



Janus Academy

December 2011

Event Calendar

Dec 9, 2011

Swimming – JHHS

Dec 9, 2011

Elementary Christmas Concert @
2pm

Dec 14 and Dec 15, 2011

Parent Teacher Interviews

Dec 16, 2011

Swimming – Elementary

Dec 23, 2011

Early dismissal @ 12:35pm

Dec 24, 2011-Jan 8, 2012

Winter Break

Jan 9, 2012

Classes resume

Jan 17, 2012

Janus Academy AGM @ 7-8pm –
all welcome

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

The November 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, December 2, 2011.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH



Message from the Jr/Sr High School Director

December is here, the snow has arrived, and the Janus Academy is bustling with activity! The end of the year is approaching, and the Christmas Concert and Winter Break are just around the corner!

With the flurry of the season, it is very easy to get caught up in the endless tasks on all of our “to do” lists. So, in the midst of all the holiday rush, try to see the season, for a few moments at least, through the eyes of our children by coming to the Janus Academy Elementary school play, “The Reindeer Rebellion” on December 9th at 2pm. Please try to come early to get a good seat, as space always fills up fast!

Please remember that we will be collecting non-perishable items at the door for the food bank.

On behalf of all the staff at Janus Academy, I would like to wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday. It is a gift for us to be working with you and your children in such a caring community environment.

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

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.

Please join us in the Janus Academy Elementary production of:

“The Reindeer Rebellion”

December 9, 2011 – 2pm

Ramsay School Gymnasium

Please bring in a donation for the Calgary Food Bank.



Thank you

...to the Nickle Family Foundation for their continued and generous support of the Janus Academy.

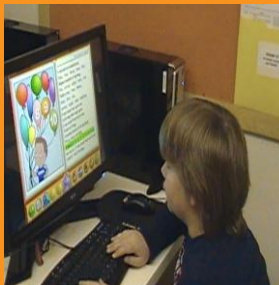
Thank you to our school nurse team of Heather Miller (elementary school) and Linda Krol (Junior / Senior High School) for the work they are doing with our students and for providing us all with updated and useful health related materials and information.

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

Just a friendly reminder to all families!

Please send your child to school with the appropriate outdoor winter wear, including hats, mittens or gloves, and boots.

Please print your child's name on all of their clothing. We do our very best to ensure that all clothing items are sent home with the correct student. Please let us know in the communication book, if any of your child's clothing items are not returned.



Computer Software and App List

If you are thinking about purchasing software or Apps for your young person for Xmas, here are some website/shopping resources to review:

Software

<http://www.helpme2learn.com/school/products>

Educational – very popular with many of our students

<http://www.judylynn.com>

Accessible, enjoyable software for students with early skills

<http://www.schoolzone.com/best-kids/software>

Variety of education based activities – can also purchase workbooks

<http://www.bloomingkids.com>

Inexpensive software – downloadable demos to preview content – recommend that you buy the CD rather than purchasing via online download

<http://www.childrensoftwareonline.com>

A wide variety of educational and edutainment software – has categories for Windows 7

Apps for iPod, iPad, iPhone

<http://www.marblesoft.com/index.php>

Check out Switch Kids

<http://www.attainmentfamily.com/GoTalkNow>

An app for communication

<http://www.inclusivetlc.com/Apps.aspx>

Early learning activities that we have used at school via the HelpKidzLearn website

<http://apps4stages.wikispaces.com>

An excellent resource page to help you select apps for your student

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/24470331/iPhone-iPad-and-iPod-touch-Apps-for-Special-Education>

Another excellent resource page for finding apps for your student

<http://www.modelmekids.com/iphone-app-autism.html>

Social skills apps

<http://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/autism-apps/id441600681?mt=8>

A resource app – Autism Apps by Touch Autism

<http://a4cwsn.com/apps/apps-a-z/>

Another excellent resource page for finding apps for your student

Bev Appel – Computer Specialist

Janus Academy Computer Lab

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Ian Menzies
ian@janusacademy.org
403 – 668 – 6176

Vice President:
Alice Woolley
alice@janusacademy.org

Treasurer: Rob Oxoby
roboxoby@janusacademy.
org

Secretary: Alice Woolley
alice@janusacademy.org

Member: Mona Johnson
mona@janusacademy.org

Member: Ian Holloway
ian.holloway@ucalgary.ca

Message from the Board

As has been the case over the past few months, the Board is focusing on ensuring Janus's fiscal and governing stability, and in setting the foundations for the school to move forward and pursue its mandate of providing the best education possible to autistic children in the Calgary community. As a step forward in that process, the Board is delighted to announce that Tracey Aylesworth has agreed to join us. Tracey has been an active supporter of Janus over the last few years, and brings to the school extensive experience in the not-for-profit, educational and fund raising sectors.

The Board continues to be interested in obtaining additional highly qualified non-parent members, so if you have any thoughts on suitable candidates, please contact Ian Menzies, myself or another Board member.

We are also undertaking a strategic planning process in the new year, which will focus on issues such as finding a common space for the elementary and junior high/high school locations, on governance, on growth, and on maintaining and improving the quality of our programming. If you have other issues that you think the Board should address in this process, please send your thoughts to Ian Menzies, myself or another Board member.

The Annual General Meeting for the school has been set for January 12, 2012. We strongly encourage all parents to attend, to provide their input into issues of school governance, and to ensure they are informed about the school's financial position, and its current and future direction. At the meeting we will have a speaker from Raymond James (a lead Spring Gala sponsor) provide information on the use of Registered Disability Savings Plans and other investment vehicles that can be used to help provide security to our children.

Finally, we would like to wish you and your families the very best through the holiday season. We are grateful to be involved in a school where parents give so much to ensure the best for their children – not just in financial and other support for the school, but in the love, care and energy directed to helping these special kids reach their potential.

*Alice Woolley
Janus Academy Vice President / Secretary*

Dear Parents and Staff,

The Board of Directors would like to invite you all to attend the Janus Academy Annual General Meeting. The meeting will be held on January 12th from 7:00-8:00 at the elementary school site (2223 Spiller Rd SE). This meeting will allow the directors to highlight some of the priorities for the year, plans for the future, and review and approval of the audited financial statements. Time will be set aside for discussion of new ideas, concerns and input into parent and school priorities.

We are also pleased to welcome to the AGM an advisor from Raymond James who will give a short presentation on RDSP's (Registered Disability Saving Plans), RESP's, and other financial and tax information for parents. The RDSP was introduced in Budget 2007 and became available in 2008. The RDSP is widely regarded as a major policy innovation and positive development in helping to ensure the long-term financial security of children with severe disabilities.

The Janus Board asks that at least one member from each family attend the Annual General Meeting. Your participation does make a difference. A well informed and engaged parent population is crucial to the ongoing stability and development of our school. We hope to see you all there.

Please RSVP to Karli@janusacademy.org by responding to this email by Jan 9th, 2012.



****Please note an important change to this year's school calendar regarding spring break holidays.**

Due to the dates of the public school boards spring break differing from our own, the Janus administration and Board of Directors feel that it would be beneficial to change our spring break to match that of the public system. This will help many families with other children who are enrolled within that system.

***Spring Break is now March 24-April 1, 2012.
Classes resume for all students on Monday, April 2.***

Reminder that December 23, 2011 is an early dismissal day and the students will be dismissed at 12:35 pm. All students should bring their lunch that day so that we do not send them home hungry on the bus.

Janus Academy will be contacting Access Calgary to confirm this dismissal time, however we ask that parents also confirm with access Calgary on their end as well.

We hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season!

Grade 4 & 5 Snow Pass



Contact: Canadian Ski Council

Tel. 705-445-9140

Email: info@snowpass.ca

Get outside, get active and save this season!

Pick up a Grade 4 & 5 SnowPass for your child and give them hundreds of reasons to stay active this winter. This year is the 15th anniversary of the Grade 4 & 5 SnowPass

Winter is just around the corner! And rather than hiding inside for the next few months, why not get outside and enjoy winter this year by hitting the slopes with your Grade 4 and 5 children! Skiing and snowboarding are some of Canada's most popular winter sports and one of the best ways to stay active this winter. Don't let your kids hibernate this winter. Once they feel the pride and exhilaration of zooming down the hills they won't want to stay home and play video games this winter!

Keeping your children healthy and active should never be a strain on your pockets and the Canadian Ski Council wants to help. Pick up a Grade 4 or 5 SnowPass and find hundreds of ways to save this winter.

Your child's SnowPass is valid from December 1st to the end of the ski season, if they apply in grade 5. If you apply in grade 4 you have two seasons to use your SnowPass. It includes three lift pass tickets for each and every participating ski/snowboard area and it is their ticket to a season's worth of fun and activity. So this winter there is only one reason we should be finding you in front of the computer. SnowPass registration is completely digital. Just visit www.snowpass.ca, complete the registration form, upload a photo, proof of age/grade and payment. Your child's very own SnowPass will be mailed straight to your door giving you hundreds of ways to save this season.

Applications are open to anyone in grade 4 or 5 (or who was born in 2001 and 2002). With over 150 different participating ski/snowboard areas - 92 in the East (Ontario to Newfoundland) and 60 in the West (Manitoba to B.C) - everyone can take advantage of this amazing deal.

What's better than getting your child out and active this winter? The savings the SnowPass program offers gives you hundreds of opportunities to get your children out of the house and onto the slopes!

Learn more about the Grade 4 and 5 SnowPass online at www.snowpass.ca or www.passeportdesneiges.ca. You can also pick up an application form from your child's grade 4 or 5 elementary school teachers or at Sport Mart, Sport Chek, Sports Experts, and Intersport stores Canada-wide.

For more information on the Grade 4 and 5 SnowPass program, contact the Canadian Ski Council,

tel: 705-445-9140, e-mail: info@snowpass.ca, web: www.snowpass.ca

The Canadian Ski Council was founded in 1977 to work on the behalf of the Canadian snowsports industry to increase participation in recreational snowboarding, alpine and cross-country skiing in Canada.



Government Launches Review of the Registered Disability Savings Plan

**Ottawa, October 21, 2011
2011-103**

The Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, today announced the launch of the Government of Canada's review of the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP).

Minister Flaherty made the announcement this morning at the Association pour l'intégration sociale d'Ottawa.

The Government is inviting stakeholders to comment on RDSPs to ensure that the plans are meeting the needs of Canadians with severe disabilities and their families. "It is important for those who benefit from these plans to give their input, so that RDSPs continue to accurately reflect and address their true needs," said Minister Flaherty.

The RDSP is widely regarded as a major policy innovation and positive development in helping to ensure the long-term financial security of children with severe disabilities. The RDSP was introduced in Budget 2007 and became available in 2008. Budget 2008 announced that the program would be reviewed three years after plans became operational.

The review will seek input on a number of important topics that are crucial to the success of the RDSP. These include issues related to establishing plans, accessing plan savings, plan termination, and the administration of the RDSP program.

Individuals, families, groups representing Canadians with disabilities, financial institutions and experts in the field are encouraged to share their views on these and other relevant issues.

Comments can be sent to the Department of Finance at RDSP-REEI@fin.gc.ca or to the address below. The closing date for comments is December 16, 2011.

RDSP Review
Tax Policy Branch
Department of Finance
L'Esplanade Laurier
16th Floor, East Tower
140 O'Connor Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5
Facsimile: 613-943-5597

For further information, media may contact:

Mary Ann Dewey-Plante
Press Secretary
Office of the Minister of Finance
613-996-7861

Jack Aubry
Media Relations
Department of Finance
613-996-8080

To: Interested Members of the Public

As the new Minister of Education, I want to provide you with the opportunity to share your views about education in Alberta. Since the introduction of the proposed Education Act in April 2011, much has changed. Our government has made a renewed commitment to the education system, and it is important to confirm that we are indeed moving in a direction that reflects the desires and wishes of Albertans.

On November 15, I announced the opportunity for public input as we begin to review the proposed Education Act. The first component is a series of seven full-day meetings, called Our Children, Our Future: Getting It Right, scheduled for late November and early December 2011.

The new Education Act must support and sustain learning environments in which students can thrive through flexible, personalized learning. By opening discussion to the public, especially to students, we can ensure this legislation reflects Albertans' vision for their education system and that it has a direct and positive impact on Alberta classrooms now and for years to come.

Many of the ideas emphasized in the earlier draft will likely carry forward because it:

- * enables school boards to be more responsive to local needs;
- * engages students from Kindergarten to graduation;
- * better supports inclusion of learners with differing needs, cultures and abilities; and
- * ensures that schools are caring, respectful and safe environments all remain important priorities for this government.

I invite you to attend one of the scheduled meetings identified below. I also ask you to encourage participation among others in your community for whom the meetings would be a new experience by passing along this information.

We have invited community leaders and education authorities to attend the meetings, however, the vast majority of registrations are being held for students, parents, teachers and others who have a broad interest in education - as learners, as taxpayers and as future employers.

The meeting dates are as follows:

Saturday, November 26 Edmonton	Monday, December 5 Lethbridge
Tuesday, November 29 Red Deer	Wednesday, December 7 Fort McMurray
Thursday, December 1 Calgary	Friday, December 9 Peace River
Saturday, December 3 Bonnyville	

For more information, and to register, please follow this link:

<http://ideas.education.alberta.ca/engage/current-initiatives/education-act-getting-it-right>.

Following submission of registration, participants will receive a confirmation. This will include venue information and pre-meeting reading materials.

While space is limited and preregistration is required, those who are unable to participate in a community meeting will also have other channels for submitting their thoughts on the future of education in Alberta. We expect to have online options ready in a little over a week and will ensure Albertans are aware of how to provide us with their input. Of course, I also welcome traditional forms of communication, such as letters and emails.

If you have any questions, please contact the project team by email at

Engage.Education@gov.ab.ca <mailto:Engage.Education@gov.ab.ca> or by phone at 780-422-1484 (dial 310-0000 first for toll-free access in Alberta).

Thank you for your interest as we continue this important work on behalf of education in Alberta. Your input will be considered as we work toward reintroducing the Education Act in spring 2012.

Sincerely,
Thomas A. Lukaszuk
Minister of Education

STUDENT WORKSHOPS

Come January, we will be conducting our second set of student workshops. Student workshops give your child's instructional team the opportunity to discuss student progress, review goals and expectations and practice therapy techniques. As these meetings require that all staff who work with your child be in attendance, students who are not involved in workshops on a set day, are required to stay home. Please refer to the schedule below to review when your child is required to be at school.

The second set of Student Workshops will be conducted on January 23 & 24, 26 & 27.

Elementary School:

Below are a list of students who **will be** attending workshops on **January 23 & 24:**

Eric Chan, Hashir, Keira, Ishaan, Charlie, Maya, Monchan, Raneem, Hanna, Mathew, Jade, Tega, Philip, Muffy

(Nicholas, Eric H, Joseph, Ramon, Ethan, Isabella, John, Tanner, Rowan, Navpreet, Marc, Gabriel, Calum, Blake, Patrick are NOT required to attend school on January 23 and 24)

Below are a list of students who **will be** attending workshops on **January 26 & 27:**

Nicholas, Eric H, Joseph, Ramon, Ethan, Isabella, John, Tanner, Rowan, Navpreet, Marc, Gabriel, Calum, Blake, Patrick

(Eric Chan, Hashir, Keira, Ishaan, Charlie, Maya, Monchan, Raneem, Hanna, Mathew, Jade, Tega, Philip, Muffy are NOT required to attend school on January 26 and 27)

Junior-Senior High School:

Below are a list of students who **will be** attending workshops on **January 23 & 24:**

Beverley, Greg, Thomas, Ryan, Adam, Jesse, Sammy, Daniel J

(Josie, Daniel M, Geoff, Jackson, Mitchell, Kyle, Tim, Brennan are NOT required to attend school on January 23 and 24)

Below are a list of students who **will be** attending workshops on **January 26 & 27:**

Josie, Daniel M, Geoff, Jackson, Mitchell, Kyle, Tim, Brennan

(Beverley, Greg, Thomas, Ryan, Adam, Jesse, Sammy, Daniel J are NOT required to attend school on January 26 and 27)

If you have any questions regarding workshops, please feel free to call the school and talk with Paige or Koren. If you need your child's workshop date changed please note that we will do our best to accommodate you, however, due to the difficulty with scheduling we ask that you understand if your requested change cannot be made.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS for December 14 and 15, 2011

This meeting will allow you to meet your child's educational team as well as to discuss the development of your child's Individual Progress Plan.

We ask that parents do their best to come on this date as alternate dates are not available due to the number of requests and difficulty in scheduling. If you are absolutely unable to make it on this date we may arrange phone interview times (outside of teaching hours) or you may send in specific written questions for us to respond to.

Thank you for your understanding.

"Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten"
- B.F. Skinner

Please email karli@janusacademy.org your preference for parent/teacher interview times and she will then confirm back to you that the day/time works. Or print this form off and send it in your child's communication book.

Student: _____ Parent: _____

Please indicate your 1st and 2nd choice below.

Time Available:

Wednesday Dec. 14, 2011

7:45 _____
8:15 _____
8:45 _____
3:00 _____
3:30 _____
4:00 _____

Thursday Dec. 15, 2011

7:45 _____
8:15 _____
8:45 _____
3:00 _____
3:30 _____
4:00 _____

For Office Use Only.

Your P/T interviews are confirmed for: _____

CHILDREN'S
Autism Services
OF EDMONTON



Join us for our 5th Annual Edmonton Conference!!

January 19th - 21st, 2012



Keynote Speaker: Eustacia Cutler - author, advocate and Temple Grandin's mother

Speakers and Topics:

- Winnie Dunn: *Sensory Processing in School, Home, and Community: How to make the Best of Every Moment*
- Pat Miranda: *Video Modeling; What, Why, and How.* and *Using AAC for Social Interaction*
- Sue Mitchell: *Promoting Independence: Strategies for Developing Self-Help Skills*
- Emily Rubin: *Addressing Social Communication Skills in Children and Adolescents with High Functioning Autism.* and *Introduction to the SCERTS model*
- David Nicholas: *Pervasive Parenting Dilemmas in ASD; Families in complex terrain*
- Dr. David Nicholas: *Pervasive Parenting Dilemmas in ASD; Families in complex terrain*

Another amazing opportunity!

You won't want to miss your opportunity to:

- meet Eustacia Cutler and hear about her amazing journey
 - learn from leaders and specialists in the field
 - network with colleagues and reconnect with old friends
 - recharge your creativity and passion
 - gain a fresh perspective and new skills to overcome challenges
 - check out our vendors and shop for new products and great deals
 - enjoy the fabulous food and service at the Marriott
- [Click here to fill out and submit an online PDF form.](#)
 - [Click here to download the full brochure with more information and registration form](#)



Bundle up!

Dressing warm makes winter more enjoyable

By the time you read this, winter will be upon you. But you don't have to let it walk all over you.

If you prepare for winter weather and dress accordingly, you can still have fun outside.

Here's some tips on how you can keep winter at bay when you're outdoors:

- Wear layers.
- Always wear a hat or toque that covers your head and ears, and try wearing a neck warmer instead of a scarf to keep warm and reduce injuries while playing.
- Choose either mittens or gloves to warm your hands.
- A windproof shell is also a good idea to keep out the cold during the windy winter months.



This young fellow has it right: Toque, jacket and gloves.

'Tis the season to be healthy and mindful

In the holiday season baked goods are at our reach and holiday gatherings tend to always focus on food. It may be easy to eat a large amount of food without realizing.

Here are some quick tips to avoid mindless eating and promote a healthy holiday season for your family:

- **Store treats until snack or meal time.** Your child is more likely to nibble throughout the day if treats are left out in



Smile-Friendly Stocking Stuffers

Sugar-free gum
Popcorn
Trendy toothbrush
Electric toothbrush
Flavoured dental floss
3-minute egg timer
Mouthguard

an easy to access area. Keep them away in a cupboard or out of sight.

- **Offer regular meals and snacks.**

Try to offer healthy food choices at regular times throughout the day. This will help to satisfy your child's appetite so that they are content with smaller amounts of the holiday treats.

- **Slow down and taste the food.** Encourage your child to fill his/her plate once and to sit down to enjoy foods before deciding whether to take seconds. Teach your child to savour special holiday foods along with regular healthy choices.

Seasonal safety tips

*Deck the halls with boughs of holly,
Fa, la, la, la...OUCH!*

Remember that hazards are always lurking in your home, even at Christmas time! The tree, the lights, even the toys can create many dangers for you and your family. So let's all remember to **CELEBRATE!**

Check your indoor and outdoor light strings for frays, broken bulbs loose connections or broken light sockets.

Extinguish all candles when unattended.

Light your tree with indoor-specific lights (alternatively, make sure outdoor lights are for outdoor use).

Electrical outlets are easily overloaded! Make sure you are smart when it comes to plugging in.

Be sure to buy toys and gifts that are suitable for a child's age. Make sure batteries are installed properly and that packaging is disposed of quickly (to prevent suffocation).

Rearrange your room so that the Christmas tree is away from high traffic areas, heating vents, radiators, fireplaces and burning candles.

Always keep lighters, matches and burning candles out of children's reach.

Turn off your holiday lights when you leave home and before you go to bed. Ensure real Christmas trees are watered daily to prevent drying (and a potential fire hazard).

Remember to take the time to **CELEBRATE** and have a joyful holiday season!



One thing to remember about Christmas lights: Indoor-specific lights for indoors; outdoor lights for outdoors.

