



wákw'anás tə syaq'əm Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

**September 2, 2026/
Summer Edition**

Website / Phone 604-713-4686

wákw'anás tə syaq'əm School Community,

Welcome Back!

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! I hope you and your family enjoyed a restful and enjoyable summer and had the opportunity to spend quality time with loved ones.

As the new principal of wákw'anás tə syaq'əm, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all students and families as we begin a new school year together. I am excited to join this school community and look forward to getting to know the staff, students, families, and community partners who make this such a special place. I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside you throughout the year and support our students in their learning and growth.

To help keep families informed, I aim to send a weekly email at the end of each week highlighting school updates, important information, upcoming events, and celebrations of learning. I look forward to partnering with you to make this a successful and rewarding year for all students.

Start-Up Information

We are excited to welcome students back for the 2026-2027 school year!

Grades K-7: First Day of School, Tuesday, September 8, 2026

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 8, 2026. All students in Grades K-7 will attend from **9:00 to 10:00 a.m.**

Returning students will report to their previous year's classroom.

New students in Grades 1-7 are asked to check in at the office upon arrival and will be temporarily placed in a classroom at their grade level until class placements are finalized.

Incoming Kindergarten students will meet in the multi-purpose room on the first floor.

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 and Beyond

Beginning Wednesday, September 9, students will attend school on the regular schedule from **9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

An alternate entry schedule was shared with incoming Kindergarten families. Please refer to that information for details.

If your child will not be returning to wákw'anás tə syaq'əm this school year, please notify the school office by email as soon as possible.

Starting Wednesday, September 9, students should bring a snack and lunch each day.

Bell Schedule – 2026–2027

To help families plan for the school day, please note our bell schedule for the 2026–2027 school year:

- Welcome Bell: 8:55 a.m.
- Start of Day: 9:00 a.m.
- Recess: 10:30–10:50 a.m.
- Lunch: 12:10–12:55 p.m.
- Dismissal: 3:00 p.m.

We encourage students to arrive a few minutes before the welcome bell, so they are ready to begin the day on time and arrive on time for pick up.

Class Placements

Staff carefully considers each student's academic, social, emotional, and learning needs when creating classes. Placement decisions are made collaboratively by teachers, support staff, and administration to foster balanced and supportive learning environments for all students.

While we understand that students may have preferences, it is not always possible to accommodate requests for specific friends or teachers. We appreciate your support in encouraging your child to embrace their placement and the opportunities it provides.

Combined-grade classes are a regular part of most schools and offer valuable learning opportunities for students. The curriculum for each grade level is fully taught, and most students quickly adjust and enjoy a successful year with their new classmates and teacher.

 Personal Digital Devices

In accordance with provincial guidelines, students are not permitted to use personal digital devices during the school day. Devices must be turned off or set to silent and kept out of sight between **9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.**, including during recess and lunch.

We appreciate families' support in helping students follow these expectations so they can remain focused, engaged, and connected to their learning throughout the school day.

With that, we're looking forward to a wonderful school year ahead!

Warm regards,

Brad Toews (pronounced *TAVES*)
Principal
wə́kʷaṇəs tə syaqʷəm Elementary School

 Important Dates 2026 -2027

- **Tuesday, September 8, 2026:** *First Day for Students – (9:00-10:00am, One Hour Only)*
- **Wednesday, September 9, 2026:** *First Full Day for students (9:00am – 3:00pm)*
- **Monday, September 21, 2026:** *Professional Develop Day – No School*
- **Tuesday, September 29, 2026:** *Orange Shirt Day*
- **Wednesday, September 30, 2026:** *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – No school*
- **Monday, October 5, 2026:** *Individual Photo Day*
- **Monday, October 12, 2026:** *Thanksgiving Day Stat Holiday – No school*
- **Monday, October 20, 2026:** *Diwali*
- **Wednesday, October 21, 2026:** *Individual Photo Re-Take Day*
- **Wednesday & Thursday, October 21 & 22, 2026:** *Parent Teacher Conferences – Early Dismissal @ 2:00pm*
- **Friday, October 23, 2026:** *Professional Develop Day – No School*
- **Wednesday, November 11, 2026:** *Remembrance Day Stat Holiday – No school*
- **Friday, November 20, 2026:** *Professional Develop Day – No School*
- **Tuesday, December 15, 2026:** *Report Card #1 Go Home*
- **Friday, December 18, 2026:** *Last Day of School Before Winter Break*
- **Monday, January 4, 2027:** *First Day Back from Winter Break*

Safe Arrival

If your child will be absent or late, please call **604-713-5159 Ext. 12** or Email begsafearrival@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. Meetings are typically held once a month, from September to June.

The first PAC meeting of 2026/2027 is **TBA** in the library.

PAC Information and meeting minutes can be found: [HERE](#)

VSB: After the Bell, Podcast

In the VSB’s podcast, **VSB: After the Bell**, you’ll hear directly from experienced educators, subject matter experts and students on topics that relate directly to our VSB community. Whether you tune in to a pre-recorded episode or join us for a live session, we're happy to have you with us during these open and honest conversations about education.

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!