

February Greeting from Janus Academy

Hello Everyone,

With the return to school also came the return to terribly cold temperatures. Thank you to everyone for ensuring safety was paramount in making decisions to attend school, to remain at home, or a combination of arriving later or leaving early to ensure success. All student transportation to and from school is arranged by parents, so it is therefore important that you contact your transportation provider to see when they would suspend services due to weather conditions. We respect the right of parents to make their own decisions about sending their child to school. If your child will not be attending classes, please ensure you let us know so that staff may be appropriately deployed to support other students and activities within the Academy.

Beach Day is a Spirit Day event looked forward to that breaks up the winter monotony of bundling up and work, work, work in classrooms. Students and staff were treated to activities during regular scheduled sessions as well as experiences to further enjoy the break from a regular school day.

Term 1 Report Cards were shared with families at the end of January. The Report Card reflects the student's continuous learning from September to mid-year. There is a tremendous amount of pride the Education Team members in the classrooms have toward each step in the learning process that each student accomplishes. All Education and Leadership Team members look forward to even more success in Term 2.

February will have the second set of Student Workshops that promote development of Education Team member skills which in turn support each student's learning abilities during Term 2. Please ensure the dates your child is to attend and NOT attend are on your calendar.

February is the month for Valentines/friendship and family focuses. Your child's Education Team will be sharing with you what activities are planned for Valentines/friendship day activities. Ensure your calendar is marked with no school for the Family Day holiday.

The Parent Open House (February 21 and 22) before and after school times, gives the opportunity for your child's classroom to show and share some of the process, product, and successes of the students. Please look for a 'Save the Date' and sign up for one of four opportunities to enjoy this experience.

Students and staff have had many opportunities throughout the school year to learn and live the core values of friendship and collaboration. These values certainly are building blocks to reduce bullying. February 28 will be Pink Shirt/Anti-bullying day on campus.

I hope you all continue to have a safe and healthy 2024.

Stacey Oliver
Principal



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IMPORTANT DATES

Winter 2024

Mark your calendars

- February 5 to 8 *Student Workshops (see schedule on next page)*
- February 9 Non-instructional Day (no school)
- February 14 JHHS Dance / Valentine's Day
- February 16 Teachers Convention/Staff Professional Development (no school)
- February 19 Family Day (no school)
- February 21 & 22 Parent Open House – Registration Required
- February 23 Healthy Hunger – Subway
- February 28 **Pink Shirt Day**
- March 22 Early Dismissal at 12:00 pm
- March 25-April 1 Spring Break (no school)
- April 2 Non-instructional Day (no school)
- April 3 Classes Resume



SCOPE

navigate
for kids

Calgary SCOPE Society's Gateways Services works with parents/guardians of children with a diagnosed developmental disability. We provide service coordination and can help parents/guardians learn about and connect to disability related resources in the city. Another area of support we offer is guidance with the transition of youth to adult disability related support. This process can start as early as when the youth is 16 years old, including the application to the PDD program (Persons with Developmental Disabilities), which is government funding for eligible adults with a disability. Another area is Guardianship and Trusteeship and AISH (Alberta Supports for the Severely Handicapped), which can be submitted once the youth is 17 and 17.5 years old.

Come and meet the SCOPE Team at Janus Academy's Parent Open house on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, from 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm.



SECOND STUDENT WORKSHOPS

February 5 – 8, 2024

In February, 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. 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.

<p>February 5 & 6</p>	<p><u>Elementary Students to attend school</u> Anders H., Jacob, Oliver, Prim, Jared, Sam, Cruz, Charlie, Nathan A, Zoha, Parker, Denzel, Luke Y, Matthew, Nathan T, Luke C, Humayl, Edward, Harrison, Parsa, Sully, Marcus, Maro, Anahita, Ekene, Eden, Siddhan, Zoe</p>
<p>February 5 & 6</p>	<p><u>Jr/Sr. High Students to attend school</u> George, Sam, Attila, Josua, Noah H, Henry, Yuvan, Jack, Ayo, Noah C, Felix, Sebastian, Adi, Mett, Alex, Tegh</p>
<p>February 7 & 8</p>	<p><u>Elementary Students to attend school</u> Anders W, Mila, Isaac, Anay, Ethan, Eashan, Connie, Petros, Zeehan, Liam, Sinmi, William, Jordan, Arisa, Jayden, Noah, Rimshaa, Stella, Cory, Enzo, Yalinee, Viaan, Afsa</p>
<p>February 7 & 8</p>	<p><u>Jr/Sr. High Students to attend school</u> Andy, Nurasyil, Kiana, Olivia, Cole, Dylan, Jessica, Jackson, Cesar, Annika, Ethan, Keira, Nadia, Jana, Alanna, Chloe, Megan, Sharlene</p>

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.





Dear Janus Academy Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones in good health and spirits.

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing the best possible education for your child, we would like to bring your attention to an important short survey from Alberta Education.

Each February, a survey is sent electronically to some parents with children in the Alberta school system. This survey serves as a valuable tool to collect information that guides decisions for the upcoming year(s). Your participation is crucial in shaping the educational landscape for your child and others in our community.

Janus Academy's Certificated Teachers actively participate in this survey as well. The results are displayed on our website through the Annual Education Results Report (AERR) that is submitted to Alberta Education. Your thoughtful responses play a significant role in providing insights into our school's strengths and areas for improvement.

While the questions may not always seem directly tailored to the unique experiences of the students at Janus Academy, your perspective is invaluable. We understand that some questions may be challenging to answer based on the nature of our specialized educational approach. However, your feedback is essential in demonstrating the diversity of educational needs and experiences within our school community. Answering 'Don't Know' or 'N/A' (Not Applicable) are valid responses on questions you do not feel pertain to your child's situation in their education. We continue to work to inform Alberta Education regarding some of these issues.

If there is a need to have the survey supplied in a different language, this can be done upon request to:

System Assurance Branch

System Excellence, Alberta Education

Phone: (780) 643-9193 (in Edmonton) or 310-0000 (Toll-free within Alberta)

E-mail: EDC.SystemAssurance@gov.ab.ca

AEA survey website: alberta.ca/alberta-education-assurance-survey.aspx

We highly encourage you to take the few minutes it takes to participate in the survey if you receive a request to do so from Alberta Education, sharing your thoughts and experiences.

Thank you for being a valued member of the Janus Academy family.

Stacey Oliver

Stacey Oliver

Principal

February is an amazing month with many special holidays and this year we get an extra day to enjoy them all.

No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow.
- English Proverb



Happy Groundhog Day!



Isra Miraj
Night Journey

15
FEBRUARY

NATIONAL
Flag day
OF
Canada



HAPPY
LUNAR
NEW YEAR

May the New Year bring you good health and great fortune!



HAPPY
Valentine's Day

HAPPY FAMILY DAY



Leap year
2024



SUMMERCAMP

**Registration
starts soon
Camp sessions
run July 8-
August 9th**



JANUS SUMMERCAMP

Experiences include: Mad Science, Dance, Music, Art, trips to local parks, Science Center, Zoo, Heritage Park, Swimming, Calaway Park, Flying Squirrel and much more.

Initial registration runs until Feb. 23rd (for Janus Family). Opens to public Feb. 24. Check your child's backpack for brochure with more information.



Contact
Clare.Murphy@janusacademy.org

Click link for registration form

<https://forms.gle/5aA07e5vGxBuDrM76>



Around the School

Janus Academy started the New Year with a great month. January saw many fun activities for both students and staff, but it was also saw the Team getting ready for Workshops, preparing Report Cards, as well as ongoing training for our staff. Students welcomed back Clay for Kids, had the opportunity to experience Marital Arts and enjoyed field trips.

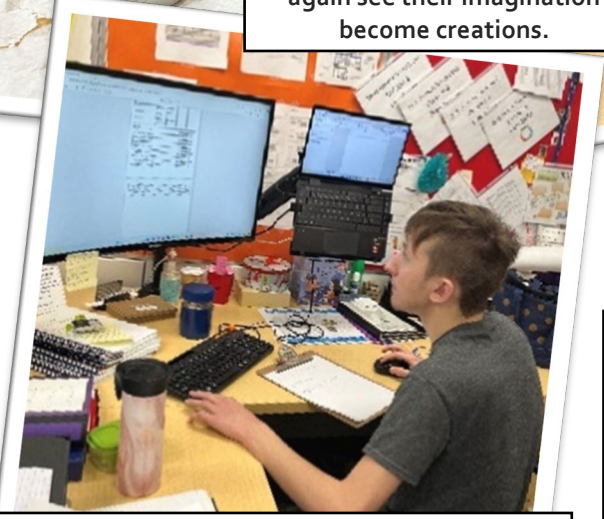


Calgary's Central Library has become a popular spot for Janus Students. There have already been several field trips to main library, with many more planned for the rest of the school year.



Students were delighted to work with Rachael from Clay for Kids this year and once again see their imagination become creations.

In the spirit of Reconciliation, we acknowledge those who came before us on the traditional territories of Treaty 7. We acknowledge that the Siksika, Piikani, Kainai, Tsuu'tina, Îyârhe Nakoda, and Metis Districts 5 and 6 Peoples took care of The Land before us, and we must work together to take care of Mother Earth today. We must listen to the stories that The Land provides us and treat The Land which we play, explore, and learn with respect. We need to show courage when teaching others to do the same. We must continue to show love for The Land as those have done in the past.



Jackson has been working hard, independently creating the distribution lists for our Healthy Hunger days. Thanks Jackson and Rm 8, for making sure the lunches get to the classrooms!

Since the beginning of September Rm 3 Students & Staff challenged themselves to understand what the Land Acknowledgement means. They delved into their curriculum and looked at how various topics relate to the Land Acknowledgement. Then the students and staff created their own! Well done Rm 3.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

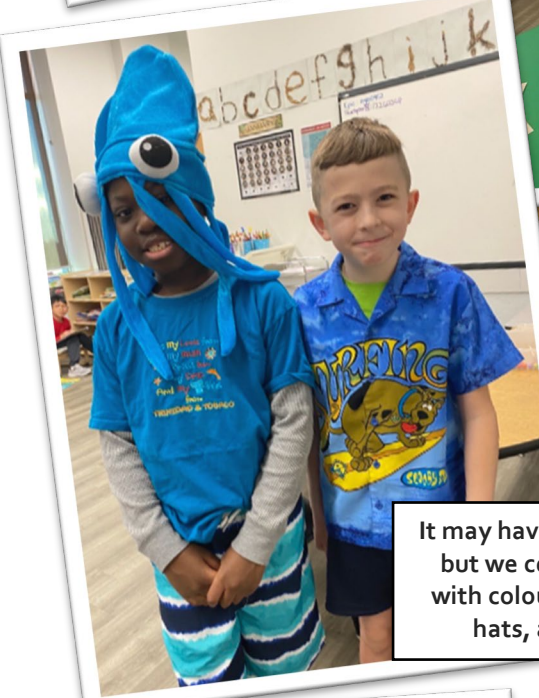
Students experienced a new form of physical activity from Jay, the Marital Arts instructor, who visited Janus in January.



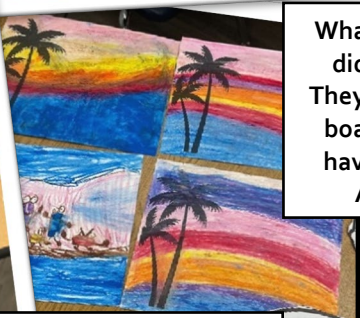
Even when field trips are not planned, student still enjoy reading in Brittany's Book Corner, one of many reading centres around the campus. Students also bring books from home to share with their classmates.



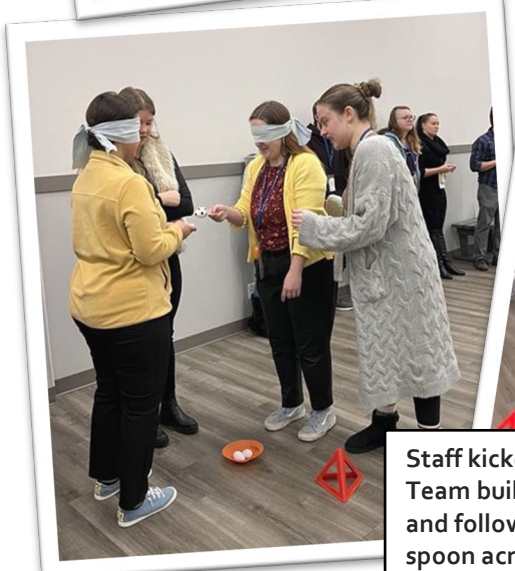
We are always delighted to see our Students embrace our Core Values. Two Rm 7 Students started a collaboration project with students from Rm 2. They are creating STEM materials/visuals and when finished, they will present these to Rm 2 students.



It may have been winter outside, but we celebrated Beach Day with colourful shirts, awesome hats, and fun activities.



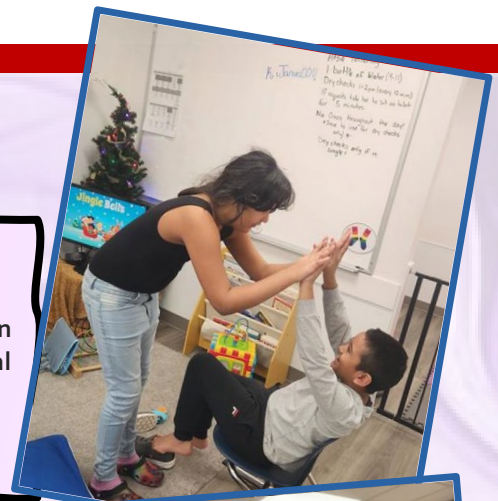
What does the Janus Mission Statement mean to us? Rm 2 did a Team building activity around the Janus MISSION. They discussed what this means to them and then created a board using the Janus logo as their template! Parents will have the opportunity to check out this wonderful piece of Art Work during Parent Open House on Feb 21 & 22.



Staff kicked off the first day back from Winter Break with a Team building exercise. We worked on practicing trust and following verbal instructions by carrying an egg on a spoon across The Studio while blindfolded. Our only guidance was the verbal instructions received from another staff member. Don't worry, we used plastic eggs!

Classroom 6

Socialization: Socialization classes are designed to help students develop essential social skills through various interactive activities. These classes focus on promoting positive peer interactions and enhancing communication and cooperation among students. These activities collectively contribute to the development of social skills such as communication, cooperation, and empathy. By engaging in these classes, students can gain confidence in their social interactions, improve their ability to work with others, and build positive relationships with their peers.



Group Skills: In Room 6, our students are actively working on enhancing their independence and active participation within the group setting. The primary goal during group activities is to develop **independent** group skills, including remaining seated, raising their hand to request a break, and attentively engaging with the instructor. In addition to focusing on these skills, students have the opportunity to take part in captivating lessons that cover a diverse array of topics. These lessons involve following instructions to create crafts, exploring and identifying emotions, and currently, delving into the fascinating realm of outer space with a focus on recognizing planets!



Clubs: In Room 6, our students have dedicated considerable effort to their ongoing "Me Project" over the past few months. This initiative focuses not only on self-expression but also on recognizing and appreciating the diverse ways in which their peers express themselves. To kick off each Club's group session, we engage with the empowering song "I Love My Body" by Mother Moon. As the students listen to the song, they create a heart shape with their hands and give themselves a hug demonstrating self-love. This particular activity has become a highlight for me during the Clubs sessions, as I witness each student embody kindness and empathy towards themselves and their peers. In addition, we incorporate the inspirational "Affirmations Song" by Dogglyland into our activities to support the students in bolstering their confidence. Each project and activity within the "Me Project" are designed to heighten awareness and understanding of everyone's unique strengths, differences, backgrounds, and interests. It's truly heartening to see our students actively engage in these exercises, fostering a sense of unity and appreciation within Room 6.



Sensory Play: Our students actively engage in Sensory Play classes, where they encounter a diverse range of activities designed to explore various senses such as taste, auditory perception, and, a class favorite, different tactile experiences. Throughout these sessions, students practice both expressive and receptive communication skills. They learn to request different items, share comments about ongoing activities, and respond to questions regarding what they observe and feel. These classes provide a rich and interactive environment for developing sensory awareness and communication abilities in our students.



CLASSROOM NEEDS



Yoga Mats

Rm 2 is working with our Physiotherapist to bring more movement to the classroom room through Yoga and other activities. They are looking for new or gently used yoga mats to assist the students with these activities.

Dog Man & Cat Kid

Many of our young students are really into Dog Man & Cat Kid books (graphic novels). We are looking for donations of these books/graphic novels to assist with the development of reading skills, social skills, and reinforcement. We have a few of these books but they are well loved and are starting to wear out.



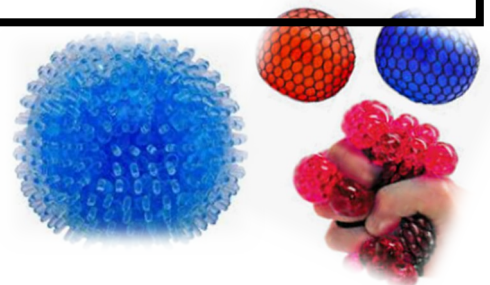
Theraputty

Theraputty is a strong, non-toxic, latex free putty-like material that leaves no residue and won't fragment, separate, stain or stick to skin. Rm 7 uses it for improving hand strength, dexterity and developing fine motor skills. Plus, it's a lot fun to use.



Fidget Toys

Fidget toys are amazing, and Janus Academy can never have too many. Pop-its, Crinkle Tubes & Stress Balls help with student reinforcement and regulation. They are very popular and are well loved by our students. We are looking for more of these if you happen to have any to donate.



Meditation Drum

Room 6 is looking for a Meditation Drum to aid in regulation. One was loaned to the school for a day and the students loved it! We hope to make this instrument a permanent part of Janus Academy's instrument inventory.

CLASSROOM THANK YOUS



A BIG thank you to everyone for the wonderful donations we received in January. It was a great way to start off the New Year.



Thank you to Cole and his family for the click blocks, books, magazines, colouring books & crayons! As well as a bundle of arts & crafts supplies. The googly eyes are very popular and always in demand at Janus Academy.



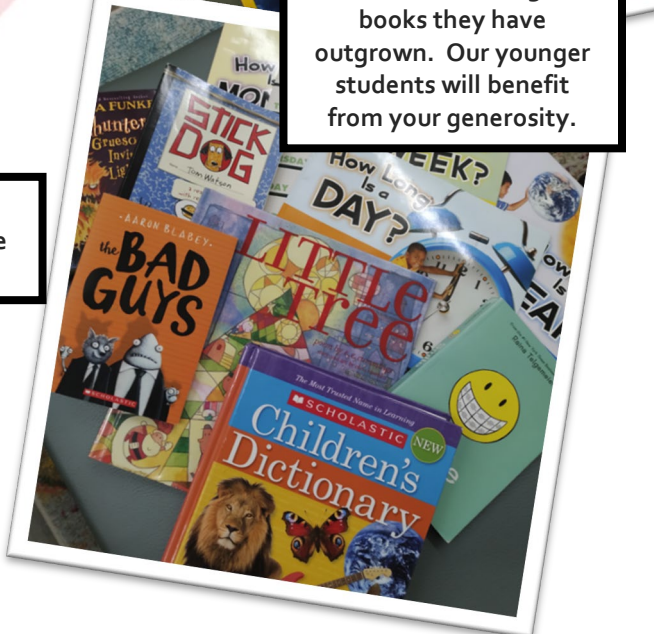
Luke C and his family donated colouring books, sticker books, Play-Doh & more! Our classrooms thank you.



Shout out to Jackson and Sam A for donating the books they have outgrown. Our younger students will benefit from your generosity.



Kajal from Peak Kids donated this great scooter. The elementary students were delighted with the addition to their break time activities.



Behaviour Zone Inc. Therapy

Behaviour Zone Inc is a private company that provide one on one direct service to children and their families between the age of 2-18 with developmental delays. We have over 18 years of experience working in the disability field. We are committed to improve our education so that we can provide the best intervention through learning and researching new therapy techniques and theories, attending workshops and conferences.

Throughout the years we have and continue to provide intervention to individuals with Callosal disconnect syndrome (hemisphere separation of the brain), fragile X syndrome, Attention deficit disorder, Attention deficit hyperactive disorder, Sensory disorder, Executive function disorder, Autism and learning disabilities. Each program we provide is specialized to the client's individual needs and goals. Behaviour Zone provides intervention to clients using the principal of Applied Behaviour Analysis and Spark-EL regulation program.

We are accepting new clients between the age of 5-14 years old who display Low to mid behaviour Mondays to Fridays for after school sessions between the hours of 4-6:30 pm.

What we offer:

- Behaviour intervention.
- Social skills training.
- Life skills training.
- Regulation training.
- Modified Alberta curriculum services
- Collaboration with and delivers other professionals programs such as speech therapist, occupational therapist and etc.

Click the Link to connect with Contact:
Nicole Faircloth, Behaviour strategist/CEO

[Behaviour Zone Inc. contact form](#)

INSIGHTS

Yolande Daley, Director of Training



PARENT LUNCH AND LEARN

It was wonderful to have parents join me to learn with Kajal Patel PT, on "The Benefits of Physiotherapy for Autistic Individuals". Kajal provided strategies and information that were practical and transferable between school and home life. Below are some community resources and Powerpoint for your reference.

NEVER STOP LEARNING, BECAUSE LIFE NEVER STOPS TEACHING

UPCOMING EVENTS

Janus Academy will be hosting an exhibition booth at the **Calgary Teachers Convention on February 15th and 16th. Room 8 students are busy utilizing their skills to make some take away items to showcase how teaching transitions into meaningful life experiences.**

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- *Calgary Adapted Hub: - Adapted activities around the city, assistance with aides*
<https://www.calgaryadaptedhub.com/>
- *CP Kids and Families - runs a variety of programs for children with different needs not just CP. They run a "bike exchange program" every year.*

<https://www.calgarycp.org>

Especial Edition

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Tickets on sale until Feb. 28!



\$175.00 each (eligible for a \$100 tax receipt).

Here is the link:

<https://trellis.org/allyouneedisloveandjanus>

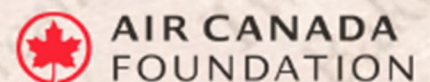
Thank you to the families that have brought in auction items. We have a wide variety of items which will make for a great auction!

Here are some suggestions for those still looking for donations:

- Experiences (hotel accommodations, concert tickets, hockey tickets, beer/wine tours, restaurant gift card)
- Tech (Apple products, tablets, Amazon gadgets)
- Experiences (escape rooms, dog sledding tours, helicopter ride, hot air balloon ride, etc.)
- Liquor (craft beer, wine, whiskey, scotch, tastings, bar cart, glasses, etc.)
- Travel (hotel, tickets to a show, car rental, ski passes, limo rides, etc.)

Sponsorships have more than doubled from last year!

THANK YOU TO:



Board of Directors

Chair	Servejit Massey
Treasurer	Cecilia Chen
Secretary	Jennifer Tinkler-Chirvaiu
Director	Allison Streit
Director	Dr. Julia Jacobs-LeVan
Director	Dr. Ying Wu
Director	Jeff Meidinger
Chief Executive Officer	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.

**“Take a leap
of faith and begin
this wondrous
new year
by believing.”**

SARAH BAN BREATHNACH



Janus Academy Society

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