

## Council Priority Funds – Application

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**PRIORITY FUND INFORMATION – Completed by Applicant**

Organization Name St. Luke Catholic School  
 Address 22139 South Cooking Lake Road  
Street and number Subdivision if rural  
 City or town Sherwood Park Province Alberta Postal code T8E 1G9  
 Contact person Aoife Cahill  
 Telephone 780-922-5920  
 Email address (optional) aoifeca@eics.ab.ca

Project Type ☐ Event ☒ Project ☐ Expense

Amount Requested \$ 11,500

Brief description of request

Funding to support a school initiative that will also benefit the area of South Cooking Lake. The outdoor learning space will enhance children's physical, mental, and social well-being.

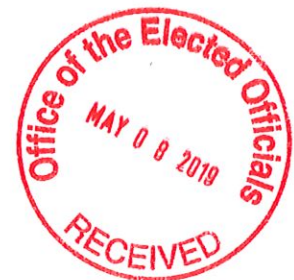
Aoife Cahill  
 Print name

A Cahill  
 Signature

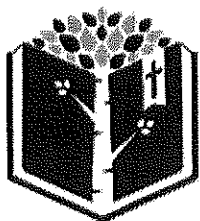
May 6, 2019  
 Date

**Please remember to attach a proposed budget and request letter to this request.**

Number of attached pages 3

**Collection and use of personal information**

Personal information is collected under the authority of section 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and will be used to manage and administer Council Priority Funds. Please be aware that information provided may be made public. If you have questions regarding the collection, use or disclosure of this information, contact Vicky Cushman at 780-464-8098.

**St. Luke Catholic School**

22139 S Cooking Lake Rd, Sherwood Park, AB, T8E 1G9

Phone (780) 922-5920

<https://stl.eics.ab.ca/>

May 6, 2019

Dear Councillor Bill Tonita,

It is our intention to create an outdoor learning space in the playground at St. Luke Catholic School. Our outdoor space is accessible and well used by members of Strathcona County and we are certain that they will also enjoy the benefits of our initiative.

The outdoor learning space will be a beautiful addition to our rural school setting. We are proud members of Strathcona County in a rural area near South Cooking Lake. We have a very, very large outdoor space with a woodland lining the back of our school area. In the midst of our backyard we have a bird sanctuary that has become a staple of our community. As a school we want to capitalize on our beautiful backyard space and share the benefits of outdoor learning which include enhancing physical and mental health, resiliency and social skills. As an original APPLE School, the goal of St. Luke School is to promote healthy eating and an active lifestyle. Teaching these important life skills in the formative years provides students with the opportunity to form healthy habits.

Based on research, play is foundational for all future learning. Loose parts play is an important part of this learning continuum. Children can experiment with their physical and creative abilities by manipulating loose objects such as wooden blocks, logs, sand, leaves and re-used tires. We are hoping to increase the number of bird nesting areas and add bat rest houses to help students gain a deeper appreciation of nature and enjoy the wellness benefits that accompanies one's involvement and experience of nature. We hope to collect materials such as: tree stumps, sand box, used tires, and logs. We would like to build an outdoor mud kitchen and other spaces for our students and community members to engage in outdoor play.

It is our intention to grow vegetables and fruits that will help to promote the understanding of what it takes to have food go from garden to table. The outdoor learning space will provide students an opportunity to harvest what they grow and then prepare the food in their Foods class. The outdoor classroom will have a scientific, wellness, social skill set, food preparation, and a sense of responsibility. We have an incredible opportunity to affect the lives of our students in a variety of ways.



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With the impending new Alberta curriculum for grades Kindergarten to 4 there are eight competencies that will engage learners. We hope to capitalize on the excitement of the new curriculum that teachers and community members would have and with the excitement comes the need and desire for innovative ways of meeting the curricular outcomes.

As a school we will provide professional development for educators and community members around outdoor learning and play for students which will inspire everyone to get outside. We will also provide an understanding and exploration as to how our outdoor learning space is an extension to learning opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration in supporting this community initiative in rural Strathcona County.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Aoife Cahill  
Principal





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### **Outdoor Learning Space Budget**

Bird houses on each fence post 15 X \$25 = \$375  
Bat houses \$75 X 5 = \$375  
Mud access kit \$260  
Cascade play center \$1120  
Rainbow River Rock Sets \$240  
Outlast blocks by Community Plaything (junior set) \$2000  
Sum Block sets \$80  
Hantis game tables (4) \$800  
Picnic table \$1050  
Outdoor classroom table \$1200  
Sand \$1000  
Replacement of retaining wall for sandbox \$3000

**Total: \$11,500**

