

# Calgary Arts Academy

SEPTEMBER 2013

NEWSLETTER

WELCOME BACK!

This year's school theme is



How will YOU be the Change?

## What's Happening?

We have started to email the weekly "What's Happening at CAA."

If you are not receiving it, please email Jo Ann Schiffner at [jschiffner@calgaryartsacademy.com](mailto:jschiffner@calgaryartsacademy.com).

Be sure to include your child's name and the email addresses you wish us to use.

## Division Changes

Our divisions are now called "Houses." Students and teachers worked together to name their Houses after famous artists.

So ....

Kindergarten and Year 1 – Fitzgerald House  
Year 2 and 3 – Spielberg House  
Year 4 and 5 – DaVinci House  
Year 6 and 7 – Jackson House  
Year 8 and 9 – King House

See the contact page on the school's website for teachers per House.

## From the Principal

### ... the value of community and embracing change

I would like to start the year by talking about the two things; the value of community and embracing change.

We are very fortunate to be a part of a vibrant extended community that values the arts, education, and young people. Our community is strong and incredibly passionate. I cannot say enough about how School Council has worked to foster a strong sense of community.



The 11th annual Pancake Breakfast was a resounding success. It is a wonderful way to kick off the school year, be able to reconnect with

people, and meet new members of our community. The live music certainly adds a great deal to the event and makes for a very festive atmosphere. Thank you to everyone who attended this event and made it such a success. A huge Thank you to all of the volunteers who worked so hard to make this event possible, in particular Debbie Boud for taking on the organization of the event for the third year in a row.

School Council is working very hard on the organization and planning of the second annual Art Harvest event, which will take place on Friday, September 20th from 3:00pm until 8:00pm. This event is designed to build community, celebrate the Arts and provide great entertainment. The mentorship program has been an exciting aspect of the planning of this event as artists have been working with Middle School students to help them

develop and refine their artistic abilities. I hope you will stop by for this fantastic event. If you do plan to attend, please try to take public transit as parking may be limited at the school grounds.

As many of you know, we have made some small changes to our school structure and programming this fall. Although change can often be a difficult thing, we are very pleased with the early results. We feel that we have addressed a need at the Middle School level by having about 35 less students in the Knob Hill campus. This has helped tremendously this fall as we felt that we had reached a critical mass last year. Additionally, this change facilitated adjustments to the Division groupings.

We are now structured in *Houses*, which the students have named after significant artists. (See above for the new structure.)

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"It took me four years to paint like Raphael, but a lifetime to paint like a child." - Pablo Picasso

# From the Gym

by Mr. Lindsay

Once again, we will be participating in the Terry Fox Run this year. It will be on September 24 at the Glenmeadows Elementary School Campus. Knob Hill Middle School students will be bused to Glenmeadows where they will enjoy an assembly prior to starting the event. The run will be accompanied by Beethoven's 5th Symphony.

This year, we are hosting the CAAA Cross Country Finale. It will take place on October 2, 2013 at the Glenmeadows Elementary School Campus.

Stay tuned for additional information for both events.

# Transportation News

by Ms. Julie

We appreciate your patience while the new bus drivers become accustomed to their new routes and the new school year start-up issues. We also appreciate that you have paid bus fees so promptly.

So, thanks!

# Glenmeadows NEW Start time

by Ms. Stonehouse

The NEW start time for the Glenmeadows Elementary School Campus is 8:45am. To facilitate our morning Active Break and to align ourselves with Alberta Education time allotment guidelines, we have changed our start time.

The outside bell will ring at 8:40am for students to come in and classes will begin at 8:45am. Our end time remains the same at 3:10pm. We appreciate your cooperation to ensure your child is at school on time.

# School Council News

## CAA School Council welcomes all new and returning families to the 2013-2014 school year!

We are a group of parents and teachers working together with our principal, Josh Van Beers, to support the overall wellbeing and effectiveness of the school community.

School Council works closely with CAA School Society to meet our goals. CAASCS is a registered society whose main role is to raise funds to enhance the learning environment of the school through the purchase of technology, musical instruments, drama materials and gym equipment.

All parents are welcome to participate in the monthly School Council and School Council Society meetings. Dates, time and locations of the meetings are posted in the Events section of the school website.

### Upcoming Events:

Please join us for the 2013 CAA Art Harvest Event on Friday, September 20th from 3:00 – 8:00 p.m. This fabulous event is held at the Glenmeadows Campus and features an artisan sale, live entertainment, family fun and delicious food.

### Fundraisers:

**SUTP Coupon Books** are now on sale! The Student Union Ticket Packs are a key fundraiser, and offers Calgary Arts Academy a huge return on investment. Online orders can be placed through our online ordering system at [caa.fundraiserorders.com](http://caa.fundraiserorders.com).

**2013-2014 Wall Calendar:** This monthly wall calendar features art work created by CAA students and captures key dates for the upcoming school year, while raising funds for School Council. You can order yours online through the online ordering system

[caa.fundraiserorders.com](http://caa.fundraiserorders.com). Calendars are \$15.00 each and the deadline for orders is October 4, 2013.

**Special Lunch Program:** School Council will again offer special lunches approximately every two weeks. The Fall Session of Menus will be posted at [caa.hotlunches.net](http://caa.hotlunches.net) by September 3rd, 2013.

**Friendly reminder:** By using our online ordering systems, [caa.hotlunches.net](http://caa.hotlunches.net) and [caa.fundraiserorders.com](http://caa.fundraiserorders.com), you will help save valuable volunteer time. Please login to each site and register your child. Returning families must update their information to place new orders. To register, you will need to use the school code (CAAHL) and create your own username and password.

We are looking forward to working with all CAA families and we welcome any questions or comments. Please contact us by email at [council@calgaryartsacademy.com](mailto:council@calgaryartsacademy.com).

# Keepin' Up With the Fitzgeralds

## **Kindergarten News:**

Kindergarten is off to a fantastic start this year! Students have been enjoying making new friends and getting to know their new school. As part of our study of 'The Circle of Courage,' we've been discussing Mastery, Independence, Belonging and Generosity. Through read-alouds, art activities, and imaginative play, students are learning the meaning of these attributes and their importance in the classroom. Students have also been exploring their artistic side through painting, drawing, singing, and creating together. If you have any questions about your child's learning, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Gandar or Ms. Mills.

- Ms. C. Mills

## **Year 1 News:**

The Kindergarten and Year One students have started to settle into some school routines now and the busy days here have them falling asleep in the car on the way home!

This week, we focused on the four quadrants of the Circle of Courage: Mastery, Belonging, Independence and Generosity. We discussed what it means to be a good friend and how to make everyone feel they belong at CAA. Our visual journals have arrived and we began to personalize the covers before filling them with a variety of learning documentation. We spent four afternoons this past week with our older Buddies from Year 2/3 and Year 4/5. A highlight with our Buddies was the never-ending hula-hoop tunnel game! Our Division, now called House, was inspired by the music of Ella Fitzgerald. So you may now hear the Kindergarten and Year One team referred to as "Fitzgerald House."

- Ms. C. Dickson

# What the Spielbergs Have to Say

We are excited to be starting another year at CAA. Our new Year 2 and 3 House has voted and the students have chosen the name The Spielberg House after the inspirational director who has made a mark in the world of Dramatic Arts.

The first two weeks have been filled with group building and cooperative activities. We have been decorating our classrooms and reminding ourselves of school and class expectations through discussions and activities about the Circle of Courage.

Student agendas have arrived. Please ensure that you check your child's agenda every night, as this is our primary mode of communication. Please remember to send your child with their water bottle, agenda and indoor shoes everyday. Having their belongings labeled with their name will assist with returning misplaced items to their owners.

- Ms. L. Allen

# From the world of DaVinci

House C, newly named DaVinci House by Year 4 and 5 students, has been participating in Circle of Courage activities, learning routines and getting to know each other in the first weeks of school. We have also been working hard on adding to the hallway mural. Each class has been working on their own doorway, each of which is a student created visual representation of their class. Come and see them - they are all very different.

Now that school is back in session, we would like to remind parents to send water bottles. There is no running water in the portable classroom building and it is important that the students stay hydrated. It is also important that parents send gym shoes, as sandals and other summer footwear are not safe in the gym.

All of the DaVinci House teachers look forward to seeing you during Meet the Teacher night.

- Ms. N. Williams

# Hear from the Jacksons

Welcome back! House Jackson (Year 4 and 5 students) has seen some changes to its teaching team and is excited to include two veteran teachers, Mrs. Schoenhals (back from maternity leave) and Mr. Lewis (snatched from Year 8/9).

September promises to be full of student-centered, Arts Immersion projects. We have already had our students brainstorm creative projects that will allow them to express their understanding of the curriculum in their own unique way!

All four educators will work with their homeroom classes for Literacy and daily routines. Your children will rotate through each teacher for Math, Science, and Social Studies, which will be taught in grade specific learning groups. Our artist team consists of Mr. Jeff Eisen, visual and multimedia artist as well as Ms. Lori Kearney, resident visual artist.

An important date for Year 6 parents to note is September 19th. Year 6 students will be attending a field trip to the Aerospace Museum of Calgary.

There are a few ways that House Jackson like to communicate. The first is your child's agenda. Please help us by ensuring that you are discussing your child's agenda with them every night, helping them to remain organized and on top of their school responsibilities. By initialing your child's agenda, you will indicate to us that you have had this discussion. Another great communication resource for us to take advantage of is our website. Each teacher has their own page that you can access via [www.calgaryartsacademy.com](http://www.calgaryartsacademy.com). We will update our pages frequently and will make sure all assignments and contracts will be posted there for your convenience. We also communicate by group email. Our team is hoping to send a weekly email, updating

you with the latest news. Please make sure you have provided us with an email address that you check often.

House Jackson teachers and artists are looking forward to a creative school year full of collaboration, communication, and FUN!

- Ms. L. Twa

## News from the Kings

Year 9 students are excited to begin our year in humanities with a cross-curricular exploration of Beat Poetry and the Youth Criminal Justice Act. Year 8 students will be mixing things up by working with the new best seller, William Shakespeare's *Star Wars*, which is set in feudal Japan. House KING is in for an exciting year.

In Science this term, Year 8 students will work on a unit on Matter and Mixtures. Afterwards, we will be learning about Cells and Systems. Year 9 students will begin the term with a unit on Electricity after which they will move on to Biological Diversity.

- Mrs. J. Colgan

- Mr. D. Thomas

## From the Principal

Continued from Page 1

We believe these Houses are excellent multi-aged groups that provide strong peer mentorship, leadership opportunities, varied instructional approaches and a strong opportunity to collaborate. Additionally, our Artist team will be working with different Houses throughout the course of the school year. This fresh approach will keep things new and exciting for all our students.

The early response to the revamped music program at the Middle School has been very positive. We are excited to offer so much variety and choice to our students in terms of music. Although all

students were not enrolled in their first selection, we do believe that the variety of choices coupled with the high quality instructors will make an enormous impact on Calgary Arts Academy students. Please make an effort to stop by our middle school campus on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons to get a feel for the music program in action.

Our Physical Education director, Mr. Lindsay, is working to ensure that our Glenmeadows students have incredible opportunities in PE. He is scheduling special opportunities for students throughout the school year. Please ensure that you check your child's agenda daily for the latest news as it relates to Physical Education.

Our school theme for the 2013-14 school year is *Be the Change*. This theme is a modified version of Ghandi's famous quote "Be the change that you wish to see in the world." This theme is about choosing to make a positive difference in the world. I believe that by empowering youth to make small changes in their classrooms, our school, and our city, students will feel prepared to be spirited citizens who stand up for what they believe in and choose to make a difference in our world. If we are successful in this regard, we will have done our jobs as educators.

I hope that you plan to join us for Meet the Teacher nights on September 11th and 12th (see the school calendar for details.) These are important evenings where you will have the opportunity to meet your child's teachers, artists and other staff members. Additionally, you will have an opportunity to ask questions and get a sense of how the year is starting off.

We are glad you have chosen to be a part of our community. Together, we can empower our children to love learning, love life, and be positive and spirited citizens. I encourage you all to come by our schools often and be engaged in everything that happens at Calgary Arts Academy.

Have a great year!

- Mr. J. Van Beers

# Music, Music, Music

In Music at the Glenmeadows Campus, we have gotten right back into the swing of things. We have spent time on the djembe drums, singing familiar songs and playing music games.

The last two weeks at the Knob Hill campus have been spent organizing the band room and getting to know the students. I am looking forward to an exciting new year! A big thanks goes out to all the volunteers who painted the band room. The space is a little brighter because of you.

- Ms. G. Lyons

### Music making is...

**Emotional** – because music can express a wide range of feelings and thoughts. Making music in groups is powerful.

**Intellectual** – because music making can simultaneously engage thought processes that are linguistic, spatial, kinesthetic, scientific, mathematical and sensory.

**Physical** – because the activities require a large range of gross and fine motor coordination.

**Psychological** – because there are opportunities for the development of self-discipline and self-worth as students participate and have successful experiences.

**Social** – because part of the music making process requires cooperation, interaction with and respect for the contribution of others.

**Spiritual** – because music is the expression of the soul and spirit.



# Kids' Health

## No microwave for lunches? No problem!

If your child's school doesn't have microwave ovens to use you can still send your child to school with a tasty and healthy lunch! For the new school year, try these 'no microwave needed' lunch ideas:

**Yummy dippers:** Pack hummus with a whole grain pita, carrot sticks, celery sticks or apple slices for dipping. Add a piece of low fat cheese or a small container of milk.

**Build your own wrap:** Let your child choose a low fat cheese (cheddar, mozzarella, marble), sliced ham, tofu or chicken, and vegetables (lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers) to wrap in a whole grain tortilla. Add canned or fresh mixed fruit.

**Stuffed pita:** Chop up leftover cooked chicken, turkey or beans and put inside a sliced whole grain or a few mini pitas. Add bell peppers and shredded lettuce. Complete the meal with yogurt and a pear.

**Homemade soup:** Combine diced cooked chicken, reduced salt chicken stock, cut up fresh vegetables, whole wheat pasta and spices into a pot; boil until vegetables and pasta are cooked; transfer to a thermos. Add a whole grain bun, an orange and small container of milk.

**Leftovers:** Some foods can be eaten cold rather than hot, such as homemade pizza and hamburgers.

*Pitas stuffed with leftover chicken are a great idea for school lunchboxes.*



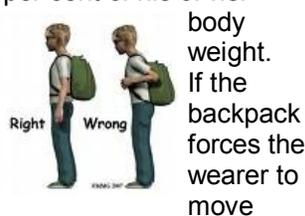
## Back to school ... back to backpacking

**Backpack safety in four steps...**

**Step 1: Choose Right.** Choose a pack with two padded shoulder straps and preferably a waist belt.

Choose a pack that fits you, not too big.

**Step 2: Pack Right.** Load heaviest items close to back. Never let a child carry more than 15 per cent of his or her



forward to carry, it's overloaded.

**Step 3: Lift Right.** Face the pack, bend at the knees, use both hands and check the weight of the pack. Lift with the legs and apply one shoulder strap and then the other.

**Step 4: Wear Right.** Always wear both shoulder straps to prevent damaging the spine. Pack it light. Wear it right.



*Now that children are back in school, it's a good time to ensure they're using and wearing their backpacks properly.*

# September 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <i>- Labour Day, no classes</i>	3 <i>- School Council Meeting, GM, 7:00pm</i> <i>- Girls' Volleyball Evaluation, 3:30pm KH</i> <i>- Special lunch orders begin</i>	4 <i>- Girls' Volleyball Evaluation, 3:30pm KH</i>	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 <i>- Meet the Teacher, GM, 7:00pm</i>	12 <i>- Meet the Teacher, KH, 7:00pm</i> <i>- Adult Choir begins, GM, 7:00pm</i>	13	14
15	16 <i>- Professional Day, no classes</i>	17	18 <i>- Deadline for special lunch orders</i>	19 <i>- Year 6 trip to the Aerospace Museum</i>	20 <i>- Art Harvest, GM, 3:00 to 8:00pm</i>	21
22	23	24	25 <i>- Special lunch</i>	26	27	28
29	30					