



Janus Journal

September
2022

Welcome back to school!!

I hope everyone had the opportunity to take in some of our great summer weather and do some fun activities. I am very excited for this new school year and all the great things we will be doing together.

We will have our first community get-together with our September 15th Parent Meeting. I am looking forward to seeing our returning families and meeting our new families. Janus welcomed 19 new families this school year which brings our total to 80 students. With all the past years COVID-19 restrictions, this may be the first opportunity for many of you to meet each other in-person. I am excited to share the outcome from our Organizational Road Map work that we did with everyone last year and outline the vision for Janus over the next few years.

We had a devastating loss from our Janus Academy family over the summer. One of our students passed away. I know you all join me in sending out our condolences to the family. It was a very tragic and sudden loss for them and for all of us who worked closely with him.

Over the summer we have continued our upgrading of the facility and added some new artwork along the Jr/Sr high school hallway and in the Sensory room. We are very proud of our school, and we continue to add to the physical beauty and the functionality of it to support the needs of our students.

You may have noticed the Value Focus of the Month displayed on the stairway. Each of our values was created from the work we did on the Organizational Road Map. We wanted to have these values not only outlined in a document, but we wanted to live them as a community. Each month we will highlight these values and the teams will create ways to ensure we are putting them into practice.

I look forward to working with all our families to continue our journey and to ensure we are fulfilling our Mission of **"Empowering and supporting 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."**

Carlene Chrumka

Executive Director

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IMPORTANT DATES

Fall 2022



Mark your calendars

- September 15 Parent Information Night
- September 23 Crazy Hat / Crazy Hair Day
- September 29 Orange Shirt Day
- September 30 **National Truth & Reconciliation Day (no school)**
- October 3-6 Student Workshops (*see schedule below*)
- October 7 Non-instructional Day (no school)
- October 10 Thanksgiving (no school)
- October 11 Picture Day
- October 31 Halloween – Jr/Sr High Dance

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Parent Information Night

Thursday, September 15, 2022
from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

This year the format will be in person at our school campus, and it is mandatory that each family have at least one parent or guardian attend. The purpose of the event is to talk about our Organizational Road Map and outline the vision for Janus Academy over the next few years. You will have the opportunity to meet our Leadership team, tour the campus and get to know our other Janus parents. We look forward to seeing you there. Please be advised this is an adult event only. If you have any questions, please contact the school at 403-262-3333.

Janus Academy Fast Facts

ELEMENTARY PROGRAM

49 students

JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH PROGRAM

31 students

NEW CAMPUS OFFERS:

80 students in total

*19 are new to Janus Academy

63 staff

10 practicum students



Hello!

My name is Lucas Reiser and I am thrilled to be the Certificated Teacher for Classroom 10 this upcoming school year.

Originally from Mississauga, Ontario, I moved to Calgary this summer after teaching in a remote First Nations Community in Northern Alberta for the past 3 years. I began volunteering with one of the special education classes in my high school and quickly realized where I wanted my career path to lead. After that experience, my summer job for the next 8 years was working/supervising a summer camp for teenagers with intellectual disabilities through a non-profit organization. I am excited to bring that summer camp enthusiasm and energy into the classroom during our lessons. I am looking forward to this unique opportunity and everything this school year holds at Janus Academy.

Practicum Placements

Janus Academy staff and students wish to welcome over 10 practicum students from various University and College programs. These developing professionals will be spending the fall term (September to December) and, for some program practicum students, the winter term (January to April) working directly in classrooms under Janus Academy practicum supervisor staff and with Leadership staff on special projects. The programs and the amounts of practicum hours per student are as follows:

- Mount Royal University -
 - Social Work program – 350 hours
 - Child Studies program – 200/237 hours
 - Child and Youth Care Counsellor program - 193 hours
- University of Calgary
 - Community Rehabilitation and Disabilities Studies program – 100 hours
- Ambrose University
 - Behavioral Science program – 100 hours

Students and staff of Janus Academy benefit from new ideas and the youthful energy of these practicum students.

Kids Having Fun!

Once again Janus Academy has partnered with Kids Up Front, a Calgary Non-Profit organization that provides FREE event opportunities to children and their families. With more than two million tickets distributed over the past 21 years, Kids Up Front is an organization like no other in Canada. They provide tickets to hundreds of partner agencies, like Janus Academy, from generous donors. Kids up Front, along with Janus Academy, help enrich the lives of kids and their families by giving them experiences to create memories together.

Watch your email for upcoming event opportunities from Kids Up Front.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS



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 and staff 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.

Water bottles may be provided by the school. 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 labeled.

DRESS

Please send in one complete set of spare clothing and indoor running shoes. All items must be clearly labeled. Dressing in layers is preferred due to temperature changes and activity levels (including outerwear).

ATTENDANCE REPORTING

Please report **all absent or late students** as early as possible by calling reception at **403.262.3333**.

Please include **STUDENT NAME, TEACHER or CLASSROOM COORDINATOR, CHILD'S SYMPTOMS OR REASON FOR ABSENCE**. You may leave a message at any time on our voicemail.

COMMUNICATION

Cell Phone Use (Texting)

Staff are not permitted to be using their cell phones during classroom hours. We are therefore requesting that parents do not use texting as a form of communication with the teams. If you need to contact us about your child, please use the daily communication books, email, or phone reception for the staff directory to relay any information. Thanks for your support.

Communication Books/Agendas

Frequent notes and reminders will be communicated electronically. Parents are also welcome to write notes to the teachers if needed. If you would like to request specific information (i.e. meal times, toileting, etc.), please talk to your Classroom Coordinators.

TRANSPORTATION

STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR PARENT PICK UP AND DROP OFF



SCHOOL HOURS

8:50am – 3:15pm

EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS

12:00pm

DROP OFF PROCEDURES FOR PARENTS

There are 5 designated parking spots in the main lot to accommodate Janus parent drop off and pick up. Students being dropped off by parents will not be allowed to drop off students until 8:50 AM.

Parents who arrive early will be asked to wait in their vehicle until this time. You will see our staff designates outside waiting for your arrival. Please accompany your child to the front door where the staff designates will be, who will then walk them into the building to complete the arrival protocols. We ask that you keep a distance of 10 feet from the main doors and staff will direct students in so that the lobby and stairs are not congested.

Students who arrive late through parent drop offs are to be transitioned into the school by their parents and must ring the doorbell (left of our doors on the second floor) and wait for reception. Reception will then call the classroom to come and greet the student and ensure all health protocols have been completed.

Parents will not be allowed into the school unless it is an emergency situation, or an appointment has been made. Scheduled visits will be permitted.

PICK UP PROCEDURES FOR PARENTS

Parents are asked to park in the parking lot and walk to the front of the school to get the attention of the staff designates. Those designates will then call up to the class and ask that the staff bring your son or daughter down to the main level where they will be brought directly to you. Please remain at least 10 feet from the main doors to guard against congestion.

PROCEDURES FOR CALGARY TRANSIT ACCESS

Students arriving on Calgary Transit Access will be greeted by our staff designates, walked through the health protocols and shown to their lockers and homeroom, if required.

Students departing on Calgary Transit Access will be escorted out of the school and assisted onto the bus (including seatbelt or harness placement if applicable).



FIRST STUDENT WORKSHOPS

October 3 - 6

In October, we will be conducting our first 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. Workshops are split into 2 sets: Monday/Tuesday and Wednesday/Thursday.

Please refer to the schedule below for workshop attendance. If your child is NOT listed on a specific day, they are to stay home.

October 3 & 4	<u>Elementary Students to attend school</u> Andy, Harrison, Jayden, Jordan, Marko, Mason, Nathan T., Parsa, Seher, Sully, William, Yuvan, Chloe, Eden, Ekene, Marcus, Milla, Ramis, Siddhan, Stella, Anahita, Cruz, Edward P, Isaac, Luke Y, Matthew, Zeehan
October 3 & 4	<u>Jr/Sr. High Students to attend school</u> Adi, Alex, Annika, Cesar, Cole, Dylan, Felix, George, Jack, Jana, Jackson, Jessica, Keira, Megan, Mett, Nadia, Nurasyil, Zach
October 5 & 6	<u>Elementary Students to attend school</u> Charlie, Connie, Denzel, Edward A, Humayl, Joshua O, Liam, Luke C, Nathan A, Parker, Zoha, Afsa, Jason, Noah S, Rimshaa, Tawana, Viaan, Zoe, Anders, Zaviyar, Oliver, Nayef
October 5 & 6	<u>Jr/Sr. High Students to attend school</u> Alanna, Attila, Ayo, Ethan, Isaiah, Josh E, Joshua M, Kiana, Noah, Olivia, Sebastian, Sharlene, Shereef

If you have any questions regarding workshops, please feel free to contact the school.

Please note, we are unable to change your child's workshop dates due to scheduling difficulty. We hope by providing advance notice, that you will be able to accommodate these dates.

Thank you for your understanding.



Welcome Back!

Janus Academy is delighted to welcome back our resource team, some of whom joined us for the first time last year. We are very fortunate to have these wonderful, dedicated individuals working with our students to support their learning experience.



Fiona Perkins, BCBA – A Board Certified Behaviour Analyst, Fiona provides services to support learning and skill development. She believes that behaviour principals can support the development of socially appropriate skills for lifelong learning.

Tanya Sloane, M.Sc., R.SLP, S-LP - A certified Speech-Language Pathologist with Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC). Tanya is driven to enhance children's learning and inclusion within their communications.



Coach John Clubb, with Clubb Sport Consultancy, returns once again to work with our students in developing their soccer skills. He recognizes the individuality of each student and seeks to support their physical development and enjoyment.



Coach Adam Monkman is new to Janus Academy and will be teaching physical literacy to our elementary students once a week.



Heather Cobb, Sexual Health Specialist



Erin Dobson, Occupational Therapist



Melody Porter, Music Teacher - Mel has practiced as a Music Therapist for over 20 years, as well as teaching guitar, piano and voice. She loves how each day at Janus is different and presents an opportunity for learning and fun!



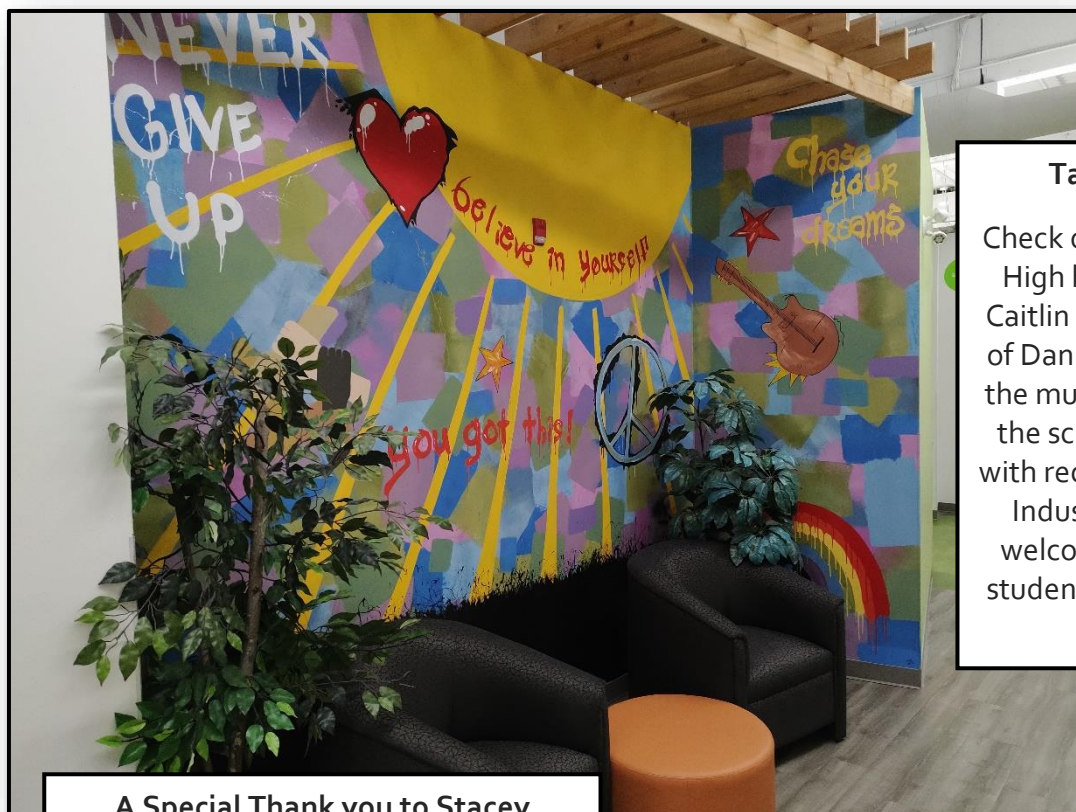
Good Life Fitness is once again partnering with Janus Academy to bring our junior/senior high students the MOVE program. We welcome Coach Lou Armstrong to the role. Lou has been coaching in the industry for 12 years. A certified personal trainer and fascial specialist for fitness, Lou's clients range from professional athletes to adaptive fitness. No matter the level of the clients, Lou brings fun and creativity to their movement practices and believes that everyone has the right to movement and the magic of movements starts with the first step.



Jessy Sia-Wong, Dance Teacher – Jessy LOVES moving, grooving, and connecting with students at Janus Academy! This is Jessy's third year at Janus, and she is really excited to be back.

What's New at School

While our students and teaching staff enjoyed a well-deserved summer break some of the Janus Team worked through the summer to get the school in tip top shape for the coming school year.



Talent runs in the family!

Check out the new mural in our Jr/Sr High hallway that was painted by Caitlin Clark. Caitlin is the daughter of Dan Clark, the artist who painted the mural on the Elementary side of the school. This new mural, along with recently donated furniture from Industrial Alliance has created a welcoming spot for our Jr/Sr High students to hang out during breaks.

A Special Thank you to Stacey Oliver!

Our amazing Principal, Stacey Oliver, donated this commissioned mural painting. We cannot thank her enough for her generosity and desire to create positive learning spaces for all our students.

Stacey also helped Yolande create a visual boundary for students doing warm up laps in gym class and spent much of the summer painting and doing small touch ups and repairs to get the school in tip top shape for the new year.



YOLANDE DALEY - TRAINING DIRECTOR

INSIGHTS



Edward



Mett

I am excited for the 2022-2023 school year of learning and growing. My goal has always been and continues to be to provide quality training and programs for both staff and parents. My approach is to coach, mentor, facilitate, implement updated training modules, practical supports, monthly school goals, classroom in-services and professional/personal development. This will facilitate capacity building to enhance the knowledge, confidence, and competencies of the staff. I am dedicated to engaging in collaboration in the school community to foster students learning.

Training Highlights:

- ☒ The Leadership team, certificated Teachers, Group Instructors, Classroom Coordinators received Emergency First Aid and CPR training.
- ☒ All new staff attended a two-day comprehensive training on the principles of Applied Behaviour Analysis, teaching procedures and positive behaviour supports. This year two Janus student participated in person for the hands-on learning for new staff.
Thank you, Edward & Mett.
- ☒ New and returning staff received training on Emergency Physical Restraints and Self- Defence from "Society for Treatment of Autism"





PARENT SUPPORT

UPCOMING EVENTS

Supporting Janus families with relevant and resourceful learning opportunities is my commitment. I will be offering **Free Online** sessions to allow parents to readily access the sessions remotely.

An email will be sent with further details and link to register. See below a list of the upcoming events for the year. Some may repeat if there is enough interest.

2022-2023 Parent Session (Lunch and Learn 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm)

Topics	Presenters
Proactive Approaches for Everyday Situations	Yolande Daley
Chiropractic Benefits on the Sensory System	Dr. Tim Salty
Benefits of Augmentative Alternative Communication Devices	Tanya Sloane, SLP
Growing Up and Puberty	Heather Cobb, Sexual Health Expert
Strategies to Support Emotional Regulation	Fiona Perkins, M.Ed., BCBA

Please email me if you have questions:

yolande.daley@janusacademy.org

**"WHEN YOU VIEW YOUR WORLD
WITH AN ATTITUDE OF
GRATITUDE, YOU ARE TRAINING
YOURSELF TO FOCUS ON THE
GOOD IN LIFE."
PAUL J. MEYER**

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"WHEN YOU VIEW YOUR WORLD**

Fundraiser News

URGENT - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Casino Fundraiser in support of Janus Academy

Sept 30 | Oct 1
ELBOW RIVER CASINO

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/aca826331>

We hope everyone has had a very successful first week of school. September feels like a month full of new beginnings, and this year it is also the month when we host our casino event.

FRIENDS OF JANUS ACADEMY is an independently incorporated Society that supports Janus Academy through fundraising related to gaming and lotteries. The annual casino event is the biggest fundraiser we do for the school, often earning \$50,000 to \$80,000. Through this funding we can support several things that enhance the educational experience of our children, including:

- New laptop computers
- Dance programing
- Soccer programming
- Rental of the Calgary Sportsplex for Phys. Ed.

These educational opportunities are not possible without help from **FRIENDS OF JANUS ACADEMY** and we need your help!

We have several open volunteer slots and full training is provided. Without enough volunteers, we will be forced to cancel our casino and these needed funds for our kids and the school will be lost.

Anyone can volunteer! If you have signed up already, we thank you! If not, consider asking your extended family, friends or signing up yourself. We also need back up volunteers in case of unforeseen circumstances.

You can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/aca825331>. Questions about the casino event can be emailed to Lina Dilov at lina.dilov@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

The Board of the **FRIENDS OF JANUS ACADEMY**

Thank You

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO THE
FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND CORPORATIONS



A BIG thank you to the Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown for awarding us \$25,000 in support of our capital campaign. We have been asked to do a presentation to the club members this month about the continuing work these funds will help us do.

A special THANK YOU to the Friends of Janus Academy Association (FOJAA) for providing funding support for soccer, dance and technology. They were able to purchase 2 work stations and 12 Chromebooks for student learning. Pictures to come next month.



THANK YOU to Ethan and Jayda Symon for supporting Janus Academy on your wedding day!

THANK YOU to Industrial Alliance for donating their gently used office furniture. Items included office chairs, desks, dividers, a bench, storage cabinets and white boards.

Board of Directors

Chair	Maxine Jones-Sine
Vice Chair	Servejit Massey
Treasurer	
Secretary	
Director	Allison Streit
Director	Rahim Bhatia
Director	Peter Taylor
Director	Rosa Twyman
Director	Katherine Ruddy
Director	Dr. Julia Jacobs-LeVan
Director	Jennifer Tinkler-Chirvau
Executive Director	Carlene Chrumka

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.



Our Vision

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

“
**Nothing is
impossible, the
word itself says
‘I’m possible!’**”

AUDREY HEPBURN

Janus Academy Society

200 – 403 33 Street NE
Calgary, AB
T2A 1X5

P: 403.262.3333
F: 403.693.2345