



# Janus Journal

May 2026

## May Greeting from Janus Academy

Hello Families and Staff,

With the arrival of May comes sunshine, warmer days, and a growing sense of excitement throughout the school as we enter the final stretch of the academic year. It's a joyful and reflective time—one where students can look back on how much they've grown while we come together to celebrate the many accomplishments and milestones that have shaped this year.

April brought many memorable moments, highlighted by our highly successful Art and Science Fair. It was a pleasure to welcome families and to see students proudly share their creativity, curiosity, and hard work. A standout highlight was the student-programmed robots, designed by our high school students to greet and guide visitors. Watching students confidently showcase their innovation, collaboration, and real-world problem-solving skills was both inspiring and a wonderful reflection of the strengths within our Janus community.

There is so much to look forward to in the weeks ahead. Later this month, our elementary students will enjoy a fun-filled day at the Calgary Zoo, while our Jr./Sr. High students will head to Heritage Park for their own special outing. These experiences are a chance to celebrate together, build connections, and create lasting memories as the year comes to a close.

May also brings one of our most meaningful opportunities to connect—our Parent Day celebrations. These events are dedicated to celebrating you, our parents, and recognizing the essential role you play in your child's journey. The partnership between home and school is at the heart of our community, and we deeply value the opportunity to come together in appreciation and shared purpose. Classroom teams will be sharing more details soon, and we look forward to welcoming you.

As we move toward the end of the school year, there is so much to celebrate and so much still to enjoy. With many special moments ahead, we are excited to finish the year strong—honouring growth, connection, and the unique journey of every student. Thank you for being such an important part of the Janus Academy community.

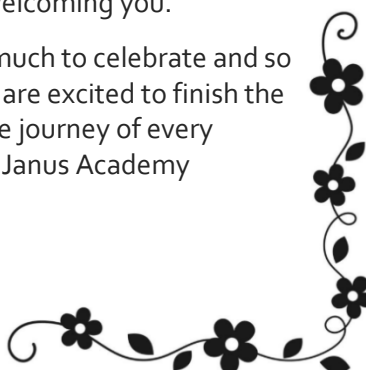
Warm regards

**Koren Trnka**

Program Director – JHHS

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# IMPORTANT DATES

Spring 2026

## Mark your calendars



- May 4-8 Spirit Days Parent Event
- May 4-8 Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 13 Healthy Hunger (Subway)
- May 14 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- May 15 Non-instructional Day (no classes)
- May 18 Victoria Day (no school)
- May 20 All Elementary Field Trip – Calgary Zoo
- May 21 Spring Clean Swap Event
- May 28 Healthy Hunger (TacoTime)
- May 29 All JHHS Field Trip – Heritage Park
  
- June 2 Sr. High Graduation – Loose Moose Theatre
- June 10 Healthy Hunger (Coco Brooks)
- June 11 Annual Sports Day – Rotary Challenger Park
- June 12 Non-instructional Day (no classes)
- June 22 Elementary Field Trip - Telus Science Centre
- June 24 JHHS Field Trip - Fish Creek Park
- June 25 Healthy Hunger (A&W)
- June 26 Early Dismissal – 12:00 pm – Last Day of School



Raising Autism Awareness  
**COLOURING CONTEST**  
 April 1st - April 30th 2026

Thank you to all who participated in the 2026 Raising Awareness for Autism Colouring Contest. Winners will be announced online on Saturday, May 23, 2026.



# Class of 2026

Come and Celebrate

Janus Academy's 2026 Graduation

**TUESDAY  
JUNE 2, AT 10:30 AM**

Loose Moose Theater  
1235 26 Ave S.E Calgary



# SAVE THE DATE

## Spring Clean Swap Event

Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

1:30 pm to 5:00 pm

@ Janus Academy

Bring in your gently used items that the school or  
other Autism Families could use by  
Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup>.

On Thursday come see  
if there is anything you need!

# Annual Science Fair & Art Exhibition



Our Annual Science Fair & Art Exhibition was a huge success! Not only did our students demonstrate their science projects and showcase their artwork to parents, through the generosity of families and staff, Janus Academy raised \$247.60 from our clothing and bottle drive!



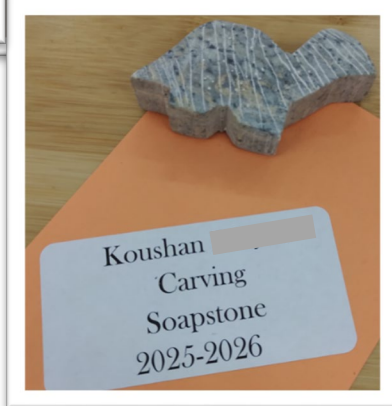
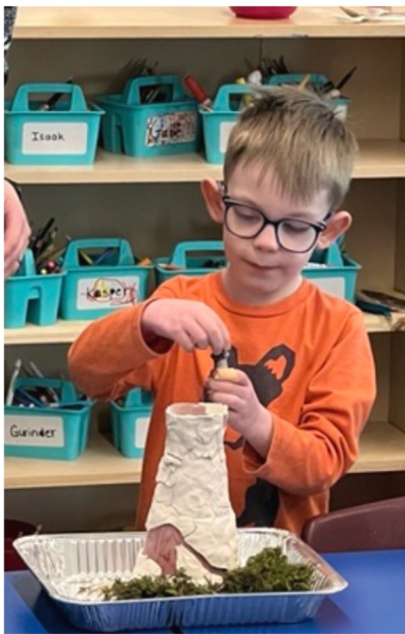
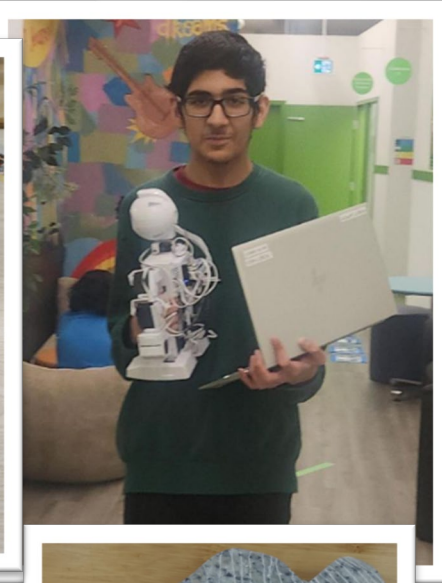
bottle drive!



Jake Sprunki  
Air-dry clay  
2025-2026



Jordan  
Stacy  
Paint and Decals  
2025-2026

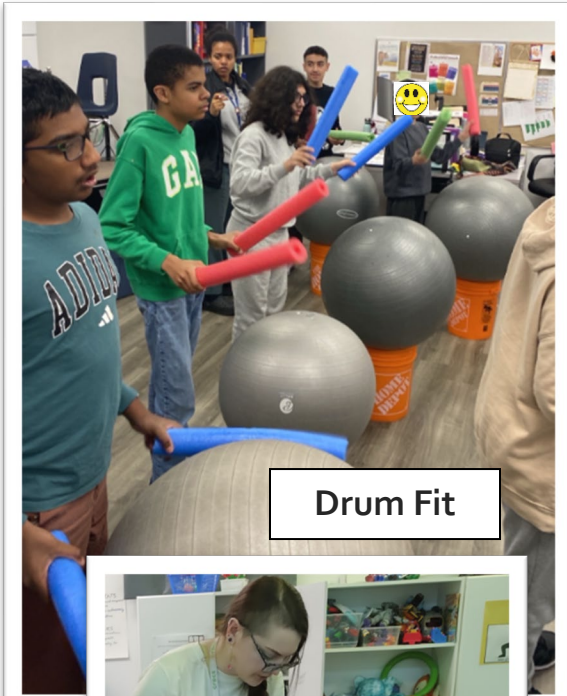


Koushan  
Carving  
Soapstone  
2025-2026



# World Autism Awareness Day

Janus Academy celebrated on and off the campus with Activity Centres set up around the school for students to participate in and we had our very own Janus booth set up at The Sam Center on April 2, 2026! It was a great day for everyone!



Drum Fit



Fidget Toy Creation



Music



Autism Bingo



Art Activities

# Around The School

The last blast of snow didn't phase the Janus Team. A BIG THANK YOU to Sheldon, Refaat and Jorelyn for making our sidewalks safe for Student arrival!

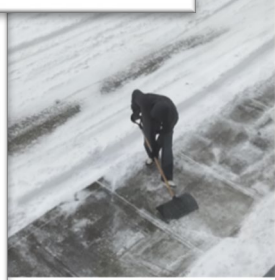


April was exciting with many amazing events and learning opportunities for students and staff.

New friends supporting each other to build confidence & develop social skills.



A BIG Thank you to AJ, Angel, Belinda, Casey, Harumi, Kenndra, Sheldon, Tara & Zainab for cleaning our School Vans!



JHHS students served up fabulous Hot Dogs for students & staff.



Rm 6 – bulletin board



Rms 3 & 4 had a great time at Aggie Days!



In loving memory of Dylan Hardy, you are missed.



# Classroom 8

"Building independence, confidence, and real-world skills every day."



## Email partnership with Gateway Academy

Students have been building their functional writing skills by learning how to write clear and effective emails. To bring this learning to life they've started a pen pal exchange with students at Gateway Academy in the United States, a school that also supports autistic learners. This gives them a meaningful reason to write and a chance to connect with peers their own age. Through these exchanges, students are building confidence in their communication while also learning about each other's cultures and daily experiences. A big topic of discussion has been the differences in weather, like the snow here in Calgary compared to the sunshine in Phoenix, which has helped students better understand how where we live shapes our daily lives.



## Programming

Our classroom offers a diverse and engaging program where students are supported in developing academic skills, independence, and meaningful real-world experiences. From core subjects like math, language arts, and science to hands-on learning through community outings, job placements, and leadership opportunities, students are actively building skills that extend beyond the classroom. We are proud to provide a balance of academic, social, and life skills programming that helps prepare students for success in school and in the community. Below is a snapshot of the many programs currently happening in our classroom, along with a closer look at a few highlights.

- 🇺🇸 Core Academics- Math, Language Arts, Science
- 🎭 Electives & Wellness- Physical Education, Dance, Art, Soccer/Sports, Music
- 📖 Online & Accredited Courses- Social Studies 10-2 & 20-2, Science 14, English 10-2
- 🛒 Life Skills & Employment- Coffee Cart, Pantry Volunteering, Sportsplex Cleaning, Vecova Job Coaching, Lucky 8 Diner
- 📧 Social Skills & Networking- Penpal/Email partnership with Gateway Academy Students
- 🤖 STEM Learning- Robotics and Coding
- 🧑‍🎓 Mentorship & Leadership Skills- Reading Buddies with grades 3-4, Group Leaders with grades 5-6
- 🚗 Community Awareness- Public Transit Training, Monthly Field Trips

## Lucky 8 Diner

We host a pop up diner every other month. This initiative focuses on developing students' independence and their ability to adapt within a fast-paced environment. Students take on a variety of roles, including hosting, order taking, serving, bussing tables, and food preparation. We have consistently received rave reviews from our customers.



## Online Courses through Golden Hills Academy

This school year some of our students are enrolled in online and accredited courses through our partnership with Golden Hills Academy, including Social Studies 10-4 and 20-2, Science 14, and English 10-2. These courses provide opportunities for students to work toward high school credits while building independence, responsibility, and time management skills. With guidance and support, students learn to navigate online platforms, complete assignments, and monitor their own progress. Through these courses, students are gaining valuable skills that will support their future educational and career pathways.





# The Learning Corner

Director of Training: Yolande Daley



Quest Theatre Team workshop

## YEAR IN REVIEW

This year has been an incredible season of learning. As I reflect, I am truly in awe of the many community opportunities we were part of—spanning conferences and conventions such as AISCA, CASS, Ignite, and the Calgary Teachers' Convention, alongside the launch of our new online lunch and learn series.

We also deepened our work with Janus families through parent learning sessions and sibling socials. Each session brought rich insights and important lessons that will continue to shape and strengthen our work in the year ahead.

We are deeply grateful for the experiences that challenged and inspired us, and all that is still to come.



Staff training sessions

This year's staff training was rich in both professional and personal development, with a focus on wellness through new experiences such as onsite zumba, yoga, sound baths, massage, and team-building events like bowling. As we carry this commitment into the next school year, we want to extend a huge thank you to our entire education team for their dedication, care, and the incredible work they do every day. ❤️

**JANUS ACADEMY PRESENTS**  
**SIBLING SOCIAL**  
*For Siblings of Autistic Children/Teens*  
 AGES 8 TO 16  
 WEDNESDAY MAY 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
 TIME: 5:30 - 7:30PM

**What to expect:**

- Art activities
- Interactive games
- Make friends in a welcome space
- \*Parents can drop and go or stay

**Location:**  
 Janus Academy  
 200, 422 - 33 Street NE  
*Open to register:*

**COST: \$15.00**  
 (This event is only for siblings.)

[yolande.daley@janusacademy.org](mailto:yolande.daley@janusacademy.org) 403-262-3333

## EXCITING NEWS

Janus is excited to be expanding our sibling-only evenings to the broader community. These evenings are planned to create a space where siblings of autistic children and teens can connect with others who share similar lived experiences. By opening these sessions to the community, we hope to foster a more connected network of siblings—one where they feel seen, understood, and supported.

**CLICK LINK TO REGISTER**

Sibling Social (for siblings of autistic children and teens)

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/1988210851177?aff=oddtcreator>



"Education is learning what you didn't even know you didn't know."  
 —Daniel J. Boorstin

# FUNDRAISING UPDATE

SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 11, 2026

JANUS ACADEMY'S ANNUAL



## SPORTS DAY & PLEDGEATHON



PLEDGEATHON LAUNCHES MAY 19

WATCH YOUR INBOX FOR MORE INFORMATION

Thank you to our Sports Day Sponsors



Where Everyone Can Play



Presented by **ALTALINK**

We're excited to share that we are participating in the Rogers Charity Classic again - an event where 100% of funds donated through the Rogers Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink go directly to charities like ours, with donations matched by up to 50%. See below for more information on the tiered matching system:



# Thank you!

Thank you to the Mirshahi family for generously supporting the Janus staff. Their donation made it possible to host a sound bath experience, which was incredibly well received & deeply appreciated by the team.



Thank you Danya Geha from CDI College for the delicious treats! Janus had a wonderful year hosting the College Practicum Students.



Thank you Old Navy for donating Kindness Cards again this year for staff and students!

Thank you to Denali Projects for their donation of fidget toys for the school.



## Board of Directors

Chair	Servejit Massey
Treasurer	Cecilia Chen
Secretary	Jennifer Tinkler-Chirvaiu
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.*



### Janus Academy Society

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

P: 403.262.3333