

Janus Journal

November

Janus Academy

2026

November Greeting from Janus Academy

Hello Families and Staff,

It's hard to believe November is already here! The first few months of school have been busy, and it has been wonderful to see our students settling into their routines, reconnecting with friends and staff, and continuing to grow in so many ways.

Across the school, students take part in classroom learning, community activities, special events, and opportunities to practise important communication, independence, social, and life skills. Every experience provides another opportunity to learn, build confidence, and celebrate progress.

In October, we held our first series of student-staff workshops. These workshops provide dedicated time for our educational teams to come together, collaborate, share ideas, learn from one another, problem-solve, reflect on student progress, and identify ways to strengthen programming.

Another exciting October highlight was the first "10 Star Diner" of the school year, held on October 16. The diner, run by our High School students from Rooms 10A/B and 9, was a huge success and marked the first of six diners planned for this school year. The "10 Star Diner" provides students with meaningful opportunities to practise workplace, communication, teamwork, and independence skills in an authentic setting.

For several students in Room 10B, participation in the diner is also connected to their Workplace Practicum 20-4 course, as they work toward earning 5 high school credits toward their Certificate of High School Achievement. We were also pleased to welcome a few special VIP guests to our first diner, including Kathy Prosser from the Prosser Charitable Foundation and Fedele Arcuri from Rum Punch Media, who generously volunteers his time to create Janus Academy's annual impact video, which debuts each year at our Gala.

Looking ahead, November also gives us an important opportunity to pause and reflect. Janus Academy will be closed on Wednesday, November 11, in observance of Remembrance Day, as we honour those who have served and continue to serve our country.

As we move through November, we are grateful for the energy our students bring to Janus each day and for the continued support and partnership of our families. We look forward to another great month together!

Warm regards,

Koren Trnka

Program Director – Jr/Sr High

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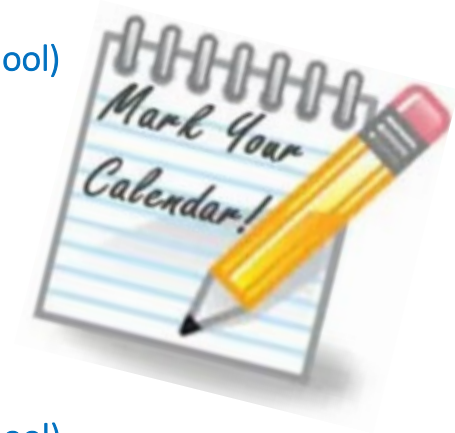
Janus Academy 30 YEARS

IMPORTANT DATES

Fall 2026

Mark your calendars

- November 4 — Picture Retakes & Grad Photos
- November 6 — Healthy Hunger – A&W
- November 11 — Remembrance Day (no school)
- November 20 — Healthy Hunger – Edo Japan
- November 20 — Grade 6 & 9 Vaccinations
- November 26 — Healthy Hunger - TacoTime
- November 30 — Non-instructional Day (no school)



- December 4 — Healthy Hunger – Mr.Pretzels
- December 10 — Santa Claus Visit
- December 16 — Winter Performance
- December 18 — Healthy Hunger – Opa
- December 23 — Early Dismissal (12:00 pm)
- Dec 24-Jan 6 — Winter Break (no school)
- January 7 — Non-Instructional Day (no school)
- January 8 — Professional Development Day (no school)
- January 11 — Classes Resume



Janus Remembers Someone Very Special

In Memory of Sam

Celebrating a remarkable person and the journey he shared with us.

Everyone at Janus Academy would like to take this moment to celebrate the life of a remarkable person and honour the journey Sam shared with our community.

Sam was a wonderful person and a fantastic student. His warmth, intelligence, humour, and unique perspective touched the lives of the people around him. It is with profound sadness that we mourn his passing at such a young age, while also feeling grateful for the time we had with him and for the many memories he leaves behind.

Sam's teacher, Marco, put it best when he said:

> "Sam was funny, thoughtful, articulate, empathetic, and incredibly smart. He had a unique way of looking at the world, a wonderful sense of humour, and a personality that was entirely his own. He could make you laugh, make you think, and sometimes do both in the same conversation.
>
> Sam brought so much to our classroom. He reminded us that everyone has something special to offer, that kindness matters, and that sometimes the most meaningful moments come from the simplest interactions."

Everyone at Janus Academy knew Sam and had the privilege of interacting with him in one way or another. Whether through the classroom, a brief conversation, a shared laugh, or one of the many everyday moments that make up school life, Sam left an impression on those around him. His presence brought energy, insight, and joy to our community, and his absence will be deeply felt.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Sam's family, friends, teachers, and all those who loved him. May they find comfort in the memories they shared with him and in knowing how deeply he was valued. Sam will be dearly missed and fondly remembered by everyone at Janus Academy.



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/NPgRs9MrsdeYw1vL7



SHOP OUR HOLIDAY Sale

And support the Jr/Sr High Social Enterprise Project











https://janus-academy-society.square.site

Use the link or QR code to shop

Order deadline: Nov.15
Order pickup: Dec.12



ADAPTED DANCE OPEN HOUSE

COME ONE, COME ALL!

EXPERIENCE THE BLOOM MAGIC



Come try an ADAPTED DANCE CLASS where all abilities + ages are welcome then join us for a BLOOM CARNIVAL filled with games, face painting, balloon animals, temporary tattoos and popcorn!

NOVEMBER 14TH	1:30-3:30	6444 12 ST SE	FREE EVENT - RSVP REQUIRED

Siblings 10 and under are welcome to join in on all the carnival fun following the dance class. Come dance, play, connect and experience a little bit of the Bloom magic with us!

RSVP TODAY!
hello@bloomwell.ca

Proudly in partnership with: Step by Step Early Intervention Society

October Highlights at Janus

Workshop Week was a tremendous success. A time for both students and staff to learn from each other!

The excitement and energy were contagious as students and staff celebrated Halloween. Costumes, games, treats and a dance. Who could ask for more when it comes to this spooktacular holiday.









Kids Up Front
The Ticket Charity

Kids Having Fun!

October brought Janus families a variety for fun filled events from plays to exhibitions. Janus students and their families, had a great time watching performances, checking out reptiles and explore the myriad sights at HorrorCon.



The Calgary Reptile Expo



HorrorCon



Storybook Theatre

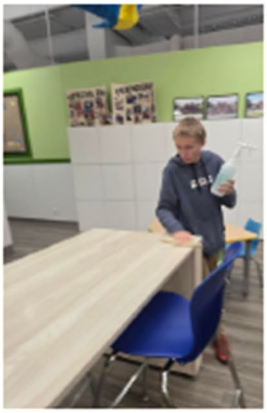
Room 9

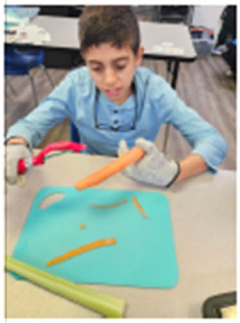
NOVEMBER 2026

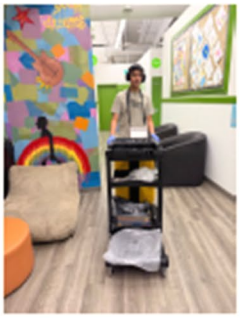
Life Skills in Action

THIS MONTH, ROOM 9 IS CONTINUING TO HELP OUR STUDENTS BUILD THEIR LIFE SKILLS AND BECOME MORE INDEPENDENT IN THEIR DAILY ROUTINES. WE ARE CONNECTING WHAT THEY LEARN IN THE CLASSROOM TO REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCES THROUGH HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES AND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES. OUR STUDENTS HAVE BEEN VISITING NEARBY PLACES LIKE THE LAUNDROMAT AND SPORTSPLEX TO HELP CLEAN THEIR SPACES. THESE EXPERIENCES ALLOW THEM TO PRACTISE THEIR SKILLS IN THE COMMUNITY WHILE BUILDING CONFIDENCE, RESPONSIBILITY, AND INDEPENDENCE.









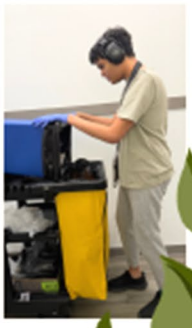


WE ARE ALSO WORKING ON FUNCTIONAL ACADEMICS BY TEACHING OUR STUDENTS HOW TO APPLY WHAT THEY LEARN TO EVERYDAY TASKS. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY ARE LEARNING HOW MANY TIMES TO SPRAY WHEN CLEANING TABLES, HOW TO PROPERLY SORT AND DISPOSE OF GARBAGE, AND WHICH TOOLS ARE BEST TO USE FOR DIFFERENT CUTTING TASKS. THESE PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES HELP OUR STUDENTS UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE BEHIND WHAT THEY ARE LEARNING AND HOW TO USE THESE SKILLS IN THEIR EVERYDAY LIVES.

IN ROOM 9, OUR GOAL IS TO HELP STUDENTS BECOME MORE CONFIDENT AND INDEPENDENT BY ENCOURAGING THEM TO COMPLETE TASKS WITH LESS SUPPORT FROM THEIR INSTRUCTORS. WE HOPE THAT BY PROVIDING THESE MEANINGFUL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES, OUR STUDENTS WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP THE SKILLS THEY NEED TO PARTICIPATE MORE INDEPENDENTLY IN THEIR DAILY LIVES AND THE COMMUNITY.







Our Classrooms Thank You



Community Donation Request

We are currently looking for a gently used wheelchair to help support the safety and accessibility needs of our students. If you have one that is no longer needed and would be willing to donate it to Janus Academy, please contact the school office at 403-262-3333 or via email at tamara.stuart@janusacademy.org. Thank you for supporting our students and school community.



DIRECTOR OF TRAINING: YOLANDE DALEY

THE LEARNING CORNER



SHARING WHAT WE KNOW, GROWING WHAT WE DO

September and October were a whirlwind of learning, connection, and growth! Over the past two months, we have had many opportunities to share the work we do at Janus with community teachers, Educational Assistants, and families, while continuing to strengthen our own practice within the school.



BUILDING CAPACITY BEYOND JANUS

Our community training reached 80 Educational Assistants from Wild Rose School District, 12 staff at Inn From the Cold,35 Educational Assistants at the AISCA EA Symposium, 12 Teachers at Foundations For The Future Charter Academy, and 8 community parents through our first online parent learning session. In November, we are excited to continue to build connections as we host two exhibition booths, first at the College Of Alberta School Superintendents Conference (CASS) and then at Camp Horizon Easter Seals Alberta Resource Fair.



LEARNING, GROWING & RECHARGING

At Janus, learning occurs everyday through in-class coaching, mini-training sessions, and dedicated learning opportunities for Educational Assistants, Group Instructors, and Certificated Teachers.

We also make time for staff wellness sessions such Zumba, Yoga and Sound Bath, recognizing that supporting our team's well-being is just as important as supporting professional growth.



CELEBRATION AND THANKS

A special thank you to Lauren Schiwy for her leadership initiatives in implementing training sessions across the school.

Thank you to our Program Coordinators for the ongoing support they provide to their classroom teams. You're making a difference.

Thank you to all the Teachers, and Educational Assistants for their hard work and commitment. Your work is seen and appreciated!

Contact yolande.daley@janusacademy.org 403-262-3333 ext. 1011

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The FoJAA Holiday Campaign (featuring Purdy's Chocolates!) kicks off November 9. **Orders are due by November 25** with delivery scheduled for December 4— just in time for the holidays!



What you'll need to order:

1. Our campaign number: **000039399**
2. Go to our fundraising website: [Fundraising | FoJAA Holiday Fundraiser | Purdys chocolate fundraiser]
3. Click "Join Campaign"

Gift of Education

Help Us Decorate Our Gift of Education Tree This Holiday with 30 Days of Giving! Dec. 1 – Dec. 31



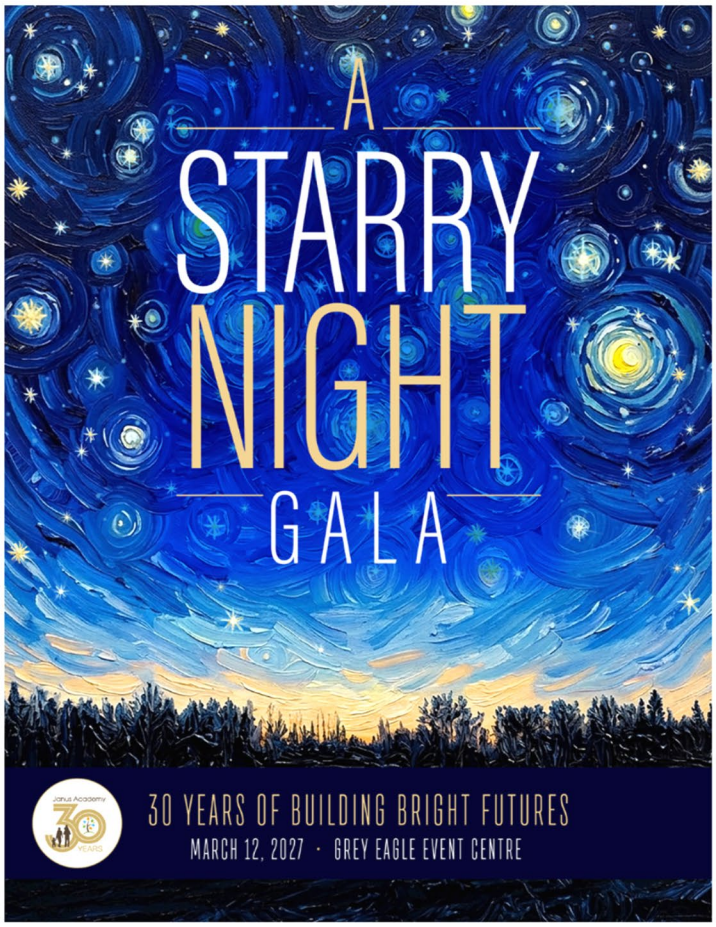
FUNDRAISING UPDATE

✨Save the Date ✨

Join us under the stars as we celebrate 30 Years of Building Bright Futures at Janus Academy's 'A Starry Night Gala'.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2027

Tickets go on sale this December!



Auction

A big thank you to the families who have already started reaching out & collecting donations for our upcoming auction! Please see the list below of items that we are hoping to have:

- Tech and Electronics: *Apple, Samsung, Dyson, Garmin, Nintendo*
- Home and Kitchen: *Cuisinart, KitchenAid, Smeg, Breville*
- Restaurant gift cards, Hotel and Air BnB Stays, Spa Experiences
- Premium wine and liquor, Brewery/Vineyard experiences
- Sports experiences: *Calgary Flames tickets, Ski passes, Golf passes*
- Items for the classroom themed baskets

THANK YOU



THANK YOU TO
CALGARY FOUNDATION,
PROSSER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
AND ADVANTAGE FORD FOR YOUR
GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO
EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR A
REPLACEMENT VAN FOR JANUS!

CALGARY FOUNDATION
FOR COMMUNITY, FOREVER

The Prosser Charitable Foundation

ADVANTAGE Ford

Thank You Redmond Family Fund at Calgary Foundation for supporting our charitable work with a grant.

Thank you to Olivia and Paisley for volunteering thier time and helping out on thier days off 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