

# The Art of Learning

MAGIC HAPPENS WHEN ...

## Thank you!

Our sincere thanks to all of our front-line workers - paramedics, nurses, doctors, grocery store workers, truck drivers, cleaning staff - for your hard work and dedication to protecting us and keeping us healthy and fed.

Thank you to all the artists world-wide who are providing us with inspiration and entertainment as we socially distance in our homes.

Thank you to all the organizations world-wide who provide us with free resources to educate and entertain us during these times.

Thank you to CAA staff. Thank you to CAA Families. You are amazing!

Thank you to all fellow citizens for doing our part to minimize risk, and for the compassion shown for each other.

And thank you to our governments for keeping us safe and informed.

## From the Principal

*"This is new territory for all of us."*

Our life in Alberta has certainly changed since our last newsletter at the beginning of March. For many, the world has been tipped upside down. This is a time of uncertainty and can bring anxiety, not just to the adults, but also to the children. Our community has never experienced anything like this before.

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KNOB HILL NEWS

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DIVISION NEWS

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LINKS

Sign of  
the times

### Online Learning

CAA is now online  
with our students

Spring  
Break

### Spring Break

April 10 to 17

Loan-a-  
Device

Devices are  
Available to  
Borrow

See Page 2

**caa**  
calgary arts academy

I recognize that learning at home presents many challenges for our families. We do not expect parents to deliver the same learning that students receive at school, but to do whatever they can to encourage and support learning for their children while classes are cancelled. I know this will take some time to adjust to, and I want to thank you in advance for your patience as we all learn how to accomplish this together.

Please know that the homeroom facilitators are excited and willing to help you and your children everyday. Reach out to them if you are having trouble with technology or the expectations of assignments. In speaking with staff, they are so excited to connect again with students and families.

This is new territory for all of us, I want to remind everyone that it's about getting through this together. We have a very strong community. Staff dedication to connecting with students has been evident. Their quick shift into action on the turn of a dime clearly demonstrates that we have an exceptional, collaborative, creative and innovative team of people that are here for your children and for you. Let us know how we can help!



## LOAN-A-DEVICE

CAA has a limited number of devices to loan and will try to accommodate families in need. A Loan Agreement will need to be signed upon pick-up of the device. Students can contact their homeroom learning facilitator to make the loaner arrangements.



## Knob Hill News

At this moment in time, we find ourselves in the midst of exceptional change. We can only imagine the changes that are happening in your family homes right now. What will be most important is our relationships and how we keep moving forward in a positive way each day.

While just about everything has changed in the way we deliver education, many of the essential elements remain. We missed gathering for the Year 2/3 Comi-Con



but celebrated our accomplishments all throughout the learning process. Report cards were completed and distributed to families. While we couldn't meet face to face, phone conversations allowed families and staff to connect and discuss student progress. Online platforms are allowing us to continue to teach, share work, and connect with families remotely. Our staff teams still work creatively every day to make sure the curriculum is available and exciting for students. Thank you for taking on an even greater role in our partnership in the education of your children!

Most importantly, the feeling of community remains and is perhaps stronger than ever. The words of appreciation and encouragement from families has made all the difference to our staff and we love every one of the videos and projects that are posted.

Thank you for your continued support and know we are here to help. We are all learning in this changed world together.

"One child, one teacher, one pen, and one book can change the world" -Malala Yousafzai.

## Kindergarten / Year 1 News

We laughed, cried, danced, sang, played, painted, hopped, skipped, jumped and oh so much more. This month has been a learning curve for everyone as we begin and move forward with our new online learning. The Kindergarten and Year 1 team is so happy to be able to stay in touch through this time. FreshGrade has been an amazing tool. We have been uploading weekly lessons, read a louds and many more! Students are completing these activities and posting pictures and videos. As we transform our homes into classrooms, we are embracing the fact that knowledge is all around us and learning can happen anywhere!

## Year 2/3 News

In early March, we worked so hard to bring our showcase, Comic Con Adventures to completion. We worked tirelessly on writing our own comic books, creating stick-bot animations that combined our math learning with super-hero stories, as well as writing and rehearsing songs, practicing super-hero dances, and so many other things!

To prepare for showcase night, we were divided into 5 groups. Producers had worked hard on designing logos and posters, and creating merchandise to sell. We practiced being ushers and were all set to help Comic Con Adventures go off without a hitch! Actors had written and rehearsed a live-action super-hero drama



about the marker lid monsters. Author/Illustrators had created costumes and booths to represent their comic book, and rehearsed how to explain their story to guests at Comic Con. Panelists had researched film and pop culture history and written and rehearsed a speech about their favourite movie, TV show, book or video game. Makers had created a museum of replica artifacts from pop culture, complete with the Batmobile, Wonder Woman's lasso and Dog Man's bone!

When Comic Con had to be cancelled due the growing Covid-19 crisis, we quickly pivoted and filmed everything we could to make Comic Con Adventures: The Movie. Stay tuned for a release date!



After classes at school were abruptly cancelled, the Year 2/3 teaching team poured our creative energy into designing online learning supports. In April, families will have access to Literacy and Numeracy lessons and activities on FreshGrade, as well as a host of supplemental, Arts Immersion activities and resources.

It is a time of great stress, but we have been so happy to begin connecting with students online and on the phone, and to see photos and videos of student work being posted. We are a strong community, and we will continue to share our caring and creativity with one another.

## Year 4/5 News

Welcome back to school! We are up and running with our online classes and have enjoyed reconnecting with your children. For those of you that haven't connected with us yet - don't worry! We are here to help. Let us know what you need to get started, or if you're good and going without our help, that's great too! We are online school days from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. to chat with you and your children live.

We are following the provincial mandate and providing approximately 5 hours of work each week, with a focus on literacy and numeracy. As such, each week students will be provided with one set of numeracy tasks and one set of literacy tasks. These tasks are required to be completed and uploaded to FreshGrade for feedback. These tasks can be accessed on MS Teams by clicking on "Class Notebook" then "Content Library" (inside the purple arrow). Under "Content Library" there will be a tab for Year 4 Numeracy, a tab for Year 5 Numeracy, and a tab for Year 4/5 Literacy. New Numeracy and Literacy assignments will be posted prior to 9:00 a.m. on Mondays, and are "due" sometime before 11:59 p.m. on Sunday that week. There is no penalty for assignments submitted late, however, and if circumstances come up that mean your child misses an assignment/week, that's okay too.



Students will also have access to a library of suggested extension projects in the "Extension Year 4/5" tab. The extension assignments are not mandatory, but are

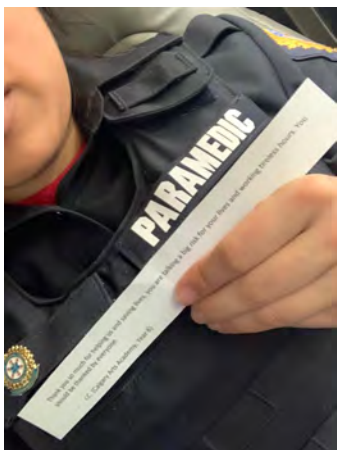
recommended if you are looking for extra ways to enrich your learning at home. These extension tasks can be posted to FreshGrade as a “highlight.” (Highlights are just posts that don’t go into an activity.) They could also go into the Gallery in “Collaboration Space” if your student would like to share with a larger group!

Students can also access bonus activities and suggestions of additional ways to spend their time in the “Class Files” tab at the top of the page in MS Teams. These tasks are not required and will not be assessed; they are purely there to provide options at home.

We want to be very clear that these assignments are not meant to overwhelm or stress you or your child. Our goal is to provide some learning opportunities and productive activities for you, but we completely understand that your family is likely sharing technology and dealing with additional stressors already. If you are concerned about accessing our content, completing assignments, or anything else about school moving forward, please get in touch with us so we can work together on a plan that works for everyone.

Stay healthy everyone!

## Year 6/7 News



As we launch our online learning platform through Microsoft Teams, we are experiencing many challenges. However, through the strength of our community, our mentorship, and an ongoing focus on the Circle of Courage, we are finding ways to be resilient. The spirit of cooperation and digital citizenship is thriving in our online space, as we find ways to encourage one another and seek solutions in our continuing redesign, a work in progress that may be in place for an extended period of time. Many thanks to

all who are contributing to making this a safe space to learn, to experience the arts and value our community.

There are still a handful of students who have belongings at the school, including reports cards. If you have not yet picked up your child's belongings, please contact JoAnne Collins to arrange for pickup.

Year 6/7 students took the time to share a message with front line workers in our city. We really appreciate everything they are doing for us and sacrifices they are making to keep everyone safe. This week, the notes were shared with local



paramedics along with boxes of Ms. Leung's macarons to say "thank you". Our Year 6/7's are always looking for ways to support everyone in the community.

## Year 8/9 News

This is definitely one of the more interesting newsletter articles to write because so much feels so very different. The Year 8/9 team is working very hard to ensure that while we are all learning how to navigate teaching and learning on this new course, we are always prioritizing the wellbeing of our students and their families. By now almost all of our students have engaged in remote learning experiences across all subject areas and are enthusiastically reconnecting with their facilitators and friends online. To make this possible, the Year 8/9 team has been utilizing Microsoft Teams and Zoom to facilitate classes, Circle Meetings and assignments. Each subject area has a dedicated 'Team' on MS Teams as well as a suggested timetable as students and families navigate this new, yet familiar approach to learning.



Calgary Arts Academy remains Calgary Arts Academy and the language and ethos of the Circle of Courage reflect what we will continue to offer students. Our community of Belonging is found in our virtual Circle Meetings, tutorial sessions and more informal check-ins throughout the day. Generosity is demonstrated through students and families making time for learning in this most unusual of circumstances. Through their participation in learning remotely, Independence has never been more pronounced as our students and families find an approach to learning that works for them and their needs. Mastery is shown everyday as students participate in their classes and share their hard work with their facilitators and peers.

Even though so much has changed for us, at our core we are supported by our community and pillars that make our school so much more than a school. The Year 8/9 team is going into April strong and excited to see what we will all be able to accomplish together.

## Links

[Donate to Calgary Arts Academy](#)

[CAA's Draft 2020-2021 Calendar](#)

[Alberta Health Services' Healthy Children](#)

[Alberta Health Services' Healthy Teens](#)



The **Adult Choir** was thrilled to perform at the Year 8/9 showcase CAMP. Due to current world events, the rest of the 2019-2020 season has been cancelled.