



Janus Journal

December
2023

December Greeting from Janus Academy

Hello Families and Staff,

As we say goodbye to autumn and welcome the beauty of winter, we look forward to the flurry of excitement that December brings to Janus Academy. As the holiday season fast approaches, it is easy to feel overwhelmed amidst the hustle and bustle. It is important to take a step back and appreciate all the holiday season brings us. The bright lights, time together as a family and of course the best part, the student performances. Get ready to be enchanted by the talents of our students at our Winter Performance being performed for the first time in a genuine theatre! Please check your email for details on reserving your tickets!

I would like to take a second to reflect on and acknowledge the tremendously moving and successful inaugural school assembly that was held with the entire Janus Academy student and staff community. I heard from many staff that their eyes welled up with pride for the students and the milestone we achieved. We look forward to many more of these incredible events in the future.

Our student holiday sale has been a tremendous success, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone for their support. It is great to see so many of our Junior and Senior High School students taking part in the creation, organization, and production of this year's Holiday Enterprise. The skill development opportunities this experience offers our students are invaluable.

In the spirit of December as a season of giving, we kindly ask you to share your thoughts with us through a Google review during the holiday season. These reviews play a crucial role in offering prospective families insights into our school program and positively influencing the Janus Academy Team.

A special shout-out to our exceptional Educational Team whose dedication to the Core Value of Relationships is seen in all that they do. I appreciate their unwavering efforts to prioritize meaningful connections within the learning environment, recognizing the pivotal role that strong relationships play in fostering academic achievement and personal growth. By placing relationships at the forefront, our Educational Team not only enhances the overall learning experience but also creates a supportive and nurturing atmosphere that is fundamental to the success of both students and Janus Academy as a whole. So...thank you!

Wishing all our staff, students, and families a joyful holiday season. Looking forward to all that is to come in the new year!

Paige McNeill

Program Director - Elementary



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*We are like a
SNOWFLAKE,
all different in our
own beautiful way.*

IMPORTANT DATES

Winter 2023

Mark your calendars

- December 8 Santa Claus visit
- December 8 Healthy Hunger (Cedars Deli)
- December 13 JHHS Winter Performance
- December 14 Elementary Winter Performance
- December 19 JHHS Dance
- December 20 Ugly Sweater Day
- December 21 Winter Hat / Fun Day & Healthy Hunger (Subway)
- December 22 Early Dismissal 12:00 pm & Pajama Day
- Dec 23 to Jan 7 [Winter Break \(no school\)](#)
- January 8 [Non-Instructional Day \(no school\)](#)
- January 9 Classes Resume
- January 12 Healthy Hunger (TBD)
- January 26 Beach Day & Healthy Hunger (Cocobrooks)



Evergreen Theatre and Inside Out Theatre present:

The Most Imaginary Winter Celebration

A series of performances designed and presented by the students of Janus Academy

Wednesday 13 December (Jr/Sr High) & Thursday 14 December (Elementary)
1:30 – 2:15

Evergreen Community SPACES (Grand Oak Showroom)
#2 – 1709 8 Ave NE

Seats will be limited to 3 people/family



From all the
Staff at Janus
Academy!
Wishing you
and yours a
safe, warm,
and wonderful
holiday season.



Season's Greetings



*May this holiday season
bring you much joy and the year
ahead be your best one yet.*



HAPPY HANUKKAH

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR
2024**

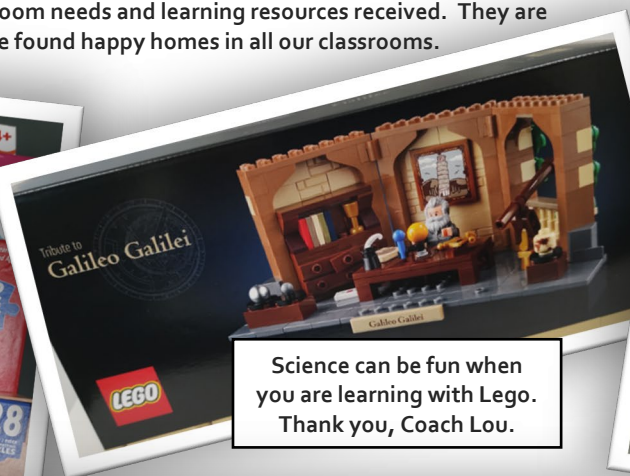
Our Classrooms Thank You

Thank you everyone!

November was an amazing month for donations and all the staff and students at Janus Academy wish to thank the families, friends, staff, and anonymous donors for all the wonderful games, puzzles, toys, classroom needs and learning resources received. They are greatly appreciated and have found happy homes in all our classrooms.



Thank you to Eashan's family for donating wonderful learning resources that are extremely helpful in the classroom.



Science can be fun when you are learning with Lego. Thank you, Coach Lou.



Cole's family donated a BIG bag of Lego. Our STEM Program & Rm 7 thank you.



Games & super heroes, two things our students love. Thank you to our Janus team member, Taylor.



Our students received a wonderful Chalk donation from a friend of our extended Janus family.



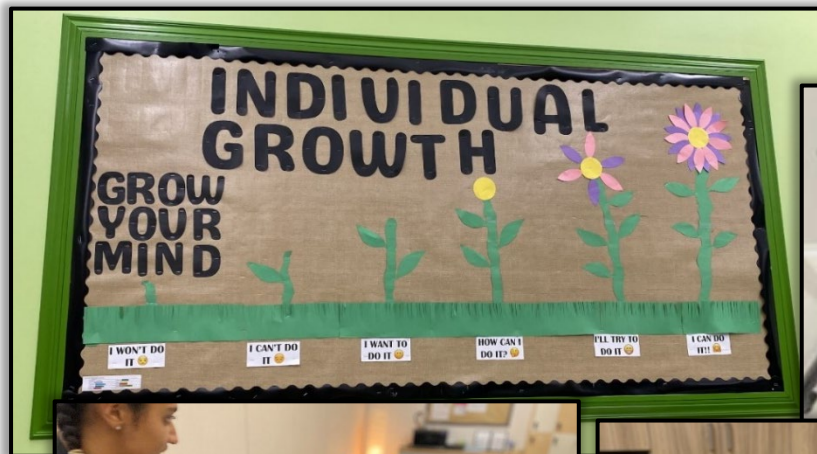
A person is never too young to start developing Life Skills. Thank you to Oliver's mom for the delightful donation of toys.



A thank you to Yolande in the form of a donation by the St Mary and St Paul Coptic Orthodox Church for a workshop she did. Way to go Yolande!

Around The School

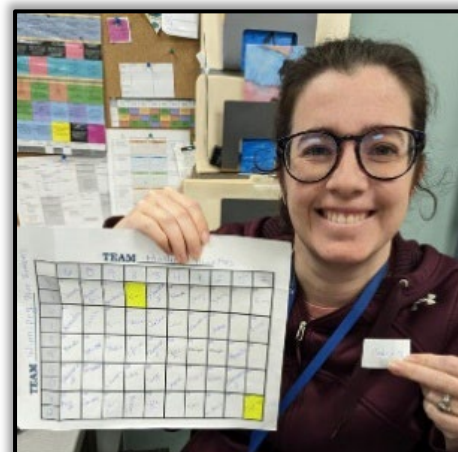
Individual Growth was our Core Value for the month of November, whether in Elementary or Jr/Sr High, students and staff experienced many opportunities of Individual Growth throughout the month.



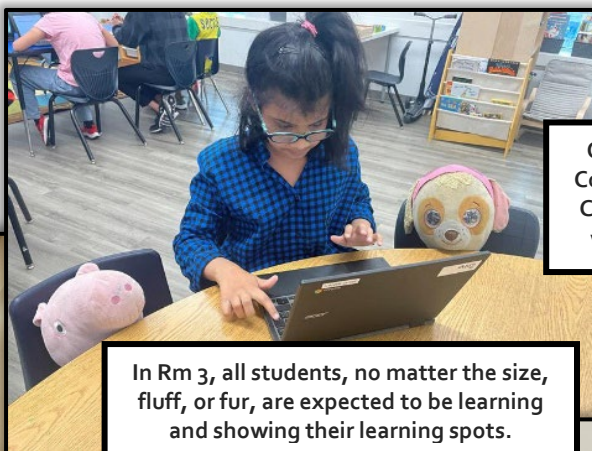
Casey makes Rm 2 Morning Group in Rm 2 fun and interactive. Casey's enthusiastic energy keeps the students engaged while still following student learning goals. Great job Casey!!!



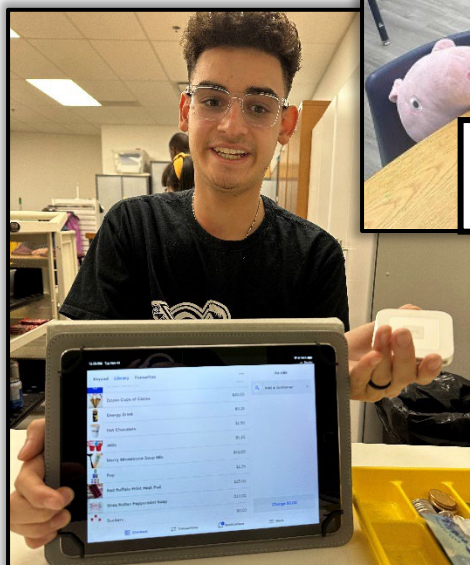
Our 8Niner Diner served it's first lunch of the year, and it was a huge success. Rm 8/9 students prepared and served the meals, accepted payment, and did the clean up afterwards. Well done Rm 8/9 we love our Pop-Up Restaurant!



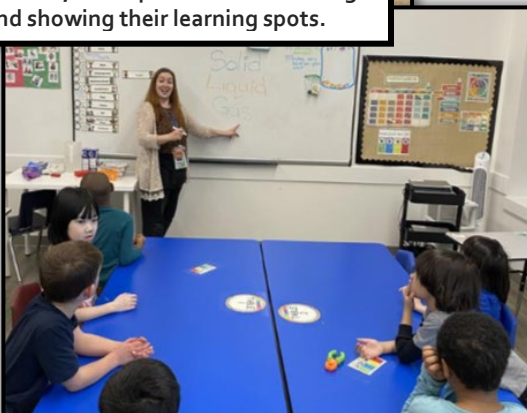
Our first in-house staff fundraiser was a great success. Congratulations to Clare, Tyfany, Kim & Sarah, our Grey Cup Square winners! And a BIG Thank You to everyone who participated, we raised \$225 for Janus Academy!



In Rm 3, all students, no matter the size, fluff, or fur, are expected to be learning and showing their learning spots.



Janus Jamboree, our lunch time store, has a new feature. Now purchases can be paid for with debit & CC. Students were keen to check out this new form of receiving payments.



Rm 2 students love learning in STEM class, especially when the learning is fun, motivating, and hands-on! Great work, Cheyenne!



We have a budding artist in Rm 4. Everyone really liked your dragon. Well done, Luke!



Janus Academy had an amazing Remembrance Day Event for both students and staff. We had our first school wide assembly in The Studio, where honored those who have served and those who still do serve. Our classrooms were visited by Warrant Officer Tim Cranston. Students part took in making Poppy wreaths, learning the significance of the poppy it's association with Remembrance Day and field trips to the Field of Crosses.



Room 3 had the pleasure of hosting some community officers to talk about community & environmental safety.



Janus Academy finished up the month with an amazing Nacho Feast. To show their appreciation for our staff's dedication and hard work, the Leadership Team treated everyone to Nachos at the end of the month, providing an opportunity to engage with staff members outside of their own classroom team.



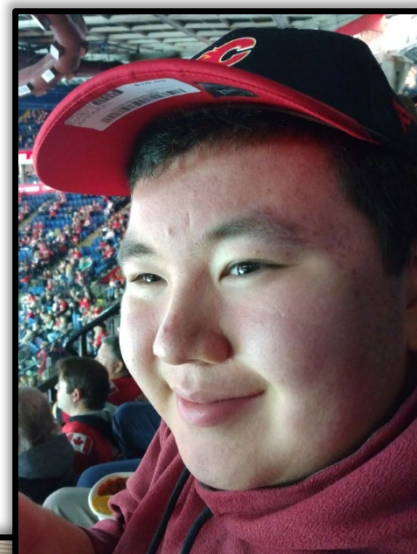
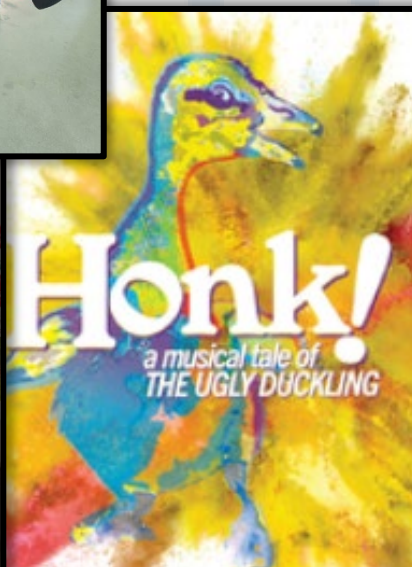
Some of the Rm 8 students started volunteering this fall. They did an amazing job with their teamwork skill with each other, and with the other volunteers, completing all their jobs independently! Great Job Rm 8!





Kids Having Fun!

Throughout November Janus Families enjoyed a variety of fun events from Kids Up Front. Hockey games are always popular with student & their families, and there were plenty in November. But not everyone is into hockey, some of our students enjoyed other events such as the Kids Up Front Holiday Party, Honk the Musical, Bach & Charpentier, The Princess and the Bandersnatch, just to name a few. Watch you email for more fun and exciting events from Kids Up Front in December.



CLASSROOM 7

CTV22K00M 7



Meet the Rm 7 Team – from left to right. Marco, Maryam, Tamara, Furtuna, Lisa, Shirin, and Paul.

Science: Students have been following the Alberta Space Exploration unit which covers achievements in space and its contributions to life on Earth. Students are learning about our solar system and various celestial objects like planets, moons, comets, asteroids, and stars.



SCIENCE



TECHNOLOGY



ENGINEERING



MATH



Independent Living:

(led by Lisa Ames)
Learning objectives include reviewing community safety and the importance of knowing and reading safe condition signs. In addition, students worked on boundaries, online safety, and the importance of knowing the possible dangers when they are on social media or in public places. Moving forward into December students will take part in our social enterprise. This includes working on filling orders, including making gift cards and gift tags by employing the use of fine motor skills and creativity.

STEM: Science-Technology-Engineering and Math. Students have been engaged in hands-on investigation of STEM concepts using the Lego Education platform. Utilizing the STEAM portion of STEM which includes art, Rm 7 Student groups work together to free build Lego kits to express their own artistic vision or complete pre-made kits based on this year's Lego Education theme. A main component of their weekly projects also includes basic programming. Students have been using the Lego SPIKE essential programming tools to animate their projects with LED lights and motorized movement. They have also been using the Scratch online programming software to create simple executable programs. These lessons are collaborative and have been led and assisted by fellow students in Rm 7.



Yolande Daley, Director of Training

INSIGHTS



SIBLING CONNECTION

*"Two different children, two different experiences but one **love** that is shared".*

Paula Rollo

The siblings enjoyed an evening of art, relaxation in the sensory room, scooter board fun, games, sharing circle and chilling with snacks. Thank you to Janus staff Cheyenne, sibling facilitators Chazz Choi and Monica Khozam for volunteering their time to make the evening a wonderful experience for the siblings; and to Dr. Caroline Buzanko for a great parent session.

Art is known to improve communication, build connection and community which was evident through out the art session with Dan Clark. Witnessing this authentic experience is beyond words. Thank you Dan !!



Game Time



Sharing Circle



Parent Session



January Lunch and Learn

Mark Your Calendar



Date: Wednesday January 24th, 2024

Topic: The benefits of Physiotherapy for Autistic Individuals

Time: 12-1 p.m. Online

Presenter: Kajel Patel, MPhtyst, BScKin, physiotherapist

Session Details:

1. The difference between OT and PT, and ways PT can help your child
2. FSCD funding can be used to access PT
3. Natural ways to incorporate gross motor skill development into your child's home life.

Community Resources

Check out the websites for more details.

Amazing Sibs:

<https://korupsychology.ca/workshops-groups/amazing-sibs-workshops/>

Amazing Sibs is a place where kids can meet other brothers and sisters of children with autism, share their experiences and gain peer support. (ages 5 to 12)

Managing your child's anxiety:

<https://korupsychology.ca/workshops-groups/managing-your-childs-anxiety/>

Learn everything you need to know about anxiety to promote your child's resilience and mastery over anxiety right away?

Swimming Lessons:

<https://www.justkeepswimmingcalgary.com/>

Just Keep Swimming is dedicated to teaching children and adolescents with neurological or developmental disabilities to swim confidently and comfortably.

Outdoor Sports:

<https://rockymountainadaptive.com/>

Rocky Mountain Adaptive is a charitable organisation who creates and provides accessible adventures for individuals living with physical and/or neuro-divergent.

Sports and Recreation:

<https://www.calgaryadaptedhub.com/>

Calgary Adapted Hub is your go-to resource for adapted sport and recreation programs in Calgary.

Especial Edition

FUNDRAISING NEWS

TICKETS ON SALE JAN.1!



Watch out for **Early Bird Savings.**

EXCITING NEWS

We are proud to announce this year's

Event Sponsor - \$10,000



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

AUCTION WISHLIST

We are still in need of silent auction items for our gala!

- Experiences (hotel accommodations, concert tickets, hockey tickets, beer/wine tours, restaurant gift card)
- Tech (Apple products, tablets, Amazon gadgets, gaming systems, projectors)
- Home decor (furniture, kitchen appliances, security cameras, landscaping services, etc.)
- Liquor (craft beer, wine, whiskey, scotch, tastings, bar cart, glasses, etc.)
- Travel (hotel, tickets to a show, car rental, ski passes, etc.)

Questions:

Teresa.Reynolds@janusacademy.org

Especial Edition

FUNDRAISING NEWS



Thanks to YOUR remarkable generosity and that of many other compassionate individuals like yourself, our holiday campaign has not only met but exceeded our initial goal! Our new goal is \$30,000!

LAST CHANCE!

This is the last year that we will be eligible to receive 30% match funding up to a **maximum of \$15,000**. The new funding limit for next year is only a maximum of \$5,000. Let's make this year count. We still have 31 days left to raise funds for student programming.

*All gifts are credited to your fundraising commitment.

SHARE THIS LINK:

https://fnd.us/janusgiftofeducation?ref=sh_7C2P9c

FOLLOW US ON:





Thank You

TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND CORPORATIONS:

Thank you to **UNITY FOR AUTISM** for awarding Janus Academy \$10,000 in grant funds for the Language and Communication Project for Early Verbal and Non Verbal students. This project will focus on students from grades 1 to 4.

Thank you to Warrant Officer, **TIM CRANSTON**, for joining all classes on Nov. 7 for a presentation in honour of Remembrance Day.

Thank you to **MAGDALENA BERNARDO**, a student's aunt, for donating a beautiful 10ft. Christmas tree that has found a home in our Learning Commons for everyone to enjoy!

Thank you to **GEORGE AMES AND STEPHEN SPARROW**, our volunteer bus drivers for enabling so our students to go on so many fieldtrips this month.

A special thank you to **JOHN NORRISH** for volunteering as "Santa" for over 15 years and to our **ANONYMOUS** friend for supplying gifts to all our students.



Board of Directors

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| Chair | Servejit Massey |
| Treasurer | Cecilia Chen |
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| Director | Allison Streit |
| Director | Rosa Twyman |
| Director | Dr. Julia Jacobs-LeVan |
| CEO | 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.

“Kindness
is like snow-
It beautifies
everything
it covers.”

—KAHLIL GIBRAN



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