



## Message from Administration

November was a whirlwind of activity as students and staff worked tirelessly to prepare for our much-anticipated 2024 Winter Celebration at the Jubilee Auditorium. The month was filled with community events, engaged learning, adventurous excursions, and strengthening mental health through resilience.

As we continue to embrace our 2024–2025 school theme, Cultivating Curiosity, we are inspired by the journey of exploration and creativity it promotes. By encouraging students to ask questions, seek understanding, and embrace the unknown, we foster a mindset that drives discovery and innovation.



This theme will take centre stage on December 6 at the Jubilee Auditorium during a vibrant showcase of student performances. Through music, movement, poetry, and visual art, students will share how curiosity has shaped their creative processes. Every element of the production reflects the collaborative efforts of our classrooms, underscoring our shared commitment to valuing children, the arts, and lifelong learning. The event will bring together all students from Kindergarten to Year 12 on a professional stage, a remarkable achievement made possible by the dedication of our staff, parents, and volunteers.

*Message from Administration continued.*



We spent many days in November at the Connect Charter School Field Experience Centre for Thrive wellness trips. Kindergarten to Year 3 students went for the day and participated in activities facilitated by their teaching team and artists and had lunch with middle school students. Year 4 to 12 students stayed overnight and returned with exciting stories about night hikes, sleeping in yurts, camp food, campfire songs and embracing new opportunities. Students participated in outdoor activities to promote wellness, faced challenges in games and rope courses and embraced learning from the land.

We are grateful for this unique experience and look forward to gathering feedback from students, volunteers and staff to gather their perspectives on the trip. Thank you for all the volunteers who generously shared their time and supported us on this new adventure - we could not have done it without you!

Students participated in meaningful Remembrance Day assemblies, where we honoured the continued sacrifices of Canadian veterans and reflected on how we can contribute to a more peaceful future. Student leadership through the assemblies were highlighted as their contributions and presentations brought engagement and set the tone for the ceremony. Throughout November donations for the Veterans Food Bank of Alberta were collected, demonstrating the generosity of our community.



### *Message from Administration continued.*

November parent conferences provided an essential opportunity to connect and reflect on each student's growth this year. In tandem with conferences, Ms. Lisa Grothman coordinated books fairs at both the Knob Hill and Rosscarrock Campuses. The funds raised at the fairs support the CAA library and classroom collections. Missed the fair? Not to worry, Scholastic will be back at Knob Hill in the spring.

On November 20, Transgender Day of Remembrance was hosted at the Erickson Centre and high school students were invited to participate in this community event. The purpose of this one-hour event was to foster a sense of belonging, understanding and inclusion, while underscoring our commitment to a safe, welcoming and supportive environment for all community members.

We want to thank all community members who participated in our charter review process. As indicated, this review is a typical accountability measure that we have due to the life cycle of our charter. The initial feedback from the Alberta Education team was very positive and the suggestions for next steps we could take were meaningful and helpful for us to hear. A detailed report will be provided at a later date and posted on our website.

The spirit of giving is also central to this month's activities. Our annual Loonie and Toonie drive is underway to support families in need, with donations being collected at all campuses. Additionally, our Mitten Trees are up, inviting students to contribute new mittens for Project Warmth, a community initiative that provides warmth and comfort to those experiencing homelessness this winter.



This month, we also celebrate the Developmental Asset of **Empowerment**. Empowerment occurs when children feel valued by the adults around them, are included in decision-making, and have opportunities to contribute to their communities. Students will participate in activities that build these skills as we approach the Winter Break.

*Message from Administration continued.*

In addition to speaking with your child about Empowerment, please be sure to use the Open Parachute curriculum for additional support. This K to 12 program offers resources for supporting student mental health and wellbeing. This is a resource hub specifically for parents/guardians that includes topics such as resilience, empathy and accountability, social media, saying no, bullying, trauma, overcoming adversity, acting out, self-esteem, mental health, addictive patterns, boundaries and consent and anxiety and depression. We have access to this value resource until December 2024. Click on the link to learn more:

[https://learn.openparachuteschools.com/parent/login?id=CA\\_Yp58hTSA](https://learn.openparachuteschools.com/parent/login?id=CA_Yp58hTSA)

The Year 8/9 showcase will be the next community performance. This will be at a new theatre this year, as we grew out of the Vertigo space! The Year 8/9s will be performing at the Decidedly Jazz Dance space on February 4, 2024. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for further details from the Year 8/9 team.

Please note that our school will be closed for Winter Break from December 23, 2024, to January 6, 2025. January 6 will be a Professional Development Day for staff, and we look forward to welcoming students back on January 7, 2025.

**Important Dates**

Winter Break: December 23, 2024 – January 3, 2025

Professional Development Day for Staff: January 6, 2025

Students Return: January 7, 2025

Year 8/9 Showcase at DJD: February 4, 2025

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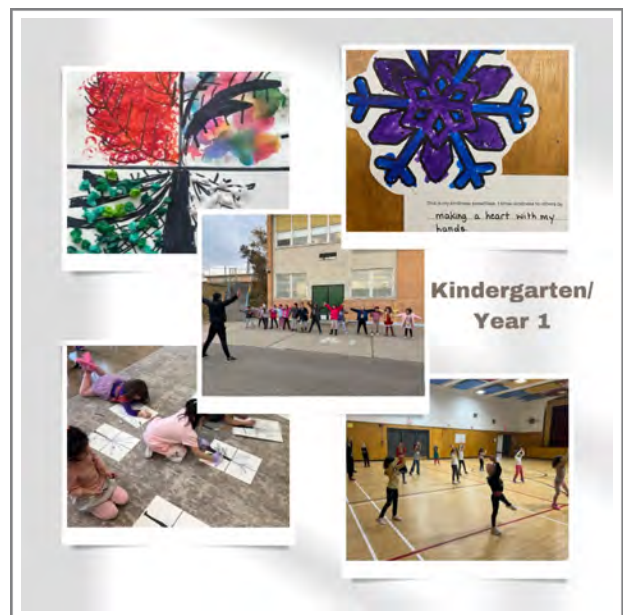
## Kindergarten/Year 1 News

We have been channeling our inner artists, exploring patterns, designing vibrant snowflakes, and experimenting with colours and textures to reflect the beauty of the changing seasons. These projects have brought bursts of personality and joy to our classrooms and hallways at Knob Hill, creating an environment full of artistic expression.

We have been busy working hard as we prepare for the upcoming Jubilee performance! With the expert guidance of Ms. Shannon, our talented theatre artist, we have been learning skills like dramatic expression, staging, and teamwork. We are so excited to showcase our creativity and confidence on the big stage!

In the classroom, our focus on literacy is paying off with huge strides in reading and writing. From mastering letter sounds to forming sentences and discovering the joy of storytelling, our enthusiasm for learning shines keeps fuelling our growth and excitement.

A highlight last month was our unforgettable Thrive Day at Connect Camp in Kananaskis. Surrounded by nature’s beauty, we embraced mindfulness activities, outdoor skills, and the joy of singing campfire songs together.



## 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.

## Year 2/3 News

November was filled with memorable moments and meaningful experiences that highlighted the talents, resilience, and caring nature of our class. We began the month honouring the sacrifices of many through heartfelt readings and moments of silence during our Remembrance Day ceremony.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming families into our classroom for Parent-Teacher Conferences. It was wonderful to celebrate the progress and growth of your children with you. These moments of connection are so important in building a strong partnership between school and home. Another highlight of the month was the Rose Ceremony, where our Year 3 students warmly welcomed their Kindergarten buddies into the CAA community. This cherished tradition emphasizes mentorship, kindness, and the sense of belonging that makes our school so special. The Year 3 students took their roles seriously,



forming meaningful bonds with their younger buddies. Our adventures at Connect Camp were unforgettable! We spent time exploring the forest, solving problems, and building resilience, and making art. Finally, we are in full rehearsal mode for our upcoming Jubilee performance, eagerly practicing our parts and we cannot wait to share it with you.

## Physical Education Update from Knob Hill

This month students have been actively engaged in a range of activities designed to develop foundational skills, while keeping learning fun and interactive. They have practiced underhand tossing to improve accuracy and coordination, played target games to build focus and aim and explored balls and scoops passing activities to enhance teamwork and hand-eye coordination.

## *PE Update from KH Continued.*

Students also worked on striking skills, using their hands and fists to strike balls and balloons in games like gaga ball, keepie uppie and bump.

An exciting addition this month was baton twirling, which introduced students to rhythm, balance and movement skills while emphasizing safety. Another highlight has the Thrive Camp in Kananaskis, where students participated in mindfulness activities, creative team-building exercises, loose parts play and nature walks.



Looking ahead to the next month, we are excited to introduce hockey stick handling skills, functional stretching techniques and yoga. We will also focus on friendship and character development and we are thrilled to welcome back a CAA alumni, who will assist Mrs. Hunter running some new lunchtime clubs!

## **Year 4/5 News**

We have working hard the past few weeks developing, practicing and polishing our Jubilee pieces! We are so excited to get onto the Jubilee stage and share our hard work with you. In Social Studies, we have been looking at the different geographical regions of Canada. Our coding skills are being put to the test in Science as we are learning all about how to code. We even have had the opportunity to code our very own video game! In literacy, we have been working on mastering our writing of complex sentences and are working towards writing paragraphs.

Highlights from the past few weeks include, coding video-games, painting costumes for Jubilee, creating pop art versions of the Mona Lisa with Ms. Christy, working on Jubilee performances and having class parties to celebrate filling our buckets!

## Year 6/7 News

At Connect Camp, we explored the unique Kananaskis ecosystem, applying our learning about plants and ecosystems. We examined the biotic and abiotic factors that support life and brought this knowledge back to the classroom to build our performance piece on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) for the Jubilee stage.

In Year 7, to further deepen our understanding we have been practicing how to identify facts and opinions in articles about GMOs and their impact on society. This activity helps us develop our own perspectives on the role GMOs play in the world. We have also been exploring the distinctions and debates surrounds arts and artifacts while working on a zine that showcases our learning about life in pre-colonial Canada.

In Year 6, we have been studying the anatomy of a story, collaborating with partners to write our own narratives and building confidence in our writing skills. We are also examining the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, with a focus on the responsibilities that come with our rights. To demonstrate our understanding, we are creating infomercials about what we believe to be the most important aspect of democratic societies.



## Athletics Update



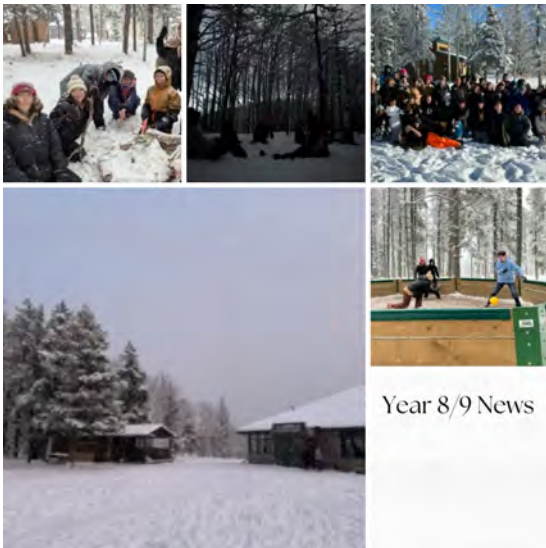
Year 4 to 9 students have thoroughly enjoyed a lengthy volleyball unit, featuring activities such as mini volleyball, triple ball, and omnikin volleyball. As move into the final month of 2024, the focus will shift to the tchoukball unit, which will commence after the Jubilee performance.

We are excited to kick off the basketball season with the first tournaments for the boys' and girls' teams scheduled for mid-December. Let's cheer them on - Go Pumas!



## Year 8/9 News

November has been a vibrant and fulfilling month, filled with learning, outdoor adventures, and most importantly, preparations for our upcoming Jubilee performance! The Jubilee has been an incredible opportunity for us to showcase our creativity, teamwork, and dedication. Rehearsals have been alive with energy and excitement, as we embraced our roles and worked tirelessly to bring to life a reimagined “East to West” Renaissance story.



In addition to classes and Jubilee preparations, we had unforgettable experiences at our overnight camps at Connect Camp Field Experience Centre in Kananaskis. In Year 8, we enjoyed activities that fostered team building, personal growth and a love for the outdoors. Highlights included a night hike under the stars, campfire songs and engaging workshops that encouraged us to connect with each other and nature. In Year 9, camp provided us with an opportunity to embrace new challenges, develop our leadership skills and collaborate with

peers. From adventurous activities to meaningful moments of reflection, the experience offered a perfect balance of fun and personal growth.

From dance routines to dramatic scenes, to dark night adventures and memorable moments with friends, we had a busy month to say the least. We look forward to welcoming you to the Jubilee Auditorium to witness the culmination of this remarkable month.

## High School News

November has been a month of exploration, inspiration, and artistry! We began with a vibrant Post-Secondary Fair, welcoming representatives from institutions such as the University of Calgary, SAIT, Mount Royal University, Bow Valley College, and the University of Lethbridge. Students had the opportunity to visit booths, ask questions, and learn about a wide array of career paths. A highlight was hearing about a University of Calgary BFA Dance graduate who later pursued medical school, illustrating the exciting, unconventional journeys that arts immersion can inspire.

Later in the month, we were thrilled to welcome Alberta University of the Arts for a presentation tailored to students passionate about visual, media, and textile arts. The discussion encouraged students to envision creative futures and explore post-secondary opportunities that align with their artistic aspirations.

A significant focus this month has been the creation of our high school piece for the Jubilee, spearheaded by our Year 12 Leadership in the Arts students. This ambitious project aligns with key curricular



outcomes, including planning and executing large-scale artistic presentations. The students chose to explore misunderstood art forms, weaving together dance, drama, visual art, media art, music, and creative writing into a dynamic production centred on the theme of curiosity. Collaborative efforts in rehearsal and design are bringing this vision to life, showcasing the diverse talents and dedication of our students.

Our overnight camp in Kananaskis was an unforgettable experience of creativity and connection! Students dedicated time to the creation of their masks for Jubilee, with each group drawing inspiration from a distinct art form—ranging from minimalism to abstract expressionism. Every mask is a one-of-a-kind piece, contributing to the collective vision of this year’s dynamic performance. The collaborative process allowed students to experiment with different materials and techniques, reflecting their diverse artistic styles while working towards a shared goal.

### *High School News Continued.*

Beyond the creative work, the camp offered moments of mindfulness and reflection. Students embraced the beauty of being present in nature, taking in the serene surroundings of Kananaskis. One of the most memorable moments was a challenging yet rejuvenating dark, snowy night hike that led to a ridge overlooking the camp. The crisp air and star-filled sky provided a breathtaking backdrop, while the journey itself demonstrated the resiliency and determination of our students.

## Links

[Calendar](#)

[Family Zone](#)

[Record Your Volunteer Hours](#)

[CAA Foundation Website](#)

[CAA Adult Choir](#)



# Calendar



## December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Day 5	<b>2</b> Day 1	<b>3</b> Day 2 Healthy Hunger (KH & RC)	<b>4</b> Day 3	<b>5</b> Day 4 <b>Jubilee</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Day 5	<b>9</b> Day 1	<b>10</b> Day 2 Yr 2 Contemporary Calgary Field Trip Healthy Hunger (KH & RC)	<b>11</b> Day 3 Yr 3 Contemporary Calgary Field Trip Yr 4/5 Cyber Safety Presentation	<b>12</b> Day 4 Yr 4/5 Telus Spark Field Trip	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Day 5 Yr 4/5 Telus Spark Field Trip Yr 6/7 Cyber Safety Presentation	<b>16</b> Day 1 Yr 8/9 Cyber Safety Presentation	<b>17</b> Day 2 Healthy Hunger (KH & RC)	<b>18</b> Day 3	<b>19</b> Day 4	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<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> Winter Break No Classes	<b>27</b> Winter Break No Classes	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Winter Break No Classes	<b>30</b> Winter Break No Classes	<b>31</b>				

# Calendar



## January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Winter Break No Classes	<b>2</b> Winter Break No Classes	<b>3</b> Winter Break No Classes	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> PD Day No Classes	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Day 5	<b>8</b> Day 1 Healthy Hunger KH & RC	<b>9</b> Day 2	<b>10</b> Day 3	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Day 4	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Day 5	<b>15</b> Day 1 Healthy Hunger KH & RC HS Tour at 2:30 p.m.	<b>16</b> Day 2	<b>17</b> Day 3 Alien In-Line at KH	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Day 4 Alien In-Line at KH	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Day 5 Alien In-Line at KH Girls' Basketball Tournament Yr 9 Grad Photos	<b>22</b> Day 1 Alien In-Line at KH Boys' Basketball Tournament	<b>23</b> Day 2 Alien In-Line at KH	<b>24</b> Day 3 Alien In-Line at KH	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Day 4	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Day 5 Last Day of Term 1	<b>29</b> Day 1 First Day of Term 2	<b>30</b> Day 2	<b>31</b> Day 3 Report Cards go home	