



Janus Journal

October 2020

Hello everyone,

With the month of September behind us, welcome to October, with the lovely weather.

Our school year has started off very successfully on our campus. New families of students continued to join the Academy until September 30. We welcome you all!!

Our AHS procedures are updated very frequently, and sanitizing/disinfecting is at the highest of expectation. A great job has been done by the entire staff team.

Student Workshops have just been completed with Parent Conferences being this week. Staff are looking forward to their contact with you and to share about the learnings of September and the ideas for the first term of teaching for your child. Your child’s Individualized Program Plan (IPP) draft will be available for your review and edits. The parent signed sheet being returned to school will assist in the final IPP being ready to be submitted to Alberta Education at the end of October.

The Parent Advisory Council (P.A.C.) will conduct its first meeting this month. All families are encouraged to share their ideas with a council member.

Our staff members and students continue to settle in and enjoy the daily campus and classroom routines while building partnerships, friendships and community.

Happy healthy Thanksgiving and family celebrations to you all. Halloween is almost upon us OOOOOOOO 😊

Yours in Education,

Stacey Oliver
Principal

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IMPORTANT DATES

Fall 2020



Mark your calendars

- **October 2** Non-instructional Day (no school)
- **October 5-8** Parent Teacher Conferences
- **October 12** Thanksgiving (no school)
- **October 21** Picture Day
- **October 23** Early Dismissal (1:05pm)
- **October 28** Parent Workshop (6-8pm) *registration is required
- **October 30** Halloween celebrations (PM – cohorts only)

*Note: If your child has a costume they would like to wear at school, please send it in.

Halloween during COVID-19

Trick-or-Treating

- Don't hand out candy if feeling ill or isolating
- Wear a non-medical mask that fully covers your nose and mouth
- Ask trick-or-treaters to knock or call out instead of ringing the doorbell
- Use tongs to hand out pre-packaged candy to avoid handling treats
- Find creative ways to maintain distance from trick-or-treaters:
- Hand out treats from your driveway or front lawn, if weather permits
- Set up a table or desk to help keep yourself distanced
- Make candy bags and space them out on a table or blanket; don't leave out self-serve bowls of bulk candy
- Build a candy slide, candy catapult or other fun, non-touch delivery methods



Handing out Candy

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Training Director

Yolande Daley

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TRAINING NEWS

Reflection on the first month of school!



Every year when I start back work, I am asked “so how are things going? Usually I would just say it is busy but this year I find myself wanting to share more than just that. I find myself talking about how resilience the students are. I was impressed on the first day of school to see so many of our students wearing a mask on arrival (great job parents). There were so many newest for many of our students, yet they are coping with staff wearing mask all day, and even learning how decode what we are saying behind the mask. It amazes me how little things like a smile, a hi, or just mere happiness on their faces bring such joy. Even their independence in the morning to find their lockers, retrieve materials and

getting ready for their class. It really melted my heart one morning, when one student as he walked in asked, “where are my friends?”. This was a reminder of how important school is for all our students. It is a place where friendships are made, bonds are built, and routines for life are developed.

Despite COVID... Our staff training never stops!

On October 2nd, staff participated in CPI Non-Crisis Intervention training which included:

- How to de-escalate the situation or behavior.
- How to maintain safety
- How to keep strong relationships with students
- Resources on “*Four Ways to Calm Your Mind in Stressful Times*”, or “*5 Keys to Getting Through Difficult Conversations*” and supplemental information about the program’s principles, terminology, and the risks of physical restraints.

October 14th

- Zoom Inservice session with Heather Cobb- (Sexual Health Promotion Specialist Alberta Health Services) with teacher’s PC’s and CC/s topics: Puberty and Sexuality- How as educators we can support sexual health with youth with disabilities.



“Coping Strategies for Everyday Situations”

Target audience: New families

Date: Wednesday, October 28th, 2020

Location: Janus Academy Studio

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Presenter: Yolande Daley

Here is the link to register: <https://www.showpass.com/understanding-everyday-behaviours/>

If you have questions email: yolande.daley@janusacademy.org



Please join us in extending our gratitude to the following individuals and organizations that gave to Janus Academy over the past few months!

JANUS IT TEAM

PETER TAYLOR (BOARD MEMBER), **KENT MCNEILL** (VOLUNTEER), **BRUCE CHRUMKA** (VOLUNTEER)

Peter Taylor has been instrumental in getting all the staff setup with their upgraded hardware, migrating our emails and files over to a secured cloud-based storage, getting our phone system set up, and much more! He has volunteered over 1200 hours over the last few months to ensure that our new IT system is in compliance and our data is secured. We cannot THANK YOU enough Peter for spearheading this enormous project!

Kent McNeill has also been an important part of this transition. Kent has volunteered his time to Janus Academy throughout the past 10 years but also played a key rôle in getting our IT system set up at our new campus. THANK YOU Kent for always lending us a hand!

Bruce Chrumka showed up at our new campus everyday for what felt like weeks to assist the IT Team and to help ensure the move in August was successful. He was around to help with whatever needed to be done and we are so grateful for all your help Bruce! THANK YOU !

IN KIND DONATIONS

A big THANK YOU to **Shaw** for donating 20 laptops and to **Nutrien** for donating 12 Dell laptops for some much needed technology upgrades!

GENERAL DONATIONS

THANK YOU to all our donors who support us through **United Way of Calgary Donor Choice Program**, **CanadaHelps**, and **Benevity**!

SKIP THE DEPOT

THANK YOU to all our supporters for signing up with Skip the Depot and directing your refunds to Janus!

MONTHLY DONORS

A special THANK YOU to our friends for your commitment to scheduled gifts! Your ongoing support provides assurance and allows us to continue to do our work with these students!

Board of Directors

- Chair Maxine Jones-Sine
- Vice Chair Raj Bal
- Treasurer Katie Ruddy
- Secretary Rebecca Pound
- Director Allison Streit
- Director Peter Taylor
- Director Rahim Bhatia
- Director Rosa Twyman
- Director Devon Barber

- Executive Director Carlene Chrumka

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

To empower and support persons with autism and their families, maximizing their quality of life by providing the model learning environment that meets their academic, social and emotional needs



JANUS ACADEMY

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