

## Third Academy

3, 510-77 Ave SE, Calgary, Ab T2H 1C3

[www.thirdacademy.ca](http://www.thirdacademy.ca)

T: 403-288-5335

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From creating a frog out of numbers, to building a magical beanstalk to formulating relaxation bottles, students are busy learning and creating.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the six new students who started last week. It is nice to see them settling into their new classrooms, settling into routines and developing new friendships. I am pleased to see that we are quickly reaching our enrollment target; there are only ten seats available across elementary, junior and senior high classrooms.

This week, I welcome our practicum students from the Mount Royal Instructional Assistant and from the Child and Youth Care Program. These wonderful individuals will be working in the various Elementary classrooms to assist the teachers and work with our students.

As well, our Brown Bag program in collaboration with BB4Ck (bb4ck.org) will be up and running in October and forms will be send home this week. I am excited that our Sr. High students will be assisting me in making nutritious lunches for those students in need.

I wish you all a great week and look forward to sharing more exciting news next week.

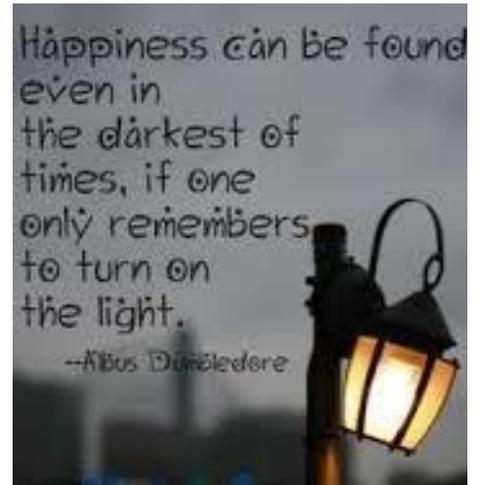
Rehana Mattu  
Elementary Principal

**"Working hard is important. But there is something that matters even more, believing in yourself."** Harry Potter

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### Elementary Motto

*Be Good, Be Safe, Be Helpful*



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## Upcoming Events

### September 18

Blackfoot Park

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### Coming soon:

## *Third Warts & All*

House names have been assigned, colours have been chosen and teachers have been assigned to houses.

We will be assigning students to houses in the upcoming weeks.

Be prepared to work together, have fun together and earn house points together.

And see who earns the House Cup...

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## News from E1

The E1 Classroom has had a lot of fun with Mr. G, our drama teacher. We sent messages on helium balloons and played live ping pong with a giant ball!



## News from E2

E2 enjoys going to gym and playing different variations of the game, "Tag." They are working on turn taking and good sportsmanship during each round.

Our morning meeting consists of looking at our monthly calendar and our daily schedule. Students practice active listening during these meetings, by listening to their peers share their ideas or stories, and offering comments or asking questions.



## News from E3

This week we have been learning about our new class pet, Holly the hedgehog. We are continuing to explore the magical world of Harry Potter. We introduced Van Gogh this week and will continue to explore his art to inspire our budding artists. We are also going to be creating a unique 100 chart and a numeracy line counting by twos.

## News from E4

The start of the school year has been amazing for E4, and both the teachers and students have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each other. E4 students will continue to have the opportunity to go to the Farmer's Market for lunch on Fridays. Also, as an added bonus, we will be enjoying regular trips to Blackfoot Park for some great outdoor play!

Literacy will continue in full swing, with students writing a short story. In Social Studies, students will be learning about where they live in comparison to the world. Some assessment will begin in Math class to better understand student's mathematical skills and abilities. Mr. D is also starting a soccer unit in Gym class, which the class seems to enjoy!



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## Greetings from Your Transportation Manager!

Our transportation startup was challenging this year with the consolidation of "two schools under one roof" and dozens of new students to bring to and from school. We transport about 100 students on 7 different routes from places as far away as Okotoks and Cochrane. Our services are prioritized on the basis of need and our bus resources. When possible, we have our families make use of alternative transportation services – Access Calgary and Calgary Transit. I will be contacting some parents to discuss the process of shifting from Third Academy buses to public services. For those students riding our buses, as our routes are long and will only be longer when winter arrives, we are in the process of asking capable students to walk out to a central point for pickup and drop off. For some of our students, Access Calgary or Calgary Transit can provide superior service to Third Academy's bus service.

While we have exceptional bus drivers, effective communication with your driver makes for a good bus experience for everyone. All of our drivers have school cell phones. We find text messaging the best way for parents and drivers to converse. Parents are expected to notify their driver if their child will not be requiring bus service to or from school. As our drivers begin their routes early, and it is difficult for them to receive messages while driving, every effort should be made to text your driver of a cancellation before 6 am. **Please do not call our drivers between the hours of 6:00 am to 9:00 am and 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm as it is impossible for them to answer your call while they are driving.** If you must contact your driver while they are driving, send them a text message and they will check it and, if necessary, respond when they are parked in a safe location, likely at the next pickup or drop stop. Please send only one message and do your best to keep it brief.

Once our routes are running smoothly, our drivers are expected to contact you by text if they are running early or late and give you an estimated time of arrival. As a courtesy, some of our drivers text parents daily at the previous stop so that you know when to send your child out. Please help us keep our buses moving by having your child at the designated spot at the designated time. Normally we provide a two (2) minute grace period before the bus will depart without making the pickup. There are, however, situations when we are unable to wait because of traffic conditions. If students consistently arrive at their stops late (even within the grace period) we will have to temporarily discontinue bus service until a solution to the problem is found.

As I drive a bus route myself, I am unable to assist parents with students on other bus routes while I am driving. If you have a problem and are unable to resolve it with the driver, please contact me by text (403-888-8437) or email ([bfreeman@thirdacademy.ca](mailto:bfreeman@thirdacademy.ca)). Please note that I cannot respond immediately and I likely will not be able to contact the driver while they are driving. In the case of an emergency, please contact your Principal: Rehana Mattu - Elementary Campus - at 587-226-4147 or Joe Smith – Jr./Sr. High Campus – at 403-680-5124.

Third Academy's transportation system would benefit greatly from charitable donations. We need to purchase at least one additional bus this year and two new buses would be preferable. On the wish list is also a GPS tracking system to allow you to check the status of your bus from your phone or computer. If you or someone you know would like their name on the side of a new Third Academy bus (as well as a charitable receipt), please contact our Executive Director, Sunil Mattu at 403-690-1408.

As we add more students over the month of September, expect that there will be revisions to our bus routes. I appreciate your patience as we make these changes

Bruce Freeman  
Transportation Manager  
[bfreeman@thirdacademy.ca](mailto:bfreeman@thirdacademy.ca)  
403-888-8437

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