

The Art of Learning

Message from Administration

February was a short and vibrant month across all three Calgary Arts Academy campuses, filled with celebration, learning, creativity, and community connection.

Our Year 8/9 students presented “Echoes of the Floating World” at Decidedly Jazz Danceworks (DJD)—a thoughtful and polished play of their interdisciplinary learning. Written by the students, the play followed a group of classmates who become stuck in a museum and must learn to assert their values in order to reunite and make their way safely home.

The visual and performing arts truly came alive in the professional theatre space at DJD, creating a memorable experience for performers and audience alike. This showcase was a tremendous success, and we are grateful to our students, staff, and families for their dedication and enthusiastic participation.



Year 8/9 Showcase “behind the scenes”

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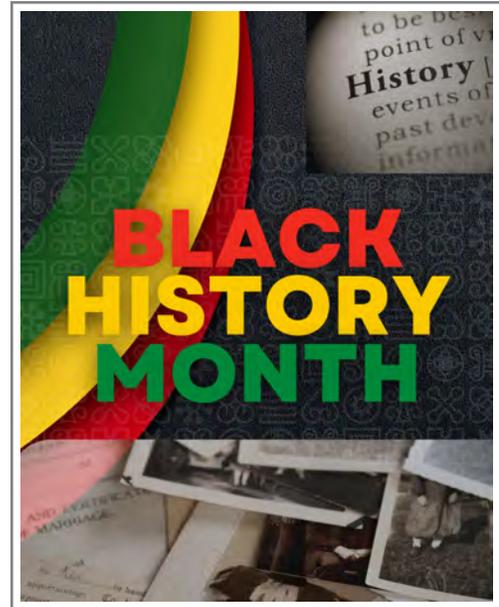
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Message from Administration continued.

February is Black History Month, a time to honour and uplift the significant contributions of Black communities in Canada and around the world. It offers a meaningful opportunity to amplify conversations about legacy, identity, innovation, and social change.

At Rosscarrock, the Year 6/7 team hosted a remarkable Black History Month sharing experience. Students welcomed guest artists in music, roller dance, and hair braiding, and they showcased their learning about African fashion and textiles. The Dance Club also shared an engaging presentation on the history of hip hop dance, highlighting the cultural roots and community impact of this global art form.



On February 25, Rosscarrock students took part in a national Pink Shirt Day broadcast presented by the WITS Programs Foundation. Students heard from leaders in creativity, youth empowerment, and positive change including Leona Prince, Maelle Sanborn and Harbour Dance Studio. In addition to the broadcast, campuses engaged in kindness-focused activities that support our culture of Belonging and reinforce our collective commitment to reducing bullying in our community.

Knob Hill students explored the works of influential Black artists and Canadians, examining how art can foster community, pride, and social change. Miss Emily's Year 2/3 class engaged deeply with this learning through a rich collection of resources that supported thoughtful discussion and discovery.

After returning from break, Ms. Tessa's Year 1 class hosted a successful Pink Shirt Day sharing assembly on February 25, with tremendous student engagement. We were delighted to see so many families attend to celebrate student learning.

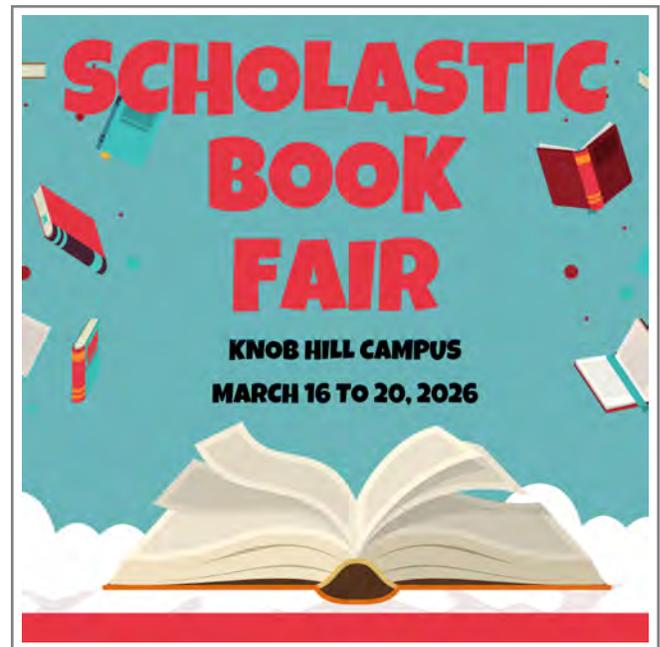
The School Council has been active and making plans to beautify the grounds and clear out the garden beds. If you would like to help, please reach out to Knob Hill Council at kh_council@caaschool.com.

Message from Administration continued.

Families are reminded to choose safety over convenience to help keep our community safe. Families using before school care may access the KH staff parking lot for drop-off before 8:00 a.m. After this time, the parking lot is for staff use only.

February gave us the opportunity to celebrate Black History Month at the Erickson Centre. The learning and reflection connected to Black history and culture are not limited to a single month. Students and teachers have been intentionally weaving these conversations and perspectives into learning throughout the year.

In ELA 30-1, for example, students centred their literary studies on works by Black American authors while engaging in thoughtful discussions about critical race studies, inequities, and the ways power and voice shape stories and societies.



In the arts, students explored the roots and influence of African American Vernacular Jazz Dance, learning how this vibrant art form reflects history, community, and cultural expression.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue building upon these experiences for students. In the coming weeks, students will have opportunities to participate in workshops led by influential Calgarians, including learning the rhythms and cultural traditions of steel pan music and working with Calgary's past Poet Laureate, Wakefield Brewster. These opportunities allow students to connect directly with artists and community leaders who continue to shape Calgary's cultural landscape.

By embedding these perspectives across subject areas and throughout the year, we aim to ensure that the stories, contributions, and creativity of Black communities are explored not only in celebration, but as an essential and ongoing part of our learning.

We extend our gratitude to community members who continue to expand our access to meaningful resources throughout the year.

Message from Administration continued.

Our February Developmental Asset focus was Constructive Use of Time. Through discussions, activities, and circle meetings, students explored how purposeful engagement builds confidence and character. A resource was shared with families to support conversations at home. In March, we will shift our focus to Positive Values. Please watch for an email with conversation starters and suggestions for home.

Looking Ahead:

March Conferences

We look forward to welcoming families for Parent-Teacher Conferences:

- March 19 - Evening conferences
- March 20 - Daytime conferences (no classes for K-12)

Showcases

- March 11 & 12 - Year 6/7 Showcase
- April 1 & 2 - Year 4/5 Showcase
- April 16 & 17 - High School Showcase



The Calgary Arts Academy Administration Team

Sarah Birch (*Principal, Knob Hill*)

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Kindergarten/Year 1 News

This month in Kindergarten and Year 1, our classrooms have been full of creativity, curiosity, and community learning.

As we explore the landmarks and important buildings that shape our community, we think about what makes each structure special and meaningful. We recently wrapped up our Calgary Tower projects, where we used clay to sculpt the iconic flame at the top. We will continue working with clay to add small details to our growing “pocket city,” and it has been fun to slowly transform our classrooms into miniature cityscapes.

We also began a new art project inspired by the beautiful Three Sisters mountains. As we learn more about local geography and well-known landmarks, we are carefully shaping and designing our mountain sculptures, paying close attention to form, texture, and detail.

Our 100th Day of School celebration on February 12 was a joyful milestone. We took part in a variety of hands-on activities that strengthened our counting skills and deepened our number sense. The “100 Day Home Projects” connected family and school learning, as we practiced counting to 100 in creative and meaningful ways.

On February 25, we recognized Pink Shirt Day by engaging in activities that encouraged kindness, inclusion, and acceptance. We shared thoughtful ideas about how to make our classroom a safe and welcoming place for everyone as we demonstrate belonging and generosity.

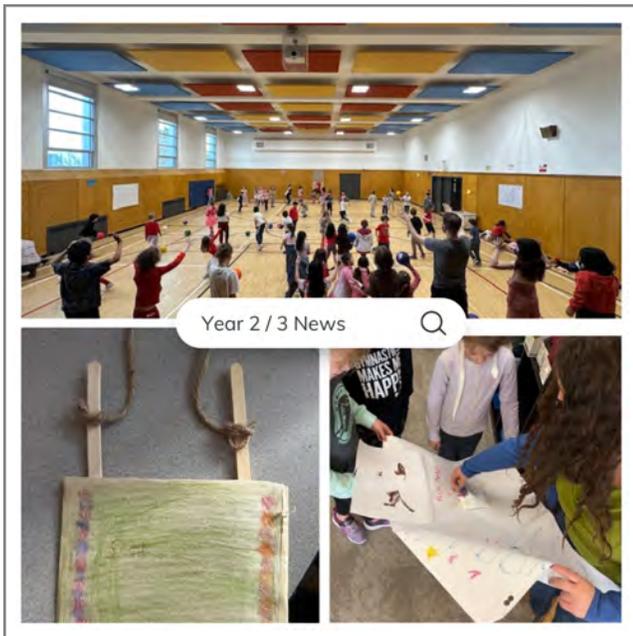


Kindergarten/Year 1 News

Year 2/3 News

What a joyful and memorable month it has been us in our Year 2/3 classrooms!

One of our favourite experiences was participating in the Pink Shirt Day assembly, where we reflected on the importance of kindness, inclusion, and standing up for others. Several of our Year 2 students bravely shared poems they wrote about Pink Shirt Day with the whole school. They did an incredible job expressing thoughtful messages about empathy and respect, and we were so proud of their confidence and courage in sharing their work.



Throughout February, we engaged in learning connected to Black History Month. With guidance from Ms. Rozitis and Ms. Purcell, we learned about influential figures, meaningful events and powerful artistic expressions in Black History. It was inspiring to connect what we learned to our own creativity through self-expression in our art.

We also had a lovely time celebrating Valentine’s Day together! We were excited to share valentines with our classmates and rotate through different creative making stations in each classroom.

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 are busy preparing for our Showcase on April 1 and 2, where we are creatively connecting our curriculum learning through a Fraggles inspired performance. As we rehearse, design and collaborate, our excitement continues to grow.

In Math, we are developing division strategies and building a stronger understanding of the standard algorithm. In Social Studies, we are creating "Mosaic of Freedom" silhouettes that connect to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

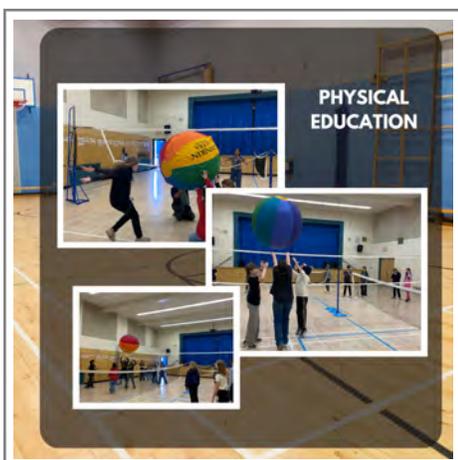


In Science, we wrapped up our unit on matter and are looking forward to beginning our study of energy, including how forces can act on objects without direct contact. In Literacy, we recently finished writing adventure stories and are now focusing on reading comprehension and script writing to support our Showcase work. In Wellness, we shared a school wide Kindness Project and have begun exploring Financial Literacy - be sure to ask us about our Fraggles Family Budget.

Some recent highlights include celebrating Black History Month through presentations hosted by the Year 6/7 students, continuing our Showcase preparations and enjoying our weekly trips to TransAlta.

We look forward to sharing our creativity and hard work with families and the community at the Showcase!

Physical Education at Rosscarrock



Students jumped into one of our most exciting cooperative games of the year, Omnikin Ball. Using a giant, lightweight ball almost as tall as they are, students work in teams to pass, catch, and strategize their way through fast-paced challenges. The focus is on teamwork, communication, and movement, making it a great way for everyone to get active and have fun.

Year 6/7 News

February was a month of creativity, leadership, and meaningful community connection in our 6/7 classrooms. From planning and leading the Black History Month assembly and collaborating across grade teams, we designed an interactive tour experience.

One of the most memorable experiences was our paper doll project. We researched fabrics, patterns, or clothing styles from African cultures and Black communities, then translated our learning into detailed artistic designs. Our work showed both curiosity and care, and it sparked thoughtful conversations about culture, identity and representation.



We were also fortunate to learn from several guest artists and professionals who generously shared their skills and stories. Their visits helped us see the real world impact of creative work and the many ways artistry can shape community. Our sincere thanks to Jairus Sharif (@jairussharif), Irene from Bantu Afros (@bantu_afros), Livvy (@livvyskates), and Odunayo (@braids_by_odun). We encourage families to explore and support their work.

As we move into March, our focus will shift to preparing for our upcoming showcase, *You Are the Musick!* on March 11 and 12. Rehearsals are

in full swing as we collaborate, take creative risks, refine our performances and build confidence in sharing our work with an audience.

Year 8/9 News

The Year 8/9 showcase was an incredible celebration of creativity, courage, and collaboration. As we devised and performed our original theatrical production, we grew significantly as young artists and as a community. We learned how to take big ideas about identity and belonging and shape them into meaningful visual and dramatic storytelling.

Designing and operating giant puppets challenged us to think deeply about scale, movement, and stagecraft. It also gave us a chance to apply our technical knowledge of simple machines and materials in a hands-on, imaginative way. As writers and performers, we strengthened our ability shape character journeys, revise scripts thoughtfully, and communicate our ideas clearly to an audience.

Drawing inspiration from historical art forms and contemporary themes of migration and “othering,” we pushed ourselves to explore complex perspectives with empathy and maturity. Through this process, we discovered that impactful theatre relies on trust, reflection, and genuine collaboration. Our strongest moments came when we combined our individual strengths to create something greater than the sum of our parts.





High School News

Students returned for Semester 2 full of energy and creativity, kicking things off with a school-wide ghost hunt. Working in small groups, they decoded escape rooms, designed intricate yarn patterns, and gathered clues to sketch our symbolic “resident ghost”—a playful figure representation of a student seeking belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity. After completing their charcoal sketches, students brought their ghosts to life with colour, glitter, and mixed media to “set them free.”



In the classroom, visual art students have been strengthening their technical skills through detailed still-life drawings, deepening their understanding of composition, perspective, and close observation. In Physics, students explored the fundamentals of electrostatics, using hands-on electroscope activities to see how objects become charged through friction, induction, and conduction.

We also enjoyed a memorable day at Sunshine Ski Resort, where students of all experience levels soaked up the sunshine and spent the day skiing and snowboarding together.

Calendar



March 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|--|-----------|-----------|
| 1 Day 1 HS Optional Ski Trip Year 4/5 Swimming | 2 Day 2 Year 4/5 Swimming | 3 Day 3 Healthy Hunger Year 4/5 Swimming | 4 Day 4 Year 4/5 Swimming | 5 Day 5 HS Badminton Doubles-Tournament | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Day 1 | 9 Day 2 RC Floor Hockey Tournament | 10 Day 3 Healthy Hunger Year 6/7 Showcase | 11 Day 4 Year 6/7 Showcase School Council Meetings | 12 Day 5 HS Badminton Championship | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Day 1 | 16 Day 2 | 17 Day 3 Healthy Hunger | 18 Day 4 Parent/Teacher Conferences after school | 19 Parent/Teacher Conferences - No Classes | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Day 5 | 23 Day 1 | 24 Day 2 | 25 Day 3 | 26 Day 4 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Day 5 Wakefield Brewster - Yr 6/7s | 30 Day 1 | 31 Day 2 Year 4/5 Showcase | 1 Day 3 Year 4/5 Showcase HS Europe Trip begins | 2 Good Friday No Classes Spring Break Begins | 3 | 4 |

Links



[Calendar](#)

[Family Zone](#)

[Record Your Volunteer Hours](#)

[CAA Foundation Website](#)

[CAA Adult Choir](#)