

## *March Greeting from Janus Academy*

March has always signified a transition in seasons, the ending of winter and the beginning of spring. At Janus, it's a time for us to reflect on the growth made thus far and to refocus on continued goals for the final stretch of the academic year. March 3<sup>rd</sup> is our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school and what a difference a few months can make! I can say this because even though I am not directly in the classrooms, I see the successes and triumphs everyday in the hallways. I see it in their smiles, in their visits to my office, in the staff and how proud they are of their students' accomplishments. It is ONE... of the most wonderful times of the year!

And there is still so much to look forward to. Our 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala, MISSION: POSSIBLE, is coming up on Saturday, March 18! Thank you to all our families who have made personal donations, brought in auction items, solicited local businesses, secured sponsorships, volunteered, and purchased tickets. As you can see, the gala would not exist without this village of support. If you haven't already purchased your tickets, I highly encourage you to attend and be a part of this amazing community and special night. Please reach out to myself or Karen if you are looking for last minute tickets or to volunteer. We look forward to celebrating with you there.

As we return to our Core Value of Initiative this month, it was great to start off with discussions in break out groups about what initiative means, how to demonstrate this value at work, what it may look like and what we are already doing as a team. One thing is for sure, this value is innately present amongst our teams. Whenever someone needs help or requires additional support, there is ALWAYS someone willing to step in. Another shining example is our Staff Capital Campaign Committee. Since the start of the year, they have raised over \$1050 for Janus with their fun and creative fundraisers. A HUGE thank you to our staff for going the extra mile. GO team GO!

Wishing you all a wonderful spring break, whether you are staying put or venturing out of the city. I hope you all find some time to rest and rejuvenate.

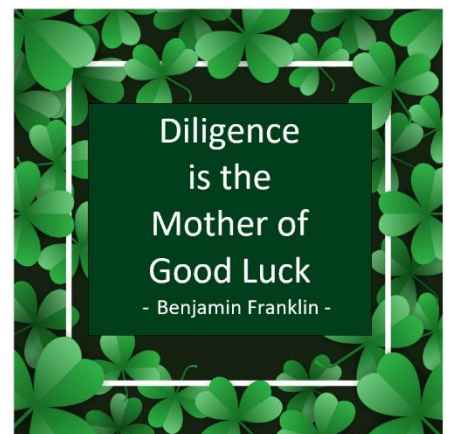
P.S. April is Autism Awareness Month. More information about what's happening around Janus to come.

Warmest regards,

*Teresa Reynolds*  
*Director, Fund Development and Communications*

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# IMPORTANT DATES

Spring 2023

## Mark your calendars:

- March 10 Healthy Hunger (OPA)
- March 12 Daylight Savings Begins
- March 17 St. Patrick's Day
- March 18 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala (5:30pm-12:00am)
- March 23 Healthy Hunger (Subway)
- March 24 Early Dismissal – 12:00 pm
- March 27-31 Spring Break (no school)
- April 2 World Autism Awareness Day (Sunday)
- April 3 Non-Instructional Day (no school)
- April 4 Classes Resume
- April 7 Good Friday (no school)



St. Patrick's Day, feast day of St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain in the late 4<sup>th</sup> century, he was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but returned to Ireland about 432 CE to convert the Irish to Christianity. By the time of his death on March 17, 461, he had established monasteries, churches, and schools. Many legends grew up around him - for example, that he drove the snakes from Ireland and used the shamrock to explain the Trinity. Ireland came to celebrate his day with religious services and feasts. It was emigrants, particularly to North America, who transformed St. Patrick's Day into a largely secular holiday of revelry and celebration of things Irish.



## Tax Time Again!

There are free in-person and virtual tax clinics across Canada which you may be eligible for. For more information, go to your web browser and type in **Tax Free Clinics Calgary 2022 Tax Year** and click search, OR type in the link below:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/community-volunteer-income-tax-program.html>

This will take you to the Government of Canada website page (see image below) that will allow you to find a tax clinic in your area.



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada



MENU ▾

CRA sign in

[Canada.ca](#) > [Taxes](#) > [Income tax](#) > [Personal income tax](#)

### Free tax clinics

Through the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP), community organizations host free tax clinics where volunteers file tax returns for people with a modest income and a simple tax situation.



### Services and information

#### [Get your taxes done at a free tax clinic](#)

Find out what you need to get your taxes done at a free tax clinic and if you are eligible.

#### [Find a tax clinic in your area](#)

There are free in-person and virtual tax clinics across Canada. Find one that suits your needs.



# Around the School

Student Workshops, Parent Open Houses, Valentine's Day, Family Day, and Pink Shirt Day. February saw students, families and staff come together to celebrate achievements, as well as build relationships with our Janus parents. February was also the time Janus Academy celebrated our Annual Staff Appreciation Day.



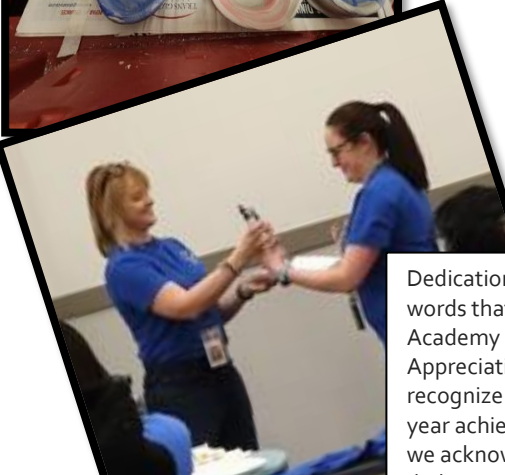
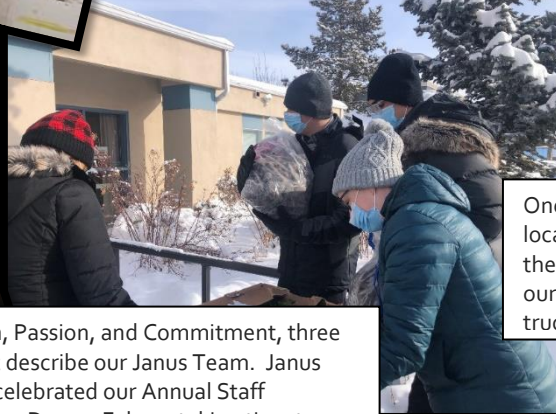
Our Visual Arts Residency Project continues, and students learned to use a pottery wheel. This was made possible by grants from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and F.O.J.A.A.



From raffles to sports pools, our staff are dedicated to raising funds for Janus Academy. It is a fun way to celebrate our Core Values of: Creativity, Initiative, Relationships, Accountability and Challenges. In February, our Capital Campaign Team raised over \$500. Our latest fundraiser was a Super Bowl pool. Congratulations to Teresa & Melinda, our two winners.



Once a week Rm 8 students volunteer to help a local church with their food pantry. Expanding their Life Skills and Employment Readiness, our Students unload donated food from the truck and sort it for the church.



Dedication, Passion, and Commitment, three words that describe our Janus Team. Janus Academy celebrated our Annual Staff Appreciation Day on Feb 10, taking time to recognize everyone's achievements. From one year achievements to 20 year achievements, we acknowledged the hard work and dedication of our staff and celebrated the milestones of individual team members.



Carlene Chrumka, CEO, celebrated 5 years as our guiding light and boss extraordinaire. The Janus Team recognizes the many challenges and obstacles Carlene over came to bring our school together onto one beautiful new campus in such a short period of time and to keep us moving forward with direction and purpose. We are proud to have her as our Chief Executive Officer and her Award of Excellence is well deserved.



Yolande – Director of Training  
20 years with Janus Academy

Lauren – Program Coordinator  
15 years with Janus Academy

Lisa – Program Coordinator  
20 years with Janus Academy



## Around the School cont....



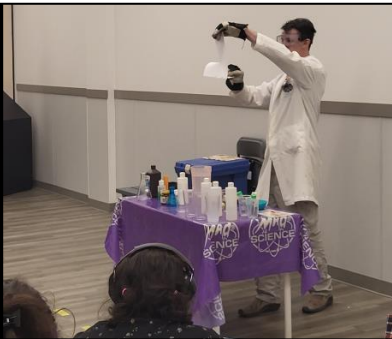
Each year our Students create wonderful items to be auctioned at our Spring Gala event, and this year we wanted to give you a peak at the project our Sr. High students are creating. We don't want to spoil the surprise.



Our Employment Readiness Room was turned into a temporary spa on PD Day and CDI College's Massage Therapy students treated our Staff to mini massages throughout the morning.



Since 1996 Mad Science has been providing outstanding programming to schools. Their mission: to get students excited about science through a structured & fun interactive lesson. The Kitchen Chemistry topic, lead by 'Microscope Mark', demonstrated changes in molecular state, as well as chemical reactions.



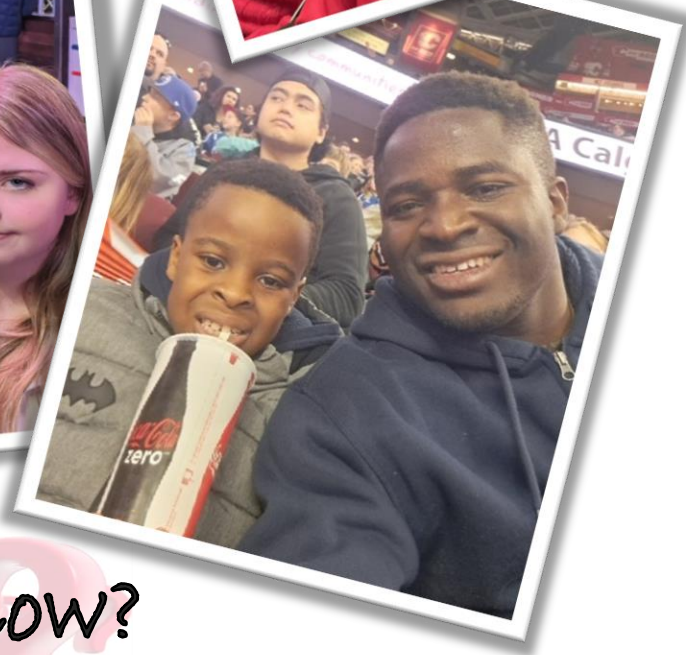
February 22 was Pink Shirt Day which is about working together to stop bullying by celebrating diversity and promoting kindness and inclusiveness, 3 things that Janus Academy embraces every day. Whether on Campus or part of a sea of pink at the Hitmen Game, our Students and Staff celebrated Pink Shirt Day with great enthusiasm and a lot of **PINK**. A BIG thank you to Telus for sponsoring the tickets and free t-shirts!





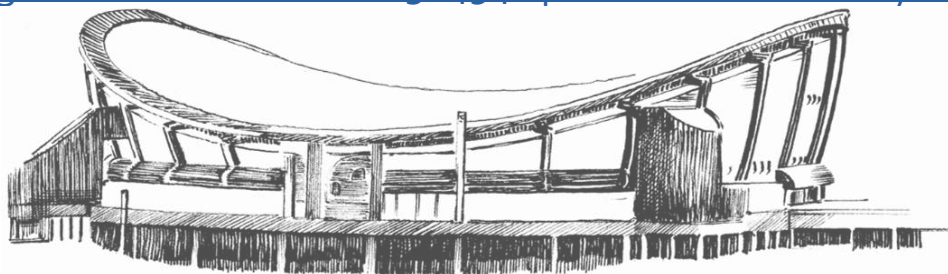
## Kids Having Fun

The second month of the year was a busy one for Kids Up Front, especially now that Calgary has a new third hockey Team, the Calgary Wranglers, and a new basketball team, the Calgary Surge. Our Janus sports fans were treated to numerous sporting events throughout February, as well as a few non-sporting events. We are delighted to be partnered with KUF to bring FREE event opportunities and fun activities to our students and their families. Watch your email for notification of upcoming events.



## Did you know?

The Scotiabank Saddledome is providing sensory kits to adults and kids who need them at all games hosted at the Saddledome. The families can request one from the Customer Service desk. The kit includes noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, fidget toys and an activity book outlining what to expect at a game – from security to anthems to cheering. You can read more about it at the following link: <https://globalnews.ca/news/8636454/sports-events-sensory-kits-autism/>





"Change is the end result of all true learning" - Leo Buscaglia

# Classroom 3

Our classroom focus this year has been on developing strong literacy and numeracy skills. Students continue to flourish under small group instruction, with specific targets to enhance phonics identification, fluency, and comprehension. In math, students are working at building up number sense, measurement techniques, and pattern recognition.



*My promise to you is that everyday your child will learn something. Some days they will bring it home in their hands. Some days they will bring it home in their heads, and some days they will bring it home in their hearts.*





## PLAY-BASED SKILLS

In Room 3 we are dedicated to fostering a love of play, independence, and friendship. Through guided play sessions and exploration we have seen students communicate, advocate for their desires, create meaningful staff and peer relationships, and find their love of play.

## LIFE SKILLS

Students have worked to develop skills that are beneficial to their lives. Students have had increasing exposure to skills such as using kitchen tools such as knives. Becoming comfortable with tools such as hammers. And completing daily living tasks such as brushing teeth, washing faces, tying shoes, zipping up jackets, and transitioning within the school.



*and in the end, learning is better together.*



# Parent Advisory Council



JANUS  
ACADEMY

## WE ARE OFFICIAL! JANUS NOW HAS A PAC!

### **WANT TO GET INVOLVED?**

While not absolutely needed, we would love to see one parent from each classroom join and represent that classroom's wishes.

### **HOW TO STAY UPDATED**

Watch for PAC updates in the monthly Janus Newsletter

### **WHEN WE MEET**

Meetings are held every two months on the first Monday of the month at 5:30 PM (in-person or virtual).

### **NEXT MEETING**

April 3, 2023

### **CONTACT**

Chair: Farrell Derksen  
fderksen13@gmail.com



World Autism Awareness Day 2023

# Volunteer Opportunities

Autism Calgary and AAFS  
Calgary  
need your help!

Team up Autism Calgary and Autism Asperger's Friendship Society to Autism awareness and acceptance. Come join us for 10th annual celebration of World Autism Awareness Day.

**April 2nd 2023**

Contact us with your name, phone number, and email!



Volunteering is from 11am-2pm. A few volunteers are needed to help for "set up" at 10am and/or "take-down" at 2pm-3pm.

Contact us : [yycwaad@aafscalgary.com](mailto:yycwaad@aafscalgary.com)





YOLANDE DALEY, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

# INSIGHTS



## PD DAY SESSIONS



### SESSION Highlights:

- **Teacher's Convention:** All Janus teachers attended sessions hosted by AISCA
- **Personal Story:** All Janus staff attended "A Journey as an Autistic person" presenter: Janus Staff
- **Physio session:** Elementary staff had an active session on purposeful movement when working with elementary students. Presenter: Gina Rolf, Physiotherapist MScPT, BScKin from Peak Kids Health & Performance
- **CDI College** –provided Janus staff a wellness opportunity to relax and unwind with bite size massages.
- **Online sessions:** Co-occurring condition "Understanding ADHD" and "How to support students with anxiety"

## AISCA

I had the wonderful opportunity to present at the Association of Independent Schools and Colleges in Alberta (AISCA) Teachers Convention on Friday February 17th, 2023. This experience has fulfilled a personal and professional achievement I have wanted to do for years. My presentation was focused on supporting teachers with building meaningful relationships and learner cooperation in their classroom using reinforcement and errorless teaching.

I would like to extend a thank you to Brittany Rau and Allie Cooper who provided me with some insights to make the presentation a success. Below are some results of my participation in the convention.

### Professional Outcomes:

- Network and sharing Janus's expertise.
- Generate new ideas and ways to expand training in the community.
- Connect with collaborators in the field, increased my knowledge of current trends.





JANUS ACADEMY PRESENTS:  
**MISSION: POSSIBLE**  
OPERATION TRANSFORMATION

**BIG THANK YOU** to the Parent Gala Committee volunteers who have been working so hard on

- cataloging auction items
- creating auction descriptions
- providing guidance on many event elements, such as menu, special features and decor.

Sussy Choi  
Farrell Derksen  
Julie Foley  
Shannon Knight-Jones  
Jane Makarenko  
Cara Rathwell  
Eleni Vincent

We are grateful for all of your help to plan Janus Academy's largest fundraising event

**Thank you to all parents who have**

- donated auction items
- purchased tickets
- asked family, friends and colleagues to support Janus
- utilizing company's workplace matching gift program

# Thank You

to the following individuals and corporations:

THANK YOU to **Dr. Diwalker Krishnamurthy and his team** for presenting their exciting research on extended reality technology with non verbal autistic individuals.

THANK YOU to **CDI College** for setting up a massage clinic on our PD day so staff could enjoy 10 min massages.

THANK YOU to **Chris Han** for donating stain for our gala projects.



THANK YOU to **Total Home Technologies** for donating a TV wall mount.

THANK YOU to **Parker's sister** for donating a new set of wireless headphones for Room 4.

## VOLUNTEERS

THANK YOU to **Wayne Goodwin** for his help in the installation and cabling of 2 new security cameras.

THANK YOU to **Pat Clendon** for lending us your carpentry skills for a gala project with the Jr/Sr High students.

THANK YOU to **Dan Clark** for coming in to complete a school art project with the elementary students.

THANK YOU to **George Ames and Stephen Sparrow** for being our volunteer bus drivers on our outings in February!



## Board of Directors

Chair	Maxine Jones-Sine
Vice Chair	Servejit Massey
Treasurer	Cecilia Chen
Secretary	Jennifer Tinkler-Chirvaiu
Director	Allison Streit
Director	Rahim Bhatia
Director	Rosa Twyman
Director	Dr. Julia Jacobs-LeVan
Chief Executive Officer	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*

MAY YOUR TROUBLES  
 BE LESS  
 and your  
 Blessings  
 be MORE  
 AND NOTHING BUT  
**HAPPINESS**  
 come through your  
 door  
IRISH BLESSING

### Janus Academy Society

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