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Registrations for siblings of CAA students are due January 31, 2014.



Check the **status of buses** at myschoolbusmonitor.ca



Calgary Arts Academy Awards

An enthusiastic audience of 1,700 enjoyed the annual Winter Celebration at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium on Monday, December 2, 2013.

Throughout this newsletter, you will find various comments about this impressive show.

Enjoy!



From the Principal

Despite Jack Frost's great efforts to curtail our annual Winter Celebration, it turned out to be a fantastic event. It was wonderful to see so many people filling the theatre despite the cold, snowy, and blustery conditions outside. This celebration of community, music, art, and, most importantly, our incredible students is an important aspect to our school programming.

In my mind, this process, which can certainly be challenging, is an excellent opportunity for students to develop the skills and attributes that will lead them to be successful in life. The process teaches perseverance, focus, and dedication, while building confidence, collaborative skills and creativity in our students.

As I mentioned earlier, it is not an easy process. Students and staff alike work very hard to make this a successful endeavor. It is this level of focus and effort that is so important to facilitate growth in our students.

When thinking about this process, I am reminded of a famous quote by T.S. Eliot that states "If you are not in over your head, how do you know how tall you are?" To me, this means that we all need to push ourselves to new heights. If we don't, we will never know what we are capable of achieving.

Throughout the rehearsal process, students are pushed to reach new heights. They are supported along the way in order to ensure that everyone has a level of accomplishment and 'payoff' after the performance. That being said, it can be arduous along the way. Students and staff, can both become frustrated at points. Overcoming this frustration and feeling and seeing the success of perseverance is an important lesson. Our job as educators is to push

students to that perfect point where they struggle but can successfully overcome those struggles to meet success. Naturally, this point is different in each student. From experiences like this one, human beings develop greater confidence while recognizing that hard work really does payoff.

I was particularly pleased this year with the amount of input students had in the development of their performance pieces, particularly at the older levels. Students were afforded the opportunity to contribute their ideas and work collaboratively to determine what would work on stage. This creative process on such a large scale is certainly a good opportunity to develop creative thinking and special reasoning skills. Developing these attributes in a real world performance is far more impactful than working in a traditional form. I firmly believe that this Arts centric learning has far more benefits than learning from a textbook could ever provide. The fact that it is real and you receive feedback from an audience is enormously powerful.

As I stated earlier, participating in and developing a performance is an important part of our school programming. We learn by performing, we learn by doing real world things; not just by talking about them. Putting on a show on a grande scale is a grande opportunity to learn. Thank you for supporting this process and making it an important learning tradition at Calgary Arts Academy.

- Mr. J. Van Beers



Fitzgerald House News

Kindergarten

November was a busy and exciting month in Kindergarten, as students prepared for the CAA Awards show!

Students explored the themes of friendship and belonging through literature, song, drama and visual art. Mr. Cam worked with them to create beautiful friendship themed photographs and artwork that were displayed in the video presentation during the Kindergarten performance number. To take a closer look at this artwork, please stop by your child's classroom.

Students also enjoyed working with Mr. Steve, who created the fabulous choreography for 'You've Got a Friend in Me' and 'Fame.'

It was exciting to see the students take the stage and show off all their hard work. We hope you enjoyed the show!

- Ms. J. Gandar

- Ms. C. Mills

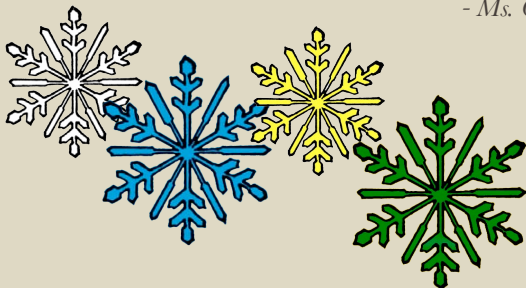
Year 1

The Jubilee Winter Celebration performance was a focus for Fitzgerald House last month. Year 1 students did an excellent job in rehearsals and brought their best effort to the stage for the big night on December 2nd. Our singing piece, "Swingin' on A Star," was a favourite.

They were especially proud of the small sculptures that were created as imagery for the background slides during our song. The song tells a humorous, but cautionary tale about the consequences of not doing your best: "If you don't really like to go to school, you could grow up to be a mule!" and "If you don't care a feather or a fig, you could grow up to be a pig!" and "If that sort of life is what you wish, you could grow up to be a fish!" Our students sang clear and strong on performance night and the smiles from both students and parents at the end of the show were abundant.

During Parent/ Teacher Conferences, each of the three Year 1 classes was very proud to present their completed shoebox apartment as part of our "Fitzgerald Towers" project. The design and creation of these towers spanned Term 1 and involved many cross-curricular activities. Each student had their own apartment in the tower to fill with various pieces that related to community, self-awareness and math. The students voted on two services for their tower: one service that their community would need, and one service their community would want. They designed the architectural arrangement of the towers, as well as the landscaping in front. Each class had a specific season to consider. Mr. Cam Bourque, our visual artist for this term, worked within the classroom with the students and the classroom teacher on this project.

- Ms. C. Dickson



Shoebox Apartment Tower: Spring
Ms. Dickson's class



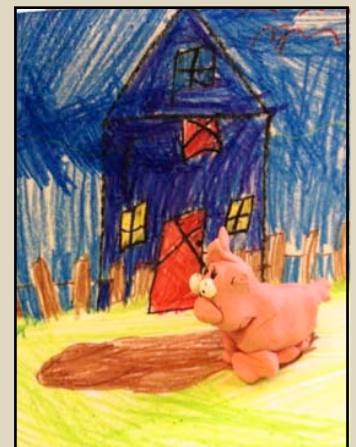
Shoebox Apartment Tower: Summer
Ms. Gomke's class



Shoebox Apartment Tower: Fall
Ms. Laforet's class



These small statues, created by Year 1 students, were used as imagery for the background slides during their song at the Winter Celebration at the Jube.



Spielberg House News

The students deserve a giant round of applause for all of their hard work getting ready for Jubilee as well as for a wonderful performance. We are extremely proud of them!

Post our Jubilee Calgary Arts Academy Awards, Spielberg House will be busy swimming, skating, painting, acting, writing, reading and working on number sense. We look forward to continuing our exploration of India as well as Sound and Hearing. We are continuing our Home Reading Contract, so please remind your child to exchange their book frequently.

Please remember to continue to send a water bottle and indoor gym shoes daily. Also, appropriate outdoor clothing is always important as we are outside almost everyday.

We wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season!

- Ms. L. Allen

Da Vinci House News

November was a month packed full of rehearsals and curriculum. Congratulations to all the performers and staff who put on another amazing show at the Jubilee.

December will also be a very busy month. We welcome visual artist Mr. Cam to the Year 4/5 team. Mr. Cam will be working in the classroom with teachers and students to deliver the Science curriculum.

Year 4 students will be studying Light and Shadow and Year 5 students will be studying Classroom Chemistry.

Remember that December 9 to 13 is swimming lessons. December 19th is skating and a special sharing assembly where Year 5 students will introduce Kindergarten students to the school.

Now that the cold weather has set in, please make sure that your child comes to school dressed appropriately. If it is above -20, they will be going outside at lunch.

- Ms. N. Williams

Jackson House News

House Jackson educators are incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication that went in to creating this years' Jubilee production.

Students had to the opportunity to work on 2 pieces, one choreographed by Leanne Kidd and the other a singing act. It was incredible to see 50 students on stage moving to the beat of Top Gun, Titanic, Skyfall and Footloose!

December is a short month for us but we are excited to work with Ed Mitchell, resident dance artist, and Riley Ohler, resident musical theatre artist. They will be working with both grade groups for the duration of Term 2. Mr. Riley will focus on social studies and Mr. Ed will work on patterning in mathematics.

- Mrs. L. Twa

King House News

We are very proud of the student directors who volunteered to choreograph the Eye of the Tiger and Bare Necessities. Through this process they tried out a variety of directorial visions and were true collaborators with Mr. Rasporich, Mrs. Colgan and Mr. Riley.

We are looking forward to the new Social Studies learning groups and starting a unit on consumerism in Year 9 and the Renaissance in Year 8.

This month in Math, Year 8 students are studying integer operations and will display their knowledge with a visual presentation. Year 9 students will be wrapping up their unit on powers and exponents, and are currently creating a visual example of exponential growth.

- Mr. D. Catley
- Mr. S. Rasporich



CAA Wrestlers represented incredibly well at the C.A.A.A. Junior High League Wrestling match. They won the sportsmanship award, plus 3 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze awards. Congrats, Team!



School Council News

Thank you to everyone who supported the CAA Holiday Basket Raffle at the Jubilee Auditorium performance on December 2nd. We received so many wonderful donations from our community and were able to raffle off 10 amazing baskets. Tickets sales were once again a huge success - and congratulations to all the lucky winners!

The next School Council and School Council Society meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11th at 7:00 at the Knob Hill Campus. As always, all parents are welcome to attend. (There is no meeting in January). Should you have any questions about School Council and our initiatives, please feel free to contact us at council@calgaryartsacademy.com.

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Mark January 16th, 2014 on your calendar for another fun and interactive parent learning session presented by School Council. More information will be circulated soon!

On behalf of School Council, we wish everyone a very happy and restful Winter Break. See you in the New Year!



FOR THE LOVE OF CHILDREN MOVIE

For the Love of Children
Society of Alberta

The song is performed by Canadian country artist and songwriter, Ron McNeill and the Calgary Arts Academy Children's Choir, under the direction of Georgie Lyons.

The song is a heart felt ballad, capturing the passion, hard work and love, of a society dedicated to helping children around the world. With scheduled screenings in Nepal, India, Peru, Mexico and Canada, (Toronto, Vancouver, and Calgary) Ron and Georgie are honored and excited that their song will reach international audiences, and raise awareness for less fortunate children around the world.

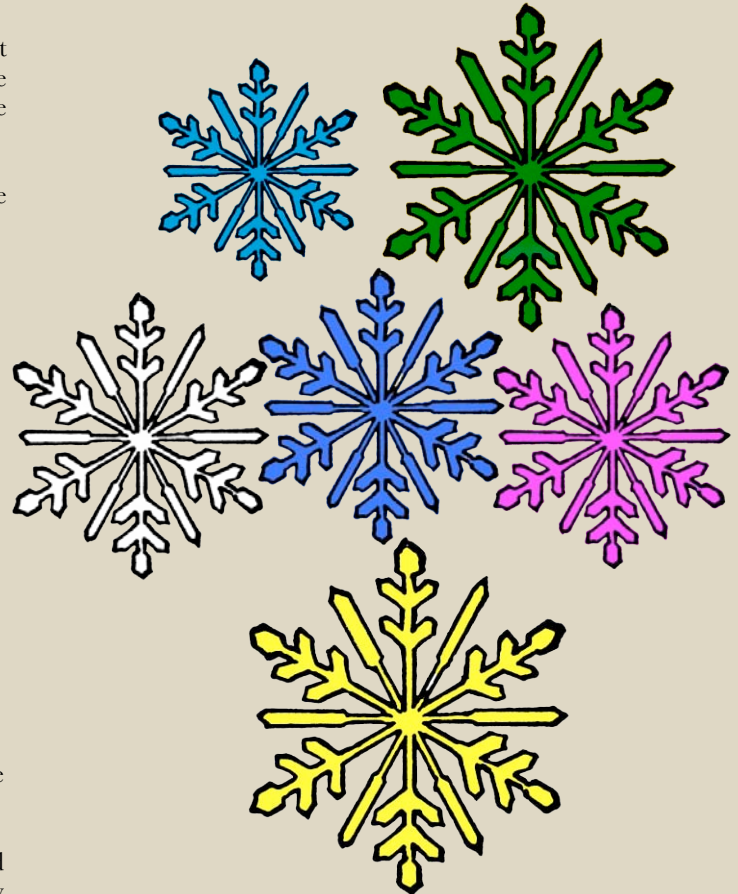
<http://www.fortheloveofchildrenmovie.com/index.html>

- Ms. G. Lyons

In April 2012 students from Year 3 to 6 were invited to take part in an exciting project singing background accompaniment on the song "Let It Burn," for the documentary "For The Love Of The Children: The Movie."

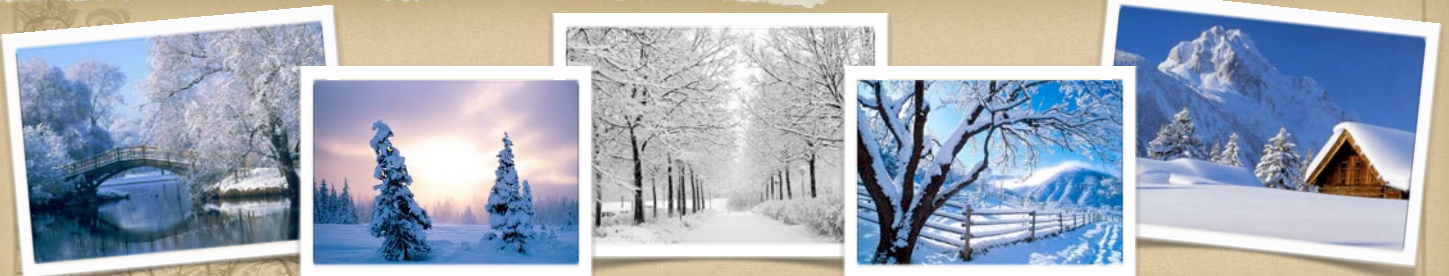
The following students dedicated their time and talent to the project to help create a beautiful ballad for the movie:

Robyn S	Teagan G
Tavyn D	Lauren Z
Auslen D	Elycia E
Emma S	Sebastian D
Siena W	Fiona P
Maddi R	Aleya M
Randi L	Nadine C
Dani L	Cadence G
Breton T	Olivia P
Kristin H	Firus M
Madison G	Callum W
Rhythm S	Sterling D
Milo D	Payton D
Mika K	Anastasia P



All students involved will be invited to a private screening when the film comes to Calgary.

Singers, songwriters and producers, Ron McNeill and Georgie Lyons are thrilled to be bringing their Canadian country and roots music to the world stage. Their song, Let it burn (Set my soul on fire,) will be featured in the movie, "For The Love of The Children." Starring philanthropist and Hollywood actor, Angelina Joli, his Holiness, Dalai Lama, Canadian award winning producer/director, James Sinclair and founder and president of "The For The Love of The Children," society, Ashid Bahl. This film has been selected to premiere at the 2013 Monaco International Film Festival, taking place December 6-8 2013.





Get creative for those 'special event' meals

Special event days such as class parties, dances, and track and field events, are a fun way to gather together and celebrate. They are also a great time to have healthy and tasty food choices for students, teachers, families, or the whole community! As parents, often you are asked to provide food for celebrations.

Check with your child's teacher about what food or drink is needed, or if there are any foods to avoid. Below are some ideas for foods you can make or buy.

Foods you can prepare in advance:

- Pasta salad, with fun-shaped whole grain pasta, chopped vegetables, grated low fat cheese and an Italian type dressing.
- Sandwiches or wraps using whole grain breads, lean meats, assorted vegetables, low fat shredded cheese, mustard, or hummus.
- Colourful fruit or vegetable kabobs with yogurt dip.
- Banana splits made with frozen yogurt and fresh fruit toppings.
- Healthier baked goods, such

as muffins, squares or cookies made with whole grains and fruit.

- Fruit and milk based desserts such as yogurt parfaits made with low fat yogurt and frozen fruit.
- Healthier fruit punch made by combining 100-per cent fruit juice, club soda and fresh or frozen fruit chunks. Limit punch to a half-cup per child.



Consider bringing fruit kabobs to your child's next event.

Try these ready to serve items from the store:

- Pre-made fruit or vegetables trays
 - Apple wedges
 - Bananas, easy to peel oranges or sliced fruit salad
 - Small 100-per cent fruit juice boxes
 - Small cartons (250ml) of milk
 - A tray of whole grain wraps or sandwiches with vegetables and lean meats
 - Whole grain cereal and milk
 - Whole grain crackers or pita with hummus
 - Low-salt pretzels or trail mix
 - Low-fat cheese portions
 - Low-fat yogurt in individual containers or yogurt tubes
- For more information about special event days, please visit www.albertahealthservices.ca



Dress for the cold!

Winter is a wonderful time of year. Dressing for the cold allows you and your children to be outside enjoying the fresh air.

It's important to be warm and dry in the winter so remember these tips:

- Dress in layers.
- Be aware of the weather and dress accordingly.
- Adjust clothing for the activity.
- Don't forget your hat and sunglasses.

Keeping the smile intact...

Do you and your child have smile protection when playing sports?

- Mouthguards work like shock absorbers.
- They help prevent painful and costly mouth injuries.
- Thousands of people every year suffer from injuries to teeth, lips, tongue and cheeks.

Where can you get a mouthguard?

- A custom fit mouthguard made by your family dentist gives the best protection and comfort.
- Sporting goods stores sell pre-formed mouthguards for you to fit at home.

December 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Winter Celebration	3 Parent Conferences	4 Parent Conferences	5	6	7
8	9 -Years 1 to 5 Swimming	10 -Years 1 to 5 Swimming	11 -Years 1 to 5 Swimming -School Council Meeting -Special Lunch	12 -Years 1 to 5 Swimming	13 -Years 1 to 5 Swimming -Loonie Toonie Drive ends	14
15	16	17 -Knob Hill Sharing Assembly 9:45am	18 -Mr R's Be the Change Group to Heartland Agency	19	20 -Winter Break, no classes	21
22	23 -Winter Break, no classes	24 -Winter Break, no classes	25 -Winter Break, no classes	26 -Winter Break, no classes	27 -Winter Break, no classes	28
29	30 -Winter Break, no classes	31 -Winter Break, no classes				

Coming in January:

- January 7 - Classes resume after winter break
- January 15 - Special Lunch - Panago Pizza
- January 16 - Parent Workshop (stay tuned for details)
- January 29 - Special Lunch

