

The Art of Learning

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From the Principal

Congratulations to students and staff in the creation of a fantastic virtual Winter Celebration!

This year's performance explored the theme of The Art of Growing: Cultivating Excellence. For many staff and students, this was their first foray into the Jubilee experience and for others, this year's reboot was a familiar and welcome return to a beloved Calgary Arts Academy tradition. The show demonstrated the tremendous growth our students experience from Kindergarten through to High School, which is clearly exemplified in the complexity of concepts and artistic expression, as the students advance through the years. The show clearly demonstrated community spirit and connection, the joy of learning and the celebration of our students' mastery performances. January has proved to be an interesting start to 2022!

Principal Update Continued

The extension of the break for students led to a small delay in moving forward with the learning contracts. I am pleased to say that students are all well into their new learning contracts!

We are excited to have a bit more space! We have moved our Media Arts program to Sweetgrass Lodge, just across the river from the Education Centre! This will also be a space for the Year 6/7/8 students to use in the afternoons. This will provide some relief breakout space at EC.

As a whole learning community, it has been important for us to rely on the Circle of Courage. The Circle of Courage is not only a model for youth, but a model for a healthy community. The Circle of Courage inspires us to be our best selves, not only for our children and families, but also, to be our best selves in the community.

Thank you for your support and for continuing to demonstrate kindness.

Physical Education Update

Students at the Education Centre recently wrapped up basketball, one of our largest units in Physical Education. Looking into February, students will be learning singles and doubles table tennis, followed by a school-wide favourite, Badminton!



Basketball has been cancelled in our After School Athletics program for the remainder of the season.

There is optimism that badminton, our next organized After School Athletics program, can run, given the socially-distanced nature of it. Please stay tuned for an official update.



Knob Hills News

Thank you for your generosity! Our Mitten Tree was overflowing with donations, and the Loonie/Toonie drive also proved to be successful yet again. We appreciate the kindness shown and the difference made to others this holiday season.

Please use caution as our sidewalks are very busy at the beginning and end of day, and can be slippery due to the gravel, snow or icy conditions. Thank you to those parents who have communicated with us about areas needing attention. Some places pop up unpredictably, so we appreciate the updates.

Jump Rope for Heart

Taking our inspiration from February being Heart Month and the Jump Rope for Heart program, students will be working on their skipping skills during their physical education times. As a community, we will be counting jumps made by students in the school in hopes to reach our ambitious jumping goal (which



Knob Hill News Continued

has yet to be determined). Stay tuned for details and exciting updates from your kiddo!

February: Black History Month

Black History Month honours the enormous contributions that Black people have made, and continue to make, in all sectors of Canadian society. While these topics are not limited to the month of February, we do plan to use the month to amplify those conversations and situate them within a larger context of learning and celebration that happens during this month in both Canada and the US. Black History Month is about celebrating resilience, stories and artistic studies, students will engage and connect with the history of Black Canadians, especially within the Albertan context. We have been compiling resources for meaningful discussion, reflection and study and thank those who have contributed rich titles and sources. CAA has a fantastic opportunity for Year 4 to 9 students to participate in Calgary Public Library's virtual presentation with internationally renowned and award-winning Canadian author, Lawrence Hill.

**Love and Kindness and Spirit Week**

We are hosting a school spirit week in February. We are taking this opportunity to intentionally and purposefully practice belonging, inclusion and diversity. While this is an expectation for all our community members each day, this is a chance to remind ourselves of what that looks like for all, what that feels like for all, and how we can meaningfully connect with each other through generosity.

February 14 - Valentine's Day

Current Covid protocols must be followed, which means if students wish to bring cards or pre-packaged treats to school for sharing, they must be completed and brought in to the school on or before Friday, February 11, so the items can be quarantined onsite before being distributed.

February 15 - Family Day

Alberta's Family Day happens over our break, but we wanted to take a day to celebrate all of the people who love and care for our kids, as well as the many diverse family structures that students belong to!

February 16 - Community Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) Project

We will be acknowledging one of our community neighbours through a whole school art project. Ssh, it's a secret, for now!

February 17 - 100th Day of School

Stay tuned for more information on how we will celebrate the 100th day of school this year!

February 18 - CAA Pink Shirt Day

Pink Shirt Day is internationally recognized on February 23 (when we are on break)

Brown Bagging for Calgary Kids (BB4CK.org)

All of our students will be participating in this community generosity project by decorating a brown paper bag. Once decorated, the bag will be filled with donated snacks and delivered to students throughout the Calgary community who go to school hungry. We are grateful for the opportunity to engage in this project again and are looking forward to students hearing more through virtual presentations with the organization.

Kindergarten/Year 1 News

We have been busy jumping into our “Fun and Games” contract. These past few weeks have involved exploring play through developing our reading and writing skills, numeracy through different math games and addition/subtraction, and contract work involving learning about our senses, feelings and mapping. We will spend time learning ‘how to’ writing, and apply that as directions for the games we will create as a class, in a digital or physical format. Stay tuned to see how those turn out! Highlights over the past few weeks include: creating maps of our communities,



and community landmarks, exploring our senses throughout the seasons, game-ifying our literacy skills through Raz-Kids and numeracy skills through Prodigy, expressing our feelings using drawing and colouring, exploring and creating new ideas and concepts with our artists, and finding the fun in everything we do. We look forward to continuing to play with our identity moving forward in this contract.



Year 2/3 News

We’ve had a great beginning to 2022 and have started our third contract, *Culture Capsule*. This is going to be our “showcase” contract for the year. Our inspirations are drawing from social studies outcomes related to significant historical, pop culture and visual art movements experienced in Canada within the last 100 years. In Science, we are exploring the concepts of sound and hearing through the art of music and dance.

LINKS

[CAA 21-22 School Calendar](#)

[CAA 22-23 School Calendar](#)

[COVID-19 Daily Checklist - Adult & Under 18](#)

[CAA Foundation Website](#)

[CAA Adult Choir Website](#)

Year 2/3 News Continued

In addition, we will partake in authentic learning experiences of listening, sound creation, making music, writing poetry, conducting experiments and play. Summarizing our showcase process over the next while, we will speak, read, write, view and represent our thoughts, ideas, feelings, experiences, and personal preferences. This will all culminate into our Year 2/3 Showcase that we're planning to perform in April (TBA).

Year 4/5 News

In Year 4/5 we are continuing to study our "Wasteland" contract. Each class has been affected by one of the four apocalypses.



Our mission is to document how to survive this new Wasteland. We have created pictures and cardboard creations of our underground bunkers. As the weeks progress, we will be exploring the world outside our bunker. We are going to use journal and poetry writing to tell our story of how we ended up here, and how we will build a new life for ourselves. We will research maps of our region or city and learn to create a new map of the world around us. Ms. Birch has done a masterful job of teaching us how to find online sources for researching.

We will be researching recycling and waste management and are hoping that our new found knowledge will help us assess how to improve our practices to clean up our wasteland.

Mr. E is working with groups of students to come up with a choreographed dance that explores these topics. Ms. Thompson is working with us to create a grey scale of the remains of our city. In the coming weeks, she will support us in creating marionettes of artifacts, insects, and animals that can be found in each of our apocalypses.

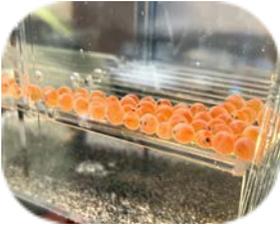
We are beyond excited to share our "Wasteland" work with our school on February 17. For one day only, we will teach other grades How to Survive the Wasteland!

During the month of February, we will continue our basketball skills and start Jump Rope for Heart. We will learn heart healthy skills and offer support to heart research and initiatives!

Year 6/7/8 News

Year 6/7/8 agents have been busy decoding puzzles to solve the mystery of our Top Secret contract. Working through codes like atbash, morse code, maps, cyphers and so much more to uncover clues that will bring us one step closer to finding our missing friends. Each day, one of the top directors from MAGENTA sends a task to the agent's headquarters. Stay tuned to see if the mystery is solved! We will be creating our own challenge using the skills developed through this mission.





We are excited to welcome our new fish friends to the Education Centre. Participating in the FinS (Fish in Schools) program hosted by

Bow Habitat Station, we have the opportunity to raise 65 rainbow trout from egg to fry before releasing them in a designated location to support repopulation of the river. We have been excitedly checking in on the tank daily as our eggs hatch into alevin.

In Year 6 Science, we are wrapping up our space unit and are moving on to a mini career project. In Math, we are reviewing concepts covered so far this year. News articles are the headline in ELA, along with the study of parts of the government in Social Studies. In Year 7 Math, we are working on unit conversion and are excited about our unique structures project in Science. In Social Studies, we are exploring the fur trade. In Year 7 and Year 8 ELA, we are diving deep into our novel study of "A Monster Calls" and "Skellig" through discussions and small reading groups. Year 8 students are preparing for our upcoming cow eye dissection in Science, while discovering the Renaissance in Social Studies. We are excited to welcome Mr. Oullet, our new Year 7/8 math teacher, as we continue working through the study of triangles through area and Pythagorean theorem.



Year 9/10/11 News

In Year 9, we started working on our new contract where we are researching topics of our choice and creating podcasts to share with our classmates. In Language Arts, we started reading "The Princess Bride" as our first novel study. In Science, we are demonstrating our knowledge of the planets by either responding to Gustav Holtz's opus "The Planets" or writing a short poem describing each planet. In Social Studies, we started creating commercials as we analyze how consumers choose where to spend their money.



Year 9 Students

In Year 10, we completed our first term of High School! In Semester 2, we will start our Math classes, while also continue our

studies of the environmental impacts of globalization in Social by redesigning different global industries. In Language Arts, we will continue to develop our understanding of "The Lord of The Flies" through a Survivor style game.

In Year 11, we completed our first semester and are excited to begin our Semester 2 Art options. New classes for Semester 2 also include Social Studies, Physics and Science 20. In Chemistry, we have learned how to make solutions to accurate concentrations and performed dilutions, as well as use our knowledge to identify compounds in solutions. Biology 20 students created stories about the speciation process of a new species of their creation.

Leadership in the Arts

On Monday, December 13, our high school students participated in a Leadership in the Arts field trip, the first in our series of arts panels with noteworthy Calgary artists. Students walked to Arts Commons, had a tour of the Jack Singer Concert Hall and learned about the acoustics, lighting and design of that space. They then had the privilege of meeting and learning from renowned local sound and music artists, Peter Moller and Lisa Jacobs.

Peter has worked as an artist since the age of 17, when he founded Egg Press, a graphic design and printing company which has since morphed into a digital sound design studio. Over more than four decades, Peter has contributed visionary and boundary-pushing art to the theatre, music and design communities in Calgary. He has a new show with One Yellow Rabbit Theatre at the High Performance Rodeo in January called Gold Rush REDUX, where he will be doing live foley sound for a reinterpretation of Charlie Chaplin’s first movie. Peter’s advice and wisdom for our students was articulate and be kind. He shared such important and fundamental insights as, “Creation is important”, “You have creation within you”, “Always be open”, and “Challenge is good”.

Lisa Jacobs is a performance and freelance musician (bass), multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, song writer and music therapist. She has collaborated with many internationally renowned musicians, such as Jann Arden, Wide Mouth Mason, and Susie Vinnick. Her warmth came through as she inspired the students to learn as much as they could about recording software, to check in with their feelings and to listen to music that moves them, and to inject themselves into any art they make.

Both artists shared their passion for living and working in Calgary, and connected with our students in a generous and collegial way. As one of our Year 11 students, Caleb, reflected, “the artists were very detailed in their explanations of the creative process and explained many of its benefits.”

CAA is very grateful to our board member, Josh Dalledonne, and to Arts Commons, for this amazing field trip opportunity.


February 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| | | 1 Day 4 | 2 Day 5 | 3 Day 6 | 4 Day 1 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 Day 2 | 8 Day 3 | 9 Day 4 | 10 Day 5 | 11 Day 6 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 Day 1 | 15 Day 2 | 16 Day 3 | 17 Day 4 100 Days of School! | 18 Day 5 Pink Shirt Day | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | February Break | | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 PD Day - No Classes | 01-Mar Day 6 | 2 Day 1 | 3 Day 2 | 4 Day 3 | 5 |