

# FROM ME TO YOU

## STANDING TOGETHER FOR OUR FUTURE

We started 2026 with a ‘hit’. On Wednesday January 8th, 2026, Third Schools held its Winter Concert at our East Campus to a packed house.

Our Third Academy, LYNX, and **ursa** students performed admirably. Great show!

I am thankful for the support of all families who came out in droves to celebrate our students’ performances. Our students did us proud by enthusiastically showcasing their fine art work, musicianship, and by letting their voices ring clear.

I also truly appreciate the efforts of our Expressive Arts team and all teaching staff in making our Winter concert a success for all.

For those gathered, I ask for your forgiveness as

during my closing remarks I became overly emotional. So that you better understand my department, I will now share that Dr. S. Lal Mattu, our Founder, was diagnosed with cancer earlier that day. It is at an advanced stage. It is terminal. Our plan is to support Dr. and Mrs. Mattu’s quality of life in the few months ahead of us.

As this word gets out to the Third Schools Community, I want to thank everyone for their kind words and offers of support. Be assured that, as our family—my sister and brother, the grandchildren, the uncles and aunts and cousins—find our way through the days ahead, I know that the daily work of Third Schools will continue without ‘missing a beat’. This is because my Principals and their staff

are committed to you, the families we serve, and your students to ensure their education continues uninterrupted.

Yes, the ‘show must go on’.

Once again, from my family to yours: thank you for your patience and understanding.




Sunil Mattu  
Head of Schools



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Dr. S. Lal Mattu, Founder Third Schools

*“Third Schools gives hope... hope for kids, families, and our collective futures.”*

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FROM ME TO YOU

## RE-REGISTER FOR 2026-2027 NOW: SECURE YOUR PRIORITY SPOT!

**Re-register for 2026-2027 now: Secure Your Priority Spot!**

The 2026–2027 school year is on the horizon and we are getting ready for it! Third Schools is already looking forward to another year of meaningful learning, growth, and community across Third Academy, LYNX, and **ursa**. We value the relationship we have built with your family and ask you to secure your student's seat at Third Schools now.

To support our community, current families enjoy a priority application for re-registration. By submitting your application during this February window, you will ensure a seat for your student and avoid the disappointment of missing out once the remaining spots are opened to the general public. Please be aware that the level of interest from new families is very high and the waiting lists have continued to get longer every day since December 2025.

**The Early Bird Advantage: Beat the Tuition Increase**

In addition to priority placement, we are offering an Early Bird Tuition Lock In. We understand the chal-

lenges families are facing with the 'cost of living' and also want to respect the relationships that we have built with our current families. Regardless of which school program your child is in, if you complete your application for registration by February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026, you will lock in your tuition schedule at the current 2025–2026 rates, avoiding the Board approved 3% increase for the upcoming school year beginning in September 2026. Families— including those who are on a bursary program—that choose to complete their applications for 2026-2027 after the deadline will be subject to the 3% increase. Again, given the waiting lists, Third Schools will not be able to guarantee your student's seat after February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**Applications for Re-Registration will OPEN this week**

Applications for re-registration for Third Academy, LYNX and **ursa** will officially open this week through SchoolCloud, our secure Student Information System.

**How to Apply:**

Log in to your SchoolCloud account and follow the step-

**Third Schools Re-registrations**

## FROM ME TO YOU

## RE-REGISTER FOR 2026-2027 NOW (CONTINUED)

by-step instructions provided your school's website: [Third Academy](#); [LYNX](#); [ursa](#).

**Family-Wide Priority:**

This priority and lock in rate apply to all members of the same family—including new siblings from the same household joining Third Academy, LYNX or ursa for the first time!

**Priority Guaranteed:**

Please watch your inbox. Principals will notify you the moment the system is ready. Your status as a current Third Schools family ensures your priority application is protected during the February window.

**Rate Protection:**

Apply now to 'beat the 3% tuition increase'.

**Important Dates to Remember**

- **Now – February 28th: Exclusive Priority Window** for current families to submit applications for registration, your student's seat guaranteed, and access 2025–2026 rates.
- **March 1st:** Applications for registration officially open to the general public and all families at the 2026–2027 rates.

We look forward to continuing this educational journey with your child. Because many of our programs reach capacity quickly, we encourage you to apply as soon as your school's applications is open to ensure your child's seat is reserved. We have an incredibly exciting year planned across each of our schools for 2026–2027, and we can't wait to share those experiences with your family.

**Questions?**

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please reach out to your respective Principal: Rehana Mattu, Principal Third Academy [rmattu@thirdschools.ca](mailto:rmattu@thirdschools.ca)  
Joe Smith, Principal LYNX [jsmith@thirdschools.ca](mailto:jsmith@thirdschools.ca)  
Tracy Gilluley, Principal ursa [tgilluley@thirdschools.ca](mailto:tgilluley@thirdschools.ca).

Again, keep your eyes on your inbox for an email from your Principal advising you the moment applications are open for you on SchoolCloud.



RE-REGISTRATION FOR APPLICATIONS FOR 2026–2027 - SECURE YOUR PRIORITY SPOT!

**EARLY BIRD TUITION LOCK-IN**

**DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28<sup>th</sup>**

Lock in 2025–2026 Rates. Avoid Disappointment.

**CURRENT FAMILIES FIRST:** Exclusive Priority Window

**RATE PROTECTION:** Secure Current Tuition

**GARANTEE YOUR PLACE:** Piece of Mind for Next Year

THIRD SCHOOLS



## FROM ME TO YOU

## PROTECTING EDUCATIONAL CHOICES: CALL TO ACTION

**Parents: Its about protecting your educational choices because what matters is the success of our students**

Third Schools—Third Academy, LYNX, and **ursa**—supports the right of parents to choose the best programming choice for their children. We believe that every child deserves access to a quality education that fits your family values and builds on student strength while accommodating for their areas of need. In this way:

- Third Academy offers hope by providing specialized programming and intensive supports for students with complex learning needs
- LYNX connects our students to the world around them
- **ursa** offers educational freedom to our families who represent the fullest depth and breadth of Alberta families

Third Schools is committed to parental choice in education with a singular vision: student success. We want to make our families aware of a misguided petition that seeks to eliminate the funding that makes your educational choice and the stu-

dent success that is enabled, possible. To be clear, Third Schools supports all teachers across Alberta and a well funded public education system. What is being missed by the defund petition group is that Third Schools is an independent school choice within Alberta's public education system. We are not a 'state' school, like the CBE or EPSB. We are independent, yes, but we serve a public good. All families that enroll their children with us are Alberta taxpayers. Many of our families, particularly those with students with complex, special education needs, really have no appropriate programming choices available to them in their local state school. Currently, a petition led by a group called "Alberta Funds Public Schools" is calling for the provincial government to end all public funding for independent schools. If they succeed, all that will happen is that only the 'wealthiest of the wealthiest' could afford to send their children to an independent school. That's not fair. Every student in Alberta, regardless of their financial circumstances, deserves access

*"We believe that every child deserves access to a quality education that fits your family values and builds on student strength while accommodating for their areas of need."*



## FROM ME TO YOU

## PROTECTING EDUCATIONAL CHOICES (CONTINUED)

to the best possible, most appropriate, world class education. We want to be direct: this is not just a policy debate. Defunding independent schools would hurt Alberta families and hurt Alberta students. This directly threatens the stability of the educational environments where our children feel safe, understood, and successful.

### Setting the Record Straight

As a member of the [Association of Independent Schools & Colleges in Alberta \(AISCA\)](#), we work alongside other schools to ensure that our voices—and yours—are heard. We are not ‘against’ the local state schools, where many students—but not all—students are finding success. Third Schools is for ‘parents and students first’. Alberta’s independent schools simply provide parents with choices to ensure their children’s success when their local state cannot.

Through our collaboration with AISCA and their [Educated Choices](#) campaign, we have identified four foundational facts that clarify the vital role independent schools play:

#### **Fact 1: Independent Schools Provide Parental Choice.**

Parents know their children best. Independent schools exist because families seek

specific environments—whether based on pedagogy, language, religion, or specialized learning needs.

#### **Fact 2: Independent Schools Save Alberta Taxpayers Money.**

We receive only about 70% of the per-student instructional funding of local state schools and zero capital funding for buildings. Defunding independent schools would cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of additional dollars annually to absorb the more than 50,000 students currently attending independent schools.

#### **Fact 3: Independent Schools Serve All Alberta Families.**

Research shows the average household income in over 80% of independent schools is below the provincial average. Our families make significant sacrifices to prioritize their child’s specific needs.

#### **Fact 4: Third Schools is A Charity and Highly Accountable.**

All independent schools in Alberta must be registered not-for-profits, hire Alberta-certified teachers, follow the Alberta provincial curriculum, and undergo regular Alberta Education monitoring and audits.



FROM ME TO YOU

## PROTECTING EDUCATIONAL CHOICES (CONTINUED)

### Why This Matters Now

The move to "defund" is often framed as supporting 'public'—we call these 'state'—schools. The reality is that should this group succeed it will only serve to undermine access to quality educational services to the public. This threat to Alberta families is real and we, as a community, need to take action.

All Albertans contribute taxes and every family—including yours—deserves to see those tax dollars support their child's learning. Ultimately, defunding independent schools would hurt students and hurt families. It would strip away the specialized scaffolding many of our students rely on to succeed. It would not respect the prior right of parents to choose the best education for their child. Ironically, it would also create the very "elitism" the defund group claim to oppose by making these essential educational choices available only to those with the greatest financial means.

### How You Can Help

We encourage all of our families to stay informed and share this important information within your community network. You

can find detailed research, "Myth Buster" booklets, and more information on the importance of educational choice at [EducatedChoices.ca](https://www.EducatedChoices.ca). By understanding these facts, we can better advocate for our students and protect the diversity of choices in Alberta's public education system.

Thank you for being a part of our Third Schools community and for your continued support for our student's education. Together, we can stand against the existential threat this misinformed campaign to "improve" public education is posing to the very families and choices it seeks to protect, ensuring that every student continues to have an educational program that truly works for them and respects the values of their families.



FROM ME TO YOU

WINTER CONCERT



FROM ME TO YOU

WINTER CONCERT (CONTINUED)



FROM ME TO YOU

WINTER CONCERT (CONTINUED)



**FROM ME TO YOU**  
SUNIL MATTU'S NEWSLETTER

**Need More Information?**

Contact Sunil Mattu, Head of Schools  
[smattu@thirdschools.ca](mailto:smattu@thirdschools.ca)  
Phone: 403-690-1408

**“Third Schools gives hope... hope for kids, families, and our collective futures.”**

Dr. S. Lal. Mattu  
Founder & Ambassador-at-Large

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

FROM ME TO YOU

- Fully accredited by Alberta Education
- Third Academy: Serving special needs ECS children and students in Grades 1-12
- LYNX ‘Nature-inspired’ programming for ECS children and students in grades 1-9
- Parent directed home education through **ursa** Parent Directed Grades 1-12 plus Little Bears Kindergarten
- Shared responsibility home education with onsite and online options through **ursa** Shared Grades 1-12
- Fully teacher directed distance online and onsite education through **ursa** Distance Grades 1-12
- **ursa** Global online for International students Grades 9-12
- **ursa** Summer Study Camps for international and Canadian high school students
- InBus, our own independent school bus transportation system
- Doing whatever it takes to help your student succeed



**Third Schools**

Box 240  
Bragg Creek T0L 0K0  
Phone 403-288-5335



**FOLLOW US ON THE WEB!**

Be sure to visit our websites.

<https://thirdacademy.ca>

<https://lynx.education>

<https://goursa.education>

<https://thirdschools.ca>

<https://inbus.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.

