



THE PHOENIX MESSENGER

1140 Mayland Drive NE., Calgary, AB T2E 6C8 P: 403-520-5456

"A MATTER OF PRINCIPAL"

A Winter Wonderland of Learning and Fun!

Hello, wonderful families of NEE Elementary!

As we step into the festive month of December, our school is buzzing with excitement and joy. From the twinkling decorations adorning the halls to the cheerful laughter of students, there's a sense of warmth and anticipation in the air.

Upcoming Adventure: Grades 3 and 4 Hit the Slopes!

Get ready for some snowy thrills! Our adventurous third and fourth graders are gearing up for an exciting skiing trip. It's a fantastic opportunity for them to embrace winter sports, build teamwork, and create lasting memories. We can't wait to hear all about their snowy escapades!

Tech-Savvy News: Electronic Report Cards on the Horizon

Hold onto your winter hats! This term, we're introducing a new way of sharing report cards with parents. For the first time ever, report cards will be sent electronically as PDFs via email. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we make this transition to a more eco-friendly and efficient system. Keep an eye on your inbox for these digital snapshots of your child's academic progress!

Exploring Character: Wrapping Up Our School Theme

In the past few weeks, our students have delved into the world of character-building on the theme of Respect. They've learned valuable lessons that will shape them into compassionate and resilient individuals. We're proud of the growth we've witnessed and can't wait to see these qualities continue to blossom.

New School Theme: 'Tis the Season of Giving

As we bid farewell to our character theme, we're excited to announce our new focus for the upcoming months: giving. But what does giving mean in an elementary school setting?

For us, giving goes beyond tangible gifts. It's about fostering a spirit of generosity, kindness, and empathy within our school community. Whether it's lending a helping hand to a classmate, sharing a smile with a friend, or participating in community service projects, giving is the heart of our school.

We encourage parents, teachers, and students alike to explore the many ways we can give back this season. Perhaps it's organizing a donation drive for a local charity or simply spreading joy through acts of kindness. Together, let's make this holiday season truly special by embodying the spirit of giving.

Wishing you all a joyous and giving December!

Warm regards,

John Deines
Principal Educator

Salima Hudani
Associate Principal

DECEMBER 2023

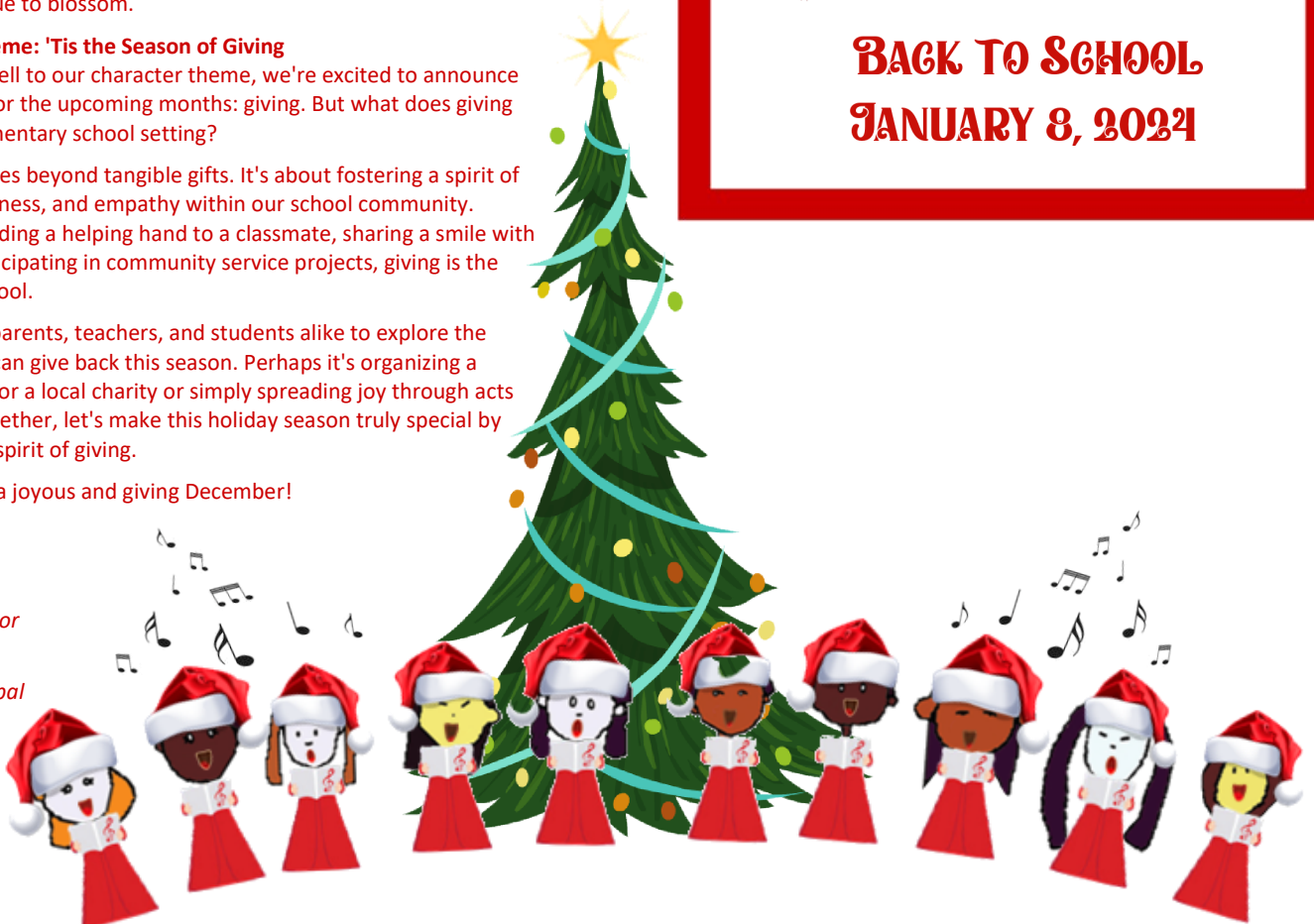



DATES TO REMEMBER

-  **December 1**
PD Day—NO SCHOOL
-  **December 15**
Term 1 Report Cards
-  **December 18**
School Council Meeting - 6:30 pm
-  **December 7 & 14**
Grade 3 & 4 Skiing Lessons
-  **December 22—Casual Day & Fun Lunch**
(Wear your PJ's)
-  **December 24 - January 4—Winter Break**

BACK TO SCHOOL

JANUARY 8, 2024



Principal's Wall of Fame



Christmas Amusing Facts

<p>AM - Walthers Renaya Dhyana Paxton Ersheen Sophie Sanav Anveer</p> <p>PM - Walthers Rosalynn Yostina Grayson Sumreet</p> <p>Sharan—1S Aadvik—1S</p>	<p>Eveline—1Hum Colson—1Hum</p> <p>Nia—2M Ajaybir—2M Anaya—2M</p> <p>Inaaya—3F Arisha—3F</p> <p>Amara—3N An—3N Angel—3N</p> <p>Harvin—4S Yuvraj—4S Luke—4S Ditika—4S Joseph—4S Mannat—4S</p>	<p>Anmol—4BR Fateh—4BR Inaya—4BR Nico—4BR Parthsinh—4BR Asmara—4BR Guneet—4BR</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>

- The names of Santa’s 8 original reindeer are Dasher and Dancer, Prancer and Vixen, Comet and Cupid and Dunder and Blixem. Rudolph came later.
- The average shopper walks 5 miles walking around stores, parking lots and malls.
- People spend an average of 2 hours and 27 minutes wrapping presents.
- A Christmas wreath hanging on your front door symbolizes a sign of welcome and long life for all who enter!



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

R N A M W O N S Y Q I D
 E C Y J N E F L U N E S
 E H B E T H L E H E M T
 D R A S Z O K V O M G O
 N I L U H R C G E E I C
 I S Y S E V A T Y S F K
 E T E G H A N B R I T I
 R M N B T T D A K W S N
 M A H O M N Y S C L T G
 M S Y W C A R O L S A O
 A S O S U S X E E E R T
 H G I E L S B I J W P O

- Bells
- Bethlehem
- Bows
- Candy
- Carols
- Christmas
- Elves
- Gifts
- Holly
- Jesus
- Manger
- Reindeer
- Santa
- Sleigh
- Snowman
- Star
- Stocking
- Toys
- Tree
- Wisemen



What kind of photos do elves take?
Elfies!

Why did Rudolph have a bad grade on his report card?

Because he went down in history!

Knock Knock

Who's there?

Ivana

Ivana Who?

Ivana wish you a Merry Christmas!



Grade 3 & 4 Skiing Lessons At Winsport

Grade 3 & 4 students at NEE will be taking ski/snowboard lessons at Winsport on **Thursday Dec 7th** and **Thursday Dec 14th, 2023**. All students will go on both days.



One day full day of skiing was paid for by the NEE Casino Fund.

Thank You!

Permission & Payment: Online – due Monday Nov 20, 2023

- One full day is being covered by the NEE Casino Society!
- Parents pay \$57.04 (includes bussing, cost of the lesson and all ski equipment for both days).

Schedule:

- Students will leave the school at approximately 9:30am and return to NEE at approximately 2:45pm.
- Lunch will be eaten in the ski lodge at Canada Olympic Park.
- Students will have two hours of instruction with a qualified Winsport instructor.

Parent Information:

- Students will receive lessons at their ability level (skill level).
- Students will review the Alpine Safety Expectations in P.E. class prior to the field trip.

Volunteers Needed:

- Many volunteers are required to help on this day. Parents do not need to know how to ski.
- If you are interested in volunteering, please email me: Melissa.brooks@FFCA-Calgary.com
- Volunteers can ride the bus with the students to and from NEE OR meet us at the ski hill.
- Volunteers will assist the students to put on and take off equipment and be available to help students during the day on the training hill).

What to wear during lessons:

- Students need to be dressed appropriately for the weather.
- Two layers of athletic clothes (example: undershirt and sweater, leggings under sweatpants)
- Warm winter outer gear (winter jacket and snow pants)
- Winter hat and neck warmer
- Mittens or gloves (thick warm, water-resistant ones)
- Socks (do not wear multiple pairs of socks as that is more likely to cause blisters)

What to pack:

- An extra pair of mittens or gloves
- A large, nut free snack
- A large, healthy **NUT FREE** lunch– **No** microwaves available – Students will **NOT** be allowed to purchase food items.
- A water bottle

If you have questions or concerns about this activity, please contact me ASAP.

Mrs. Brooks

FFCA NEE Physical Education Specialist





Join our Board!

We are currently recruiting candidates for FFCA's Board of Directors!



Join Us and Become a Director!

On behalf of the FFCA community, we're calling on YOU to share your unique gifts, skills, experience, and fresh ideas as a valued contributor to serve as part of our Board. We welcome candidates from all backgrounds and roles who bring a passion for governance, improving the education experience for students, are collaborative problem-solvers and are committed to the goals and mission of FFCA.

The FFCA Board of Directors plays an integral role in the continued success and future of FFCA. Directors serve a three year term and are expected to prepare for and participate in a variety of Board, Society and Campus functions. On average, Board members spend 10-20 hours per month on Board activities, including:

- Attending and participating in all scheduled meetings of the Board
- Reviewing supplemental reading materials, draft policies, reports or other Board documents
- Attending an annual Board tour of the FFCA campuses
- Attending campus functions periodically at the invitation of campus administration

The Role of the Board

The FFCA Board is a governance board and it is ultimately responsible for providing oversight of FFCA's education system to ensure it is operating in the best interests of its student base. This includes decisions about FFCA's finances, infrastructure and other strategic priorities. Successful governance relies on a strong Board with the right mix of skills, chemistry, personal motivation and of course a commitment to the organization's mission, vision and shared beliefs. The Board also operates with a high degree of trust, collaboration and teamwork including between the Board and FFCA management.

Some of the key things that the Board of Directors will focus on is the review of the Charter and the new Strategic Plan; advocacy for Charter permanency; ongoing work in capital planning and infrastructure across all campuses.

Important Deadlines

- December 6 – Zoom open house for interested candidates (2 positions open for election)
- December 15 – Deadline to submit all documents required: form application, bio, resume and a short 2-4 minute video
- December 19 – Candidates posted for Society to view
- January 22 to 23 – Director Election Voting (open for 24 hours, noon to noon)
- January 24 – AGM and results announced

[Click here to go to the 2024 Board Election Website](#)





News from the School Council/Casino

Dear parents and guardians at FFCA NEE,

School council wants you to know that you are an important part of our FFCA community! We would like to request if you could consider sharing your time with us to assist with opportunities. Volunteering for the school helps to fulfill your commitments and give back to our kids. Opportunities to volunteer will be shared via Edsby, so please check your messages and consider donating some of your time.

As school council, we would like to formally introduce a few of our members so you know who we are, and perhaps may see us around:

“My name is Jotvir Kaur Bhandher and we are a new family to FFCA. I recently joined the school council as Secretary and I want to emphasize how kind and welcoming my fellow members are! I joined because I wanted to stay connected with the school community and help bring exciting events to our school to create a wonderful and unforgettable experience for our children. The little impact that I am able to make by simply joining and helping the council out can go a long way to bring exciting opportunities for us all.”

“My name is Peter and my story with FFCA started 9 years ago shortly after the birth of my daughter. My wife said to me "I have worked with a number of schools and want my kids in this one, so go sign them up". Skip forward to present and I am blessed to have a child in grade 2 and 4 while being part of a very active school council at the NEE campus.” – Peter Brook is the Chair for the school council.

Our school council really hope your children enjoy their fun lunches that we work hard to organize. Just a reminder, keep an eye out for more fun lunches coming your way and please note the date you are to complete your order by so you don't miss out on the fun!

Our meetings are held on every third Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. Our next meeting will be next January 15th via Zoom and we encourage all parents to attend. The link will be sent out via Edsby on the day of the meeting.

VOLUNTEER!



EMBRACE THE *Outdoors*



FFCA NEE would like to thank the Parks Foundation of Calgary and City of Calgary Recreation. Through a grant called “Embrace the Outdoors” the Physical Education department received \$4500 to purchase snowshoes for students and families to share. Families are able to borrow both child and adult sized snowshoes by filling out the request form on Edbsy. Students will use the snowshoes with the class during school.

To reserve snowshoes for your family, fill out the form on the “Snowshoes to Share” group on Edbsy.



InSchoolwear
Dressing The Future +
sustainable

HOLIDAY HOURS

December 21 - 29 - CLOSED

December 30 - 10am - 5pm

Regular hours resume January 2, 2024

Tuesday & Wednesday - 10am - 6pm

Thursday - 11am - 7pm


Friday & Saturday - 10am—5pm







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WITH YOU & SAVE ON
DAYCARE**

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SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS**



**PAID TRAINING & A
\$1,000 SIGNING BONUS**

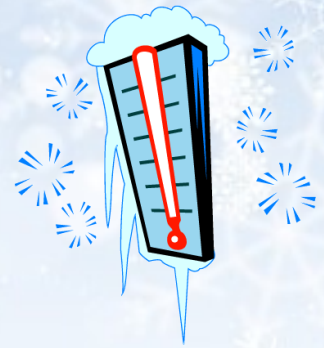



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Winter Wear



As the weather gets colder, students need to remember to dress appropriately.

Here are a few reminders:

- Winter coats, toques and gloves are to be worn.
- Snow pants are a good option to keep our legs warm when we are outside. If a girl wears a tunic, you can wear a pair of black pants, but they must be removed when she comes in.
- Black knee socks or tights for girls when wearing a tunic. NO leggings or tights with designs.
- A plain, solid all-white golf shirt or turtleneck to be worn with the sweater, vest, cardigan or tunic.
- The burgundy monogrammed golf shirt (approved supplier only) can be worn without a sweater or vest.



SIMPLE, ONLINE ORDERING FOR YOUR SCHOOL'S LUNCH PROGRAM

[Healthy Hunger](#)



ARE YOU MOVING?

If your family is moving to a home that is outside the boundary of your student's current campus, your student may remain at that campus, but you will be responsible for transportation to and from school. Bussing is not available outside the designated campus boundaries. If you require transportation, you will need to apply for an internal transfer to the campus designated for your new address. Apply by March 1, 2024 to have the best chance of being considered for the 2024/25 year. The transfer request applications are processed through the Online Waitlist system. Internal transfer Requests will precede most waitlist students (including priority status and siblings). If the requested campus is unable to accommodate your student, the current campus will hold a seat to ensure the registration is guaranteed. Please see the following link for the instructions to request a transfer.

Please note:

- transfers do not occur mid-year
- transfers can only occur if a seat becomes available in the requested campus (possible wait of 5+ years)
- we may not be able to accommodate all children in the same family in the same year



Please follow the link below for more details

https://www.ffca-calgary.com/important_information/admission_information/internal_transfer_requests





WHERE'S MY BUS?

FAMILY BUS BROADCAST SUBSCRIPTIONS - SOUTHLAND ROUTES

If your child rides the bus, please sign up for our monitoring system. All of our Southland buses have GPS units installed so you will be able to see where your child's bus is at any point during its scheduled route. If there is a substitute bus due to mechanical issues, you will not be able to see where the bus is, but you will still see expected delays and dispatch comments. The code for your campus is available on Edsby. Ensure you add the AM and PM routes if your child rides two-way. See the website for additional information and to register: <http://www.mybusstop.ca/>.



Reminder for parents to check the Lost & Found Group on Edsby to view photos of lost items.



UNIFORM INFORMATION



If you have any questions regarding Uniforms, please visit the links below:

[UNIFORM INFORMATION](#)

[UNIFORM POLICY](#)



After School Dismissal and Pick Up

In order to support an orderly dismissal of students from school, please help us by doing the following:

- Students who ride the bus will be dismissed first by bus number starting at 3:20 pm
- Students who are picked up by parents will be dismissed at 3:30 pm

Picking up your child for an appointment or early, please do the following:

- Email the teacher to let her know when you will be coming to pick up your child
- Ring the front doorbell when you get to the school
- Your child will be sent down to the front office to meet you
The office staff will sign out your child

If you bring your child back, please bring him/her to the front door.

Thank you for all your help.

Attendance

If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason, please contact your **CHILD'S TEACHER** before 8 am either through **EDSBY, EMAIL or by PHONE:**

Kindergarten

Ms. Thompson - x3108

jennifer.thompson@ffca-calgary.com

Mrs. Gies—x3108

karen.gies@ffca-calgary.com

Mrs. Walthers - x3109

judy.walthers@ffca-calgary.com

Grade 1

Mrs. Pinette - x3112

victoria.pinette@ffca-calgary.com

Mrs. Sime - x3115

megan.sime@ffca-calgary.com

Mrs. Hum - x 3110

stephanie.hum@ffca-calgary.com

Mrs. Hemmings - x3111

jacqueline.hemmings@ffca-calgary.com

Grade 2

Mrs. Schnellert - x3113

lori.schnellert@ffca-calgary.com

Mrs. Dhanani (Jetha) - x3114

eram.jetha@ffca-calgary.com

Mrs. Liesch - x3142

melanie.liesch@ffca-calgary.com

Mrs. Manji - x3118

nishma.manji@ffca-calgary.com

Grade 3

Mrs. Fletcher - x3106

leah.fletcher@ffca-calgary.com

Ms. Omar - x3101

ayah.omar@ffca-calgary.com

Mr. Nicholas-Luong - x3105

jason.nicholas-luong@ffca-calgary.com

Mrs. Hodson - x3107

jana.hodson@ffca-calgary.com

Grade 4

Ms. Sharrock - x3122

alexandra.sharrock@ffca-calgary.com

Miss Erkens / Ms. Hinton - x3103

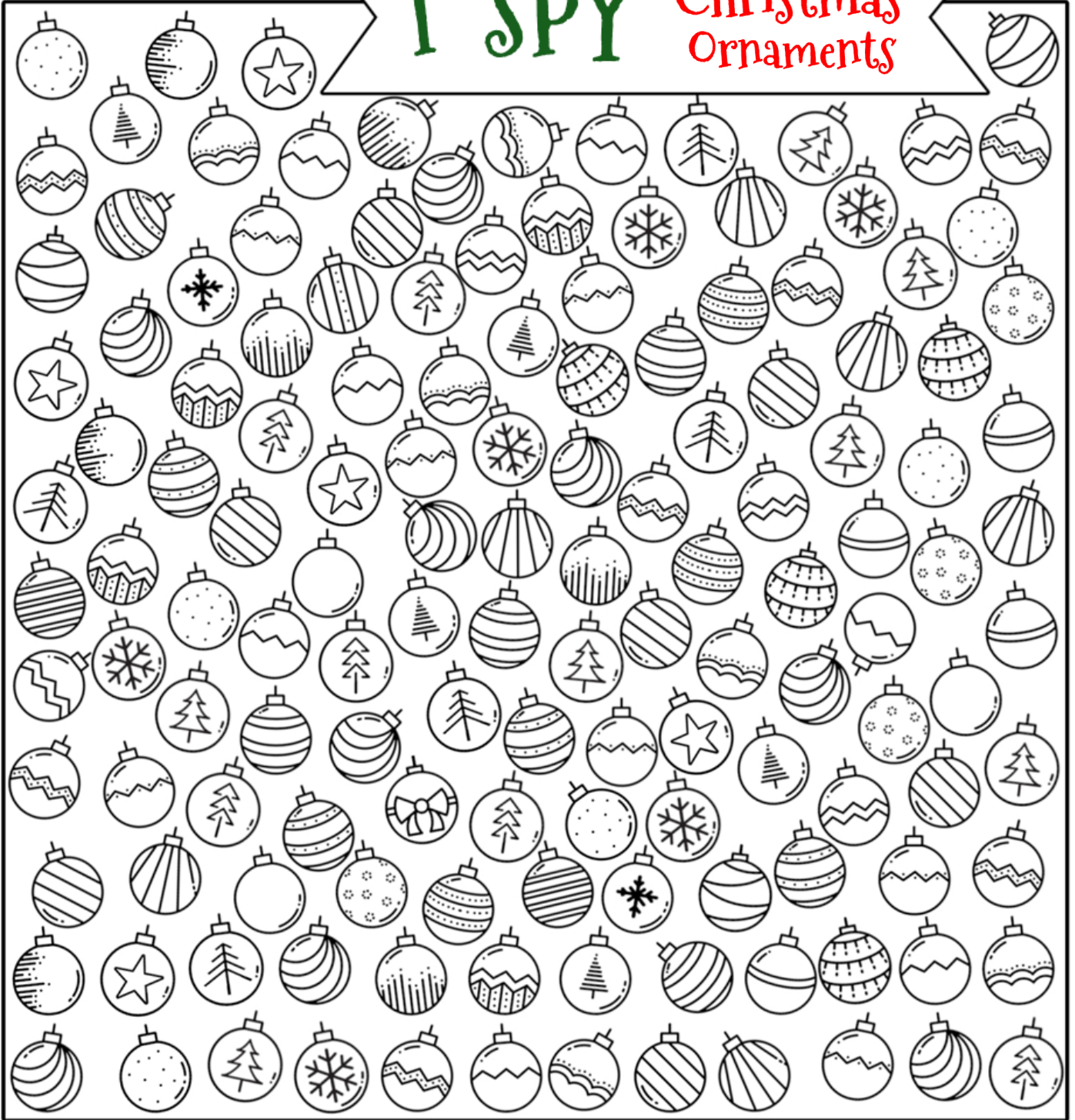
taryn.hinton@ffca-calgary.com

Mrs. Bezo-Rao - x3102

leslie.bezo-rao@ffca-calgary.com



I SPY Christmas Ornaments



- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| 2 | | 4 | | 4 | | 5 | | 4 | | 5 | | 7 | | 4 | | 6 | | 5 | |
| 1 | | 6 | | 7 | | 1 | | 3 | | 6 | | 7 | | 4 | | 7 | | 5 | |
| 3 | | 3 | | 4 | | 6 | | 2 | | 7 | | 5 | | 9 | | 6 | | 3 | |



DECEMBER 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				¹  PD Day NO SCHOOL
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15 Term 1 Report cards 
18	19	20	21	22  Casual Day Fun Lunch Pajama Day! Last day of classes! 

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

CLASSES RESUME ON MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024

