

FROM ME TO YOU

Dr. S. Lal Mattu's Newsletter



SUNIL MATTU TO DIRECT LEADERSHIP TEAM

After considerable thought and deliberation, I have decided to take a less active role in the day-to-day operation of the Third Academy over the next few months.

We have a strong and talented Leadership Team in place, a group of dedicated professionals that are capable and deserving of managing the ongoing operation of our school system. Effective 19 October 2011, Sunil Mattu, COO, has assumed my role as the senior Third Academy administrator. Sunil is supported by Principals Anthony Chim and Andy Hitchcock, Chief Psychologist Zeljko Puric, Transportation & Communications Manager Bruce Freeman, and Chief Accountant Sabu Alexander.

Collectively, Sunil and his team have decades of experience and varied skill sets to draw upon. It's time to allow the Leadership Team I assembled and mentored to do its job.

This does not mean that I plan to disappear! You will still see me at our schools, attending Third Academy

events, and posting entries on my blog. And of course I more than welcome dialogue with Third Academy parents and supporters. But I would graciously request that you first contact the appropriate administrator. After that I'd welcome conversation with you in a less formal sense, perhaps over coffee.



Halloween 2011: Sunil Mattu assists "Dr. Wiatt"

Board of Directors

- Chris George Chairperson
- John Prosser, Vice Chairperson
- Solomon Iyilade, Treasurer
- Fred Hunt, Director
- Zeljko Puric, Director

THIRD ACADEMY WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS AND STAFF

While we have many familiar faces in our classrooms, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new members—students, parents, guardians, and staff — of our Third Academy Family. Over the last two months our new students are finding their way at the Third Academy, discovering methods to overcome barriers to learning and finding

that education is both rewarding and joyful. I am delighted that our community continues to be so accommodating to our newest members, helping them recognize that they are an important part of the Third Academy. Always remember, together we make the difference!

Our Third Academy staff

have already participated in a variety of different professional development activities, both in-house and external. As our approach to education is different, our new staff members are being mentored in the Third Academy Way. Most are adapting quickly to our therapeutic approach to education. Most importantly, your children are succeeding.

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FROM ME TO YOU

VOLUNTEERING

Our success is dependant upon each member of the Third Academy — student, teacher, and parent or guardian — contributing their “third” to the best of their ability. When each “third” does his or her part, wonderful things happen. Children that would otherwise struggle and fail instead flourish. I am pleased that so many of our families and staff members are volunteering their time to assist us in our mission to help children with learning disabilities overcome their challenges. It’s a huge task but it can be done. This work *must* be done. For those helping us, thank you for your selfless contri-

butions. We greatly appreciate your assistance in our classrooms, serving on committees, helping with the upkeep of our facilities, etc. If you are not already doing so, please ask your school what you can do to help the Third Academy. Volunteers are always needed for bingos and other activities.

Principals Anthony Chim and Andy Hitchcock are developing Volunteer Coordination Plans and will be contacting you shortly asking for your help.

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GIVING THROUGH UNITED WAY

Over the years, we have received donations through United Way.

Many of our parents work for companies that have ‘Matching Gift’ programs, ie a donation from your pay cheque is made to United Way and your company ‘matches’ that amount. In most cases, you are able to designate the recipient of this donation. This is the time in the calendar when you are able to designate the recipient.

Please advise your company that you choose Third Academy as your ‘charity of choice’.



A few of the Run, Santa, Run participants in 2010

RUN, SANTA, RUN!

*“Last year’s event
was a tremendous
success, raising
public awareness of
learning disabilities
in general and the
Third Academy in
particular.”*

Imagine 500 people decked out in colorful Santa Suits walking and running in support of the Third Academy! If you have not already done so, please be sure to pencil in on your calendar the date of Saturday, December 17, 2011. I urge you to participate in our second annual Run, Santa, Run walk/run fundraiser. We are holding a one kilometer walk and two runs (5 and 10 kilometers) downtown at Eau Claire Market. We have lined

up some great major sponsors and spokespersons and all adult participants even receive a Santa suit! We need runners, volunteers, and pledge sponsors. Last year’s event was a tremendous success, raising public awareness of learning disabilities in general and the Third Academy in particular. The pledges also provide much needed funds for our programs. As well, everyone had a wonderful time! This is a tremendous

opportunity for the Third Academy and for you and your family to get into the Christmas spirit. With your help, this year’s event will even better than last year’s first Run, Santa, Run. Please join us at Eau Claire Market on December 17th!

For more information, visit www.runsantarun.ca or ask at your school.

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Need More Information?
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- Fully Accredited by Alberta Education
- Servicing students from Grades 1 through 12 at two Calgary Campuses
- A non-profit, charitable organization
- Doing whatever it takes to help our students succeed

We believe that how a person thinks, affects how they feel, and hence how they act.



We're on the web in full color: Visit us at:
www.thirdacademy.ca

If purchasing books, DVDs, etc. from Amazon.ca, be sure to click on the link from our website to go to their website. We receive a commission on all sales if you use our website!

“Together we make the Difference.”

Dr. S. Lal. Mattu

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

After two town hall meetings last year, I announced some adjustments to our transportation services beginning this school year. We have “rationalized” our busing service by requesting that capable students “walk out” to meet their bus. As well, we have assisted older students in transitioning to public transportation. These changes have been highly successful. We are able to provide a high quality busing service while reducing our operating costs. Further, many of our students are gaining essential life skills by reducing their dependence on a parent or bus driver for their transportation needs. Whenever possible, all of our Grade 12 graduates should be “transportation” independent.

I'd like to thank all of our families for their assistance in helping us make these improvements in our transportation service.

While on the topic of transportation, winter is clearly on the horizon. I'd like to emphasize the importance of students being appropriately dressed for cold weather. As well, if your student

does utilize our buses, do note that we do not compromise safety by operating our buses in extreme conditions. While our schools remain open in cold weather, we cancel bus service if we consider conditions unsafe.

You will be notified in the morning by your child's driver on these days. We will also have notices posted on the website.



“Goulish” Third Academy North Students awaiting bus ride to Mount Royal University Gym.