

# CALGARY ARTS ACADEMY



Southern Alberta  
Jubilee Auditorium  
Friday, December 14, 2012  
7:00pm

## From the Principal

The Arts are obviously central to the learning that occurs at Calgary Arts Academy. It is well documented that involvement in the Arts leads to advancement in achievement in all subject areas.

The correlation between mathematics and the Arts, particularly music, has been researched with greater frequency in the past decade. Many studies show a clear correlation between students who take music classes and increased performance on standardized

mathematics exams. The important question in this regard is why might this be? One theory is that music instruction is integral to the acquisition of spatial temporal reasoning. Spatial temporal reasoning is one's ability to understand the relationship of ideas

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and objects in space and time. This cognitive skill is one of many 'thinking skills' we work to develop at Calgary Arts Academy.

One cognitive function that research shows dance develops, and effectively translates across other subject areas, is that of creative thinking. Creative thinking is frequently identified as a skill that is necessary for 21st century learners. Dance opportunities are particularly effective in developing the categories of fluency, originality, and abstract thinking skills. By using dance and creative movement as a vehicle to teach core subjects, we are able to effectively bridge these thinking skills to other subject areas. The importance of this cannot be emphasized enough as broad conceptual understandings are required in today's age of interconnectedness. By promoting cross-curricular creative thinking we are equipping our students to excel in this type of world.

Another 21st century learning attribute you will often hear about is critical thinking. The Visual Arts extensively promote this type of reasoning. They do so by encouraging children to reason what they see in visual art and draw inferences from their viewing. This is a skill that transfers easily to reasoning and inferencing about images in other contexts such as science diagrams. As any skill, critical thinking is something that needs to be developed through practice and experience.

Continued exposure to the visual arts leads to continued development in this area. Like creative thinking, the transference of this skill is strengthened by the cross-curricular platform that we use at CAA.

Another important aspect of the programming at our school is that of performance. As you are aware, all students at Calgary Arts Academy perform several times per year. Our biggest performance is clearly the Winter Celebration in which both campuses perform as one entire school. Naturally, this event is vitally important to strengthen the bonds and sense of community between our two campuses. That being said, there are many other reasons why we promote and value these types of opportunities at CAA.

First and foremost, engagement with music and theatre is a highly productive and positive form of literary development. In many cases, studying these forms of art develops vocabulary that promotes critical thinking and reasoning. It also promotes creative thinking as students interpret the metaphors present in many of the musical selections and stories. This in turn can transfer to other situations where this type of thinking adds value and assists in the learning process.

Preparing for a performance also develops one's ability to present material in an effective manner. The required breathing techniques, gesturing, and use of expression are all skills used when individuals are required to public speak. Having the opportunity to practice these skills in a group setting afford children a higher level of comfort as they work to develop their personal confidence. Over time, these experiences help develop self-assured and confident individuals who can express personal opinions and ideas freely and articulately.

At Calgary Arts Academy, we strive to provide a wide range of artistic activities to promote the growth of transferable skills. The examples listed here are only a sample of how the arts contribute to the learning of these types of skills. We are certainly proud of the growth we have had over the past ten years and are excited about what the future holds. We hope that each of you will be able to celebrate with us at our Winter Celebration at the Jubilee on December 14th. And, if you could, please do me a favour. As you enjoy the performance, please remember it is more than a performance; it is an experience designed to promote and develop skills and attributes in each and every student.

Happy Holidays,

- Mr. J. Van Beers

## **Kindergarten News**

We are very appreciative of all of the hard work Kindergarten students have completed over the first term. We enjoyed seeing everyone at the Parent/Teachers interviews. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We are looking forward to having your help in the classroom over the next term as a parent volunteer. For those of you who would like to volunteer, please sign up on the volunteer calendar located outside each Kindergarten classroom.

Kindergarten students have been learning about Author/Illustrator Jan Brett. They have been reading stories, creating characters and even completing book reviews! To introduce shapes, students created a Gingerbread House using a variety of shapes in all different sizes and colours. It is on

display outside of the Kindergarten classrooms.

Kindergarten students have been working hard to prepare for our Winter Celebration. We look forward to the opportunity to perform at the Jubilee Auditorium!

The children and teachers are looking forward to this special time of year where the focus will be the changing seasons. Please ensure your child is appropriately dressed with snow pants, mittens, jackets, hats and boots to be outside with their class. This year, we will once again have a Mitten Tree set up outside of the Kindergarten classrooms. Children are welcome to, but not obligated to bring in new winter items. For additional information, please refer to the notice that was sent home.

*Ms. D. Rose*

### **Division One News**

We will be having our annual craft and bake sale on December 17th and 18th during the lunch hour. All the proceeds will be going to the Calgary Humane Society. If you are able to bake an item for the sale or help with running the tables, please let your child's teacher know. Also on December 18th, we will also be having our annual Glenmeadows Winter Craft activity. If you are able to volunteer to help us in the gym, please let us know. Classes will be very busy over the next two weeks with creating props and with winter activities. If you would like to help volunteer in your child's class, the extra help would be appreciated. Visual artist Cam Bourque is working with the students on the needs of

animals through the investigation of the west coast "Spirit Bear" and the legends that go with it. In class, we are working on poetry and creating rhymes. In math, students are investigating numbers and how to construct and deconstruct numbers up to 20.

*- Mrs. J. McCloy*

### **Division Two News**

In Division Two, we are currently working on skip counting and number patterns and are creating 3D number charts. In literacy we have just started a procedural writing contract, where students will present a "how to" of their choice. In Science, Year 4 students are experimenting with light by building reflective boxes and making little movies of scenes that will showcase the sun's movement throughout the day. Year 3 students are creating topographical maps to learn about geography.

*- Ms. N. Williams*

### **Division Three News**

Division Three students have been excited and committed throughout our Jubilee Winter Celebration concert rehearsals. We have really enjoyed multi-aging with the older students and collaborating on our individual numbers.

Year 5 students have been hanging on tight to the last few classes with resident visual artist, Mr. Jeff. They have built terrariums housing animals and plant life from Alberta's wetlands.

Year 6 students have been hard at work learning about democracy, municipal government and creating their own digital 'Democracy Superhero!'

We enjoyed meeting everyone at Parent/Teacher interviews, at which visitors met the home room teacher and the learning group teacher.

Mrs. Twa's homeroom will be hosting a Sharing Assembly on Wednesday December 19th at 10:00am. Parents are welcome.

*- Mrs. L. Twa*

### **Division Four News**

In Year 7 Social Studies, students will continue to develop their fantasy worlds while exploring an inquiry-based research question related to Canadian history both prior to and following Confederation in 1867.

Students in Year 8 Language Arts will be reading *The Hobbit* and experimenting with the creation of a thematic fantasy language, grammar and punctuation and comparing it to English.

In Year 9 Social Studies, students will explore Canadian immigration policies, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and economic systems through the creation of a simulated, dystopian North America developed as a result of an invented history.

*- Mr. S. Rasporich*

#### **2013-2014 Enrollments**

The deadline for enrolling siblings is January 31, 2013.

Applications for siblings that are received after this date may be wait listed.

Please contact Kevin Loftus if you have any questions.

# November

Mr. Riley's Moustache/Mo/Duster/face caterpillar grew all month to an unprecedented length. Our school has embraced the moustache and helped him raise vital funds and awareness for men's health. The money contributed in the office and online is going to these great causes. Thank you so much for all of your contributions and acceptance of the Mo over the past month! And thanks to Ms. Fischer for managing the donation box in the office.

## School Council

### December 12

Deadline for *Pita Pit* orders

### December 14

Holiday Basket Raffle

### January 17

Parent Education Workshop: "Circle of Courage, CAA's Approach to Bullying" and "Childhood Anxiety."

### January 24

GirlPower Workshop: Fuzzies & Friends, The Heart of Friendship

### February 7

GirlPower Workshop: Friendship Fires

### February 8

Parent and social about the future of Calgary Arts Academy. Further details to follow.

Additional information regarding the listed workshops can be found on the school's website under "Students & Parents / Useful Documents."

Please also see Pages 7 and 8 for additional useful School Council information.



## SKIP COUNT CATERPILLARS

Year 1 and Year 2 students in Ms. Dickson's class created these Skip Count Caterpillars by first using scissors to cut the edge of the green and pink paper 5 times, numbering their cuts by skip counting and cutting by 5 again. The students practiced writing their "5" skip count numbers on coloured paper and then cut the numbers into 'polka dots' to decorate the caterpillar. Students then grouped pipe cleaners in to groups of 5 for the caterpillar legs. Finally, the students glued strips of paper onto the caterpillar back in a 4+1 = 5 pattern. The students finished off the caterpillar with eyes and antennae! Before hanging the caterpillars we used these creations for students to count and recount legs in partners. They had great fun on this project and were very happy to see them finally 'crawling' above their heads!

– Ms. C. Dickson

## READING



Reading with your child is one of the best things you can do to help support their learning at home. Reading to and with your child helps them learn to value reading, learn new vocabulary and reading strategies, and develop a love of reading!

It is very important that children's reading efforts are encouraged and supported so that they feel confident to continue growing as a reader. Furthermore, when your child sees you enjoying reading, it sends a message that reading is worthwhile. Helping your child develop a love of reading is a life-long gift! Please visit Ms. Mills'

teacher page on Calgary Arts Academy's website to find helpful tips and strategies you can use to support your child's reading at home. You will also find links to literacy based websites for your child to explore.

If you have any questions or concerns about supporting your child's literacy learning at home, please contact Ms. Mills at [cmills@calgaryartsacademy.com](mailto:cmills@calgaryartsacademy.com) or come visit her at the Glenmeadows Elementary Campus.

Happy Reading!

# Cold Weather Safety & Fun

## Seven Steps to Cold Weather Safety

Winter weather has arrived in much of the country. Do you know the signs of hypothermia, and what to do if you get frostbite? Read on to make sure you're ready for cold weather!

### 1) Listen to the weather forecast

Check the Environment Canada weather forecast before going out.

Listen for a wind chill warning. Warnings are based on local climate and are issued when significant wind chills are expected.

Visit Environment Canada's new Weather and Meteorology website: <http://ec.gc.ca/meteo-weather/>

Weather forecasts are available through radio and TV broadcasts, Environment Canada's Weatheradio service, and online at [www.weatheroffice.gc.ca](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca).

### 2) Plan ahead

Develop a cold weather safety plan in advance to ensure that safety concerns are addressed when it's very cold, or when the wind chill is significant. For example, schools could hold recess indoors, outside workers could schedule warm-up breaks, and those involved in winter recreation could reduce the amount of time they spend outdoors.

### 3) Dress warmly

Dress in layers, with a wind resistant outer layer.

When it is cold, wear a hat, mittens or insulated gloves. Keep your face warm with a scarf, neck tube or facemask.

Wear warm and waterproof footwear. When it is very cold, or when the wind chill is significant, cover as much exposed skin as possible. Your body's extremities, such as the ears, nose, fingers and toes lose heat the fastest.

### 4) Seek shelter

When the wind chill is significant, get out of the wind and limit the time you spend outside.

### 5) Stay dry

Wet clothing chills the body rapidly.

Remove outer layers of clothing or open your coat if you are sweating.

### 6) Keep active

Walking or running will help warm you by generating body heat.

### 7) Be aware

Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia (see below).

Some people are more susceptible to the cold, particularly children, the elderly and those with circulation problems.

Check on elderly relatives and neighbours to ensure they are warm enough and have sufficient supplies, particularly when the weather is cold or snowy. They might not feel comfortable going outside to shop and may require food, medications and other supplies.

The use of alcohol, tobacco and certain medications will increase your susceptibility to cold.

### *Hypothermia*

Being cold over a prolonged period of time can cause a drop in body temperature

Shivering, confusion and loss of muscular control (e.g., difficulty walking) can occur.

It can progress to a life-threatening condition where shivering stops or the person loses consciousness. Cardiac arrest may occur.

### *What to do:*

Get medical attention immediately.

Lay the person down and avoid rough handling, particularly if the person is unconscious.

Get the person indoors.

Gently remove wet clothing.

Warm the person gradually and slowly, using available sources of heat.

### *Frostbite*

A more severe condition, where both the skin and the underlying tissue (fat, muscle, bone) are frozen.

Skin appears white and waxy and is hard to the touch.

No sensation - the area is numb or tingling.

### *What to do:*

Frostbite can be serious, and can result in amputation. Get medical help!

Do not rub or massage the area.

Do not warm the area until you can ensure it will stay warm.

Warm the area gradually; use body heat, or warm water (40°C to 42°C). Avoid direct heat which can burn the skin.

These tips have been brought to you by Environment Canada in collaboration with Public Safety Canada.

To learn more about how to prepare for a range of emergencies, visit [GetPrepared.ca](http://GetPrepared.ca) or follow @Get\_Prepared on Twitter.

- Mr. J. Lindsay

## Fun Things to do Outside

It's been a really strange winter so far. I can't remember when we have such an early snowfall that stuck around. The students at CAA are thrilled! And I have to say, I'm actually looking forward to some typical winter activities, like going sledding and making hot chocolate.

Winter is a great time to be a kid (and an immature adult.) Outside is awesome, breathtaking to behold, touch and listen to. It looks like an Ansel Adams painting. Fresh air and exercise are important, but in winter you need to be especially well prepared if you want to enjoy yourself. Dress in layers. Wear thermal leggings and several layers under a sweater and coat. Wear a hat and gloves (waterproof if you are planning on playing in the snow). If you're not cold and uncomfortable, you're less likely to run back inside after 5 minutes and more likely to have fun! Here are a few suggestions for playing outside:

"Paint" a snowman using Windex bottles filled with water coloured with food colouring.

Bobsledding

Build a skating rink

Catch a snowflake with your tongue

Cross country ski

Curling (don't knock it till you try it)

Dog sledding

Go for a sleigh ride

Go Ice camping

Go tobogganing

Have a barbecue in the middle of a snowstorm

Have a fire and roast marshmallows

Have a winter hoedown

Hold a tops Olympics (you know like those spinning top things) but do it on ice

Ice blocking (slide down a hill sitting on a block of ice)

Ice-skate on a lake

If you're going to wear a toque, might as well be a toque with ears (not earflaps... ears!)

Join in a polar bear swim (Mr. D did this last year and it is quite invigorating)

Lie on your back in a snowy field

Make a snow fort

Make a snowman

Build snow furniture

Make snow angels

Slather on suntan lotion in the middle of winter. The scent will win you friends and admirers

Snow animals or statues

Snow biking

Make a snow cave

Snow skiing

Snow tubing

Snowboarding

Snowmobiling

Snowshoeing

Watch the snow fall

Winter luge

Yodel, especially on the chair lift

Have fun in the snow!

- Mr. R. Davis

# Take PART

Teachers / *Parents* / Community / Supporting Success Through Volunteering

## VOLUNTEER

CAA School Council & School Council Society is currently looking for parents to fill the following VOLUNTEER POSITIONS:

### Casino Workers (April 17 & 18, 2013)

We need to fill these key positions ASAP to ensure this essential fundraiser is a success:

- GENERAL MANAGER
- ALTERNATE GENERAL MANAGER
- CASH CAGE
- BANKER
- CASHIER
- CHIP RUNNER
- MANAGER – COUNT ROOM
- COUNT ROOM SUPERVISOR
- COUNT ROOM STAFF

### “Penny” Drive (March, 2013)

Assist with the collection and rolling of pennies, and/or help in the classrooms with counting and curriculum related activities.

### “Arts in our Community” Coordinator

Research various art events and activities currently happening in Calgary and update regularly (to be posted to the CAA website and Facebook).

### Big Band Dance (March 9th, 2013)

Help make the 10th Annual Big Band Dance the best one yet by volunteering for a variety of shifts. *(Note that the Big Band Dance date has been moved back to the original date of March 9, please adjust your Art Calendars)*

### Graphic Arts Designer

Create posters for various events through-out the school year (several quality templates exist).

### Grant Writer

Assist in the research and evaluation of grants that CAA School Council Society is eligible for and that fit within our identified goals and scope for fundraising. Write the grant application(s) and oversee the entire application process.

### Assistant Coordinator for 2013 Pancake Breakfast:

Assist our experienced Coordinator with a variety of duties necessary to make our Annual Pancake Breakfast a success (majority of work will be in the month of June and then will resume for the month of August).

We hope you will consider offering your talents to our vibrant and growing School Council. Participation in School Council activities (including attending our monthly meetings) counts towards your required volunteer hours!

If you are interested in any of these opportunities please contact us directly at [council@calgaryartsacademy.com](mailto:council@calgaryartsacademy.com)



## Connect With Us!

Help conserve paper and stay in touch online with your School Council and School Council Society

Favourite These Key Websites:

### [calgaryartsacademy.com](http://calgaryartsacademy.com)

School Council and School Council Society Meeting Agendas and Minutes  
Important Announcements  
Log-in section to teacher pages  
Upcoming Community-building Events

### [caa.hotlunches.net](http://caa.hotlunches.net)

Order regular special lunches including Subway, pizza, Edo and more!  
Manage your students' orders  
Manage your account information for special lunches and fundraisers

### [caa.fundraiserorders.com](http://caa.fundraiserorders.com)

Order Student Art Calendars and other fundraising items

### [calgaryarts.mabelslabels.com](http://calgaryarts.mabelslabels.com)

Order durable labels for your students' items with proceeds going to the school

### Plus! Watch Your Email

For the Weekly Update: “What’s Happening at CAA”

Questions contact: [council@calgaryartsacademy.com](mailto:council@calgaryartsacademy.com)

## December 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 <i>Day 1</i>	4 <i>Day 2</i>	5 <i>Day 3</i>	6 <i>Day 4</i> Parent Conferences, 4:00 – 8:00pm	7 Parent Conferences, 8:00am – 4:00pm	8
9	10 <i>Day 5</i>	11 <i>Day 6</i>	12 <i>Day 1</i> Deadline for <i>Pita Pit</i> lunch orders.	13 <i>Day 2</i>	14 <i>Day 3</i> Winter Performance, 7:00pm, Jubilee	15
16	17 <i>Day 4</i> Year 5/6 Skating	18 <i>Day 5</i> Year 7/8 Skating	19 <i>Day 6</i> Year 9 Skating. Special <i>Pita Pit</i> lunch	20 Winter break, no classes	21 Winter break, no classes	22
23	24 Winter break, no classes	25 Winter break, no classes	26 Winter break, no classes	27 Winter break, no classes	28 Winter break, no classes	29
30	31 Winter break, no classes					

Classes resume January 8, 2013

**In January:**

Parent workshops

GirlPower workshops