

THE IHLA



NEWSLETTER

VOL. 21, ISSUE 1

Editor: Marina Castro

President's Message

Namaste and Diwali ki shubh kamnaye. May the light of lamps bring happiness, health and prosperity to all.

Winter solstice has passed, that means all our heritage language schools are focusing for the festival season and wrapping up the first half of the school year.

The IHLA Program Coordinator and our Directors are working hard to serve the membership - Professional Development events, Principal/Administrators meeting, Mother Language Day program and MLD Book, and Mentorship program.

Mentorship Program – If you have not applied for the program in the last three years, it is your opportunity to apply for the program. IHLA has applied for funding six schools through this program. For details, please contact Grace, our Program Coordinator.

Mother Language Day Program – IHLA is excited to celebrate the 21st Annual Mother Language Day program at The City Hall on Saturday, February 24, 2024. This theme is year is - *Many Languages, One World*. I encourage all member schools to take active part in the event. If you want to invite a dignitary to the event, please contact either myself, our Program Coordinator or Chair of MLD Committee, Ms. Kuljeet Kaur.

Mother Language Day Book – IHLA will publish MLD book following the 21st MLD event. If your school is unable to participate in the showcase, I highly encourage you and your students to contribute to the MLD book, by

producing material in your heritage language on the topic of the year. If your school is not participating in the book, please send us a paragraph about your Heritage Language school, so we have all our member schools represented in the publication. Please note our publications, Newsletter and MLD book, are our record that funding agencies look at while making a decision.

IHLA has had two Principal/Administrators Meetings, chaired by Ms. Paylig Oltadjian. In the recent meeting, four Mentorship Program participant schools for the year 2022-2023, presented their interim reports. Membership was advised that at present, three schools are using the IHLA office space for operating their Heritage Language School program. If your school wants to use the space, please contact our Program Coordinator.

IHLA hosted two Professional Development events that were received very well by the member schoolteachers and administrators. IHLA is waiting for approval of funding so that other events can be presented. Success of all the events undertaken by IHLA depends on the active participation by you, the teachers, and administrators, and I am grateful for your active participation. My hope is that we continue to strengthen our relationships amongst our HL Schools and our government liaisons, recognizing the importance and necessity of supporting Heritage Language Education in Alberta. As we move forward, I look forward to meeting you all in person and working with everyone at all member schools and encourage more active participation by all our Heritage Language Schools. As a means of keeping abreast of happenings at all our IHLA Schools, I sincerely encourage everyone to send in notices about events/happenings, or projects your schools are doing so that we may include them on the IHLA website (www.ihla.ca), Facebook, Instagram and within this quarterly Newsletter. My best wishes to everyone for the Holiday Season and a good rest of the IHLA School Year. Namaste.

Krishna Gupta, M. Sc., M. Tech.
IHLA President



CONGRATULATIONS!

On October 28, 2023 two students of
the Russian Educational Centre: An Accredited
Russian School



received THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S
INTERNATIONAL AWARDS.

Congratulations:

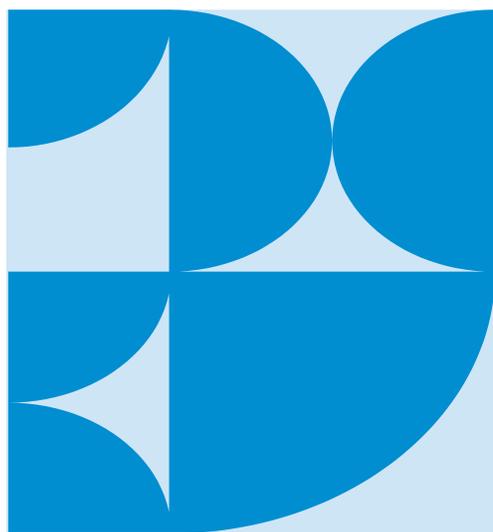
[Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2023 - !!Dasha Kovaleva!!](#)

From <<https://theintersciencecup.blogspot.com/2023/10/silver-duke-of-edinburghs-award-2023.html>>

[Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2023 - !!Katerina Udod!!](#)

From <<https://russianedcentre.blogspot.com/2023/10/bronze-duke-of-edinburghs-award-2023.html>>

<https://edmontonrussianschool.blogspot.com/2023/10/october-2023-news.html>



NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

NEWS FROM CZECH SCHOOL

By Michaela Madzura

<https://czechschoolinedmonton.com/>



The Czech School in Edmonton has already started its fifth year of operation. We welcomed old and new families and made minor changes in our programming. This year we offer two different classes: 1st – a program for children fluent in Czech language and 2nd – {GENERAL} program for all children from our school. This is a bilingual program. We have two age groups in our school – preschool kids and school kids. General program is held once a month and is mainly focused on history, traditions and general points of interest regarding the Czech Republic.

In September we celebrated a Czech statutory holiday – Svatý Václav (saint Wenceslas). We discussed a legend about Václav, the Duke of Bohemia, showed pictures from the Czech Republic with Václav on it (statue on square in Prague, Czech coins) and Czech crown jewels. Kids made a replica of the crown of Saint Wenceslas– it was worn by Czech kings in the past. This craft was a huge hit for our students! Preschool kids also made Václav on his horse – the legend said: “When the country is in big danger, the Svatý Václav together with other Czech knights will get out of his conceal and save the country.”

In October we celebrated another holiday – the day of establishment of the independent Czechoslovak state (Czech Republic later). This



important day was in 1918. We started our class by listening to the Czech national anthem standing by the Czech flag. We learned about state symbols, geography, recognition of the flag, Czech coins and banknotes. Preschool kids learned more about the linden tree (Czech national tree). School children discussed Czech grammar and new vocabulary. Our teacher, Jitka baked a special Czech bread – Czech rolls called “ROHLÍKY” and made typical finger food called “JEDNOHUBKY”. Kids and teachers really enjoyed this! We wrapped up our class by talking about “Dušičky” (All Souls’ Day). This is our version of Halloween. On the 2nd of November, we usually go to the cemetery with flowers and candles and remember the souls that left our world. This brings back memories of our loved ones. Kids made a craft – a lantern with a candle as a memory of people who are not with us anymore.

During our regular program with kids fluent in Czech we focus on vocabulary and grammar about everyday themes. We are also excited to do crafts with kids. For the next few months, we have planned some special events with other Czech groups in Edmonton and we are really excited about it. Christmas is coming soon so we must be ready with all our crafts, baking and spirit! If anybody wants to know more about our school and program, you can check our Facebook profile: Česká škola v Edmontonu.

Edmontonmarathishala.com



NEWS FROM EDMONTON MARATHI SHALA

Victory over Darkness - Diwali*

Diwali, Deepavali is the Hindu festival of lights with its variations also celebrated in other Indian religions. It symbolises the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance". Diwali is celebrated during the months of and Kartika— between around mid-September and mid-November. The celebrations generally last five or six days.

During the festival, the celebrants illuminate their homes, temples and workspaces with diyas (oil lamps), candles and lanterns. Hindus, in particular, have a ritual oil bath at dawn on each day of the festival. Diwali is also marked with fireworks and the decoration of floors with rangoli designs, and other parts of the house with decoratives Food is a major focus with families partaking in feasts and sharing mithai.

Edmonton Marathi School emphasises on Diwali through various activities.

We have specially designed class for Diwali. Art and craft is the activity for eye hand Coordination, motor skills, creativity and concentration. Children have learnt Lantern making, diya decoration and rangoli making. Children have beautifully made the lanterns and decorated the diyas.

Cooking sessions are specially created to make them independent, experimentation. Children made edible diyas, laddus, milk shakes, fruit Chaat and many more and made the Diwali days more enjoyable.

A special AV presentation was demonstrated on the topic Diwali, Children could understand the significance of this festival through this presentation.

Story telling is an activity to develop listening skill, concentration, and imagination. We have told them mythological stories of Diwali.

Edmonton Marathi School has been a best example of hands-on activities, creative teaching and learning experience.



<https://www.weandtheworld.ca/programs-and-services/gurukul-nepali-pathshal>



NEWS FROM GURUKUL NEPALI PATSHALA

By Pravatika Rai Tamang, Principal

Gurukul Nepali Pathshala recently celebrated the cultural festivals of Dashain (Oct28) and Tihar (Nov 11).

The event was organized by students and teachers and many community members and parents attended.

These festivals evoke a lovely memory among the Nepali Community and are part of a month-long festive season that includes the festivity of Dashain and Tihar.

This festive season includes families and friends getting together for festivities and rituals that revolve around receiving blessings from seniors, community fairs, gifting, traditional wear, and festive feasts based on various traditions and cultural rituals.

The receiving of Teeka (red mark on the forehead consisting of a mixture of rice grain, red color, and yogurt) is a symbolic gesture of receiving a blessing for good wishes from elders and seniors. The festivity of Dashain culminates on a Full moon day in Autumn (usually October, based on the Lunar Cycle) and the next new moon day invokes another festival called Tihar (Diwali) which is also celebrated for five days including worshipping of dogs, crows, cows, oxen, and your oneself.

The Tihar festival ends with a and festive ritual of Bhai Tika which involves the sharing of wishes for goodness, the exchange of gifts amongst Brothers and Sisters.

At Gurukul, these ceremonies were organized on the school premises, where community seniors offered the symbolic gesture Teeka to all the attendees from the Nepalese community. The event was organized as a community fair and included group songs, dances, and traditional meals which were enjoyed by students and parents alike.

Gurukul also took the opportunity to raise Funds from this event.

Gurukul wishes all IHLA Members a Festive Season and a great New Year ahead.

NEWS FROM THE RUSSIAN EDUCATIONAL CENTRE

By Alexandre Voloboev

Great cooperation with
Alberta Association for Multicultural Education!

<https://www.facebook.com/Russian-Educational-Centre-An-Accredited-Russian-School-317200468308731/>

For many years Alberta Interscience Association and Russian Educational Centre together with Alberta Association for Multicultural Education (AAME) financial support have organized Multicultural Environmental Camps and other multicultural programs. Last year 27 families were so happy to participate in our camp enjoying the programs, good weather, and learning about the rich Alberta environment.

Representatives of Polish, Croatian, Armenian, Bosnian, German, French, Japanese, Moldavian, Ukrainian, Belorussian, Russian, Bulgarian, Uzbek, Kazakh, Israeli, South African, Canadian and other communities of Alberta take part in these camps. Some families who plan to participate in the camp recently came from war conflict zones and have many teens.

It is very hard for them to pay camp fees and rent the equipment, accommodations and transportation due to their difficult financial situation. That's why we are so grateful to AAME support making these camps possible for this vulnerable category.

This year we plan to have families with special needs children joining our camp. We cross our fingers hoping to get support for the upcoming 2024 environmental camp!

Environmental program is focused on wetlands of Alberta and their remarkable diversity of life, natural habitat restoration, and wildlife protection. Campers with different heritage background try to compare Alberta native plants, fish, birds, and insects with ones from their home countries.

This activity is usually done not only in English but also in participants' mother tongues.

We want to thank everyone who came out and shared this amazing time with us. A special thank you to all our volunteers, parents and AAME for helping us run a safe, clean and healthy

programs during this hard time.

Best wishes for this holiday season!

NEWS FROM THE ARMENIAN SCHOOL

By Sona Grygorian

Armenian School Health and Wellness Outdoor Program

The Armenian school began a new program called Health and Wellness studies, a healthy lifestyles education program. To launch the program, we invited Armenian parents and kids to outdoor activities at Lions Park in St. Albert. We had a lovely day with lots of fun and learning!

<https://armenianschoolofedmonton.webs.com/contact>



Professional Development 2023-24 and important dates

~ (Please check our website
www.ihla.ca for updates as well as
our Facebook page) ~

- 1. Thursday, January 18 – Third
Principal’s Meeting – ONLINE**
- 2. Saturday, February 24 – Mother
Language Day showcase – City Hall**

*An update will be sent out for all
upcoming Workshops and
Professional development day.*



**** Please make sure to register for workshops so that
you are able to have access to that PD session****

MLD 2023-24

- Chosen theme: *Many Languages: One World Family*
- Venue: City Hall
- Date: February 24, 2024, 12pm - 3pm
- Setup: 10am-12pm
- Takedown: 4pm - 5pm

HIGHLIGHTS

- Jan 15, 2024, to complete Part two of the document.
- Feb 5, 2024, music submission

**** Please email Grace (coordinator@ihla.ca), or Kuljeet if you have any questions. ****



-FREE INDIGENOUS COURSES AT UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA-

Indigenous Canada is a 12-lesson Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) from the Faculty of Native Studies that explores Indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada. From an Indigenous perspective, this course explores key issues facing Indigenous peoples today from a historical and critical perspective highlighting national and local Indigenous-settler relations. Topics for the 12 lessons include the fur trade and other exchange relationships, land claims and environmental impacts, legal systems and rights, political conflicts and alliances, Indigenous political activism, and contemporary Indigenous life, art and its expressions. (University of Alberta website) For more information about the course and to enrol, please follow the link below: Indigenous Canada | Coursera.



[Indigenous Canada | Coursera](#)

VEDIC MATHS

Vedic Maths or Vedic Mathematics is a collection of Methods or Sutras to solve numerical computations quickly and faster. It consists of 16 Sutras called Formulae and 13 sub-sutras called Sub Formulae, Vedic Maths is time efficient and a major source of confidence for those who wish to remove their fear of mathematics. Vedic maths makes kids good with numbers. It helps them solve any calculations like roots, square roots, cubes and squares in an easier manner. They become calm and confident when presented with numbers. Edmonton Marathi School introduces Vedic Maths for the age 8 to 11 and 12 to 14 years It will be in English. For more details contact edmontonmarathishala@gmail.com

~Follow us on social media~

Please follow us on our Instagram

@edmontonihla and International Heritage Language Association our Facebook page for more updates

International Heritage Language Association



@edmontonihla



Being a member in good standing

~ To be an IHLA member in good standing your school needs to:

- Schools and staff have paid their professional association dues to IHLA
- School representatives attended at least 2 PD sessions
- Schools submitted entry for the MLD showcase display table
- Schools submitted entry in the MLD day stage performance or volunteered at MLD
- Schools submitted student works for the MLD book
- School leadership representative (principal and/or school administrator) attended at least 2 meetings
- Schools participated at the AGLC casino fundraiser by sending at least 2 school members to work the casino shifts.

Website: www.ihla.ca

Contact: 780 – 760 0700

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