ROOTED IN

JOY

St. Josephine Bakhita
September Newsletter

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS

LOVE • JOY

PEACE • PATIENCE

KINDNESS • GENEROSITY

FAITHFULNESS

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The Mission of St. Josephine Bakhita School

is to provide a

CATHOLIC EDUCATION that inspires students to lead with compassion, perseverance, and empathy for one another.

Our Vision

Our students will grow their gifts and boldly live their Catholic faith by showing care for others, strength in adversity and openness of heart.

Administrator's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we enter the month of November, we are reminded of the many blessings in our school community and the importance of gratitude, remembrance, and service to others. November is also a time when we reflect on those who have served our country and remember our loved ones during the month of All Souls. We look forward to several meaningful learning opportunities and celebrations throughout the month.

Remembrance Day

Our school community will gather for a Remembrance Day Liturgy as we pause to honour and pray for the men and women who have served and sacrificed for our country. Students are invited to wear their uniform on **November 10** as a sign of respect and recognition for veterans and active service members. We also invite any family members who have served or are currently serving in the military to join us for this special celebration.

Student-led Conferences

Our conferences this year are on November 26th from 1:00-6:30. These conferences are an important part of supporting student success and strengthening the partnership between home and school. We appreciate your ongoing commitment to your child's learning journey.

Learning Updates

Our students continue to engage in literacy and numeracy learning across all grade levels. Teachers have been reviewing assessment information and using this data to support student growth and achievement. We encourage families to continue reading together at home and looking for opportunities to build numeracy skills in everyday activities.

Faith and Wellness

Throughout November, we will focus on gratitude, compassion, and service. Students will continue to participate in prayer, faith-based learning opportunities, and activities that help foster a caring and inclusive school community. We encourage families to take time together to reflect on the many blessings in their lives.

Winter Weather Reminder

As the weather continues to change, please ensure your child comes to school dressed appropriately for outdoor recess and activities. Students spend time outside daily whenever weather conditions permit. Hats, mittens, warm jackets, snow pants, and proper footwear are encouraged.

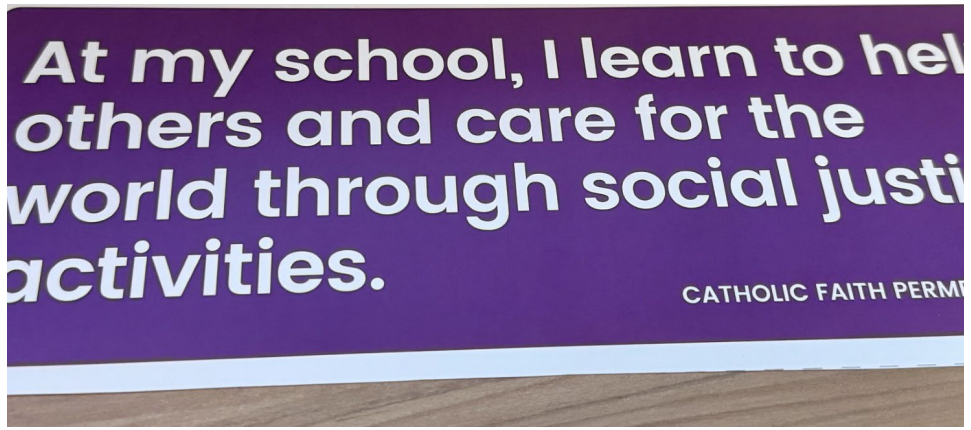
Thank you,

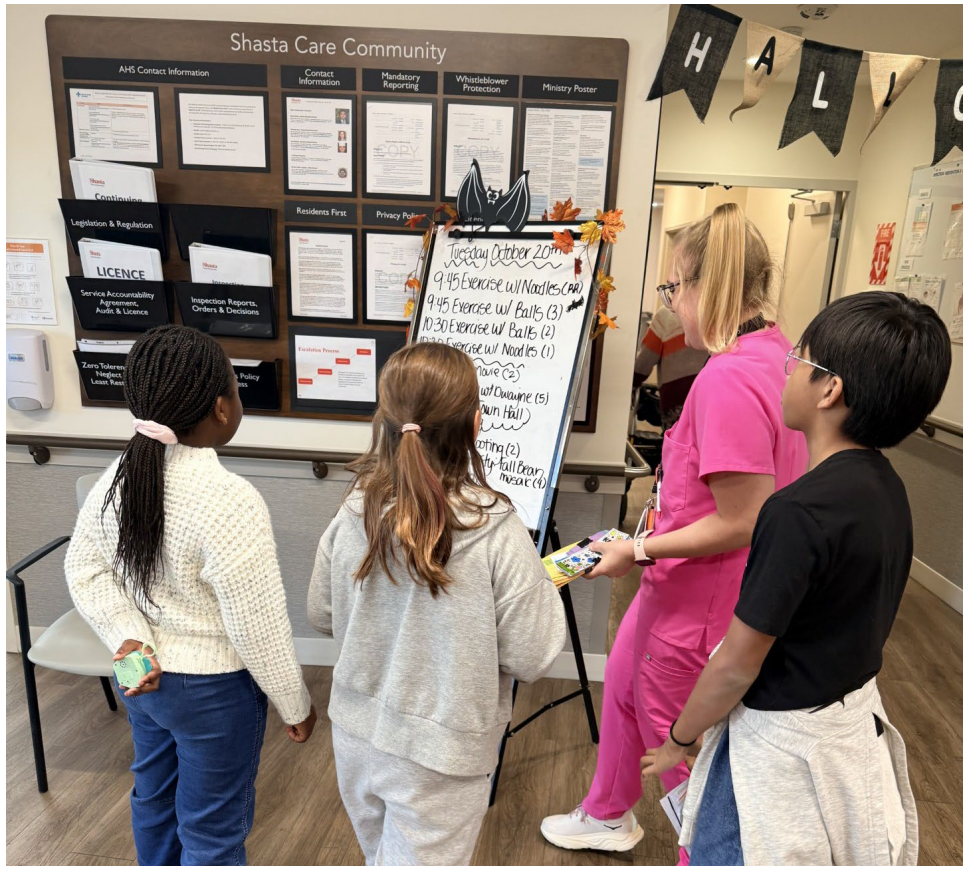
Your SJB Admin team

Optimal Learning

Optimal Learning is the outcome of aligning curriculum, instruction, and environment to nurture the full potential of every student. It happens when teachers, leaders, and school staff create the right conditions for learning. Where faith, academic rigor, inclusive practice, and meaningful relationships are interwoven. Optimal Learning is not a fixed destination, but a living commitment to growth, grounded in professional standards and inspired by the belief that every child can flourish. It is both the science of teaching and the art of cultivating hope. **Please take a moment and see what conditions our students have demonstrated over the course of the month of October☺**

Partnership with Shasta community centre

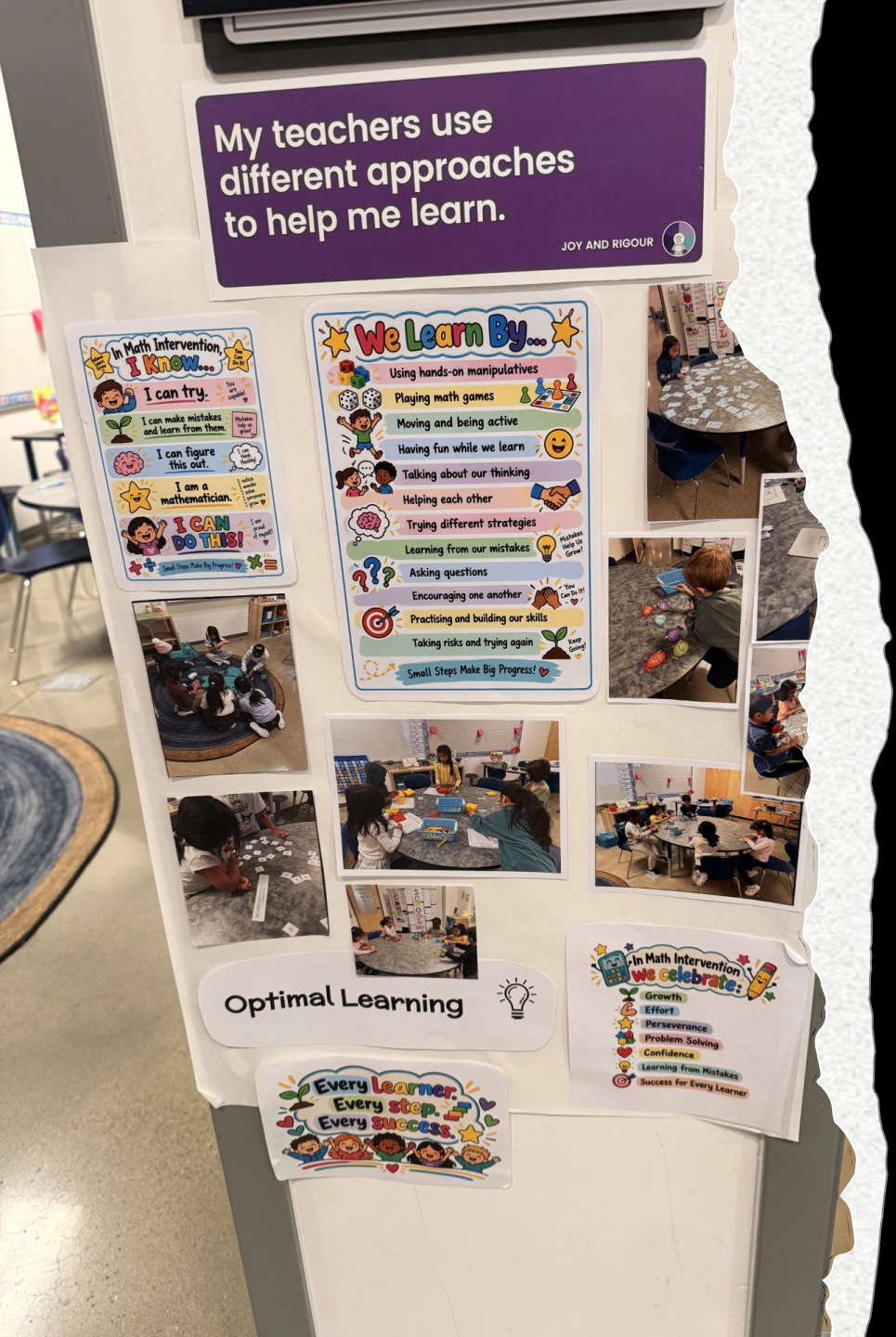




We are excited to partner with this residence! Our students recently attended the unveiling of a special mailbox where they will exchange letters with residents every two weeks. Throughout the year, we will also visit for Halloween, share Christmas songs, and continue building meaningful connections through various acts of service.

Grade 2C

- Also here are some pictures of our students with the optimal learning conditions! We went outside looking for leaves which they had lots of fun doing and noticing the different colors. It was also meaningful for them because they got to create a unique story with their own characters and speech bubbles!



Math Intervention

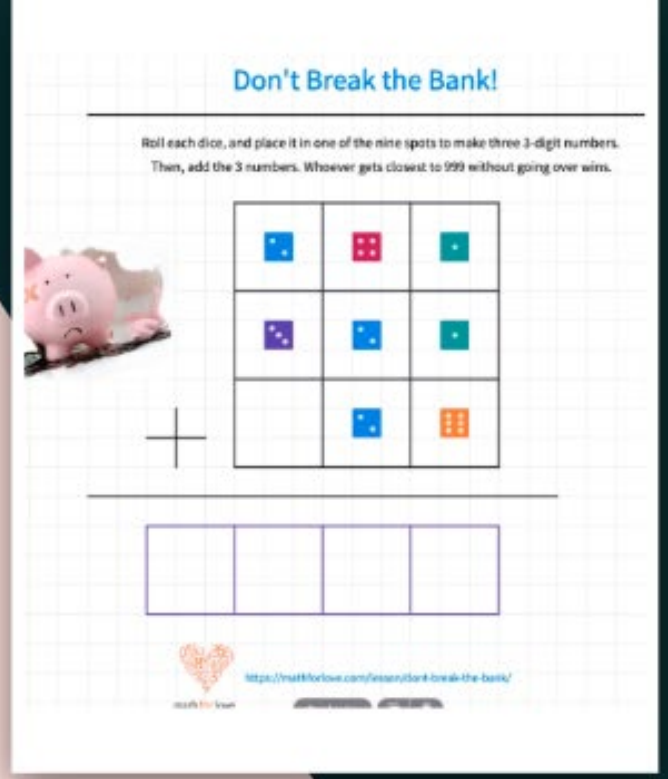
Grade 2

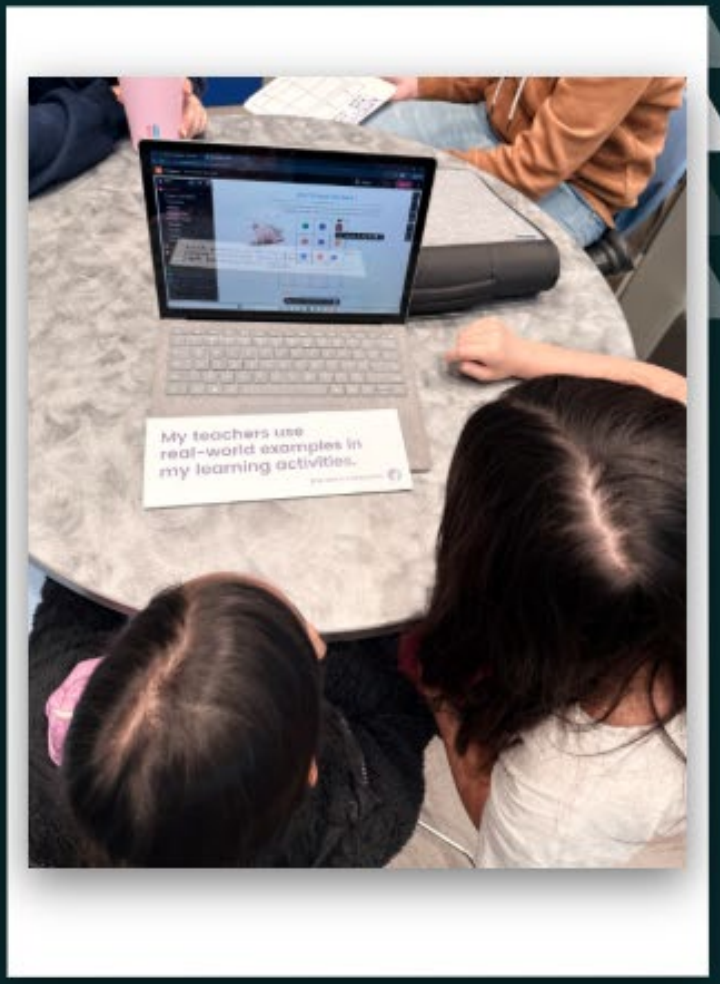
My school helps me grow in my Catholic faith through learning activities.

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good!

Don't Break the Bank

Grade 9 students partnered with students in Grade 5 and 6 to teach them a new math game. This brought lots of joy to students as they rigorously added up numbers, hoping it would not break the bank!

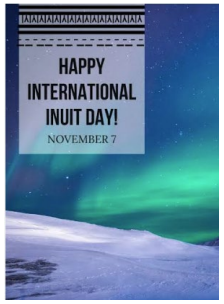


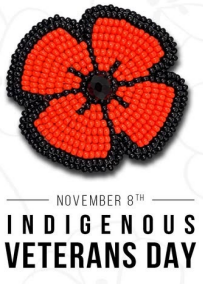


Chaplain Update

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1-5

On October 29, our grade 4 students and staff were blessed to travel to Annunciation Catholic Parish for our Grade 4 Bible Celebration. Every year, all grade 4 students attending Catholic Schools, receive the gift of a bible. Fr. JR and Annunciation staff were very welcoming, and Fr. JR shared a wonderful message highlighting how our bibles are to be used. He asked the students to read the Word of God, love the Word of God, and live the Word of God.





November 7 – Inuit Day

Inuit Day honours the culture, identity, language and contributions of Inuit globally. The date was chosen by the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) in 2006 to coincide with the birthday of the ICC's Founder, Eben Hopson. This day is an opportunity to celebrate Inuit achievements and amplify their voices across Arctic Regions around the globe.

November 10-16 - Métis Week

Métis Week is an annual commemoration held in November to honour the culture, heritage, and contributions of the Métis people, in Canada. This week of recognition centers on Louis Riel Day, marking the anniversary of Riel's execution in 1885. Métis Week includes ceremonies, educational events, and community gatherings to celebrate Métis identity, honour historical resilience, and highlight the ongoing contributions of the Métis Nation. It serves as a time for both reflection and pride, acknowledging past injustices while celebrating the vibrant Métis culture and the strength of its people today.

November 8 – Indigenous Veterans Day

Indigenous Veterans Day is observed in Canada on November 8, in recognition of Indigenous contributions to military service. National Aboriginal Veterans Day was first observed in Winnipeg on November 8, 1994, and has since been observed nationwide.

While exact statistics are difficult to determine, the rate of Indigenous participation in Canada's military efforts over the years has been impressive. These determined volunteers were often forced to overcome many challenges to serve in uniform, from learning a new language and adapting to cultural differences, to having to travel great distances from their remote communities just to enlist. The challenges they faced often extended to their post-service life. Many Indigenous war Veterans would not receive equal treatment compared to other Canadian Veterans.

Many Indigenous people also currently continue to serve in the Canadian Armed Forces in Canada and on operations around the world. They continue to uphold the proud legacy of service of past generations.

Athletics

Volleyball

Our volleyball season is well underway, and our student-athletes have been representing St. Josephine Bakhita with great pride, sportsmanship, and determination. Both teams have already participated in two tournaments, gaining valuable experience and continuing to grow together as a team.

Our **girls' volleyball team** has had an outstanding start to the season, earning a **1st-place finish** in one tournament and a **3rd-place finish** in another. Their hard work, teamwork, and dedication have been evident on the court, and we are incredibly proud of their accomplishments.

Our **boys' volleyball team** continues to work hard and build momentum each week. They are holding strong, developing their skills, and finding their groove as a team. Their perseverance, positive attitude, and commitment to improvement have been wonderful to see.

A special thank you to our coaches for their time, dedication, and support of our student-athletes. We look forward to cheering on both teams as the season continues!

Spectator Reminder: To ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all, only St. Josephine Bakhita junior high students may attend home games as spectators. Visiting students are welcome only when accompanied by an adult. Thank you for your cooperation and support of our school athletic programs.

Medication/Medical Alert

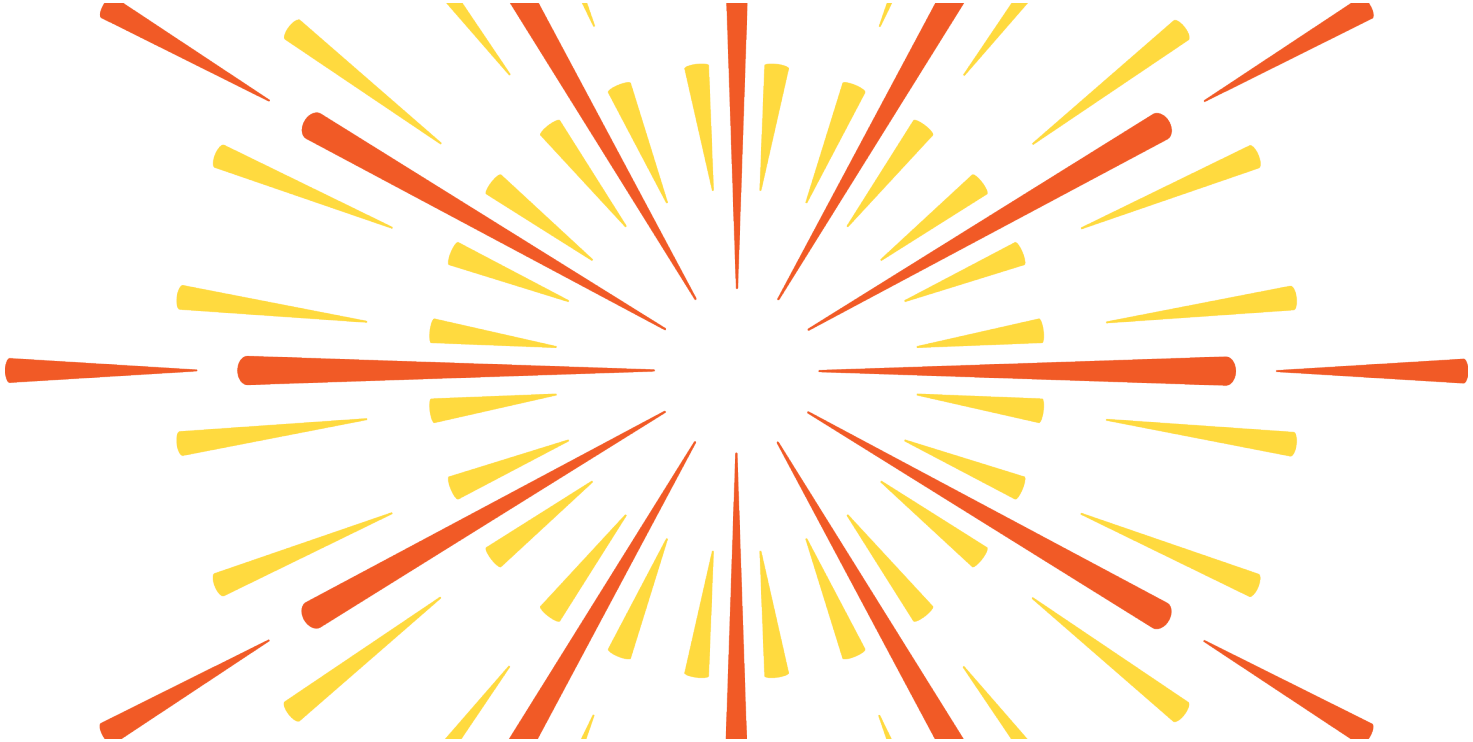
Medications

On occasion, we have been asked by parents to ensure their child receives prescribed medication. Please be aware that for school staff to do so, parents must complete a ***Request for Administration of Medication at School Form*** and have it completed by a doctor and returned to school. The school will administer the medication according to the doctor's prescription, provide safe and limited access, store the medication, and shall keep a record of each student receiving medication. Please assist us in ensuring that prescribed pills, liquids, and inhalers are not casually left in student frequented areas. Students with EpiPens are required to have them with them at all times in order to ensure immediate access if necessary.

Medical Alert: If your child has a condition that would require special medical attention, please complete the ***Medical Alert Form*** as accurately as possible and return it to the school as indicated each year. It is important that you keep us informed of any changes in your child's medical status.

School Fees

School Fees for the 2026-2027 school year have been submitted to our division office and will be posted to our website once they are approved. We have made every effort to keep fees the same whenever possible. Costs for consumable items used in complementary courses may increase due to rising purchasing costs. Fees for field trips reflect the maximum for all field trips in a given grade for the year. Actual costs for field trips will likely be less. Team fees include the cost of additional tournaments. School fees have been posted in PowerSchool and are now due.



School Council/Fundraising society

Next meeting is January 26th at 6PM in the SJB staffroom- all are welcome!

Our World's finest chocolate fundraiser raised over $7000.00 for the school. Thank you so much for all of your support.
The following classes sold the most boxes:
First place: 2A
Second place: KB
Third place: KA
The council has generously agreed to paid for bussing for all our students to attend Mass at Basilica in January to celebrate the Epiphany. Our council has made us aware that there will be an open forum with the City council where we can attend to advocate for the building of our park. More info to come.

Current Members of council and fundraising society:

Chair- Greg Harder

Vice Chair- Fatima Adeoje

Secretary- Michelle Oladele

Treasurer: Anita Kelly

All important, current dates of events can be found on our website calendar and other general information can be found on our website. St. Josephine Bakhita

BAKHITA STARS

Contact

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