



ᓄᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ Thunderbird Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

October 23, 2025 / #8

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

ᓄᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ Thunderbird Families,

🌟 Parent Teacher Conferences (CSL)

The teachers enjoyed meeting with parents and guardians at our first Parent Teacher CSL Conferences (Communicating Student Learning). I heard many great successes and plans to support learning. Education is a fundamental partnership between Student, School, and Family, and meaningful communication is integral to the learning experience. We honour the care and guidance families give to their children and appreciate the support to teachers and the school to further student learning and to create positive relationships with the common purpose of raising competent, compassionate, and kind young people who are ready to make positive and impactful contributions to society. We look forward to meeting once again in April of 2025 for CSL Conferences. If anything arises between now and then, please feel free to contact your teacher at any time.

🛡️ Emergency Preparedness Drills

Over the past few weeks, students successfully participated in several emergency drills, including a lockdown drill, fire drill, and earthquake drill. They followed instructions attentively and demonstrated that they know how to respond appropriately in the event of an emergency.

During our earthquake drill, we practiced the safety procedure “Drop, Cover, and Hold On,” which helps students understand how to protect themselves during seismic activity. These drills are an important part of our school and district’s commitment to emergency preparedness. They allow us to review and update our response plans and supplies to ensure we are ready to act effectively in the event of a real emergency.

❤️ Musqueam Day – Honouring Strength and Justice

Every year, Musqueam recognises November 1 as Musqueam Day—a holiday that honours the strength and determination of Musqueam ancestors in their pursuit of justice and the protection of their inherent rights. This date marks the landmark Supreme Court of Canada decision in *R. v. Guerin* (1984), which centred on the Shaughnessy Golf Course lease and affirmed Musqueam rights in the case. It stands as a powerful reminder of the importance of Indigenous advocacy and legal recognition. To learn more about the history and significance of Musqueam Day, you can read this 2021 blog post from the Musqueam website: <https://www.musqueam.bc.ca/musqueam-day-2021/>

🎃 Halloween

With Halloween just around the corner, excitement is building as students and families begin planning costumes for our annual Halloween parade on **October 31**. We love seeing the creativity and spirit this event brings to our school community!

As you prepare, please keep in mind that costumes should be fun, respectful, and school-appropriate. We kindly ask families to avoid costumes that may be culturally insensitive or that mimic racial or ethnic groups. Additionally, costumes that promote or normalize violence—including those with weapons or violent props—are not permitted.

Also, Halloween is a time for spooky thrills and imagination. But the holiday also brings some extra risks for children and teens. Did you know that child pedestrian injuries are more likely on Halloween than on any other night of the year. Help keep Halloween fun and safe for your family with these tips.

- **Always accompany young children** on their neighborhood rounds. If trick-or-treating doesn't start until after dark where you live, consider checking with your town or park district for Halloween activities offered earlier in the day. Research shows that evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. are the riskiest times of day for child pedestrians.
- **If your older children are trick-or-treating alone**, plan and review the route that is acceptable to you. Agree on a specific time when they should return home and get flashlights with batteries for everyone.
- **Talk with kids about the risk of distracted walking.** This includes text messaging, talking on or looking at the mobile phone and listening to music.
- **Cross the street as a group in established crosswalks.** Most (62%) child pedestrian traffic fatalities occurred mid-block, rather than at intersections. Make sure kids know not to cross the street between parked cars or out of driveways or alleys.
- **Don't assume cars will stop just** because they have the right of way. Motorists may have trouble seeing trick-or-treaters.

- **Stay on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk.** If no sidewalk is available, walk at the far edge of the roadway facing traffic. Only go to homes with a porch light on and, ideally, a well-lit pathway.
- **Remember:** it's about having fun; injuries are never fun.

 Introducing the Van Tech ChOrD Program!

The Van Tech ChOrD (Choral Outreach and Development) program is an exciting new initiative designed to build a musical bridge between our feeder elementary schools and the vibrant choral community at Vancouver Technical Secondary. Meeting weekly on **Thursdays after school** in the Van Tech music room, this program offers **Grade 5 to 7** singers a chance to connect, learn, and grow through music.

With a **low cost of just \$15 per student** (subsidies available), participants will receive snacks and all necessary materials, including music and folders. It's a fantastic opportunity to foster musical talent and community spirit!

Grade 5 to 7 register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/1YKNX8ee5P> See the attached flyer!

 School Closure – Professional Development Day

Lastly, note that tomorrow, **Friday, October 24**, the school will be **closed** for a professional development day. We kindly ask families to make appropriate childcare arrangements, as classes will not be in session.

With that, have a wonderful weekend,

Brad Toews
Principal
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“A room without books is like a body without a soul.” – Cicero

Important Dates 2025 -2026

- **Wednesday, October 29, 2025:** *Individual Photo Re-Take Day*
- **Friday, October 31, 2025:** *Halloween Parade*
- **Wednesday, November 5, 2025:** *PAC Meeting at 6:00pm in the library*
- **Tuesday, November 11, 2025:** *Remembrance Day Stat Holiday – **No school***
- **Friday, November 21, 2025:** *Professional Development Day – **No School***
- **Wednesday, December 3, 2025:** *PAC Meeting at 6:00pm in the library*
- **Thursday, December 11, 2025:** *Student Christmas Store*
- **Wednesday, December 17, 2025:** *Thunderbird Community Centre’s Christmas dinner*
 - *Report Card #1 Go Home*
- **Friday, December 19, 2025:** *Pancake Breakfast and PJ Day - Last Before Winter Break*
- **Monday, January 5, 2026:** *First Day Back from Winter Break*

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, November 5, 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!
