

# CALGARY ARTS ACADEMY

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## From the Principal

Calgary Arts Academy is an innovative school that focuses on the whole child. Our focus on the arts is from a pedagogical or instructional approach. This means we are not necessarily actively teaching artistic skills but rather using the arts as an entry point

into all curricular areas. This unique mode of teaching is designed to engage each individual learner in kinesthetic, real world learning experiences. Equally important to our school's success is our focus on school culture. Our culture is primarily built through a focus

on participation in the Arts, the use of the Circle of Courage, Democratic Discipline and Developmental Assets.

Of these school pillars, Developmental Assets is likely the least understood by our community. This is probably the case because our focus on

### Update on School Fees

In order to maintain quality programming, there is a necessity to increase school resource fees and transportation fees.

See page 4 for details.



OUR PENNY DRIVE BEGINS  
 MARCH 4 - SEE PAGE 5

### Online Registration

We are moving toward online registration and a fees payment tool. Stay tuned for details.

### Newsletter Suggestion?

Contact Kevin Loftus at [kloftus@calgaryartsacademy.com](mailto:kloftus@calgaryartsacademy.com)

## **From the Principal continued from page 1**

Developmental Assets is largely built upon relationship building and providing students with positive experiences. Therefore, it is not necessarily readily apparent as a special program, it is simply a part of our regular daily routine. Students themselves may not identify that these experiences or relationships with adults are intentional.

The Search Institute defines Developmental Assets as “40 common sense, positive experiences and qualities that help influence choices young people make and help them become, caring, responsible, successful adults.” A list of the 40 assets can be found by following this link <http://www.search-institute.org/developmental-assets/lists>

I encourage all caregivers to review these age specific lists and use some of the ‘Take Action’ prompts as entry points into conversations or activities with young people. This becomes particularly important as children enter their teenage years. At this point many young people desire greater levels of independence and may pull away from existing relationships with parents and other adults. Research from the Search Institute and Thrive Canada show us that the number of assets experienced by youth drop significantly as they enter their teenage years. As a result this is a time when adults must be particularly vigilant about building and maintaining healthy relationships, expectations and accountability.

As a community we must all make the commitment to build assets in and for the young people we interact with. I hope you willingly take up this challenge and subtly make a difference in the life of a young person.

Second term Report Cards will be coming out on March 21st. Be sure to check in with your child(ren) to ensure that all Learning Contracts and assignments have been turned in to their teachers. Also, please be aware that conferences will be held on the evening of the 27th and during the day on the 28th. It is very important that we take advantage of these opportunities to dialogue about student progress and development.

- Mr. J. Van Beers

## **Kindergarten News**

Kindergarten students have been busy sharing their Family Tree projects. Looking forward, we will begin exploring the concept of Belonging in our community, including Community Helpers and the roles they play within the larger community. Please watch for information coming home regarding a Community Helper Week later this month.

Just a reminder, with Spring just around the corner, we ask the morning classes to proceed outside to the playground until the bell rings. Outdoor supervision begins at 8:30am and it gives students the opportunity to meet up with their friends and be active before the school starts at 8:50am. We would also like to remind all Kindergarten parents to ensure their children are dressed appropriate for the weather everyday. There will be more instances of going outside in the weeks ahead.

Please continue to check your child’s agenda for important information about upcoming events, daily classroom work and other items. We thank our classroom volunteers and parents for their continuing support, especially with

the start of our Guided Reading program!

- Ms. D. Rose

## **Division One News**

In March, Division One students will begin rehearsals for our Spring showcase. Just a reminder, our showcase will be held on the evenings of April 10th and April 11th. We are excited to be working with Mr. Steve McMullen for drama and Ms. Amanda for dance and movement. Our showcase will have an arctic theme and include many elements of the curriculum we have covered this year so far, such as shape and space, explanatory writing, the needs of plants and animals and the Inuit culture.

In Language Arts, we are using iPads to explore word building, reading and printing. We will be investigating persuasive writing through letter writing. Through drama, the students will be exploring legends and storytelling. We will continue to investigate addition and subtraction strategies through songs and hands-on activities.

- Mrs. J. McCloy

## **Division Two News**

Division Two has an exciting month planned. Year 3 students are off on a South American adventure at the Calgary Zoo! They will be viewing, studying and interacting with Peruvian animals. Year 4 students are using iPads to create iBooks about famous Albertans and building a teepee village while learning about Alberta’s First Nations. We also have a guest artist starting, Ms. Gina Georgousis. She is a visual artist who will be helping the students create patterns through sound, the lens of nature and using professional artists as example. She will

also be visiting fractals and how they relate to nature. Please stop by the main hallway and visit the CAA zoo that Division Two students created out of 2D shapes and 3D animals.

- Ms. N. Williams

### **Division Three News**

Congratulations to Division Three students for two incredible performances at the end of February. Each grade group collaborated to write, act and build sets for an original performance! Students should be proud of the Arts Immersion projects they used to create these amazing shows.

*Worlds Apart* began with a brainstorming session about how students wanted to present their knowledge and represent Arts Immersion in a showcase. Having recently completed a novel study, *The Giver* was a popular 'jumping off point' that lent itself to multiple lessons and cross curricular activities. Students collaborated to include action learning and Arts Immersion assignments they participated in during their exploration of Sky Science, Multiples and Factors, Canadian Democracy and Ancient Athens.

March is another jam- packed, fun filled month. We have many exciting opportunities, including skiing lessons at Canada Olympic Park on March 18th.

Year 6 students are learning about balanced diets and healthy food choices by creating their own menus based on the Canada Food Guide and by participating in a smoothie challenge from March 4th to March 15th .

Year 5 students are continuing their exploration of Chemistry by baking and experimenting with a variety of safe chemicals!

Report cards will go home on March 21 and students are excited to host Student Led Conferences on March 27th and 28th. No appointments are necessary for these sessions.

- Mrs. L. Twa

### **Division Four News**

Ms. Billington's Year 8 Social Studies students are presenting their learning contracts on the Aztec culture. Students have demonstrated their learning through Aztec cooking shows, masks, temples, music and drawings. Their presentations were a colourful and fascinating glimpse into the past.

Year 7 Science students created watercolour paintings of an ecosystem *they were interested in studying. Look forward to seeing these compelling and thought-provoking paintings during the Student Led Conferences this month.*

- Ms. M. Billington

Mr. R.'s Year 9 students are wrapping up their Utopia/Dystopia contract in Social Studies and we were treated to a live performance and great meal of butter chicken courtesy of Will D.

In Language Arts, Year 8 students enjoyed watching *The Hobbit* and have made some insightful comparisons between the book and the movie adaptation. Now they are working on their fan art assignment.

Year 7 students have explored history through Theatersports and presented some hilarious performances while sharing moments of Canada's history. They are now doing a survey of Canada's history.

- Mr. S. Rasporich

In Mr. Catley's class, Year 9 students have recently completed a transformations and scaling contract by designing and constructing a 3D mobile.

They contained a mandella, snowflakes, and several sketches that were all fantastically drawn. Many are now hanging in class and truly add some artistic flair to the room!

Year 8 students have been hard at work designing their own treasure maps that illustrate the Pythagorean Theorem. Some are original works, while others have taken inspiration from elsewhere: Middle-Earth, Neverland, or even Dora the Explorer.

Year 7 students recently completed a contract where they designed a unique logo for a fictional company. Their work was sketched on a Cartesian plane and demonstrated three types of transformations.

- Mr. D. Catley

### **Knob Hill Book Fair**

The Knob Hill Middle School Campus will be hosting a Book Fair from March 25 to 28.

Students will be given the opportunity to purchase items at the book fair during their library classes and during lunch hour. The Book Fair will also be operating during Student Led Conferences on March 27 and 28.

If you would like to volunteer to help out with this, please contact Dawne Anderson at 403-229-3010 or [danderson@calgaryartsacademy.com](mailto:danderson@calgaryartsacademy.com).

- Ms. D. Anderson

### **Update on AISI**

The AISI project serves as our school's research and development facet. Our Balanced Literacy and 21st Century Learning project explores new approaches in teaching to ensure our students have the best possible learning opportunities. We believe that this focus in the elementary years will provide a foundation upon which all

students will build skills that will carry them through their lives. It is our goal to build a strong literacy community, where literacy learning is celebrated!

Division One and Division Two have certainly been busy creating and sharing their literacy projects! Staff in both divisions have continued in their learning and have successfully implemented Home Reading Programs, Guided Reading and skill specific Literacy Centres that are engaging for students.

Students in both Divisions have focused on procedural writing skills and are sharing their writing with their peers. Division Two celebrated their literacy learning in their annual Showcase. The Beat Café celebrated the poetry forms of Haiku, Limerick and Spoken Word. Students also used Dance to demonstrate their understanding of paragraphs. During a sharing assembly some Division One students shared a Reader's Theatre reading of Stone Soup. Another group created their own entertaining version called Stone Slop.

We have also successfully completed our first round of the Early Reading Intervention program. Our final group has just begun! The success of this program relies heavily on our very committed and enthusiastic volunteers!

Thank you to all of our community for contributing to the success of our students and in celebrating their successes!

- Ms. M. Stonehouse

### 2013 - 2014 School Fees

In order to maintain quality programming, there is a necessity to increase school resource fees and transportation fees. Please refer to the fee schedule:

The Parent Provided Transportation Program will conclude at the end of this school year. We are unable to provide this service beginning 2013-2014.

We appreciate your understanding in this matter and look forward to continuing to offer the exceptional programs that you have been accustomed to.

	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>2013/14 Fee</b>	<b>Increase %</b>
Resource Kindergarten	\$250	\$265	6%
Resource Year 1-4	\$400	\$420	5%
Resource Year 5-9	\$450	\$475	5.5%
Transportation – Full ridership	\$650	\$750	15%
Transportation – One -Way	\$325	\$400	23%
Lunchroom Supervision – GM	\$25/month	\$25/month	0

# CAA School Council News

Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered for our upcoming Casino on April 17 and 18 - every job (including back-ups) has been filled and we are well positioned to host another successful casino! The generosity of our volunteers continues to amaze, as we also found more than enough people to help with the Big Band Dance on March 9th!

## *Workshops:*

Over the past few months we have been pleased to offer several opportunities for our parents and students to learn new skills and acquire valuable information.

In January, our parent education workshops, "Circle of Courage: CAA's Approach to Bullying and Childhood Anxiety" were well attended and very successful.

In February, our girls (ages 6 to 12) had a chance to learn friendship skills through GirlPower Workshops. Due to popular demand, these courses will be offered again in May.

Coming up soon, on Saturday, March 16, we are very excited to offer a full day of Cyber-Safety Workshops for parents and kids ages 5 to 15! Click [here](#) for more information.

## *Penny Drive:*

School Council is excited to run this student involved fundraiser that will enhance curriculum and empower the students at both of our campuses!! Between March 4 to 15, send in your jars of pennies (other coins allowed). The coins will be used in the classrooms to enhance math curriculum amongst other learning opportunities. Each class will

collaborate on how to use the money raised to enhance their learning! Click [here](#) for more information.

*We are seeking a new Vice-Chair / Vice-President for 2013-2014:*

Do you have leadership and organization skills? Are you looking to get more involved with Calgary Arts Academy? Joining School Council is a wonderful way to meet new parents and play an active role in improving your children's educational experience.

In 2013-2014, we are seeking an outgoing, motivated individual to work with our incoming Chair / President, Nicole Sylvestre and our outgoing Chair / President, Patti Wardlaw. Together, we will mentor our new Vice-Chair to take over the role of Chair/ President in 2014-2015. If this interests you, please contact Patti at [council@calgaryartsacademy.com](mailto:council@calgaryartsacademy.com).

*Personalize Items and Support Our School (Mabels Labels)!*

Tired of losing your child's clothing, containers and water bottles? Now you can shop for waterproof, dishwasher safe, microwave safe, customized labels while supporting the school!

All you need to do is visit [www.calgaryarts.mabelslabels.com](http://www.calgaryarts.mabelslabels.com) and shop! A portion of the proceeds of each sale will come back to School Council Society to support school initiatives.

Make sure to use our unique web address when shopping at the site and encourage family and friends to do so also.

## *Community Events and Parent Resources*

Please see check the [Community Outreach](#) page (under Students and Parents on the website) for valuable information about upcoming events and useful resources for parents.

## **Coming up in March**

School Council and School Council Society Meeting, March 5 at 7:00pm  
Knob Hill Middle School Campus

Click [here](#) for agendas

Cyber-Safety Awareness Day, March 16,  
Glenmeadows Elementary Campus.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Register at <http://caa.registrationnow.net>

## *Special Lunches:*

March 6 - Pita Pit

March 27 - Panago Pizza lunch (order deadline is March 20th)

## Make time to build strong family connections



One way to build and reinforce family connections? Go outside. Sit. Reflect. Read. Write. Relax.

Between full-time jobs, housework and busy kids, sometimes it feels like we do not have time for ourselves, let alone our families. Here are five ways to keep the harmony in your household and build strong family connections:

- **Have a daily check-in with the family.** When your child gets home from school, take advantage of that moment and connect with them.
- **Go outside.** And just sit, reflect, and be together. How often do we actually take time to listen to the sounds around us, or even to one another?
- **Boost your brain and body power.** Stimulate your brain, read anything and everything; eat well and be active daily.
- **Play favourites.** Take turns letting each family member share childhood memories. This will help family members learn more about each other and what is special to them.
- **Create sacred time.** Extend the concept of nap time for little ones to quiet time for everyone in the house. This is a great way to provide your family with nourishing solitude while recharging the batteries!

### Nutrition Month: *Celebrate Foods, from Field to Table*

March is Nutrition Month and it is a continuation of last year's theme, "Celebrate Foods from Field to Table."

One common question is: "Are fresh vegetables and fruits more nutritious than frozen or canned?"

For the most part, canned and frozen vegetables and fruits are comparable to fresh in terms of nutrient content.

Frozen and canned vegetables and fruit can be good alternatives to fresh for adding menu variety, especially in the winter time.

When choosing frozen or canned vegetables and fruit check the ingredi-

ents list on the package to see if there is any added fat, sugar or salt.

Canned vegetables often have added salt, and canned fruits often have added sugar.

Some frozen vegetables have sauces added to them while some frozen fruits have sugar added.

Of most importance is that vegetables and fruit are being eaten, regardless of whether they are fresh, frozen or canned.

Follow Canada's Food Guide, choosing a variety of vegetables and fruit prepared with little or no added fat, sugar or salt.

### Turn commercials into mini-workouts...

Get off the couch and get moving during commercial breaks! Try these activities:

- **Play Simon Says**
- **Run on the spot**
- **Play hide and go seek**
- **Do push-ups and sit-ups**
- **Stretch your muscles**
- **Make pretend snow angels**
- **Play catch with a foam ball**
- **Make up a dance**

## March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> Day 1	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Day 2 Penny Drive Begins	<b>5</b> Day 3 School Council meeting	<b>6</b> Day 4 Special lunch, both campuses	<b>7</b> Day 5 Div 4 Field Trip to Ystage	<b>8</b> Day 6 Knob Hill Assembly, 9:30am	<b>9</b> Big Band Dance
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Day 1	<b>12</b> Day 2	<b>13</b> Day 3	<b>14</b> Day 4	<b>15</b> Day 5	<b>16</b> Cyber-Safety Awareness seminar
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Day 6 Div 4 Swimming	<b>19</b> Day 1 Div 4 Swimming	<b>20</b> Day 2 Div 4 Swimming	<b>21</b> Day 3 Report Card Day Div 4 Swimming	<b>22</b> Professional Day – no classes	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Day 5	<b>26</b> Day 6	<b>27</b> Day 1 Student Led Conferences – 4 to 8	<b>28</b> Student Led Conferences – 8 to 4 – no classes	<b>29</b> Good Friday – no classes	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>April 1</b> Easter Monday – no classes					