

# EAST ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER



# December

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# EAST ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER



## **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

It's hard to believe December is already here! The holiday season is quickly approaching, and our school is buzzing with excitement. Students have been putting tremendous effort into preparing for our Christmas concert, and their enthusiasm shines through each day in music class.

This year, we will once again host one concert day with two performances, allowing every class to participate.

- **Afternoon Performance:** Thursday, December 18th at 1:00 PM — open to all family members. Front doors open at 12:30 PM.
- **Evening Performance:** Thursday, December 18th at 6:30 PM — reserved for parents and guardians. Front doors open at 6:00 PM.

Because seating is limited, we kindly ask that everyone follow the guidelines provided to ensure a safe and comfortable experience for all who attend. Your cooperation helps make these events enjoyable and accessible for everyone.

During both performances, there will be opportunities to support our school community through in-person 50/50 ticket sales and our Grade Six homemade cake raffle. Cake raffle tickets are just \$1.00, and winners will be announced the same evening — good luck!

In the spirit of giving, we are also continuing our tradition of collecting toys for Leduc Santa's Helpers. Your donations help brighten the season for families who may need extra support. If your own family would benefit from this program, please reach out to Santa's Helpers at 1-825-995-1008.

To add to the fun, we invite everyone to join in our festive dress-up days on December 12th and 19th. We're excited to see the creative, cheerful outfits that help make the final days before the holidays even more memorable. A huge thank-you to our Student Council for organizing these spirited activities!

As we wrap up the year, I want to extend heartfelt appreciation for the support and partnership that makes our school community so strong. Our staff truly enjoyed the Staff Appreciation Day — thank you for the thoughtful treats and warm beverages. This season reminds us how important connection, kindness, and reflection are, and we're incredibly proud of everything our students have achieved so far. We look forward to finishing the year on a positive and joyful note.

Wishing you and your loved ones a holiday season filled with warmth, peace, and celebration. Thank you for all that you do to help make our school a caring and inspiring place to learn and grow.

Carla Fisher





# EAST

EXPERIENCES



## CHRISTMAS CONCERT



**DATE:** THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025

**TIME:** 1:00PM & 6:30PM

**\*DOORS OPEN 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO START TIMES\***

**PLEASE NOTE:** 1:00PM SHOW WILL BE FOR  
GRANDPARENTS/ ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS  
6:30PM SHOW FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS  
(MAXIMUM 2 PER FAMILY)



East Elementary

## Essentials

### Winter Wear Reminder

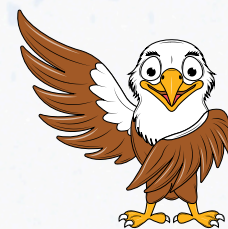
As the temperatures continue to drop, please make sure your child comes to school dressed in weather-appropriate winter gear. Warm jackets, hats, mittens, boots, and snow pants help keep our students comfortable and ready to enjoy outdoor play safely. Thank you for helping us keep everyone cozy this season!



### Gently Used Clothing Donations Needed

East Elementary is collecting gently used clothing to keep on hand for students who may need extra items during the school day. If you have any gently used clothing that could benefit our students, please bring your donations to the school office.

Thank you for your kindness and support!



















# December

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Regular Instruction Day	2	3	4 Grade 6 immunizations	5 Hot Lunch: 	6
7 	8  DIV 1 Popcorn Day	9	10	11	12 Ugly Sweater Day  Hot Lunch: 	13
14	15  DIV 2 Popcorn Day	16	17	18 Christmas Concert 1:00 & 6:30 	19 Assembly: Honesty 8:45 Crazy Christmas Dress up Day Hot Lunch: 	20 
21 	22 NO SCHOOL	23 NO SCHOOL	24  CHRISTMAS EVE	25  Ho ho ho! Christmas Day  	26 NO SCHOOL Boxing Day 	27
28 	29 NO SCHOOL	30 NO SCHOOL	31 NO SCHOOL NEW Year's EVE 			



# GRADE 6 LEGISLATURE VISIT



The Leader of the  
Official Opposition  
Le/La Chef de  
l'Opposition Officielle



The Premier  
Le Premier Ministre/  
La Première Ministre





## SCHOOL COUNCIL & PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



## THANK YOU!

and other unnoticed gifts....

The Christmas season tends to pack the calendar, lengthen the lists, and crank up the dial on time flying by. It's easy to move through an entire holiday season caught up in what needs to be done, feeling spent, wondering if it was all worth the effort.

Lately something has been whispering to me... a reminder to turn around and look closer...

Babas, Grandmas, Omas, Nonas... This time of year, they spent hours working side by side - together, in kitchens and halls, in tight circles, in deftly organized production lines. Coordinating, giving instructions, laughing, and telling stories. With their hands, they crafted delicious gifts. With their hearts, they built relationships.

In this busy season and throughout the year, we wish you quiet, heartfelt discovery of the unnoticed gifts that often come wrapped in to-do lists.

That You and your work are the gift. That time shared working together is often where relationships grow.

Thank you for everything you give. And a nod and a wink to all our to-do lists... may these everyday papers that wrap our work gently draw us together.

*East Elementary School Council  
& Parents' Association*

## NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday Jan. 6, Wellness Room #110

**Parents' Association (6:30pm-7:30pm)**

Fundraising report, review, & brainstorming. Bring your fundraising ideas for the next school year!

**School Council (7:30-8:30pm)**

Overview of AB Education Assurance Framework  
School & School Division Annual Education Results Report and 3 year education plan highlights

## VOLUNTEER

**Hot Lunch** - Fridays 11:30 - 12:30 pm;  
check 'yes' at the top of your Healthy Hunger order or email

[eastelementaryhotlunch@gmail.com](mailto:eastelementaryhotlunch@gmail.com)

### Upcoming Bingos

Sat. Dec. 6, 5:30-9:30pm (6/11 filled)

Tues. Jan 13, 5:30-9:30pm (3/9 filled)

Sat. Feb. 28, 5:30-9:30pm (2/9 filled)

BINGO SIGN-UP



Help earn your child's grade team a pizza party! Teams 2D, 6A & 2/3L, 6S are in the lead. Teams 1D, 5S really needs some help.

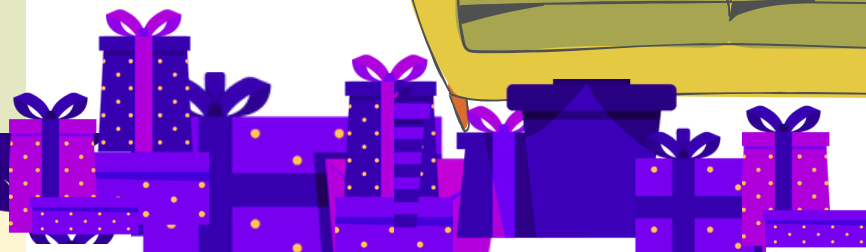
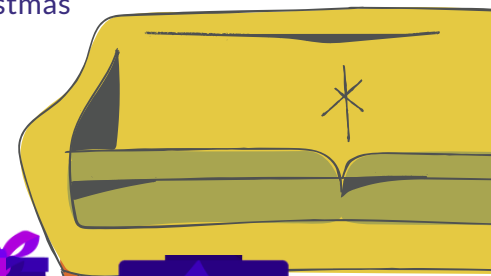
[eastbingos@gmail.com](mailto:eastbingos@gmail.com)

## RAISE MONEY & WIN!!!

**Christmas Concert 50/50! We are back in person this year.** Purchase your \$2 tickets at the door (cash only), winner will be announced at the end of the concert.

**Best Seats in the House Raffle** - Beat the seat rush for you and 3 family members! Win front row seats on the comfy couch for the Christmas concert. \$5/entry.

Buy your tickets at the office.







# REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY

Remembrance Day  
Lest We Forget





# Absence Reporting/ Student Sign Out

## SafeArrival -Reporting Student Absences

Dear Parents / Guardians,

To enhance our existing absence-checking procedure, we are introducing *a new, more efficient* student absence reporting system called ***SafeArrival***. This new system will reduce the time it takes to verify student attendance, make it easy for you to respond your child's absence and easy for staff to respond to unexplained student absences.

With ***SafeArrival***, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

**On your mobile device:**

- Using your mobile device, download and install the ***SchoolMessenger Home*** app from the *Apple App Store* or the *Google Play Store*.



- The first time you use the app, select ***Sign up*** to create your account.
- Select ***Attendance*** then ***Report an Absence***.

**Use the SchoolMessenger Website:**

- Go to the ***SchoolMessenger Website***. <https://go.schoolmessenger.com/#/home>
- The first time you use the website, select ***Sign Up*** to create your account.
- Select ***Attendance*** then ***Report an Absence***.

**By Telephone:**

- Call the toll-free number ***780-955-4526*** to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at anytime.

The automated notification system will attempt to contact the parents at multiple contact points (email, text, push notification & phone call) until a reason is submitted for the absence. If our system is unable to reach the designated contact's, office staff will follow up. If you report your child's absence in advance using the ***SafeArrival*** toll-free number, website or mobile app, you will NOT receive these notifications.

Starting Wednesday, August 27, 2025, please report absences in advance using ***SafeArrival*** instead of sending notes or calling/emailing the school.

Starting Wednesday, August 27, 2025 staff will begin using the ***SafeArrival*** notifications to let you know if your student is absent and the absence is unexplained.

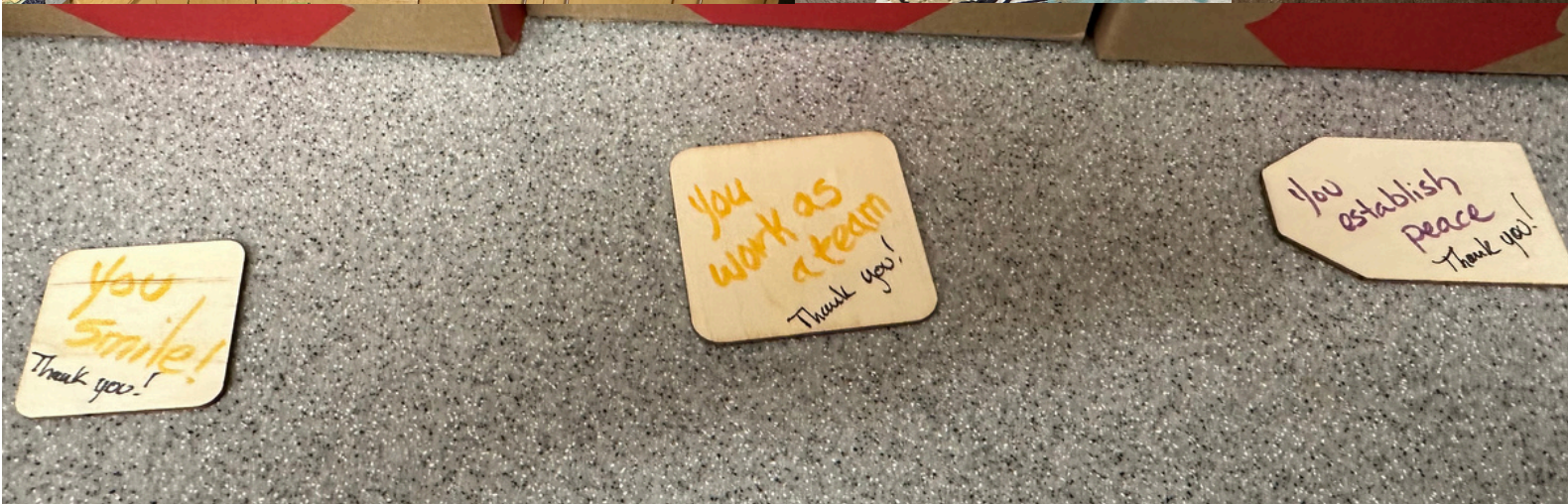
Please download the ***SchoolMessenger Home*** app or sign into the website. If you are having trouble logging in, please contact your school.

If you do not already receive text messages from your school and would like to start, please ensure your school has your mobile phone number and then text "Y" to 987338. (Standard message and data rates may apply.)

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we implement this new system.



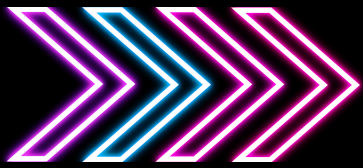
# STAFF APPRECIATION DAY PROVIDED BY SCHOOL COUNCIL







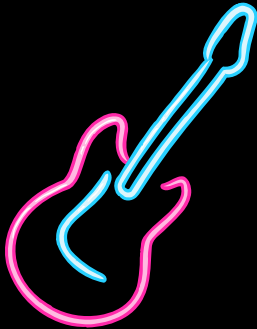
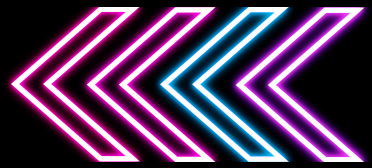
# HELP OUR GRADE 6'S



6

LEVEL  
UP!

7



## BOTTLE DRIVE

Help support our Grade 6 students as they prepare for their big send-off! You can donate anytime by taking your bottles directly to the Leduc Bottle Depot and dropping them off under "East Elementary Grade 6."

Every bottle donated helps our amazing 6's turn into confident 7's, making their year-end celebrations extra special. Thank you for supporting our students and helping them finish the year strong!

## PIZZA PARTY



Get ready for a delicious lunch treat! On **Wednesday, December 17**, students can enjoy a Pizza Party Lunch featuring **Costco cheese or pepperoni pizza** for just **\$2.50 per slice**. (Please note that this is separate from our hot lunch ordering system)

The ordering link will be available on PowerSchool in early December—stay tuned! All proceeds will go toward supporting the Grade 6 year-end celebrations and graduation. Thank you for helping make their special send-off amazing!

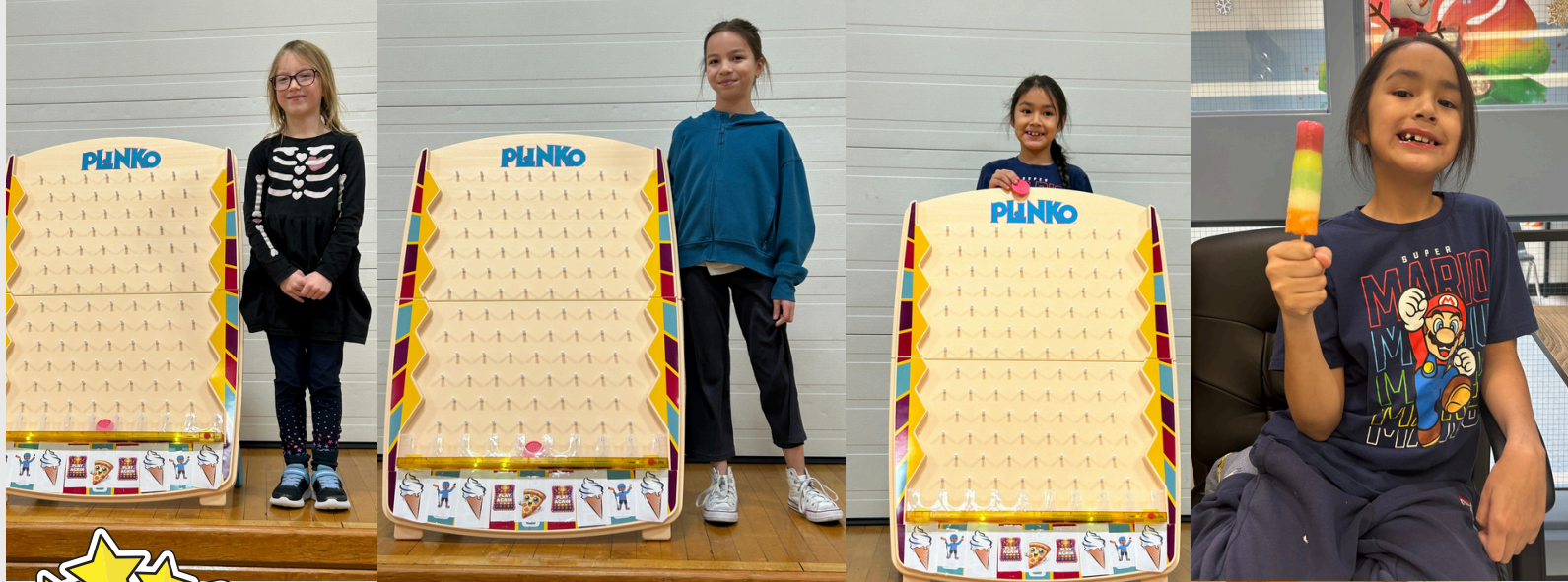




# RESPECT ASSEMBLY



Our Respect  
recipients  
receiving their  
certificates!







# LEDUC RECREATION CENTRE FREE FAMILY PASS

Sign out a Family Pass to the  
Leduc Recreation Centre at the Library!



## How does the pass work?

- The LRC Family Pass is valid for 2 adults and all children living in the same household.
- Sign out your LRC Family Pass for FREE from the Library.
- This pass will provide you and your family with access to all of the amenities at the LRC. Enjoy the Aquatic Centre, Arenas, Courts, Fieldhouse, Fitness Centre and Indoor Track.
- Passes are valid for a one week time period.
- After your one week rental, return the LRC Family Pass back to the Library for other families to enjoy.



Visit [Live.Leduc.ca](https://live.leduc.ca) for the latest drop-in activity schedule.

Get moving. Start having fun. Be connected - today!

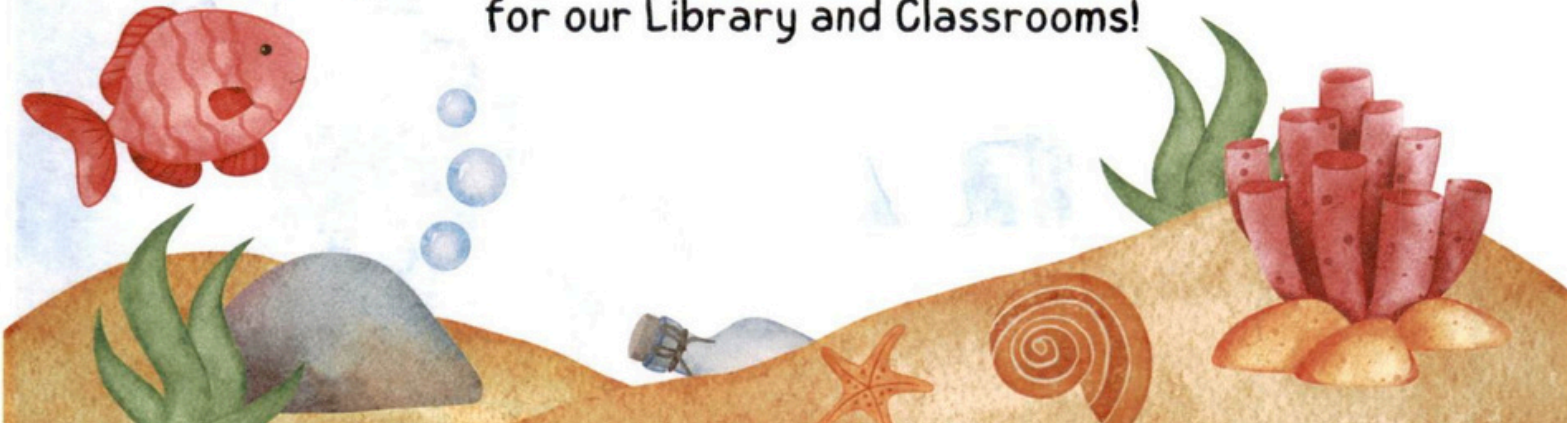
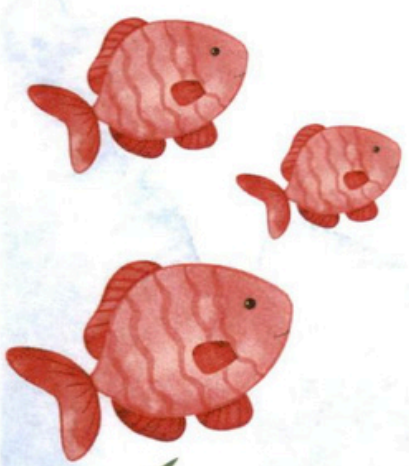




# Let's take a dive **UNDER THE SEA**



Save the date! East Elementary will be having an **Under the Sea** themed **Scholastic Book Fair!** The fair will run from December 8-12 and be open from 8am-3:30pm. There will also be a Family Night on Thursday December 11 from 6pm-8:30pm. Come shop before or after the concert! With every purchase made on those nights your name will get entered into a door prize of \$25 in free books for your family and \$25 in free books for your child's classroom.



**All Purchases Benefit OUR School!**  
Fair earnings turn into more books for our Library and Classrooms!





# NEED A VISIT FROM SANTA?

**w w w.leduc santashelpers.ca**

**Helping families in Leduc for 42 years**

*We believe every child should have a smile on their face at Christmas!*

**Registration will be open:**

**November 3 - December 12**

**To register online visit:**

**w w w.leduc santashelpers.ca/hamper-application/**

**To register via telephone call:**

**825-995-1008**

**Program Criteria:**

- Must be a resident of the City of Leduc**
- Must have children in the household under the age of 18**
- Must meet the income guidelines:**

Family Size	Maximum Income
Two Persons	up to \$45,000
Three Persons	up to \$47,500
Four Persons	up to \$50,000
Five Persons	up to \$52,500
Six Persons	up to \$55,000
More than Six People	up to \$57,500



# Leduc Santa's Helpers



If you'd like to contribute, please send new, unwrapped toys or gifts to the office. The donation box will be picked up on December 12. Thank you for helping spread some holiday cheer!



We are looking for NEW/Unused items to include with our Christmas hampers. Toys, Pajamas, Socks, Games, Mitt/Toque sets, etc.

All donations are greatly appreciated! If it is popular with your children it is likely to be on the wishlist of others.

Items that are generally in short supply include:

- Pajamas
- Socks
- Books
- Games
- Lego Kits
- Drones
- Bluetooth Speakers
- Headphones
- Make-up Kits
- Curling Irons
- Blow Dryers
- Electric Shaver
- RC Vehicles
- Art Kits
- Craft Kits
- Watches
- Model Kits
- Gift Cards
- Sports Items (*Basketballs, Soccer Balls, etc*)
- Power Banks
- Phone Acces.
- Blankets
- Hoodies/Sweatshirts
- Coloring Books
- Personal Care Kits

Items for 0 - 2 year olds that are generally in short supply include:

- Pajamas/Onsies/Clothes/Blankets
- Learning Toys: Vtech, LeapFrog, Fisher-Price
- Teething Toys
- Play Mats
- Stacking Toys

**Donation Deadline: December 12, 2025**

Thank you for supporting Leduc Santa's Helpers and helping those less fortunate this holiday season.





# Christmas Elves and Santa's Helpers

Do you or does someone you know need a helping hand from the elves this holiday season? With the help of community donations, Christmas Elves and Santa's Helpers provide food and toys to people in need.

**Make a confidential referral to your local coordinator:**

## **Calmar and area**

Contact Mikayla at **780-985-3604 ext. 233**

Intakes: Nov. 12 to Dec. 5

## **New Sarepta and area**

Contact Taryn at **780-941-2382**

Intakes: Nov. 12 to Dec. 5

## **Thorsby and area**

Contact Brandee at **780-789-4004**

Intakes: Nov. 17 to Dec. 8

## **Warburg and area**

Contact Katlynn at **780-848-2828**

Intakes: Nov. 12 to Dec. 4

## **Beaumont/Nisku and area**

Contact FCSS at **780-929-1006**  
or [FCSS@beaumont.ab.ca](mailto:FCSS@beaumont.ab.ca)

Intakes: Nov. 12 to Dec. 12

## **Leduc Santa's Helpers (toys only)**

Contact: **825-995-1008** or visit  
[www.leducsantashelpers.ca/  
hamper-application/](http://www.leducsantashelpers.ca/hamper-application/)

Intakes: Nov. 3 to Dec. 12

## **Leduc and District Food Bank**

Contact Food Bank for food hamper  
information: **780-986-5333**

## **Devon (gift cards only)**

Contact: **825-967-0025** or visit  
[www.devonchristmaselves.com/referrals](http://www.devonchristmaselves.com/referrals)  
Intakes: Nov. 12 to Dec. 5 at 4 p.m.







# BRAD AGOTNES

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

780-920-1893

bagotnes@leduc.ca

**My name is Brad Agotnes, and I am a Community Peace Officer with the City of Leduc.** I currently serve as the School Resource Officer (SRO) for both the Black Gold and STAR Catholic School Divisions, working with students from Kindergarten through Grade 6 in schools across the City of Leduc.

I want to build strong relationships with students, staff, and families, while promoting safety, respect, and community engagement.

My mission is simple: *to help create a fun, safe space where all students are able to succeed.*

I have several responsibilities while serving the schools. They include:

- School visits with students and staff
- Patrols of the school halls and playgrounds
- Interacting with parents inside and outside of the the school
- Proactive safety enforcement in the school zone
- Safety presentations
- Attending school events

If you wish to speak to me about specific visits, presentations, or concerns, you may contact me by either telephone or email.





## Ending the Financial Feud: *Couples and Money*

Does it seem like you and your loved one are constantly arguing about money? Do you find it hard to get on the same page with your finances without it turning into a fight? Your loved one isn't trying to make your financial life difficult; they likely just think about money differently.

This workshop will provide the education you need to support yourself and your loved one to understand each other's relationship with money and create an achievable plan to reach your collective financial goals.

### **This workshop will show you how to:**

- ▶ Identify your money histories - how money was handled in your households growing up
- ▶ Identify your relationship to money
- ▶ Set joint goals that meet each of your values and needs
- ▶ Implement a household money management plan

- ▶ **Date:** Friday, Nov. 21, 2025
- ▶ **Time:** noon to 1 p.m.
- ▶ **Location:** online via Zoom. Link will be mailed out to those who register
- ▶ **Cost:** free
- ▶ **Register:** contact Kristin at **780-955-6421** or **kristin@leduc-county.com** or register online at **[www.leduc-county.com/ending-financial-feud](http://www.leduc-county.com/ending-financial-feud)**







**Families have the option to purchase Voluntary Student Accident Insurance through our Division's insurance partner, StudyInsured.**

**This extra insurance can help cover costs if your child is injured in an accident.**

**To learn more about the plans available and what they cover, please visit:**

**👉 [www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com/compare-plans](http://www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com/compare-plans)**

## **A plan for every need**

Whether your child is a star athlete, naturally rambunctious, or just accident-prone, we've got you covered. Choose the plan that works best for you, your family, and your wallet.

Family pricing available when insuring 3 or more siblings at the same school board.

Follow StudyInsured™ on Social Media:

[LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Please note:**

**This insurance is completely optional and is separate from the coverage already provided by the Division. It is for families who would like extra protection for their child.**





# DISCOVERY NATURE PLAY

A Year-Round Outdoor Learning Adventure!




 Learn more: [www.discoverynatureplay.com](http://www.discoverynatureplay.com)

 Launching in September at Telford Lake!

 Class Times: Tuesdays & Thursdays

 9:00am–12:00pm or 12:30pm–3:30pm

 Ages 3–7 years

## WHO ARE WE:

We're Erica Frick and Amry Gavin, Directors of Discovery Nature Play — a play-based outdoor exploration program for children ages 3–7.

## WHAT WE OFFER:

Hands-on outdoor learning  
Nature-based play and discovery  
Builds confidence, independence, self-regulation, motor skills, communication & leadership



FUN  
THIS  
WAY

