

The Art of Learning



Message from Administration

What a joyful beginning!

The first days of school have once again reminded us of the power of community, creativity, and belonging. Across our three campuses, learning spaces are filled with laughter, curiosity, artistic expression, and the excitement that comes when students and staff start a new year together.

From our youngest Kindergarten students discovering the rhythms of school life to our soon-to-be graduating Year 12 students embarking on their memorable year of "lasts", our community is already creating a beautiful story together.

Welcome back to all the returning families and a special welcome to those joining our art-filled community for the first time. We are so glad you are here and look forward to a wonderful year of learning, growth and connection together.



CAA School Councils and Society Update

The rain did not dampen the enthusiasm, connection and community spirit that was on full display at our Pancake Breakfast!

Thank you for all our volunteers who helped make this annual community event a success.

And to our incredible students, thank you for the outstanding performances - you brought so much energy and joy to the morning.



Our monthly meetings have moved to Wednesdays. Please join us for our first council meeting on September 16, 2026.

Watch your email for more information.

Message from Administration continued.

This year, our theme is Artful Joy. Artful Joy represents the rewards of living with intention, creativity and optimism. It invites students, staff and families to seek the fulfillment that comes from sharing ourselves, our gifts and our creative spirit with one another. At its heart is the belief that joy is not something we passively receive. Rather, joy is something we actively create through our choices, relationships, creativity, and resilience. Learning should feel alive, expressive, playful, and meaningful. Just as artists use different tools, colours, and techniques to create something beautiful, every member of our community contributes unique strengths, experiences, and ideas that help Calgary Arts Academy shine.

At Calgary Arts Academy, we know the power of connection and community, and we know that belonging is a universal need in each of us. While our theme has evolved from last year's Create to Connect to Artful Joy, our commitment remains the same. We are dedicated to establishing a safe, respectful, and caring culture where students are valued and supported. We let empathy and compassion guide our conversations, our practices, and our decisions. Through our daily work together, we nurture environments where students feel empowered to take creative risks, discover their strengths, and experience the joy that comes from authentic learning and meaningful relationships.

Every year students spend the first days of school deepening their understanding of our pillars. Through learning connected to Democratic Discipline, the Circle of Courage, Developmental Assets, Mindfulness, and Arts Immersion, students will explore belonging, mastery, independence, generosity, self-awareness, and community responsibility. These foundations help create the conditions where both learning and joy can flourish. The first 11 days of school culminates in a celebratory community event, the annual Pancake Breakfast.

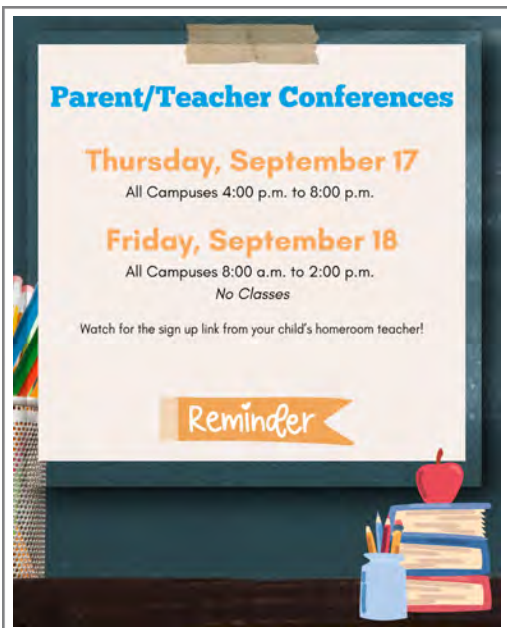
Message from Administration continued.

In the middle of August staff gathered to reflect on how Artful Joy can come alive across all campuses. Together, we explored how creativity supports wellbeing, how artistic expression helps us better understand ourselves and others, and how joyful learning experiences foster deeper engagement and meaningful learning. We are excited to invite students into learning that is vibrant, collaborative, and full of possibility.

This year also marks the beginning of an exciting partnership with the Werklund Institute for Social and Emotional Learning (SEL).



Throughout this three-year initiative, Calgary Arts Academy staff and students will engage in learning about how mindfulness, social-emotional learning, and our school pillars contribute to student success and well-being. Families were asked to complete a School-Wide Appreciative Inquiry Survey to help identify strengths, needs, and opportunities within our school community.



September also provided many opportunities to strengthen partnerships between home and school. Our Meet the Team evenings and campus events gave families opportunities to connect with teachers, artists, and support staff. We truly believe that communication between school and home is vitally important to student success, and it was wonderful to see so many families engage in these meaningful opportunities.

Message from Administration continued.

As the spirit of Artful Joy begins to take shape throughout our schools, we invite every member of our community to embrace optimism and connection. Joy grows when we create, collaborate, and contribute our unique skills. Joy grows when we take notice of beauty, possibility, and kindness. Most importantly, joy grows when we come together in community.

Thank you for the trust, partnership, and encouragement you bring to Calgary Arts Academy. We are a learning team together, and we look forward to sharing a year filled with creativity, wellbeing, growth, and joy.

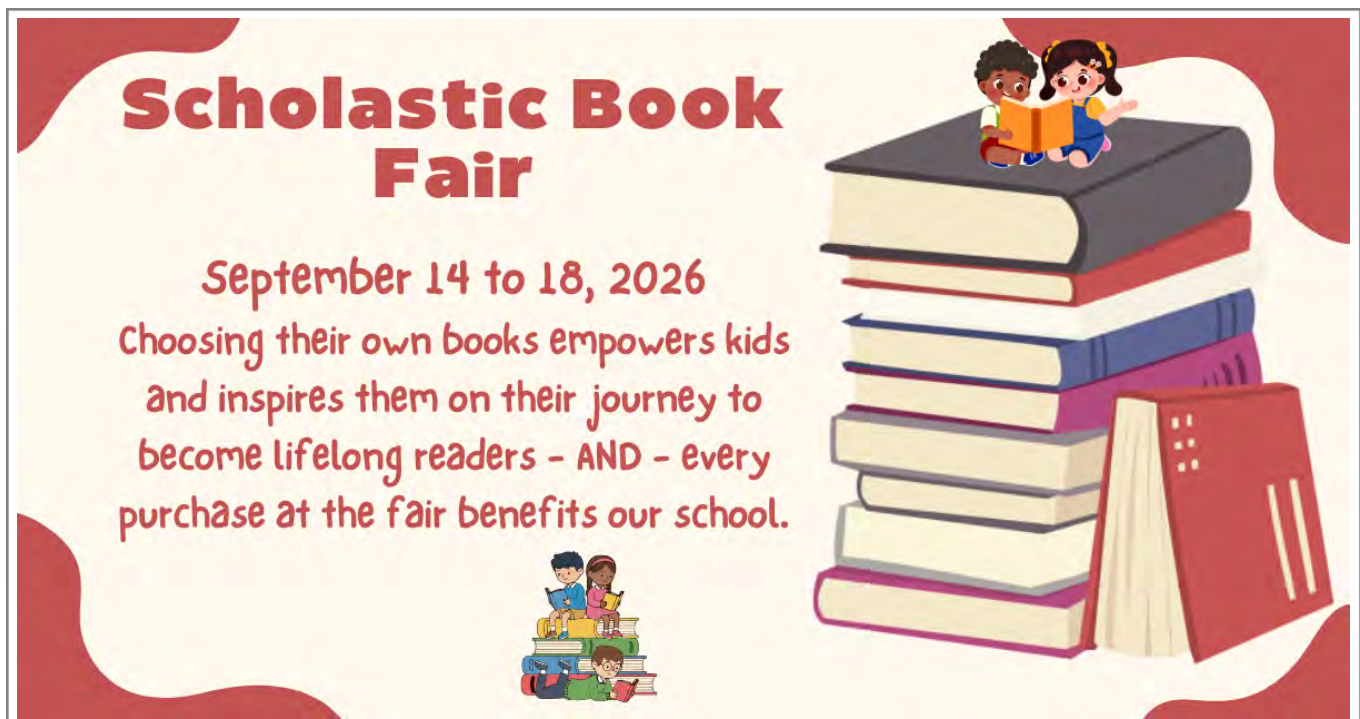
The Calgary Arts Academy Administration Team

Sarah Birch (*Principal, Knob Hill*)

Kimberly Hoey (*Principal, Rosscarrock*)

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Amanda Bonnell (*Assistant Principal, Erickson Centre*)



Kindergarten/Year 1 News

We were excited to begin the year by welcoming our new Kindergarten and Year 1 classmates to school. Over the past couple of weeks, we have been settling into our new classroom community, learning routines, and building independence as learners. Together, we have been creating a welcoming classroom space where everyone feels valued, respected, and ready to learn.

Through our Arts Immersion experiences, we have been exploring the CAA Pillars with a strong focus on the Circle of Courage. We have been learning about belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity, while building meaningful connections with one another.

We have also enjoyed mindfulness and movement activities with our Dance Artist, Ms. Jen, helping us develop self-awareness, focus, and positive well-being as we navigate new experiences and routines.

One of our favourite projects so far has been creating “Pocket Full of Sunshine” artwork. We have poured creativity and kindness into these pieces, which was then shared with other students during our recent Pancake Breakfast. It was a wonderful opportunity to spread joy, foster a sense of community, and celebrate the generosity that is at the heart of the Circle of Courage.

We are so proud of how we have embraced this exciting start to the year and cannot wait for all the learning adventures ahead!



Year 2/3 News

Year 2/3 is off to an exciting start, and we have already had a busy beginning to the school year! Over the past two weeks, we have been getting to know one another, settling into our classroom routines, and exploring what it means to be part of a kind, caring, and supportive classroom community.

We have been learning about the Circle of Courage and what it means to belong. We created belonging bracelets and birthday crowns, and played lots of games to help us get to know our classmates. During our circle meetings, we have had some wonderful conversations about friendship, role models, asking for help, and learning from our mistakes. We are already discovering so much about one another!

We have also been practising how to be independent problem solvers. We are learning to pause, think through a problem, and come up with different solutions. We have started learning about the Zones of Regulation and exploring strategies we can use when we experience big feelings. We are learning that asking for help is an important part of being independent.



As a class, we have been talking about how everyone learns in different ways and discovering what helps each of us learn best. We also chose a Word of the Year based on how we would like to feel this school year. We then transformed our words into artwork that will serve as a reminder of our goals and how we want to feel throughout the year.

It has been a wonderful first couple of weeks filled with connection, learning, and lots of fun. We are so excited for all the adventures and learning still to come!

Year 4/5 News

Over our first 11 days of school, we have been exploring the school pillars and learning what it means to be part of our unique community. We had so much fun performing at the Pancake Breakfast in the Rosscarrock Flash Mob and spreading friendship by handing out our friendship bracelets!

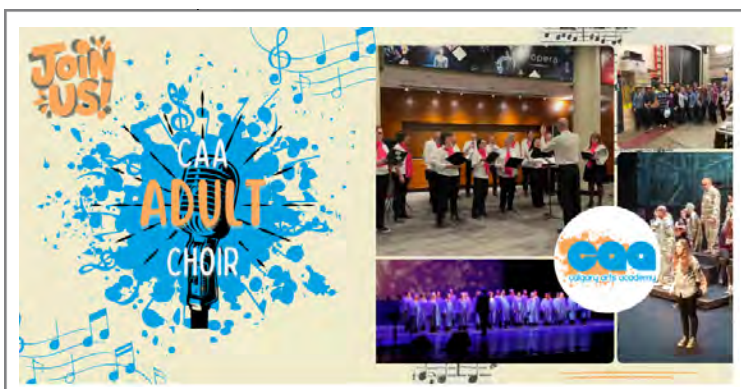
As we move into September, we are excited to begin our first Learning Contract, *Welcome to the Fun House*, where we will embark on a rich and playful learning journey focused on self-discovery, imagination, and creative expression. We will explore the guiding question: How can we use artistic choices to communicate setting, point of view, plot, and problem?



Through movement, storytelling, design, and experimentation, we will develop our collaboration, creative thinking, and problem-solving skills while discovering new ways to express our ideas and perspectives.

We cannot wait to explore the Fun House!

CAA Adult Choir



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.

Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Elementary School Campus Knob Hill.

Visit our website at www.caaschool.com/caa-adult-choir for more information.

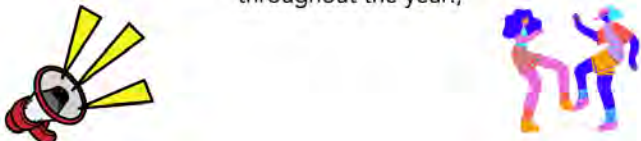


Options

Students in Year 6 to 9 will start their first session in September, and this year options will run for the entire semester.

This gives students more time to explore their interests, build new skills and develop their ideas in meaningful ways.

We look forward to see the wonderful ideas, creativity and learning that will come to life throughout the year!



Year 6/7 News

We started the school year by wholeheartedly embracing the school pillars with enthusiasm. In connecting with the circle of courage, we identified our strengths and stretches and brought them to life through artistic arms. Now displayed in our classrooms, these artistic arms reach toward the Circle of Courage as a visual reminder.

We also spent time exploring design thinking and problem-solving through cup stacking challenges and improvised skits based on common challenges we may encounter throughout our time at school.

For the pancake breakfast, we designed a Photo Booth to engage with and welcome our school community. We created a backdrop, props, and advertisements to capture our community's attention and share a sense of belonging at our first community event. Working with Dance Artist, Mr. King, we learned a flash dance, which we then performed for everyone to join in!



Picture Day
September 15, 2026

Your student is photographed on Picture Day*

Proofs are sent home with your student

Order packages and more on mylifetouch.ca

*All students will be photographed. Please notify your student's teacher if you do not want an individual picture taken of your student. Your student may be included in a class picture if requested by the school.

Questions? Contact our Help Center at lifetouch.com/support-ca. Select K-12 School Photography for assistance.

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Year 8/9 News

We have had an amazing first 11 days! We have spent time getting to know one another, building relationships, creating joy, and discovering how the pillars shape our CAA community. One of our favourite activities has been creating clay keychains representing the four parts of the Circle of Courage: Belonging, Mastery, Independence, and Generosity. We then practiced generosity by gifting our creations to members of the CAA community at our Pancake Breakfast. It was a wonderful way to begin the year by connecting with others and putting our values into action!

Now, we are ready to dive into our first Learning Contract: *Made Up!*

In our first contract, we will dive into what are we made of and how those pieces shape who we become. Over the next six weeks, we will investigate people, experiences, systems and stories that make us who we are. We will capture moments of joy in our Joy Journals and work together to create a collaborative cross-stitch installation, bringing hundreds of individual pieces together to create something bigger. Along the way, we will be asking one big question: Are we more than what we are made of?



Terry Fox inspires Canadians to persist through challenges, discover strengths deep within, and share generously with one another. These virtues align with the Circle of Courage and we are looking forward to another year of celebrating generosity and mastery while learning about Terry's inspiring run!

Last year, CAA raised over \$1700.00 for cancer research. We are aiming, this year, to surpass that. Our goal is to raise \$1800.00! We encourage families to donate online here <https://schools.terryfox.ca/136716>

Cash donations are gratefully accepted at the school office.

High School News

We kicked off the school year with a special welcome to HOTEL JOIE, a *Grand Budapest Hotel*-inspired launch that introduced our theme for the year: Artful Joy! Through Arts Immersion, we visited different “hotel departments” and explored our CAA pillars through creative, collaborative, and sometimes delightfully chaotic activities.

We then formed our own Hotel Joie departments and worked together to design joy-filled activities to share with our K-12 community at the annual Pancake Breakfast. From brainstorming and planning, to bringing our ideas to life, we helped spread a little Artful Joy across CAA!

With our year off to a joyful start, we have now jumped into learning across the high school. In Science 10 we are exploring physics, while Science 14 is investigating substances and the periodic table. In a Biology 30 lab, students learned about the structures of the brain and completed a preserved sheep brain dissection. In Foods, we have launched our baking unit, with homemade pies making for a particularly delicious first project!

It has been a joyful and busy start to the year, and we are excited to see what we create, discover, and accomplish in the months ahead.



Links and Calendar



[Calendar](#)

[Family Zone](#)

[Record Your Volunteer Hours](#)

[CAA Foundation Website](#)

[CAA Adult Choir](#)



September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Day 3 RC Meet the Team	2 Day 4 KH Meet the Team	3 Day 5	4 Day 1 Pancake Breakfast	5
6	7 Labour Day No School	8 PD Day No Classes	9 Day 2	10 Day 3	11 Day 4 High School Course Change Deadline	12
13 Day 5 KH Book Fair all week	14	15 Day 1 School Photos	16 Day 2 RC Cross Country School Council Meeting	17 Day 3 Yr 10 Field Trip Theatre Calgary Parent/Teacher Conferences - PM	18 Parent/Teacher Conferences No Classes	19
20 Day 4 Terry Fox Run - EC	21	22 Day 5 RC Cross Country	23 Day 1 KH Rose Ceremony Horticultural Society	24 Day 2 Terry Fox Run at RC, with KH students	25 Day 3	26
27 Day 4	28	29 Day 5 National Day of Truth & Reconciliation Assemblies RC Cross Country Championship	30 National Day of Truth & Reconciliation No School			