



February - March Family Bulletin

(604) 713-8215 | vantec@vsb.bc.ca | vsb.bc.ca/vancouver-technical.bc.ca

Spring News

Dear Van Tech Community,

In Semester 2, Van Tech students and staff have been actively building community through their involvement in various activities and events that align with our School Learning Plan's three key areas: improving belonging, improving equity, and continuing on our reconciliation journey with First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples. Students have been enthusiastically participating field trips, music events, and athletic finals. Notably, senior students Ruth Mvukiyehe and Nola Charles recently represented Van Tech at a Black Excellence Day livestream, organized by the Ninandotoo Society and the Burnaby school district. To hear their insights on the event, you can tune in to the VSB podcast, "After the Bell" [HERE](#).



X-Block students have been diligently organizing several Black History Month events, including musician and educator Ndidi Cascade's performance entitled "ORIGINZ." Additionally, various student groups spearheaded Valentine's Day fundraisers and activities, while many students showed their support by attending the 33rd annual Women's Memorial March to honor Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Concurrently, our staff has been engaging with Indigenous artists to enhance the representation of Indigenous peoples within the school community.

Meanwhile, changes are afoot among the Van Tech staff. We welcome returning teachers Michael Rosen (French Immersion), Sepideh Saii (Fine Arts), and Tanea Wong (Math), as well as new staff members Natasha Schultz (Diverse Learners) and Stephanie Sonke (Science). We say goodbye to staff members Alissa Coultter (CLE), Chantal Ma (Science), Amanda Simonetto (Diverse Learners), and Jessica Wallin (English) and wish them all the best in their new schools. Additionally, we say farewell to Catherine Daniels (Math) until September 2024 and extend our heartfelt wishes for a happy retirement to David Tolksdorff (Math) and Lynn Price (Diverse Learners).



As caregivers, we encourage you to review your child's Semester 1 Summary of Learning and Mid-Semester Learning Update carefully. Please take the time to carefully review the comments in these reports, discuss next year's course selections with your children, and encourage them to reach out to their grade counsellors with any questions or concerns they may have.

Looking ahead to spring, we invite you to connect with our school staff should you have any inquiries, feedback, or concerns regarding your child's academic or personal development. Serving the Van Tech community is our utmost pleasure.



Mr. Roberto Moro
Principal (Gr. 12)



Mr. Adam Tuerlings
Vice Principal (Gr. 9 & 11)



Ms. Janet Thompson
Vice Principal (Gr. 8 & 10)

Parent Advisory Council Information

We invite all parents/caregivers of Van Tech students to join us for Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings.

PAC meetings are an opportunity for folks to hear from, and ask questions of, the school administration. We welcome suggestions for topics for future meetings. Our meetings follow a hybrid model of in-person and remote. Agendas, minutes and Zoom links can be found on the [PAC webpage](#). If you have questions, please contact the PAC chair: chairvt@gmail.com

Join us at the next meeting on Tuesday, March 5th, at 7pm in the library or on Zoom. All are welcome!

You can register in advance for this meeting here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/95966532504?pwd=ZlZEdRZjRjktHNPjNkFhc4ftklI50rp9SVaBb>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Your 2023-2024 Pac Executive: Lindsie Tomlinson (Chair), Shawna Deagle (Treasurer), Shawn-Patrick Carnahan (Secretary)

Course Planning

All completed Gr. 8 -11 course request forms must be submitted to the appropriate grade counsellor by Thursday, February 29th.

Counsellors have been visiting classes to support student course planning for next year and we also encourage caregivers to discuss the various course options available to their child/children.

Course planning information is available on the Van Tech website: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/vancouver-technical/page/4643/course-planning>, including our Course Planning Guide, recordings of the January 16th, 2024 Caregiver Information night, as well as the slides from the presentations.

Summer school

Please note that registration for Summer School courses opens on **Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at noon (12:00 pm)** and closes on **Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 11:59 pm**. [Click here for the summer registration website](#).

All courses are in-person. Review, Preview, Remedial and ELL courses run from July 3 to July 26, 2024. Completion courses run from July 3 - August 2, 2024. *Please note that course information will be available mid-April.*

Email questions to the Summer Learning office at: summerlearning@vsb.bc.ca.

Reporting

What is the purpose of assessment?

The purpose of assessment is to facilitate learning and move it forward in an equitable and inclusive way. It helps students answer three questions about their learning:

- Where am I now?
- Where am I going?
- How do I get there?

Quality assessment is ongoing and responsive. It informs the instruction cycle and provides **teachers** with evidence to plan. It helps **families** understand and support their children's learning. Most importantly, it provides **students** with meaningful feedback to guide their learning and help them reflect on their growth.

How will my child be assessed?

All students will receive **Written Learning Updates** (Report Cards) and **Informal Learning Updates** such as telephone calls, e-mails, and conferences. Written Learning Updates will also include self-reflection and goal setting, as well as descriptive feedback. The new Provincial Reporting Policy requires that students in Grades 10 -12 will receive a **letter grade and percentage**, while students in Grades 8 and 9 will receive grades on a four-point proficiency scale (**Emerging, Developing, Proficient, Extending**).

EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING
The student demonstrates an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a complete understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.

PLEASE NOTE: The grade **"IE" (Insufficient Evidence)** indicates that the student has not yet demonstrated minimally acceptable performance in relation to the learning standards. Should your child receive an "IE" for any of their classes before the Summary of Learning, the teacher will identify what learning standards (competencies and content knowledge) they need to demonstrate and create a support plan for the student. This plan will outline the actions to be taken by the student and school to help the student provide sufficient evidence of learning.

For students in Gr. 10-12, an "IE" may be converted to an F (Fail) at the end of the course. For students in Gr. 8 and 9, an "IE" may be converted to an Emerging at the end of the course, even when the student is not yet demonstrating any leaning in relation to the learning standards. Please note that an Emerging grade is ALSO used to indicate that a student demonstrates an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.

Caregivers of Gr. 8 and 9 students

Should your child be assessed as Emerging at the end of a course in the Summary of Learning, it is crucial to read the comments carefully. If the teacher advises your child to repeat the course, please contact your child's grade counsellor for more information. Click [HERE](#) for our staff directory.

Learning Updates publication

The Summary of Learning (Final Report Card) for Semester 1, and the Written Learning Update (Mid-Semester Report Card) for full year courses were published on student MyEducation BC accounts on **February 9, 2024**. Semester 1 final reports will not be available after March 7th, 2024. *It is recommended that you download and save a copy for future reference.*

Semester	Learning Update: <i>Interim Report</i>	Learning Update: <i>Mid-Semester Report</i>	Learning Update: <i>Parent-Teacher Conferences</i>	Learning Update: <i>Summary of Learning</i>
1	Oct. 13, 2023	Nov. 24, 2023	Dec. 14, 2023	Feb. 9, 2024
2	March 8, 2024	April 26, 2024	May 9, 2024	June 26, 2024
Linear Course (all year)	Nov. 24, 2023	Feb. 9, 2024 April 26, 2024	Dec. 14, 2023 May 9, 2024	June 26, 2024

How to access Learning Updates (Report Cards) on MyEd

The Summary of Learning (Final Report Card) for Semester 1, and the Written Learning Update (Mid-Semester Report Card) for full year courses were published on student MyEducation BC accounts on **February 9, 2024**.

Follow these steps for access:

1. Go to <https://myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspen/logon.do>
2. The MyEducation BC Login ID is your child's student number.
3. If you haven't logged in before, the default MyEducation BC Password is set by the district to: Dist\$2024
4. If you've forgotten your Password, or if it has expired (passwords must be reset every 90 days), see the reset instructions here: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5038/account-management>

VSBC MyEd HELP PAGE: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5038/account-management>

It is recommended that you download and save a copy of this Learning Update for future reference. Learning Updates are NOT saved on MyEd. Only the most recent Learning Updates are posted on student accounts.

Graduation Assessment Schedule & Results

As part of the graduation requirements, students are required to write three Graduation Assessments: Numeracy 10, Literacy 10, and Literacy 12. French Immersion students who wish to obtain a Diplôme de fin d'études secondaires en Colombie-Britannique must also write the French Immersion Literacy Assessment.

Note that these are NOT Provincial Exams. The result a student achieves on the Assessment(s) will not impact their academic standing, BUT students are required to write the assessment to meet Graduation Requirements.

The Literacy 10 Assessment will be held on Thursday, April 18th. Students will be excused from classes to write the assessment and are expected to return to class if they complete the assessment before the end of the morning/afternoon. Students are expected to attend regular classes for the other half of the day.

Student Action Items

- **Make note of your assigned assessment time(s) and room location(s)** posted in your Grade Channel in the Van Tech Student Hub TEAM. This information will also be posted in the school's main foyer closer to assessment date.
- Refer to the supporting Ministry of Education webpages to prepare for the assessment. It is strongly recommended that students try the sample assessment to become familiar with the assessment format, instructions, and navigation: [Gr. 10 Literacy Assessment](#)

Please see your counsellor should you have questions regarding your graduation requirements. Contact Ms. Thompson should you have questions regarding writing your Graduation Assessment(s).

Results

To view and download a copy of your child's results for any Graduation Assessment, go to [Student Transcripts Services](#), click on Current Student, and register for a BCeID (or login if you already have one). You will need your child's information as noted on the page. You will receive an email via the email you entered. Click the link in the email to confirm. Once you have created an account to access the site, click on "Graduation Assessment/Provincial Exam Results" to view results.

Note: this site is where you are also able to "View Your Transcript," "Send/Order Your Transcript," as well as other options. The Ministry transcript contains only your completed courses, not in-progress courses.

Athletics

We are excited to start Spring Athletics season! The following teams are being offered:

- Badminton - Co-Ed
- Golf - Co-Ed
- Mountain Biking
- Rugby (Grade 9-12 only)
- Soccer - Girls
- Tennis - Co-Ed
- Track and Field - Co-Ed
- Ultimate - Co-Ed
- Volleyball - Boys (Grade 8 and 9 only)

Tryouts and practices start the last week of February and first week of March for spring sports. Keep checking the athletics channel on the Student Hub for details. Students who try out for a for a spring team need to register AND complete a Medical/Emergency Contact Information form ASAP. (If you already completed the form earlier this school year, you don't need to do so again.)

- Register [HERE](#)
- Emergency Contact and Medical Info [HERE](#)

Congratulations to the junior boys basketball team on winning their 2nd consecutive city championship in hostile territory! Ade Ajobo's game winning 3 pointer with 0.8 seconds left in the semi-final versus previously undefeated Magee sent the team to the final, where they controlled the pace and came out victorious over Killarney. Jordon Chu and Crewe Preston were named tournament all stars and Lennox Leacock was recognized as the tournament MVP. This is the 2nd junior boys basketball city championship VT has one and the first since 1974! The team is heading to the BC Invitational Tournament, hoping to improve on last year's 8th place finish.



Fine Arts

Music

The Music Program is busily preparing for their annual Fine Arts Week Concerts on April 10, with a Junior performance in the afternoon and a Senior Concert in the evening at 7pm. All families are welcome to join us for the evening performance!

Drama

Van Tech's Theatre Company class presents: *The Marxist in Heaven* written by Hattie Naylor.

Synopsis: A Marxist gets into Heaven, accuses the angels of being a fascist hierarchy, starts a revolution and tries to overthrow God. God got sick in the 70's and the world almost stopped spinning! It was decided that everyone in Heaven had to dance to disco music every few minutes to keep the world spinning. The script is a dark comedy. In the production we are trying to create a strong fun 70's vibe on stage. There are some fun and challenging characters for all the students to play.

Show dates: April 23, 24, 25 at 7:30 pm in the Auditorium (enter through the main entrance doors).

Resources for families and caregivers

SACY (supporting and connecting youth) workers who work for Vancouver Coastal Health in Vancouver schools are invaluable supports for school communities. Subscribe to their website <https://linktr.ee/sacyresources> to get updates on informative caregiver events such as the upcoming online seminar, [Substance Use Prevention: A Guide for Parents](#) and in-person event, [Youth and Vaping: Information, considerations and impacts](#) and facilitated workshops for caregivers.

General Reminders

Forms

Starting in September, several VSB consent forms were moved to a digital format. Please visit <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca/> and enter your child's PEN and birthdate to give consent (or decline) for each form. Parents/caregivers can revoke their consent at any time.

Student Absences & Attendance

To report your child's absence, please contact the school at 604-713-8215 (then select option #1) and leave a message. Please include the date of absence, student number, student name, and reason for absence (i.e., sick, appointment). Note: Students cannot report their own absence.

Extended Absences

Any students who will be away for an extended period (trave, medical etc.) should see their grade counsellor to complete an extended absence form.

Student Fees

School Cash Online is the preferred method of payment for all school fees. Please double check if your child owes any outstanding fees. You can register by following the steps on: <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

Student Pick-up/Drop-off and Parking

Traffic signs are in place along Pentiction Street to allow space for school buses to drop-off and pick-up students. Thank you for being compliant with city bylaws. Please note that several drivers have been ticketed in the past by the City of Vancouver. You can drop-off and pick-up students past the traffic signs further south along Pentiction Street. Students may park on Pentiction Street in designated parking areas.

Flexible Instructional Time

A reminder that FIT happens every day *except* Wednesday, for 40 minutes. During FIT students are expected to be engaged in a learning activity of their choice. Monday and Friday FIT runs 8:40 - 9:20 am, and students do not need to sign up in advance, but when they are in the building, they must be in a learning space, and they must sign-in to the Green Book for attendance in the case of an emergency.

Tuesday and Thursday FIT runs 1:20 - 2:00 pm. Students must sign up for Tuesday and Thursday FIT sessions using <http://vantech.myweeklyplanner.net> They are expected to be in the building in an area supervised by a staff member.

Important Upcoming Dates

Wed, Feb 28	Pink Shirt Day
Tues, March 5	PAC meeting
Thurs, March 7	Block Rotation BADC
Fri, March 8	Informal Learning Update published on MyEd
Fri, March 15	Last day before Spring Break + Easter holidays
Tues, April 2	Back to school
Wed, April 3	Term 2 Gr. 8 Applied Skills Rotation starts
Thurs, April 18	Gr. 10 Literacy Assessment
Tues, April 16	Collaborative Day - early dismissal
Mon, April 22	Professional Development Day
Fri, April 26	Mid-Semester Learning Updates published on MyEd



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