



Janus Journal

December
2025

December Greeting from Janus Academy

Hello Families and Staff,

Now that December is here, it's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season. Amid busy schedules and holiday preparations, I hope we can all take a moment to pause and appreciate what makes this time of year truly special: family, making memories, and, most importantly, your children. December is always a busy month on campus, and while the extra activities are fun, they can also be exciting, overwhelming, and full of pressure. Our students work hard every day, and it's important to celebrate their effort and resilience.

Although we are sad to say goodbye to Evergreen Theatre, we are thrilled to announce that our winter performance will be held at the famous **Loose Moose Theatre!** Students will have a chance to explore the space soon, helping them feel more comfortable with the new space before the big day. If you haven't reserved your seats yet, be sure to do so, you won't want to miss it!

Keep an eye out for our **annual parent survey**. Your feedback is incredibly important to us. Each response helps us improve our programs, support our students more effectively, and ensures that Janus Academy continues to meet the needs of our families. We greatly appreciate your time and insights, as they directly shape the experiences of your children and our school community.

I also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our **Educational Team**. Their dedication to fostering meaningful relationships is evident in every interaction. By placing relationships at the heart of learning, they create a supportive, nurturing environment that empowers students to thrive academically and personally. Your commitment truly makes a difference, thank you for all that you do.

Wishing all our staff, students, and families a joyful and peaceful holiday season. I am excited for all that the new year will bring and look forward to continuing this journey together.

Warmly,

Paige McNeill

Program Director – Elementary

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*"Winter is a season of hope
and magic, filled with the
wonder of snowy
adventures and cozy
fireside stories."*

– Unknown

IMPORTANT DATES

Fall/Winter 2025



Mark your calendars

- December 11 Elementary Winter Performance
- December 12 Santa Claus Visit
- December 12 Healthy Hunger (Edo Japan)
- December 12 JHHS Dance
- December 17 Ugly Shirt/Sweater Day
- December 18 Healthy Hunger (McDonalds)
- December 18 Winter Hat/Fun Day
- December 19 Pajama Day & Early Dismissal (12:00pm)
- Dec 22 to Jan 5 Winter Break – no school
- January 5 Non-Instructional Day – no school
- January 6 Professional Development / Training Day – no school
- January 7 Classes Resume
- January 15 Healthy Hunger (Subway)
- January 30 Beach Day
- January 30 Healthy Hunger (A&W)



SAVE THE DATE “DANCING FEET”

Thursday December 11th, 2025

Time: 1:15 - 2:15

Location: Loose Moose theatre



STAY TUNE FOR MORE DETAILS TO COME

Santa Claus is Coming to Janus Academy!

To respect the diversity in beliefs, parental/guardian consent is required for your child to visit with Santa. Please click the link below and complete the consent form.



<https://forms.gle/21G6Eba24wohvJjD9>

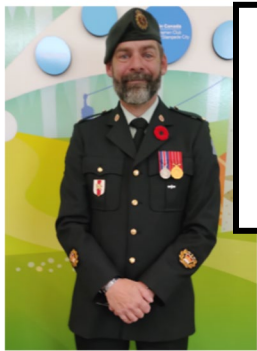
Kids Having Fun!

From Wizard of Oz to the Calgary Flames, Janus families enjoyed time together before the hustle and bustle of December starts. There are more holiday events happening in December, such as Miracle on 34th Street at the Storybook Theatre and the New West Gifts Back at the Jack Singer Concert Hall. Reach out Tamara in reception if you are interested in tickets.



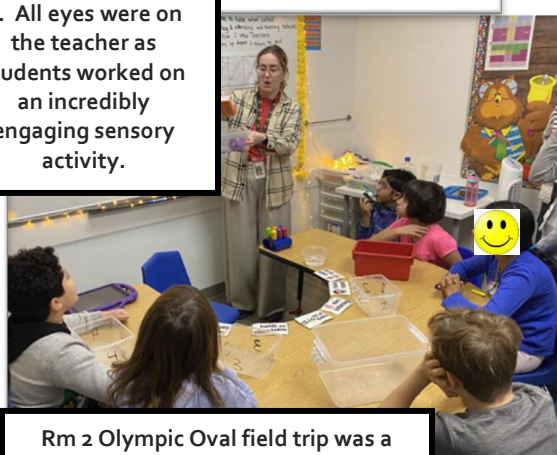
Around The School

November kept everyone busy. From Remembrance Day observances to prepping for our annual Holiday Sale, students and staff worked hard on their academics as well as the extra curricular events that happen this time of year.



A BIG thank you to Master Warrant Officer, Tim Cranston, part of our extended Janus family. He visited the campus for our Remembrance Day events in November.

Amazing learning was happening in Rm 6. All eyes were on the teacher as students worked on an incredibly engaging sensory activity.



Rm 2 Olympic Oval field trip was a huge success. For many of the students it was their first time on skates. They were all excited to gear up and get onto the ice.

On Professional Development Day, our educational staff enjoyed a training session with Executive Leadership Coach, Kyle Kalloo.



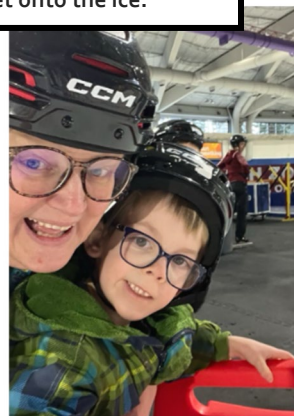
Shout out to our Leadership Team, who are always thinking about the staff and finding ways to show their appreciation for everyone's dedication and hard work. Thank you for the ice cream treat yesterday! It was a wonderful way to end the day.



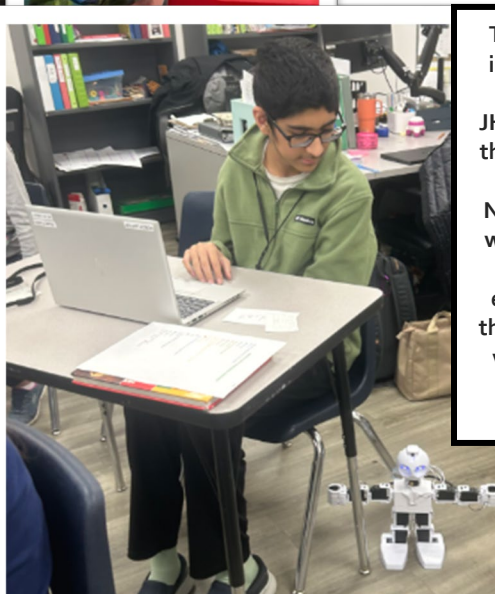
Our Sr. High students have been learning all about what it takes to run a business! As part of this, students have been working on using effective advertising to promote our very own Lucky 8 Diner by creating a short infomercial for the staff about the diner event on November 21/25. They did a fabulous job!



Furtuna surprised our bus staff with hot chocolate on the first day of real snow. I am sure we all remember that day.



Rm 9 was feeling festive, so they got busy putting up their tree for the holiday season.



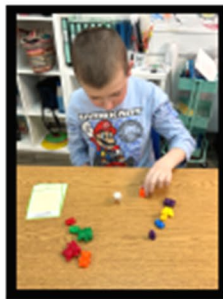
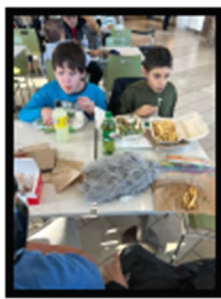
The robots have infiltrated Janus Academy. Our JHHS student had their first robotics lesson in November. They were excited and engaged, especially when the robots started walking around and waving at everyone.

Room 10 Life

In Math, our current goal is learning to tell time and understand the difference between morning and night. Students have been practicing reading clocks, recognizing daily routines, and using visual supports to build independence with time concepts.

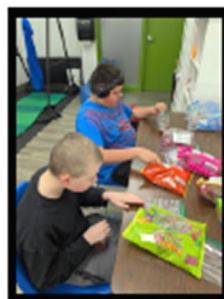
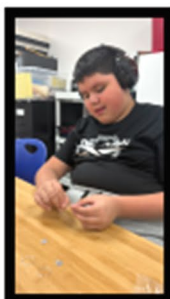
In Literacy, we are focusing on prepositions such as under, behind, on, and beside. Through hands-on activities, movement games, and interactive stories, students are learning how these words help us describe where things are in the world around us.

We've also been strengthening our community skills with weekly visits to the bottle depot, where students practice sorting, following directions, and participating in real-world tasks. Additionally, our outing to mall helped students develop independence, communication, and social skills in a busy community environment.



With the holidays fast approaching, room 10 has been working hard in Life Skills to support the school's many projects. They have been doing jobs for the Holiday Enterprise, creating scented bath salts, putting together wine charms, and making sure our supplies are packaged and ready to go.

These projects are a great opportunity for the students to practice many functional skills across different contexts such as fine motor, packaging, measuring and following a recipe.





Upcoming Sibling Social!

DATE: WEDNESDAY JANUARY 28TH, 2026

TIME: 5:30 P.M. – 7:30 PM.

LOCATION: JANUS ACADEMY – 200, 403 – 33RD STREET NE

THEME: PJ' AND MOVIE

COST: FREE

FACILITATOR: JANUS STAFF

DETAILS: COME DRESSED IN YOUR FAVORITE PJ'S, BRING YOUR STUFFIE AND MORE.

WHAT TO EXPECT: LOTS OF SWEET TREATS AND SNACKS

Click the link to register

<https://forms.gle/Tjmo3jviP9UHQV3b8>



Missed out the first time? You've got ONE more chance to support Janus students with Purdy's chocolates! Orders open until December 2!

👉 Order here: <https://fundraising.purdys.com/join.aspx/2002736-135768>

📦 Orders arrive December 10
(just in time for gifting!)

FUNDRAISING UPDATE



Silent Auction Items Needed!!

- **Tech & Electronics**
Apple, Samsung, Dyson, Garmin
- **Home & Kitchen**
Cuisinart, KitchenAid, Smeg, Breville
- **High Quality Wines & Spirits**
- **Restaurant Gift Cards**
- **Events, Getaways and Experiences**
- **Gaming Systems**
Nintendo / Playstation / Xbox
- **Gift Baskets**

A big thank you to all the parents who've been working hard to secure donations — your efforts truly make a difference!

For the full list of donations already collected click here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1w3GgMT937xjKIOZDdABDWBvLwqCF8QLLPdEo_dZwvxY/edit?usp=sharing

**Help Us Continue to
Decorate our
Gift of Education Tree
This Holiday!**

Nov.17 – Dec.31

https://give.crowdfunding.alberta.ca/giftofeducation?ref=ab_32ffhpZr6132ffphpZr61

\$30,175 raised to date!!!



THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to the
RBC Communities Together Fund
and their incredible volunteers for supporting our Transition
to Adulthood Program with a generous \$1,500 grant!

THANK YOU to **STAR 95.9** for crashing our Janus
Academy Team Holiday Party in the best way possible!
They showed up with big energy, fun surprises, and
enough festive spirit to light up the whole room!!!

THANK YOU to the **Holiday Party Committee** for
creating such a fun and memorable holiday party and to
our **PAC** for supplying the prizes for the draws!

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the
Jr/Sr High Social Enterprise Holiday Sale!

THANK YOU to **FoJAA** and everyone who purchased
Purdy's chocolates from the
Friends of Janus Holiday Fundraiser!

THANK YOU to the
Winter Performance Committee for their
contributions on this amazing annual show!

THANK YOU in advance to **SANTA** for visiting the
students and staff on Dec 12! And to our generous
mystery elves for bringing gifts for all the students!

Board of Directors

Chair	Servejit Massey
Treasurer	Cecilia Chen
Secretary	Jennifer Tinkler-Chirvau
Director	Jeff Meidinger
Director	Riley Dearden
Director	Jake Surrey
Director	Jonathan Moser
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.



“Snow falling soundlessly in the middle of the night will always fill my heart with sweet clarity.”

—NOVALA TAKEMOTO



Janus Academy Society

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