

The MOSAIC

Volume 2
October 2022



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As the leaves start to change colour and the mornings are cooler, we find ourselves settled into routines that consistently become more comfortable. We have completed our enrollment and I am so happy to see many new and returning **ursa** families. Our wish is for you to find a community of learners that understand the needs and desires we share. I encourage you to reach out to others in the **ursa** community: share an activity or celebration with them, take part in an **ursa** planned activity, or connect with others during upcoming events such as our information sessions and coffee nights.

I know that many of you are meeting your HEMs this month, and setting your plan for the year. Our HEMs love to connect with their families and share their wealth of knowledge. You will be receiving resource claim information and the forms this month. I encourage you to join the resource claim information night on October 26th as the HEMs take you through the process of completing the claims.

I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving long weekend.

Tracy Gilluley
Principal, **ursa**



UPCOMING DATES

October 15
5-Credit Proposals & Diploma Exam Registration Deadline

October 18
Picture Day - Calgary West Campus

November 14
1-3 Credit Proposals Due

November 18
Resource Claims Due

FIND US ONLINE

Visit www.goursa.education for **ursa** registration information.

Friends of ursa Home Ed Facebook group is a place for families and friends of ursa to get to know each other, plan activities, and share their experiences. Our Home Education Managers are active on the Facebook group providing general announcements and information on activities and events of interest, ideas for resources, and answering any questions you may have. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofursahomeed>

We acknowledge that we are on traditional territories in Alberta of the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.



ursa STUDENT ANTHOLOGY

This year, **ursa's** HEMs have met many aspiring authors among our students. We have students writing fan fiction based on their favourite anime, books, TV shows, and movies, and students who create amazing stories based on their own universes. We have it all!

We would like to invite our students to contribute short stories to an **ursa** collection. This is an entirely optional, but fun and exciting project.

Here are the rules:

1. The content should be suitable for all audiences
2. No minimum word count - we want **ALL** ages and skill levels to participate
3. Maximum word count: **5000** words

Checklist of what to include:

- Story name
- Author name to be included - a nickname or initials may be used
- Age
- Brief biography (OPTIONAL)
- Story
- Up to 2 accompanying pictures

Deadlines:

Your story **MUST** be submitted to your HEM before [December 1, 2022](#).

Questions can be directed to your HEM or to Jackie Michaels (jmichaels@thirdschools.ca). When compiled, the finished collection will be emailed in PDF form to all **ursa** families. We look forward to seeing your work!

STUDENT PICTURE DAY IN CALGARY



WHEN: October 18, 1:00 to 5:00 pm by appointment **ONLY**

WHAT: Sittings with [Lifetouch Studios](#) for student photos and ID cards. Siblings are welcome.

WHERE: **Calgary West Campus** (3311 49 Street SW, Calgary - to the right side of Mother Theresa Church)

HOW: Please see the [appointment instructions](#) and then click on [October 18 on the appointment locator calendar](#) to book a 5-minute photo session for each of your students. Sign up early to ensure you get the times you want. Walk-ins cannot be accommodated.

INKTOBER



[Inktober](#) guidelines:

1. Make a drawing in ink so it is bold enough to photograph.
2. Post it on the Inktober thread in the [Friends of ursa Facebook](#) group
3. Hashtag it with #inktober or #inktober2022
4. Repeat!

ursa VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSIONS

Please join us for this month's virtual information sessions.

HOMESCHOOLING YOUR CHILD'S WAY – October 19, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Join your **ursa** HEMs and homeschooling parents for a discussion on some of the most common homeschooling approaches used by our community, from unschooling to the Charlotte Mason approach to classical homeschooling and more! Bring your ideas, experience and questions - we look forward to chatting with you!

- ❖ [ursa Zoom Homeschooling Your Child's Way Link](#)

Meeting ID: 827 2402 3296

Passcode: 193249



RESOURCE CLAIM INFORMATION NIGHT – October 26, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Are you stumped by what you can be reimbursed for on your resource claim? Confused by the policy that you only need to submit 75% in receipts to get a full refund? Wondering how you get your reimbursement and when? Join your **ursa** HEMs for a discussion on everything resource claims on the evening of October 26.

- ❖ [ursa Zoom Resource Claim Information Night Link](#)

Meeting ID: 821 0425 2448

Passcode: 285723



It's home based education, your child's way.



OUT & ABOUT AROUND ALBERTA

Please join us on our [Friends of **ursa** Facebook group](#) for information on upcoming events across Alberta.

SHARE DECORATIONS & COSTUMES ON FRIENDS OF **ursa** – October 10 on



Post pictures of your Halloween decorations, jack o’lanterns, and costumes; your Day of the Dead (el Día de los Muertos) celebrations; or autumn decorations with other **ursa** families on [Friends of **ursa** Facebook group](#) after October 10, 2022.

Share your autumn creativity with the **ursa** community!

CALGARY & AREA

EXPLORE GRASSLANDS FIELD STUDY

The October 6th field trip was a great success.

Over twenty students (and their siblings) joined [HEM Carmen](#) at Glenbow Ranch for the Explore Grasslands family field trip. It was a stunning day - thanks Carmen!



COFFEE NIGHT – October 12, 7:00 pm, at Millrise Blvd Starbucks in SW Calgary

Please join some of your Calgary area **ursa** HEMs, as well as past, present and future homeschooling parents, for a fun evening of coffee and conversation in Millrise. All parents are welcome!

MANTRACKER TAG DAYS – October 12 & 27, 2:00 pm, at Nose Hill Park in Calgary



Mantracker is an ‘all ages’ hide & seek/infection tag game. Wear camo & hide in the trees! We play in all weather.

Meet above the parking lot at Shaganappi Trail & Edgemont Blvd NW. Our playing field is a grove of trees in a valley to the right of the main path.

Bring your own water, snacks, lawn chair or picnic blankets; bathrooms in the parking lot. Check Friends of **ursa** for cancellations or [HEM Nicole](#) for details.

ursa KAYKIMA WORKSHOPS – 1:30 to 3:30 pm, at Edworthy Park in Calgary

Join **ursa** students, one Friday every month, for some fun Kaykima workshops - come rain or shine! Workshops are designed for students between the ages of 6 & 17. Please click on the links to sign-up.

- **October 14** – [Knife Skills](#)
- **November 25** – [Fire Craft](#)
- **December 9** – [Basic Survival](#)



LEGO CONTEST & CRAFT FAIR – 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, November 26, at New Horizon Mall in Airdrie

Join your home education community for a fabulous parent-run event including a craft fair just in time for the holiday season, and a competitive LEGO contest for those creative builders. See you there!

Contact Dianne at homeschoolcraftfair2021@gmail.com for inquiries or to register. Please register early!

LEGO
LEGO CONTEST
FREE YOUR IMAGINATION
AND BUILD A LEGO MASTERPIECE

CATEGORIES:

- Surprise!
- Winter fun
- Gathering places

AGES:

- 5-7 years
- 8-12 years
- 13+

+ prizes for the winners

Organized by Wandering Wednesdays homeschool group

Contest rules:

1. Send an email to homeschoolcraftfair2021.com if you would like to register;
2. Registration fee \$10;
3. Bring your creation to the Kid's Fair at New Horizon Mall on November 26, 2022;
4. Be ready to present your work in front of the judges.

New Horizon Mall - Atrium

Kid's CRAFT FAIR

10 am - 3 pm

Organized by Wandering Wednesdays homeschool group

Hand crafted creations
Lego contest
Face painting
Ballon animals

Saturday November 26, 2022

General inquiries or to register for Lego contest email Dianne: homeschoolcraftfair2021@gmail.com

EDMONTON & AREA

BRING YOUR WHEELS TO THE PLAYGROUND DAY – October 12, 1:00 to 4:00 pm,
at Castledowns Playground and Skate Park, 11520 153 Ave NW in Edmonton

Bring your bike, scooter, inline skates, or other wheels. We can also organise games like baseball, soccer, and badminton, or just enjoy some time in the playground.



AFTERNOON AT VALLEY ZOO – October 26, 12:30 pm, at Valley Zoo in Edmonton

Your **ursa** Edmonton HEMs have a great program booked for homeschooling students at the [Valley Zoo](#), and will soon distribute more details about registration and cost.



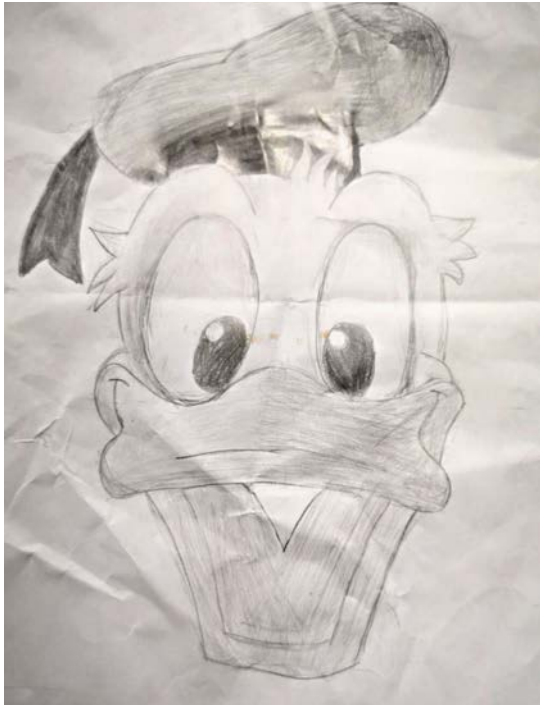
WALK IN WHITEMUD PARK – November 16, 1:00 to 4:00pm, meet at Alfred H. Savage Centre, 13909 Fox Drive NW in Edmonton



Join **ursa** HEMs for a trail walk through Whitemud Park. If there is snow on the ground, bring your sleds to toboggan down the hill. The Alfred H. Savage Centre has a place to warm up, play games, or watch the outdoor activities through large windows, so those who don't want to go on the trail walk can hang out and play games or just visit. Sounds like fun!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Our student spotlight is a place where our students can share what they have been doing and what they are passionate about learning. If you would like to include original art, poetry, short stories, video, articles, etc. in a future newsletter, please send it to your HEM.



Student Spotlight #1: Camila

Camila is a 9-year-old budding artist who loves to find inspiration through YouTube and drawing tutorials.

Her next big art project is to make every Christmas decoration for this year's celebration out of paper crafts! She has an explosion of paper planned.

Great work!

Student Spotlight #2: Micky

Micky, one of **ursa's** creative grade 3 students, cut out and painted her cactus cut-out, for taking pictures with friends and family.

Thank you for sharing this neat craft idea to make from old cardboard boxes! It looks like a fun project to make for your next party or family get-together.



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

DIPLOMA EXAMS WEIGHTED AT ONLY 20% FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR

Alberta Education announced that grade 12 diploma exams for the 2022-2023 school year will be weighted at only 20% instead of the usual 30%. The weighting of diploma exams will return to 30% of the final mark effective September 1, 2023.

MYPASS - FOR STUDENTS EARNING CREDITS & BOOKING DIPLOMA EXAMS

ursa students earning high school credits should sign themselves up with myPass, an Alberta Education self-service website for students. [MyPass](#) can be used to:



- ❖ Register to write or rewrite diploma exams with online payment. Inform your HEM of your writing location.
- ❖ View diploma exam marks and request diploma exam rescores
- ❖ View and print Detailed Academic Reports (DAR) and order high school transcripts
- ❖ View/update student personal information

For instructions to sign up for myPass, click [here](#).

Use myPass to Book Your Diploma Exams

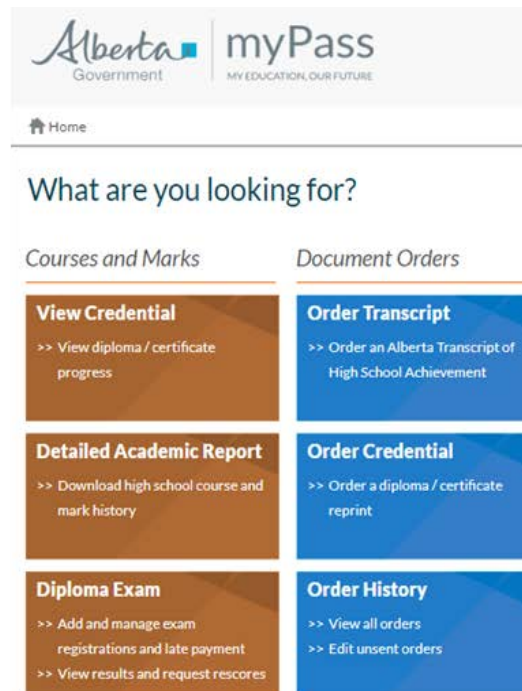
Students with access to myPass will click on “Diploma Exam” to book a location to write their diploma exams. Register early!

Please book your diploma exam location(s) by

- **October 15** for January diploma exams
- **March 15** for June diploma exams

Inform your HEM of your diploma exam location prior to the deadline.

Students are advised NOT to use Provincial Writing Centers which have cancelled homeschooled student’s exam registration with little notice. Please book diploma exams at local schools; contact the school prior to booking to confirm you can be accommodated.



ALBERTA POST SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

Students in senior high school may be interested in attending post secondary school open houses this month. Book your spot in advance!

- ❖ Open dates - [Olds College](#) - virtual
- ❖ Open dates - [Athabasca University](#) - virtual
- ❖ Open dates - [Red Deer Polytechnic](#) - virtual & in person
- ❖ October 5, 10am-2pm - [Lethbridge College](#) - in person
- ❖ October 15, 10am-2pm - [Ambrose University](#) - in person
- ❖ October 15, 10am-2pm - [St Mary's University](#) - in person
- ❖ October 15, 9am-3pm - [University of Alberta](#) - in person
- ❖ October 21 & 22, 9am-3pm - [Lakeland College](#) - in person at the Vermillion & Llyodminster campuses
- ❖ October 22, 10am-4pm - [Concordia University](#) - in person
- ❖ October 22, 10am-2pm - [Norquest College](#) - in person & virtual
- ❖ October 22, 10am-2pm - [University of Calgary](#) - in person
- ❖ October 28, 10am-2pm - [Alberta University of the Arts](#) - in person
- ❖ October 28, 12:30-4pm - [Southern Alberta Institute of Technology \(SAIT\)](#) - in person
- ❖ October 29, 9am-4pm - [Northern Alberta Institute of Technology \(NAIT\)](#) - in person
- ❖ October 29, 9am-3pm - [University of Lethbridge](#) - in person
- ❖ November 2, 5:30pm-8pm - [Medicine Hat College](#) - in person
- ❖ November 3, 5:30pm-8pm - [Medicine Hat College, Brooks campus](#) - in person
- ❖ November 3, 7am-12pm - [Southern Alberta Institute of Technology \(SAIT\)](#) - virtual
- ❖ November 5, 10am-3pm - [MacEwan University](#) - in person



PARENT DIRECTED COURSE FOR CREDIT CALENDAR REMINDERS

- **October 15** – five credit course proposal submission and approval deadline
- **October 15** – deadline to inform HEMs of your registered location for your January diploma exams. Use [myPass](#) to register for your diploma exam. **Register early!**
- **November 15** – one to three credit course proposal submission & approval deadline
- **November** – book your semester 1 **ursa** final exams for parent directed core courses

ursa's CONSTELLATION OF CHOICE

1. **ursa Parent Directed programming.** This is parent directed home education for students in grades 1-12. Our Home Education Managers are dedicated professionals who are experienced homeschooling parents. They offer their guidance, support and vast knowledge in accordance with the Home Education Regulations. We recognize the unique needs of each student and encourage our families to find the educational style that works best for them. We would love the opportunity to help you, and your family, meet your educational goals.
2. **ursa Shared Responsibility programming.** This is flexible home-based education, with part of the program delivered by the teacher and part of the program delivered by the parent. Families can choose between 20% and 80% of their programming to be teacher directed. Students wishing to earn senior high credit may wish to use **ursa** shared teacher directed courses for up to 80% of their credits, combined with parent directed courses for credit through Section 6 of the Home Education Regulations.
3. **ursa Distance programming.** This is a teacher directed, home-based program for students across Alberta, with the opportunity for students in the Calgary area to attend onsite programming, at our NEW 400 Prince of Peace Way NE Calgary location, for physical education, music, drama, foods and art classes.
 - o Grades 1-12 courses following the Alberta Program of Studies
 - o Planned, taught, and evaluated by a team of experienced Alberta Education Certified distance educators
 - o High school programming leading to an Alberta Diploma is designed for “motivated students”
4. **LYNX Shared or Distance programming.** LYNX is a teacher directed program of no more than 18 students per teacher that follows the Alberta Program of Studies. English Language Arts and Math (approximately 30% of the program) is delivered in the morning by **ursa** distance online at home or at our school, or at home by the parents, and the other ~70% of the program (Social Studies, Science, Phys Ed, and Health) is delivered the great outdoors in a variety of locations in Calgary and surrounding communities - your student's classroom will be a 'breath of fresh air'.

For information on **ursa** shared and distance learning- or the ursa Bursary program- please contact Tracy Gilluley, Principal, at (403) 605-9743 or tgilluley@thirdschools.ca .



It's home based education, your child's way .

