



# VERMILION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS



*Being the Best We Can Be*

**February 2021**



**Kindergarten Virtual  
Information Night  
for 2021-2022 School Year  
will be hosted on  
Monday, March 8, 2021  
from 7:00-8:00 pm.**

**Please contact the school  
(780) 853-5444 to provide an  
email address for us to send the  
virtual meeting invite to.**

**If you are not available for the  
virtual meeting we will have a video  
of information available for you.**

**You are currently welcome to  
register at any time, please call  
the school (780) 853-5444.**

**Please provide a copy of your  
child's birth certificate.**

**Your child is eligible to attend if  
he/she is 5 years of age prior to  
December 31, 2021.**

**To access the online registration  
form go to the BTPS website  
[www.btps.ca](http://www.btps.ca)**

**Virtue of The Month**  
*Trustworthiness*

**School Council Meeting  
will be on Monday,  
February 8th at 7:00 pm.  
*More information to come.***

**Stay Connected with VES on  
our website, Facebook, or email  
the principal by clicking on the  
following buttons**



It appears that our mild winter has come to a screeching halt, as we have suddenly experienced some deeply cold temperatures. Several of our recesses have been indoors lately and it is anticipated that we will also have a few more before winter is over. I'm sure we will all be happy once this cold snap has ended and we can get back to more reasonable temperatures.

The smartboards in all of our classrooms are aging and we are aware that we need to be looking at replacement of them. We have been researching some of our options, including what are called 'interactive panels'. These are 75" screens that look much like a tv on the outside. They are much more than tv's and are connected to a computer. We are also considering the use of projectors combined with an interactive whiteboard. This is just one of the upgrades we are looking at over the coming weeks. We will be starting into what we expect will be a 2-3 year project. This past week, our chromebooks that we had ordered back in September 2020 arrived at our school. It seems the pandemic has set back some companies, causing delays in some sectors of society. This new cart of chromebooks has allowed our school to now have devices directly available to almost every single classroom. We are continuing to evaluate our budget and are also looking at some other larger expenditures. Stay tuned for more updates in this regard.

The month of February involves several key dates. Our science fair has now been planned and extended to students in gr. 1-6. We hope many of them will consider taking on a project. It will be different this year, as many things are, in that it will be a virtual event and students may not enter as a group. We are currently having daily 'google meets' for announcements, as we are celebrating kindness and the many things we can do around this topic. This has likely never been a more important year to be showing kindness to one another. Many of our classes will celebrate Valentine's Day as we lead up to this special day. Our staff have provided a safe option for students to exchange valentine's cards. Teacher's will be participating in virtual sessions for Teacher's Convention on Feb. 11/12. We have decided that our annual Celebration of Learning event will be challenging this year and that the extra time will be needed for parent/teacher interviews. As such, we will be adding another evening to our calendar for parent/teacher interviews. We expect to have that decision made soon and will keep everyone informed once that decision is made.

We hope everyone stays warm throughout February as we try to endure the final weeks of winter. Have a wonderful month!

Mr. Calvin Anhorn  
Principal

## Vermilion Elementary School Mission Statement:

Within a safe and nurturing community, we at Vermilion Elementary School, will foster personal and academic excellence, while treating each other with dignity and respect.

As a team, we will be the best we can be.



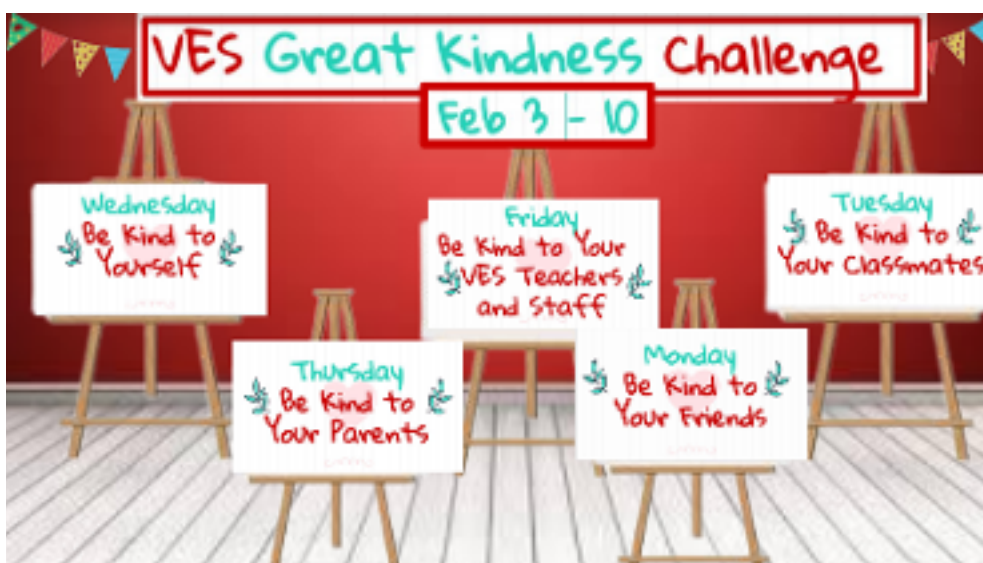
## CELEBRATION OF LEARNING

We have decided to forgo our Celebration of Learning evening which was scheduled for February 25th and in lieu are going to be hosting 2 nights of Parent Teacher Interviews in March which will allow us to touch base with all families at that time. Please watch for more information coming home in March.



## RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

February 3-10 we are having a school-wide VES Great Kindness Challenge! We will be introducing daily challenges during our morning announcements!



## SOCIAL DISTANCING

We would like to thank all parents and guests of VES for adhering to all the extra protocols that are required while we navigate through the Covid-19 pandemic. We want to remind everyone to social distance when dropping off or picking up their child(ren). We also want to thank everyone for wearing a mask when entering the school and for completing the app either on their phone or using the iPad at the front door.



## PARKING

Parents and visitors are able to park on 49 Avenue, as well as south of the crosswalk on 44 Street. **Please ensure that you are not parking in front of the school in the bus loading/unloading zone from 8:00-9:30 am and from 2:30-4:00 pm.** We ask that parents & visitors also refrain from parking in the staff parking lot as this is reserved for staff members and for safety reasons students may not be dropped off or picked up in the parking lot.

**Parents/Guardians/Caregivers/Visitors Entering the School**

Due to Covid-19 restrictions and to minimize risk on a day to day basis we are minimizing the number of people entering our building. Parents/guardians and caregivers should remain outside the school to pickup and drop off their children at their designated doors for entry/exit. If parents/guardians, caregivers, or visitors need to enter the school you will need to enter through the main entrance only and go through our visitor protocol. If you are required to visit the school more than once in one day you will need to complete the app each time that you enter. When you exit the school please go out the nearest exit to you. VES students entering the building do not need to complete the app.

Complete the BTPS COVID-19 app on the ipad provided or use your own device to complete the app. To open the app, scan the QR code below with your device camera.

- Sanitize your hands with the provided sanitizer.
- Sanitize the ipad with the provided device wipes.
- Wear a mask at all times.
- Maintain a physical distance of 2m from others where possible.

**VES Students Self-Assessment (prior to coming to school)**

Each morning before sending your child to school you will need to review the [Self-Assessment](#) questionnaire to determine if they should attend school. You do not need to submit this questionnaire to the school but we are depending on families to be honest about their child's self-assessment and to make this a part of their new morning routine. If your child is able to answer "NO" to each question he or she is allowed to attend school for the day. If your child is ill with common cold, influenza or symptoms listed on the Self-Assessment they must stay home and contact 8-1-1 for guidance to determine if testing is required.

**MICROWAVES**

In the BTPS/VES re-entry plan, microwaves were taken out of the classroom for the month of September. The BTPS re-entry committee has met and has left this decision up to individual schools. We are continuing to evaluate the use of microwaves at VES, but at this time, we have not made any changes to the microwave section of the re-entry plan.

**SHARED SNACKS**

In previous years, some parents have chosen to send a shared snack on their child's birthday or during other celebrations. This year with COVID Restrictions we are unable to share food in the same way we would have in the past. We all appreciate the homemade goodies, but at this time, we are asking that all snacks be individually, pre-packaged (store packaged). We understand this may not be what we are used to, but in order to keep everyone safe, it is what we need to do at this time. If you have any questions, please call the school.



## VES SPIRIT DAYS

To help you remember, dress up days are on Assembly days.

Have fun  
Get involved!

<b>February 2</b>	<b>All in one colour</b>	<b>Rainbow of colours</b>
<b>March 3</b>	<b>Superhero</b>	<b>Super hero</b>
<b>April 13</b>	<b>Mustache or beard</b>	<b>Crazy socks</b>
<b>May 5</b>	<b>Future</b>	<b>Past</b>
<b>June 1</b>	<b>Dress for any season</b>	<b>Dress for any holiday</b>



## HOT LUNCH

Vermilion Elementary School Hot Lunch Program has been providing warm, nutritious meals to students since 1999. Since the beginning, our goal has been to provide access to healthy meals regardless of a family's financial circumstances. The Hot Lunch Program subsidizes meal costs for those who need it.

This year more than ever, families are facing challenging times. Our lunch program has also had to make some significant changes to the way we are providing lunch to students in order to meet provincial COVID guidelines for both food handling and school safety. This has come at additional operating costs.

We want to continue to ensure all students have access to hot, healthy lunches no matter the challenges their families are facing this year. For the remainder of the school year, we will be accepting donations to sponsor a VES student's Hot Lunch. Please consider supporting our VES family by giving the gift of a healthy lunch so we can continue to Be the Best We Can Be!

Donations can be made online at [ves.hotlunches.net](https://ves.hotlunches.net), or by contacting Chantel Betz [betzchantel@gmail.com](mailto:betzchantel@gmail.com) to make arrangements. Mail-in donations can be sent to 5017 63 St. Vermilion, AB T9X 1X4. Charitable receipts are available for donations over \$50.

A sincere thank you to those who have already donated.



## BTPS STUDENT FEES

BTPS Transportation, Tech & Supplemental Support Fees for Vermilion Elementary School students can be paid by cash, cheque (payable to BTPS), or online via PayPal. You can find the link to pay fees online on the parent page of the Vermilion Elementary School website by clicking on the Parents tab and then [Pay Fees](#). You will need your child's Alberta Student Number to complete the payment.



Please see [BTPS Four Year Plan](#) for our BTPS Mission, Vision, and Values. This document also includes other important information such as the current BTPS Calendar, Map, Contact Information and some fun facts about BTPS.



## VES SPIRITWEAR CLOTHING

Looking for VES Spiritwear clothing to wear to show your school pride? Visit the official Vermilion Elementary School shop online at [ves.entripyshops.com](http://ves.entripyshops.com) to place an order. Choose from a variety of products and brands (Under Armour, Champion, Puma, and more) that you can customize with our VES logo! Everything from t-shirts, hoodies, polos, jackets, shorts, pants, hats, toques, and bags. Free shipping on orders over \$75. Customers can earn 1 Air Mile reward per \$40 spent when they purchase online. Orders will be shipped directly to you and 10% of sales is donated back to the school!

**Sportsman  
Pom-pom  
Toque**



**\$25**

**Youth  
Adjustable  
Mask**



**\$4**

**Champion  
Carry Sack**



**\$25**

**Gildan Youth  
T-Shirt**



**\$13**

**Youth Zone  
Performance  
Long Sleeve**



**\$22**

**Gildan Youth  
Full Zip Hoodie**



**\$35**



## VIBE NEWS

The New Year has brought with it many changes for VIBE programming here at VES. The Grade 2 and 2/3 classes have started the Seven Habits of Happy Kids, learning skills and habits that allow them to succeed in life. Grade 3 is kicking off the Superflex program, which helps them to learn how to behave in expected ways and use flexible thinking to solve their problems. Mrs. Tupper's Grade 4 class has started a program called DooGoods, encouraging students to do good deeds and observe the ripple effect of being kind. The Grade 6 classes have also started a new program this month called Hopeful Minds. Students are learning what hope is and the brain science around it.

Random Acts of Kindness week will take place from February 14-19. VIBE will be challenging students and staff to fill a bulletin board with their good deeds during this time. We will also be celebrating Pink Shirt Day on February 24, so don't forget to wear pink in support of being kind.

**What is kindness?**

Kindness is sharing the best parts of our hearts with those around us.

Kindness is seeing the good in others and celebrating it.

Take time to share random acts of kindness this month; be creative and have fun practicing kindness.

Celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Day on February 17.

**Kindness matters.****Kindness is teachable and contagious**

Kindness benefits us by:

- Increasing our happiness and improving our mood.
- Helping us cope and reducing worry and stress.
- Connecting us to others in a positive way.

Research shows kindness helps students be more respectful, empathetic, and positive about school.

**Tips to help your family nurture kindness**

Talk with your children about ways to show kindness.

Practice and role model kindness at home.

Take notice of others' acts of kindness and receive kindness when it's offered.

Learn from each other through sharing good things that have happened.

**Random Acts of Kindness - Ideas**

Paint positive messages on rocks and leave them around the neighborhood.

Help someone with a chore.

Spend time with people you care about.

Be a friend to the new kid at school.

Start a Random Acts of Kindness challenge in your family or school.

**MORE RESOURCES**

[Random Acts of Kindness](#)

[RAK Health Facts](#)

[Help in Tough Times](#)

Information on mental health, community supports, programs and services in your area:



Addiction Services Help Line  
1-866-332-2322

Mental Health Help Line  
1-877-303-2642



Building your resilience:

We all face trauma, adversity and other stresses. Here's a roadmap for adapting to life-changing situations, and emerging even stronger than before.

What is resilience?

Life may not come with a map, but everyone will experience twists and turns, from everyday challenges to traumatic events with more lasting impact, like the death of a loved one, a life-altering accident, or a serious illness. Each change affects people differently, bringing a unique flood of thoughts, strong emotions and uncertainty. Yet people generally adapt well over time to life-changing situations and stressful situations—in part thanks to resilience.

Psychologists define resilience as the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or significant sources of stress—such as family and relationship problems, serious health problems, or workplace and financial stressors. As much as resilience involves “bouncing back” from these difficult experiences, it can also involve profound personal growth.

While these adverse events, much like rough river waters, are certainly painful and difficult, they don't have to determine the outcome of your life. There are many aspects of your life you can control, modify, and grow with. That's the role of resilience. Becoming more resilient not only helps you get through difficult circumstances, it also empowers you to grow and even improve your life along the way.

Like building a muscle, increasing your resilience takes time and intentionality. Focusing on four core components—connection, wellness, healthy thinking, and meaning—can empower you to withstand and learn from difficult and traumatic experiences. To increase your capacity for resilience to weather—and grow from—the difficulties, use these strategies.

- Build your connections
- Prioritize relationships
- Join a group
- Foster wellness
- Take care of your body
- Practice mindfulness
- Avoid negative outlets
- Find purpose
- Be proactive
- Move toward your goals

(Adapted from <https://www.apa.org/topics/resilience>)

For more information please see this link:

<http://teenmentalhealth.org>

For help please use these resources:

<https://kidshelpphone.ca>

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/amh/page16759.aspx>

*Submitted by Tanya Laye, your school's Social-Emotional Coach. If you'd like further information or have any questions, please contact your school's SEC to follow up.*





## FROM THE BUS LANE

**Reminder: If buses are not running, please call the school if your child will be absent so we can ensure their safety.**

**Please ensure that you are following COVID-19 Bus Protocols:**

- Complete the [COVID-19 Checklist](#) or use the [Self-assessment tool](#) prior to boarding the school bus daily. Do not ride the school bus if you are not well.
- Wash hands before you get on the school bus and before you board the bus in the afternoon.
- Social Distancing is not possible so students must wear masks. For K-3 students it is not mandatory, but strongly encouraged especially during the loading and unloading process. Gr 4-12 students must wear a mask at all times on the school bus.
- No eating or drinking on the school bus.
- Stay in your assigned seat.
- No guest riders are permitted.
- Let your bus driver know if you will not be on the bus.

**STUDENT SAFETY IS  
OUR GOAL!**

**Bus Fee Payments:** Parents and guardians can now pay their bus fees online. The button to pay fees is on the parent page of the school website and labelled "[PAY FEES](#)". For assistance please email [transportation@btps.ca](mailto:transportation@btps.ca). We also accept e-transfers. The email is [vivian.locher@btps.ca](mailto:vivian.locher@btps.ca), and in the message include your child's name, bus route number and bussing service you are paying for (i.e. Vermilion Intown, Wainwright Intown, Yard Service, etc.).

**Proper Winter Attire:** Regardless of the temperature, students should always wear or carry with them appropriate winter attire when riding the school bus.

**Inclement Weather:** If the bus is not running due to inclement weather your bus driver will call you. If you have already left for work before your children get on the bus you can check the BTPS website at <http://www.btps.ca/> We try to update the website as soon as we are notified by the bus driver or the decision is made by the jurisdiction to cancel the bus runs.

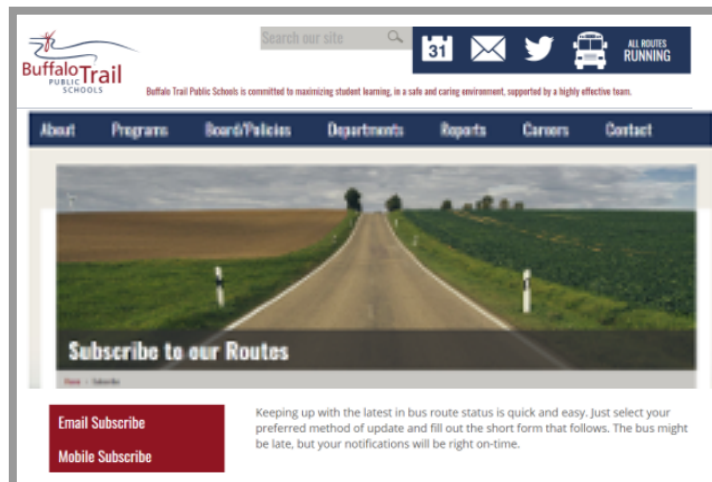


[701-11AP - Inclement Weather - Jurisdictional Bus Cancellations](#)

[701-12AP - Inclement Weather - Bus Contractor/Driver Bus Cancellations](#)

Jurisdictional based bus cancellations will be made at 6:00 p.m. the night before based on the projected temperatures (with or without windchill) at 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. for morning runs and for 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for afternoon runs. The Board felt this will give parents more time to make alternate arrangements. The buses will run in the afternoon if the projected temperature is warmer than -40C with or without a windchill.

**Parents can now subscribe to the website to be notified when their bus is not running at**  
<http://www.btps.ca/Subscribe.php>





# RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS WEEK IS FEBRUARY 14-20

#EXPLORETHEGOOD

#MAKEKINDNESSTHENORM

#RANDOMACTSOFKINDNESSDAY

Happiness is the new rich.  
Inner peace is the new success.  
Health is the new wealth.  
Kindness is the new cool.

-Syed Balkhi

DON'T JUDGE  
EACH DAY  
BY THE HARVEST  
YOU REAP, BUT BY  
THE SEEDS THAT  
YOU PLANT.

Robert Louis Stevenson

WHEREVER THERE IS  
A HUMAN IN NEED,  
THERE IS AN  
**OPPORTUNITY**  
FOR **KINDNESS** AND  
TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

KEVIN HEATH

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS  
FOUNDATION

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS  
FOUNDATION

"Our days are happier when  
we give people a piece of  
our heart rather than a piece  
of our mind."

**FIND YOUR REASON  
TO BE KIND**

Kindness is  
choosing to acknowledge  
and celebrate the beauty in  
others, regardless of  
whether or not they can find  
it in themselves.

- RAKtivist

KINDNESS IS GIVING  
HOPE TO THOSE WHO  
THINK THEY ARE ALL  
ALONE IN THIS WORLD.

RAKtivist

BELIEVE  
THERE IS  
GOOD IN THE  
WORLD

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

"Kindness is sharing the  
best parts of our hearts  
with those around us."

Kind hearts are the gardens.  
Kind thoughts are the roots.  
Kind words are the blossoms.  
Kind deeds are the fruits.

Kirpal Singh

- \* Attitude is a choice.
- \* Happiness is a choice.
- \* Optimism is a choice.
- \* Kindness is a choice.
- \* Giving is a choice.
- \* Respect is a choice.

Whatever choice you make makes you.  
Choose wisely.

-Roy T. Bennett



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS  
FOUNDATION

Good words  
bring good feelings to  
the heart. Speak with  
kindness, always.

- ROD WILLIAMS



# 50+ ways to be kind

**BE CONFIDENT** use a reusable grocery bag *hang clothes to dry*  
 read a book  **LAUGH OFTEN** bake cookies for a friend  
*bike instead of drive* plant a tree send a nice text to an unknown number  
**STAND UP FOR A FRIEND** take some time for yourself **CLEAN YOUR ROOM**  
 switch to paperless mail **SEND A POSTCARD**  **SMILE**  
*carpool to work* **exercise** donate your old clothes to charity  
 bring toys to a children's hospital call your grandparents **SHARE A RECIPE**  
 text an old friend  **high five a stranger** babysit for free  
 tell someone you love them use a travel mug  **ADOPT A SHELTER PET**  
 make a bucket list (≠ start it!) **LOVE YOURSELF** thank a teacher   
 put a bird feeder in your yard  write a review for a local business  
 tie scarves around trees **Volunteer**  hug a loved one  
 hide a surprise in your favorite library book congratulate a friend  
**PRACTICE PATIENCE** give socks to a homeless person **DO THE DISHES**  
 start a community garden walk a dog  bring soup to a sick friend  
 compliment someone **OFFER TO HELP WITH YARD WORK** **THANK YOUR BUS DRIVER**  
 deliver flowers to a well-deserving mother **WRITE TO A PENPAL** **BELIEVE IN YOURSELF**  
**PICK UP GARBAGE ON THE STREET** **VISIT A NURSING HOME** fund an online campaign  
 give a stranger a battery ticket **DON'T EAT MEAT ON A DAY**  *be kind to every kind*

 **RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS**  
 FOUNDATION  
[randomactsofkindness.org](http://randomactsofkindness.org) 

# PINK SHIRT DAY | FEB 26

KINDNESS  
 ACCEPTANCE  
 TOLERANCE  
 RESPECT  
 FORGIVENESS  
 COMPASSION  
 EMPATHY

EVERYDAY,  
 ALL THE TIME!



**Bags for Breakfast**  
 CO-OP

Every time a Co-op member uses any recyclable bag at a Cornerstone Co-op store, 3¢ is donated to local school breakfast programs. VES encourages our parents to use recyclable bags to reduce our collective impact on the environment and to help support our breakfast program.



# Lift Each Other Up

**CKNW KIDS' FUND**  
**PINK SHIRT DAY**  
 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
 Global BC  980 > CKNW

**Wednesday, February 24, 2021**



# Vermilion Elementary School

*Being the Best We Can Be*

February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 No School School Learning Day	2 School Assembly 9:30 am -- Dress up all in one colour or Rainbow of colours	3 Winter Walk Day 	4	5	6
7	8 School Council Virtual Meeting 7:00 pm 	9	10	11 No School ATA Teachers' Convention	12 No School ATA Teachers' Convention	13
14	15 No School Family Day	16	17	18	19 	20
21	22	23	24 Pink Shirt Day 	25 Celebration of Learning Cancelled	26	27
28	1	2	3 School Assembly 9:30 am -- Dress up Superhero or Super Hero	4	5 No School BTPS Learning Day	