



Message from Administration

February proved to be a vibrant and fulfilling month across all three Calgary Arts Academy campuses. We were delighted to witness the culmination of our Kindergarten and Year 1 students' Arts Immersion learning in their captivating showcase, CurioCITY. Similarly, our Year 8/9 students delivered a remarkable performance, "Where is Ms. S?" at Decidedly Jazz Danceworks, celebrating their own learning journey. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to our community for their enthusiastic participation in these successful events.



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Message from Administration continued.

We have observed that some students are choosing to opt out of certain school programs. We would like to gently remind our community that performances and field trips are integral extensions of classroom learning. These experiences are essential components of our Arts Immersion programming, and we expect all students to participate, except in cases of illness or exceptional circumstances. These activities offer invaluable opportunities for students to develop essential skills, build resilience, and deepen their understanding of curriculum concepts. Many of these experiences are made possible through strong community partnerships, government grants, and carefully planned instructional opportunities. Your support in encouraging your child to embrace these learning experiences, fostering both mastery and a sense of belonging, is deeply appreciated and contributes significantly to the growth and capacity of all our students.

Calgary Arts Academy students are actively engaged in enhancing their social-emotional skills, drawing inspiration from our school pillars: the Circle of Courage, Developmental Assets, and Democratic Discipline, as well as our wellness curriculum and the Thrive initiative. Recently, our Kindergarten to Year 9 students enjoyed a valuable day trip to the Field Experience Centre, made possible through our partnership with Connect Charter and a mental health grant from Alberta Education. We are profoundly grateful to our teachers and facilitators for providing this wonderful opportunity for students to engage in mental health and wellness activities that strengthen communication, collaboration, cohesion, empathy, and problem-solving skills. Looking ahead, our Year 8/9 and high school students will participate in Thrive learning sessions, focusing on transitions, managing technology, and building resilience during times of increased stress.

The final parent learning series offered this year through our Thrive grant will be presented on March 13, 2025 at Connect Charter School. The theme is on resilience building and will be again facilitated by Dr. Caroline Buzanko. RSVP is required through the link sent out through School Council. We hope you can join us!



Message from Administration continued.

February is Black History Month, a time to honour the significant and impactful contributions that Black people have made, and continue to make, in our communities. This learning happens year-round and in February, we amplify conversations and situate them within a larger context of learning, questioning, and celebration in both Canada and the US. Black History Month celebrates innovation, leadership, legacy, and the determination to work towards a more inclusive and diverse Canada. Through stories and artistic studies, students engaged with the history of Black Canadians. At Knob Hill, students learned about impactful Black artists and how their art has shaped communities



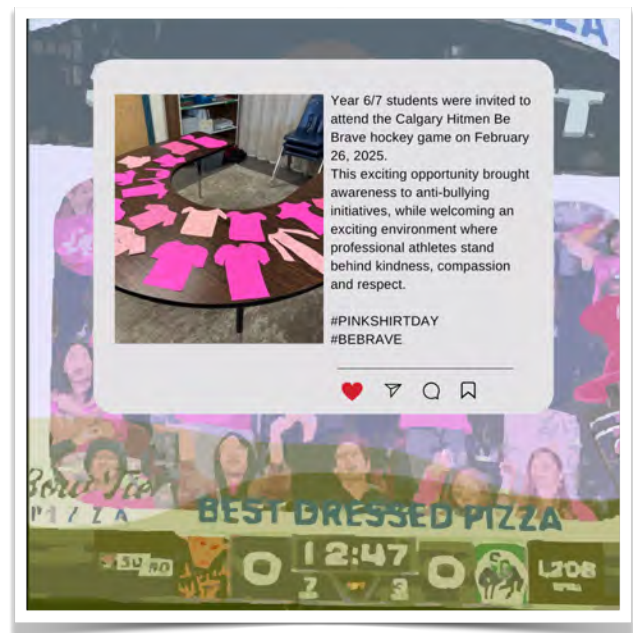
through self-expression and creativity. These artists, such as Jean-Michael Basquiat, have used their talents to inspire cultural pride, resilience, and social change, demonstrating the powerful role of art in fostering community and identity. At Rosscarrock, students focused on the legacies of Black Albertans, both past and present that have shaped and continue to shape our learning community. At the Erickson Centre, students analyzed contemporary performances by popular and influential Black musicians, spoke about the power of meaning making and empowerment, and discussed how art and performance can be used to affect social change within a community. We continue to compile resources year-round to support meaningful discussion, reflection, and study, and we thank our community members who have helped expand our access and connections to valuable sources.

Students from all campuses have benefited from ongoing field trips to Contemporary Calgary, our community partner. Most students have attended the gallery at least once this year to see a variety of exhibits. With the support of the TD Educational Facilitators, students have the opportunity to both tour the galleries and participate in related visual arts workshops in Contemporary Calgary's gallery workshop space. Students and staff have benefited from these opportunities and we look forward to continuing to expand this partnership in the months to come.

Message from Administration continued.

February provided an opportunity to intentionally practice belonging, inclusion, and diversity. While these values are expected of our community members every day, this month allowed us to reflect on generosity and how we can meaningfully connect through kind actions, notes, stories, and expanding our social circles. On February 28, all three campuses participated in an online national broadcast event initiated by the WITS Programs Foundation for Pink Shirt Day. The broadcast featured Peter H. Reynolds, the beloved author and illustrator whose stories ignite imaginations worldwide; Willie Poll, a trailblazer advocating for Indigenous youth; and Pamphinette Buisa, a Canadian rugby star and champion for positive change. It was an unforgettable experience filled with inspiration, creativity, and kindness.

February marked the beginning of Semester 2 classes at the Erickson Centre and students have settled into their new routines with focus and a determination to achieve. It was also a month of creative exploration as students engaged in interdisciplinary learning, connecting the arts, sciences, and history. Students and staff worked with Calgary based, String Theory Music Collective, a not-for-profit society that supports local, professional musicians who specialize in Early Music performance. Year 10, 11 and 12 students participated in *Baroque Odyssey*



Inquiry: Unlocking the Strings of Continuity, which included a live performance by String Theory Music Collective, featuring historical instruments and insights into Johannes Kepler's astronomical discoveries. Following this experience, Year 11 and 12 students developed creative responses across various disciplines, deepening their understanding of their creative process and the power of exploring interdisciplinary connections. In March, students will share their creative responses with Year 8 and 9 students, who will also engage as an audience in the live performance. This collaborative, interdisciplinary project fostered a shared appreciation for the connections between music, science, and history.

Message from Administration continued.

Our developmental asset for the month of February was Commitment to Learning. We focused on this particular asset in school through conversations, activities, and strategic circle meeting topics. We encourage you to do the same at home by, with a specific emphasis on strengthening the constructive use of time asset. Young people need opportunities to be involved in positive, constructive activities. The asset of the month for March will be 'Positive Values'. Look for an email to come home soon with new suggestions for home conversations and support!



We are looking forward to hosting our Kindergarten to Year 7 Student-Led Conferences. Year 8/9 students and high school students will have an opportunity to meet with teachers for a Parent-Teacher Conference. These conferences will take place on the evening of March 20 and during the day on March 21.

Please note that there are no classes for K to 12 students on March 21.

During the conferences, there will be a Scholastic Book Fair at the Knob Hill campus for families interested in visiting. Further information, including timing and sign-up processes, will be sent out soon by homeroom teachers via email. We hope to see you there!



Kindergarten/Year 1 News



We had SO much fun showing off everything we have learned in our CurioCity Showcase! Working with artists, Ms. Jen and Mr. Ed, they helped us bring our learning to life on the stage. We learned about local landmarks, hoodoos, wildlife, Indigenous stories, the concept of community and even literacy skills like digraphs. It was a blast celebrating our learning together!

Now, we are eagerly diving into our next contract, *Where the Wild Things Explore!* Working with artist, Ms. Naomi, we will embark on a journey of storytelling,

media arts, addition and subtraction, computer science, and many other exciting learning adventures.

In Year 1 we went on a field trip to Contemporary Calgary, and explored *Come Check It Out*, by artist Paola Pivi. The art was so interactive and engaging! We were also lucky enough to have a police officer visit our class in February. We learned so many interesting things about their job and asked lots of questions!



Year 2/3 News



February was a blast! We transformed our classrooms into a “Glow Gallery” showcasing the knowledge and skills we learned during our CuriousWonder Garden Learning Contract. For Valentine’s Day, we demonstrated belonging, fostering a sense of community by sharing Valentines Day cards with each other. On Pink Shirt Day, we learned all about how to stand up to bullying and promote kindness.

In Social Studies, we have been exploring the quality of life in Peru, Ukraine, Tunisia, and India, comparing and contrasting these experiences with life in Canada. To display our learning, we creating quad-ramas to visually represent our findings.


As we prepare for our next Learning Contract, we are excited to work with dance artist, Ms. Jessica as we learn all about Musical Theatre!

Physical Education Update from Knob Hill

This month students have been exploring different paddle sports and learning new skills. We had a blast playing ping pong in the dance studio during showcase rehearsals and trying tennis in the gym using nets and special paddles. It was a great way to practice teamwork and quick movements. We are looking forward to continuing our sports adventures next month with badminton, pickleball, and floorball!



Artist Update



The halls of Calgary Arts Academy are buzzing with artistic energy!

In Kindergarten and Year 1, our youngest creators are weaving magic with Ms. Naomi, blending hand-drawn and digital art to craft their very own storybooks.

It is truly inspiring to see their imaginations come to life through art and storytelling.

Our Year 2/3 students have transitioned seamlessly from a vibrant visual arts exploration to the dynamic world of dance and movement. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for the big gallery reveal – your support made the experience even more special!

In Year 4/5, students are diving into characterization in Drama with Ms. Shannon. Through physical and vocal exploration, students are building unique alien characters. These intergalactic beings are gearing up for an exciting Earth adventure!

Mr. E has taken our Year 6/7 students on a journey through social dance, connecting movement to the evolution of music and media. They are diligently preparing for their showcase contract, and we cannot wait to see what they create.

Finally, Ms. Christy is guiding our Year 8/9 students by exploring global connections and visual storytelling, using colour and textiles to evoke powerful emotions inspired by their studies on refugees and the human experience.

From storybooks to social dance, alien creations to emotional textiles, our students are showcasing incredible creativity and passion.



Year 4/5 News

In Year 4/5, we have been working hard creating body stem encyclopedias and artwork that depicts the different perspectives of the French, British and Indigenous peoples in Canada.

We were incredibly fortunate to have Ms. Natalie Dempsey, an Indigenous Elder, share her knowledge and perspectives with us. We learned so much about overconsumption at our field trip to Contemporary Calgary and had fun making animal masks. Our field trip to Heritage Park was another highlight! In Year 5, we stepped back in time to a one-room school house and learned about coal. In Year 4, we learned how to churn butter and explored the history and mechanics of trains.



We are becoming aliens visiting Earth and experiencing life as a Year 4/5 student in our new Learning Contract, Alien Immersion! We are creating our own alien characters and will be exploring the curriculum through their eyes - it's going to be out of this world!

CAA Adult Choir



Do you like to sing? Do you enjoy music, laughter and having fun? Come and join our Calgary Arts Academy Adult Choir! We are a non-auditioned ensemble that sings a wide variety of music.

Visit our website at www.caaschool.com/caa-adult-choir for more information.

**UPCOMING
SHOWCASES**

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April 15 & 16 - Year 6/7
April 16 & 17 - High School

Year 6/7 News

We had an exciting month finishing up our Learning Contract, *Alternate Realities*, where we explored space, history, and even created our own fictional worlds. In Science we learned about planets in our solar system and what makes Earth so special for life. In Social Studies, we travelled back in time to ancient Athens and also learned about Canada’s colonization and how past events still affect us today.

In Language Arts, we have been writing our own stories, imagining new worlds, and thinking about how even small choices can change everything. We’re asking big questions like, “What if history had gone differently?” and “How do our choices matter?”.

We had a blast at our second Thrive Day at the Field Experience Centre in Kananaskis. We are looking forward for upcoming Learning Contract, *Tune In*, which will culminate in our Showcase April 15 & 16.

Social Justice Club

We are thrilled to share that our Valentine's Week fundraiser, a collaboration between the Rosscarrock Student Council and the Social Justice Club, exceeded our expectations! Students set a goal of \$500 for the Canadian Cancer Society, and thanks to your incredible support, we raised \$580!

We are so proud of our school community for coming together to make this happen.

Thank you!



Year 8/9 News

In Year 8/9, we have recently begun an engaging and thought-provoking novel study *Refugee* by Alan Gratz. In Year 9 Social Studies, our exploration of immigration continues as we discuss its impact on Canadian society both past and present, while also preparing to transition into our next unit on different forms of government and economic systems. Meanwhile, in Year 8 we are wrapping up the Renaissance unit with engaging discussions about grand ideas, city-states, humanism, and the Age of Expansion, drawing connections between historical advancements and their lasting influence on the modern world.

In addition to these exciting academic explorations, we are delighted to welcome Ms. Christy, who will introduce students to the dynamic world of textile art. Through this creative medium, students will have the opportunity to express their learning in unique and visually compelling ways, blending history, culture, and artistic techniques. As we move toward the final stretch of the school year, preparations for PATs are well underway, and anticipation for graduation is growing. A fun tradition is continued as students bring in their baby photos, celebrating how far they have come and looking forward to the exciting journey ahead. It is an exciting time in Year 8/9, filled with learning, creativity, and meaningful reflection!

Athletics Update

February is over, and so are the basketball games! Both of our CAAA basketball teams enjoyed a season full of growth, learning and great plays.

But don't put away your athletic shoes just yet! Badminton team tryouts for students in Year 7 to 9 are the first week of March. And guess what? Badminton fever is spreading! We are already getting into it in PE class, from Year 4 all the way to Year 9!

Get ready to work on your serves, smashes, and everything in between. Badminton is definitely one of our favourite units!



High School News

February was a month of creative synergy as we engaged in interdisciplinary learning, bridging the arts, sciences, and history in new and exciting ways. Our creative block time provided opportunities for multi-aged collaboration, with Year 11 and 12 students immersing themselves in the *Baroque Odyssey Inquiry: Unlocking the Strings of Continuity* from February 14 to March 7. This project encouraged students to explore the Baroque era through the lens of transdisciplinary research, creative expression, and inquiry-based learning.

A highlight of this experience was *Baroque Odyssey*, a live performance by String Theory Music Collective. Students attended this unique event, featuring animated visual projections and historical instruments such as period-specific string instruments, bows, and the harpsichord. The performance focused on Johannes Kepler's theories and how they led to the invention of the telescope, tracing the evolution of astronomical discovery. They highlighted Kepler's laws of planetary motion and their impact on scientific progress, illustrating how advancements in optics transformed humanity's understanding of the cosmos. To complement their performance, students shared striking images of space, bridging the historical with the contemporary and emphasizing the continued importance of exploration and curiosity. Following the performance, students participated in a 45-minute interactive Q&A session, where they engaged directly with musicians to learn about historical research, artistic interpretation, and the creative process.



High School News Continued.

Building on their experiences, students embarked on independent artistic responses that reflected their understanding of Baroque aesthetics and interdisciplinary connections. These responses spanned multiple artistic disciplines, from visual art, creative writing, dance, theatre, music composition, film, and fibre arts, encouraging students to adopt a polymath perspective. By integrating elements of STEM, historical research, and artistic practice, students deepened their appreciation of the era's influence on contemporary thought.

In addition to their individual projects, students investigated String Theory Music Collective, exploring the organization's mission, values, and role in the arts community. Their research emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in fostering innovation and cultural appreciation. Through thoughtful responses, students examined how the collective's non-profit status shapes its programs and outreach initiatives, reinforcing the real-world impact of arts organizations.

DELS Scholarships

The Calgary Arts Academy Foundation offers two \$2,500 Dale Erickson Legacy Scholarships annually to graduating students pursuing further education, honouring the school's founder and his vision of arts immersion. These scholarships, rooted in the Academy's four pillars, provide vital financial support and recognize students embodying Dale Erickson's qualities of kindness and generosity. The Foundation, a volunteer-run charity, ensures the stability of inclusive arts education at the Academy while fostering future leaders.



Applications are now open to current Year 12 CAA students only:

<https://www.thecaafoundation.com/scholarships>



Links

[Calendar](#)

[Family Zone](#)

[Record Your Volunteer Hours](#)

[CAA Foundation Website](#)

[CAA Adult Choir](#)

A graphic designed to look like a piece of lined paper with a pink background and a yellow horizontal band. At the top right is a black bell icon with sound waves. A red string with circular ornaments runs across the top. The text is written in a red, hand-drawn font. At the bottom, there is a grey scribble and a red string with a loop.

Reminder

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is now open in Family Zone.

If your student will not be returning, please email admissions@caaschool.com

Registration deadline is
March 15

Calendar



March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Day 3	3 Day 4 Kindy/Yr 1 Thrive at FEC	4 Day 4 Yr 7 Badminton Tryouts	5 Day 5 Year 4/5 Thrive at FEC Healthy Hunger KH & RC Yr 8 Badminton Tryouts	6 Day 1 Year 4/5 Thrive at FEC Yr 9 Badminton Tryouts	7 Day 2 Yr 8/9 Presentation String Theory Music Ensemble HS Badminton	8
9 Day 3 Yr 2/3 Thrive at FEC	10 Day 4 Yr 2/3 Thrive at FEC	11 Day 5 Healthy Hunger KH & RC Yr 9 Vaccinations	12 Day 5 Healthy Hunger KH & RC Yr 9 Vaccinations	13 Day 1	14 Day 2 HS Badminton	15
16 Day 3 Yr 4/5 STEM Field Trip	17 Day 4 Yr 1 Vaccinations CAAS Board Meeting	18 Day 5 Healthy Hunger KH & RC	19 Day 5 Healthy Hunger KH & RC	20 Day 1 Parent Conferences (KH/RC) 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. (EC) 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.	21 Parent Conferences 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. No Classes	22
23 Day 2	24 Day 3	25 Day 3	26 Day 4 Healthy Hunger KH & RC	27 Day 5	28 Day 1	29
30 Day 2	31					