



Thursday, August 28, 2025

Dear Tomsett Families,

We hope you've had a wonderful summer and enjoyed time with family and friends in the beautiful sunshine.

Our staff are excited to welcome our students and families back to school. We welcome eight new staff to our already fantastic group of dedicated professionals. The office team, Mrs. Anderson, staff, and I have been in school all week getting ready to welcome our community back to school.

### **Staff Updates**

We welcome the following staff to Tomsett. Please be sure to say "hi" and give a big Tomsett welcome to our new staff!

Vice Principal – Mrs. Anderson

Division 5 → Ms. Mills job sharing with Ms. Nistor

Division 8 → Ms. Wyatt

Division 11 → Ms. Hong

Division 15 → Ms. Carrusca

Division 16 → Ms. I Chan

Division 19 → Ms. Ang (for Mrs. Tham's Maternity leave)

Noon Hour Supervisors – Ms. Liu

Our new Modular Annex is nearly ready for students, and we plan to move students mid September. The Project team has worked diligently to prepare the building for occupancy. In the meantime, students will begin the year in our portables and then transition to the Annex on mid-September. We are also excited about the installation of a second playground, scheduled for October. The team is putting the final touches on extending our basketball courts and creating new sandboxes for students. We appreciate the community's support as we enter the final stages of the project.

All students in grades 1–7 will attend school for one hour from 8:45 am to 9:45 am. Students will return to their teacher/classroom from last year. Our newest student in kindergarten, will participate according to their gradual entry schedule. Please find the necessary information about the first day of school below. New students, please come to the front door and proceed to the library, where our staff will

provide a tour and introduction to Tomsett. They will then place the students in temporary classes for the remainder of the week.

### **Wednesday to Friday**

Students will attend their classes from last year — see the list below — until Friday morning, when we hope to move into classes with the district's approval.

|               |            |               |
|---------------|------------|---------------|
|               |            |               |
| Ms. Tillotson | 156        | Ms. Tillotson |
| Ms. Chee      | 126        | Ms. Chee      |
| Ms. O'Leary   | Portable 2 | Ms. O'Leary   |
| Ms. Hamm      | 127        | Ms. Hamm      |
| Ms. Nistor    | Portable 5 | Ms. Nistor    |
| Ms. Ewart     | Portable 6 | Ms. Ewart     |
| Ms. Bahd      | 124        | Ms. Bahd      |
| Ms. Amour     | Portable 3 | Ms. Wyatt     |

|                          |            |                           |
|--------------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| Ms. Dodds                | 161        | Ms. Dodds                 |
| Ms. Macdonald            | Portable 3 | Ms. Macdonald             |
| Ms. Eguia                | 125        | Ms. Hong                  |
| Ms. C Wong               | 117        | Ms. C Wong                |
| Mrs. Htan                | 160        | Mrs. Htan                 |
| Ms. So                   | 121        | Ms. So                    |
| Ms. L. Chan              | Portable 1 | Ms. L. Chan               |
| Ms. Co                   | 123        | Ms. I. Chan               |
| Ms. Crozier              | 162        | Ms. Crozier               |
| Ms. Lee                  | 150        | Mrs. Carrusca             |
| Ms. Htan                 | 159        | Ms. Loukas/Mrs. Halton    |
| Ms. Nasiopoulos          | 154        | Ms. Ferreira and Ms. Chee |
| Ms. Sangha/Ms. Bredefeld | 147        | Ms. K. Wong               |
| New students             | Library    | Ms. Parvez, Mr. Rashid,   |



## **Meet My School**

Mark your calendars! On Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m., we welcome families to an open house to meet our staff. Classrooms will be open for families to visit, see their child's learning space, and meet our excellent Tomsett staff. At 6:30, we will meet in the gym for introductions and a brief overview of the day's activities.

## **Class Placements**

As a parent of three, I understand the concerns of parents and students during the first week of school. We kindly request that families refrain from asking teachers or staff about their child's new class placement, as this information is kept confidential until it is ready to be shared. As a reminder, our classroom teachers and learning resource staff have spent countless hours developing learning communities for all our learners.

## **Drop Off and Pick Up**

Our main entrance to the school remains open to our community. We ask that parents continue to schedule appointments, when possible, to meet with teachers. We also request that students be sent off for their day at the front door and that they walk to their classrooms independently whenever possible. Please encourage the development of independence skills by having children carry their own backpacks into the school and locating their designated hook for their pack and coat.

Some classes will line up outside their classrooms, while others will enter the school through the two outside rear doors. We ask that parents/guardians please wait outside their student's line-up door for their student. Please see the map on our school website, specifically First Week of School Pick Map attached and on our school website.

## **Lunch Time**

Our students eat first and then go outside to play. During lunchtime, our 4 Noon Hour Supervisors supervise students as they eat, providing roaming oversight. We expect students to demonstrate Tomsett Pride and follow our District Code of Conduct, honouring themselves and others by sitting at their desks and eating their lunch. We ask that all students open their own containers. We will not be able to heat lunches in the microwave. Students eat from 11:50 a.m. to 12:10 p.m., then go outside from 12:10 to 12:42 p.m. We ask parents to try to use reusable containers for their child's lunch and also encourage their children to recycle their packaging. We are looking for a way to recycle soft packaging that needs to be taken to Lynas Lane for drop off. Please try to go green by sending a water bottle and avoiding juice boxes.

## **Outside Playtime**

We have two outside playtimes: recess and lunch. Students go outside at 10:10 and 12:10. All students go outside during every recess and lunch, regardless of the weather. Please send your child to school with appropriate clothing for the weather (e.g., Raincoats and boots). I saw a lot of Vessi's last year and can attest that yes, they are waterproof. Kids love to play in puddles and test how deep they can venture into them with their boots. We kindly request that umbrellas not be brought to school, and instead, parents consider a waterproof coat for their child.

## **Student Health**

We continue to ask sick children to stay home. If your child is feeling sick in the morning before school, please keep them home. Following the ask that students return to school after

guidance of Vancouver Coastal Health, we being symptom-free for 24 hours. We will



continue to notify parents when their children need to be picked up from school due to illness or other medical reasons. <https://www.vch.ca/en/when-should-i-keep-my-sick-child-home-school>

### **Digital Devices at School**

As per our District Code of Conduct and Provincial Expectations, we ask students to either keep their cell phones at home or, if they must bring them to school, keep them in their backpacks for the entire school day and not carry phones on their person. All communication between home and school must go through school staff. Please review these expectations with your child. We can access telephones at school, and students can call home when needed. Digital Devices include apple watches and other watches that may disrupt learning are not to be worn at school. Thank you!

### **Walk to School Please**

We are welcoming nearly 500 students to Tomsett this new school year. Almost all our students live in our catchment area. We encourage students to walk to school every day. The first day of school is a perfect time to establish these new routines. We do not have parking available for parents to park and walk their children into class. On any given day, over sixty staff members are on site, so parking spots are needed for staff. Most of our students live within a fifteen-minute walk. Please consider walking, biking, or scooting to school.

The drop-off area etiquette is for parents to stay in their cars and move along as traffic moves forward. Please do not park at any time in the drop-off area. Please communicate this to any family or caregivers who are picking up students. Thank you; we appreciate the parent support and kindness in our busy parking lot.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us at school between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.

Take care and enjoy the last days of summer. We look forward to seeing everyone next Tuesday!

With Gratitude

Ms. Wallace, Mrs. Anderson and the Tomsett Staff

### ***Kirsten Wallace (she/her/hers)***

Principal

Tomsett Elementary

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*The Richmond Board of Education acknowledges and thanks the First Peoples of the hənq̓ á miná ṛ language group on whose traditional and unceded territories we teach, learn and live.*

