

St. Nicholas Weekly News

Sept 5th-8th, 2023

Dear Families,

We are off to a great start to the 2023-2024 school year! During our staggered entry days, students had the opportunity to get settled into their classrooms and adjust to new routines. Your children are at the heart of our service and we will strive to work closely with you to ensure they achieve their personal best this year.

A friendly reminder that there is no school tomorrow (Monday, September 4th) and Wednesday, September 6th is an early dismissal (2:14pm dismissal).



On Thursday, September 7th, Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Day is officially celebrated in Alberta. Ukrainians first settled in Alberta in 1891. For over 130 years, Ukrainians have called Alberta home - and have made great contributions to the cultural, political, social and economic life of our province - enriching the mosaic of our society. Alberta has the third largest Ukrainian population in Canada, after Manitoba and Saskatchewan. We are asking our students to wear Ukrainian colours (yellow and blue) to school to celebrate Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Day on Thursday, September 7th.

God Bless,
Peter Rachmistruk
[peterr@eics.ab.ca](mailto:peter@eics.ab.ca)
Principal

Staffing 2023-2024 school year:

We would also like to extend our sincerest appreciation to our custodian Mrs. Eaglesham who will be leaving St. Nicholas to a new assignment for the upcoming school year. She will be dearly missed by staff, students and our St. Nicholas community. We welcome Mr. Elmer Guevara as our new daytime custodian.

Principal - Peter Rachmistruk
Assistant Principal - Barb Rafuse
Secretary - Simone Dubuc
Inclusive Learning Facilitator - Katie Nestorowich

Family Wellness Worker - Allison Norrie

Librarian - Aubin Pawl-Nixon

English/Ukrainian Kindergarten - Erin Dziwenko (on maternity leave until January 2024)

English Kindergarten (August 2023 - December 2023) - Megan Greschner

Grade 1 English/Chaplain - Joclyn Beliveau

Grade 2 English - Ronda Stychyshyn

Grade 3/4 English - Kalin Spooner

Grade 4 English - Lindsey LeBel

Grade 4 Math (to all English grade 4s) - Lindsey LeBel/Barb Rafuse

Ukrainian Kindergarten (August 2023 - December 2023) - Jayleen Renneberg

Grade 1 Ukrainian - Tanya Hyshka

Grade 2 Ukrainian - Lindsay Baugh

Grade 2 Ukrainian Religion/Phys. Ed. and Wellness - Katie Nestorowich

Grade 3 Ukrainian - Tara Malko

Grade 4 Ukrainian/Music to all students - Oksana Cokan

Grade 4 Ukrainian Math/Science - Barb Rafuse

Grade 4 Ukrainian English Language Arts/Phys. Ed. and Wellness - Katie Nestorowich

Educational Assistant - Murielle Clarke

Educational Assistant - Cathy Kennard

Educational Assistant - Fran Gibson

Custodian - Elmer Guevara

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Monday, September 4 - No school (Labour Day holiday)
- Thursday, September 7 - Wear blue/yellow (Ukrainian Heritage Day)
- Thursday, September 14 - Meet the Staff at 5:00pm (more info to follow in next week's update)
- Tuesday, September 19 - School Council meeting (6:00pm) at St. Nicholas
- Friday, September 22 - Terry Fox run/Hot lunch (see info below)
- Monday, September 25 - School photos (whole school except Eng. Kindergarten)
- Tuesday, September 26 - Eng. Kindergarten school photos
- Friday, September 29 - Orange Shirt Day/Whole school field trip to watch the Viter Ukrainian dancers at the Dow Centennial Centre (more info to follow)
- Monday, October 2 - Truth and Reconciliation Day (no school)

Information

- If there are any families dealing with financial hardships please reach out to me and we can discuss some support. I have attached a fee waiver for families who qualify
- Parents, please complete the consent forms in Powerschool by Friday, September 8. This is imperative as students will not be able to participate in any field trips until these consent forms are complete. As well, fees have now been posted to Powerschool. Instructions on how to complete the consent forms and pay fees are attached

- Bus Status 4 is now available for download. This will replace Bus Status 3 as the primary app for students and parents who wish to track their bus. Bus Status 3 will be obsolete as of Sept. 29.
 - [Android download](#)
 - [Apple download](#)
- In order to limit distractions for our students and provide an optimal learning environment we are kindly asking the following: Parents/visitors are permitted to enter the school provided there is a valid reason (ie. volunteering). Parents/volunteers are asked to sign in at the office when entering the school. Thank you in advance for not gathering outside of classrooms or hallways.
- If you need to pass along a message to your child regarding before/after school instructions we kindly ask that you call the school (780-467-3633) before noon. We understand that emergencies arise, however, we would like to notify our teachers as soon as possible to help them with end of the day routines.

School Council (PAC) Information

- The Parent Advisory Council welcomes teachers, students, and parents back for another school year! To keep up to date on PAC's events and fundraisers as well as hot lunch, please continue to visit the hot lunch website, read Mr. Raschmistruck's weekly emails, and visit St. Nicholas' Facebook and Instagram accounts!

Have a question regarding a PAC event or fundraiser? A hot lunch inquiry? Want to volunteer?

To help make communication easier please direct all inquiries and payments to

stnicholaspac@gmail.com

Please follow the registration process to get started on Hot Lunch and all PAC fundraisers!

Go to <http://stnicholas.hotlunches.net>

- Click on "Click Here to Register"
- Enter access code stnicholas2023
- Complete the rest of the registration form, including your email address which will link your e-transfer payment
- Click the "Register Now" button on the bottom
- Follow the instructions to add each child (including their class) in your family who attends St. Nicholas. Once your child(ren) are registered, click on "Orders"
- Proceed to order hot lunch for your child(ren)
- Payment is accepted via e-transfer to stnicholaspac@gmail.com

Why are you being asked to register again this year if you had an account from last year?!

This is a new school year! Students have come and gone, moved to different grades, teachers have moved to teach different classes, and legally PAC and the Hot Lunch Committee can not keep private information from previous school years! If you have any questions regarding registering or the hot lunch process please feel free to reach out to Nina at

stnicholaspac@gmail.com

Davison Orchard Apple Fundraiser

- PAC is pleased to offer our first fundraising initiative for the school year, Davison Orchard Apple Fundraiser! This fundraiser will be open for ordering from Sunday, September 3rd through until Wednesday, October 4th! This fundraiser is open to family and friends as well!

This fundraiser is important for PAC as it funds our grade 4 leadership t-shirts as well as the school's Meet the Teacher Night!

- To order - Ordering will be through our hot lunch website! To order, please create an account for your child(ren) as instructed above and order through the order menu. For friends and family to order, they can either combine their orders with yours or create their own account to order through.
- Payment - payment for the entire order is due before the closing date of Wednesday, October 4th. If an order is not paid in full, unfortunately the order will not be placed. Payments can be sent via e-transfer to stnicholaspac@gmail.com. Unfortunately, other forms of payment can not be accepted at this time.
- Delivery and Pick up - Apples will be delivered and will need to be picked up from the school on Wednesday, October 18th (times to follow)!
- Volunteers - Volunteers will be needed to help unload the delivery truck as well as help hand out apples. More information to come!

Any questions or for volunteer inquiries please contact us at stnicholaspac@gmail.com

OLPH Parish Information

- Preparation classes for your children's Sacraments will start up in September. Please contact Natalie at the OLPH office to register now or for help with any questions. (780-467-5470)

Faith Reflection

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year. Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us. Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open our hearts and minds to new friends and new teachers. Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and courage to accept new opportunities. Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence. Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year! Amen



St. Nicholas Catholic School

Facebook @stncatholic

"Our Catholic School Family, embracing both English and Ukrainian Bilingual programs is dedicated to providing the best opportunities for learning while nurturing in our students' continuous personal growth."

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