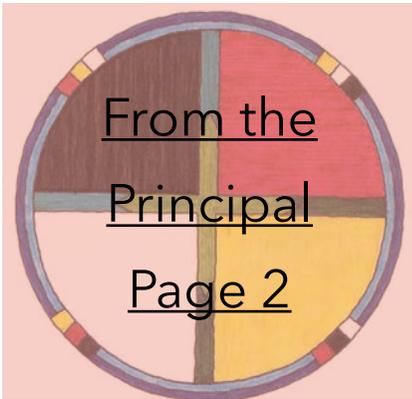


The Art of Learning

Belonging | Mastery | Independence | Generosity



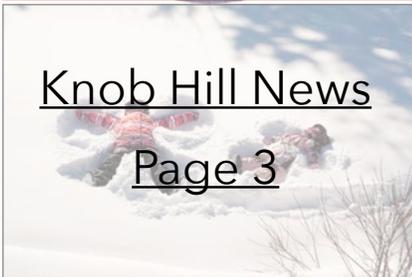
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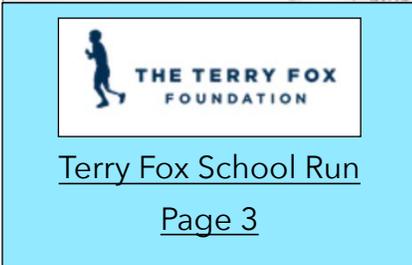
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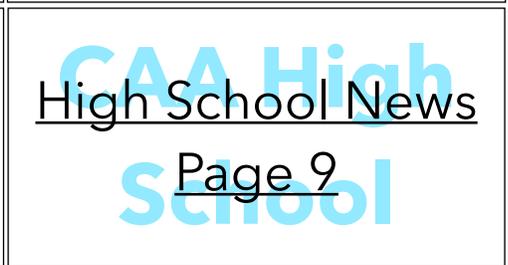
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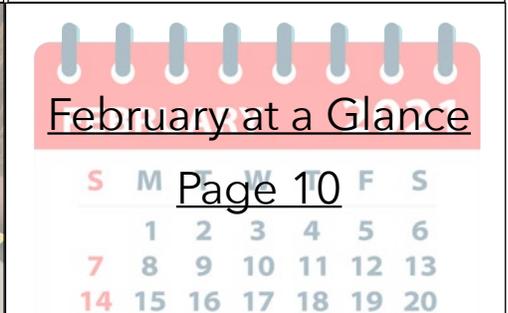
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From the Principal

As school administrators, educators and caregivers of children, we do a lot of thinking about ensuring our students are successful. When it comes to student success, we need to think about how we define success. Of course, we commit to all students’ academic success. We also want all students to succeed in other realms, such as socially, emotionally and out in the community. When we think of how we want success for the whole child, there are countless definitions that are appropriate and relevant when we consider a student’s educational experience. But what does success mean?

In the position paper [“Education Reimagined,”](#) by the New Pedagogies for Deep Learning, authors Michael Fullan and Joanne Quinn assert that learners will not learn when they are uncomfortable or contribute when they are self-conscious. Based on research, they assert that emotion is the gatekeeper of motivation, cognition and attention. Therefore, establishing an environment that focuses on well-being and belonging for all is job one for teachers. In short, well-being and quality learning are intimately related.

We know now more than ever that the pandemic has impacted all of us, including our children. Well-being and resiliency are at the fore front of our minds when we think of our students. At Calgary Arts Academy, we are going back to our roots and re-examining the Circle of Courage. To further our professional development, staff will be delving into the book *Reclaiming Youth at Risk-Futures of Promise* by Larry K. Brendtro, Martin Brokenleg, and Steve Van Bockern. We want to hone in on our skills to create a safe, brain-friendly learning environment, where all students feel belonging.

The Circle of Courage

The Circle of Courage is a model of resilience built upon the belief that all individuals, regardless of their age, have four universal needs. When any one or more of these universal needs is not being met, our “circle” is thought to be broken. As a result, there might be symptoms and reactions such as worry, fear, loneliness, depression, or anxiety.

Belonging

We are all being asked to physically withdraw from anyone outside of our immediate families. This is a challenge and can lead many of us to feel lonely and isolated. We miss friends, co-workers and teachers!

What can you do? We can keep connections through phone calls, email, text, social media, etc. It is important to keep contact with friend, family and teachers. Just make sure to social distance.

Mastery

If you feel best when you are active and productive, you might feel useless being isolated. You might feel disconnected if you are normally really social.

What can you do? Focus on one thing at a time. Make a plan. Set mini-goals. Do some school work. Do some online reading in an area of interest. Watch decent science or other YouTube videos. Learn about our world. Be critical of weird Facebook posts. Clean.

Independence

This coronavirus pandemic is leaving many of us feeling uncertain and powerless to do anything about our situations. As humans, we can think into the future. We might be thinking too much about fears and worries.

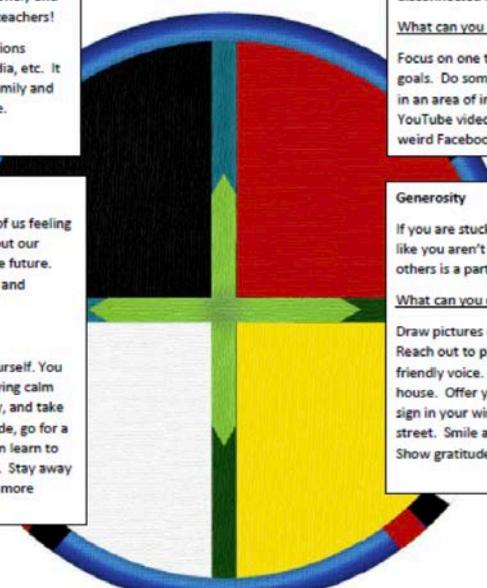
What can you do? Turn off the news. Take time to care for yourself. You may be feeling a range of emotions and staying calm might be a challenge. Rest, move your body, and take deep breaths, play music, draw. Walk outside, go for a hike, notice nature. It’s a time when you can learn to become comfortable with being by yourself. Stay away from alcohol and drugs – they make people more anxious.

Generosity

If you are stuck at home during this time you may feel like you aren’t doing much to help others. Helping others is a part of the human spirit.

What can you do? Draw pictures or write letters to friends, and family. Reach out to people that might need to hear a friendly voice. Offer to do dishes or help around the house. Offer your help to a neighbour. Put a kind sign in your window. Say hello to people on the street. Smile a lot. Connect with your teachers. Show gratitude – things could be worse.

Created by Reta Moerike



Knob Hill News

Winter Outside Activities

Although January weather was relatively mild, winter is still here. Thank you for continuing to send your children dressed appropriately for our changing winter temperatures. Students will be outside during their lunch breaks if temperatures stay warmer than -20 degrees Celsius with the wind chill. We will check for current weather conditions and make the decision close to lunch hour during cold days.

Safety News

Please be especially careful about where you park around the Knob Hill Campus when there is snow. Please do not park on the south side of 20th Avenue. Leave the hill open on the school side for buses. Buses get stuck on the hill because they cannot back up because of parked cars. Buses are also not able to load or let students off in the street. Extra diligence during snowy weather at crosswalks and stops signs will help to keep our students safe.

Knob Hill Spirit Activities

Classes are currently brainstorming ways they can brighten up the winter days and have some fun in the spirit of belonging. One of the special events coming soon is Pink Shirt Day on February 27. Students will celebrate diversity, belonging and generosity through classroom discussions and other special activities that are just in the planning stages. Get your pink shirts ready and watch for updates soon.



#tryliketerry

The Terry Fox

School Run

THE TERRY FOX FOUNDATION

Thanks to the generosity of our community, and the coordinating efforts of Ms. Billington, we raised \$2,745.20 for cancer research!

Thank you so much for your generosity!

Kindergarten / Year 1 News

Kindergarten and Year 1 students have just begun our new learning contract "What a Wonderful World". We have been exploring things such as recycling and waste, endangered animals, and personal responsibility. We are very excited to learn about our class animals and about how their habitats are being affected by humans. We have also been able to watch some live camera footage of animals such as orcas, tigers, and polar bears from sanctuaries around the world!

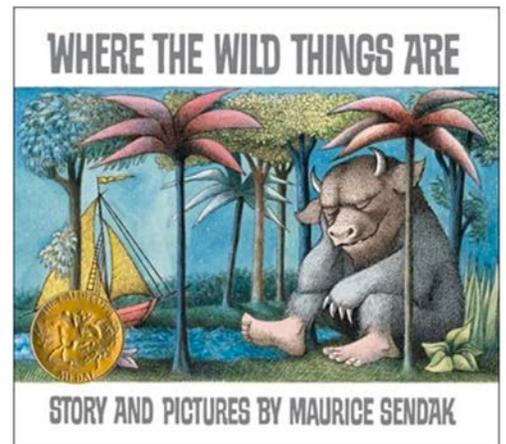
Year 1 students have been hard at work developing our writing skills by writing How-To books. We have had a lot of fun writing about making tacos for dragons using the very funny *Dragons Love Tacos* by Adam Rubin for inspiration! Who knew dragons must avoid spicy salsa at all costs?! Kindergarten students have been learning all about measurement this month and have enjoyed some large scale projects that have engaged us in exploring height and length!



Year 2/3 News

Where the wild 2/3's are!

Inspired by the book *Where The Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak, we have been creating our own artistic learning habitat. We have been researching small crawling and flying creatures, constructing trees, learning about the food chain and animal adaptations as well as animal classification. In literacy, we have been reading, creating and sharing poetry as we continue to grow as readers and writers. Year 3 students are learning the fine art of measurement and Year 2 students are working on the art of addition and subtraction. Our social studies unit has taken us on an adventure to explore the country of Peru as we continue to develop an appreciation for cultures around the world.



Year 4/5 News

Year 4/5 students at Knob Hill are deep into the Winter Wellness Contract. The focus has been how to relate to each other, how to communicate well, and how to reflect honestly. The Human Sexuality health unit has been a great door to access some of these skills. We have also started to learn about Philosophy using the book *Big Ideas for Curious Minds*. Our artist rotation with Mr. E. has started, and by the end of the month, we will be seeing Mr. Steven for music. We enjoyed our January with Ms. Kearney participating in all things visual art!

Education Centre Year 4/5 students are making connections to ourselves and the world around us as we apply mindfulness and philosophical thinking to all of our learning. Recognizing our part in the bigger world around us, we have been learning to write persuasive essays to argue our support for a class pet - one that we will be getting after the February break, to look after and make a part of our world. We have also been using Minecraft to explore different philosophical principles- from Kintsugi (the Japanese art of preparing broken pottery with gold) and haikus, to existentialism - we have given shape to our thoughts through the creation of our own virtual worlds.

Our At-Home Learners have been developing a "toolkit" of strategies for taking care of ourselves, each other, and our community environments. We have investigated the question "How are ecosystems like a community?" through explorations into wetlands and food chains, and are building towards creating our own social impact projects. We have recently wrapped up a novel study of Jerry Spinelli's *Stargirl* which led to many rich discussions about identity, kindness, conformity and independence. We look forward to digging into a new novel, written in verse, to help build on the skills we've been developing in our poetry writing assignments.

Year 6/7 News

This month, we will be learning about different influential people of colour as we celebrate Black History Month. In Year 6, we will learn about flight and aerodynamics through experiencing flight simulators. In Year 7, we will learn about heat and temperature, experimenting with dry ice and creating our own thermoses. In Year 6 Social Studies, we will continue to learn through Civic Mirror, with a focus right now on the House of Commons and supply and demand. In Year 7, we have completed our fur trade unit by making our own forts and now we are headed into the study of the Seven Years' War. Newspapers have been the current focus for us in Year 6, reporting on the events occurring in our created countries, learning how to sell newspapers for profit in the civic mirror through catchy headlines. In Year 7, we are completing our own games that we have created through text adventures, Minecraft, RPG boss and plain old fashioned board game design. In Math, we are working through geometry, learning how to use protractors, discovering angles and space.



Year 8/9 News

January began with a week of online learning for all students before our in-person students returned to the Arts Barns, where we have been happily working on completing our "Whose Voice is it Anyway?" voice over learning contract. In-person students have been taking on their roles of sound engineer, director and voice actor and bring the script-writers' work to life. Soon we will have our own re-voiced animated stories about the immune system to share with younger students at the Knob Hill campus.

Also in January, Year 9 students began to exercise our off-campus Friday lunch privileges. Our responsibility and maturity mean we have been exploring the wider community while remaining safe.

Year 8 students completed an Arts Immersion painting project to consolidate our learning about animal cells. Year 9 students are working on biological diversity research projects. In Social Studies, all students are embarking on an Arts Immersion portrait project to wrap up major units of study (the Renaissance, Year 8, Charter and minority rights, Year 9). We have been honing our creative writing skills and reading comprehension by exploring humour in poetry and short stories and then writing our own humorous or uplifting works. Math practice has centered around algebra and how to clearly share the steps of solving equations.

The Year 8/9 team is so proud of our students' creativity and resilience this year. Exciting skill-building projects in "artist time" are helping students develop across all art forms. Both Year 8 and 9 students have been enjoying dance and games, as well as basketball in our PE time. All the adjustments that Covid-19 has asked students to make are being made with grace and openness by Year 8/9 students.

We head into February looking forward to focusing on daily mindfulness as a way to maintain mental wellness, beginning a novel study, and personal academic goal-setting.



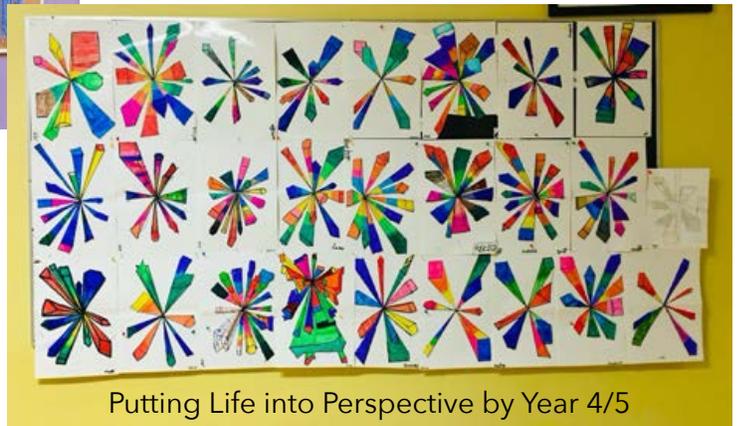
News from the Knob Hill Art Room



Weaving for Wellness in Year 4/5



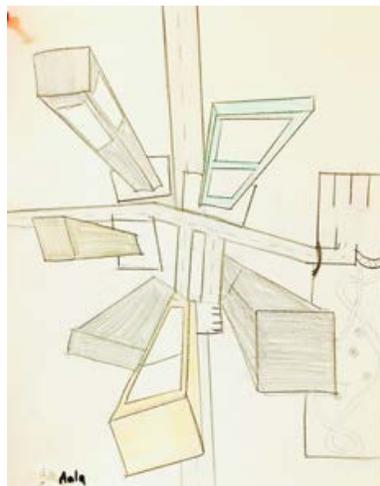
Exploring Animal Conservation by Kindergarten / Year 1



Putting Life into Perspective by Year 4/5



Arctic Fox by Kindergarten / Year 1



Education Centre Artist Team News

Here is a taste of what Year 4-10 students have been up to with the EC Artist Team over the last little while.

Ms. Hailey

In dance class each morning, we are starting to explore the style of Jazz. Specifically, we are looking at how traditional jazz music influences jazz dance in terms of musicality and playing with different rhythm and tempos. Before returning to in-person classes, we were also exploring and combining gestures that related to how we felt being at home, choosing several words to serve as inspiration for movement creation.

Mr. Hudson

We are being introduced to the fundamentals of Entertainment design. We have been learning about the production pipeline for video games and film, and are working with a variety of digital media to create products of our own!

Ms. Sarah

We were introduced to photography via at-home learning and in-person. Ask your student about the Elements of Photography and how to 'better your photography' instantly! The next rotation will allow us to finish our collaborative painting project that saw us painting the song "Bow and Arrow" which we also danced to with Ms Hailey.

Ms. Shannon

In Drama class, we have been exploring stage combat with scenes from J. M. Barrie's Peter Pan and Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Using foam swords, we have been learning proper fencing technique and how it applies to the stage. Culminating in group scene showings for the class, we have been having a blast performing our new stage fighting moves. Year 10 students have just begun our drama class with work on speeches and monologues hoping to lead to auditions for a special class project.

Ms. Susanna

We've been working on our ukulele skills! In our classes we've learned and remembered new and old chords. We've played them on the ukulele along with different songs and tried to find ways to practise finger placement and change chords faster. We've also started to read and play fingerpicking melodies using tablature and the Treble Clef.

Mr. Thorson

Students in Mr. Thorson's morning music class have been learning about digital music creation by working with GarageBand on iPads. Using tools such as audio loops, digital keyboards, and a variety of programmable drum machines, we have taken our first steps toward understanding how a few simple musical building blocks can be assembled to create amazing sounds that are all our own. In the coming weeks, we will build on these skills to compose, record, and remix our own original songs.



HIGH SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT NEWS



Term Two | Issue 6 Date: February, 2021

WHAT'S UP?

Physical Education- Students have been working on basketball skills to finish off Term 1. They practiced shooting, dribbling and passing during drills and scrimmages. We are beginning a badminton unit for the month of February. – Mr. C. LaPointe

Academic Bullets:

Math- 10C had their first cumulative exam. They finished radicals and exponents and are now into polynomials. **10-3** we are learning the math around "Earning an Income." Students are showing their diligence and organization skills with the multi-stepped workload. – Ms. K. Den Hoed

Science- Students finished their first physics check-in, researched and shared different types of energy and brainstormed ideas for a science fair project. Each group has come up with a unique idea to submit to a local science fair (virtual) hosted by medical students at the University of Alberta. After the physics unit, students will be diving into biology! – Ms. M. Leung

Humanities- In social studies, students are exploring the impacts of historical globalization and imperialism. In ELA 10-1, students are studying Harper Lee's novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It is rich with complex interactions of different racial, economic, and social identities. – Ms. M. Billington

ARTIST FEATURE



Heidi is a Year 10 student who was working with resident artist Mr. Hudson Munshaw in her Media Arts program for Term 1. Her piece is 2-D digital image created in Adobe Illustrator. It is titled "Phases of the Wolf." Heidi describes her artwork as "layered images and geometric shapes with carefully chosen colour combinations."

Guest Speaker



Ms. Nigh and Ms. Schiffner arranged for a special guest last month. The Year 10 class was delighted to meet CAA Board Member Josh Dalledonne. The visit came about as students were interested in potential art apprenticeships for Year 11 and 12 once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and school authorities say it is safe to move ahead with programming. Students gave Josh a great list of art forms and companies they are interested in attending and learning at.



Important Dates

Evening of February 3rd – Interim Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:30 – 7:45 p.m.

February 15th - 19th - Family Day and February Break (no classes)

February 22nd – PD Day (no classes)

February 23rd classes resume

February at a Glance

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Day 5	2 Day 6	3 Day 1	4 Day 2	5 Day 3	6
7	8 Day 4	9 Day 5	10 Day 6	11 Day 1	12 Day 2	13
14	15 Holiday	16 Break	17 Break	18 Break	19 Break	20
21	22 Staff only	23 Day 3	24 Day 4	25 Day 5	26 Day 6	27
28						

Links

[2021-2022 School Calendar](#)

[Daily Screening Checklist](#)

[COVID-19 Guidance for Parents](#)



Demolition has begun on the Stampede Corral at Stampede Park. We are looking forward to a new event centre.