

The Art of Learning

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Message from Administration

What a start! The first few weeks of school have been inspiring. There is real magic when students and teachers dive headfirst into community, laughter, learning, creation, and connection. From the smallest kindergarten learners in our community to those who experienced their last “first day of school” in Year 12, it’s clear that the culture of belonging we work hard to nurture is already weaving itself into a constellation that tells a shared CAA story; one that gleams with brilliance.



School Council

We want to thank our amazing School Council and all the volunteers who organized and hosted the annual CAA Pancake Breakfast on September 5 at our Rosscarrock Campus.



School Council is growing and needs YOUR help to create three new School Councils. [Click here](#) to view available volunteer roles and learn more.

Questions or want to learn more?

Contact
council@caaschool.com

Message from Administration Continued.

This year, our theme is Create To Connect. In a world that often seems increasingly disconnected, this year we will 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. Inspired by the Cree concept of *Wahkohtowin* (interconnectedness and kinship), together, we nurture courage, curiosity, and meaningful connections. *Wahkohtowin* 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.

In the days before staff welcomed students, we read the book *Everything Is Connected* by Jason Grul. Guided by the metaphors and simplicity found in children's literature, we began to build collaborative connections as a staff.



We mapped our connections using the metaphor of a constellation, a visual representation of the people, ideas, and experiences that shape our teaching and support teams. This was a chance for staff to reflect, connect, and create something meaningful that celebrates both individuality and collective belonging. If you would like to see a reel of the creative contributions by staff, please follow the Calgary Arts Academy Instagram page, where you will also see important updates and announcements throughout the year.

Message from Administration Continued.

At Calgary Arts Academy, we have an important tradition of focusing on our CAA pillars in the first days of school. Intentional learning activities are offered about Democratic Discipline (giving students voice and choice while developing problem solving skills), the Circle of Courage (where students come to deepen their understanding of how Belonging, Mastery, Independence and Generosity are keys to a balanced and thriving life), Developmental Assets (a close look at all the internal and external strengths humans can develop) and Mindfulness (how to stay regulated and present through neuro-science). Students worked to create Arts Immersion projects to share with the entire CAA community at our annual Pancake Breakfast. The Pancake Breakfast is a celebration of connection and community, organized and hosted by the parent volunteers through the School Council. We want to thank School Council for organizing this annual kick-off event. This year, we welcomed upwards of 1000 community members! That is a lot of pancakes to be made and flipped, and a lot of incredible people to coordinate! We are grateful for the generous volunteer time and effort offered up to celebrate a community of budding connections.

Our Meet the Team evenings were another highlight of our first days. Thank you to the many parents, guardians, and siblings who showed up with smiles, questions, and open hearts. Those nights remind us that education is a partnership. Teachers appreciate getting to know the families of students they work with each day, and the feedback we have heard, which we know to be true, tells us these meaningful connections are already making a difference. Knob Hill campus families had a special, digital Meet the Team as the building is still humming with construction workers each evening. Soon, the exterior renovations will be complete, and evening events will be able to be resumed. Remember, CAA staff are always keen to connect with parents/guardians. Please email, volunteer, or reach out to your child's teacher if you desire a deeper connection with your child's learning journey.



Message from Administration Continued.

As September unfolds at Knob Hill and Rosscarrock, our at-home math and literacy contracts will roll out, bridging the learning between home and school. Families play such a vital role in this partnership. These projects are an invitation for connection, a way to sit down at the kitchen table and share in the joy of learning.

Mark your calendars for Parent Conferences on September 18th and 19th, 2025. This is a valuable opportunity to speak with teachers and artists, set goals, and review your child's developing learner profile.

Our first Showcase of the year arrives in early October. The Year 2/3 team, working alongside Theatre Artist, Shannon Murphy and Showcase Coordinator, Ed Mitchell is preparing a spooky Dinner Theatre-inspired experience. Showcase dates for Kindergarten to Year 12 are staggered intentionally throughout the year, so keep an eye on the school calendar in the "For Parents" section of our website to plan for your child's showcase.

This year, we focus on connection and learning. We explore. We ask. We listen to understand and we try new things together. We care for ourselves. We care for each other, and we care for the world

around us. We grow stronger through every question, every idea, and every small experiment. Together, we create and build a community full of connection, care, and life.

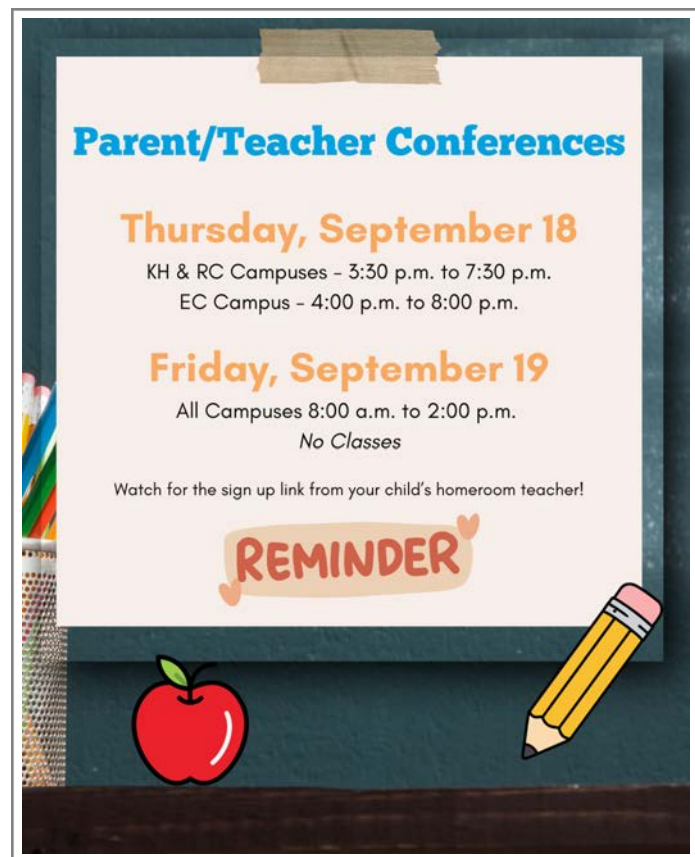
With gratitude and excitement,

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 are off to a wonderful beginning in Kindergarten and Year 1! During these first few weeks of school, our focus has been on building connections, trust, and joy within our classroom communities.

We introduced the Circle of Courage and discovered how Belonging, Generosity, Independence, and Mastery can guide the way we learn and grow together.

Through stories such as "Our Class is a Family", "Whole Body Listening", and "Beautiful Oops", we celebrated our classroom family, learned how to show masterful listening skills, and how we can turn mistakes into something beautiful.

Our days have been full of play, songs, stories, movement, and creative art projects.



We collaborated on a class painting to represent our classroom family, created goal setting body outlines to learn about Mastery and Independence, and made magic stars to share with our grown-ups at the pancake breakfast.

We have also begun mindfulness practices to help us feel calm, steady, and ready for learning. Using our problem-solving steps, we are learning to work through friendship challenges with love and respect. With so much curiosity and enthusiasm already shining through, we look forward to a year filled with laughter, imagination, and meaningful learning together!

Terry Fox Run

The year, Calgary Arts Academy is proudly taking part in the annual Terry Fox School Run!

High school students will participate in the Terry Fox Run on **September 22 at 1:55 p.m.** to honour Terry Fox's legacy and support cancer research.

Students in Kindergarten to Year 3 students will join students at the Rosscarrock Campus on the morning of **September 24.**

Students are encouraged to bring in loonies or toonies as donations. These can be placed in the donation box at the office.

Alternatively, donations can be made online through our school's official Terry Fox fundraising page: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/98019>



Year 2/3 News

This month, we were excited to welcome students back for the start of a brand-new school year! The energy in our classrooms has been vibrant as we settled into our routines, met new classmates, and reconnected with friends. Together, we spent time co-creating classroom expectations, ensuring that every voice was heard and that our learning environments reflect shared values of respect, safety, and responsibility.

Year 2/3 News Continued.

This month, we have been engaged in exploring the four areas of the Circle of Courage: Generosity, Independence, Belonging, and Mastery. These foundational concepts are woven into everything we do, helping us build strong relationships, develop confidence, and strive for personal growth. By engaging in conversations, activities, and reflections around these values, we have engaged in developing a growth mindset towards academic skills and are growing as thoughtful and empowered members of our school community. We are so excited for the rest of the school year and for our first learning contract!



Picture Day is Coming!



Tuesday, September 16, 2025



What to Expect:



Students are
photographed on
Picture Day



Proofs are sent home
with your student



Order packages
and more on
mylifetouch.ca



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 are held Wednesday evenings at CAA Knob Hill Campus.

<https://www.caaschool.com/caa-adult-choir>

Year 4/5 News

We have spent the first eight days of school exploring school pillars and understanding how we are part of a unique community. We had so much fun performing at the Pancake Breakfast! As we move into September, we are excited to begin our first contract *Go, Go, 4/5 Rangers: Morphin' our Mindsets*. We will begin a rich learning journey that emphasizes teamwork, resilience, and creativity. We will explore Canada's geography and history, apply the Design Process to real-world challenges, strengthen literacy and numeracy skills, develop physical coordination, and build musical literacy through composition and performance.



Year 6/7 News

Welcome back! Over the past two weeks, we had a blast creating art in various forms to connect with our school pillars. We created drama skits to engage with the problem solving technique and Democratic Discipline. We also worked collaboratively with students in Year 8/9 to discover how our choices affect our daily lives, which was an impactful way to learn about Development Assets.

To celebrate, we made bracelets for every student to share at the pancake breakfast. Each bracelet had a charm that encouraged them to find a buddy with a matching one. This helped us feel more connected across our campuses and different grade groups.



Year 6 to 9 Arts Options

We are thrilled to launch our Arts Options Program for the 2025-2026 school year!

Families have already received an email outlining this year's exciting lineup and were asked to submit a Google Form with their selections thank you to everyone who has done so. Our first options classes will begin on Monday, September 8, and students are eager to see which options they will be starting with.

Session 1 Options

Music (Fall) – Mr. Thorson

Students will have the opportunity to form a band with their choice of voice, strings, percussion, or wind instruments. Together and individually, they will foster self-expression, creativity, and communication through music-making. Students will strengthen their musical fundamentals, develop ensemble skills, and work toward collaborative music projects and performances throughout the term.

Note: Students enrolled in this option will participate in Music for the full duration of Term 1 (both Session 1 and 2). Interested students may also request a full year of Music.

Arts Options Continued.

Collaborative Art & Mixed Media – Ms. Christy

In this option, students will explore the power of collaboration through a wide range of mixed media practices. From large-scale murals to outdoor fence installations, weaving projects, and repurposed material creations, students will design and build meaningful works of art that extend beyond the classroom. Together, we will experiment with painting, weaving, sculpture, and innovative uses of recycled materials while developing teamwork, problem-solving, and creative risk-taking. These projects will not only brighten our school but also inspire joy within our greater community.

Modern/Contemporary Dance – Ms. Jen

This modern/contemporary dance class invites students to strengthen their technique while exploring authentic movement to support creativity in choreography. Dancers will practice foundational skills, including alignment, flow, and dynamic use of space, while engaging in improvisation and movement exploration to develop personal expression. The class nurtures both technical growth and artistic voice, empowering students to bring originality and confidence to their dancing.

Found Object Printmaking – Ms. Haidl

In this option, students will explore a variety of printmaking techniques using natural and found materials for inspiration. They will experiment with layering, transparency, and unconventional materials to discover how these processes affect their final prints. Along the way, students will develop their own artistic style while applying concepts of colour mixing and shape language in creative and practical ways.



Arts Options Continued.

Creative Writing – Ms. Deabler

Get ready to unleash your imagination! This workshop-based class is all about experimenting with language, sharing ideas, and discovering your unique voice as a writer. Students will craft original stories, swap ideas with peers, and learn how to give (and receive!) meaningful feedback. From world-building to dialogue, the focus will always be on what excites each student most as a storyteller. Let's get writing!

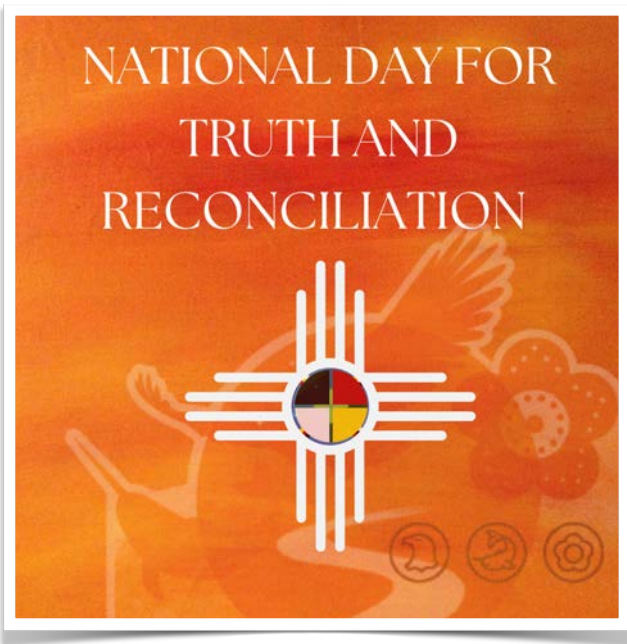
Year 8/9 News

We have spent our first eight days of school building new friendships and strengthening old ones! Inspired by David Attenborough-style documentaries like Planet Earth, we created our own parody: The Life of a Pancake. From writing and filming, to costumes, props, acting, and editing, we worked collaboratively to produce a hilarious and creative take on how a pancake comes into existence and the “ingredients” it needs.

We are now excited to begin our first contract: What is a Monster? An Exploration of the True Monsters Within, Around, and Beyond. In this contract, we will explore how monsters have been represented across cultures, time periods,

and genres. Through literature, science, history, and contemporary issues, we will examine both literal monsters—such as mythological beasts and scientific oddities—and metaphorical ones, including pollution and technology.





In recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, Calgary Arts Academy will hold campus-wide assemblies on September 29. As school will not be in session September 30, we will gather as a community to reflect and honour the importance of truth and reconciliation.

High School News

We kicked off the school year with a creative project inspired by our school theme "Create to Connect." Our homerooms worked together to design an abstract representation of our class identity on canvas circles, using colours, symbols and imagery to reflect our unique individuality.

To strengthen connections across grades, we also participated in outdoor games that encouraged teamwork and new friendships. We expressed our own individual identities on colourful spirals which were then cut and linked together with other spirals on a bulletin board. This vibrant display now serves as a powerful visual reminder of how each of our

unique identities contributes to the strength and unity of our school community. It's been a great start to the year and we are excited for what's to come!



Calendar and Links



September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 PD Day - No Classes	3 Day 1 RC Meet the Team	4 Day 2 KH Meet the Team - Virtual	5 Day 3 Pancake Breakfast - RC	6
7	8 Day 4	9 Day 5	10 Day 1 Volleyball Try outs @ RC Healthy Hunger KH & RC	11 Day 2	12 Day 3	13
14	15 Day 4	16 Day 5 School Photos - all campuses	17 Day 1 Healthy Hunger KH & RC X-Country Meet #1	18 Day 2 Parent Conferences KH & RC 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. EC 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	19 Parent Teacher Conferences 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - No Classes	20
21	22 Day 3 X-Country Practice Terry Fox Run @ EC	23 Day 4	24 Day 5 Terry Fox Run @ RC, for KH/RC Students Healthy Hunger KH & RC X-Country Meet #2	25 Day 1 Volleyball Tournament RC	26 Day 2 X-Country Practice	27
28	29 Day 3 Assemblies for National Day of Truth & Reconciliation	30 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation - No Classes				

Calendar

Record Your Volunteer Hours

CAA Foundation

CAA Adult Choir

If you are a current parent/guardian and you are not receiving our weekly "What's Happening" and "School Council" emails, please let us know! Send an email info@caaschool.com to be added to our distribution list.