



For Immediate Release

INTRODUCING NATURE KINDERGARTEN FOR THE 2022/23 SCHOOL YEAR

[November 30, St. Albert, AB] Starting in September, parents will have a new kindergarten option that lets kids explore the great outdoors in our communities. The Nature Kindergarten pilot is an extension program that nurtures our students' spiritual, social, and emotional well-being.

Lindsay Martyna, a parent and School Council Chair, says that she is pleased to see an outdoor program taking off in our community. "Both my children are in their element when exploring outdoors - this program will offer a new way for children to learn in an environment that they are already curious about."

The Nature Kindergarten will initially be offered at École Father Jan Catholic School, Albert Lacombe Catholic School, and École Notre Dame Catholic School (Morinville).

"Both St. Albert and Morinville have acres of land to explore and learn about our beautiful environment - what a natural fit for an outdoor kindergarten," says Superintendent of Schools Dr. Clint Moroziuk. "This program will undoubtedly help instill a love of nature and foster respect for all of creation while celebrating different cultures and Indigenous traditions."

"We are excited to launch this program in the next school year," says GSACRD Board Chair Joe Becigneul. "It will give kids space for curiosity, connection, and reflection of the world around them as they construct meaningful and rich learning experiences."

Registration will begin immediately following the Kindergarten Expo planned for Thursday, January 13th, at École Secondaire St. Albert Catholic High School.

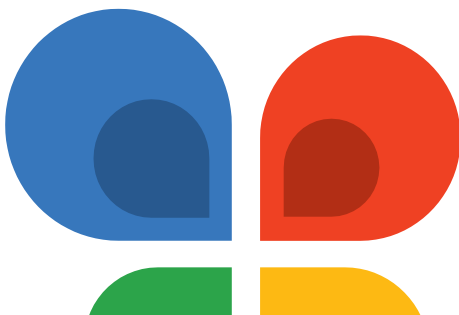
More details can be found on our website:

<https://www.gsacrd.ab.ca/programs/kindergarten/nature-kindergarten>

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Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools serves 6,000 students in the communities of Legal, Morinville, St. Albert and areas of Sturgeon County. A range of programming is available including: Full and half-day kindergarten, French Immersion (K-12), International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, Sports Academy, and integrated learning for students with diverse needs.