



Janus Journal

January
2026

January Greeting from Janus Academy

Hello Families and Staff,

Happy New Year!

The holiday season is behind us, and we look forward to another exciting year ahead! Before our break, we were treated to the elementary students' Winter Performance. It was a big hit!! I hope you all enjoyed the performance at our new venue, Loose Moose Theatre. I want to thank everyone who supported this massive project and helped make it such a wonderful event.

The annual year-end **"Gift of Education"** fundraising campaign was a big success. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to this important initiative.

We also appreciate everyone who filled out the parent survey. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us ensure we are hearing your thoughts about the Academy and continuing to provide the highest quality experience for our students and families.

As we look forward to the New Year, we are excited about celebrating our 29th Spring Gala with everyone. Our theme this year is "Party like it's 1997". That may seem a bit random, but it is actually the year Janus Academy was founded. We want to celebrate this great milestone even as we prepare for next year's big 30th anniversary.

Thank you all for being a part of our Janus community and for all your continued support. Here's to a fantastic year ahead.

Warm regards,
Carlene Chrumka
Chief Executive Officer

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome	1
Important Dates	2
Workshops	3
Skip the Depot	4
Around the School	5
Janus Staff Awards	6
Classroom 4	7
Lunch & Learn	8
Fundraiser News	9
Thank Yous	10
Board of Directors	11



IMPORTANT DATES

Winter 2026

Mark your calendars

- 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 22 Healthy Hunger (Hot Dog Day)
- January 30 Beach Day
- January 30 Healthy Hunger (A&W)
- February 6 Healthy Hunger (Coco Brooks)
- February 6 JHHS Valentine's Day Dance
- February 9-12 Student Workshops (see page 3)
- February 13 Teachers Convention/Professional Day (no school)
- February 16 Family Day (no school)
- February 18 & 19 Parent/Teacher Open House – classes in session
- February 20 Healthy Hunger (Taco Time)
- February 25 Pink Shirt / Anti Bullying Day



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Friends of Janus Academy Association (FOJAA) presents

CASINO FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, MARCH 14 & SUNDAY, MARCH 15
PURE CASINO CALGARY

SIGN UP HERE:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_Nj1aYt7u1Yhl-KAeHQ3a6F_bVDQDDJD/edit?gid=1003859540#gid=1003859540





SECOND STUDENT WORKSHOPS

February 9 – 12, 2026

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.

Feb 9 & 10	<u>Elementary Students to attend school</u> Afsa, Anay, Anders, Charlie, Cory, Cruz, Daniel, Eashan, Ekene, Elyse, Gabe, Hamza, Henry, Isaak, Jake, Josh, Liam, Matteo, Matthew, Mia, Mila, Nathan, Olivia D, Olivia S, Stella, Wesam, Xianghan
Feb 9 & 10	<u>Jr/Sr. High Students to attend school</u> Alex, Andy, Attila, Chalisa, Chloe, Dylan, Eward, Ethan, George, Joshua, Kim, Liam C, Liam D, Nadia, Noah, Parker, Sam, Vol, Yuvan
Feb 11 & 12	<u>Elementary Students to attend school</u> Anahita, Aariah, Bella, Berry, Clara, Connie, Eden, Enzo, Gurinder, Isaac, Jared, Kaden, Kenneth, Koushan, Maro, Mikhayla, Oliver, Prim, Rimshaa, Siddhan, Yalineee, Zeehan
Feb 11 & 12	<u>Jr/Sr. High Students to attend school</u> Adi, Arisa, Baljot, Cole, Evelyn, Gio, Harrison, Humayl, Jessica, Jordan, Kiana, Marcus, Nathan, Nurasyil, Olivia V, Parsa, Sebastian, Sully, Tegh, William

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.



EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT JANUS

Healthy Hunger

Save \$\$!
Lower prices
& FREE
delivery

Help your school fundraise and take a day off from making lunches... YOU DESERVE IT!

Register your child here:

<https://healthyhunger.ca/>

Upcoming Lunch Dates

Jan 15 – Subway

Jan 22 – Hot Dog Day

Jan 30 – A&W

Feb 6 – Coco Brooks



SKIPTHEDEPOT

It's a door-to-door bottle collection service that makes refundable recycling and fundraising easier!

Just download the app and book a pickup using this link:

<https://app.skipthedepot.com/janus>



Then, place your bags outside.

Receive a refund or donate to us!



SkipTheDepot allows you to donate directly to Janus Academy!

Use promo code **JANUS100**

Around The School

December was a short month at Janus Academy, but one of our busiest months of the school year. From volunteering to fundraising our students and staff got it all done in time for our Winter Break.



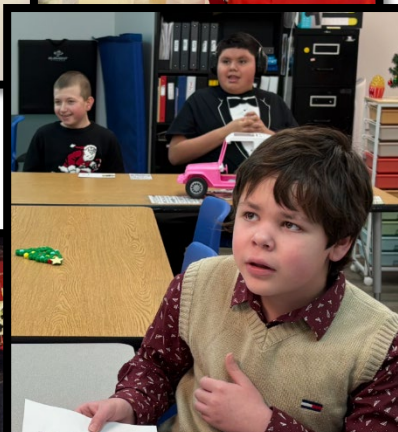
Our Candy Gram Elves spread joy and candy throughout the school in December. Thank you to everyone who supported this annual fundraiser.



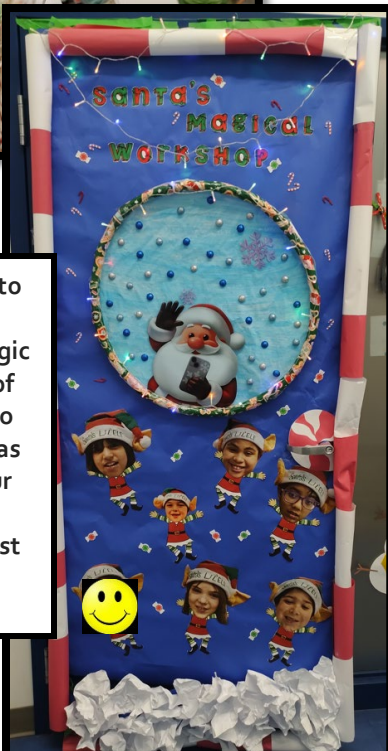
Our JHHS student volunteers became Cookie Elves in December and put in a lot of work to make people's holidays merry and bright at Southcentre Mall.



Lights, Cellphones, Action! Our Elementary Winter Performance at the Loose Moose Theatre was a huge success! Our JHHS students can't wait for their turn to perform in the Spring.



Congratulations to Room 6! Your creativity and magic won the hearts of our students who voted your door as the winner of our Annual Door Decorating Contest held each December.



We found our very own Elf on the Shelf at the JHHS



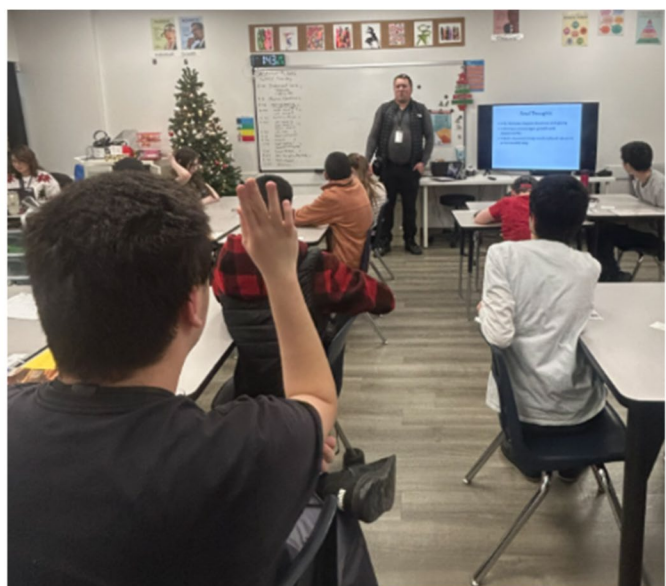
Eyes filled with wonder and joy when Santa Claus visited Janus Academy. Thanks Santa, you made everyone's day!

Staff returned after Winter Break to a Team Building event at a local bowling alley. Congrats to our top 3 bowlers, AJ - Rm 10, Shannon - PC 5, and Koren JHHS PD.



Representation Matters

Seeing diverse people, identities, and experiences in education, and other roles, is crucial for fostering belonging, challenging stereotypes, and creating a more equitable society! In December, Keegan, our autistic practicum student, delivered a social studies lesson to Room 8 students. He created a power point, demonstrated he was prepared with the content, and led a 15-minute discussion on a cultural holiday celebration. At the end he fielded questions about the topic and even answered some about himself (something he has expressed is difficult for him). We think it's important for our students to see someone like themselves succeed....so they can further believe they can do it one day too!



Janus Academy's Annual Years of Service Awards

Just as representation matters, so does recognition at Janus Academy.

Throughout the year we celebrate the achievements of all the staff at Janus and make a point of recognizing the dedication and hard work of our team members daily. Once a year, we gather to share laughter and memories and to celebrate everyone at Janus. This year, we celebrated significant milestones for six of our team members. In the photo to the right. Front Row: Ki and Malorie celebrated 5 years at Janus Academy. Second Row: Melinda and Sam celebrated 10 years at Janus Academy. Third Row: Teresa and Karli celebrated 25 years at Janus Academy.

Thank you for your compassion, dedication and support for our students and our community.



ROOM 4

As we dive into the new year, I want to highlight the incredible strides Room 4 students have made in Literacy, as well as Health and Wellness.

Literacy

In Literacy Centers, students participate in a variety of hands on activities designed to strengthen reading and writing skills. They explore phonics through interactive games, build comprehension during guided reading groups, and deepen their understanding through their novel study of *The One and Only Ivan*. Students also develop their vocabulary across a range of literacy activities and have opportunities to express their creativity through writing prompts. Each center is designed to support diverse learning needs, helping every Room 4 student continue to grow and feel confident in their literacy skills.



Health & Wellness

In Wellness, students have explored how motivation supports active living and helps them work toward goals. Together, the class defined wellness as being strong in both body and mind.

Students practiced encouraging and supporting one another using positive language during activities and classroom learning, and discussed how success can look different for everyone. Through both individual and team experiences, students are developing resilience, teamwork, and a positive mindset that support overall health and wellness.





Director of Training: Yolande Daley

Parent Lunch and Learn Waves of Emotions

Parenting Autistic Children

DATE: Thursday February 5th, 2026

TIME: 12:00- 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Online

COST: Free

FACILITATOR: Shelly Jaques

COMPANY: Care Forward

This session offers parents a supportive space to pause, reflect, and connect with one another. Together, participants will have the opportunity to process the emotional waves that come with raising a child(ren) with autism. Shelly will share practical tips, strategies, and resources grounded in real-life experiences.

Shelly, alongside her longtime friend Jessica, co-created The Parent's Survival Guide—a workbook designed to support families navigating the diagnostic journey and the many systems involved in advocacy. Friends since university, the two mothers bonded through shared challenges, and personal experiences. Their friendship grew into a vital support system that carried them through each stage of their children's journeys. Shelly would be sharing her experience with you.

She will also speak about the processes of "Guardianship & Trustee" and explore why it important to think about it now, when is time to apply, what is needed and how the process works.

To register for this Lunch & Learn, click the link below

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSes9lcyXB8UaGNSRKFOwrawig5oS9P4_hV5Wx_Ldz9CdI9nWQ/viewform?usp=pp_url

Note: This session will not be recorded to allow parents to feel comfortable to share their stories.

For further information contact: yolande.daley@janusacademy.org

FUNDRAISING UPDATE



Tickets go on Sale
Jan 1, 2026!

- **Early Bird Tickets** are on sale NOW until Feb 1
- **\$160/ticket** (with an \$85 tax receipt) After Feb 1, \$175/ticket
- Each Janus family is eligible for 2 tickets at \$125 each.
* After Feb 1, \$175/ticket

For more information, go to:

<https://trellis.org/partylikeits1997>

Gala Silent Auction Items still needed!

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| • Restaurants | • Experiences | • Tech & Electronics |
| • Events & Getaways | • Gift Baskets | • Home and Kitchen |

Our Gift of Education campaign in partnership with Crowdfunding Alberta has closed.

Thank you to everyone who helped raise money for the Gift of Education campaign!

We have raised \$39,090
because of YOU!



THANK YOU

Thank you to Els for Autism for awarding \$10,000 in support of the Music Therapy program at Janus Academy.

We are grateful for your continued support!



Thank you to the Staff Fundraising Committee for spreading holiday cheer with Candygrams! Their hard work helped raise over \$700 this holiday season.

Thank you to Birdies for Kids Program presented by AltaLink for their generosity year after year. Through our 2025 Sports Day donors and Birdies for Kids program, Janus Academy received \$17,437.89 in matched funds!



Thank you to Dan Clark for all his work installing the Janus Academy Mission in the Learning Commons!

Thank you to Westland Insurance for their generous contribution of \$5000 through the Wubs Foundation.



Thank you to everyone who supported the Social Enterprise Project. This initiative raised a total of \$581.01!!!

Thank you Calgary Children's Foundation for including Janus Academy in their Pledge Day with QR Calgary Radio.

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.

**"The only place
success comes
before work is in
the dictionary."**

—VINCE LOMBARDI



Janus Academy Society

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

P: 403.262.3333