

Tomsett Elementary



Like many of you, I am hoping that the holidays will feel a little more “normal” this year. I am looking forward to spending time with family and taking some time to “fill my bucket” with the things that bring me joy. This is my wish for all of you as well. We look forward with a continued sense of optimism to a healthy, happy and prosperous 2022. On behalf of our staff, Happy Holidays.

1**First Term Reports**

Friday, December 17

2**Last Day of Classes**

Friday, December 17

3**Term Two Begins**

Tuesday, January 4



Richard Lee
School Board
Trustee



Christel Brautigam
Assistant
Superintendent of
Schools



Mike Murray
Principal



A CONTINUED NEED FOR HELP

Food Drive - December 1 - 10

With many still looking for work, the need for food at the Richmond Food Bank remains great. Our school goal is to fill all the boxes in the main entrance of the school. Canned goods and non-perishable food items are graciously accepted. Disposable diapers and baby formula are also needed (a list of additional items can be found at [Richmond Food Bank](#)). On behalf of those members of our community who use the Food Bank, thank you for your kind donations.

To help, we will have a cart in front of the school in the mornings. Students and parents may leave donations on the cart. It will be close to the drop-off zone to make it quick and easy.



Happy Hanukkah

Hanukkah is the Jewish "Festival of Lights". This year, it is celebrated around the World, beginning November 28th and ending December 6th. For those members of our community celebrating, we wish you a very Happy Hanukkah.



Happy Kwanzaa

For those members of our school community celebrating Kwanzaa this month, Happy Kwanzaa! Kwanzaa is an annual celebration of African-American culture that is held from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a communal feast called Karamu, usually held on the 6th day. It was created by Maulana Karenga, based on African harvest festival traditions from various parts of West and Southeast Africa. Kwanzaa was first celebrated in 1966.



Merry Christmas

For those members of our school community celebrating Christmas this month, Merry Christmas. Christmas is a Christian holiday and is held annually on December 25th.



Information Request

Do you and your family celebrate a holiday in December (or anytime during the year that we do not mention?) We want you to feel included. If you do, I respectfully ask that you send me an email (mmurray@sd38.bc.ca) and we will be sure to recognize your celebration.



Thank You PAC

A BIG thank you to our PAC for organizing Krispy Kreme Day and Sushi lunch. Without our volunteer parents, these events would not take place.

A reminder of our PAC's Toonie Tuesday campaign - every Tuesday from now until the end of May 2022, students are encouraged to bring in a \$2.00 donation to help us fundraise to purchase more technology for the school.



Kindergarten Registration Continues

For those families who have children turning 5 next year (2022), it is time for you to register your child for Kindergarten.

All registration, including Kindergarten registration, is done online.

Please visit [Kindergarten Registration 2022](https://www.sd38.bc.ca/kindergarten)



DARE Graduation - November 24th

Our DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program concluded on Wednesday, November 24th for our Grade 4/5 students. Thank you to our teachers and Constable Kandola for working with our students. DARE is now on a **two-year cycle** - meaning that the next time DARE will be taught to our Grade 4/5 students will be in the 2023-2024 school year.

Buying Video Games For Presents?

Consider the Following

Video games are fun, exciting, and for some families a great way to spend time together. This note is not about how much time our kids are playing video games - it is about **what** kind of games they are playing. Most kids in elementary school should be playing video games from the **first three (C, E, E10+) categories**. Games like **Fortnite, Assassins Creed, Grand Theft Auto**, etc. are not appropriate for kids 12 and younger to be playing or viewing. Why bring this up? We hear our kids talking about these games at school, acting them out on the playground, drawing pictures related to these games, etc. This year, when you are being asked to buy video



If you care to know more, especially about Fortnite, you might be interested in the article attached below:

[Psychology Today](#)



Breakfast Club Resumes

Since March 2020, our school Breakfast Program has been on hold. Given updated guidelines by the PHO, and our gym renovation being completed, we are ready to resume Breakfast Club for our students.

On Monday and Wednesday mornings, 8:00am - 8:30am, we will host Breakfast Club for our students in the gym. Students will enter the school using the rear gym door. Students may choose to have something to eat or may just come to be inside the school, safe and warm, to play with friends. No one is turned away. That said, it is important to know that this program is funded by our PAC and other donations to the school. Breakfast Club should not take the place of breakfasts that could be eaten at home (because we serve something the kids like better or because families are running late). It is a program to ensure that all our kids are fed and have energy for their learning.

Students not attending Breakfast Club should continue to enter through the main doors of the school between 8:30am - 8:45am.

Dates



When children are absent, it is our responsibility to determine WHY. This is to ensure that they are safe. If your child is sick and you say " Your Child's Name will be away for a few days", we have no idea how long this is. We ask that if your child is sick, please phone each day to let us know your child is away OR please give us a specific date on which they will return....otherwise, we are obligated to phone you.

Tomsett's Library Learning Commons

This month, Tomsett's Library Learning Commons Book Club Pick is *Front Desk* by Kelly Yang. We held a writing contest - just like in the book! The students were asked to write a story about a motel. Congratulations to the winners - Saranya Kommarju and Rebecca Davidson.



If I Owned a Motel by - Saranya Kommarju, Grade 4

If I owned a motel, I would build an extra drive-thru. If there's lots of cars checking in, an extra drive-thru would be excellent. I would also organize contests if the people in my motel get bored. I will also have a café. I will produce amazing smoothies and pastries and delicacies. I will also buy an arcade. It will have tons of video games. I'll build a homeroom so people (kids) can study and not waste time and catch up on their studies. Other than that, I think that's what I'll do when I have a motel.

Sunny's Motel by Rebecca Davidson, Grade 7

Waking up in my sunny motel suite, I peer out the window, staring out into the pinkish-orangy glowing sunrise. I carefully go back in my head, trying to remember the things I need to do on this big day - decorate the cake, sew roses onto the bride's dress, tidy the room where the event will be held. The thought of this wedding business gave me a huge boost of energy. I sprang out of my bed eager to start the day. I started by heading to the kitchen to help decorate the vanilla three tier cake. Walking in, I caught a whiff of that delicious, freshly baked cake smell but I didn't enjoy it for long because immediately the mean chefs kicked me out. "No children allowed in here, sorry kid!" I was devastated. Decorating the cake was the one thing that I wanted to do the most. "Oh well," I said to myself "it can't be helped. I'm too young to be in the kitchen." So I strolled over to the room where the wedding was to be held. I walked in admiring the gorgeous blush-pink roses when some old ladies yelled at me. "No flower girls before the wedding begins!!!!" one lady screamed, holding a crying baby. "But - " I began. "No if or buts!" she yelled. I made it out of the room fast enough to not hear any more insults thrown at me, but I swear I heard yelling as I left the room crying. I ran up to my parent's room and knocked on the door as loud as I could. Mom and Dad answered the door as I burst into tears explaining how nobody lets me help them. My mom said, "It's because you're not wearing your Sunny's Motel Uniform!" So, I put on my uniform and helped with decorating the cake, mending the dress, and decorating the wedding room. I had so much fun.

Tomsett Toonie Tuesdays Fundraising Event (first ever all year fundraising event)

Starting Tuesday November 2, 2021- PAC is asking students to bring in a toonie, **EVERY TUESDAY**, for 26 weeks. With the help of the students, PAC is hoping to raise **\$10,000** for much needed equipment, for the school. We are hoping to buy more Ipads and projectors, help fund field trips, and buy picnic tables and benches. This event will be for 26 weeks (no collection during winter and spring breaks) and end on May 31, 2022.

Participation is **NOT** mandatory. We understand Covid has had a deep financial impact for some families. Students can participate every Tuesday or some Tuesdays or not at all. If parents prefer, they are welcome to send PAC a direct donation instead. Either way, we hope, with the help of the Tomsett families, we can reach our target goal.

On behalf of myself and Maggie and other PAC members, we thank you, in advance, for your generosity.

Susan Nga Tran
(PAC Chairperson)

Online Direct Donations Only:

<https://sd38.bc.ca/our-district/donations>

- Make a donation online
- Fund Destination: Tomsett Elementary School
- "NOT A TRIBUTE GIFT"
- Message to School Board: for Tomsett Toonie Tuesday PAC

A tax receipt will be emailed, for donations over \$20.

