsibility to help create safer, more caring communities.

## **McHappy Day – Wednesday, May 6**

A reminder that **Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>** is McHappy Day, McDonald's annual fundraiser supporting Ronald McDonald House Charities and local children's charities. Thanks to the generosity of Gowling WLG, every student will be provided with a Happy Meal lunch.

Students may choose a 4-piece Chicken McNuggets, Cheeseburger, or Lettuce & Tomato Snack Wrap Happy Meal. Families who do not wish to participate should inform their child's teacher and send an alternate lunch. Teachers will collect student choices by April 24.

## **School Organization for 2025–2026**

As we approach the end of the school year, staff are beginning conversations around school and class organization for the 2026–2027 school year. Creating class groupings is a complex, thoughtful process that considers many factors, including academic progress, individual learning styles, student relationships and interactions, learning needs, class balance, and insights from the educational professionals who work closely with your child.

If parents or guardians have specific and relevant information about their child's learning style or school relationships that would be helpful for the school to consider, you are welcome to email your child's teacher or the administration at [thunderbird@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:thunderbird@vsb.bc.ca) by Friday, May 29. Please note that the school does not accept requests for placement with specific teachers.

## **PAC Yoga – Tuesday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m.**

The Thunderbird PAC invites the Thunderbird Elementary School community to a Fitness and Yoga fundraiser on **Tuesday, May 12, from 6:30–7:30 p.m.** in the **undercover area near East 8th Avenue and Rupert Street at the school**. This adult-only event is open to parents, caregivers, teachers, and their invited guests; please note that child minding will not be provided. A minimum cash donation of \$5 will be collected at the door, with all proceeds supporting Thunderbird PAC initiatives. Participants are asked to bring their own mats and light weights. For more information, contact the PAC at [sunriseparkyoga@gmail.com](mailto:sunriseparkyoga@gmail.com).

## **PAC Meeting – May 13 at 6:00 p.m. (Second Wednesday This Month)**

Please join us for our May PAC meeting on Wednesday, May 13, at 6:00 p.m. Please note that this month's meeting is being held on the second Wednesday.

The PAC is a great way to become involved in your child's educational and school life and to contribute to the school community. PAC supports student learning and well-being, encourages parent involvement, advises the school on relevant matters, and helps build connections between the school, home, and neighbourhood.

Childminding is available for school-aged Thunderbird students, and a light pizza dinner will be provided. We hope to see you there!

Have a safe and restful weekend.

Brad Toews  
Principal  
šxʷəxʷaʔəs Thunderbird Elementary School

## Important Dates 2025 -2026

- **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](mailto: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](mailto: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!

---