



Niitsitapi Learning Centre

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w | <https://school.cbe.ab.ca/school/niitsitapi>



Niitsitapi News | December 18

Nutrition Plan

MON	<u>Breakfast:</u> Cereal, Milk, Fruit <u>Lunch:</u> BB4CK bagged lunch
TUE	<u>Breakfast:</u> Muffins, Yogurt, Fruit <u>Lunch:</u> Chicken Soup, grilled sandwiches, fruit & veggies
WED	<u>Breakfast:</u> Hard Boiled Eggs, Nutrigrain Bars, Fruit <u>Lunch:</u> Special Lunch with Santa
THUR	<u>Breakfast:</u> Pan Granola Bars, Fruit, Yogurt Tubes, Cheese Strings <u>Lunch:</u> Turkey Dinner Winter Feast
FRI	<u>Breakfast:</u> muffins & fruit

Hours of Instruction

PRESCHOOL

Monday - Thursday

AM Class: 8:25 - 11:15 AM

PM Class: 12:15 - 3:05 PM

Friday (no classes)

KINDER - GRADE 2

Monday - Thursday

8:40 AM - 3:05 PM

Lunch: 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM

Friday (early dismissal)

8:40 AM - 12:00 PM

Before school supervision starts at 8:25 AM Monday to Friday. Afterschool supervision is until 3:05 PM Monday to Thursday.

For more information, please visit our Parking & Drop-Off school webpage.

Attendance Line

403-817-3404 ext. 1

Dreams Transportation

403-590-7433

Looking Forward

[Explore our school calendar on our website](#) for upcoming dates and important information

Dec 20 - Santa Visit & Pajama Day

Dec 21 - Fall Blessing with Elder Saa'kokoto (10:00 am to noon)

Dec 21 - Special Turkey Dinner Lunch for students and staff

Dec 22 - Last Day of Classes before Winter Break

Jan 8 - First Day of Classes after Winter Break

Jan 15 - Non-Instructional Day (No School)

Fall Blessing Ceremony – A Time of Reflection & Celebration

To mark the Winter Solstice on December 21, Elder Saa'kokoto's teaching remind us that this is a significant day in Blackfoot tradition as it represents the start of a new year. It is a time for reflection, to appreciate what has transpired during the past year, the lessons that have been learned, and to set new intentions for the time to come.

Niitsitapi Learning Centre families are invited to join us in a *Time of Reflection & Celebration Ceremony* with Elder Saa'kokoto on December 21 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Further details will be provided following the Winter Solstice Gathering. Please call the main office, 403-817-3404, to RSVP.

To honour the ceremony, women are expected to wear a long skirt or dress that extends below the knees or to cover themselves with a blanket. Men are encouraged to sit with crossed legs, while women are not to cross their legs during the ceremony. Upon coming into the ceremony, the men will come to the right side of the circle and women to the left side.

Winter Solstice Gathering

MyCBE (PowerSchool) Parent Account

Please create a [MyCBE parent account](https://www.cbe.ab.ca/mycbe) at <https://www.cbe.ab.ca/mycbe>.

MyCBE provides parents online access to register for transportation and lunch supervision, pay fees and request fee waivers, book school conferences, and view attendance and report cards. Your student's CBE ID# is needed to create the account. Please contact the main office for assistance at 403-817-3404.

Bussing and Transportation

Please ensure that you promptly notify the school of any address changes, as it may take 10-12 days to update transportation routes. For information about your student's specific bus route or if you encounter issues like late or missing buses, please phone **Dreams Transportation at 403-590-7433**

Our Winter Solstice Gathering was a full, fun-filled event for families and students. We loved listening to the drum and singing of @goulet.adrian, making music with @walterwhitebear, using our fancy feet for fancy dance with @kyle.yip, and playing traditional games with @spiritnorthxc. Hand to heart to all our guests for filling our bodies, minds, spirits and hearts.



Inii's Insights



Winter solstice is a celebration of light returning to Turtle Island. It is the shortest day of the year. Grandfather Sun begins to shine longer each day, bringing a promise of warmer weather, growth, and new life. Darkness can represent struggle, and light brings hope of easier times. Elder Randy Bottle (Saa'kokoto) teaches us that the Solstice begins a new year. It is a time for reflection, to look back at moons past and look forward to the "new sun" of the future; a time to appreciate what transpired over the past year, lessons that have been learned, and to set new intentions.

The solstice is a time of significance, celebration, ceremony and song for some Indigenous cultures. We celebrate light and the return of Grandfather Sun - light sustains life and for that we have gratitude for all of creation.

"Go forward with a good heart and good thoughts." ~ Elder Saa'kokoto

Watch | [Winter Solstice Celebrations & Reflections Video](#)

Reflect | What have you learned from the challenges of the past year and how can you bring your learning into the new year? In what ways does Na'a (Mother Earth) embrace and protect us? How can we welcome the Winter Solstice through Spirit, Heart, Body, and Mind to welcome the new year in a good way?

