

FROM ME TO YOU DECEMBER 2023

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DECEMBER 2023

Sunil Mattu's Newsletter

A CALL FOR PEACE FOR THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Three Kings Day, Winter Solstice, St. Lucia Day, St. Nicholas Day, Chinese New Year, Mari Gras, or Ōmisoka, this is a special time of year. A time for family and friends. And a time for renewal. The good news is that going forward, each day is getting longer and brighter.

Since September, we have been 'going with the flow'. It can be challenging, especially in the beginning, to 'find our way'. Many of have been 'falling like flies' as various illnesses - respiratory and gastrointestinal - wash through the community. We, nevertheless, continue to 'go

with the flow'. New friendships have been made. Routines have been established. Everyone is trying, very hard, to make each day a success. And there are many daily successes that we have been able to celebrate.

Like the river, we 'go with the flow'. Thank you students, parents, and staff for your commitment to our common purpose. May blessing be upon you and your family.

In the Spirit of the Season, we celebrate:

- Consolidation of Third Academy Grades 1-12 to the new Third Schools East campus
- ursa Homeschooling

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A CALL FOR PEACE FOR THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

- enrollments surpass 750
- ursa Distance and ursa International welcome a new cohort of students including students in Calgary, Edmonton, across communities across Alberta, as well as Senegal and Mexico
- LYNX doubles in size and starts the process to establish an Okotoks program for September 2024
- InBus - Independent Schools Bus Transportation Services - branded and in business running across the Greater Calgary area
- New staff members across the system add **'depth and breadth'** to our programming capacity
- STEM programming choices offered with our partner school, Capstone Engineering Academy
- Salmon Run Extended Study trip well enjoyed by Third Academy, LYNX, and ursa students
- LYNX PAC established with incorporation planned for early 2024
- Third Academy PACs coordinate Run Santa Run! 2023 with a perfect day for a fun walk/run thanks to El Niño
- Winter Concert 2023 presents a Winter Wonderland SongFest and *The Little Mermaid* with all parents proud of their children

For this Season, I dream of peace. We live in troubled times. Not just on the world stage, but I realize that many of our families right here at home are struggling to make ends meet. There is a sense of insecurity.

We need some Peace. I've always believed that, 'as long as we stick

together as a family' we can overcome.

Take some time to enjoy your family over the break. Walk, talk, relax, and rest. There is nothing wrong with a **'random act of kindness'**.

Find your peace.

I keep my 'fingers crossed' for all that is before us. There is always hope. I wish for all your dreams for 2024 to come true. May God bless us all.



Sunil Mattu
Head of Schools

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FROM ME TO YOU DECEMBER 2023

RUN SANTA RUN! 2023

Many thanks go out to our Third Academy PACs for organizing this **year's Run Santa Run! 2023**. This event goes back to 2010 and has always been not only a lot of fun for our community and the general public, but also a **great way to raise funds**. It's also an excellent way to showcase our schools.

Christmas is the season for giving. This year we have so far collected over \$6,000 in donations to provide programming support and bursaries for Third Academy, LYNX, ursa, and STREAMS students.

To those that were unable to join us on the morning of 6 December 2023 **at Eau Claire Market**, we've included here a few photos of the festivities. High School Teacher Scott Finney warmed everyone up with a Jingle Bell Shuffle followed by opening remarks by Sunil Mattu, Head of Schools. Then **we headed outdoors to the Prince's Island Park** near the Bow River for our 3 km walk/run. While everyone was a winner, prizes were awarded to participants through a random draw.

A big shout out goes to our corporate sponsors. Sports Chek donated merchandise, including 3 FitBit smart-watches. We also thank DRB Mechanical, our bus repair shop, for their generous donation of \$3,500.

Individuals stepped up to the cause as well—parents, staff, members of the public, and even a few students. Donations are still being accepted through Interac email transfer at payments@thirdschools.ca. Include a message that the funds are for Run Santa Run! 2023 as well as your name and telephone number. We will issue a charitable receipt upon request.

Want to know how to turn \$50 into \$200? Check out the page "Giving: This is the Season" in this newsletter.



FROM ME TO YOU DECEMBER 2023

RUN SANTA RUN! 2023



GIVING: THIS IS THE SEASON

The holiday season by tradition is the most important time of the year for gifting. Those fortunate to have been blessed take this opportunity to pass on gifts to family, friends, and charitable organizations. Third Academy International Ltd., the legal authority responsible for the operation of Third Academy, LYNX, ursa, and STREAMS Christian Academy, is a registered Canadian charity. Accordingly, our donation receipts may be used for income tax purposes by both individuals and businesses.

We ask you at this time of the year to consider making a donation to your community school. No contribution is too small as the need is great, whether it is to provide bursaries to families, enhancing the instructional experience, keeping a roof over our head, or perhaps helping purchase a new school bus.

A recent Alberta legislative change increased the provincial tax credit rate for small charitable donations to 60% effective January 1st for the 2023 tax year. Combined with the federal 15% donation tax credit, this change provides a substantial tax credit — approximately \$150 — for the first \$200 of eligible charitable donations. This means that individuals paying income tax receive most of the amount of their small donations back! The change also provides tax savings for individuals making larger donations as they too benefit from the 65% rate for the first \$200 donated.

So if you have not contributed to a Canadian charity yet this year or have a little more in your stocking, there is all the more reason to give this year. Your \$200 donation may only cost you \$50 when the tax credit is taken in to

account. While we recognize that there are many good causes out there, charity does begin at home.

It's easy to donate. It can be done online in minutes. Our preferred method is Interac e-Transfer. This avoids us having to pay expensive processing fees. Simply add us as a payee on your online banking account. Use the email address payments@thirdschools.ca and include a note stating that the funds are a donation and include your name and contact information so that we can send you a charitable receipt.

You can also make a donation online through your credit card. Either click on this link [here](#) or go to canadahelps.org, search for Third Academy International Ltd., and make a donation by credit card. Canada Helps will email you a tax receipt.

Please note that to apply charitable donations to your 2023 Income Tax Return, the donation must be made on or prior to 31 December 2023. Take advantage of the new donation tax credit rate by making your donation today!

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FROM ME TO YOU DECEMBER 2023

THIRD SCHOOLS WINTER CONCERT

Third Schools' Annual Winter Concert was held on the evening of Wednesday 13 December 2023 and provided an opportunity for Third Academy, LYNX, and ursa students to showcase their talents in the expressive arts.

The evening of musical and theatrical arts was divided into two sections. Under the direction of our Music Teacher Tarryn-Lee Raju, the elementary students first presented their **'Winter Wonderland Songfest'**— a selection of winter songs to set the mood for the holiday season. Our students were exuberant! Well done!!

Our drama students then presented *The Little Mermaid*. The play, based on the Walt Disney version of Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale, was presented under the direction of Drama Teacher David Gillespie.

Performance can present as more challenging on occasion. The show was long, but no matter what **'the show must go on'**. Practice makes perfect. We are already planning how to make the next drama production more enjoyable for all.

The students were generally ready and eager to perform for their parents and other audience members. For many, this was their first engagement in a large scale production on stage. The students had fun. We congratulate them for participating and doing their very best.

We look forward to seeing our students' Fine Arts abilities displayed in the future. No matter: The Show Must Go On.



A NEW MANAGER FOR INBUS

Effective 1 January 2024, Transportation Manager **Bruce Freeman will be handing over “the keys”** to InBus, our transportation system, to Tammy Morton-Renyk. Tammy is no stranger, having held the position of Assistant Transportation Manager since the start of school year. Just so you know, the **‘horns’** are a **‘dented and blunted’...** All joking aside, congratulations Tammy for your appointment as Transportation Manager.

Those familiar with the history of this school site are also aware that Tammy was a integral member of the transportation team for many years at the Prince of Peace Lutheran School previous to our **‘move in’ in August 2022.**

Bruce will continue in his role as Communications Officer with an emphasis on implementing a System wide Communications Improvement Plan. He also retains his very important responsibility as System Safety Officer. Thank you, Bruce, for your tireless commitment and hard work in leading In-Bus for the past 14 years.



FROM ME TO YOU
SUNIL MATTU'S NEWSLETTER

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Need More Information?
 Contact Sunil Mattu, Head of Schools
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**“Third Schools gives hope... hope
 for kids, families, and our
 collective futures.”**

Dr. S. Lal. Mattu, Third Academy
 Ambassador-at-Large

- Fully accredited by Alberta Education and COGNIA
- Third Academy: Serving special needs students in Grades 1-12
- **‘Nature inspired’ programming through LYNX and LYNX ECS Kindergarten plus Grades 1-9**
- Parent directed home education through **ursa** Grades 1-12 plus Little Bears Kindergarten
- Shared responsibility home education through **ursa** Grades 1-12
- Fully teacher directed distance online education through **ursa** Distance Grades 1-12
- **ursa** International Grades 7-12
- STREAMS offering Christian faith-based programming with an emphasis on STEAM curriculum for ECS
- A non-profit, charitable organization
- Doing whatever it takes to help your student succeed



**Success is a
 choice.**

It's mine.

FOLLOW US ON THE WEB!

Be sure to visit our websites. We now have five!

<https://thirdschools.ca>

<https://thirdacademy.ca>

<https://lynx.education>

<https://goursa.education>

<https://streamsyc.ca>

We encourage you to “spread the word” about how we are helping students succeed by posting links to our websites on your social media channels.

