

# FROM ME TO YOU DECEMBER 2022

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2022

Sunil Mattu's Newsletter

## WINTER: A TIME TO CELEBRATE

"Mons pays,  
ce n'est pas un pays  
c'est l'hiver."

Gilles Vigneault



It has been too long since my last chance to send out a *From Me To You*. I do understand that ongoing and good communication from my office to your homes is essential. Forgive me for this lapse as we have literally

'moved mountains' since Christmas last to get here.

We have much to celebrate:

- \* The move into our new Third East campus in August with all approvals in place for the first day of classes
- \* Approvals for LYNX expansions granted
- \* Third Academy is rebranded as 'The Raven'
- \* Growth across the system sees a 78.8% increase in base enrollments for September 2022, year on year
- \* We welcome urisa Arise Christian Academy under our wing

\* urisa International enrolls its first cohort of students living abroad

\* Stressors and pressures in September give way as new staff join our Third Academy, urisa, and LYNX teams strengthening our programming delivery

\* Our relationships with Rotary Clubs in Calgary continue to strengthen including the establishment of a new bursary

\* Prosser Charitable Foundation grants an extraordinary gift of \$192K in bursaries to students attending Third Academy



### Inside this issue:

Winter: A Time to Celebrate	1-2
Message from the Chair	3
Run Santa Run! 2022	4
Looking Forward to 2023	5
Follow us on the Web	6

#### Board of Directors

Linda McKay-Panos, Chair  
Zeljko Puric, Secretary/Treasurer  
David Beresford, Director  
Manu Chugh, Director  
Shannon McKenna, Director  
Keith Mhlanga, Director  
Tim Lloyd, Director  
Dean White, Director  
Eeva White, Director  
James Roberts, Director

#### Founding Patron

Ed Whalen

#### Patrons

Glenn Olson  
Omkar Nath Channon  
Ashid Bahl  
Dr. Billy Gilliland

#### Ambassador at Large

Dr. S. Lal Mattu

## FROM ME TO YOU DECEMBER 2022

### WINTER: A TIME TO CELEBRATE

- \* The Queen is Dead, The Queen is Dead... Long Live the King.
- \* Professional Development Days in August, September, and November embrace our 2022 theme: Colours
- \* Parents, staff, and Directors stepped up to make the first casinos we have had in 2 years a success
- \* Parent Advisory Councils continue to make ongoing contributions in consultation with school Principals
- \* Remembrance Day Ceremonies are well received across the system
- \* Our new East campus capital campaign continues with high hopes <https://eastschoolcampaign.ca/wp/>
- \* A new Board is installed at our November Annual General Meeting with Linda McKay-Panos appointed as Chair and Zeljko Puric appointed as Secretary-Treasurer
- \* December events see the return of onsite Winter Concerts at Third East on Wednesday 14 December 2022 and Run Santa Run! 2022, Saturday 17 December 2022 at Eau Claire Market

All of this just in time for a well deserved Winter Break with the last day of classes on Thursday 22 December 2022. I ask that in whatever way your family celebrates the Holiday season, we all rejoice in the spirit of the season. Merry Christmas!



Sunil Mattu, Head of Schools

*“I do understand that ongoing and good communication between my office and your homes is essential. Forgive me for this lapse as we have literally ‘moved mountains’ since Christmas last to get here .”*



## FROM ME TO YOU DECEMBER 2022

### Message from the Board Chair, Linda McKay-Panos

2021-2022 has been a year of many successes notwithstanding falling short, financially, by yearend. The Board worked very hard in putting to rest Alberta Education's Financial Review, contributing to the launch of our East School Capital Campaign, establishing a Succession Planning Committee, overseeing the approvals of LYNX West expansion and LYNX East establishment for 2022/2023, establishing ursa International to deliver Distance Online programming to students in Central and South America, the rebranding of Third Academy, and 'making the move' to our new Third Schools East campus for September 2022. Metaphorically speaking, 'mountains have been moved...' Our challenge is to not become a victim of our own success as we continue in pushing to provide quality programming choices for Alberta families and students.

Our 2021-2022 theme- Paradise Found- has allowed exploration that reminded us all of the complexities of the 'beauty around us'. Paradise Found provided grounding as we worked through the last of COVID's firmest restrictions and reminded us that the 'state of mind' that envisions our paradise is founded in belief. The Board is pleased to have overseen solid programming, including the reinstatement of Spring Concerts and field trips, as well as celebrating our first Graduating classes from both Third Academy and ursa. Our staffs should be commended for, after a brutal two and more years in the trenches, coming through for our students and families. Third Schools remains, at every

level, deeply committed to our vision: *student success.*

With respect the yearend financial shortfall, this is a concern that we face for the first time after many years of measured surplus. We note contributing factors include challenge with meeting fundraising goals, challenge with accessing Jordan's Principle funding due to submission rule changes, higher than anticipated transactional costs associated with Alberta Education's Financial Review, and higher than anticipated tuition un-collectables. The silver lining is that, with Alberta Education's special consideration for exemption from the Weighted Moving Average funding framework for 2022-2023, we are in a strong recovery position given solid September 2022 enrollment and anticipated growth over the next three academic years.

Our Parent Advisory Councils continue to make contribution to programming through various fundraising/marketing efforts including Bingos and the Run Santa Run! 2021 special event. Parents are an essential partner in Third Schools' success at every level and contribute towards specialized supports and programming. School Generated Funds: \$7,664. Thank you, parents, for your volunteer hours and donations on behalf of our children in particular during such a challenging year. We also recognize the significant bursary support of the Prosser Charitable Foundation, the Gift of Literacy Bursary Fund, and the Ritvik Bale Memorial Bursary Fund. Gifts and Donations: \$192,140.

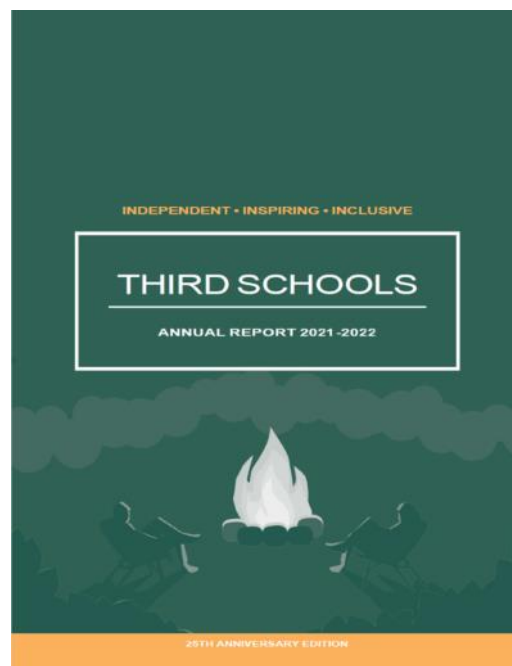
Coming into 2022-2023, we find ourselves with a faith based program- ursa Arise Christian program, with 78 students grades ECS-12- under our wing. We are proud to continue to be able to assist communities 'start up' schools. We also expanded LYNX West to include Grades 1-9 and established LYNX East, starting with an ECS program at our new Third Schools East campus. The logistical challenges associated with this start up- the move, the busing arrangements, passing the various building inspections, bringing the building up to operational functionality, satisfying Alberta Education to complete the various approvals, and dealing with the onslaught of applications- were, by all Reports, intense.

What makes us succeed when others fail? Firstly, who we are: We are an extended family that is constructive, flexible, and helpful built upon real

*"...[Let's] make the purchase of our new Third Schools East campus a reality"*

relationships that are based upon mutual respect. Secondly, it's how we do it: We are driven by passion. In this way, we give hope.

Do not forget: It is our dream that binds us. It is our delivery each and every day in service to our families, our children, and the community at large that proves us. I invite everyone who 'believes in' everything we do to 'serve the public good' to 'take action' in any way that you can to make the purchase of our new Third Schools East campus a reality. Our theme for 2022-2023: Colours.



---

## FROM ME TO YOU DECEMBER 2022

### RUN SANTA RUN! 2022 9AM SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER 2022 EAU CLAIRE MARKET

Run Santa Run! 2022 is back 'in person' at Eau Claire Market beginning 9am on Saturday 17 December 2022.

Show your community spirit and raise funds for our Third Academy, ursa, and LYNX Bursary Funds.

Run Santa Run! 2022 is a fun run and walk. Details can be found at <https://runsantarun.ca/>.

To get your Santa Suit, register on or before Friday, 16 December 2022 and then get outside with families and friends and have some fun. Donations and pledges are accepted until New Year's Eve. Register now at

<https://www.events.runningroom.com/site/17740/run-santa-run-2022/>

for full details and links to register and donate.

We'd like to extend a big 'drum roll' for the efforts of our Run Santa Run! Chair Melanie Isabelle and Bruce Freeman to keep the event.

Make a difference for your family, our Third Academy, ursa and LYNX families, and our collective futures: participate!

ps ... And have some fun!!





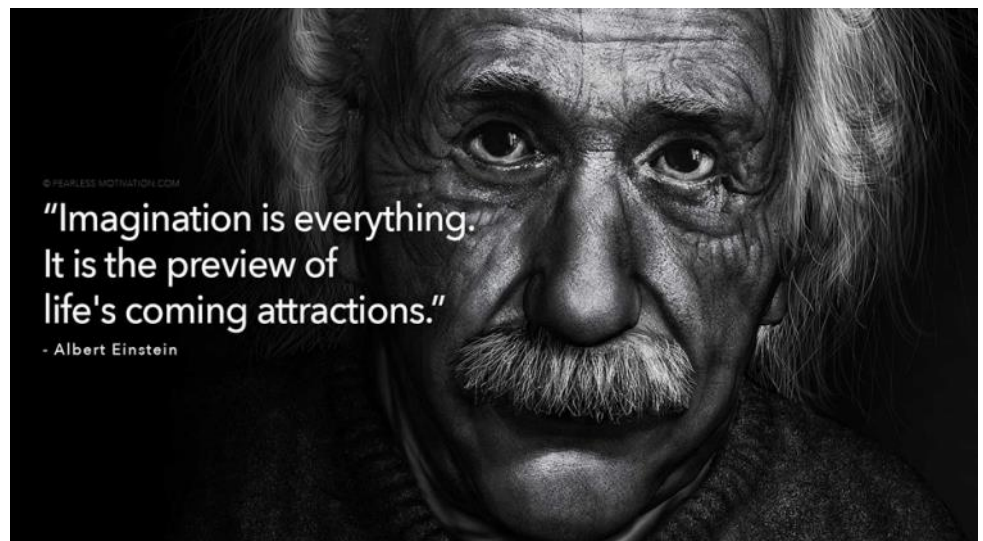
## FROM ME TO YOU DECEMBER 2022

### LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023

Let's look forward to 2023 with enthusiasm.

What's on the horizon:

1. Purchase Third Schools East
2. Expand Independent busing services across Calgary area
3. Expanding ursula— parent directed, Shared Responsibility, and distance online programs across Alberta and internationally
4. Develop ursula Distance and LYNX nature inspired programming in cooperation with Capstone Engineering Academy (STEM) to serve remote FNMI communities across Alberta
5. LYNX to develop Calgary East programming base
6. LYNX/ursula Student Exchange Program with Montessori International School, Trujillo, Peru
7. Third Schools East will offer LYNX ECS programming for September 2023 to compliment LYNX ECS programming at Third Schools West
8. Support the establishment of Arise Christian Academy and Lady Fatima Academy into 2023 and ongoing success beyond



## FROM ME TO YOU SUNIL MATTU'S NEWSLETTER

Third Schools  
Box 240  
Bragg Creek T0L 0K0  
Phone 403-288-5335

Need More Information?  
Contact Sunil Mattu  
[smattu@thirdschools.ca](mailto:smattu@thirdschools.ca)

- Fully accredited by Alberta Education and COGNIA
- Third Academy: 2 Calgary schools serving special needs students in Grades 1 through 12
- Parent directed home education through **ursa** Parent Directed
- Shared responsibility home education through **ursa** Shared
- Fully teacher directed distance education through **ursa** Distance
- 'Nature inspired' programming through LYNX and LYNX ECS
- A non-profit, charitable organization
- Doing whatever it takes to help your child succeed

*We believe that how a person thinks, affects how they feel, and hence how they act.*

**“Third Academy gives hope... hope for kids, families, and our collective futures.”**

Dr. S. Lal. Mattu, Ambassador-at-Large

**Success is a choice.**

**It's mine.**

## FOLLOW US ON THE WEB!

Be sure to visit our websites. We now have three!

<https://thirdacademy.ca>

<https://goursa.education>

<https://lynx.education>

We encourage you to “spread the word” about how we are helping students succeed by posting links to our websites on your social media channels.

