šxʷəxʷaʔəs Thunderbird

Elementary School

2325 Cassiar Street, Vancouver

V5M 3X3

604-713-4611 thunderbird@vsb.bc.ca

September 4, 2026 School News

Dear šxʷəxʷaʔəs Thunderbird Families,

Welcome back to the 2026 2027 school year! I hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer with your loved ones. Our school team is excited to welcome back our returning students and families and extend a warm greeting to those joining the šxʷəxʷaʔəs Thunderbird community for the first time this year.

As the new principal in the šxʷəxʷaʔəs Thunderbird school community I am looking forward to meeting you and your children. I am honoured to be joining an amazing school staff team who are passionate about their support of students and families.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sharon Vieira,
Principal, šxʷəxʷaʔəs Thunderbird
scvieira@vsb.bc.ca

Tuesday September 8 First Day of School, Welcome back!

Grade 1-7 Students: short day for grade 1-7 students from 9:00 to 10:00 am.

Returning students will go to their, last year's classrooms and line ups please.

New students should check in at the office and will be temporarily placed within their grade level until classes are finalized.

Kindergartens gradual entry begins (see schedule below)

Wednesday September 9, Full Day Begins 9:00-3:00pm for Grades 1 -7,

- students will need to bring a snack, lunch and water bottle.
- Lunch forms sent home today with students
- grade 1 – 7 students will follow our regular schedule: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Thursday September 10, Full day for Grades 1-7 breakfast program and hot lunch begin

Friday September 11, Full day for Grades 1-7

Kindergarten gradual entry schedule:

Date	Hours of Attendance
Tuesday, September 8th ✱ *Parents must attend this day*	9:00 – 10:00am - meet in the Kindergarten Classroom #101 ✱ please sign up for a 30 min. family interview time. Family Meetings, 1pm – 3pm.
Wednesday, September 9th	9:00 – 10:15am – meet outside at Exit G. Family Meetings, 10:30 am – 3pm.
Thursday, September 10th	9:00 – 10:15am – meet outside at Exit G. Family Meetings, 10:30 am – 3pm.
Friday, September 11th	9:00 – 10:15am – meet outside at Exit G. Family Meetings, 10:30 am – 3pm.
Monday, September 14th	9:00 – 11:15am –starting today meet outside at Exit D ✱ bring a healthy snack. Family Meetings, 11:30 am – 3pm.
Tuesday, September 15th	9:00am – 1:30pm – bring a healthy snack ✱ bring a bagged lunch or participate in Hot Lunch Program
Wednesday, September 16th	9:00-3:00pm n – first full day of kindergarten! ✱ bring a healthy snack daily ✱ bring a bagged lunch or participate in Hot Lunch Program

Wednesday, September 16th – First full day of kindergarten.
Regular school hours will continue until the end of June 2027. Starting today, parents will pick up and drop off their child outside Exit D (please refer to map). If your child arrives after 9:05 am you will instead take your child to the office for a late slip.

Snack – A recess snack is required every day. Please ensure that you send a healthy, nutritious snack, such as a fruit, vegetable, cheese and crackers, small sandwich, or yogurt with your child. Please also pack a water bottle for your child. A healthy snack keeps your child learning and engaged at school.

Hot Lunch – Information about our hot lunch program will be coming home with your child the first week.

We look forward to working with you and your child. If you have questions, please email Ms. Ting at cting@vsb.bc.ca.

Not Returning this year?
If your child is not returning to Thunderbird school this year or returning late after September 9th, 2026. please email us to let us know at thunderbird@vsb.bc.ca

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Returning Students will follow the same entry and exit routines as last year. Parents and guardians are kindly asked not to line up with their children. Instead, children may wait with their families in the school yard until their teacher welcomes them in their designated line.
New students will come to the office on their first day and learn about their class line up spot after their first day. Parents of new students can pick up their child at the office after their first day of school and then show their family where their new line up spot is.

Visiting Parents/Guardians: Please note that school access for parents and guardians is by appointment only. To ensure student safety, all non-staff adults must enter through the main office on Cassiar Street and sign in at reception please.

Hot Meals for Students

Our hot lunch and breakfast programs start on Thursday, September 10.

- **Lunch**: $6.95/day (subsidies available).
  - **Wed. Sep.9 Lunch Enrollment forms** and menus will be sent home.

- **Breakfast**: Free for all students, starts at 8:15am. Please enter the lunchroom from the primary undercover area on the Southwest side of the school

When sending food from home, please ensure items are easy for children to open and clean up after themselves.

Bell Schedule - 2026-2027

Welcome Bell	**8:55am**
Start of Day	**9:00 am**
Recess	**10:30-10:50am**
Lunch	**12:10-12:55pm**
Dismissal	**3:00pm**

* **Students must sign in at the office if they arrive after 9:00am please.**

*Please arrange for your child to be picked up on time after school at 3:00pm.

Safe Arrival: If your child will be absent or late, please:

- call 604-713-5159 extension 81

or

- email tbrdattendance@vsb.bc.ca by 9:00am.

Please do not call the school office, thank you!

Dressing for the weather

Students will be outside during recess and lunch **everyday even when there is rain and snow.** Please dress children appropriately and consider sending an umbrella/raincoat and an extra set of clothes. If you need support with finding warm outdoor clothing, please let school staff know and we will try our best to support you.

Class organization, important information for families:

What is a combined class?

A combined class includes students from two or more grades who learn together in one classroom. Combined classes are common in elementary schools across the province and are supported by British Columbia's flexible curriculum.
In all classrooms, teachers plan for the students they teach. They provide learning activities and support that match each student's grade level and learning needs.

How school teams organize classes

Each year, schools receive staff based on the number of students enrolled. School teams then organize classes to support student learning. Schools must follow provincial rules and staffing agreements when creating classes. This means some students may be placed in combined classes.

How students are placed in classes

School teams consider many factors when organizing students into classes. Their goal is to create learning environments that support learning, positive relationships and student success.
No single factor determines placement. School teams consider each student's individual circumstances, including:

- learning and support needs
- social-emotional development and peer relationships
- group dynamics and classroom balance

Teaching and learning in every classroom

In every classroom, students bring a range of strengths, interests, experiences and learning needs. Teachers plan learning experiences that support and challenge each learner.

Students may learn on their own, in small groups or with the whole class. Teachers use different ways to teach. They adjust activities and support based on what their students need.

Teachers use this approach in both combined and single-grade classes, following the curriculum for each grade while responding to each student's learning needs.

How can I support my child?

Families support their children's learning in many ways. Combined classes do not change the important partnership between home and school.
Families may wish to:

- talk with their child about what they are learning
- stay connected with their child's teacher and school
- attend school events and conferences
- reach out to school staff with questions or concerns

VSB: After the Bell, Podcast

Podcast episodes are released at the end of every month.
Try the link https://www.vsb.bc.ca/thunderbird/after-the-bell-ep-28-universal-design-for-learning-part-one.78802

Or Subscribe to VSB: After the Bell on Apple Podcasts, Spotify or wherever you listen to podcasts!

PAC News

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is a great way to become involved in your child's educational and school life and contribute to the school. All school parents and guardians are members of the school PAC.

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 first PAC meeting of 2026/2027 is to be announced. Meetings are held in the school library and we offer babysitters for school aged children to come with parents.

PAC Information and meeting minutes can be found: HERE

Please see the September & school calendar on the next page….

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labour Day School Closed	8 Welcome Back!!! First day back Gr.1-7 9:00-10:00am Kindergarten(Ks) 9:00-10:00am	9 Gr. 1-7 Start full days 9:00-3:00pm Ks 9-10:15am Lunch forms sent home	10 Breakfast starts 8:15am Ks 9-10:15am Hot lunch program begins	11 Ks 9-10:15am	12
13	14 Ks 9-11:15am Strong Start opens	15 Ks 9-1:30pm	16 Ks.9:00-3:00pm	17	18	19
20	21 Pro D Day No students at school	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Orange shirt Day 	30 **Truth and Reconciliation Day** School Closed			

Calendar 2026-27
šxʷəxʷaʔəs Thunderbird
Elementary School

VSB Vancouver School Board

SCHOOL OPERATION OVERVIEW	
Number of Days in Session	186
Number of Days of Instruction	179
Number of Days of Non-Instruction	5 Professional Development Days 1 Non-Instructional Day 1 Administrative Day (June 30)

IMPORTANT DATES	
First Day of School for Students	Tuesday, September 8, 2026
National Day of Truth & Reconciliation	Wednesday, September 30, 2026
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 12, 2026
Remembrance Day	Wednesday, November 11, 2026
Last Day of Instruction Before Winter Vacation	Friday, December 18, 2026
Winter Vacation Period	Monday, December 21, 2026 - Friday, January 1, 2027
School Re-opens after Winter Vacation	Monday, January 4, 2027
Family Day	Monday, February 15, 2027
Last Day of Instruction Before Spring Vacation	Friday, March 12, 2027
Spring Vacation Period	Monday, March 15, 2027 - Thursday, March 25, 2027
Good Friday	Friday, March 26, 2027
Easter Monday	Monday, March 29, 2027
School Re-opens after Spring Vacation	Tuesday, March 30, 2027
Victoria Day	Monday, May 24, 2027
Last Full Day of Pupil Attendance	Tuesday, June 29, 2027
Administrative/School Closing Day	Wednesday, June 30, 2027

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS (SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION)	
Monday, September 21, 2026	Professional Development Day (School - moveable)
Friday, October 23, 2026	Professional Development Day (Province wide)
Friday, November 20, 2026	Professional Development Day (District wide)
Friday, February 12, 2027	Professional Development Day (District wide)
Monday, April 19, 2027	Non-Instructional Day (District wide)
Friday, May 21, 2027	Professional Development Day (School – not moveable)

PARENT CONFERENCE DATES	EARLY DISMISSAL TIMES
Tuesday, October 20, 2026	2:00pm
Wednesday, October 21, 2026	2:00pm
Wednesday, April 21, 2027	2:00pm
Thursday, April 22, 2027	2:00pm