

St. Nicholas Weekly News

Sept 25th-29th, 2023

Dear Families,



On Friday, September 29 the students and staff will attend a concert performance from the Viter Ukrainian Dancers. The concert will be held at the Dow Centennial Centre in Fort Saskatchewan. Students and staff will be bussed to and from the venue. The concert will take place from 12:30pm-1:30pm to accommodate schools from Vegreville. In order to arrive on time we will be modifying our lunch schedule that day. The plan is as follows:

- Lunch recess: 11:00am-11:20am
- Lunch: 11:20am-11:45am
- Preparation to get on the bus: 11:45am-11:55am
- Bus leaves St. Nicholas at 12:00pm
- Bus arrives back at St. Nicholas at approximately 2:15pm

Please note, if your child will be absent that day (ie. scheduled appointment) please contact your child's homeroom teacher by Tuesday, September 27th (as we need to confirm ticket numbers). Also, it is imperative that you have completed your consent forms on Powerschool, otherwise your child will not be permitted to attend. Thank you for your attention to this.

Indigenous Ways of Knowing are steeped in a deep respect and connection to the land. We would like to encourage families to take the time on Truth and Reconciliation Day to find a spot in nature and take a moment to think about the impacts of residential schools and say a prayer for residential school survivors and those who were lost. On Friday, September 29th students and staff are encouraged to wear orange to honour the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada.

God Bless,
Peter Rachmistruk
peterr@eics.ab.ca
Principal

Upcoming Important Dates:

- **Monday, September 25** - School photos (whole school except Eng. Kindergarten)/BUCPS virtual meeting at 7:30pm

- 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
- **Monday, October 2** - Truth and Reconciliation Day (no school)
- **Wednesday, October 4** - Thanksgiving celebration/Early dismissal
- **Friday, October 6** - PD Day (no school)
- **Monday, October 9** - Thanksgiving Day (no school)

Information

- **From the Minister of Education:** *Alberta's government is strengthening their approach for developing and engaging on curriculum, particularly Social Studies. I am pleased to announce that we are returning to Albertans with an open, transparent and collaborative engagement process that reflects what we have heard. Feedback received from Albertans and education partners during previous engagement on draft K-6 Social Studies curriculum indicated common areas for improvement, including volume of content and learning progression, developmental appropriateness, pluralism, diversity and inclusion, local and Alberta context, current events and First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives. Alberta Education will be considering previous feedback, as well as incorporating feedback received through new engagement activities to develop the new draft Social Studies curriculum. **Phase one – Preliminary engagement:** As part of the first phase of engagement, we are gathering information about what Albertans would like students to learn in the Social Studies curriculum through a survey and discussion guide on Alberta.ca. The survey will remain open until **October 16, 2023**.*
- On September 30, Strathcona County is hosting National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Stage - Broadmoor Lake Park Plaza (1 p.m. to 3 p.m.) - Welcome and Blessing by Elder Bert Auger, Mayor Rod Frank and Strathcona County's Indigenous Advisory Committee followed by Smudging ceremony, Indigenous speakers and presentations and an Honour Walk around Broadmoor Lake Park. All events are FREE. Festival Place will be lit orange to commemorate the day.

School Council (PAC) Information

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.
- 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 st.nicholaspac@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 st.nicholaspac@gmail.com

Faith Reflection

Dear God, We grieve for Indigenous children who experienced residential schools, and those who died while in their care. We grieve for those who have been found, those who have yet to be discovered, and those who have been forever impacted by their experiences.

Heavenly Father, help us to take this grief and turn it into action that works for healing and hope. Let this be a moment that changes and transforms us, that we might do more for the good of your children and the good of your world. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

--

Peter Rachmistruk
Principal

St. Nicholas Catholic School
Sherwood Park, Alberta
email: peterr@eics.ab.ca



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."

 109 Georgian Way, Sherwood P...  stn@eics.ab.ca

 (780)4673633  stn.eics.ab.ca