



Janus  
Journal

December  
2016

IN THIS ISSUE

DECEMBER 2016

Pictured above: Room 11 at Ramsay Campus performing:

**“Merry Christmas Everyone”**

Act One –

**The Perfect Christmas Tree**



December started off with great delight with our annual Holiday Concert on December 2<sup>nd</sup> – **The Perfect Christmas Tree!**

Students and Staff from the Acadia campus attended the dress rehearsal on December 1<sup>st</sup> and the grand premiere was on Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup> to a standing-room only crowd... **SRO!**

Meanwhile, on December 6<sup>th</sup> our Adult Day Program participants were celebrating their success in the **Movement Program** with a recital at the Dubasov Dance Studio! ... **Bravo!!!**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

*Student Workshops*.....2  
*Holiday Season for All*.....4  
*Seasonal Activities* .....6  
*Save these Dates!* .....7  
*Important Reminders* .....8

# Student Workshops

## SECOND SEMESTER - JANUARY 2017

Come January, we will be conducting our second set of student workshops. Student workshops give your child's educational team the opportunity to discuss student progress, review goals and expectations and practice therapy techniques. These meetings require that all staff that work with your child be in attendance.

Students, who are not involved in workshops on a set day, are required to **stay home**. Please refer to the schedule below to review when your child is required to be at school.

This second set of Student Workshops will be conducted the third week of January, on **January 16, 17, 18 and 19**.

### Ramsay Campus

Below is the list of student who **will be** attending workshops on **Monday January 16 & Tuesday January 17**:

- Aaron
- Arnav
- Arnold
- Cesar
- Daniel
- Eric
- Esheeka
- Felix
- Gabriel W.
- Gabriel S
- Hashim
- Isaac
- Ishaan
- Jessica
- Kye
- Quintana
- Ryan
- Sharlene

*This list of students are **NOT** required to attend school on January 18 & January 19*

Below is the list of student who **will be** attending workshops on **Wednesday January 18 & Thursday January 19**:

- Alanna
- Alex
- Anna
- Christian
- Ethan
- Gaby
- Jack
- Joshua
- Juan
- Keira
- Kiana
- Lynsie
- Megan
- Mia
- Nadia
- Noah
- Rowan
- Silus
- Timi

*This list of students are **NOT** required to attend school on January 16 & January 17*

## Acadia Campus

Below is the list of student who **will be** attending workshops on **Monday January 16 & Tuesday January 17:**

- Eric
- Francis
- Geoff
- Hannah
- Maya
- Mitchell
- Monchan
- Navpreet
- Patrick
- Ricky

*This list of students are **NOT** required to attend school on January 18 & January 19*

Below is the list of student who **will be** attending workshops on **Wednesday January 18 & Thursday January 19:**

- Brennan
- Charlie
- Erfan
- Jade
- John
- Keira
- Kyle
- Marc
- Owen
- Sydney

*This list of students are **NOT** required to attend school on January 16 & January 17*

If you have any questions regarding workshops, please feel free to call the school and talk with the Program Director for your child’s campus:

Paige McNeill (Ramsay Campus) ..... 403.262.3333

OR

Koren Trnka (Acadia Campus)..... 403.228.5559

**If you need your child’s workshop date changed**, please note that we will do our best to accommodate you, however, due to the difficulty with scheduling we ask that you understand if your requested change cannot be made.

Please remember, if your child is **NOT scheduled** for their workshop, please do not send them to school.

# Holiday Season for All

by Lorie Abernethy, Executive Director



It's that time of year when we are all-consumed with the dazzle of Christmas lights and crowded malls, full of holiday shoppers. .

December is a remarkable month with holiday celebrations for many faiths and while Christmas steals the stage, many other festivals occur during this month:

Dec 12 – **Milad un Nabi**  
(Prophet's Birthday – Muslim)

Dec 15 – **Dhanu Sankranti**  
(Hindu)

December 21 – **Winter Solstice**  
(First Nations, Spiritual)

December 25 – **Christmas**  
(Christian)

December 25 – first day of  
**Hanukkah** (Jewish)

December 26 – first day of  
**Kwanzaa** (African)

In just a few days – **December 16<sup>th</sup>** to be exact, we will close our doors so that we can all spend time with our family and friends. A time to rest, relax and to enjoy.

I want to thank everyone at Janus Academy who helped put together this year's magnificent performance of The Perfect Christmas Tree. Special thanks to Lauren Schiwy and Cathrine Peterson for their leadership roles in staging this year's play.

And a special thank you to Taya Dick, our former Classroom Coordinator who wrote this year's play!

Before we close down for our winter break, there are a few things I would like to update everyone on.

## Search for a new Janus home -

We are actively looking for a facility that can be home for all our classes and the Adult Program. There have been a few possibilities that we have looked at, but school facilities are hard to come upon. Most recently, Delta West Academy in Bridgeland has come up for sale but this facility is too small for Janus Academy and would be no larger than the space we have now. In all likelihood we will probably need to find a light industrial office building that we can renovate and re-zone for our purposes. As demand for our school continues to grow this is a very high priority in our strategic plan.

**New teachers -** This year it was our goal to hire a second teacher for the Ramsay Campus. The goal behind this is to expand our academic component in each and every class, at the level that works with each individual student in every class. Additionally, as our enrollment

grows, the certificated teacher/student ratio is getting higher than Alberta Education would like us to have. Our plan to hire this teacher was delayed by the departure of Ellie Hrynuik, our previous teacher at the Acadia Campus.

Our efforts were directed towards hiring a new teacher – and we were successful in hiring Carissa Brown. You would have read about Carissa in last month's newsletter. Now that it is mid-way through the school year it is not the best time to start a search for a new teacher. We will resume our search in the spring. In the meantime, Stacey Oliver our Principal has begun work to identify the gaps in our academics and develop a curriculum development plan that will assess areas for growth; and source the materials we need to enrich our current offering. When the new teacher is hired they will transition into Room 4 under Stacey's mentorship and coaching. Stacey will then be able to build curriculum and incorporate more academic programming in each of the other classrooms at both Ramsay and Acadia campuses.

# Holiday Season for All

Continued

**Advancement** - Last spring we received a grant through the Alberta government's **Community Initiatives Program** to assist in building our capacity in fund development and communications. Part of this includes hiring a new staff member and developing our Case for Support. I will be interviewing candidates for the position of Fund Development and Communications Manager in January. This person will work closely with me to build our fundraising program and enhance our communications and public profile. We will be looking to find more individual and corporate donors, as well as source new grants that will help with our bottom line and finance our new school building.

**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** - All hands will be on deck in January as we head towards our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary Spring Gala – Masked! The Gala committee is working on a great program for this year's very special celebration. Tickets are on sale now. More details are released bi-weekly in the Gala Newsletter produced by Teresa Reynolds.

A word about tax receipts - We are able to issue tax receipts for all cash donations and for items donated to our silent and live auctions. **Teresa Reynolds** coordinates the issuing of these receipts.

We cannot issue tax receipts for the tickets to the Gala as you receive something of value/benefit for the tickets; in this case it is the dinner and entertainment at the Gala.

I realize that this has been done in the past, and that many of you may attend other fundraising events where ticket purchasers sometimes receive a tax receipt for a portion of the ticket. This is called "split receipting" and usually happens when you pay a large price for the event ticket – often as much as \$300 per ticket. The charity is able to tally the cost of the event and deduct the cost from the ticket price and the difference can be the value of a tax receipt. For our Gala, the cost of dinner and dancing is almost 100% of the ticket price of \$100, so we do not issue tax receipts. Please be assured that our Gala is one of the most economical in the city. To the best of my knowledge, the closest event in our price range is the CMDA's Vehicles and Violins event at \$150 + GST for a ticket. This event is a preview to the annual Calgary Auto and Truck show and is a cocktail reception only, with silent and live auctions to raise funds for the benefitting charities – this year it is Mustard Seed and Prostate Cancer.

I hope your guests will find our Gala a huge ROI with lots of great prizes and fun the entire evening.

**Jocelyn Laidlaw**, news anchor with CTV, will return to emcee our event.

**News on the Adult front** - Earlier this month we received confirmation that Janus Academy has obtained agency status as a Qualified Service Provider (QSP) with the Alberta Ministry of Human Services. This will move our Adult Community Day program out of its Pilot phase into a permanent program which will be expanding in the fall of 2017.

On a final note for 2016, I want to wish everyone a very happy holiday season... whatever holiday you celebrate, may it be meaningful and enriching for you and your family. I hope you find time to visit and enjoy the company of friends and family - and most important – time to relax and rejuvenate and enjoy some time for yourself.

**Happy Holidays and the very best for the New Year ahead!**

SAVE THE DATE



**Saturday March 18, 2017**  
 Celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Janus Academy at this year's Spring Gala – Masked. Tickets on sale now!



**March 27 - 31<sup>st</sup> 2017**  
 Early dismissal on Friday March 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm at Ramsay and Acadia Campuses

FAST FACTS – OUR CAMPUSES

ELEMENTARY

**25** # of hours of rehearsal for this year's amazing concert – The Perfect Christmas Tree

JR. / SR. HIGH

**6** # of Ugly Christmas Sweaters worn at this year's staff gift exchange and pot luck at Acadia Campus

ADULT DAY PROGRAM PODS

**8** # of parents that attended this year's Adult Program Movement Recital celebration



*CP Rail's Holiday Train comes to Calgary – a spectacular light display*

# Seasonal Activities

## Around Calgary

If you have little ones who love trains you won't want to miss the CP Rail's Holiday train, pictured above, will glide through Calgary on **Saturday December 10th**;

Performers Dallas Smith and Odds will entertain at the **Anderson C-Train Station** beginning at **7pm**.

Admission is free. Everyone is asked to **bring a donation of food for the Calgary Food Bank**; every pound of food and dollar raised at each stop stays with the local food bank to help feed those in need in that community.

**Heritage Park** welcomes visitors to **Once Upon A Christmas**. Take a step back into true holiday enchantment this Christmas in Calgary. Heritage Park offers wagon rides, singing carols or visiting jolly old Saint Nick himself.



Experience the magic of Christmas past as historical family homes open their doors to share their Yuletide traditions.

Open Weekends through to December 19th from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Admission rates:

- General (15+) - \$10.75
- Senior (65+) - \$8.50
- Youth (7 - 14) - \$6.75
- Child (3 - 6) - \$5.50
- (2 & under - free)

# Save these Dates!

## Staff, Students and Families

Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee meeting – **Tuesday December 13<sup>th</sup> 3:00 pm** at the **Ability Hub**

**Last Day of School Classes – Friday December 16<sup>th</sup>** – Early dismissal at **12:30 pm** at both Ramsay and Acadia Campus

### Last Day of Adult Program

**Friday December 16<sup>th</sup>** – Regular dismissal time at both Ability Hub and Cornerstone Campus

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**January 1, 2017**

**First Day of School Classes Tuesday January 3, 2017** – Winter semester begins

### Family Day

**Monday February 20, 2017**  
No School

## Masked

### SPRING GALA

**March 18, 2017**

Commonwealth Hall

Celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Janus Academy!

Due to the extreme cold, arrival of the new Janus Academy **school bus** will happen in early January.



On behalf of the students, staff and board of directors of Janus Academy, **thank you to our donors** who help enrich the lives of students every day

- Anonymous
- Don Bartier
- Terence Batke
- Blue Sea Philanthropy
- Joti Chaudhary/Sun Life Financial
- Annie German
- Mona Johnson/Suncor Energy
- Rick & Jennifer Laycock
- Rick Laycock Professional
- Paul Murphy
- Stacey Oliver
- Dorothy & Dan Plamondon
- Sarah Polley
- Christine Tracey
- Warren Vezina

### Matching Gifts:

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match charitable donations and/or volunteer hours made by their employees. Find out if your company has a program and request a matching gift form from your employer. It's an easy way to increase the value of your donation.

# Important Reminders

## COLD & FLU SEASON

As cold and flu season approaches, we would like to take this opportunity to encourage parents to keep their children home if they are sick or are coming down with something.

We have had many children show up sick and this has caused it to spread throughout the school.

We also encourage our staff members to stay home if they are not feeling well to prevent the cycle of spreading germs.

Please help us guard against the spread of colds and flu and keep your children home if they are feeling ill.

**THANK YOU!**

## In case of Emergency

### Keep your contact information up to date

If you move or need to update any emergency contact information throughout the year, please contact:

Karli Martin @ 403.262.3333

## FOOD

Please do NOT send any food items that contain NUTS.



DUE TO SEVERE ALLERGIES, PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY FOOD ITEMS THAT CONTAIN NUTS! Although we are not a nut free school, we want to do our best to ensure our students with allergies are eating in a safe environment.

If your child requires special dietary reinforcements (i.e. sugar-free, gluten or casein free), parents are requested to provide the school with these items.

Please send in a **daily snack**. As snack and lunch times are busy, please ensure that all food is prepared beforehand (i.e. cut up) and lunch bags and containers are clearly marked

## DRESS

Please send in one complete set of spare clothing and indoor running shoes. All items must be clearly labeled.

## WINTER

Just a friendly reminder to all families! Please send your children to school with appropriate winter wear, including **hats, mittens or gloves, and boots**.

Please **label all of your child's clothing items**. We do our best to ensure that all clothing items are sent home with the correct student. Please notify us in the communication book if any of your children's clothing items are not returned.

# Board of Directors

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Board Chair        | Mona Johnson    |
| Vice Chair         | Nick Heffernan  |
| Treasurer          | Bill de Jong    |
| Secretary          | Patrick Gartner |
| Director           | Raj Bal         |
| Director           | Ian Holloway    |
| Executive Director | Lorie Abernethy |

## Our Vision

*To be recognized as a leader in specialized education and the facilitation of lifelong community integration of children and youth with autism*

## Our Mission

*To empower and support children and youth with autism and their families, maximizing their quality of life by providing excellence in innovative teaching techniques that meet their academic, social and emotional needs*

**RAMSAY CAMPUS**  
 2223 Spiller Road SE  
 Calgary, AB T2G 4G9

403.262.3333

**ACADIA CAMPUS**  
 8516 Athabasca Street SE  
 Calgary, AB T2H 1S1

403.228.5559

**ADULT DAY PROGRAMS**  
 Ability Hub – 300, 3820 24<sup>th</sup> Ave  
 NW, Calgary, AB

Cornerstone Church –  
 1227 48<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Calgary, AB

