



Message from Administration

In January, all Calgary Arts Academy staff returned after winter break ready to inspire, create and connect with students! We started the new year with a professional development day focused on supporting students who have experienced any type of abuse by learning from an educator with the Luna Child and Youth Advocacy Centre. Additionally, staff reviewed our Annual Education Results Report to and engaged with the data to help inform their planning. Finally, they also had time to collaborate and plan the exciting new learning contracts that all students have now embarked upon!

As always, the principals are so impressed with the collaborative creativity shown in the design of these Arts Immersion learning contracts. For example, in Year 8/9, students have enthusiastically begun their showcase learning contract, which will culminate in a performance on the Decidedly Jazz Danceworks professional stage on February 11 and 12, 2026. Script writing, building large puppets and expressing their learning about Edo Japan, as well as a variety of math and science concepts, will come together to wow audiences.

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Message from Administration continued.

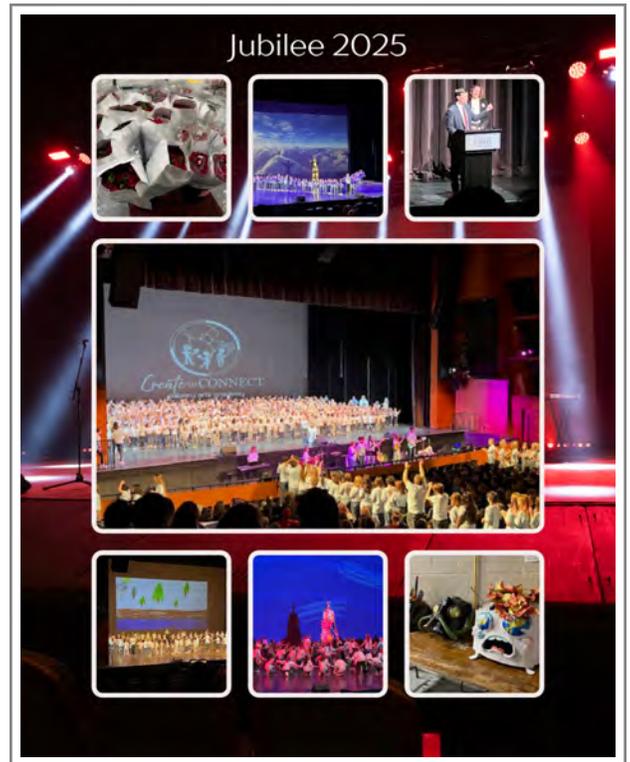
January has also been the month when learning facilitators finalized their Term 1 report cards. A great deal of care goes into writing thoughtful narrative comments to express observations about student growth, strengths and next steps. Report cards were sent home on January 30, 2026. These are just one piece of how we communicate with families and students about learning goals. Some students have received individual support plans, and everyone has feedback returned on learning contracts. All teachers are always open to conversations with parents and guardians and can be reached by email.

Calgary Arts Academy Youth Arts Award

We are really excited to let you know that CAA is sponsoring a young artist award at the upcoming Mayor's Celebration for the Arts.

There are two \$2,500 cash awards. One award will recognize a young artist (ages 13-21 years) whose practice focuses on a visual and/or media arts medium (e.g. painting, sculpture, filmmaking, photography, videography, etc.) and the other will be awarded to a young artist with a performance and/or literary practice (e.g. music, dance, theatre, circus, play/film writing, narrative work, poetry, etc.). Funds from the award are intended to support artistic growth through further education and/or training in a post-secondary institution or recognized arts organization. The award will be presented to the recipients at an event celebrating the arts on May 4, 2026. The funds for this award were donated by Calgary Arts Academy Community members. We are so proud of, and grateful for, our generous community and excited by how this award will inspire and support young artists who make a positive impact in Calgary. We encourage CAA students who are 13 years and older to consider applying!

Details about the award are found here: <https://calgaryartsdevelopment.com/events/cultural-leaders-legacy-arts-awards/calgary-arts-academy-youth-arts-award/>



Message from Administration continued.

At Rosscarrock campus, many clubs and activities are in full swing. We are proud of our Pumas basketball teams who have been competing in tournaments and showing excellent character while also winning games. Student council, D&D club, Yearbook club, 3D modeling club, Social Justice club, and Newspaper club are all happening, and Debate club is starting up soon in February! Also, in January, we were thrilled to host the Green Fools theatre company to teach circus skills such as juggling, plate spinning, slackline and stilt walking during PE classes. They were wonderful guest artists and our students loved expanding their physical skills in this artistic way. Right after our February break our third rotation of options classes will begin.



Our Knob Hill campus enjoyed a week long in-school field trip from Alien In-Line, learning different techniques for inline skating. This fun week concluded with a roller-disco party! Year 1 and Year 2/3 classes have also been enjoying trips to the Erickson Centre campus and the TransAlta Performing Arts Studios located on stampede park. These visits allow our students to engage in Arts Immersion activities in professional studios. Some groups attend with our theatre artist, Ms. Shannon and homeroom teachers facilitate with other groups. Keep an eye out for TransAlta dates in the weekly emails from your homeroom teacher.

Message from Administration continued.

High School teachers at the Erickson Centre kicked off the start of semester 2 through storytelling and metaphor, guiding students to uncover the true identity of the Ghost Of Almost; the ghost that began haunting the hallways of the Erickson Centre over exam break. Students received clues throughout the day and had to work together to reveal the true identity and story of the Ghost Of Almost. As it turns out, it's secret desire is to feel joy, experience curiosity and remember what it loves most. The day culminated in a joyful and celebratory teachers vs. students basketball game.

In January, our Developmental Asset of the month was Constructive Use of Time. Teachers had circle meetings focused on what makes for a high-quality activity and how students can choose positive, high-quality ways to spend their time. In February, we shifted to the Developmental Asset of Commitment to Learning. Families are encouraged to continue nurturing learning habits, skills and values at home to further support their student's growth.



Our newly formed school councils are up and running with fantastic, dedicated and energized parent volunteers. All councils will be meeting on February 12 by Zoom, and we encourage all families to consider attending. Be sure to check your email for details about council activities and meetings.

Pink shirt day is Wednesday, February 25. Pink Shirt day was born in 2007 when a grade 9 boy in Nova Scotia was bullied for wearing pink to school, and the next day all his peers wore pink to show solidarity and support. This is a day to stand up and promote belonging and kindness, individuality and bravery. CAA students and staff are encouraged to wear pink shirts on February 25.

Our February break is right around the corner. As a reminder, there will be no classes February 16 to 23, 2026. Classes will resume on Tuesday, February 24, 2026. We wish you all a February that is kind, safe and filled with art and love!

The Calgary Arts Academy Administration Team

Sarah Birch (*Principal, Knob Hill*)

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Kindergarten/Year 1 News

We had an exciting return to school after the Winter break! Throughout January, we began our Tiny Treasures contract with our artist, Ms. Naomi. We explored Social Studies concepts by investigating and connecting with local and personal landmarks. We constructed 2D and 3D representations of the Calgary Tower and Peace Bridge and will soon be exploring natural and man-made landmarks, including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit landmarks that hold deep cultural significance. We are so excited to create and learn with Ms. Naomi again!

In Music, we have been performing songs together and learning how to make loud and soft sounds using a xylophone. In Physical Education, we were thrilled to welcome Alien In-Line to our school to teach us rollerblading basics and beginner tricks. We ended our last skating session with a fun disco dance party on wheels! Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us get ready to skate.

In Kindergarten Math, we are exploring how to compare numbers and developing our understanding of concepts such as *equal to*, *less than*, and *more than*. In Year 1, we have been strengthening our number sense skills and learning a variety of strategies for adding, subtracting, and skip-counting.

Speaking of numbers, we are looking forward to our upcoming 100 Days of School celebration, where we will dress up and pretend we are 100 years old! We cannot wait to see all of the creative costumes and acting skills on February 12!



Year 2/3 News

This month, we began our third Learning Contract: *Making Sense of It All*.

We are diving into storytelling, poetry, and performance in creative, hands-on ways. We are exploring how ideas can be expressed through words, rhythm, movement, sound and even silence. We are working with Ms. Shannon to experiment miming and silent film techniques to show emotion through facial expressions and body language. We have been using our five senses to experience stories in different ways, while having fun creating sound effects, using energy and movement, and playing with found and visual poetry.

Alongside our classroom learning, we enjoyed some exciting experiences, including participating in Alien In-Line, a rollerblading program that ran for a week, and continuing with weekly visits to TransAlta. Through these activities, we are building creativity, focus, teamwork, and respect while learning that our own ideas and voices can be shared in imaginative and meaningful ways.



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.

Year 4/5 News

We have begun our third Learning Contract 3, *The Fraggles Go to School*, inspired by the imaginative world of Fraggle Rock. This learning contract invites us to think creatively, ask big questions, and explore new ideas through hands-on learning. We will be diving into the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, strengthening our narrative writing and building confidence in multiplication and graphing. In Science, we will be exploring energy and matter, with a focus on magnetism and waste management, including the creation of a personal waste management plan.

All of this learning will culminate in our Year 4/5 Showcase on April 1 and 2, where we will share our knowledge, projects and creativity with our families and community.

We are also excited to stay connected with our wider school community. We will be attending the Year 8/9 DJD performance, working with Ms. Jen in dance, creating our kindness projects and continuing to prepare for our upcoming showcase.



Rosscarrock Year 6 to 9 Arts Options

Session 2 options are well underway, with several exciting offerings for CAA students.

Visual Arts with Ms. Christy

Students are actively engaged in visual arts as they transform sewing patterns into tangible, functional products. Through hands on exploration, they are developing confidence in using the sewing machine and its full range of features, while building technical skills such as threading, stitch selection, tension control, and troubleshooting. Working with both self developed patterns and adapted designs, students are creating new pieces and upcycling existing garments. This process encourages creativity, problem solving, and an awareness of sustainable design practices.

RC Year 6 to 9 Arts Options continued.

Yoga with Ms. Jen

In Yoga, students began the session by learning foundational Hatha Yoga poses with an emphasis on proper alignment. As the session has progressed, students are engaging in longer sequences that build stamina, strength, agility, and flexibility. Throughout their practice, they are encouraged to listen to their bodies, modify poses as needed, and approach challenges with patience and curiosity. Through both dynamic and restorative practices, students are learning how yoga can support physical strength, manage stress, and create moments of calm within their day.

Film Studies with Ms. T

In Film Studies, Year 6 and 7 students are analyzing and reflecting on Hayao Miyazaki's internationally acclaimed film *Spirited Away*. Students are building on their growing understanding of Miyazaki's distinctive animation style and thematic storytelling by viewing and creatively responding to *My Neighbor Totoro*.

Realism Art with Ms. Leung

In the Realism Art option, Year 8 and 9 students are learning to slow down and observe carefully before putting pencil to paper. The option began with a focused study of a single apple, allowing students to practice observation, perspective, and proportion. Students worked on layering colour gradually while paying close attention to highlights, shadows, and subtle shifts in tone. This approach encouraged them to look closely and intentionally, training their eyes to notice details that are often overlooked.



Building on these foundational skills, students are now replicating floral and animal subjects using watercolour and pencil crayon. They are experimenting with texture, depth, and colour blending to create lifelike forms. Throughout the option, the emphasis has been on patience, intention, and accuracy rather than speed. These skills are supporting students in creating thoughtful realism pieces that reflect both technical growth and careful observation.

RC Year 6 to 9 Arts Options continued.

Music with Mr. Thorson

Students in Years 6 to 9 Music continue to build skills and confidence on their instruments while turning their attention toward upcoming Arts Immersion showcases. With a strong focus on collaboration, musicality, and expression, students are preparing songs that will soon be shared with an audience beyond the classroom.

Year 6/7 News

As we step into February our Musicking projects are in full swing as we prepare for our March showcases. Inspired by musicologist Christopher Small, we are exploring music as something living, powerful and meant to be experienced together. Our creativity and collaboration will shine during two immersive evenings: the Year 6 showcase on March 11 and the Year 7 showcase on March 12.

We are also looking forward to an inspiring outing to Decidedly Jazz Dance on February 11 to enjoy the Year 8/9 showcase. Later this month, we will celebrate Black History Month with a vibrant sharing assembly designed as an interactive experience for other grades, and we warmly invite community volunteers to join us and share their voices.

In Year 6 Humanities, we are exploring the Haudenosaunee Confederacy while strengthening our writing through mentor sentences and work with independent and dependent clauses. In Year 7, we are investigating British settlement and the fur trade while analyzing music reviews to spark creative thinking.

In Year 6 Math, we are beginning our exploration of fractions, while in Year 7, we are strengthening our understanding of decimals, including multiplying them. In Year 6 Science we are wrapping up our Scientific Method inquiry unit and beginning to explore the exciting world of energy. In Year 7 we are applying our understanding of structures and forces through engaging hands-on experiments like building spaghetti bridges!



Year 8/9 News

We are fully immersed in our third Learning Contract, *Echoes of the Floating World*, which will culminate in our showcase at DJD on February 11 and 12. The story follows a museum field trip gone awry, where students are pulled into vivid painted worlds that explore identity, belonging, and self-understanding. Through movement, giant puppetry, live music, and visual storytelling, collaboration is the key to piece together lessons from each world and complete a final shared painting. Inspired by Edo-period Japanese art, stories of migration, and conversations around discrimination and prejudice, the show celebrates creativity, teamwork, and the power of multiple perspectives.

With artist Ms. Christy, we have been building large-scale puppets, creating canvas paintings, and developing scenes as we prepare for the big show. This work connects deeply to classroom learning, including exploring scale in math, drawing accurate blueprints, and applying knowledge from the Year 8 mechanical systems science unit to bring designs to life. In Year 8 Humanities, we are working on an Edo Japan project, while in Year 9 we are learning about Canada’s federal government and immigration, deepening our historical and civic understanding alongside our creative work.



In the classroom, we have welcomed rainbow trout as part of the Fish in Schools (FinS) program. We are observing their development from eggs to alevin and eventually fry, documenting their development and caring for the tank. Members of the FinS team have been presenting to other classes in the school, demonstrating leadership, responsibility, and pride in their learning.

Across math and science, we continue to learn through hands-on and collaborative

projects. In Math 8.1, we are completing a tasting menu project that involves budgeting, scaling, fractions, decimals, and the creation of a scale model.

Year 8/9 News continued.

Math 8.2 and 8.3 are working through a solving equations unit by modelling expressions and learning to solve one- and two-step equations algebraically. In Year 9 Math, we are studying similarities and transformations as well as linear equations and inequalities. In Year 9 Science, we are researching how our understanding of space has changed over time and contributing to a class wide podcast focused on key discoveries and scientists.

We look forward to sharing Echoes of the Floating World with families soon!



High School News

Physical Education 10 students wrapped up the semester with a dynamic series of activities that showcased creativity, perseverance, and teamwork. They concluded the course by presenting original group dance choreography, where students designed and performed routines featuring exceptionally creative movements and imaginative props—ranging from hamburgers to giant shark heads. These performances highlighted collaboration, expressive movement, and confidence, while bringing plenty of energy and humour to the gym.

Students also took on physical and mental challenges during a visit to the Calgary Climbing Centre. The focus was on teamwork, communication, and personal goal setting as students supported one another while navigating a variety of climbing routes. Throughout the experience, students developed strength, balance, coordination, and problem-solving skills, while demonstrating trust, encouragement, and resilience as they worked through increasingly challenging climbs.

High School News continued.

Another highlight was ice skating at the Oval. Many students demonstrated confidence and control on the ice, using strong edges as they cruised around the track. Others were in the early stages of developing their skating skills and showed impressive perseverance and courage as they practiced balance, stopping, and turning. Several students who began the session using skate aids chose to challenge themselves by skating independently by the end, demonstrating growing confidence, coordination, and determination.



Across all activities, students consistently demonstrated effort, teamwork, and enthusiastic participation. It was a successful and enjoyable day that reflected the positive learning environment fostered throughout the term.



As Semester 1 came to a close, high school students enjoyed a brief exam break before heading into their final assessments. While there were no Diploma Exams this semester, every student still wrapped up their courses with meaningful final exams and projects. In Social Studies 30-1, students showcased impressive creativity through their “Big Brain Energy” project. Each student transformed a simple styrofoam head into a visual expression of their ideological worldview, demonstrating both their understanding of political and economic ideologies and their ability to communicate complex ideas in an engaging, artistic way.

High School News continued.

The results were as insightful as they were imaginative, making for a memorable end to the semester.

As High School semester 2 classes have begun, please check your PowerSchool account to see your child's most recent schedule. If you are the parent of a Year 12 student, please ensure your child has access to MyPass as that is how they will be able to check both their final course mark and credits earned towards their high school Diploma. All parents/guardians will be receiving Learning Contracts (or course outlines) for each of your child's courses. These are to be reviewed and signed by parents/guardians and the student and returned to the teacher at your earliest convenience.

Links

[Calendar](#)

[Family Zone](#)

[Record Your Volunteer Hours](#)

[CAA Foundation Website](#)

[CAA Adult Choir](#)



Calendar



February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Day 2 Year 9 Vaccinations	2 Day 3	3 Day 4 Healthy Hunger	4 Day 5	5 Day 1	6	7
8 Day 2	9 Day 3	10 Day 4 Healthy Hunger Yr 8/9 Showcase Yr 4/7 to DJD Yr 12 Grad Photos	11 Day 5 Yr 8/9 Showcase Yr 4/5 to DJD Yr 12 Grad Photos	12 Day 1 Yr 12 Grad Photos	13	14
15 Family Day, Statutory Holiday	16 February Break, No School	17 February Break, No School	18 February Break, No School	19 February Break, No School	20 February Break, No School	21
22 PD Day, No Classes	23 Day 2	24 Day 3 Healthy Hunger	25 Day 4	26 Day 5 HS Auditions	27	28