

The MOSAIC

Volume 4
December 2022



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we enter December, we leave behind us a very busy part of the year. Fall visits are wrapping up and resource claims have been submitted. Our HEMs are completing their fall reports and finalizing the reimbursements. Thank you to all parents who have worked so hard to help us get the visits and claims completed.

As we are edging closer to the Winter Break, we are even closer to our annual Run Santa Run! The last couple of years have been hard doing this event in a virtual world and we are excited that this year we can come back together in person. We welcome families to join us on December 17th and don the red Santa suit for a fun walk or run in Eau Claire Market, Calgary.

Please note that our office will be closed from December 23 to January 8 for Winter Break and will reopen on January 9, 2023. For any family who experiences an issue with their resource claim reimbursement, please contact Amy at acartwright@thirdschools.ca and she will reach out once the office re-opens.

I wish everyone a very Happy Holiday Season!

Tracy Gilluley
Principal, **ursa**



UPCOMING DATES

December 17
Run Santa Run! 2022

December 23
Office Closed Until January 9

December 30
Fall Reimbursement Payout

January 6
Semester 1 High School
Portfolios Due to HEM

January 20
Grade 10-12 Registration for
Free Top-up Online
Course(s) 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.



RESOURCE CLAIM REIMBURSEMENTS PAID BY JANUARY



Resource claims reimbursements will be paid out to families who made a fall claim, for up to half of their maximum refund (\$425/student if eligible) at the **end of December** by direct deposit. The remaining half of completed claims will be paid out in late June.

Thank you to those families who made a resource claim already. If you submitted a complete claim, no further action needs to be taken - you are all set for the year!

OUT & ABOUT AROUND ALBERTA

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

RUN SANTA RUN! 2022

December 17, 9:00 am Santa suit pick-up with a 10:00 am start, at Eau Claire Market in Calgary

Join the staff and students of **ursa** and Third Schools for a hilarious 3 km fun walk, or a 5 or 10 km run, dressed up in a Santa suit, for [Run Santa Run! 2022](#) – a fundraiser to help support enhanced programming and bursaries at [Third Schools](#).



[Run Santa Run! 2022 registration](#) is available until December 16. Your HEM has emailed you event information that includes a coupon code that allows your **ursa** / Third Schools student to run for **FREE** - make it a family event!



[Donations](#) of any amount are welcomed and appreciated. Families can also [make a pledge](#) on behalf of a HEM or your participating **ursa** student.

Come out to cheer or join in as a participant for **ursa's Run Santa Run! 2022**. To volunteer, contact Melanie Isabelle at 403-629-4108 or runsantarun2020@gmail.com.

- ❖ 9:00 am – Kris Kringle Mingle – Enjoy hot chocolate & coffee while you pick up your Santa suit
- ❖ 9:45 am – Santa Warm Up
- ❖ 10:00 am – 10 km Race Begins
- ❖ 10:05 am – 5 km Race Begins
- ❖ 10:10 am – 3 km Walk Begins



CALGARY & AREA

SNEAKS BY ALBERTA DANCE THEATRE



The December 2nd showing of the Sneaks dance production was a success with a turnout of over 30 homeschoolers!

A big thank you to HEM, Alisha for organizing this field trip to the ballet - keep your eye open for more shows.

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 link to sign-up.

- December 9 – [Basic Survival](#)

EDMONTON & AREA

SOLSTICE GATHERING – December 14, 1:00 to 4:00pm, at Hawrelak Park in Edmonton.

Please join us for an afternoon of play, crafts, and community building before the winter solstice. Hopefully it will be cold enough to ready the ice for skating, yet be mild enough for outdoor play! The pavilion at Hawrelak Park is open for games and crafts. Feel free to bring activities to share and snacks for your own family.



RUNDLE PARK ICEWAY - January 11, 1:00 to 4:00 pm, at Rundle Park in Edmonton



The Rundle Park Iceway (located at 2909 113 Ave) has over 2 km of skating trails, along with several large rinks along the way. There is a place to put on skates in the Rundle Family centre, which also has washroom facilities. One rink is usually designated for hockey, so bring your sticks and pucks if you want to play.

We'll meet at 1:00 pm, but if you arrive later, just come find us on the trails somewhere. Watch the Friends of **ursa** Facebook group for any last-minute weather-related changes.



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



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.

One of **ursa**'s grade three students, A.B., shared her lovely Christmas art of Santa Claus dropping presents down chimneys on a clear Christmas Eve. Beautiful! Thank you.



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

JANUARY SUBMISSIONS FOR PARENT DIRECTED COURSES FOR CREDIT

Students wishing to earn credits in **Semester 1** must submit their completed and evaluated portfolios to their HEM **by January 6**. Portfolios may be submitted in print or digitally.

Core subjects (English Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, and Science) require an **ursa** final exam that is worth 20% of the coursework mark. For portfolios to be submitted on January 6 the final exams should be **completed by December 22**.

Students or parents can arrange dates and times for their **ursa** final exams for core courses using the [Parent Directed Final Exams Scheduling Form](#). Please schedule exams at **LEAST 2 WEEKS** in advance of the requested test date.

30-level core courses also require the additional provincial Diploma Exams worth 20%.

Course portfolios not yet ready for submission can be completed any time before May 30. Proposals for new courses will be accepted until March 15 for 5-credit courses or April 15 for 1 to 3-credit courses.

FREE 3 TO 5-CREDIT ONLINE COURSES FOR GRADE 10-12 STUDENTS



Parent Directed students in grades 10 to 12 are eligible to complete 3 to 5 credits in teacher directed online courses for **FREE** this year. CTS options, social studies or science are available in the second semester.

This does not affect your resource claim or registration status as a parent directed student. Contact your HEM for information.

The registration deadline for semester 2 **ursa** online courses is **January 20**.

PARENT DIRECTED COURSE FOR CREDIT REMINDERS

- **Ongoing** – Students completing core courses for credit must complete a [Parent Directed Final Exams Scheduling Form](#) two or more weeks before their requested exam date.
- **December 23 to January 9** – **ursa** school office is closed for Winter Break.
- **January 6** – Evaluated semester 1 parent directed portfolios for credit are **DUE** to your HEM. If submitted digitally, please confirm that it was received by your HEM
- **January 12 to 27** – Diploma exams for 30-level core subjects. The [diploma schedule](#) is available online.
- **January 20** – Grade 10-12 students wishing to take their free **ursa** teacher directed 3 to 5 credits course(s) in the second semester, must register before the February start.



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 motivated students across Alberta with the opportunity for students in the Calgary area to attend onsite programming at our NEW 400 Prince of Peace Way Rocky View location for physical education, music, drama, foods and art classes.
 - Grades 1-12 courses following the Alberta Program of Studies
 - Planned, taught, and evaluated by a team of experienced Alberta Education Certified distance educators
 - High school programming leading to an Alberta Diploma
4. **LYNX Shared or Distance programming.** LYNX is a teacher directed program of no more than 18 students that follows the Alberta Program of Studies. English Language Arts and Math (approximately 30% of the program) are 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'.
5. **ursa International programming.** NEW: **ursa** International offers distance online and homeschool program supports for students located all over the world. **ursa** students living internationally, or traveling for a few years, can continue to follow the Alberta Program of Studies under the direction of our excellent teachers and Home Education Managers - **ursa** International is there for you, wherever that may be.

For information on **ursa** shared and distance learning, or the **ursa** bursary program, please contact Sunil Mattu, Head of Schools, at (403) 690-1408 or smattu@thirdschools.ca.



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