

# ~ The ursa Flare ~

Volume 10  
June 2025



400 Prince of Peace Way NE  
Calgary, AB T1X 1G2  
[www.goursa.education](http://www.goursa.education)  
T: 403-605-9743  
F: 403-288-5804  
[tgilluley@thirdschools.ca](mailto:tgilluley@thirdschools.ca)

## UPCOMING DATES

**Upcoming Events**  
[ursa Events Calendar](#)

**May 28 - June 19**  
**PAT Exams for Grades 6 & 9**

**June 9**  
**High School Core Course Final Exams Deadline for Semester 2**

**June 11-25**  
**Diploma Exams**

**June 30**  
**Resource Claim Payout Deadline**

**June 30**  
**Last Day of the School Year**

## FIND US ONLINE

Visit [www.goursa.education](http://www.goursa.education) for **ursa** registration and upcoming events.

[Friends of ursa Home Ed Facebook group](#) is a place for families and friends of **ursa**, and your Home Ed Managers, to ask questions, meet, plan activities, share experiences, find general announcements, events of interest, & resource ideas.

*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.*



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As the end of the school year approaches, I wish to thank you all for making it a success. To our students and parents, congratulations on a fantastic year. To our wonderful Home Education Managers, you never cease to amaze us. Serving families across the province and providing programming choices for our many families is a true joy. The hard work and dedication of all our **ursa** family makes learning from home a wonderful experience.

June is a time for us to reflect on what we have learned, how far we have come, the new friendships we have made, and the good times we have enjoyed together. I congratulate all our students on a year well done. I would also like to congratulate all our graduating students and wish you all the best that life has to offer.

Our office team will be working reduced hours this summer, but we will be checking emails regularly. If you have any registration questions or need to reach us, please send an email, and we will be sure to get back to you. Acceptances for those who register over the summer will continue to be processed.

I wish you all a wonderful summer!

Tracy Gilluley  
Principal, **ursa**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Spring Resource Claims, Short Story Project & Learn Nothing Day	2
Celebrations of Learning Highlights	3
Innovation Expo & Lego Contest Highlights	6
Out & About Around Alberta - <b>ursa</b> Teen Hub	7
Edmonton & Area - Hello Summer Park Day	7
Calgary & Area	8
Third Schools Volleyball Club & Homeschool Brick Building Club	8
Cardboard Boat Regatta & Edworthy Park Day	9
Mantracker Tag	10
Student Spotlights - Ilya, Benjamin & Camila	11
High School & Teen News	13
Grade 12 Graduation, MyPass to Check Course & Dates	13
<b>ursa's</b> Constellation Of Choice	14

## SPRING RESOURCE CLAIMS



The final resource claim reimbursement by direct deposit payment (from **Third Academy International**) is scheduled to be initiated at the end of June. Your refund may take a few business days to appear in your account due to the weekend and the July 1<sup>st</sup> holiday.

If you do NOT receive your reimbursement by the first week of July, please email [CAP@thirdschools.ca](mailto:CAP@thirdschools.ca) and CC (carbon copy) to Tracy Gilluley at [tgilluley@thirdschools.ca](mailto:tgilluley@thirdschools.ca). To avoid problems, please check that your [direct deposit banking information](#) on [SchoolCloud](#) is correct by mid-June.

## SHORT STORY PROJECT

Congratulations to all of the **ursa** students who submitted work to the **ursa** Short Story Project.

Your stories are wonderful, and we appreciate you sharing them with us!

Your HEM sent you a copy of the story collection, *Sun Shine*, in May. Check your inbox in case you missed it.



## LEARN NOTHING DAY - JULY 24



Your **ursa** Home Education Managers challenge you to try to learn absolutely nothing on July 24<sup>th</sup> for Learn Nothing Day - we think it is impossible.

We challenge you not to learn how to bake that dessert, to ignore all new information on interesting animals, do not attempt to learn how to paddle a canoe, and definitely do not make any progress in your current book or watch that documentary... Good luck trying to learn nothing!



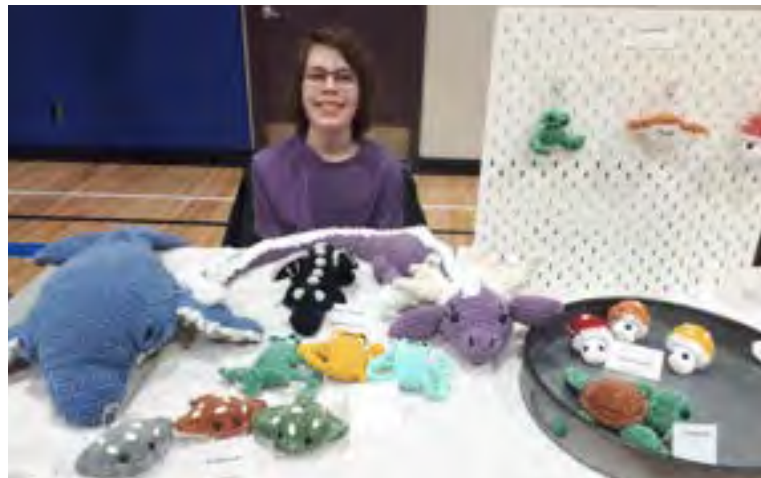
# CELEBRATIONS OF LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to all students who shared their projects and learning at **ursa's** Celebrations of Learning in Edmonton and Calgary. It was fantastic to see the variety of projects, units, art, hands-on learning, and accomplishments by our **ursa** students. We look forward to seeing you all again in the fall and hearing about your plans for next year!



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# INNOVATION EXPO & LEGO CONTEST HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to the many participants who shared their fantastic projects at the Calgary Wandering Wednesday Innovation Fair & LEGO Contest in May. Your **ursa** HEMs were excited to act as judges - both Nicole and Alisha found the process to be difficult due to the high calibre and quality of the presentations. Students from **ursa** did an amazing job!



## OUT & ABOUT AROUND ALBERTA

Please note that parents are responsible for their students' supervision & safety at all events.

### ursa VIRTUAL EVENTS & INFORMATION SESSIONS

- **1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month, 1:00 to 2:30 pm** – **ursa Teen Hub** is a fun, safe space for **ursa** teens to meet and chat each month. Contact [HEM Alisha](#) for information



More information sessions will be held as the new school year approaches. See [ursa Events Calendar](#) in the upcoming months.

In the meantime, please reach out to your HEM with your questions, or contact Principal Tracy Gilluely, for information on **ursa's** Shared Responsibility program or a tour of the East Calgary Campus.

## EDMONTON & AREA

**HELLO SUMMER PARK DAY – 1:30 pm, June 20, at Argyll Park and Playground, [6750 88 St NW, Edmonton](#)**

Please join Edmonton and area HEMs at Argyll Park and playground on June 20th at 1:30 pm to say, “Hello Summer!”

Our **ursa** students have had a wonderful school year full of learning, and we would like to provide the opportunity to make connections, enjoy the weather, and celebrate the hard work.

Feel free to bring outdoor toys, bubbles, or chalk, and in the past, teens have brought cards and other games as well. This playground also has a small dirt track if anyone wants to bring their bike or scooter & gear. Reach out to your HEM if you have any questions!



## CALGARY & AREA

**THIRD SCHOOLS VOLLEYBALL CLUB** – 12:30 to 1:30 pm, Wednesdays, at Calgary East Campus at 400 Prince of Peace Way NE, Calgary



Mr. Jason Ash is coaching a **free** spring volleyball club for **ursa**, **LYNX** & Third Academy **grade 5 to 12 students** on Wednesdays up to, and including, June 18 to practice skills and scrimmage for fun in preparation for next year's volleyball teams - especially junior high!

Please contact Coach Jason Ash at [jash@thirdschools.ca](mailto:jash@thirdschools.ca) to join.

**HOMESCHOOL BRICK BUILDING CLUB** – 1:00 to 3:00 pm, June 5, at the Quarry Park Library, Calgary

**Mark your calendars!** After an amazing day in May of creativity and fun, the club is excited to announce the next **Homeschool Brick Building Club** meet-up. This is an opportunity to work on learning a new building technique, participate in a build challenge, or enjoy free-style building with other building enthusiasts.

This will be the **final session before the summer holidays** - do not miss out on one last chance to build, connect, and get inspired! They will pick things back up again in **September or October**, when the cooler weather brings families back indoors for more brick-building adventures.



The club hopes to see you there for one more awesome afternoon of imagination and engineering! Sign up using [Slack](#) or e-mail Delage at [Ozone2share@proton.me](mailto:Ozone2share@proton.me)



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**CARDBOARD BOAT REGATTA – 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm, June 16, at Jumping Pound Creek, Cochrane**

The cardboard boat challenge is back! [HEM Carmen](#) will be there to cheer you on! Please visit the [Cochrane & Area Homeschoolers Facebook group](#) for more details.

Boats must be made of cardboard and carry students - this is an engineering challenge. Other materials can be used such as duct tape and plastic tablecloths, but the primary material is cardboard.

Students must try to fit in, or on, their boat for the duration of their trip downstream. Some boats may sink and that is okay! Teams or singles are welcome - be creative!

Parents must supervise and assume all risks of this water activity. PFDs are encouraged. Remember your paddles!

Families are reminded to **clean up after their boats when done**. Please bring a garbage bag to remove some extra garbage near the creek as well, in order to leave the area cleaner than it was found.



**EDWORTHY PARK DAY – 12:15 pm, June 18, at Edworthy Park Area Playground at 5050 Spruce Dr SW, Calgary**



Please join our **ursa** families and Calgary area HEMS, for an end of the school year park day, hosted by Cindy and Carmen!

Meet everyone at the playground on the [south side of the tracks in Edworthy Park](#).

Bring your outdoor games, and lawn chairs to enjoy an afternoon outdoors celebrating the end of the school year!



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## MANTRACKER TAG – 1:30 pm on June 10 AND June 26, at Nose Hill Park, Calgary

Join us for **2 DAYS** of 'all-ages' Mantracker, a hide-and-seek infection tag game! Once found and tagged, you also become "it." Hiding in bushes and trees is fair. Wearing camouflage and appropriate clothes to run or hide in wet or dry conditions is encouraged.



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. Parents typically sit near the paved pathway south of the playing field or in the trees near the teepees where each game starts.

Bring water & lawn chairs; bathrooms are in the parking lot. Check [Friends of ursa](#) for any upcoming dates and weather cancellations, or contact [Nicole](#).

## HAPPY SUMMER VACATION

Your HEMs at **ursa** would like to wish our families a fun and restful summer break filled with fantastic learning opportunities in the sunshine! We look forward to seeing you all again in the fall.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

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

This month has **three** student spotlights:

June's spotlight shines on **Ilya** and her beautiful art! (pictured right) Ilya is a grade 8, self-taught artist. She described how she often uses a photograph for her inspiration, but this picture was completed entirely from her imagination. Wow!

**Benjamin** is a grade 4 student who has worked hard to develop amazing gymnastics and parkour skills. Benjamin recently won a **silver medal** (below) at provincials in **trampoline gymnastics**, and will be competing at the Western Finals this month. Let's send Benjamin some good luck wishes - our fingers are crossed for you!



Our final student spotlight shines on **Camila**. Camila is an artistic grade 6 student who created a fabulous peacock light display as a thank-you gift for her sewing teacher. What a beautifully done display! And you should see Camila's sewing - wow!



## HIGH SCHOOL & TEEN NEWS

### GRADE 12 GRADUATION CELEBRATION – June 13, at the Deerfoot Inn in Calgary

At **ursa**, we want to wish the very best to our graduating students who completed grade 12 this year!

Our trail-blazing students followed their own unique educational plan with a variety of approaches that included homeschooling, online and in-person classes to reach their educational goals. We are proud of you all!

**Congratulations to the graduating class of 2025!**



### USE MYPASS TO CHECK YOUR COURSE MARKS & CREDITS IN LATE JULY



**ursa** students may use [myPass](#) to check that their previously submitted courses for credit were entered correctly in the **Detailed Academic Report (DAR)**. Mistakes happen, so please check in July that no courses were missed.

Please contact your HEM as soon as possible if you discover a problem. MyPass can also be used to view progress towards achieving your desired credentials such as an Alberta High School Diploma or High School Certificate of Achievement, order transcripts for post secondary school or a diploma, or to schedule 30-level diploma exams.

### DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- **Ongoing** – Visit the [ursa Events Calendar](#) for upcoming deadlines.
- **Ongoing to June 9** – Parent Directed students completing core courses for credit must schedule their own **ursa** final exam. Semester 2 exams must be completed by **June 9**.



## 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, online or in person options at the Calgary East Campus. 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 400 Prince of Peace Way NE Calgary East Campus location, for Physical Education, Music, Art, Genius Hour, and Foods for the teens.
  - 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
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. The other ~70% of the program (Social Studies, Science, Phys Ed, and Health) is delivered in the great outdoors in a variety of locations in Calgary. Surrounding communities - your student's classroom will be a 'breath of fresh air.'
5. **ursa Global Online School programming.** **ursa** Global Online School offers online distance program support to students located all over the world. **ursa** students living internationally or travelling for a few years can continue to follow the Alberta Program of Studies under the direction of our excellent teachers - **ursa Global Online School** 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](mailto:smattu@thirdschools.ca).



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