

The Art of Learning

MAGIC HAPPENS WHEN ...

Enjoy these music videos

[Lean on Me \(CBC Music\)](#)

[Times Like These \(BBC One\)](#)

Reminder:

Payment of the second installment of school fees is due.

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From the Principal

After a slow start this year, I think Spring may finally be here! It is nice to see the sun, hear the birds and watch the colours coming out.

In November, I provided an update about our provincial and school wide academic focus on mathematics teaching and learning. In the fall we acquired the JUMP Math books not only for student learning, but also for teacher professional development. In conjunction with the JUMP Math program, we have also consulted with Professor Armando Preciado Babb at the Werklund School of Education University of Calgary.



Kindergarten / Year 1 News

Kindergarten and Year 1 students have been busy working at home!

We are learning new sight words each week and are beginning to learn about subtraction and addition.

Each day a member of the K/1 team shares their art form with the students and we eagerly await their responses.

We love seeing all of the art that students are working while they are at home. We are also looking forward to video conferencing this month and making some much needed face time with our students.



Our buildings may not have any students in them right now, but maintenance continues. Above, Mr. Gord tends to Education Centre landscaping.

Professor Babb is part of a team called Math Minds who are researching best practices when it comes to math teaching and learning. By June, all staff will have completed the available Math Minds course that offers a coherent, theory-rich, evidence-based approach to teaching mathematics. With math being our academic focus, many staff members have also been completing JUMP Math courses. Our staff are committed and have worked hard, and I believe that we are in a stronger position today than we were a year ago.

It has been busy for staff at Calgary Arts Academy. We are connected online every day. As the adults in our learning community, I know the biggest challenge we are all having is not being able to see the bright faces and feel the magic that our students bring when they enter our buildings. There is nothing like it! I know teachers miss their students and there have been tears. We all want the very best for our students. If you need anything, please feel free to reach out! That's the beauty of community – we are here for each other.

Enjoy the sunny days.



Knob Hill News

As we move forward with our remote learning environment, we want to thank you for your continued support. We know that the success of the at home program is due to your supervision, prompting, care and attention. Please know we appreciate that every family is facing challenges during this time – some of those we all share and some of those are unique to each of us. We understand and empathize with each of you and will continue to do our best as a staff to support your child (and family) in any way we can.

The feeling and sense of community at CAA remains and is perhaps stronger than ever. Our talented and resilient staff have proven to be flexible and adaptable, and so have our students. We are grateful for that and appreciate all of the continued commitment and engagement. Teaching teams at KH have started live video chats this last couple of weeks which proves to be another way to foster and even strengthen connections in our digital world. We know that our CAA families have also chosen to stay connected and engaged in the school community in the ‘new normal’ and appreciate all they are doing to keep the momentum. From spreading new grass seed on our school field, to sharing resources, to celebrating their journeys ‘at home’, to offering support and technology, we are grateful for everyone’s contributions.

As is our custom at Knob Hill around this time of year, Year K-3 teachers will help students recognize and honour the beloved adults in their lives through writing cards. Teachers will be suggesting and encouraging students to write loving messages to a parent, grandparent or other special adult in their

See more Year 2/3 Student art on
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Art and Social Studies Student Gallery

During the remote learning period, Year 2/3 students have been learning the Social Studies curriculum through art with Ms. Kearney. They have used artforms such as woodland art, portraiture and landscapes as a means to explore how different Individuals and their stories contribute to their community.

This gallery of student art work is an appreciation for the following Individuals:

First Nation Artist - Norval Morrisseau - The Copper Thunder Bird - Prairie Provinces

Metis Artist - George Littlechild - Prairie Provinces

Notorious Northern Canadian Artist - Ted Harrison - capturing Canada’s North & the Inuit



Maddy B-H, Year 2
George Littlechild
Portrait



Isabella B, Year 2
Woodland Art

lives the week of June 1. Stay tuned for more details closer to the first week of June!

As has been mentioned, we are required to assess student’s literacy and numeracy achievement at the end of June. We know that each family has a different experience as to what is possible to accomplish at home, but we do hope to see each of you connecting in some way. Again, please know we are here to help make that happen so reach out!

With respect to our numeracy program specifically, as Ms. Stonehouse mentioned, we are working with the JUMP Math resource and have been engaged with professional development. It is clear that this program is purposeful in its intentions to be sequenced and step-by-step to encourage student success, confidence and understanding. Please know that if your child is engaging with math concepts and completing math activities with ease, that is the intention and goal. We are ensuring the building blocks and understanding is strong at current levels.

Enjoy spring and all of the fun adventures that it will bring with your little ones!

Reading Instruction (ERI) Support Continues!

Another area which we feel grateful to be able to continue to offer during this time is our early reading intervention program. Ms. Megan and Ms. Lisa have been fully booked daily and busy hosting individual reading instruction sessions through MS Teams. They are working with those students who were already being supported through the ERI program. We appreciate and value their flexibility and persistence to continue this for students in hopes to maintain momentum and reading progress. Again, we thank everyone’s efforts there to make this possible.

Year 2/3 Art and Social Studies Student Gallery



Oliver F, Year 2
Woodland Art



Elianna M, Year 3
Ted Harrison Actic Animal Landscape



Minerva C, Year 3
Ted Harrison Actic Animal Landscape

Year 2/3 News

In April, Year 2/3 families showed a high level of engagement with the online learning resources provided by our teachers and artists. We had students watching math videos created by Ms. Amanda and Ms. Baker and then creating their own base-ten blocks, measuring parts of their houses and doing other fun and meaningful math work. In literacy projects, students wrote journal entries about what their days at home are like, interviewed important people in their lives, and watched many read-aloud videos created by our teachers and artists.

Going above and beyond what curriculum the Alberta government mandated for this time, Year 2/3 students engaged in a variety of Arts Immersion learning. Whether it was watching Ms. Christiansen create a habitat for her pet rock and then building their own, joining Ms. Kearney in her exploration of how indigenous artists contribute to Canada's communities, playing drums and composing songs with Mr. Steven, building musical instruments with Mrs. Dolen, or making an art gallery for their pets with Mrs. Lothbrook, our Year 2/3 students kept their creative spirits high while learning from home!

Heading into May, Year 2/3 teachers are happy to further support families through our small-group video conferences. Every student now has at least 30 minutes of video call time with their homeroom teacher per week.

We sure miss being all together at the Knob Hill campus, but every time we email a family, see completed math work posted to FreshGrade, watch a video of a student's puppet show, or log in to MS Teams to have a guided reading session with students, we can feel our strong and resilient community coming together.

We will get through these challenging times!

Year 4/5 News

Over the past few weeks, we have been building on strong routines and balance and finding ways to include home activities into our everyday learning. We have been learning about procedural writing through baking cookies and writing out the recipes. We have also been developing self made how-to guides on our favourite crafts, recipes and games.

We've been enjoying ukelele lessons with Mr. Thorson and finding ways to get physically active at home with Mr. Lapointe. In math, we have been unraveling the concepts of decimals and fractions while working diligently through our Math Minds books.

We have also been enjoying art lessons with Mr. Carl, teaching them about depth and shadow and listening to Ms. Stefanie read out loud the mystery; The Westing Game.



Braeden W, Year 3
George Littlechild Portrait

Year 6/7 News

We are adapting well to our remote learning environment, and are making solid use of our online resources and tools. It's been nice to get to see their faces during our weekly live Circle Meetings.

We have been making steady progress through the curriculum, despite significantly less hours together. Year 6 students have been focusing on literacy and numeracy. The majority of students have been keeping up with their assignments and reaching out for support. But perhaps the greatest thing is that many of them have begun taking the initiative in assisting other students. Several students have even organized a book club for everyone who wants to participate! It truly speaks to the caliber of our exceptional student body, as well as our sense of community.

Year 7 students have continued to work in each of their core subject disciplines, including starting to grow their own Sourdough Starters as a part of their Heat & Temperature unit for science. It's been a lot of fun to hear the names that students have given their starters, including Glob Ross, Yeasty Boy and Little Bread Riding Hood.

We'd like to continue to emphasize that your child's teaching team is here for you. We understand the challenges you are all facing and would like to do anything we can to assist. If this means one on one virtual meetings, or simply chatting online, never hesitate to get in touch. If you're starting to feel stressed, please reach out. We miss teaching the kids and would jump on any opportunity to have that feeling of teaching again.

Year 8/9 News



Spring has truly sprung and it's great to see more sunshine, blue skies and things starting to green up.

The 8/9 team and our students really hit their stride during the month of April and have engaged in some truly unique and rewarding learning experiences. We have been building our more remote community of learning with engaging projects, art making, collaboration and staying connected.

Some highlights of our first official month of online learning include some of the remarkable artwork Year 8 students have created in Social Studies by designing flags with symbolism to represent our Canadian identity, while Year 9 students have been exploring Canada's immigration laws and policies. In English Language Arts, we have seen students in both Year 8 and 9 growing as creative writers. They have been analyzing the work of classic authors as inspiration to delve deep into creating a powerful mood and tone for their writing as well as playing with satire and looking at protest songs from Canadian



The door was an ordinary door. Nothing special. Just plain old wood and a gold plated doorknob. Why are we focusing on this door, then? Because it is an ordinary door. And sometimes we don't have the time to actually look at ordinary things. We say, "Wow! Look at that beautiful canyon!" while we are viewing a photograph. We don't even experience it for real. But when we do have the chance to experience something real, we don't even notice it. Every time we come into contact with another human being, we take it for granted. So that is why we are focusing on this door.

Sometimes we need to take ordinary things into consideration. Like the yellow grass in the front of your yard. How did it become yellow? Do you know? Do you know why and how the leaves fall off the trees, or what clouds are made up of? Do you know how long it takes for a flower to grow? Do you know how long it takes for snow to melt? Do you know how long it took to build the door that you open and close every day?

Have you ever noticed the tiny creases by the edges? Have you noticed how the paint is slowly peeling off? Have you ever thought about the people that made that door? There was Garrett, a family man. He started that door business because he wanted to people to have small pieces of craftsmanship in their life. There was Dawna, a former interior designer who not only painted the door, but added love into it. And finally, Garrett's son Leo, who had the smallest job, but maybe even the most important. He screwed in the doorknob. But do you ever think of those people when you open the door? You probably don't even know they exist. And that's fine. They do their job of building the door, and you do your job of opening it. But do you ever think about what's behind the door when you open it?

There are memories behind that door. Good and bad. There are small details that show people this is where you belong. There are emotions behind this door, when you open it. Have you ever thought about why it's closed? It's closed so that other people can't come in at will. It's closed so that you don't have to worry about people invading your privacy. Maybe it's closed because it's cold. But why do you lock it? Is it because of what the world has come to? The fear of other humans, coming in, destroying your life? The fear of bad coming in. Are humans bad? That is a question we have to ask ourselves sometimes. Will that person try to mug me? Maybe. But why? Would he do it just for the fun of it? Maybe. But maybe it's just part of his story. What his parents did to him. What he never got to do. We don't know his story. Maybe he doesn't even have a door. The only story we know all the words to is our own.

Next time you open your door, think about how long it took to build. Think about why you are opening it. Think about why you close it. Think about what's behind it.

By Ella S. - Year 8

bands, such as the 'Arrogant Worms.' In Math, both the Year 8 and 9 students have finished their Statistics and Probability Unit and are now moving into the Shape and Space Unit where we will explore different uses of geometry and measurement.

In Science, Year 9 students are well on their way to developing models and proposals for a base on Mars, while Year 8 students are becoming budding microbiologists and have been creatively constructing models of cells.

We are so looking forward to having an amazing month of May and are excited to share more student work with you and continue to grow as this unique learning community.

Remember to ask students to show you some of the remarkable things they are working on, and be sure to check FreshGrade and MS Teams to see student work. All learning facilitators are here and working hard to ensure that we are making the most of this unusual situation.

School Council

CAA School Council has compiled a list of fun, online resources for our community. Enjoy!

[Vanja Kragulj Fruit Paper Cutouts](#)

[Calgary Public Library - Library at Home](#)

[Katie Martin - How Families Can Make the Most of School Closures](#)

[Learn Alberta - My Child's Learning: A Parent Resource](#)

kidsactivities.com

[The Kennedy Center - Learning](#)

[Joe Wicks - the Body Coach \(Facebook Link\)](#)

[The Arkells Teach Music on Instagram](#)

[Scholastic Learn at Home](#)

[Virtual Field Trips](#)

[Art for Kids Hub](#)

[Harptoons \(drawing videos\)](#)

FUN AND FREE WAYS TO LEARN FROM HOME

MATH:
Prodigy 
play.prodigygame.com
Khan Academy 
www.khanacademy.org

READING:
Squiggle Park 
www.squigglepark.com
Storyline 
www.storylineonline.net/

SCIENCE:
Mystery Doug 
mysterydoug.com
National Geographic 
kids.nationalgeographic.com

WRITING:
Typing Club 
www.typingclub.com

SOCIAL STUDIES:
History for Kids 
www.historyforkids.net

THAT FUN TEACHER