

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY NEWS

January 29th-Feb 2nd, 2024

Dear Families,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Greshner and Mrs. Renneberg for their contributions to our school for the past several months. We are so grateful for their dedication and passion they shared with their kindergarten students the past 5 months. We would like to welcome back Pani Dziwenko to our kindergarten classroom as she returns from maternity leave.



A friendly reminder that there is no school for students on Wednesday, January 31 (PD day).

As mentioned in last week's update, St. Nicholas will be offering a nature integrated kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year at no cost! Students in both the Ukrainian and English kindergarten programs will have nature programming integrated into their schedules on Fridays next year.

Please note that Kindergarten registration will be open for online registrations this Thursday (February 1). 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.

God Bless,

Peter Rachmistruk

peterr@eics.ab.ca

Principal

Upcoming Important Dates:

- **January 30** - School Council meeting at 6:00pm at St. Nicholas
- **January 31** - PD Day (no school for students)
- **February 2** - Reports cards (available on Powerschool)

- **February 8/9** - Teacher's Convention (no school for students)
- **February 13** - Shrove Tuesday
- **February 14** - Ash Wednesday 1:00pm mass at OLPH Parish (more information to follow)
- **February 15** - Kindergarten Open House at 6:00pm
- **February 19** - Family Day (no school)

Information

- Your child's report card will be available on Powerschool on Friday, February 2. Report cards provide an opportunity to convey information from the school to parents about their child's educational progress. The report cards are a culmination of on-going assessments in the classroom and are meant to encapsulate the learning of the student over the first term. Our hope is that this report card and communication from teachers will ensure that all parents know how their child is doing, what area they need to improve in and how the school and the home can work as a team to support the student in this process.
- OLPH Parish news -

EICS Education Assurance Survey

- Our 2023-2024 Education Assurance Survey opens on Monday, January 29. This is your opportunity to let us know how you think we're doing, so starting Monday, please check your email for a link with access to our annual survey. Each and every year, your invaluable feedback helps our school, and all EICS schools, to refine our faith-infused education and support for all EICS students and staff. If you do not see an email with a link to the survey, please check your spam filter. If you still don't see it, please call 780-467-8896.

Nature Integrated Kindergarten Program Philosophy

- Children have a natural curiosity about the world around them. Connecting children to nature fosters rich learning experiences, ecological literacy and healthy living. This supports their executive functioning skills, builds strong brain functioning, self regulation and life skills.
- Time spent in natural environments has been proven to be beneficial for both child development and for the physical and emotional health and wellbeing of all age groups. Outdoor learning and play are essential ingredients to a healthy childhood. A growing body of research indicates how learning and playing outdoors can improve cognitive functioning, reduce student and teacher stress, improve attention, boost mental health, raise test scores and ignite a sense of wonder.

School Council - Fundraising with West Coast Seeds

- Dear Parents, we are all ready for Spring, and what better way to will in the warmer weather than by planting seeds and watching them grow? Check out our West Coast Seeds fundraiser, which is all about seeds!
- As part of this fundraiser, West Coast seeds offers a variety of seeds that you can grow in your own garden. These include vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers. Not only will this fundraiser help beautify your garden, but it will also benefit our school. A portion of the proceeds will go directly towards supporting our school's year end activities such as our school wide Fun Day and the Grade 4 Pizza Party!
- To participate in this fundraiser, please visit <https://fundraising.westcoastseeds.com> and browse through the selection of seeds. You can place your order online and submit payment online! We are grateful for your support and participation in this fundraiser. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at st.nicholaspac@gmail.com. Together, we can make this fundraiser a success and benefit our school community. Thank you for your support and happy planting!

BUCPS Purdy's Fundraiser

- It's the perfect time to support our program and prepare for Easter! All orders will be ready for

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>
- ** Please note. We LOVE when you share our links! Please help us by ensuring your friends and family indicate your family name in "additional notes" when ordering so we can properly organize your bundle.

Faith Reflection

Lord, we thank you for your steadfastness. You never fail. You are our strength in our time of need. God, we give you our worries, burdens and cares this day. Thank you that we do not have to fear, for you are always right beside us. Encourage our hearts today. Remind us of your loving kindness. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

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Peter Rachmistruk
Principal

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



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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Twitter: [@stncatholic](https://twitter.com/stncatholic)



St. Nicholas Catholic school

St. Nicholas is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters