

Happy new year St. Matthew families! I hope everyone had a great holiday season.

We are now about halfway through the season and we are less than a week away from one of the most exciting times of the hockey season... Minor Hockey Week! Minor Hockey Week is a time when the energy around the arenas is a little bit higher and the competition is a little bit tighter. This is when our kids will create some great hockey memories. This is also a time when the emotions of players, parents and coaches are intensified. I would like to remind everyone that although we try to win every game, the ultimate goal is for all the kids to have fun and hopefully learn a few lessons along the way.

Minor Hockey Week is a fantastic time, but to make it a success our hockey club does require volunteers. This request will be coming out very shortly to all the Novice, Atom and Peewee teams. Please considering helping the club as this is a requirement from Hockey Edmonton. Team coaches and managers put in substantial volunteer hours every week, so it would be appreciated if other families could volunteer for this occasion.

All the returning St. Matthew families will remember that the St. Matthew Hockey Club usually puts on a club breakfast on the first Saturday of the tournament. Unfortunately for a multitude of reasons, we will not be hosting a breakfast this year. It was a very difficult decision to break with tradition, but we will be focusing our resources and effort on putting together an event in April to celebrate our club's 50th Anniversary. Please stayed tuned for more information on this; you won't want to miss it!

Good luck to all our teams in Minor Hockey Week. Put forward your best effort and make us all proud!

In closing, I would like to give shoutout to Nate the Great. Nate is a first-year player from our Novice Thunder team and has been going through his own battle in the Stollery Hospital since November. He has the heart of a lion and he continues to make us proud showing immense courage and perseverance throughout his battle. Keeping fighting Nate; you have the entire St. Matthew Hockey family behind you.

Thank you everyone and I hope to see you at the rink!

Andrew Westervelt
President
St. Matthew Hockey and Sports Club