

The Art of Learning

We all have a story to tell ...



Calgary Opera at CAA's Elementary Campus

From the Principal

Alberta's Public Charter Schools are an important and unique feature in the landscape of education in Alberta and Canada.

Over the February break a special TIME edition magazine caught my eye. The issue was titled **The Science of Creativity**. I found the articles exciting as science has come a long way at looking at neural networks that underlie inspiration and invention. Research about the biological, intellectual and emotional forces that fuel creativity is reassuring when I think about the opportunities and experiences our students are exposed to.

Particularly interesting to me was the article titled **When Schools Get Creative** by Katie Riley. In the article we are reminded that the 2016 report by the World Economic Forum predicted that the top three job skills will be creativity, critical thinking, complex problem solving. This is not new information for Calgary Arts Academy, however, it is certainly relevant to what we do everyday.



Pink Shirt Day
Page 2



Calgary Opera at Knob Hill
Page 3



100th Day of School
Page 4

Also
Knob Hill News, 3
Division News, 4
CAA Pumas, 7
Links, 7

Riley finds that creativity advocates call for a radical overhaul to the education system to ensure students are getting the skills that they will need when they join the workforce. Some can only find this type of creativity in private schools, that can be more flexible. She highlights a school a private school in the U.S. called Primoris Academy with tuition ranging upwards of \$25,000 USD. Primoris has creativity as a core tenet of its curriculum, grouping students in multi-aged groups, focussing on hands on learning activities, encouraging failure and then revision, providing open ended tasks and fostering collaboration. I had to read this twice! This sounds like the work we do at Calgary Arts Academy! However, as a public charter school, we do not have tuition.

Alberta's Public Charter Schools are an important and unique feature in the landscape of education in Alberta and Canada. I believe that parents should have educational choices for their children. Collectively, we have unique curriculum delivery mandates that allow us the flexibility and nimbleness to serve our respective student populations. At Calgary Arts Academy we deliver the Alberta curriculum through our Arts Immersion model. We know that we are preparing our children well for the future by facilitating creativity, critical thinking and complex problem solving opportunities for our students.

Exciting new learning contracts have either just come home or will be coming home shortly. I ask that you take a good look at these contracts to see both the Alberta Curriculum being delivered as well as the creative, open ended and collaborative nature that is the vehicle for learning.

Happy Spring!



PINK SHIRT DAY - FEBRUARY 27

Thank you to CAA School Council for contributing to the spirit of generosity on Pink Shirt Day.

School Council purchased fifty t-shirts last year to ensure that all students could wear a pink shirt and feel the spirit of belonging on our anti-bullying awareness day. In addition to classroom discussions, Knob Hill classes came together to create a "sea of pink shirts" and celebrate how we accept and take care of each other at Calgary Arts Academy.

CAA Teachers are Artists Too!

Ms. Baker, CAA Year 4/5 Teacher, was honoured to be chosen to participate in a collaborative art project with Naheyawin Communications and Edmonton's Fringe Theatre Adventures. She was invited to see the play, Lake of the Strangers in February, and write a poem in response to the play. In June, her poem will be featured at a reflection ceremony with Cree Elders in Edmonton.

Ms. Baker was also busy in March in her role as a respected adjudicator of Speech Arts and Drama festivals. She spent the weekend of March 9 and 10 judging young performers at Presentation Mount Royal University (PMRU), including choosing the scholarship winners at the Parnham Storytelling Competition. Several CAA students were performers at the festival!

Knob Hill News

Polar Bear Walk - February 27

All of our Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2/3 classes participated in the World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) Polar Bear Walk. Last year, Canadian schools helped raised funds to support the WWF conservation efforts to help arctic wildlife, including polar bears and the habitats they call home. This year our Knob Hill students donated toonies and joined other Canadian schools to symbolically walk alongside the polar bears on International Polar Bear Day. Thank you to CAA families for supporting our students' efforts to take hands-on action to help protect nature.

Calgary Opera Performance - March 1

Year 4/5 students joined Knob Hill students to enjoy the fully staged production of Nemorino and the Magic Potion. The show included keyboard accompaniment, sets and costumes and was performed by the young professional singers of Calgary Opera's Emerging Artists Development program. It was a fabulous opportunity for our students to be touched by the magic, wonder and emotion of opera.

Day of Gratitude and Picnic Lunch

Creating a community of acceptance for diversity is central to Calgary Arts Academy. We recognize that families come to us in many and varied forms and want all of our students to feel supported and enjoy the spirit of belonging. After much consideration and concern for all of the students in our care, Calgary Arts Academy has decided to celebrate a "Day of Gratitude" rather than Mother's and Father's Day exclusively. We appreciate your understanding as we endeavor to value and support our wonderfully inclusive families at CAA. Please watch for further information about how Knob Hill Campus will celebrate our significant adults and families.



Unannounced Lockdown Practice

During the first week of March we will conduct an unannounced lockdown practice at Knob Hill Campus. Calgary Police Service recommends that the specific date and time not be announced in advance this time, so that the experience is as authentic as possible. Police constables will again assist with the unannounced lockdown and provide feedback for future practices. Parents and visitors should not be alarmed if they come by the school or phone and we do not respond for a short time. As soon as the practice is over, it will be business as usual. Thank you for your cooperation.

Kindergarten / Year 1 News

February was a busy month for Kindergarten and Year 1 students. We kicked off the month celebrating our 100th day of school. We dressed up as old people and we each brought in 100 items to share with our school. We paraded around the school and saw everyone's 100 day outfits and class projects representing the number 100. We also participated in the Canadian Valentine Swap by making special Valentine cards that were sent to other classes and we received Valentines that other students had made just for us. It was a fun, interesting way to make connections with other classes from across the country and learn about the communities that our new friends are from.

Over the last month we have been learning a lot about Canadian Wildlife. In February, we had a volunteer from the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society (CWRS) come to teach us about hawks. They brought in a Swainson's Hawk named Lito to meet us. We learned about Lito's needs and his species' migration patterns. We also learned how the CWRS helps animals go back to the wild. Lito will never be released back into the wild because his wing is permanently damaged and he will never regain flight.

We have taken interest in arctic animals that live in Canada and are particularly excited about arctic foxes and narwhals! February 27th was World Polar Bear Day. Polar Bears in Hudson Bay walk up to 5000 kilometres across the arctic sea to search for food to raise their cubs. As the climate changes, so does the polar bear's environment. Polar bears rely on the ice and it is beginning to shrink. We raised money to support polar bears through World Wildlife Fund Canada! To show our support we walked 1km in very cold temperatures.

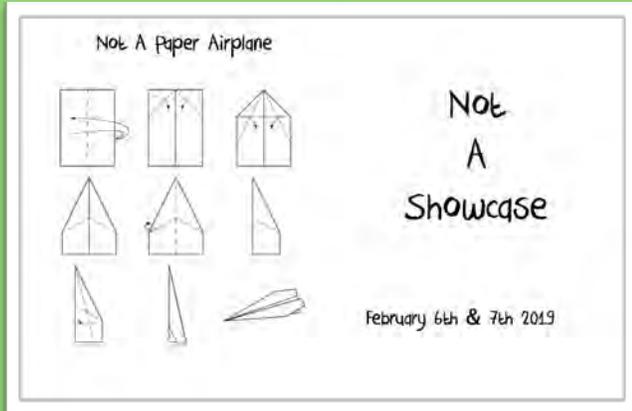
Next, we are excited to learn about the needs of plants and will even start growing our own plants!

Spirit Club: Battery Blitz!

Knob Hill's Spirit Club has accepted the Battery Blitz mission from Earth Rangers to recycle batteries. The challenge will take place from now until March 8, 2019. Please collect and send in as many dead batteries as you can. We will have a box in the main office. Spirit Club will take the collected batteries to the appropriate battery drop-off location to ensure they are properly recycled. For more information check out the Battery Blitz mission on the Earth Rangers website. Thank you for your support!



Year 2/3 News



Year 2/3 Showcase

Thank you to all of the staff and parent volunteers for making our Showcase a huge success!

We are excited to start our new contract “Fun & Games!” We will have the opportunity to explore procedural writing by creating directions to a



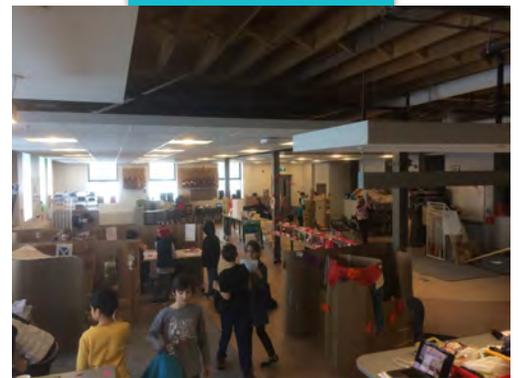
Year 2/3 Students visited the Education Centre

board game we have designed. We will be creating diagrams about animals, tableaus about telling time, magic tricks with magnets and even our own Pokemon cards reflecting our learning about animal life cycles! We will even have the opportunity to escape a “locked classroom!”

Year 4/5 News

The Year 4/5 studio was really busy this past month with the creation and completion of our learning contract “Our own new library”. We started with exploring the amazing new public library to gain inspiration and we were blown away with how a library could be used for so many different things. We used the following month to investigate simple machines, create multiple worlds in our choose-your-own-story adventures on a website called Twinery and dance out collaborative experience in choose-your-own adventure-dances. All of these culminated in a very crafty and innovative library that we built in our studio. Our cafe provided the best gourmet snacks while listening to music, playing in an arcade or having love poems read to us. Gracious tour guides led guests to the eccentric photo booth, the wacky book return machine, or to browse through the pop up books (all student made and lead). Also featured were amazing dioramas that we made, inspired by indigenous stories and the artist Soyeon Kim.

Stay tuned in for our next contract that will be based around scripted theatre from various periods of history!



Year 6/7 News

In the aftermath of our amazing Space Case Showcase, we are preening with pride at our productions. The work we put into our songs, plays, and props paid off tenfold with our two nights of theatrical presentation. We would also like to tip our hats to our amazing volunteers for their time and efforts. Both nights were a success and the auditorium was shoulder to shoulder seating.

In the coming month of March, the Year 6/7 studio will be exploring role playing games with the idea of hosting our own mini ComicCon before Spring Break. We will be utilizing the medium of storytelling and tabletop gaming to develop and enhance the curriculum. In addition, we will be exploring CosPlay, 3D printing, story writing, cartography and a number of other artistic endeavors. We are super excited to be harnessing our tremendous creative energy!

Year 8/9 News

February was a busy month for Year 8/9 as we wrapped up our Fashion Alchemy project and celebrated the tremendous work we accomplished within our fashion houses at the Year 8/9 Fashion Alchemy Runway Show and Expo. Along with a looping runway show that displayed student-designed/constructed outfits, we also presented our business and design plans to the community through multi-modal expo displays. This project had several curricular ties from developing number sense, statistics and probability (creating and presenting a business plan), to digital citizenship (creating social media accounts to promote our brands), informational/formal writing, and economics. We were fully immersed in the creation of our own businesses and created a spectacle for our audience to enjoy.

Vertigo rehearsals have begun and the learning studio is filled with excitement and creativity. This year's Vertigo production is entitled "The Mirage" and is a completely student-developed production.



Calgary Arts Academy Society Board of Directors shoot a short video encouraging people to vote in the upcoming election.

The Mirage resides between worlds. In one world there is fear and the horrors of war and in another reality, a place of wonder and hope. The setting for this year's production is an abandoned cinema, The Mirage, in France during the final days of the Second World War. Here a story of hope and the resilience of the human spirit is told through the history of film as one child realizes that within themselves, lies the key to their salvation. The Mirage is sure to move you, inspire you and take you on a journey to where we can discover the best about ourselves during the worst of times. Please join us for this most poignant of Vertigo productions on April 17th and 18th at Vertigo Theatre. A learning contract for this production will be posted on FreshGrade soon, so stay tuned.



Pumas Badminton will be starting up in March with tryouts occurring on Wednesday, March 6th and Friday, March 8th, both from 3:45 p.m to 5:00 p.m. at the Education Centre gym. Additional information will be sent home with athletes once the teams are decided and competition dates have been finalized.

LINKS

[Donate to CAA \(select CAA Foundation\)](#)

[CAA's Draft 2019-2020 Calendar](#)

[Alberta Health's Healthy Children](#)

[Alberta Health's Healthy Teens](#)