



# Janus Academy

February 2012



## Message from the Jr/Sr High School Director

Where has the time gone! It is hard to believe it is February already. January was a busy month for all of us at Janus Academy. Every year I am surprised at how well all the students re-adjust and fall right back into the swing of things after the Christmas break.

We have just completed our second set of workshops and they went very well. Workshops allow the teaching staff to work collaboratively to make any needed changes to programs and behavioral expectations as well as, strengthening consistency and teaching techniques. Workshops are an invaluable component to the learning experience for our students and our instructors. I am proud of the dedication and willingness to learn and problem solving skills displayed by all of the staff. It is easy to see that the Janus Academy staff put forth a great deal of effort and thoughtfulness in their teaching and it is wonderful to see the pride they show when something is taught. Most students truly enjoy the workshop experience. They love the cheers when they get the answer correct and they enjoy the novelty of trying new lessons.

February is here, which means we are in full Spring Gala organization mode! We can already tell that this will be our most exciting year thus far. Thank you to all the parents who have been sending in their auction items and sponsorships!

Yours in Education,  
Koren Trnka  
Program Director Jr./Sr. High School

## Event Calendar

**Feb 10, 2012**

Swimming, JHHS

**Feb 16, 2012**

Professional Day

No classes for students

**Feb 17, 2012**

Organizational Day

No classes for students

**Feb 20, 2012**

Family Day

School closed

**Feb 24, 2012**

Swimming, Elementary

***The Spring Gala Early  
Bird Draw winners are  
the Dudley/Labuhn  
Family and the Herzog  
Family –  
Congratulations!***

### SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

The February book club catalogues will be sent home soon. Please send your completed order form and cheque, payable to Scholastic Canada Ltd., to the school by Friday, February 8, 2012  
**PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH**

*Our Mission*

To maximize the potential of each child with autism by enabling academic success and facilitating lifelong community integration.

*Our Vision*

To continue to be an educational leader in enhancing the lives of children with autism, their families and the communities, in which they live, while maintaining excellence in teaching through enhanced student-teacher ratios, individualized curriculum and research based teaching techniques.



A heartfelt “thank you” to all the parents who joined us for the Janus Academy Annual General Meeting and to Jodi Coenjarts, Financial Advisor for Raymond James, for his informative presentation on RDSP’s.

Thank you to Patrick & Muriel Ryan from Asset Canada Inc for donating 9 computers to Janus Academy.

Thank you to Doreen Prichard and Murphy for donating to the Janus Academy via their matching program and to the “Halliburton Giving Choices Employee Funds” for directing their donations to the Janus Academy.

As well, thanks to those who donated through EnCana Cares program.

**Some of our Junior / Senior High School students hard at work during workshops!**



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Special Notice

If you plan to claim your child's tuition at Janus on your 2011 tax return as a medical expense, you will need a letter from the school which will be sent home via email in the month of February, a copy of your tuition receipt and a certification by a qualified medical practitioner. If you require further information, please contact Karli or Paige in the office at 403-262-3333.

## Summer Camp

Janus Academy will once again be offering summer camp for it's students starting July 2 until August 10. The location of the summer camp will once again be at the Jr./Sr. High School within McDougall United Church in the community of Acadia. Access Calgary will continue to provide bussing during the summer months. Please be advised that forms will be sent home **Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>** in your child's backpack.

Registration will be first come first serve. Please note that each year this camp books up very early, so please send back your information and post dated payments promptly or your child may miss out. *No registrations will be accepted prior to this date.*

Prices are the same as last year:

Session 1: July 2- 13 - \$980

Session 2: July 16-27 - \$980

Session 3: July 30-August 10 - \$886  
(with 6th off for Heritage day)

Please read the forms carefully and talk to your social worker on what type of funding support you will be given. No registration forms will be accepted without post dated cheques attached.



## Calgary and Area FSCD Parent Advisory Committee News

### Where There's a Wheel, There's a Way

By Cindy Martin

When our son was 12 years old, we were introduced to power wheelchair hockey and hockey as part of our family's life was once again revived. For the past few years, every Saturday during hockey season, we join the small army of wheelchair accessible vans at Cardel Place for the next match up. There are four teams in the league, each coached by one of the dads, or someone from the community with passion and heart for both the players and the game. The players' combined fervor and grit are reminiscent of the Original Six. They play on a full size basketball court bordered with custom covered foam 'boards' to keep the ball in play. The league is open to both males and females 12 years and older, who require a wheelchair, regardless of their diagnosis.



Some players are able to hold their stick in one hand and use their wheelchair controller in the other. Others strategically tape or bolt the stick to the side of their chair. Despite the type or severity of their disability, they arrive ready to play. Some are able to speak clearly, others not. Some are able to use two hands, some can only use one. One player even uses his chin to maneuver his chair. For some of them, this is the only sport they can play and they live for Saturdays and 'the game'.

Now, lest you think this is a nursing home league, do not be fooled. They play with the same rules as able bodied hockey, with one exception. Cross-checking penalties have been replaced with ramming penalties. In typical hockey a fight often gets fans on the edge of their seat or up on their feet. However, in wheelchair hockey, on the rare occasion when two chairs collide and a chair goes over, both the sidelines and the stands empty as they scramble to set up the chair and make sure the player is unharmed.

Not only were we introduced to power hockey but also to the power of belonging to a community. With approximately 35 players in the league, it's a pretty close knit group. Cheers from the stands often go both ways, encouraging 'their' team, but also acknowledging great plays by the opposing team. Whether it's needing assistance getting their gear on, mounting their stick, or helping players with any number of problems with their wheelchair, capable and compassionate help is readily available regardless of which jersey a player is wearing.....

Perhaps this community is felt the strongest as wheelchairs line the aisles of churches and funeral homes in a statement of solidarity for a lost comrade. As players and those associated with the sport succumb to disease, complications or the simply unexpected, there is an overwhelming sense of community that rises up within the league. At each funeral we've had the sad privilege of attending, I am awed at the number of players and their families that come to show their support.

Indeed, this is a remarkable group of people. Week after week I marvel at the stories behind each of the players and their families – stories of daily struggle and realities that are foreign to many. They are stories that most people would characterize by limitation. Yet, the player's and their family's collective tenacity and commitment to the game and to each other demonstrate their ability to live far beyond their limitations. When life would say no, they say a resounding yes. Where there's a wheel, there's a way. (reprinted in part from Chicken Soup for The Soul: O Canada)

For more info, visit [www.powerhockey.ca](http://www.powerhockey.ca)

### Alberta Inclusive Child Care Project

The Alberta Inclusive Child Care Project was undertaken to provide information that would support the development of strategies for improving access to inclusive child care for children with special needs in Alberta.

The study explored facilitators and barriers to access to inclusive child care programs in Alberta and the presence of staff practices and program characteristics that are believed to enhance the inclusion of children with disabilities in centre-based and family day home settings.

The results of this study suggest that Alberta child care providers have positive attitudes toward including children with disabilities in their programs and day homes. These findings suggest that service providers in early education and care settings have positive attitudes towards the philosophy of inclusion, particularly after experience working with children with disabilities. Positive attitudes towards inclusion and recognition of the benefits of including children with disabilities in early learning and care settings is a positive step towards successful inclusion of children with disabilities.

Despite the positive attitudes towards the philosophy of inclusion reported by the providers in this study, the results of this study suggest that positive attitudes were not enough. There was no relationship between more positive attitudes towards inclusion and actually including children with disabilities in programs. The results from both the focus groups and the survey indicate that there are barriers to the widespread provision of inclusive child care in Alberta.

A stakeholders group was convened to discuss the findings of the study and put forward recommendations. The information from that meeting is currently being analyzed and recommendations are expected in the spring of 2012.

## Calgary and Area FSCD Parent Advisory Committee



Contact us at:  
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Phone: 403-297-6100  
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### Summer Fun and FSCD

Schools are back in session and the winter break is behind us. This means summer vacation is just around the corner. Many families benefit from summer camp programs and FSCD can help assist with the cost of Community Aide Supports and sometimes for part of the cost of the camp itself. Many families enjoy seeing their child(ren) experience summer activities and build friendships through supported social opportunities. Camps can help a family keep a routine through the summer months and can provide parents with an opportunity to take a breath or even engage in an activity with their other children.

There are many camp options for children with special needs and many resources to help families find, assess, and select camps. A good place to start is with The Children's Link Society at [www.childrenslink.ca](http://www.childrenslink.ca) or 403-230-9158. Another good place to look is the resource office at your child's school. You can also ask your FSCD case worker for assistance in locating a summer camp that is right for you. The options for camps are as many and as varied as the families who are support-

ed by FSCD. The most important thing to remember about summer camp is that if your family is requesting financial support from FSCD you need to communicate with your case worker early. Many families are contacting FSCD at the same time to secure these services and the staff can become very busy just keeping up with camp inquiries alone. In order to determine your child's individual eligibility for camp funding it is recommended that you speak with your case worker by the end of March. This will provide FSCD with enough time to assess and confirm funding and still give you plenty of time to book space in a suitable camp.

There are many factors that go into determining a child's individual eligibility for summer camp funding and the level of funding received. Some of these factors include the age of the child and their specific support needs, the type of camp chosen, and the annual determination of the reasonable and customary cost of camp that should be borne by the family.

The intent of determining the reasonable and customary cost of camp is so that children with disabilities have the same opportunity to attend camp at a similar cost as their typical peers. The FSCD program can cover the extraordinary portion of specialized camps. There is a parent portion that reflects the costs associated with sending any child to a typical camp in a community setting. This style of summer camp funding falls under Child Focused Respite within the FSCD Act and more information can be found in section 10-9 of the FSCD Policy and Procedures Manual, which can be found online at <http://bit.ly/xEQj9s>.

If a child does not require a specialized camp setting and instead attends a community camp with their typical peers, but requires support to do so, then you should speak to your case worker about Community Aide Supports. Camp fees for non-specialized camps are not eligible for FSCD funding. Additional information on Community Aide Supports can be found in section 10-39 of the FSCD Act (see weblink above). FSCD believes it's important for children with disabilities to play an active part in their communities and be included in community activities. As such FSCD provides funding for Community Aide Support in order that children be able to participate in community activities where parental or adult participation would typically not be expected and the child would otherwise be unable to participate. It should be noted that Community Aide Support funding and FSCD funding for the extra-ordinary costs associated with specialized camps cannot be combined.

Even though there's snow on the ground and a chill in the air it's time to start thinking about summer camp. Before you know it the grass will be green and the sun will be shining so don't delay, call your case worker about summer camp today.

#### Word on the street

- The Alberta Edition of Safe and Secure: Six Steps to Creating a Good Life for People with Disabilities is available, free of charge, at all London Drugs pharmacies. It is an excellent resource and guidebook for creating the future that you want for your child with a disability.
- The "Signing Time" DVD and music series is an entertaining way to teach young children some signs. The DVDs include children of all abilities and are very encouraging to kids and parents alike. [www.signingtime.com](http://www.signingtime.com)

Have feedback or ideas for our newsletter? Please email them to [Calgaryarea.PAC@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Calgaryarea.PAC@gov.ab.ca)

Visit our updated website at [www.calgaryandareacfsa.gov.ab.ca/home/515.cfm](http://www.calgaryandareacfsa.gov.ab.ca/home/515.cfm)

## **Alberta Education**

*Alberta Education is conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Surveys from January to the end of February 2012.*

Parents of grades (all parents of student's grade 4 and above) will receive a survey mailed to their homes directly from Alberta Education. In addition to English and French, the survey will be available in Mandarin/Cantonese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish and Tagalog. Parents wishing to have surveys in a language other than English or French can contact Paige McNeill.

In February, students in grades 4, 7 and 10 (all students grades 4 and above in Charter schools and level 2 accredited funded private schools) and all teachers will be completing their surveys online through their schools. Our students will be exempt from this survey.

All surveys are anonymous and no reports will be issued if the number of respondents is fewer than six to further protect the privacy of respondents. Last year was the first year that this was a requirement, however, due to low population and sample the Janus Academy gives, we did not receive any scores last year, except high school completion rates.

We may be provided with some results this year if the number of respondents increases. Respondents are expected to answer the questions based upon the experiences they have had at their school.

We strongly encourage your participation as the results help us identify our school and jurisdiction's strengths and weaknesses. Survey results will be available to authorities by the start of May 2012, and will be reported publicly by authorities as part of the Annual Education Results Reports in the fall of 2012.

## Youth Singers of Calgary Launches Special Needs Program

Youth Singers of Calgary through the assistance of the Calgary Foundation unveils a new comprehensive program tailored to the abilities of young people with special needs, specifically cognitive delays.

CALGARY- Youth Singers of Calgary (YSC) Artistic Director & CEO Shirley Penner announced the launch of the STAR (Special Talents in Arts & Recreation) Program, a new initiative aimed at providing an exciting and beneficial music and movement education to children with special needs. STAR Program encourages and allows children to grow and gain confidence, build friendships and find an appreciation for the performing arts.

"Our goal is to promote growth using a variety of creative music experiences. Accessibility and inclusiveness are core values of Youth Singers and the STAR Program is the next step in furthering our mandate."

said Penner. "We are proud to expand our programs to include even more young people; the Star Program is welcomed as our fourteenth division/level."

The recent funding from the Calgary Foundation will allow the STAR Program to run two separate pilot classes each running for ten weeks. Registration is now open and more information, an application and questionnaire are available at [www.youthsingers.org](http://www.youthsingers.org) <<http://www.youthsingers.org>> . Interested parties may also contact the Youth Singers by phone: 403.234.9549

### Contacts:

Jennifer Morton, Program Manager  
403-992-1276

[starprogram@youthsingers.org](mailto:starprogram@youthsingers.org) <<mailto:starprogram@youthsingers.org>>

Shirley Penner, Artistic Director & CEO  
403-540-7985

[srpenner@shaw.ca](mailto:srpenner@shaw.ca) <<mailto:srpenner@shaw.ca>>

## Reflecting on Changes In Treatment and Caregiving of Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Level I Activity: This activity presents an overview of the topic and would best meet the needs of families and/or professionals with little to no knowledge or experience with the topic

Feb 21, 2012 10:55AM-12:30pm

Feb 21, 2012 12:30PM

[Alberta Children's Hospital - Theatre](#)

2888 Shaganappi Trail NW

Calgary

AB

T3B6A8

This session is also offered via telehealth/video-conference. If you would like to register for a remote location, please contact CES at [ces@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:ces@albertahealthservices.ca).

## Disability Tax Credit – for Children and Adults

[www.health.gov.ab.ca/ahcip/benefits/aadl.html](http://www.health.gov.ab.ca/ahcip/benefits/aadl.html)

Website for Form T2201 – Disability Tax Credit Certificate:

[www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/ff/t2201/README.html](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/ff/t2201/README.html)

Even so-called “high-functioning” children and adults with ASDs can qualify for the Disability Tax Credit.

- The Disability Tax Credit comes from the Federal Government of Canada.
- It is **totally confidential**, just like anything else to do with income tax.
- It is **retroactive**.
- **It usually results in a refund of \$3,300.00 per year** from the year the person became disabled. Some doctors are now putting down the year of birth as the start of Autism Spectrum Disorders, some say age 2 or 3. It is important to let your doctor know the earliest possible symptoms your child had. It is not the date of diagnosis that counts, it is the date the disability started affecting the individual. You can send in the form at any time of the year. Once it is approved, you fill in the Disability claim on both the federal income tax form and the provincial form every year.

**You only need one area of disability in order to qualify for the Disability Tax Credit.** Lower functioning individuals often qualify under several sections such as Speech, Dressing, Feeding, Toileting, and ‘Perceiving, thinking and remembering’. “Higher functioning” individuals still usually qualify under the “Perceiving, Thinking and Remembering” section.

Encourage your doctor to put down the diagnosis as “**Autism Spectrum Disorder**”. Revenue Canada is familiar with this term. It often helps to attach documents from the person’s assessments and other reports. Many people who deal with taxes don’t understand the Disability Tax Credit. Many doctors, psychologists and other professionals also don’t understand it. These people may tell you that your child doesn’t qualify for the Disability Tax Credit, and they may be wrong. You can apply for it at any time of the year.

### Child Tax Benefit

If you qualify for the Child Tax Benefit, the monthly amount will be increased once you also get the Disability Tax Credit. The amount of the increase depends on the total family income.

### Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL)

Alberta Aids to Daily Living will help pay for **incontinence products such as diapers, Pull-Ups, adult Depends or Attends, helmets** to protect the head of a person we has seizures or does head-banging, and a host of other disability-related and illness-related supplies, such as oxygen. For incontinence products, the person must be age 3 or older and have a disability or illness.

**Note: A second copy of tuition receipts will be sent home in early February.**

## We need to hear from Dads raising children with Autism

Beth Parrott and Bonnie Lashewicz, from Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies at the University of Calgary, are launching a new study titled: **Building parenting capacity in families of children with disabilities: Understanding and resourcing fathers of children with ASD.**

Much of what is known about parenting comes from the perspective of mothers so we are on a new quest to collect stories from fathers about raising children with ASD, age 2-12. Participants, who can be biological, step, foster or adopted fathers, will be asked to take part in a private interview scheduled at a convenient time and location. If you, or someone you know, are interested in taking part, please contact Beth Parrott.



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