

The Art of Learning

September 2022 Newsletter

Athletics Update

Page 3

Celebrating 20 Years of CAA

Page 4

Links

Page 6

Terry Fox Run

Page 8

Calendar

Page 8



Welcome Back

Principal's Message

Welcome to Calgary Arts Academy! Our school theme this year is Design of a Lifetime. We are excited about this theme as it articulates our passion and commitment to design and re-design through Arts Immersion learning. Our theme acknowledges how CAA pillars shape our learning community, and how as individuals, we can design our own lives. Students enjoyed their community building days, which foster connection and create a sense of belonging, trust, and creativity.

We are grateful you have chosen us to work alongside your family to support your child's learning journey. We are embarking on our twentieth year and have many reasons to celebrate.

Principal's Message Continued

We have officially opened three campuses and are navigating our way through as we grow together. Although we are in separate spaces, we remain connected as a unique organization with a clear vision, mission, and purpose. It has been wonderful to see students and staff begin to bring the Rosscarrock Campus to life as we settle in. We are excited to have more space for our students. We are also pleased to announce that we have been able to accept more students and are opening a new Year 8 class at Rosscarrock. We are planning for all Year 8/9 students to be at our Rosscarrock Campus for the 2023-2024 school year.

Our priority is ensuring that our unique community and culture is reflected and practiced in the physical space and most importantly, in our relationships. We have been focusing on the theme of '20' and were excited to share the highlights from that exploration at our Pancake Breakfast September 2. It was a wonderful community building event, and it was great to see everyone celebrating together! We would like to thank School Council for hosting this event, and all of you who volunteered to make this event such a success.

Thank you for your attendance at our Meet the Team nights. We appreciate the commitment made to your child's learning thus far, and we know the students were excited for you to see their spaces and creative explorations. Celebrating our community spirit together in our learning spaces after not being able to for a couple years felt exciting and promising for the school year ahead.

Parent engagement in their child's school experience provides positive role modeling and student success.

Parent engagement can include:

1. Providing a positive learning environment at home, actively working with children to support what they are learning in school and making learning an important part of the day.
2. Having productive conversations with teachers and keeping up to date with school communications, so there is clear communication between the school and home.
3. Becoming involved in school activities and volunteering to help with school events, trips, and other activities.
4. Participating in School Council offers many opportunities to be involved.

We would also like to take a moment to thank our students and families who volunteered their time and worked hard over the summer preparing the grounds at the Rosscarrock Campus and maintaining the gardens at the Knob Hill Campus.

Let's Celebrate!

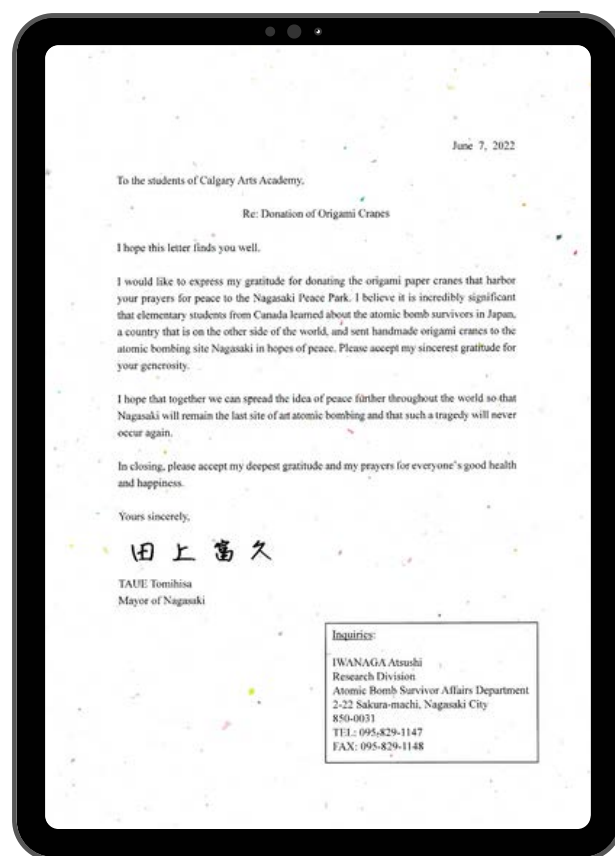
We wanted to take a moment to celebrate individuals in our community who have really made a difference. Year 2 students, Jocelyn W., and Winnie A., hosted a lemonade stand over the summer and donated their proceeds to the Rosscarrock Campus. We are grateful for the generous spirit and commitment that our volunteers and students bring to our school community. What inspiring entrepreneurs!



Principal's Message Continued

We also want to share a letter from the Mayor of Nagasaki. Last year, the Year 4/5 students did a novel study with Ms. Birch on Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr. This inspired vision, innovation, commitment, and passion amongst the students flourished into a peace inspiring, crane making frenzy.

The KH library showcases some of the paper cranes. Some paper cranes have been taken to the Rosscarrock library and some of the cranes were taken to Nagasaki, Japan by one of our current Year 5 students, Kiki Y., and her family as a donation to the Peace Park. This is another beautiful example of generosity in action amongst the global community.



CAA Athletics Update



Welcome back CAA families! In the world of Athletics, we are already in the thick of the Calgary Alternative Athletic Association (CAAA) season. Students in Year 4 to 9 are invited to participate in Cross Country running. There will be three races that happen at various locations around the greater Calgary area. Our first race is scheduled for September 21, and the season will go until October 5. This is the only organized athletics event available for students younger than Year 7.

If Cross Country isn't your speed (pun intended), the second round of volleyball tryouts are on Thursday, September 1 at the Education Centre gymnasium from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

This opportunity is available for all Year 7-9 students. Teams will be selected before the end of the week.

In gym class, students at the Education Centre will be participating in various sports, including ultimate frisbee, baseball/whiffle ball, volleyball, and football.

Knob Hill Physical Education has been jam packed with learning gym rules and routines. We have been learning about moving safely around the gym during games such as tail wars, Jedi battles and turtle tag. In Kindergarten and Year 1, we have been mastering our locomotor movements through relays and games. In Year 2/3, we have been building teamwork skills through cooperative games such as hula-hoop rescue and space race! In September we will be moving on to units such as soccer, throwing and catching, and traditional games in honor of National Truth and Reconciliation Day.



TWENTY

T is for Together

Together over the past 19 years, we have learned how to effectively design and deliver Arts Immersion instruction and programming to foster academic excellence and creative expression. We look forward to continuing our work together to engage in deep learning tasks and arts experiences that provide authentic, purposeful, unique learning opportunities. As master learners, together we establish trusting relationships through learning partnerships, activate the learning process, and support progress through feedback and evidence.

W is for Weathered

We have weathered many challenges to get to this point, proving our success and accountability with each school year. We begin our twentieth year embracing change, shaping, and designing our future as we open our third campus. We consistently strive to meet the goals of our charter mandate through CAA's collaborative culture to practice and extend teaching and learning for all in an inspiring and artistic community that promotes growth.

E is for Engage

We are grateful to our original charter school designers who were engaged and committed visionaries who dreamed big and established the CAA shared vision; to create a community that values arts and learning. The charter school design team chose strength-based pillars and we have observed time and time again how these school pillars support and inform our work with families and help shape our values and priorities as a learning community together. As a school of choice, our engaged community - the Board, our parents, the teachers, artists, and students- are all the reasons we are here today.

N is for Nurture

We look forward to nurturing and transforming our students into community-focused young people who are curious, kind, empathetic, and engaged. Through effective communication, collaboration, critical and creative thinking, we have offered and will continue to offer a democratic learning environment, empowering everyone to become self-directed, life-long learners.

T is for Trust

We are the designers of CAA's lifetime now and we trust and recognize all those in our 20-year history who have influenced who we are, and what we do, today. To get here, it has taken patience, persistence, perspective, and understanding from all educational stakeholders. We have taken risks and solved many problems. We trust these qualities and conditions will continue to serve us as we design our next twenty years of operation.

Y is for Yes

Yes to possibilities! We can celebrate twenty years of operation, knowing that we have made an impact on multiple students and families in various capacities throughout our time thus far, and have the privilege and responsibility to continue to strengthen our impact. We are a community that puts children first, that establishes the conditions for magic to happen, that is an inclusive, diverse, and safe space for all to belong. We are unique, we are different, we are academic and artistic, we are CAA. Designing our future story will be an honour for all of us to embrace.

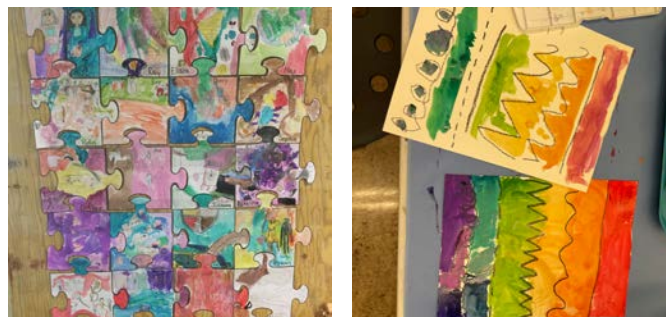
As we embark on this 20th year, just remember...

**T is for together - we are all in this together,
W is for weathered - we will weather anything that comes our way, E
is for engage - we will engage in meaningful learning,
N is for nurture - we will nurture people and ideas,
T is for trust - we will trust in what we are doing,
Y is for YES! - we will always say yes to possibilities.**

Kindergarten/Year 1 News

We have been hard at work since our first day of school beginning to embrace our Design of a Lifetime! The first twelve (ten for Kindergarten) days have been filled with exciting activities to help us learn about what makes our school amazing. We have spent our time learning about the Circle of Courage through dance, visual art, drama skits, musical instruments and story!

Highlights from our first couple weeks at school include puzzle piece painting to show how we all fit together, Mandy Stobo portrait drawing, learning how to share like rainbow fish, how to fill others' buckets and Crayon creation. We have been meeting all our amazing artists and learning each others' names. The most exciting thing we have done this year is making lots of new friends!



Year 2/3 News

We have been establishing our community, while fostering an understanding of the pillars of CAA. The first couple of weeks have involved reviewing our literacy skills to practice 'Read to Self' stamina and engage in 'Super Power' writing, reviewing numeracy through fun challenges and games and building classroom community through Circle Meetings. We have also done team building challenges, and focusing on collaboration through combining class groups for various activities. We are also thrilled to be getting to work with our Artists and Physical Education team as a part of launching the school year!

Highlights from the past few weeks include learning the steps of goal setting with Mr. E, exploring the art space with Ms. Christy, playing team building games in Physical Education with Ms. Rubbelke, creating 'Bad Portraits' inspired by Calgary artist Mandy Stobo and creating unique sculptures that highlight ways to demonstrate kindness.

We look forward to continuing to establish ourselves as learners moving into our first contract!



Year 4/5 News

We are jumping head first into a new routine and new building expectations. It has been wonderful being together again and having all of us together in the large room at Rosscarrock for activities. We are fully immersing ourselves in the Circle of Courage through a variety of activities that focus especially on Belonging, how to be generous, and how to be independent in the classroom.



We have been learning about the Grandfather teachings and exploring virtues through creating animal puppets and Metis dot art, while creating a performance piece for the Pancake Breakfast! We have enjoyed making connections through team-building games and exercises and are looking forward to what the new school year will bring!

Year 6/7 News

We are excited to be in our new Rosscarrock School. In Year 6/7/8, we have been working together to build community, while focusing on the teachings of Calgary Arts Academy's pillars. Many art forms have been explored while taking us on a learning journey centred around the teachings of the Circle of Courage. We painted, improvised, coloured, acted, danced, collaborated, sketched, and engaged in many other fun ways to learn through the Arts.

We have embraced our new connections with the new Year 8 group that joined us last week.



Looking ahead, we are excited to embark on a journey exploring time, history, science, and ourselves as individuals and the world around us through our first contract of the year "A Capsule of Time".

Links

[CAA 2022-2023 School Calendar](#)

[CAA Foundation Website](#)

[CAA Adult Choir](#)

Year 8/9 News

In the last 12 days, we have been getting into our routines while building up our sense of community.

We have already had two outings to engage in the Arts in the community. We enjoyed putting on a giant in person "where's Waldo" search during the Pancake Breakfast, where other students had to find the characters on their sheet.



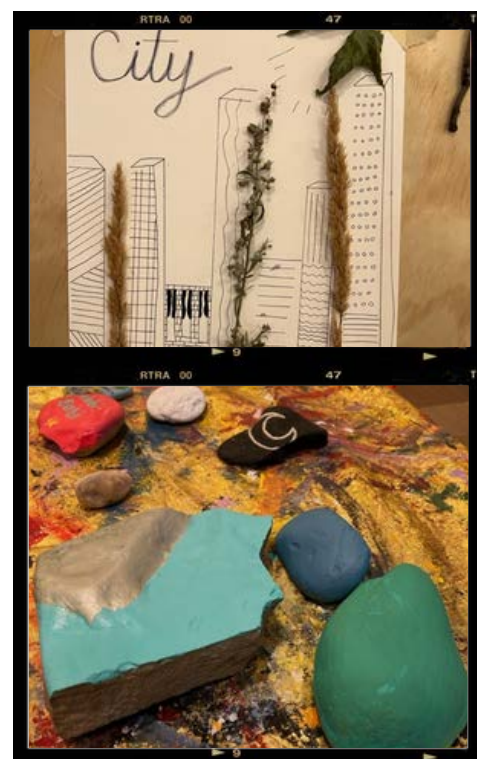
We took some time to lean into our unique identities through the exploration art based on the hand. We each chose a number symbol and letter to represent us, as we created visual depictions of our hands. We look forward to having an equally full September!

High School News

We are excited to welcome our new and returning High School students.

In Year 10, we gathered and painted rocks to anchor our goals for the year. In Biology 20, we created leaf art together to represent our class.

We are excited to participate in Student Council Meetings Wednesday during the lunch hour. We invite Year 8 and Year 9 students to join Student Council Meetings.



Terry Fox Run

September 27 is our annual Terry Fox Run. Each campus will have their own assembly and run for students. We will need several volunteers at each campus.

We have registered Calgary Arts Academy on the Terry Fox Foundation's website.

Help us reach our goal of \$5,000! You can donate by following this link:

<https://schools.terryfox.ca/5931>



September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Day 4 1	Day 5 2	3
4	5 Labour Day (in Lieu) No School	6 PD Day No School	7 Day 1	8 Day 2	9 Day 3	10
11 Day 4	12 Day 5	13 Day 1	14 Day 2 School Photos PT Conferences 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	15 Parent Teacher Conferences No School	16	17
18 Day 3	19 Day 4	20 Day 5	21 Day 1	22 Day 2	23	24
25 Day 3	26 Day 4 Terry Fox Run	27 Day 5	28 Day 1	29 Day 2	30 National Day of Truth & Reconciliation No School	