

FROM ME TO YOU

DREAMS TURN INTO ACTION, ACTION TURNS INTO LEGACY

It is a fine thing to have a dream, but it is a finer thing to build it into the solid wall of a life's work.

Lucy Maud Montgomery

Dear Third Schools families,

Montgomery's most beloved character, Anne of Green Gables, embodied this very journey. Despite facing profound barriers and arriving in Avonlea with little more than a fierce hope, she transformed her dreams into success. She didn't just find a place to belong; she returned as a teacher to guide others, ultimately building her own solid wall of community and family.

With this in mind, we look toward celebrating a major milestone of our own identity. On May 23rd, we will host Third Academy: 30 Years of Hope, celebrating Third Academy, hope, and legacy. I thank the organizing committee as they plan for this gala event. We are planning a wider community celebration — to include families and alumni from the current and years

previous — for the fall where we will expect 1000s to attend.

Third Academy was established in 1997 to serve families whose children were falling through the 'cracks in the system'. It would be independent while serving the public good. It would be a school, but also fundamentally therapeutic by design. A place where our students could 'heal, then begin to learn again'. They would be understood, accepted, and nurtured such that they could realize their fullest human potential and become contributing members of society. That was the dream.

In action, there have been many successes and some challenges over the years.

Regardless, we never 'gave up', always believing the work that we do everyday is making a real difference in the lives of our students. Some things have indeed changed. But fundamentally, at our very core, we have remained 'true to our values'. We remain committed to providing hope for our families.

Now, 30 years in, Third Academy is an institution. Dr. S. Lal Mattu, Founder, first started teaching at age 17. He would say:

'The best thing that I ever did in my 65 years in education is Third Academy. Everything before this was 'just a job.'



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FROM ME TO YOU

DREAMS TURN INTO ACTION, ACTION TURNS INTO LEGACY (CONTINUED)

Dr. Mattu's vision is a gift to all Calgary area families with students with additional needs, our SWANS. Third Academy is his legacy.

Third Schools has innovated, over the years. Our students at Third Academy, LYNX, and **ursa** are finding incredible success, both academically and in their personal growth. Thank you to all our families and the community at large for 'spreading the word'. Registrations for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year are flooding in at an unprecedented rate. To meet this demand, we are actively expanding our capacity. We will be adding new classroom spaces and welcoming new staff to our faculty across the system.

We also have many new programming initiatives underway. For the first time, we will deliver summer programming through our **ursa** Summer Study Camp and **ursa** Summer School. Register now. We also continue the work to make the dream of LYNX Priddis World School a reality. We thank the Government of Alberta for prioritizing education through the provisions outlined in Budget 2026.

To close: we have adopted the theme of "The Americas" across the school sys-

tem. The year, so far, has been a whirlwind for many families across our planet. With Easter— or as they call it in Central and South America, *Semana Santa* — ahead of us, we need to believe in the power to rise from ashes. I believe that the dream of Canada is a beacon of hope on the world stage in action. Let us all pray for 'peace on earth' during these times of change. I wish your families a restful, joyful, and rejuvenating Spring Break.



Sunil Mattu
Head of Schools

"Our students at Third Academy, LYNX, and ursa are finding incredible success, both academically and in their personal growth."





FROM ME TO YOU

MARKING 30 YEARS: TWO CELEBRATIONS OF HOPE AND LEGACY

As we reflect on the solid wall of Dr. S. Lal Mattu's greatest accomplishment, Third Academy will mark our 30th Anniversary this year with two distinct celebrations.

The first celebration will be a formal Gala held for invited guests this May. Many of our long standing families will remember that we once held these Galas annually—a cherished tradition that was unfortunately interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are thrilled to finally revive this tradition and return to Gasoline Alley in Heritage Park, the very same venue where we gathered to celebrate our 20th Anniversary a decade ago.

At this year's Gala, our focus begins with the dream of Third Academy. In action, we have delivered hope to 1000s of families over the years. But then we move to the future... to the legacy each of us will leave behind. Hope is the quiet spark that keeps us moving forward, even in the most uncertain moments. When hope takes root, it blossoms into a profound kind of joy—one that isn't just about feeling good, but about feeling truly alive. The writer and mythologist Joseph Campbell, who dedicated his life to exploring the stories that shape the human experience, described this as "following your bliss"—listening to the

inner tug that leads us toward the life we were meant to live. Campbell believed that when we align ourselves with what is deeply meaningful, life has a way of opening unexpected doors.

For three decades, Third Academy has been that door—a gateway Dr. Mattu dreamed into the wall of his legacy. A door to student success. When we gather this May, storytelling will take center stage. We won't just be celebrating a milestone on a calendar; we will be sharing the powerful stories of moments when hope sparked that deeper joy in our students and their families. We will recount the times when a child felt seen, supported, and capable again—when possibilities suddenly appeared where before there were only barriers. This is the heart of our Gala: a reminder that when we share these stories and kindle hope for a child, we help them step toward a future where their joy is not accidental, but fully awakened.

Witnessing that transformation is a shared privilege, one that bonds us together and builds a community that endures far into the future. To ensure this door remains open and the legacy Dr.



Dr. & Mrs. Mattu, Gasoline Alley, 20th Anniversary Gala

FROM ME TO YOU

MARKING 30 YEARS (CONTINUED)

Mattu began continues to grow for generations to come, we will be inviting our Gala guests to help build upon that legacy by contributing to a new Endowment Fund. This fund is designed to sponsor Third Academy students with a bursary, ensuring that this life changing educational choice benefits future generations.

Our second celebration of hope will take place this fall. This will be a vibrant, grass-roots community celebration held at our East Campus. We will invite our current students, alumni, past and present families, and our current and former staff to gather, share food, and tell the stories that have shaped us. This gathering will proudly unite the entire Third Schools family—bringing together Third Academy, LYNX, and **ursa** to celebrate the diverse and expanding community we serve today. As part of this gathering, we will place a foundation stone at the East Campus to physically mark our 30th Anniversary. By affixing this object to the building, we are declaring our permanence. Just as each of you makes up the living bricks of Dr. Mattu's legacy, this stone will serve as a physical anchor—honoring the solid wall he built in our past, while holding us steady for the future.

As we lay the groundwork for both of these milestone events, bringing them to life

will require the hands and hearts of our entire community. We will be relying closely on our dedicated Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) executive and members, our parent and community volunteers, and our staff to help make these celebrations a reality. Just as we partner together in the daily education of our children, we look forward to celebrating alongside you.



FROM ME TO YOU

A LEGACY IN THE MAKING: LYNX PRIDDIS WORLD SCHOOL



As we celebrate our 30 year history, we are also actively building the foundation for our future. I am incredibly proud to share an update on a landmark project that will carry our community legacy forward for generations to come: LYNX Priddis World School. Nestled in the heart of Priddis on a 46.5-acre pristine foothills property, we are in the planning stages to develop a world class, affordable, and safe Grades 1 to 12 day/boarding school. In the end, we will 'compete with the Swiss'.

Imagine a learning environment where the classroom is a breath of fresh air and where Mother Nature herself serves as the third teacher. This university preparatory program is designed to develop 21st Century learners who don't just attend school, but truly live it. By offering hybrid programming—onsite, online, and in the field—we are creating a nature inspired global learning community.

The plan is to transform a 60,000 square foot main lodge to eventually welcome 500 students from Calgary area, Alberta, Canada, and around the globe. We are targeting an ambitious soft launch, aiming to open the day school in January 2028, followed by the

boarding school in September 2028. To bring this exciting project to life, we are actively seeking community partnerships from those who share our vision for education.

This project will serve the noble cause of education in a truly innovative way. It will empower our students, the visionary leaders of tomorrow through deep ecological connection and build a lasting social legacy for our province and the world. As Nelson Mandela so wisely stated, "The true character of a society is revealed in how it treats its children". Through LYNX Priddis World School, we are ensuring our children are inspired for our collective futures.

LYNX Priddis World School **THIRD SCHOOLS**

Nestled in the heart of Priddis, this project is more than a school—it's a community legacy in the making.

Vision

Imagine your classroom is a breathe of fresh air. Students from Calgary area, Alberta and Canada wide, as well as international students are your classmates. Programming is hybrid, with Mother Nature as your third teacher. Our Grades 1-12 day/boarding school is world class, affordable, and safe. This is the teaching/learning environment at LYNX Priddis World School. We are a university preparatory program that is developing 21st Century learners. A place where students don't just attend school—they live it.

FROM ME TO YOU

NEW HORIZONS: INTRODUCING OUR FIRST SUMMER PROGRAMS

As we look toward the future and expand our capacity to support our students, I am thrilled to officially detail our newest programming initiatives: the **ursa** Summer School and the **ursa** Summer Study Camp. For the first time, our commitment to student success will extend through the summer months, offering exciting new avenues for academic growth and unforgettable adventure.

ursa Summer School

Running from July 2 to July 29, 2026, our online summer school provides an affordable, world class and safe education backed by the trusted Third Schools system. Utilizing the globally recognized Alberta high school curriculum, this program is designed to put students on the fast track to their university goals. It is especially ideal for our **ursa** high school students who are looking to accelerate their education by securing some Grade 12 credits over the month of July.



“[T]his program is designed to put students on the fast track to their university goals.”

SUMMER SCHOOL



FROM ME TO YOU

NEW HORIZONS (CONTINUED)

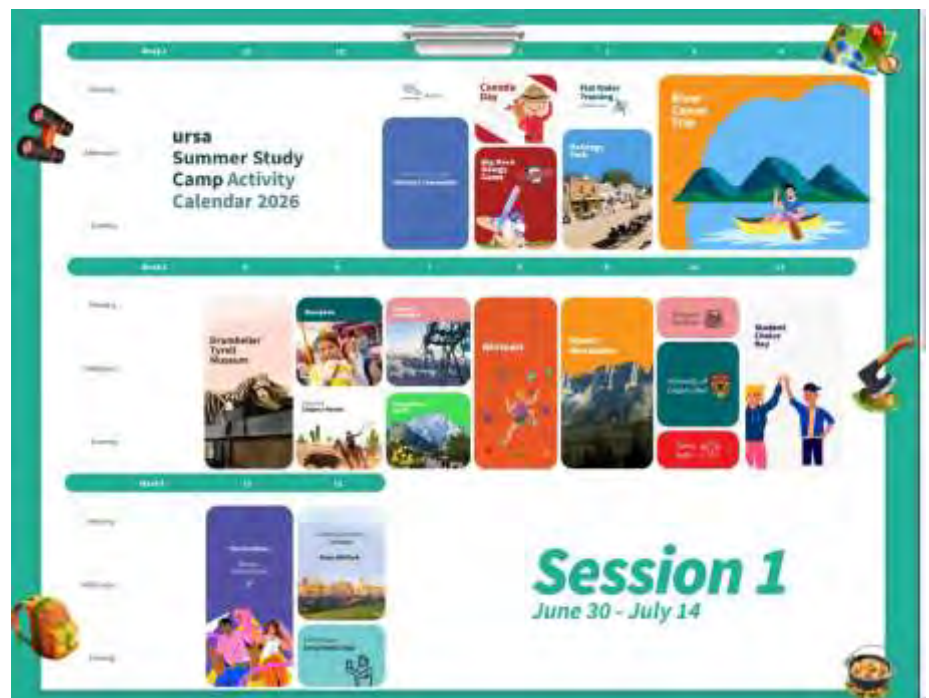
ursa Summer Study Camp

For those looking for an immersive experience, the **ursa** Summer Study Camp offers the ultimate Canadian experience for youth ages 14 to 18. We are thrilled to welcome our Third Schools students to join students from across Alberta, Canada, and beyond for a two-week session this July. Using the University of Calgary campus as a home base, students will experience the very best of Alberta. The itinerary is an incredible bucket list of supervised adventures, including whitewater rafting, multi day canoe trips, exploring the Rockies, visiting dinosaur country, and experiencing the Calgary Stampede. Beyond the outdoor experiences, the camp offers a front row seat to Alberta culture, featuring meaningful Indigenous cultural learning. Additionally, English language instruction is seamlessly woven into the whole experience through teamwork and shared adventures, with structured support provided as well. It is a brilliant opportunity to build real confidence, learn outdoor skills, and forge lifelong friendships within a global community.

Whether your child is looking to accelerate their academic

journey or embark on an incredible Alberta adventure and learning, these new programs represent yet another door opening for our families. We kindly ask you to share the word about these exciting opportunities with your friends and family members, both here in Alberta and around the world. You can find full details and registration information on the **ursa** website https://goursa.education/summer-camp_2/ and social media feeds.

Third Schools families: apply now to take advantage of bursary rates.



FROM ME TO YOU

PROVINCIAL BUDGET 2026: A STEP TOWARD EQUITY

Provincial Budget 2026 brought very welcome news for education in Alberta. After anticipating an austerity budget due to lower energy royalties—and preparing for the reality of cost cutting—the February 26 announcement was a highly positive turn of events for school systems province wide. Most notably, it included an historic announcement: for the first time in Alberta’s history, independent schools can qualify for access to capital funding.

While the full particulars of our funding will be clarified at a later date, Budget 2026 includes three especially noteworthy provisions:

- **Competitive Salaries for Staff:** Increased funding for instructional salaries for all Alberta school systems will allow us to continue compensating our teaching staff competitively. This is vital. It is our people who translate the vision of our schools into a reality, and they deserve equitable compensation for their labour.
- **Expanding Pathways to the Trades:** The budget includes funding for micro credentials, reflecting a necessary shift

from a strictly academic focus toward providing tangible career pathways. This funding will supply the instruction and equipment needed to better prepare students who are interested in entering the trades.

- **A Step Toward Infrastructure Equity:** Historically, independent schools have not received provincial funding for capital projects, forcing us to constantly source alternative sources for our school buildings. While this new capital funding is limited and necessitates matching funds, simply opening the door for capital support is a massive step forward in support of parental choice in education.

What could have been a dismal announcement turned out to be a positive signal for the future. We have long fought for equitable education funding across Alberta, driven by the simple belief that all school systems deserve fair treatment. Every child in this province deserves an education that meets their unique needs and honors their parents' choices, regardless of the type of school they attend.

We fundamentally believe that all schools are “public” in the sense that they serve the public good. Whether a student is enrolled in a local neighbourhood classroom or in one of our diverse Third Schools school programs, they are growing into their roles as the future citizens, workforce, and leaders of Alberta. The true distinction is simply that some are “public state” schools, whereas others are “public independent” schools. Both share the exact same ultimate goal: student success.

This budget is a meaningful step toward acknowledging that public independent schools are vital partners in Alberta's education landscape. For more information, please visit <https://educatedchoices.ca/>.



FROM ME TO YOU
SUNIL MATTU'S NEWSLETTER

Need More Information?

Contact Sunil Mattu, Head of Schools
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“Third Schools gives hope... hope for kids, families, and our collective futures.”

Dr. S. Lal. Mattu
 Founder & Ambassador-at-Large

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

FROM ME TO YOU

- Fully accredited by Alberta Education
- Third Academy: Serving special needs ECS children and students in Grades 1-12
- LYNX ‘Nature-inspired’ programming for ECS children and students in grades 1-9
- Parent directed home education through **ursa** Parent Directed Grades 1-12 plus Little Bears Kindergarten
- Shared responsibility home education with onsite and online options through **ursa** Shared Grades 1-12
- Fully teacher directed distance online and onsite education through **ursa** Distance Grades 1-12
- **ursa** Global online for International students Grades 9-12
- **ursa** Summer Study Camps for international and Canadian high school students
- InBus, our own independent school bus transportation system
- Doing whatever it takes to help your student succeed



Third Schools

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FOLLOW US ON THE WEB!

Be sure to visit our websites.

<https://thirdacademy.ca>

<https://lynx.education>

<https://goursa.education>

<https://thirdschools.ca>

<https://inbus.ca>

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.

