

# The Art of Learning

## Principal's Message

It is clear that the global pandemic has made a significant impact throughout the world. Families have lost jobs, lost loved ones, struggled with isolation, health concerns and the uncertainty that comes with the pandemic. The impact of the pandemic has created high stress for students, families, teachers, and communities. How can we begin to move forward?

The arts can play a crucial role for students, families and communities. The arts bring people together. At Calgary Arts Academy, we are fortunate to be part of a community that shares the value of the arts and the value of community.

There are numerous studies that show students who participate in the arts gain increased positive development in the academic, social, and emotional realms. The arts can also provide an outlet for students to process their emotions following trauma and difficult situations so they can begin the healing process and build resiliency in their wellness journey. A recent WHO review of more than 3,000 studies in 2019 also identified the importance of the arts to good health. With arts education at the core of Calgary Arts Academy, our students are receiving these benefits.



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*Principal's Message Continued*

It was a wonderful experience having our families in the building for student-led conferences after almost two years. We are excited to be able to plan for in-person student learning showcases and an in-person Year 9 graduation!

After 3 years of having to cancel the May Days spring community event (one year due to smoke and two years due to the pandemic,) School Council has been busy planning this year's event for May 27th! I highly encourage all families to attend! It is my hope that this community arts event will allow us to celebrate the things that are most important to us - students, arts and community!

**Links**

[CAA 2021-2022 School Calendar](#)

[CAA 2022-2023 School Calendar](#)

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

[CAA Foundation Website](#)

[CAA Adult Choir](#)

**Reminder:**

Deadline to complete registration for the 2022-2023 school year is April 8.

# Physical Education Update

After enjoying some badminton and belly baseball in March, we are going to try some sports that haven't been done in a few years: pickleball and ringette.

Outside of school hours, athletes on the badminton team have been hard at work improving their craft in preparation for the upcoming tournaments on April 13 and April 27 at the Sunridge Badminton Centre.

The in-school badminton league was a popular event for students in Year 6 to Year 9 who wanted to get more practice once the PE unit was complete.



As the days get warmer and grass gets greener, our Track & Field and Soccer teams make a long-awaited return! The soccer team is a co-ed, one-day tournament which is scheduled for mid to late May.

The Track & Field meet, held at Foothills Athletic Park, is set for June 1. Track & Field is for Year 7 and Year 8, as the Year 9 Graduation Ceremony is the same date as the Track Meet.

## Knob Hill News

Thank you to the families who joined us for student-led conferences. We sure hope you enjoyed your student guided tour and that you learned something new about life at school! It felt great for us to have families back in the building to share in your child’s learning process and growth.



### Field Trips & Volunteering

We are excited to be able to have off campus field trips again and to open up volunteer opportunities. There are many field trips being booked, so watch for permission forms being sent home. If you are looking for a way to get your ten volunteer hours in, please connect with your classroom teacher for opportunities to volunteer both on field trips and in school. All volunteers must be pre-booked and must also have police clearance. You can contact the office to see if we have your police clearance on file.



All schools are required to conduct a number of safety drills and practices every year. Lockdown practices help staff and students be prepared for emergency situations that can occur at schools. Our intention is for students to be able to respond quickly and calmly if needed.

The Knob Hill Campus will conduct an announced lockdown practice on Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. The procedures for lockdown practices at our school have been developed in consultation with the Calgary Police Service. Police constables will assist with the lockdown practice and provide feedback for future practices.

A letter will be emailed to all families prior to the lockdown practice containing more information and suggestions for discussing lockdown practices with younger children.

Teachers will also discuss this process with students in advance of the lockdown practice, to help them feel safe and comfortable throughout the drill.

# Kindergarten/ Year 1 News

## **KH Staff Updates**

As many of you may have noticed, Silvana Poissant is off temporarily as she injured herself on a walk and hurt her knee quite badly. While she recuperates, we have been lucky enough to have Jodi Segura join us at Knob Hill to support the office and students, taking attendance, and learning a lot as she goes. She will be with us until the first week of May. Thank you for helping her to feel welcome.

We also want to formally welcome Ms. Chantal Connolly back from maternity leave. She has joined our Year 4/5 team again and we are thrilled she is back and ready to roll.

## **Student Supports**

We also would like to welcome Ms. Katherine Meeks to Knob Hill part-time. Ms. Meeks has been working at the Education Centre as a reading interventionist, but will now also be supporting some of our Knob Hill students with speech development and articulation. She will be with us until the end of June, and brings her background as a Speech Language Pathologist Assistant to the role.

Ms. Amber Shandro and Ms. Megan Vergo continue to support Year 1 to 5 students with early reading intervention. We are so grateful for our specialists in support roles who encourage our students to be the best they can be!

We have also recently received some additional funding to support numeracy skills in students in Years 1 to 3, and are hoping to hire a part-time numeracy specialist to fill this role soon.

We have been having all kinds of FUN when wrapping up our Fun & Games contract.

We participated in creating board game pieces with Ms. T. We learned sculpting techniques with model magic and the fun art of Shrinky Dinks. Mr. E helped us come up with our very own movement games to play with each other, setting rules and expectations. We experienced our five senses through mystery box challenges and guessing the feel, sound, smell, taste and zoomed up pictures we could see in the boxes.



Finally we had the opportunity to showcase our learning to our parents when they came for student led conferences. We got to take home our class made board games and challenge our parents to follow the instructions we wrote out for them.

In March we celebrated St. Patricks Day in style. We created leprechaun traps, learned how lucky we truly are at be at school and partook in some mischievous fun!



## Year 2/3 News

It's been March madness in Year 2/3!

This month was fully packed with fun and excitement. We have been putting in tons of work learning about our respective decades in preparation for our upcoming showcase taking place on May 24 and May 25. Ms. Amanda has been working alongside Mr. E to choreograph dances, Ms. Turner has been exploring influential visual art movements, Ms. Larose has immersed students in the art of songwriting, and Mr. Matt has been covering the science of sound!

In addition to our all of our Arts Immersion learning, we had the opportunity to learn about the sport of baton twirling! We were taught basic moves, tricks, and even learned a routine to cap off our week of lessons.



We also had our annual visit from the ever-elusive Lucky the Leprechaun! Once again, Lucky was able to avoid the traps, steal the golden treats, and still found time for many other shenanigans! Better luck to us all next year...

## Year 4/5 News

After being submerged in a wasteland scenario and learning about the destruction of our world, the Year 4/5 team has switched gears and are jumping into a new contract entitled "Regrowth: A Wonderland of Life"!

We have learned about the processes of regrowth and all the amazing ways that we celebrate life within our world! We are starting to germinate and plant our own seeds and will watch them grow from seed to mature plant, documenting every step of the process.

Alongside this, we are working on our skills in writing non-fiction literature and are becoming experts at creating scientific drawings, documenting experiments through the scientific method, and analyzing current media sources for persuasion techniques (good luck fooling us, internet!).

As the contract continues, we will be learning about sustainable fashion, will lead debates on whether our new found wonderland should be privatized or remain public, and will explore the ways that we, as humans, celebrate all that mother nature has to offer!

*Curious about the paper cranes at the KH library? Page 10 has the answer!*

## Year 6/7/8 News

In our Market Days learning contract, we have explored our personal business choices to make our very own company! Later in April, we will be holding the Official Market Days market to raise money for charity. More information will be provided soon about Market Days.

Our FinS rainbow trout are few in numbers but are healthy and becoming very strong swimmers! We are excited for the coming release dates to return the fish to their natural habitat.

In Year 6, we are welcoming Mr. Myatovic for the remainder of the year in Language Arts and Social Studies. As we approach the April break, we are sorry that Mr. Acton will be leaving CAA and wish him well in his future teaching endeavours as he graduates his program this spring. We are working on a really amazing cross curricular Science, Language Arts, and Art project to wrap up our Air and Aerodynamics unit. We are confident when we do long division and multiplication with decimals.



In Year 7 Science, we dove into an art project on plants for food and fibre. We are continuing to study plant parts, and studying plants under a microscope. In Year 7/8 Language Arts, we are working on performing arts projects to lead us into our poetry unit. In Year 8 Science, the stakeholder auction project is coming to a close with the new topic of testing the quality of water for various nutrient levels.

## Year 9/10/11 News

In Year 9, we have started our latest learning contract. This learning contract is a play that is being written and created by students and will be presented to the community later in May. In Language Arts, we recently wrote and performed monologues based on the Princess Bride to demonstrate point of view and character development as we finished the novel.

In Social Studies, we have continued developing our understanding of consumerism through the "One Red Paperclip" project that will be wrapping up before the April break. In Science, we researched the history of atomic theory and communicated that information through an atomic theory timeline. We also researched information on the families on the periodic table and integrated that information into the creation of a superhero or villain.

In Year 10, we have been working on creating our own news broadcast. We have been researching stories to include, along with interviewing members of the school community.

Year 9/10/11 News Continued

In Language Arts, we are completing our Lord of the Flies novel and entering the last phase of our survivor style games. Activities such as an escape room await! In Year 11, we finished reading Hitch Hiker's Guide To The Galaxy and we will begin creating commercials based on the novel's philosophical themes.

In Biology 20, we completed our photosynthesis and cellular respiration unit by planning a cellular respiration party. Students prepared games, music, food, decorations and costumes to showcase our understanding of cellular respiration. In Chemistry 20, we have been learning about laws related to gases. We used the ideal gas to determine the molar mass of butane through experimentation.



In Physics 20, we have been working through understanding dynamics and forces. We have investigated the relationships between force, mass and acceleration as well as the force of friction and the normal force.

## Year 9 Graduation

We are pleased to announce that we will be moving forward with an in-person graduation celebration for our Year 9 students! We are looking forward to honouring the achievements of our Year 9 Graduating Class of 2022 on Wednesday, June 1st, 2022. You can expect further correspondence outlining details in the coming weeks, but the following provides the general overview, so you can begin planning accordingly.

1:30 p.m. – Graduation Ceremony at Arts Commons Martha Cohen Theatre – 215 - 8th Ave SE

5:30 p.m. – Dinner for Graduates and Teachers at The Old Spaghetti Factory – 108 - 472 - 26th St NE

7:30 p.m. – Comedy Show at Calgary Arts Academy Education Centre

9:00 p.m. – Parent Pick-up at Calgary Arts Academy Education Centre

*Stay tuned for a request to submit your grad's baby pictures for the video we are compiling!*



## Leadership in the Arts

Our most recent Arts Leader Panel Discussion allowed Year 10 and 11 students the opportunity to meet with an incredible panel of emerging, mid-career and established local visual artists, who discussed their story of artistic expression. Both Harvey and Caitlind showcased a sample of their artistic endeavours and all three panelists addressed what has inspired them creatively. Additionally, they spoke about what challenges they have faced, their successes and future goals. A common theme amongst the three panelists was balancing career objectives that include both personal projects with those that are commissioned. Here is a look at the three talented artists that joined our panel:

### Harvey Nichol

Harvey is an emerging artist and currently working with Arts Commons in their TD Incubator Artist Program. He is a first-generation, self-taught, multidisciplinary artist who is currently pursuing a BFA at Alberta University of the Arts. Inspired by his life experiences as an immigrant from the Tondo District in Metro Manila, becoming homeless as a youth, and living through the foster system, he channels all of this through visual auto ethnography (self-reflection exploring personal experience and connecting it to a wider cultural, political, and social meanings and understandings). He also considers elements of folklore, mythologies, and socio-political commentary on today's world.

His work embodies elements of various art movements such as neo-expressionism, social realism (in the Philippines), and street art. Harvey has recently been experimenting with projections, live performance, graphic novels, and fashion.

You can learn more about Harvey here: <https://www.harveynichol.ca>



### Caitlind r.c. Brown

Caitlind graduated from the Alberta University of the Arts in 2010, earning an Alumni of Merit Career Award in 2019. Caitlind works with diverse mediums and materials, and a primary part of her practice has been collaborating with different artists. Her most recent collaboration has been with Wayne Garret, who trained as a musician at Mount Royal University and a machinist at Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. Together they have explored the interspace between seemingly polarized entities: light + dark, nature + culture, DIY + institutional, individual + collective.



*Leadership in the Arts Continued*

The duo centres their practice in relational space, conceptualizing installations and interventions primarily for the public realm. Their projects beckon viewers with novel materials and participatory contexts, inviting strangers to share in collaborative viewership. Beautiful, subversive, playful, and radically inclusive, their works transform the everyday through a critical shift in perspective.

Together, they have exhibited at Garage Museum of Contemporary Art (Russia), Weisman Art Museum (USA), Pera Museum (Turkey), Japan Alps Art Festival (Japan), the National Arts Centre (Canada), and other art spaces across North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. Their public projects include [Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow](#), AFTER IMAGE, and [Delta Garden + The City Unseen](#) in Calgary, [CARBON COPY](#) in Edmonton, and [LIGHT KEEPER](#) in Toronto. In 2019, they won Urban Design Awards for public

artworks in Calgary and Edmonton, including the People’s Choice Award for CARBON COPY. In collaboration with [Lane Shordee](#), Caitlind & Wayne are currently Guiding Artists for [The Wandering Island](#), a site-responsive project on a small island in the Elbow River.

**Ian Fitzgerald**

Ian is an instructor at Alberta University of the Arts with a specialization in advertising and design. He has taught courses in the fundamentals of advertising and marketing, brand design, package design, and writing. Ian is passionate about exploring how art and commerce collide. Alongside teaching, he consults to the Alberta advertising industry, building on decades of experience as a copywriter, producer and creative director in radio, television, and ad agencies

We are looking forward to our next panel, focussing on Dance and Theatre Artists, the first week of May.



## Paper Cranes at Knob Hill

An excerpt from a letter our Teacher Librarian, Ms. Sarah Birch, wrote for one of our Year 4 students to bring with her to Japan this spring.:

As part of our arts-based literacy programming, in the fall of 2021, the Year 4/5 students of Calgary Arts Academy (CAA) began learning about Sadako Sasaki. In reading this book with our students, we hoped to foster an understanding of the importance of peace through the art of origami. They asked questions about why and how these devastating things happened, and we discussed the vital importance of peaceful communication. We hoped that students would fold cranes mindfully, making wishes for peace, community, understanding and health. The students of CAA took the project and ran with it, challenging themselves to fold one thousand paper cranes.

At Calgary Arts Academy, we are not only focused on teaching through art, but also the building of strong communities that foster belonging and kindness.



Sadako’s family and friends worked hard to make sure she was not alone in her illness. In our world today, we can learn a great deal from Sadako, her intention and dedication when folding her cranes, and her bravery. We can also be inspired by the friends and family who supported her through her illness and shared her message of peace and hope after her death.

We were deeply moved when our student shared her family connection to Japan and her desire to bring our cranes to the Peace Park in Nagasaki. These moments show how deeply connected we all are.



# April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Day 4 1	2
3 Day 5	4 Day 6	5 Day 1	6 Day 2	7 Day 3	8	9
10 Day 4	11 Day 5	12 Day 6	13 Day 1	14 No School Good Friday	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<b>April Break</b>						
24 PD Day - No Classes	25 Day 2	26 Day 3	27 Day 4	28 Day 5	29	30