

# ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY NEWS

February 12th-19th 2024

## Dear Families,

As we embark on the solemn journey of Lent, let us embrace this season as an opportunity for spiritual reflection, renewal, and growth within our homes. Lent calls us to deepen our connection with God through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, but it also invites us to strengthen the bonds within our families. In the midst of life's busyness, let us prioritize moments of shared prayer, thoughtful conversations, and acts of kindness that foster love and understanding. May this Lenten season be a time of grace for our families, drawing us closer to each other and to the divine light that guides our paths. Together, let us strive for a holier and more compassionate family life, rooted in faith and filled with the joy of God's love.



May your Ash Wednesday be a time  
of reflection and promise.

Shrove Tuesday (February 13th) falls on the Tuesday before Lent begins. On this day, we traditionally eat pancakes, syrup, and sausages. In the past, the reason for this delicious meal was to use up foods such as butter, eggs, and milk before Lent. On Shrove Tuesday, the traditional feast day before the start of Lent, students will receive individually wrapped pancakes and sausages at lunch time from Headquarters restaurant. Thank you to our school council for sponsoring the pancake meal. We are kindly asking students to bring in a toonie to offset some of the costs. Students can bring their \$2.00 to the office tomorrow (or their child's homeroom teacher).

As a school community we will be attending the OLPH Parish Ash Wednesday mass on February 14th at 1:00pm. The grade 4 students will be bussed to OLPH (as they have a field trip in the morning) all other students will be walking to OLPH. We will be leaving at 12:20pm and all students (including grade 4s) will walk back and return at approximately 2:30pm.

Our kindergarten open house will be on Thursday, February 15th at 6:00pm. A short information session will be held in the gymnasium at 6:00pm followed by a classroom visit and school tours. As well, at our open house, information will be shared about our new nature integrated program and the Pre-k program being offered next year.

Please note, there is no school for students on Friday (PD Day).

God Bless,

Peter Rachmistruk

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Principal

### Upcoming Important Dates:

- **February 13** - Shrove Tuesday/Valentine's Day activities
- **February 14** - Ash Wednesday 1:00pm mass at OLPH Parish
- **February 15** - Kindergarten Open House at 6:00pm
- **February 16** - PD Day (no school for student)
- **February 19** - Family Day (no school)
- **February 26** - Gr.4s skiing at Sunridge
- **February 28** - Pink Shirt Day/Hot Lunch (Pasta Pantry)

### Information

- Please note that Kindergarten registration is open for online registrations. Children who are five years old on or before December 31, 2024, can be registered for Kindergarten. For the 2024-2025 school year, English Kindergarten will be offered on Mondays/Wednesdays (and alternating Fridays) and Ukrainian Kindergarten will be offered on Tuesdays/Thursdays (and alternating Fridays). Our nature based programming will occur on Fridays. To register please go to - [School Registration at Elk Island Catholic Schools \(EICS\)](#). We will be sharing more information at our kindergarten open house on Thursday, February 15th at 6:00pm. We look forward to seeing families at our kindergarten open house. Please help us spread the word about our new nature integrated program.
- This year Valentine's Day will be celebrated in classes on Tuesday, February 13th (as per the direction of the Bishops to all Catholic schools in the province). Ash Wednesday (February 14th) is a day of fasting and repentance and marks the beginning of the Lenten season. Shrove Tuesday/Fat Tuesday is a day of indulgence prior to the beginning of the Lenten season, thus the perfect day to celebrate Valentine's Day. As we are an Apple school (and respecting various allergies in the school) we are kindly asking students not to bring treats/food to share.
- If you haven't had a chance, I would like to invite you to participate in our Education Assurance Survey for the 2023-2024 school year. Results from this survey will be used to inform planning at the school and divisional level for the 2024-2025 school year. Thank you in advance for taking a few moments to complete the survey. Your feedback is welcomed and appreciated.  
[Please click here to start the survey.](#)

### February Hot Lunch

- On February 28th, Pasta Pantry will be serving our school hot lunch. For those that are new to hot lunch, the kinder classes will alternate each hot lunch date so that both classes have the opportunity to participate. This month, Pani Dziwenko's Ukrainian Kinder class will be served. Ordering will run until Saturday, February 17th. Please have payment sent in full via e-transfer to [st.nicholaspac@gmail.com](mailto:st.nicholaspac@gmail.com) by the order deadline of the end of day, Saturday, February 17th. If you have any questions, concerns, or trouble with the website or the ordering process, please feel free to reach out to at [st.nicholaspac@gmail.com](mailto:st.nicholaspac@gmail.com). If you are able to volunteer to help on hot lunch day please click the volunteer box when ordering. It is appreciated!
- Please follow the registration process to get started on hot lunch!
- Go to <http://stnicholas.hotlunches.net>
  - Click on "Click Here to Register"



- 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 [st.nicholaspac@gmail.com](mailto:st.nicholaspac@gmail.com)

### **School Council Update**

- Thank you for your participation in the Parent Council's West Coast Seeds Fundraiser! With your support, we raised a total of \$560 to go towards St. Nicholas' school-wide Year End Fun Day, and the grade 4 pizza party! Your support is greatly appreciated. For those that have ordered, seeds will be delivered in a couple of weeks. PAC will be sending out instructions via email for pick up!

### **BUCPS Purdy's Fundraiser**

- It's the perfect time to support our program and prepare for Easter! All orders will be ready for pick up just before Spring Break on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at St. Nicholas School (3:00pm-5:00pm)
- The Bilingual Ukrainian Catholic Parent Society (BUCPS) will also be providing a pizza lunch for the class that generates the most sales!
- Follow the link to load your Easter basket with goodies - <https://fundraising.purdys.com/join.aspx/1922788-115547>
- See attached poster for more details

### **OLPH Parish News**

- Please see attached poster for upcoming information

### **Faith Reflection**

Gracious and loving God, as we embark on this sacred journey of Lent within the walls of our school community, we humbly come before you, seeking your guidance and strength. May this season be a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal, as we strive to deepen our connection with you and one another. Grant us the wisdom to recognize our shortcomings, the courage to face our challenges, and the grace to extend compassion to those around us. In the spirit of self-discipline and sacrifice, may our actions be a testament to your boundless love and mercy. Bless our St. Nicholas school with a spirit of unity, understanding, and unwavering faith as we walk together on this Lenten path. Amen.

—

Peter Rachmistruk  
Principal

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### **St. Nicholas Catholic School**

"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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**St.Nicholas Catholic school**

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