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## Message from Administration Continued

At Calgary Arts Academy, our 2025-2026 school theme is *Create to Connect*. In a world that often seems increasingly disconnected, this year we focus on connection, hoping to inspire every member of our community to connect with themselves, each other, and the world around them. Classrooms are places of curiosity; learning is hands-on, relational, and adventurous. Small, daily creative risks help us grow, discover new ideas, and make new connections in our learning. Our theme is inspired by the Cree concept of *Wahkohtowin* (interconnectedness and kinship) that teaches us that every action ripples through the world around us. By caring for others and all living things, we honour our connections and help our communities grow strong and healthy.



On December 5, 2025, this theme will come alive on stage at the Jubilee Auditorium through dynamic performances that reflect the wonder and joy that has been sparked in our classrooms through our Arts Immersion processes. Each movement, song, and visual component is a product of creativity in action, with students exploring new ideas, experimenting with artistic expression, sharing their unique perspectives, and connecting to curriculum and each other. Every element reflects our shared vision of valuing children, the arts, and learning. Bringing together all students from Kindergarten to Year 12 on a professional stage is no small feat. We are deeply grateful to the staff, parents, and volunteers who make this event possible.



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.

Choir practices will  
continue to be held  
Wednesday evenings at  
the **CAA Rosscarrock  
Campus.**

(1406 - 40 Street SW)

[https://  
www.caaschool.com/  
caa-adult-choir](https://www.caaschool.com/caa-adult-choir)

## Message from Administration Continued

The spirit of generosity is in full swing this month with our annual Loonie and Toonie drive to support CAA families in need. Donations are being accepted until December 15 at all campuses. Should you wish to request support this holiday season, please email Juleta Severson-Baker ([jbaker@caaschool.com](mailto:jbaker@caaschool.com)). Additionally, our Mitten Trees are up, and ready to accept new mittens and hats. Students are encouraged to contribute an item or two to the tree before the Winter Break. Donations will go to Project Warmth which supports Calgarians experiencing homelessness this winter.



In December, we will be celebrating the Developmental Asset of Empowerment. Empowerment is experienced when youth feel valued and appreciated by adults in their community, when they are included in decisions at home and at school, when they have opportunities to help others in their community, and when they feel safe at home, at school, and in their neighbourhood. Students will engage in conversations about these skills and have opportunities to practice them at school as we lead up to the Winter Break.

At the Knob Hill campus, we had wonderful day trips to Camp for all of our K-3 students. On November 12 Knob Hill students observed Remembrance Day, with student-made poppy wreaths. Students were guided through a meaningful laying of the wreaths portion of the assembly by Laurie VandeSchoot, a Deputy Fire Chief and CAA Parent. November also featured our Baton Twirling residence in Physical Education.

At the Rosscarrock campus, students are looking forward to a variety of upcoming opportunities. These include field trips, basketball tryouts and intramurals, Year 9 students will learn about the transition to high school and a special presentation from a guest with the Calgary Police Service on internet safety. Looking ahead, the Year 8/9 showcase will be the next community performance for Rosscarrock. Students will be performing at the Decidedly Jazz Danceworks on February 11 & 12, 2026. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for further details from the instructional team.

## Message from Administration Continued

At the Erickson Centre, students are completing the final portion of their first semester! Alberta Education has cancelled all January Grade 9 Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) and diploma exams for students across all school authorities. Year 12 students currently enrolled in diploma courses will receive their school-awarded mark as their final grade. A notation will appear on transcripts to confirm this change, ensuring there is no impact on graduation or post-secondary admission. Please watch for a January exam schedule coming home soon. Students in Drama 10/20/30 will welcome two guest artists to explore exciting areas of theatre: special effects makeup and stage combat. We are proud of our inaugural high school Pumas basketball team! This co-ed team has already played a few games to kick off the season and has shown excellent teamwork, kindness, persistence, and perseverance, all while having fun together.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all Year 6/7 choir students and their families for supporting and celebrating our extended community through their incredible performance at the Dave Werklund birthday event. Your commitment, enthusiasm, and hard work made this opportunity truly special. The performance showcased not only talent, but also the spirit of collaboration and community that defines our school. Thank you for helping honour this occasion and for continuing to make our school community vibrant and connected. Happy Birthday Dave Werklund!

Please note that our school will be closed from December 22, 2025 to January 5, 2026 for our Winter Break. January 5 is a Professional Development Day for staff to engage in meaningful professional reflection and development. We look forward to welcoming students back to school on January 6, 2026!

Thank you for your ongoing support of our students and programs. We wish you a joyful and restful season!

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 have had such an exciting and joy-filled month! Our learning has taken us on adventures indoors, outdoors, and deep into our imaginations as we continue to build community, curiosity, and confidence together.

One of the highlights was our field trips to Camp Connect, in beautiful Kananaskis, where we spent our days creating, exploring, and discovering in nature. This field trip gave us the chance to connect with the outdoors while sparking creativity and wonder. Back at school, we have been working diligently on our Jubilee performance, *Dream Big*. Rehearsals have been filled with courage and imagination as we bring our ideas to stage.

In Science, we have been busy learning about animals, migration, hibernation, and seasonal changes. Through stories and observations, we are learning how living things adapt as the world around them transforms. In Math, we have been exploring patterns and measurement. We are also beginning a new STEAM project, designing and creating our own recycled material robots!

Looking ahead, we are excited for our upcoming field trip to see *Nutcracker in a Nutshell*, a magical arts experience that will inspire our imaginations. We are also excited to return to the TransAlta Studio for more arts-immersive learning and exploration!



## Year 2/3 News

This month has been full of exciting learning across all our subjects! In Science, we explored the water cycle and food chains, deepening our understanding of how living things interact with their environment. In Social Studies, we practiced creating detailed maps that include all the necessary components. During our literacy block, we worked on improving reading comprehension and strengthening our writing skills. In Year 2 Math, we focused on measurement and shapes, while in Year 3 we deepened our understanding of place value and practiced strategies for addition and subtraction.



Additionally, we have been hard at work choreographing a dance, learning about tableau, and rehearsing songs for our big Jubilee performance. We are so proud of our effort and creativity and cannot wait to share it with you soon!

## Year 4/5 News

Over the past few weeks, we have been busy developing, practicing and polishing our Jubilee pieces and are excited to share our creativity and hard work with you! Our upcoming performance will celebrate imagination, connection and discovery bringing learning to life through string art, sculpture, dance, performance and storytelling, inspired by surrealist artists like Salvador Dalí and René Magritte. As part of our exploration of connections, we have been creating prisms, heritage quilts, and elaborate costumes to uncover patterns across subject areas and perspectives.

## Year 4/5 News Continued

In Social Studies, we have been exploring the stories of Canada and learning how diverse cultural groups have contributed to its growth and identity. In Science, our curiosity has taken us beyond Earth as we studied objects in space, focusing on constellations. In Literacy, we have been strengthening our persuasive writing skills, learning how to use transition words to build clear and convincing arguments.

At Connect Camp, we combined math and nature to explore symmetry, resulting in two beautiful math-inspired nature art pieces. As we approach the final days before winter break, we are excited to wrap up our second Learning Contract and head off on our much anticipated Heritage Park field trip for Nellie's Christmas!



## Year 6 to 9 Art Options

That is a wrap on session 1!

### Modern/Contemporary Dance with Ms. Jen

Dance option wrapped with a week of choreography. Students collaborated with others to create choreography with attention to timing, space and energetic qualities, and applying skills they learned through the session. In our final class, students shared their choreography with their peers.

### Music with Mr. Thorson

In this ongoing option (session 1 and 2), Music students focussed on singing skills for our Jubilee performance in December. After Jubilee, students will return to focusing on their instruments into the new year, building skills and confidence.



## *Year 6 to 9 Arts Options Continued*

### **Creative Writing with Ms. Deabler**

Our creative writing class wrapped up an exciting term, completing longer passion projects that included poetry, comics, budding novels, and short stories. As part of the process, students reflected on their writing journey, identifying strengths, challenges, and strategies that worked for them. They also set personal goals to continue developing their skills, creativity, and voice, ensuring that their growth as writers extends well beyond this class.

### **Visual Arts with Ms. Christy**

In Visual Arts our collaborators have been putting the finishing touches on their projects, with some even continuing through lunch as they refine their incredible pieces. It has been inspiring to witness their creativity unfold, watching ideas grow from initial concepts, formal submissions and into the fully realized vision.

### **Printmaking with Ms. Haidl**

Students completed their final found object print by creating their unique Lego prints!





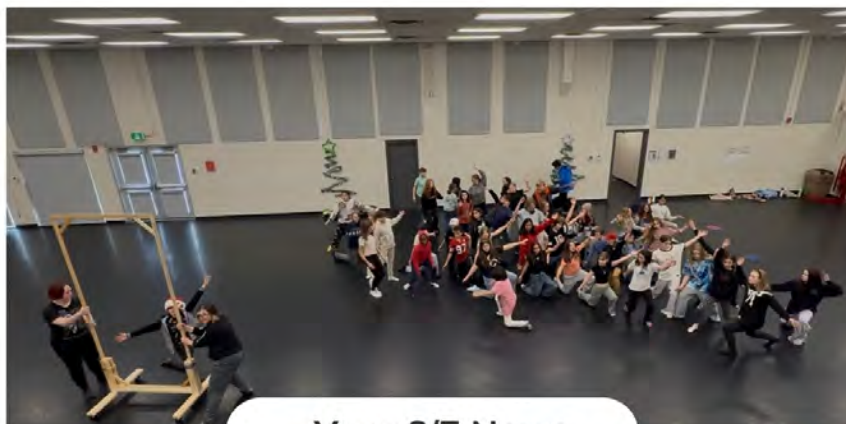
## Year 6/7 News

We have been busying preparing for our upcoming Jubilee pieces. Storytelling has been at the heart of our work, especially as we connect with High School students, asking big questions, sharing ideas and learning how we can take charge of the experiences that shape our lives.

In Science, we have been learning about physics by designing and testing structures, analyzing forces and discovering how chance and probability impact our daily lives. In Year 6 math, we are diving into prime factorization of composite numbers, while in Year 7, we are further practicing the art of adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. In English Language Arts, we are working on plot development, with foreshadowing, twists and surprise endings.

We are excited for Career Day in December. With over 25 unique career options to explore, we will be selecting our top three and learning more through engaging 30 minute sessions. It will be a great chance to discover new possibilities and imagine the paths our futures might take!

As winter sets in, we are excited for the upcoming break, and reflecting on our first few months that have been packed with unforgettable memories and achievements!



Year 6/7 News



## Year 8/9 News

For our second Learning Contract, *From a Certain Point of View*, we have been creating an original music-and-movement performance that explores how perception shapes perspective. Drawing from our science learning, we investigated the contrasting experiences of life in darkness and in light.

In Year 8, we examined cells, organisms, and adaptations that allow living things to survive without light, using these ideas to inspire the musical textures and choreography for the “dark side” of our Jubilee piece. In Year 9, we explored energy transfer, electrical circuits, and space technologies, translating these concepts into movement and sound as we built the “light side,” forming patterns that echo the flow of energy and connection.

Through our Jubilee rehearsals, we have strengthened our sense of community and belonging, developing discipline, collaboration, and confidence as we worked toward a shared creative vision. Together, we are continuing to explore our guiding question: How do we understand the world from another point of view?

At the end of November we went to Camp Connect in Kananaskis. This incredible experience allowed us to build strong social connections, develop resilience, and explore the ecology of the Sibbald Lake area. Through outdoor adventures and indoor wellness and arts sessions, camp inspired new ideas, perspectives, and ways of working that we will carry into our learning and creative projects for the rest of the year.



## High School News

This month marked an exciting milestone as the first-ever Calgary Arts Academy high school basketball team began their practice! The players showcased their dedication during their debut game, hosted at the Erickson Centre Campus. Throughout the match, the team applied strategies, demonstrated resilience, played with heart and most importantly had fun!

In the sciences, Chemistry students have been actively engaged in hands on experiments. Chemistry 30 students have been learning about redox reactions and their real-world applications. They built voltaic cells to measure voltages, investigated the electrolysis of various substances, including how electrolysis can be used to electroplate objects with different metals.

In Social 30-1, students presented creative tableaux, illustrating both the advantages and disadvantages of democratic systems, encouraging thoughtful discussion and reflection.

Meanwhile, preparations are well underway for the upcoming Jubilee performance. Year 12 student leaders have taken the initiative to plan, choreograph and direct the entire student body. The pieces being developed explore the creative process and the Indigenous spiral concept of *wahkohtowin*, which emphasizes interconnectedness and the lessons we gain from learning through mistakes.

Science 14 students recently put their learning into action by designing and testing tiny homes for a heat-retention project. Working in teams, students built miniature houses, experimented with insulation materials, and collected temperature data to determine which designs were the most energy-efficient. While a few groups got very excited about interior décor—prioritizing stylish mini furniture and water colour wallpaper over thermal performance—everyone gained a hands-on understanding of heat transfer and real-world home design. The project was a fun, creative success that blended science, teamwork, and a touch of HGTV flair.





## Links and Calendar

### Calendar

### Record Your Volunteer Hours

### CAA Foundation

### CAA Adult Choir



## December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Day 3 <b>1</b>	Day 4 <b>2</b>	Day 5 Healthy Hunger <b>3</b>	Day 1 <b>4</b>	Day 2 Jubilee! <b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	Day 3 <b>8</b>	Day 4 EC Volleyball Game Year 4/5 Field Trip Heritage Park <b>9</b>	Day 5 Healthy Hunger RC Career Day <b>10</b>	Day 1 <b>11</b>	Day 2 Year 4/5 Field Trip Heritage Park Year 1 Nutcracker Field Trip <b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	Day 3 Year 9s to EC for High School Info <b>15</b>	Day 4 Year 1 Contemporary Calgary <b>16</b>	Day 5 Healthy Hunger Year 2/3 Contemporary Calgary <b>17</b>	Day 1 Year 2/3 Contemporary Calgary <b>18</b>	Day 2 RC Sharing Assembly <b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	Winter Break, No Classes <b>22</b>	Winter Break, No Classes <b>23</b>	Winter Break, No Classes <b>24</b>	Winter Break, No Classes <b>25</b>	Winter Break, No Classes <b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	Winter Break, No Classes <b>29</b>	Winter Break, No Classes <b>30</b>	Winter Break, No Classes <b>31</b>			



## Links and Calendar Continued



## January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Winter Break, No Classes	2 Winter Break, No Classes	3
4 PD Day, No Classes	5	6 Day 3 Classes Resume RC Archery - Gym	7 Day 4 Healthy Hunger	8 Day 5 HS Basketball Game	9 Day 1	10
11 Day 2	12	13 Day 3 Classes Resume RC Archery - Gym	14 Day 4 Healthy Hunger	15 Day 5 Year 1 Vaccinations at KH	16 Day 1 High School Last day of regular classes	17
18 Day 2	19	20 Day 3 Year 9 Grad Photos	21 Day 4 Healthy Hunger	22 Day 5 HS Basketball Game at EC	23 Day 1	24
25 Day 2	26	27 Day 3 HS Basketball Game at EC	28 Day 4 Healthy Hunger	29 Day 5 Last Day of Term/Semester 1	30 Day 1 Term/Semester 2 Begins K to 12 report cards go home	31