

# RAIDERS



## STICK IT TO CANCER TOURNAMENT March 2026 Newsletter

### ***WELCOME HOCKEY TEAMS!!***

### ***ARE YOU READY TO DOMINATE THE RINK & DEFINE THE GAME?!***

We would like to **WELCOME** our 30 teams, over 560 players, and all their fans to our annual **STICK IT TO CANCER** Hockey Tournament!

This tournament promotes athleticism in the community, leadership and dedication amongst young developing athletes, while ensuring everyone has **FUN!**

Your commitment to fundraising has exemplified these values, resulting in the impressive total of **\$49,368 AND CLIMBING!!** Such achievements are only possible thanks to your incredible efforts! WOW!! We are sending a **BIG SHOUT OUT & THANK YOU** to all participating teams and your networks!!





# OPENING CEREMONIES



**YOU'RE  
INVITED**

**Join Us as we KICK OFF the  
11th Annual STICK IT TO CANCER  
TOURNAMENT!!**

**Friday, March 20th @ 4:45pm at the  
Max Bell Arena, 1001 Barlow Trail SE**

We are inviting **ALL TEAMS** to attend this event. Players, **please wear your DARK jerseys** and stand around the arena in a gesture of solidarity. Coaches, Managers and families are encouraged to attend as well!

## PROGRAM

- Land Acknowledgement
- Singing of O Canada
- Solidarity skate around the rink
- One minute of silence
- Puck drop

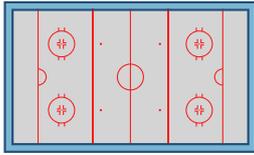
While we annually recognize a courageous warrior for our tournament every year with the puck drop, we continue to honour Alec Remenda, Luca Vaccaro, and James Lipowy and give special attention to everyone that we are playing for! See the end of the newsletter to read their stories.



**Please be aware, MEDIA and SPONSORS will be taking photos at this event.** Photos and videos will be used for social media and marketing purposes. If you do not wish to have your image recorded or photographed please make let the event organizers and photographers know.

You can email us at: [stickittocancer@raidershc.ca](mailto:stickittocancer@raidershc.ca)

# IMPORTANT REMINDERS!!!



## TOURNAMENT WEBSITE For SCHEDULE & STANDINGS

You can access the tournaments schedule and details on the tournament website: [Click Here for the Stick it to Cancer Tournament Website](#)

Standings and scores will be updated throughout the weekend using the tournament site.

## GAME DAY VOLUNTEERS

Just a reminder that every team is responsible for timekeeping, scorekeeping and penalty box for every game.

## LIGHTING UP CALGARY FOR THE STICK IT TO CANCER TOURNAMENT

### CALGARY TOWER

In honour of our tournament, the Calgary Tower will be lit yellow and purple.

### RECONCILIATION BRIDGE

This monumental bridge will be glowing purple on March 22 as a tribute to SITC.

### ASSOCIATION HOURS

If you're still in need of Association Level Volunteer Hours, shifts can be picked up [HERE](#)



**GAMES START ON THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH**

## ARENAS

**Vivo** 11950 Country Village Link, NE

**Max Bell Centre** 1001 Barlow Trail, SE

**Murray Copot** 6727 Centre St NW

**Crowfoot Arena** 8080 John Laurie Blvd, NW

## FOLLOW US!



@Raiders HC  
Calgary



@raidershcyyc

# IT'S TIME FOR SOME ONLINE FUN-RAISING FOR KIDS CANCER CARE!!

## WESTJET RAFFLE

Win one (1) roundtrip flight for two (2) guests to any regularly scheduled Westjet destinations!!

- 4 Tickets for \$20.00
- 20 Tickets for \$50.00
- 100 Tickets for \$100.00



[WESTJET RAFFLE TICKETS](#)



### Ticket Prices

- 100 for \$100
- 20 for \$50
- 4 for \$20
- 1 for \$10



[50/50 TICKETS](#)



There are so many **FUN**-tastic items to bid on this year...there is something for everyone!!

You don't want to miss out...[CLICK HERE](#) or scan the QR Code to bid today!!



# HOCKEY TEAM FUNDRAISING IN ACTION!



## An AMAZING Fundraising Campaign Update from the Raiders BC 2 Black Team...

The Raiders U15-2 Black coaches threw down a challenge for the Stick it to Cancer tournament. The coaches challenged their players to raise at least **\$3,000** for [@kidscancercare](https://www.kidscancercare.ca)

The players didn't just meet the challenge, they exceeded it and to date, have **\$4,521.00!** Thanks to their hard work, generosity, and the incredible support from friends and family, the team went above and beyond to help support kids and families facing cancer.

The coaches kept their promise and the reward was epic:

🎸 **An 80s Rock-Out Practice!** 🎸

Think big hair, loud music, and plenty of laughs on the ice. To top it all off, the team celebrated with pizza and root beer after practice – the perfect way to cap off an awesome achievement!

**Thank you for your efforts to Stick it to Cancer!**

# BRAVE STORIES

WHO WE PLAY FOR

CHAN



You are shaping tomorrow's leaders

"I would rather have cancer again than lose everything I've gained through Kids Cancer Care." — Chan Choi

At 17, Chan Choi possesses wisdom well beyond his years. Despite the trauma of a cancer diagnosis at age 10, he views his journey as a blessing. Thanks to your incredible support, Chan transformed his cancer experience into an opportunity for growth.

"It was a very scary experience, but I feel fortunate," says Chan. "Everything I've gained through Kids Cancer Care — the experiences and opportunities — far outweighs my treatment."

Chan's cancer ordeal started with excruciating back pain that eventually led to a diagnosis of Burkitt's lymphoma — a fast-growing, aggressive cancer. After six months of intense chemotherapy, Chan entered remission in June 2019.

That summer, Chan went to Camp Kindle: "I was in Embers boys, and I did not want to be there. I was a pretty shy kid, super introverted, and this counsellor Chilli drew me out of my shell and showed me the magic of camp. I want to do that for someone else."

Today, Chan deals with primary immune deficiency — a side effect of his treatment — requiring regular injections and monitoring.

"His immune system has still not recovered from the chemo," his mother Hyeok Jung explains. "He has zero immunity and needs regular injections to boost it. They don't know why it's happening."

True to form, Chan remains optimistic and grateful: "It's scary because you could die, but so much good has come to me through this experience."

Chan cherishes the memories and friendships made at Camp Kindle, especially those from SunSeeker, where he experienced more independence and a deeper connection with friends and nature. Through these friendships and experiences, Chan has built a powerful resilience that will sustain him for life.

"I loved the out trips, making our own food, struggling to set up our tents, but having fun," says Chan. "It almost felt like a blessing when you didn't have to do dishes. I had a really good group of friends and laughed a lot."

Looking ahead to summer 2026, Chan hopes to return to Camp Kindle as a counsellor to pay the magic forward. Afterward, he plans to study computer science and AI at the University of Calgary, supported by a Kids Cancer Care Derek Wandzura Memorial Scholarship.

Chan also imagines a day when his name will appear on the donor wall at Camp Kindle. Whether as camp counsellor, donor or AI scientist, Chan plans to pass along the gifts he received to the next generation of kids with cancer.

Reflecting on their family's cancer journey, it's clear Hyeok shares her son's resilient spirit: "It was the best luck among bad luck."

# BRAVE STORIES

WHO WE PLAY FOR

## ALEC REMENDA



Alec was diagnosed in the spring of 2014 while playing spring hockey with his friends. His diagnosis was a rare form of muscle and bone cancer. It was missing one protein from its closest form, Ewings Sarcoma.

He battled this disease for over 2 years before losing the battle July 26, 2016.

## LUCA VACCARO



Luca Vaccaro was our superhero for our 2022 tournament. He was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL) when he was just 9 years old. He fought a tough battle and overcame his illness and rang his therapy victory bell on October 21, 2021, his 12th birthday!

Unfortunately, only 6 weeks later in December, the Vaccaro family received devastating news that the cancer had returned in the form of Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). Luca underwent aggressive chemotherapy in preparation for a stem-cell transplant. On March 25, 2021, Luca received the incredible gift of unconditional love in the form of his dad's bone marrow,

The transplant went well, but as Luca's body fought to create new healthy cells with the help of dad's new cells, his body weakened and his organs started to fail. When he pulled through some very tough nights, Luca became known to many as a miracle. His transplant was a success and we watched Luca graduate from ICU back to the oncology unit, and eventually, home! We celebrated day +100 which is a milestone day after transplant where the risk of rejection declines significantly.

In July 2021, which would have been Luca's day +120, The Vaccaro's received the news that the AML relapsed and because of how aggressive AML is, coupled with how quickly Luca relapsed after his transplant, there would be no further treatment options.

On November 21, 2021, just one month after his 13th birthday, Luca Vaccaro gained his superhero angel wings.



# THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS

GOLD \$1000-\$2999



SILVER \$501-\$999



BRONZE \$500 OR LESS

