

THE ART OF LEARNING



CHAMPIONS BY DESIGN

Learning From Each Other

**The Alberta Association of
Public Charter Schools**

October 24-25, 2019

CAA Hosts TAAPCS Convention

On October 24 and 25, CAA hosted 13 public charter schools (over 450 people) at the Champions by Design conference at the Youth Campus.

Keynote speaker, Detective Dave Sweet of the Calgary Police Homicide Unit, mesmerized the group with stories of his career, plus his thoughts on leadership and life lessons.

In a campus-like setting, attendees travelled to various locations at Stampede Park's Youth Campus to attend sessions that included The Art of Leadership, The Art of Indigenous Studies, The Art of Mental Wellness and The Art of Research/Best Practices. Mr. Todd Hirsch, CAA Board Chair and ATB Financial Vice President and Chief Economist, provided inspirational words to close the conference.

Led by Ms. Janice Nigh and Mrs. Kimberly Hoey, all CAA staff pitched in to make the conference a total success. Way to go!

Coming up ...

Nov 8 - Remembrance Day Assemblies
Nov 11 - Remembrance Day (no classes)
Nov 12 - PD Day (no classes)
Nov 18 & 29 - Parent Conferences
Dec 6 - Winter celebration at the Jube

Links ...

[19-20 Calendar](#)
[Healthy Children](#)
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Also ...

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Division News

"Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time." - Thomas Merton

From the Principal

It's important that students know how to learn

As we head into the final weeks of our first term this year, Learning Facilitators are sharing how students are doing in their academic learning through report cards and FreshGrade. It is also an opportunity for families to meet with Learning Facilitators to understand how home and school can work together to help each child reach their full potential.

I am reflective of the great work that has been done by students and Learning Facilitators. Our cross curricular Arts Immersion model and academic excellence is a driving force to teaching and learning at Calgary Arts Academy that has many outcomes. One such outcome is to set up our students for success in demonstrating the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for lifelong learning. An important example necessary for lifelong learning is knowing how one learns.

It is important for students to know how to learn in order to gain knowledge, understanding or skills through experience, research and interaction with others. At Calgary Arts Academy, our students value learning and confidently take an active role in exploring a variety of learning opportunities, approaches, and strategies. Students have the opportunity to optimize their learning through our unique learning approach that facilitates skill development, inquiry, discovery, experimentation, and trial and error.

“Students who know how to learn draw on personal and community resources ...”

Students who know how to learn draw on personal and community resources; seek out and interact with others; reflect on their experiences; set goals and are resourceful, resilient and self-reliant in meeting their lifelong learning needs.

At Calgary Arts Academy, our Learning Facilitators design learning opportunities that place a greater emphasis on experiential learning both in and outside of the classroom. They consider the interests, talents, passions and natural curiosities of their students and make information and skills relevant to real-life situations. Our Facilitators use digital technologies purposefully as students design, create and share their knowledge. Finally, our Facilitators choose from a variety of approaches to assess students and offer next steps for learning.

While learning how to learn, our students develop the values of work ethic, self-reliance and responsibility. They use self-reflection to inform life-long learning and wellness choices. They also use community and personal resources to support personal growth and well-being. They also learn to assess their own skills, knowledge, attitudes and values for possible use in various roles and contexts. The importance of knowing how to learn is significant in lifelong learning.

Knob Hill News

Lockdown Practice - November 19

All schools are required to conduct a number of safety drills and practices every year. Lockdown practices help staff and students be prepared for emergency situations that can occur at schools. Our intention is for students to be able to respond quickly and calmly if needed.

Knob Hill School will conduct an announced lockdown practice on November 19 at 10:30 a.m. Procedures for lockdown practices at the Knob Hill Campus have been determined in consultation with Calgary Police Service. Police constables will assist with the lockdown practice and provide feedback for future practices.

A letter will be emailed to parents prior to the lockdown practice containing more information and suggestions for discussing lockdown practices with younger children.

Winter weather is here! Cold weather will be upon us soon so please remember to check the weather forecast and send children to school with warm clothing. Students will have active playtime outside every day unless the thermometer dips below -20 C with the wind chill. Thank you for helping us keep kids active and acclimatized to the weather in our Alberta winters.

Reporting for Kindergarten to Year 3 Students

We look forward to the first report card for the 2019-2020 school year which will be sent home with students on November 22nd. FreshGrade online platform is also an important part of our communication with parents. Posts on FreshGrade are intended to complement the report card information. Parent/Teacher

Conferences which will be held on November 28th and 29th are also an important part of the reporting process.

Year 1 to Year 3 - Year 1 to 3 report card comments are framed by the Circle of Courage. Comments are strength based and provide next steps for continued growth and development. In addition to comments, Year 1 to 3 report cards also contain indicators for core subjects.

Kindergarten - Kindergarten report cards contain Circle of Courage comments which highlight growth and development for the first term of the year. Literacy and Numeracy learning will also be embedded in the comments.

Monster Mash was a blast!

Thank you to our CAA School Council for organizing such an amazing Halloween party for the Kindergarten to Year 3 students and parents. The children had so much fun dancing, making slime, decorating lanterns and creating crafts. The dancing was spooktacular. We appreciated the creative pumpkin decorating by classes and the enthusiasm for the silent auction!



Great fun at Knob Hill's Halloween Monster Mash on October 23.

Knob Hill Spirit Club

We wanted to take a moment to share the initiatives that our Year 1 Spirit Club will support from now until December break. Please take note of the events taking place which we will be looking to our community for donations.

Veterans Food Bank

Knob Hill Campus' Spirit Club is hosting a food drive for the Veterans Food Bank. The Veterans Food Bank strives to be a safe place where veterans can come together to beat hunger. Their goal is to help Veterans of Canada and Allied forces to reintegrate with civilian culture by providing food hampers, social care, social resources such as resume and job hunting tips, clothing, and a social space to engage with other veterans. Please send in donations of non-perishable and unexpired goods to the Knob Hill main office starting November 1st. Donations will be accepted through until November 8th, 2019.

Mitten Tree: starting December 2nd

The mitten tree is back! One of our favourite traditions at CAA is the mitten tree. Students are asked to bring in NEW hats or mittens to decorate the Spirit Club tree. We will also have a Dobby's Sock Box set up next to the tree for students to donate new warm socks. On the 20th of December, the winter gear will be donated to Inn From The Cold. This is a great opportunity for students to help those less fortunate and learn about the spirit of giving.

International Mitten Tree Day is celebrated on December 6th each year, all around the world. While the origins of this holiday are unknown, it is believed that it is in response to the book "The Mitten Tree," by Candace Christiansen. In this story, a grandma knits mittens for children and hangs them on an evergreen tree near a bus stop so that those children waiting for the bus who

don't have mittens can use them to play in the snow. International Mitten Tree Day is a great day for people to celebrate the gift of warmth.

Hot Chocolate Day: Save the Walrus!

We will be hosting a Hot Chocolate Day to raise money to help walrus. We are planning to donate the funds raised to WWF-Canada who are working to safeguard walrus from the human activity that is threatening their habitat. The Atlantic walrus is a massive animal that weighs about the same as a minivan and enjoys flopping around on the ice, and grunting loudly. Walrus play a key role in the food web. They feed on mollusks and other animals at the bottom of the ocean and are important prey for polar bears. Indigenous communities also rely heavily on the walrus as a food source. We need your help to raise funds to help this unique species.

**information will follow, including the specific date that Hot Chocolate Day will take place



Halloween Parade Highlights - We had such a fun day! The Halloween spirit was felt all around the school on Halloween day with our wee learners.

Kindergarten / Year 1 News

The month of October has been a magical whirlwind! As we are wrapping up our first learning contract, Woven Together, we had the privilege to meet a special community helper -Rich the police man! He taught us all about the important work policeman do in our community.

We have been working closely together to create quilts that represents diversity and uniqueness in the classroom. We have been using beets, cabbages, and turmeric to create natural dye for our quilts. We are learning how colours are extracted and blended to create a harmonious art piece to demonstrate how we are all woven together.



Year 2/3 News

October was a fun and very successful month for us. Our immersion in the culinary arts culminated in the magnificent grand opening of the "Le Deux Trois" cafe. We transformed the Knob Hill gym into a Parisian-style cafe, and treated parents to food and entertainment. Working together as a



team, we greeted over 100 guests with a "bonjour", led them to their tables, created delicious food inspired by geology, took orders, served food with grace, and provided both roving and on-stage entertainment. We also enjoyed using our math skills to count up the play money parents paid with for their "amuse bouches."

In October, we thoroughly studied the Rock Cycle, and were treated to a fantastic guest presentation from a professional geologist.

We have been expanding our musical skills by playing xylophones and other instruments, and learning the difference between rhythm and beat.

At the end of October, we went on a wonderful, multi-age field trip to the beautiful Central Library with our Year 6/7 pen-pals where we deepened our understanding of the Dewey Decimal System as we completed scavenger hunts for books.

We head into November filled with enthusiasm for our Jubilee Learning Contract through which we will study the science of engineering, as well as the life cycles of small creatures through our immersion in the performing arts!

Year 4/5 News

This month, we have been working towards the culmination of our One Miserable Day Project. We have been reading through Lemony Snicket's, a series of unfortunate events, and we are finding them equally dismal and entertaining. We have been creating news reports based on extreme weather and natural disasters and have been learning about the magic of green screen. We have also been taking our weather studies further with the investigation of cloud formations while learning about the photography of Ansel Adams with charcoal drawings.

We have eagerly been researching the different people of Canada as well as the effect immigration has had in shaping Canada's rich cultural history. We have been crafting performance and visual art pieces based on our findings of these topics. Our One Miserable Day project was shared on the 1st and we found great enjoyment in sharing stories about our unique characters who are experiencing their own miserable days. More to come from the 4/5 community as we eagerly get started on our Jubilee performances focusing on dreams and fears.



Mary Poppins (Ms. Moore) and Bert (Mr. Tukkimaki) paid a visit to the Education Centre on October 31.

Year 6/7 News

We are looking forward to diving into Jubilee preparations as we welcome Mr. Jeff onto our team for the next few months. We were really excited and grateful to see everyone who came out to celebrate the completion of our mural project. Thank you to Ms. Stefanie and Mr. Carl for all their guidance throughout the project.

This month we went on our first field trip with our Year 2/3 buddies after exchanging our first round of penpal letters. We spent the day exploring the Central Library through a series of scavenger hunts and took some time for buddy reading. It was great to build stronger relationships with our buddies and we look forward to connecting with them throughout the school year.

As we move into December, we are really focused on connecting with the community and being generous. In preparation for our second visit with the seniors, we were able to experience what it was like to be a senior through sensitivity training from our LINKages partners. Earlier this month we were inspired by guest speakers from the Mustard Seed to launch a Kindness project of our own. Stay tuned to hear how we feel we can best help our local community.



Year 8/9 News

We are excited to kick off November with our production of William Shakespeare's Star Wars: The Force Doth Awaken at the Central Public Library. In staging this production, students in Year 8 and 9 have taken the bold steps of creating a new set with period appropriate set design and theatrical minimalism to highlight this spectacular performance. The curriculum covered through this year's production has been more immersive than ever, as learning from all subject disciplines have been built upon and extended by our students in making this play a reality. Our Year 9 directors and our Year 8 actors have dedicated significant effort over the last several weeks to bring our most ambitious production yet to the stage. This year's production puts a 90's grunge spin on the Star Wars universe as we take literally '... a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.'



This ambitious production was presented on November 6 at the Central Public Library.

Next we move on to preparing our performance at the Jubilee Auditorium in December. Magic Happens when we come together to create and learn.

Education Centre Sports

The boys and girls volleyball teams have had a great year, and their seasons will be on the line during the upcoming playoffs.

Basketball tryouts are coming around the corner. Open gyms and tryouts will be held after the Remembrance Day long weekend. Games will start In December.

NOTE: We are looking for coaches for the girls team. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Mr. Lapointe.

In Phys Ed, we have been working on our indoor soccer skills. Over the course of the month, we will also partake in belly baseball and floor hockey.