



Thunderbird ʃxʷəxʷaʔəs Elementary School

2325 Cassiar Street, Vancouver, B.C. V5M 3X3
Tel: 604-713-4611 Fax: 604-713-4613

October 1, 2025

With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)

School Organization

- 167 Students
- 7 Divisions

What's New

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation:

- Thunderbird recognized [Orange Shirt Day](#) and Canada's *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation* on Friday, holding an assembly to teach about the history Orange Shirt Day and reconciliation.
- Assembly was student-led – to well done and very impactful
 - o Div 1
 - o Div 2
- Orange t-shirt sales were good through office. Perhaps we consider ordering more?

Meet the Teacher/PAC Night:

- How did it go?
- Reimbursement - \$372.33 / 2 = \$186

Diwali:

Also, October 20 this year is Diwali, or Dipawali. It is India's biggest and most important holiday of the year. The festival gets its name from the row (*avali*) of clay lamps (*diyas*) that Indians light outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects from spiritual darkness. This festival is as important to Indian cultures as the Christmas holiday is to Christians. I hope you have the chance to partake in one of the many festivals happening through the Lower Mainland this weekend.

Halloween:

Friday, October 31 is our Halloween parade. Please remember it is meant to be fun and exciting, however, some costume choices run the risk of offending others with costumes that are culturally offensive. It is important not to inadvertently mimic culture by culturally appropriating racial or ethnic groups or wear costumes that promote or normalize violence. Costumes should not include weapons and other props of violence. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in choosing a school appropriate costume.

Choir:



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- All class will be receiving choir classes weekly, began September 23
- Tuesday and Thursdays + a lunch hour choir open to all students grade 5 and up.
- Funded by Saint James Music Academy
- No charge to students.

The Great BC ShakeOut:

- **Friday, October 18, 2024**
- All students will drop cover hold... evacuate.

Parent teacher conferences.

- October 21 and 22
- Early dismissal at 2 PM
- Online sign-up provided in newsletter and through teacher correspondence.

Classroom Funds

- Cheque - \$2000

Important Dates to Remember

- **Monday, October 13, 2025:** *Thanksgiving Day Stat Holiday – No school*
- **Monday, October 20, 2025:** *Diwali*
- **Tuesday & Wednesday, October 21 & 22, 2025:** *Parent Teacher Conferences – Early Dismissal @ 2:00pm*
- **Friday, October 24, 2025:** *Professional Development Day – No School*
- **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*
- **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*



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Draft Meeting Minutes taken by Blake Frederick

Call to order at 6:10pm by Laurie

Land Acknowledgement by Emily G

Minutes approved by unanimous consent.

Laurie notes PAC part of the website can be updated.

Principal's Report

- National Truth and Reconciliation Day assembly held on Monday September 29 2025
 - Grade 7 hosted assembly
 - Thanks to Div 3 for drumming at the assembly
 - Learned lessons for Indigenous support worker
 - >> Tshirts were popular – we may need to order more
- Meet the Teach and PAC Night
 - About 100 people attendance
 - Pizza food amount was
 - Spent \$323, invoicing PAC for \$186 since we prev agreed to pay the amount, may be processed this evening by Ruby TBD. 6:54pm update: signed
 - Yummy Slice gave a school discount
- Diwali is in October
- Halloween
 - Brad will send reminders about appropriate costumes – no weapons, no trivialization of violence
- Choir has started
 - All classes are receiving weekly music lessons began Sep 23. Saint James Music Academy fully funds Cynthia to teach music. We are 1 of 3 schools in the district to receive this.
- BC Shake Out is on Oct 16th
 - “Drop, cover, hold”
 - School does an evacuation
 - Emergency supplies are checked
- Parent-Teacher Conferences (CSL)
 - Oct 21, 22 – Tues, Weds
 - Sign up is online, teachers will send out correspondence
- Classroom Funds
 - Teachers are excited to receive PAC class funding
 - >> PAC needs to give this funding to the school

Community Engagement Initiatives

- Laurie gave a brief intro to the PAC at the Meet the Teachers night



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- We are looking to fill PAC vacant positions – particularly co- Treasurer or Treasurer in training as David will need to step away from the role next year, duties include correlating with Excel spreadsheet, applying for gaming grant, submitting a summary report.
- Lindsay Hood volunteers for co-Treasurer
- Co-chair is still vacant
- Halloween parade – does PAC want/need to be involved? Brad mentions it happens during school hours so not much opportunity for PAC involvement.

Fundraising

- Ruby discusses winter fundraising ideas.
- Ruby mentions AstroFoods from last year, many outside school sales, not a huge money-maker, but not a failure. Photo fundraiser wasn't hugely successful.
- Ruby brings up the idea of direct cash donations on the school website.
 - o Brad, Laurie, Blake, Ruby discuss details and merits of asking for donations.
 - o Chad mentions idea to ask for cash donations in person. M. Gill says this is the likely the most effective option.
 - o Emily: Why not tell them they're donating to grade 7 grad, Spring Festival, classroom funds?
 - o Chad mentions potential need for sandwich boards, Laurie mentions QR code to ask for donations.
 - o M. Gill mentions the idea to check with the community centre to see if they have an extra board.
 - o Brad mentions it doesn't have to be just about fundraising – it could mention upcoming events.
- M. Gill mentions there is an opportunity to sell food but it would require volunteers.
 - o Brad mentions we need to try to adhere to healthy food standards
 - o Emily is uncomfortable with selling additional sugar treats during school hours, also concerned about equity due to cost
- Question about gaming licence re 50/50 and auctions.
 - o Lindsay clarifies gaming money may need to be used for particular purposes with particular guidelines.
- Are we doing Indigo love of reading? Brad mentions we haven't applied in recent years, may talk to Ms. Ting about it.
- Laurie asks if we do any coffee mornings. Brad mentions we started Books for Breakfast and it basically combined with and subsumed the coffee morning initiative. Renfrew Starbucks donates coffee to these events.
 - o Chad mentions he may talk to Trees Organic which opened up in the neighbourhood recently.
 - o Brad mentions we never go over 2 travellers in terms of coffee consumption.
 - o Laurie says the coffee initiative may be important for community building.
 - o Brad says Superstore may be a good lead. Still need 2 coffee containers.
- M. Gill mentions she may look into Walmart adopt a school for funding.
- Lindsay mentions that the PAC used to do bake sales and Krispy Kreme before COVID.
- Laurie asks about sending a multiple choice survey to parents but multiple people mention that we would be very unlikely
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Treasurer's Report

- David mentions that \$3740 grant has been approved.
- Accounts at:
 - \$12094.15 General
 - \$300 VSB cash online
 - \$0 Return it
- Laurie asks: where does t-shirt money go? Buy more t-shirts. There was no profit.

Other Business

- Laurie received an email from the Grandview Woodlands Council asking for feedback from parents about local issues. No discussion.
- Chad: are we going to do pizza in the future? Various opinions.
- Living document on Google Drive for fundraising – Laurie
- Laurie asks about sign in sheet from last time. Chad will send to PAC chair.
- We may start to do an RSVP.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.