

The Art of Learning

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Message from Administration

March has been filled with opportunities for connection and celebration of learning within our community. On March 19 and 20, all three campuses hosted Parent Teacher Conferences. These conferences provide an opportunity for parents to connect with their child’s teacher, a platform for students to showcase their hard work, reflect on their progress, and engage in meaningful conversations about their learning journey. We are grateful for the enthusiastic participation of parents and the support you continue to provide in fostering a collaborative and enriching educational environment.



Message from Administration continued.

Our three School Councils continue to build strong foundations in support of all three Calgary Arts Academy campuses. Through collaboration, shared ideas, and parent involvement, School Council plays an important role in enhancing the school experience for our students and families.

The next School Council meetings will take place on April 21. Please keep an eye on your inbox for campus-specific meeting times and a Microsoft Teams link to join. All parents and guardians are members of their respective campus School Council and are warmly invited to participate in these monthly meetings.



The Calgary Arts Academy School Council Society has an important fundraising opportunity coming up. Every 18 months, the Society is eligible to participate in a fundraising casino and this event is our largest school fundraiser. This year's upcoming casino will take place at Cowboy's Casino (421 – 12 Avenue SE) on April 27 and 28, 2026.

The Society is currently seeking volunteers to help make this event a success. If you are able to support this important fundraiser, please sign up using the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0449ADAD2AA5FACE9-62055621-caakto#/>

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. We truly appreciate it!

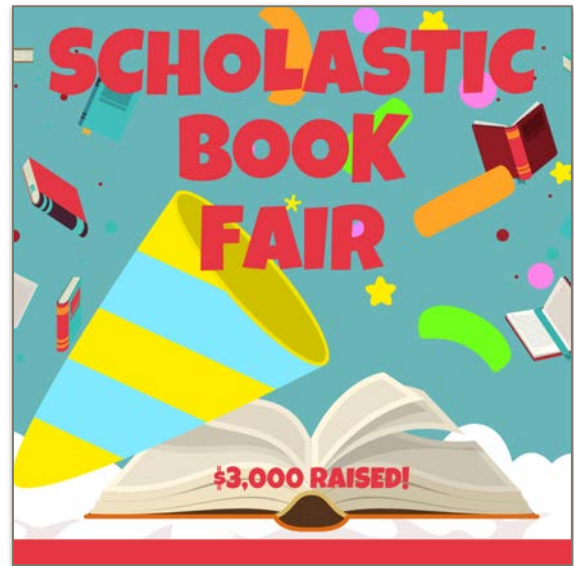


Throughout the months of February and March, we have been hosting school tours at all sites to share our program and school with new, interested families. The guests always comment on how welcoming our students and staff are to them as they visit classrooms and see Arts Immersion in action.

Message from Administration continued.

Knob Hill's annual Scholastic book fair tradition continued during School Conferences! Thank you to our librarian, Ms. Lisa and all of our parent volunteers who exceeded our fundraising goal, and raised \$3000 toward our literacy resources and library collections.

On March 17 Ms. Bayne's Year 1 class, with the support of our theatre artist, Ms. Shannon, hosted another engaging sharing assembly. Many classes had the opportunity to share performing and visual arts, some touched on Irish culture, including a dramatic retelling of the story of the Titanic, which was built in Belfast. Our kindies had a chance to share a song they had been learning with Mr. G and we were so delighted to see so many families join us in the joy of sharing Arts Immersion learning. Our next sharing assembly will be hosted by Ms. Purcell's class, please stay tuned for details!



At Rosscarrock, the Year 4/5 team have been preparing for their showcase, *The Fraggles Go to School*, which will be performed on April 1 and 2, 2026 in our school gym. Please check with your child's homeroom teacher to see when your student will be performing. This is proving to be another exciting process for students as they have engaged in green screen filming, auditioning for roles, creating a band, learning lines, and using tech all while sharing their current learning while traveling by yellow school bus. Another ambitious and original experience for our students, which we are excited to share with the community.

The Year 6/7 students shared their showcase, *Musicking* in early March. We welcomed all guests to experience the act of musicking which is to take part, in any capacity, in a musical performance, whether by performing, by listening, by rehearsing or practicing, by providing material for performance (what is called composing), or by dancing. Year 8/9 designed visual art pieces using the elements of art to strengthen impact and communicate personal growth, perspective, identity, mood and emotion.

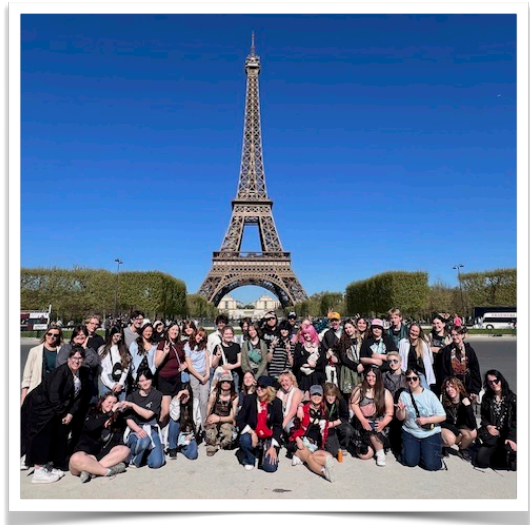
Message from Administration continued.

We have many exciting milestones to celebrate at the Erickson Centre high school campus. Auditions for the 2026–2027 school year are now complete for both returning and prospective students, and we are thrilled to have received a record number of applicants. This is a wonderful testament to the growing interest in the Arts Immersion programming in high school.

This spring also marked a major first for our school, as 37 students and 6 chaperones travelled across the Atlantic Ocean on our first-ever optional high school trip to Europe. This unforgettable experience created lasting memories and meaningful learning opportunities for all who participated.

Closer to home, a dedicated group of 25 students have been preparing to perform at the Alberta High School Drama Festival Association's Calgary Zone 9 One-Act Festival, taking place on May 1. We are so proud of their commitment and wish them the very best on stage. Their play will also be featured at our High School Showcase, *Subjective States*, at Vertigo Theatre on April 15 and 16.

Finally, we say a heartfelt "Farewell, see you soon..." to Mr. Funk, who will be spending the remainder of the school year caring for his growing family.



At the same time, we are pleased to welcome Ms. Parveet Hundal back to the Erickson Centre to teach Mr. Funk's courses and support students in their final months of the school year.

Our April Developmental Asset of the Month is Social Competencies. Young people need positive skills, values, and commitments that equip them to make good choices, resist peer pressure, and build positive, peaceful relationships. Please watch your email for more information and resources.

The Calgary Arts Academy Administration Team

Sarah Birch (*Principal, Knob Hill*)

Kimberly Hoey (*Principal, Rosscarrock*)

Juleta Severson-Baker (*Assistant Principal, Rosscarrock*)

Amanda Bonnell (*Assistant Principal, Erickson Centre*)

Kindergarten/Year 1 News

We were thrilled to wrap up our third contract by sharing our artwork in the gymnasium during a special gallery tour. We proudly explained to our Year 2/3 friends how we created the landmarks, maps, and objects for our Pocket City. Sharing our artwork made us feel confident and really proud of what we accomplished.

In music, our classroom transformed into a songwriting studio. We wrote our own songs about the seasons and added actions to go with every line, some dramatic, some super silly and all of them were creative. We acted out everything from slow-motion falling leaves to high energy snowball fights right in the middle of our songs. We loved getting to make our own music!

We are looking ahead with excitement to our final learning contract with Ms. Shannon, where we will be creating a showcase performance titled "Our Beautiful Earth."

We will be exploring life cycles, flowers, planting, insects and all kinds of wonders from our planet through music, storytelling, puppetry and movements. We are excited to share during our showcase performances on May 13 and 14! Stay tuned for details about which evening your child will perform—and keep an eye out, as there may even be some earthly treasures coming home after the performance!

We are excited to share with you a joyful celebration of learning and creativity as we finish the year strong!



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 2/3 News

As we wrapped up our third learning contract, *Making Sense of It All*, we explored many creative ways to bring stories, poems, and ideas to life. We learned how words, rhythm, and expression shape meaning, and we also delved into the world of miming and silent film. Using only our faces, bodies, and gestures, we discovered how to communicate emotions and ideas without speaking at all.

Throughout the contract, we paid close attention to our five senses and how they help us understand the world around us. We noticed how a story or performance can feel completely different depending on which sense we focus on. We experimented with sound effects, energy, and movement to make our performances expressive, engaging and full of feeling. In Science, we also learned how changes in strength or direction of force can affect motion.

In our poetry work, we played with words, images, and everyday objects in surprising ways to express ideas. Through these activities, we discovered how meaning can shift depending on how we use language, images, movement, sound, and energy. We learned that stories and poems can take many forms, and also that our own ideas and voices can be shared in imaginative and meaningful ways.

In Year 2 math, we learned about different types of graphs and practiced adding and subtracting numbers within 100 using a variety of strategies. We are building confidence as mathematicians by explaining our thinking and trying new approaches.

In Social Studies, we explored benefits and challenges of multiculturalism and discussed how it helps build acceptance within our communities.



Year 4/5 News

The Year 4/5 Team and students welcomed the arrival of April with their Showcase performance. The evening was a celebration of learning, creativity, and collaboration. Parents and guests were treated to a joyful performance of song and dance inspired by Fraggles Rock, followed by smaller group sessions where students highlighted their learning across the curriculum. Students confidently shared their understanding of Waste Management in Science and explored concepts connected to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in Social Studies.



In Math, students demonstrated their learning through hands-on activities exploring area and perimeter, while in Language Arts, students brought stories to life through radio-style and podcast storytelling performances.

April also brings our fourth and final learning contract for the 2025-2026 school year. We welcome back Ms. Christy, our artist for the remainder of the year. We are also looking forward to our Aggie Day field trip which closely connects to our science curriculum of living systems.

Year 6 to 9 Arts Option Update

Visual Arts with Ms. Christy

In Visual Arts with Ms. Christy, students have been exploring the world of clay during this session of options, learning about form, function, and technique. Students have designed and created their own personalized paint palettes, brush rests, and even ventured into the exciting experience of throwing clay on the pottery wheel.

As part of the process, students have also learned about kiln firing and glazing. They are discovering how their creations are transformed through heat, and how different glazes add colour, texture, and finish. It's been wonderful to see their creativity and skills take shape from raw clay to finished pieces!

Year 6 to 9 Arts Option Update continued.

All That Jazz with Ms. Jen

In this energetic dance class, students have been engaged in the rich diversity of jazz, exploring the dance form's roots and influences. Through four mini-units, students have dipped their toes into Swing, Funk, West-African (Guinean) dance, and are currently being kept on their toes learning Tap! Students have been developing a deeper appreciation for the history of jazz dance while engaging in new ways of moving.



Music with Mr. Thorson

Students in Years 6 to 9 Music continue to build skills and confidence on their instruments, while also turning their attention toward future performances at our "CAA: Live at the Ironwood" talent show on May 24.

With a focus on collaboration, musicality and expression, we are excited to be bringing our songs to one of Calgary's premier local music venues.

Zines with Mr. Matt

In their Zine Option, Year 6/7 students are exploring creative expression through thoughtful writing, design, and personal voice. They are developing their ability to communicate ideas clearly while experimenting with layout, visuals, and audience engagement. Students are encouraged to refine their work by demonstrating effort, originality, and attention to detail as they move toward their finished product.

Creating Comics with Ms. Lothbrook

In Creating Comics, Year 8/9 students have been designing original comics. They are engaged in the comic creation process by thoughtfully planning characters, settings, and plot elements. They have drafted storyboards and refined their ideas to strengthen the flow and clarity of their narrative. Their persistence and attention to detail have helped them publish dynamic comics.

Year 6/7 News

March was an exciting and creative month for us in Year 6/7. One of our biggest highlights was our “You Are the Musick” showcase on March 11 and 12. Through this experience, we explored the idea that music is not just something we listen to - it’s something we *do*. Whether we were performing, listening, organizing, or creating, we learned that each role contributes to the musical experience. Having our families and community members join us made it even more meaningful, and we loved sharing the energy and intention behind our work.

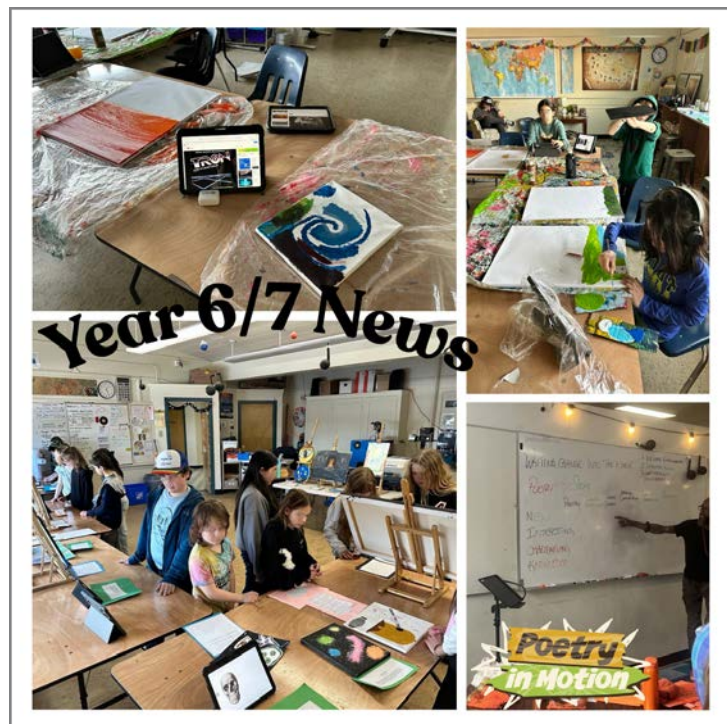
As the month continued, we shifted into thinking like composers. We experimented with building our own musical ideas and made thoughtful choices about rhythm, mood, and structure. This process challenged us to take creative risks, reflect on our decisions, and see how our individual voices can shape a larger piece.

We were also incredibly inspired by the Year 4/5 showcase, which truly impressed us. Their performance highlighted the power of dedication, collaboration, and courage. It sparked meaningful conversations in our classroom about growth, stage presence, and supporting one another as performers.

Another highlight of March was beginning our poetry unit with spoken word artist, Wakefield Brewster. We were introduced to the elements of spoken word poetry, learning how to use rhythm, repetition, and expressive language to tell powerful stories.

Using the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as inspiration, we started exploring how poetry can help us express identity, voice and advocacy.

Overall, March was a month filled with exploration, creativity, and growing confidence. We strengthened our ability to collaborate, take creative risks, and share our ideas in meaningful and impactful ways.



Year 8/9 News

We have deepened our learning across subjects through projects that challenge us to think creatively, adapt, and express who we are. Building on our experiences at DJD, we recently completed an Arts Immersion project focused on change and adaptation. Using a range of artistic forms, we created multimodal pieces that explore how environments, challenges, and shifting perspectives shape our lives. Throughout this process, we developed new technical skills in paper making, tetra printing, and haiku, blending visual art and writing to communicate layered ideas about transformation and resilience.

We have also been exploring identity and self-expression through an Eric Carle inspired project. By creating bold, textured animal artworks, we represented aspects of ourselves through intentional choices in colour, pattern, and form. This project will soon extend beyond our classroom as we take on a teaching role with younger students at Knob Hill, sharing our process and supporting their creativity. We also hope to connect with local seniors to bring this project full circle through intergenerational collaboration and storytelling.

In Year 9 Science, we have been investigating both the microscopic and the cosmic. During our Space Exploration unit, we designed model space suits that respond to real challenges of surviving in space, applying our understanding of environmental hazards and human needs. In another unit on atomic theory, we created detailed paper busts of influential scientists, highlighting how scientific models have changed over time and how new discoveries build on earlier ideas.

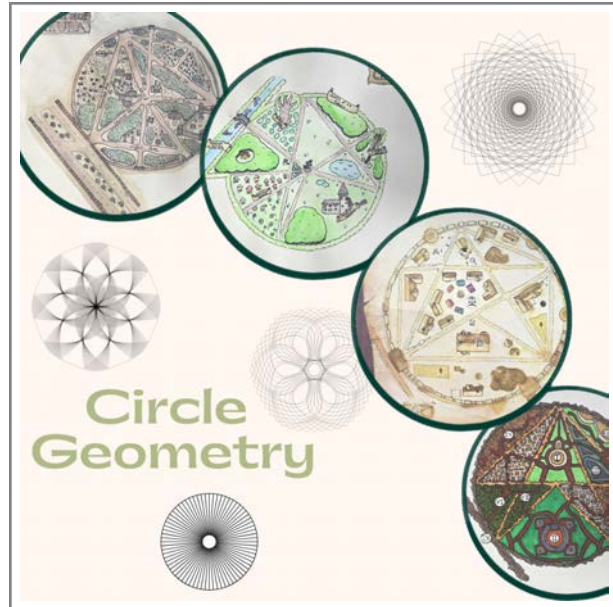


Year 8/9 News continued.

Across math, we have been applying our learning in hands-on and creative ways. In Math 8.1, we used ratios and proportional reasoning to design and construct large-scale models of chocolate bars, transforming small measurements into accurate enlarged replicas. These projects emphasized precision, planning, and the ability to move between representations.

In Math 9, we have applied the principles of circle geometry and measurement to design a fantasy map circular cityscape. Using central and inscribed angles, right triangles and Pythagorean theorem, tangents, chords, and arcs, we created detailed blueprints that became polished city maps on watercolour paper.

As we move into the final stretch of the year, we are excited to begin our final learning contract, *Songs of the Kingdom*, celebrate our Year 9 students as they approach graduation, and enjoy the warmer weather ahead. Thank you for your continued support of the meaningful, creative, and interdisciplinary learning happening in our classroom.



High School News

High school students have been actively engaged in a wide range of athletic, artistic, and performance-based experiences this month, showcasing skill development, creativity, and strong community spirit.

The badminton athletes concluded their season with a final tournament that showcased impressive growth in technical skills, court awareness, and sportsmanship. Throughout the season and into the final competition, athletes showed perseverance, teamwork, and a strong commitment to fair play, making for a highly competitive and positive finish to the program.

In Physical Education 20/30, students took part in a lively and memorable ringette experience that began with a workshop led by a guest elite player and a very special instructor, Ms. Humphrey's daughter! Their learning continued during a field trip to a local ice rink, where students practiced skating, passing and game play. The experience emphasized teamwork, communication, and confidence on the ice, while offering a fun and memorable introduction to ringette for many students.

Students also enjoyed their first optional ski and snowboard field trip to Sunshine Village! They began the day with a lesson and then explored the hill in small groups. The weather was beautiful, and everyone had a fantastic time - whether it was their first day on the slopes or they were already advanced skiers and riders.

Drama and Technical Theatre students had the opportunity to attend an optional evening field trip to see *My Own Personal Hell*, presented by Calgary Young People's Theatre. The production was especially meaningful, as it featured one of our own Advanced Acting students among a talented cast of youth performers. Students were inspired by the dynamic storytelling, bold character work and the reminder of what young artists in our community can achieve.

In English Language Arts 20-1, students completed a Macbeth Visual Essay Project exploring how personal perceptions shape responses to events and circumstances. Through a blend of written analysis and symbolic imagery, students moved beyond literal interpretation to express complex ideas creatively. Structured stages, such as theme development, thesis statements and the from → through → to framework supported students in crafting thoughtful and well supported essays enriched with metaphor and visual symbolism .

High School News continued.

Music students spent the week learning from guest songwriting artist Nancy Laberge, who guided them through lyric writing, composition, and collaborative music-making.

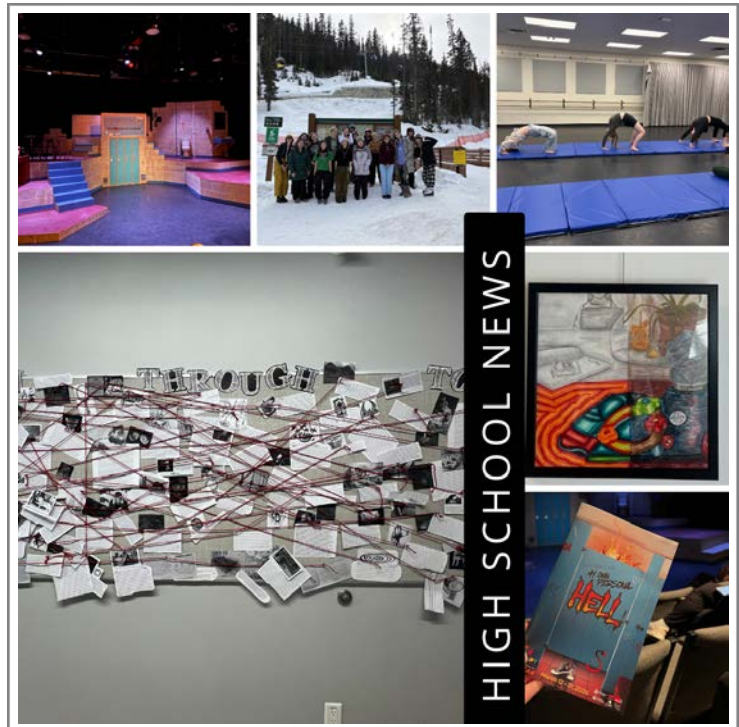
In PE 20/30 and Dance 25/35, guest choreographer Shemar Herbert led a high-energy hip hop choreography unit, challenging students to refine their timing, musicality, and expressive movement. Dance students also welcomed Ms. Allison Hunter who facilitated an engaging acro—dance workshop.

Creative writing students had the opportunity to work with guest playwright, Meg Braem, an Alberta-based artist whose plays have been nominated for the Governor General’s Literacy Award and twice won the Alberta Playwriting Competition.

Excitement is building for our upcoming high school showcase *Subjective States*, at Vertigo Theatre on April 15 and 16. Technical Theatre students have been deeply involved in all aspects of production, including set construction, costume design, prop development, and the creation of lighting and sound design elements. Their craftsmanship and collaboration continue to shape the performance environment..

Ms. Rachel and a group of students have launched a bi-weekly lunchtime open mic, offering a welcoming space for students to share their talents in music, poetry, comedy, and storytelling.

The new initiative has quickly become a positive creative outlet on campus, fostering confidence, connection, and student voice across grade levels.



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Links



[Calendar](#)

[Family Zone](#)

[Record Your Volunteer Hours](#)

[CAA Foundation Website](#)

[CAA Adult Choir](#)

Calendar



April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Day 2 Healthy Hunger Year 4/5 Showcase	2 Day 3	3 Spring Break, No Classes	4
5 Spring Break, No Classes	6 Spring Break, No Classes	7 Spring Break, No Classes	8 Spring Break, No Classes	9 Spring Break, No Classes	10 Spring Break, No Classes	11
12 PD Day, No Classes	13	14 Day 4	15 Day 5 Healthy Hunger HS Showcase Year 1 Catch Up Vaccinations	16 Day 1 High School Showcase RC Badminton Tournament	17 Day 2 Year 4/5 Aggie Days Field Trip	18
19 Day 3	20	21 Day 4 HS Field Trip Mustard Seed School Council Meetings Online	22 Day 5 Healthy Hunger HS Field Trip F&D Scene Works	23 Day 1 RC Spring Dance	24 Day 2	25
26 Day 3 cSPACE HS Art Show (until May 4)	27 Day 4	28	29 Day 5 Healthy Hunger	30 Day 1 RC Badminton Tournament Year 6 Vaccinations		