

# The Art of Learning

CAA Newsletter

September 2017

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INSPIRING  
INNOVATION

This year's theme -  
Inspiring Innovation!

An amazing group of dedicated CAA parents installed the new playground at the Knob Hill campus this summer.



## From the Principal

I am very pleased with our 15th year start up at Calgary Arts Academy. This year, of course is particularly exciting. We began our physical moves over the summer. It is wonderful to see Knob Hill Elementary Campus come alive as students and facilitators collaborate to create magical learning environments. School Council, parents and community members did an outstanding job creating an outdoor class room and mud kitchen as well as updating the playground equipment. Our youngest students are settling into their new school campus wonderfully!

Middle School students have been building relationships with each other as well as with their facilitators. They have been learning about the pillars of our school and working towards creating entertainment for our entire school community at our 15th annual Pancake Breakfast.

As always, the 2017-2018 school year will be filled with incredible learning opportunities.

**Our students are empowered to design their learning experiences ...**

Our students are empowered to design their learning experiences, focusing on individual student strengths with cross-curricular fine arts projects as a core to the educational experience. Rather than separating and focusing on subjects

like Math or Social Studies and then fitting the arts into the learning process, the fine arts projects are the centrepiece through which the learning of the subjects is achieved. Research has shown this to be a more natural learning process than traditional teaching practices. Some fine arts projects may be smaller in scale and some might be larger, such as Showcases and our Winter Celebration at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. Small or large, the project is the vehicle in which the curriculum is delivered.

As we work towards our goal of 100% cross-curricular, Arts Immersion learning, the role of the learning facilitator (teachers and artists) becomes an integral part of a collaborative team. These teams become incredibly interdependent in planning projects that deliver the Alberta curriculum. The team facilitates curriculum delivery and assessment collaboratively. Our artists become teachers and our teachers become artists. The team then is made up of people who bring their diverse specialties and training to the group where they build on each other's strengths as facilitators of learning.

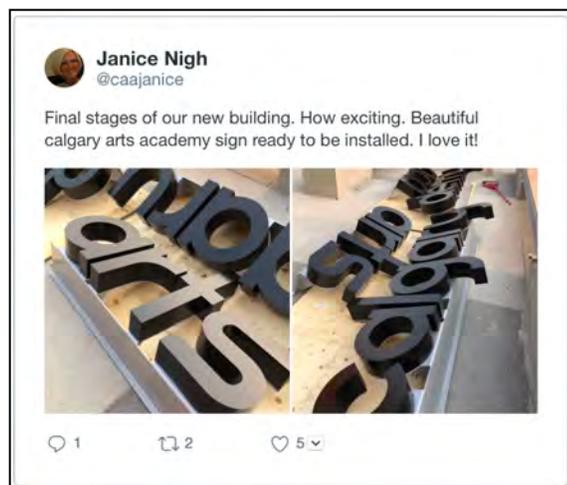
Through our student-centred approach, students achieve academic excellence and are inspired to be creative, curious, kind, empathetic and engaged individuals in preparation to lead in their communities.

This is what makes Calgary Arts Academy unique!

We are very fortunate to be a part of a vibrant extended community that values the arts, education, and young people.

Thank you all for choosing to be a member of our community and for working with us to help all children succeed.

Have a fantastic year everyone!



Staff had some fun during their professional development days in August.

- Ms. M. Stonehouse

# Kindy / Year 1 News



This year's Kindergarten / Year 1 team is really going places this fall!



After spending some time getting to know our classmates, we are ready to explore many different places in our school and community.

Kindergarten classes have been investigating the new outdoor classroom and mud kitchen area. We even had a chance to plant bulbs in the planter boxes and are excited to see what flowers start growing come spring. A huge thank you to Mr. Lewis and his building crew of Julia Brown, Everett Sprenger, Kade Paul, and Autumn Melvin-Minion for creating them. We are very grateful for you all being so generous with your time and talents!



Meanwhile, Year 1 students have been busy collecting and sorting beautiful stuff. We have taken the beautiful bits they found and are turning them into a vibrant alphabet. In the coming weeks, both Kindergarten and Year 1 students will explore new places and how to get there through poetry, painting, vehicle design, and movement.



## Going Places in Year 2/3



We've been having a lovely time getting to know our classes during the first week of school.

We have already been introduced our first theme of Going Places (See the picture).



Singing Mindfulness, dancing the Circle of Courage, and acting out Problem Solving are all simple examples of Arts Immersion at work while getting ourselves up to speed on the pillars of our school.



## From Kim & Rhonda

Thank you to all of the Calgary Arts Academy families and staff for such a warm, welcoming start to the school year. What a privilege it is to be administrators in service to a community committed to the unique mission to create a collaborative, democratic learning environment through Arts Immersion! Our students have been busily learning about the four pillars of Calgary Arts Academy as they create a strong spirit of belonging during our first two weeks together. The foundations of our work together are the Circle of Courage, Developmental Assets, Contract Learning in a Multi-aged Environment, and Democratic Discipline. Please check out the CAA website to gain greater insight into the unique culture of our school.

Kimberly Hoey and Rhonda Morrison  
Knob Hill Campus Administrators



### CAA School Council Rocks!

Have you seen the new playground equipment? It is so wonderful to see the joy on the children's faces as they spin and jump and play on the new playground. All of the hours in planning and constructing the structures have made such a difference in our transition to the Knob Hill Campus!

Have you ever played in a "mud kitchen"? Thank you to School Council for having the old play place removed and installing a place for children to muck about and enjoy creative play. The garden space will provide a place for connecting our learning to nature and the real world. We know the spaces will be well-used and loved. Much appreciated!



### Wasps, Wasps, and More Wasps!

As much as we love nature, the wasps on the playground were really starting to bug us.

Thanks to parents and our facility operators for taking on the challenge of searching for and trying to control the wasp population.



## Knob Hill Housekeeping Items

### **Starting and Ending the Day Together**

Thank you to all families for contributing to the success of our first two weeks of school. Your attention to bus zones, parking, and drop off areas is greatly appreciated! We will continue to monitor the drop off and pickup procedures and make adjustments to ensure that the all important start and end to the days are as safe and smooth as possible.

### **Where are the bus and drop off zones?**

Please remember that our buses will park on 19 Avenue. It is important to leave this area open for the buses between 8:15 and 9:00 a.m. and 2:45 and 4:00 p.m. The parent drop off is along 19 Street. There is access to the playground from 19 Street and from 19 Avenue. We will open the gates along 19 Avenue beside the buses in the morning and after school to allow for easier access to the playground for families. For the safety of all, the staff parking lot is for staff only and we are in the process of marking an easy access parking space.

### **Which doors will children use to enter and exit Knob Hill Campus?**

Kindergarten students will enter and exit directly into their classroom through the doors on the lower level. Year 1 to 3 students will enter and exit through the courtyard doors just to the north of the Kindergarten doors. We are trying to ensure that students are safely away from the parking lot at all times.

### **What about busing procedures?**

Our Kindergarten to Year 3 staff are exceptionally diligent when it comes to student safety. There is an appointed bus monitor to greet bus students in the morning and direct them through the big gates onto the playground. After school, there is also a bus monitor to ensure that our little ones get onto the bus to go home. Thank you for notifying the office if your child's bus plans change.

### **Who can pick up my child?**

Please come to the office to sign out your child if you need to pick them up during the school day. This includes pickup during the lunch hour. Please provide advance notice.

The school requires authorization to release a child into the care of an adult other than the parent. If there are any changes with pick up, please notify the classroom teacher by email and copy the office at [mfischer@caaschool.com](mailto:mfischer@caaschool.com) so that we can release your child to another person.

## A Parade of Year 4/5 Students

One of the most important times of the year are these first few weeks. The students and staff on the Year 4/5 team have been working to develop our strong community, learn about our pillars and are beginning to come together so that we are able to take risks and do amazing things. We had a large scale parade that we presented to the rest of the school.

Using the Design process, we got together on the very first days to plan and create a parade for the end of the first week. We collaborated in mixed groups to create floats, banners, costumes, mascots, dances and hosted the parade.

The second week of school was spent working with Year 6 to 9 students on a massive undertaking to create community presentations for the pancake breakfast. The homerooms broke off into groups to show many talents and skills at the pancake breakfast.

The first term of options began on Wednesday, August 30. Feel free to ask your students about the amazing arts centred work they are doing in their options. Our first project of the year is *End of an Era*. It will culminate in a final presentation on September 29th to wrap up our time at Glenmeadows. Stay tuned for more information and a contract.

This year our team has chosen to follow the lead of the Year 6/7 team in scheduling. Students will experience project time where we will be creating large scale projects as a 4/5 cohort. We will spend 45 minutes or more a day in this large group designing, building and creating. Outside of project time, we will have workshops that will be both levelled and multi-aged cross curricular experiences led by our staff in smaller groups. These sessions will focus on the curricular outcomes that are being used in our large project. Our new Phys-Ed plan has a large Daily Physical Activity (DPA) program as outline by the Alberta Program of Studies, mixed in with the skills of Phys-Ed. Each student will participate in DPA throughout the day at times that fit within our projects. Music will also continue with Mr. Thorson in our projects as well as on a weekly basis through our workshop time.



## DANCING IN YEAR 6/7

The 6/7 team has hit the ground running this school year.

We've been busy in our homerooms building and enhancing our community. For the first ten days we have been creating a dance movement piece inspired by the famous international dance Rosa

Danst Rosas. We have been learning movement sequences and creating our own choreography to describe our 6/7 community.

Some of our inspirational words are: Creative, Inspiring, Undefinable, Bold and Unique. We presented our dance at the first sharing assembly and we will be filming our dance so that we can submit it to the Re: Rosas dance project.

For more information on the Re: Rosas international dance project check out the website:  
<http://www.rosasdanstrosas.be/en-home/>

# YEAR 8/9 IN A GALAXY FAR FAR AWAY

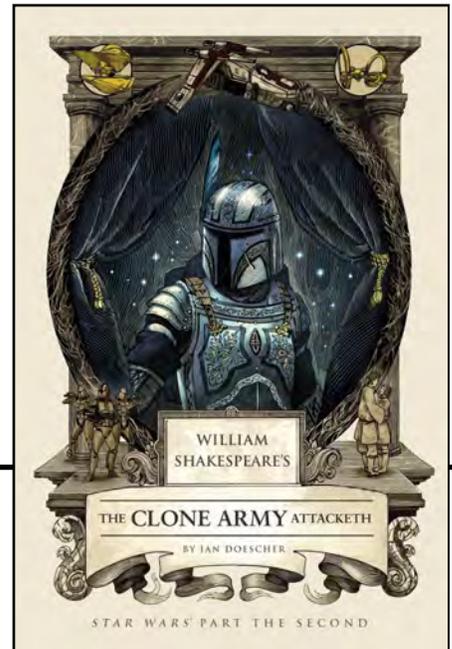
The 8/9 Team is about to once again travel to a place long long ago in a galaxy far far away for this year's production of William Shakespeare's Star Wars. This year's production is *Episode II- The Clone Army Attacketh*. Through producing this ambitious work, students and staff in Year 8 and 9 will be going deep into our learning as we develop skills in acting, directing, technical theatre and design. Look for more information to become available regarding performance times as we aim for a performance date of November 2nd.

Students in Year 8 and 9 will be working within a new timetable this term that expands significantly on literacy and numeracy skills as we continue to approach our learning through Arts Immersion. In addition to the time spent on developing projects, we will also have scheduled time for focusing on skill development in Math as well as in reading and writing with the support of the entire 8/9 team of facilitators. There are also blocks set for physical literacy, practical science and global studies. These are opportunities for students to go deeper into the content explored in their production and design classes.

This year's 8/9 team members are -

Mr. Scott McAdam- [smcadam@caaschool.com](mailto:smcadam@caaschool.com)  
Ms. Jacqueline Strilchuk- [jstrilchuk@caaschool.com](mailto:jstrilchuk@caaschool.com)  
Ms. Leah Elder- [lelder@caaschool.com](mailto:lelder@caaschool.com)  
Ms. Hailey McLeod- [hmcLeod@caaschool.com](mailto:hmcLeod@caaschool.com)  
Mr. Carl White- [cwhite@caaschool.com](mailto:cwhite@caaschool.com)  
Mr. Dylan Thomas - [dthomas@caaschool.com](mailto:dthomas@caaschool.com)  
Mr. S. Rasporich - [strasporich@caaschool.com](mailto:strasporich@caaschool.com)

We look forward to continuing the adventure together as we create, learn and grow together as we prepare for our new beginning on the Youth Campus.



## Healthy Children

[Click here for Alberta Health Service's "Healthy Children" Newsletter](#)

## Healthy Teens

[Click here for Alberta Health Service's "Healthy Teens" Newsletter](#)