

JANUS ACADEMY



March 2010

Each year seems to be going by faster and faster and we cannot believe that it is already March, which is going to be a very busy month. This month is filled with gymnastics, swimming, Aggie Days, parent teacher interviews, and the beginning of Spring Break. Report Cards or Progress Reports (for those students who have them) will be sent home in the next week. IPP's are being updated and will be sent home prior to March 23. If you have any questions about the contents of the reports or IPPs, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Teacher/Coordinator.



Board of Directors

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Next Board Meeting: March 9, 2010

Our Mission

To provide children and youth with autism with an intensive and individualized education using proven and effective ABA teaching methods.

We know that parents are busy as well, with all the volunteer time you are putting in to make this year's Spring Gala the best ever. Thank you to all those parents who have brought in their items and sponsorships and helped in any way they can. We truly appreciate your commitment. We are still waiting for many families to meet their fundraising commitment of bringing in items and selling tickets. The Janus Academy is particularly reliant on this event, as it is our largest, in order to continue to provide our specialized education program. We need everyone to do their part to ensure that we meet our fundraising goal this year.

We are already in full swing of planning our summer camp and are very excited about the interests in this camp. Registration filled up very quickly this year and all spots have been filled. Lauren Symon (Camp Coordinator) is taking names for a wait list at this time.

We have also begun to plan our school registration for next year and have begun the intake process for new families. We ask that parents who have not yet informed us of their plans, please let us know by filling out the attached form.

We wish you a very relaxing and safe Spring Break coming up in just 4 weeks.

THANK YOU!!!! THANK YOU!!!! THANK YOU!!!!

To Bill Waddell and Elaine McDonald for all their support of the Janus Academy. We wish them all the best as they enter a new chapter in their lives and look forward to the continuation of the special relationship we have with them. Thank you both for the immense support over the years and in the years to come.

To William Gardner, who donated through Canada Helps and Halliburton. We truly appreciate your support of our special school.

A special thanks to Edward Wooldridge, for his hard work in bringing in a record amount of sponsorships, for any one Janus family. Way to go Edward!

Thank you to Chris Oudette for volunteering so much of his time to drive our School Bus for the Jr. High/Senior High school. Your time and kindness is appreciated.

Dates to Remember

March 4: *Gymnastics: Elementary room 4 and 11*

March 11: *Gymnastics: Jr. High/High school*

March 12: *Swimming: Jr. High/High school*

March 18: *Gymnastics: Elementary room 14 and 15*

March 19: *Swimming: Elementary School*

March 26: *Early dismissal (12:35)*

March 27- April 5: *Spring Break*

April 6: *Students return*

March 24 & 25: *P/T interviews*

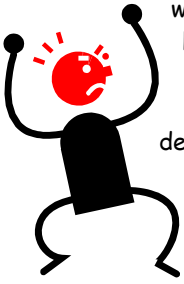
April 12, 13, 15, 16: *Workshops*

Staff Professional Development

It was our pleasure to get the opportunity to have Julide Peace from Autism Partnership come out and speak to our staff on our last P.D. day. Julide's knowledge, expertise and sense of humor made it a fascinating and interesting morning. Topics included the myths about autism, current research and behavioral support. Staff had the opportunity to ask questions and learn from Julide's extensive background in educating children and youth with autism.



Does Your Child Have a Difficult Time Accepting the Word "No"?



Many children, including children with autism, often have a difficult time hearing and accepting the word "no". We spend so much of the early years striving to get our students to use language to ask for things and to engage in activities. We are thrilled when they ask, pull us over or use their pictures. It is often difficult to say "No". Eventually, we learn that we cannot always say "Yes" and that our students need to learn to cope with denied requests. One of the reasons why some of our kids melt to the ground, scream out loud or run away is that they have been told "no" or they have been asked to give up a favorite item.

It is important that our kids learn to handle these situations and cope with denied requests. As our kids grow up, it is imperative that they deal appropriately with situations such as this, in order to integrate well into the community, communicate appropriately and lessen disruptive behavior that may cause undue stress to themselves and others around them.

It is also important that we teach our students these skills at an early age. Providing them with the ability to cope will help create a much more successful transition into adolescence and adulthood. This is one of the reasons why we may focus on this particular skill early on, as it is much more manageable to deal with a six year old who throws a tantrum, than when he/she is fourteen.

We work very hard at the school in order to teach our students to cope with "No" and to give up items, when they are asked. We wanted to share with you how we help teach our kids to cope and how you at home may help facilitate this as well.

Some of our students have "Accepting No" programs that they work on daily. Many situations (30+) are set up throughout the day, both at the teaching table and when in the natural environment. We set up a scenario when items that they like are visible to the child. When they ask for an item (verbally, with sign or pictures or a gesture) we immediately say "No, not right now, but you can have..." and we offer up an alternative item that is also desirable. If the child copes with the answer "No", they will be given the alternative item. If they display disruptive behaviors such as crying, yelling, running, intensive negotiation, both the original item and the alternative item are removed. At this time, no discussion is to follow. The children will and do calm down on their own and once they do, we reengage with them. Many of our students learn very quickly that accepting "No" is worth their while, as the alternative is better than nothing. However, we also provide many choices and say "Yes" to many requests throughout out the day. Eventually, once our students begin to display an ability to cope when we say "No" and accept alternatives, we begin to fade the alternative out. The goal is for your child to be able to cope appropriately with hearing "no" for many items, from many people, and in various situations.

Try this at home if you are dealing with this type of challenging behavior.

A Janus family is looking to hire someone to pick up their son from school and babysit him for a few hours until they are home from work. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please

Family and Staff Outing: SUNDAY MARCH 14th , from 2-4 pm

We will be having an 'Outdoor Gathering/Toboggan Party' on the hill behind Ramsay school.

This will be a FREE event. Bring your KIDS, TOBOGGANS OR SKATES AND WARM CLOTHING!



IF ALL OF THE SNOW & ICE HAVE GONE, THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF OTHER THINGS THE KIDS CAN DO: THERE IS A PLAYGROUND, A BALL DIAMOND, A SOCCER FIELD and EVEN TWO TENNIS COURTS. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING ALONG SOME BALLS/BATS etc..

YOU MIGHT ALSO WANT TO BRING ALONG A FEW CHAIRS OR BLANKET TO SIT ON.

We will have the use of the "skate shack" where there is a small kitchen and some room for sitting.

We are planning on having a 'Wiener Roast' with snacks and beverages on site.

Due to various dietary restrictions we are asking everyone to please BRING YOUR OWN WIENERS/BUNS.

We will provide the hot beverages, condiments and snacks.

All Janus Families, Janus Staff (and their families) as well as the Ramsay School Staff and Families will be welcome !

Please let us know if you are planning on coming out by calling MC or Erin before March 12th.

We will meet at the top of the hill behind the school. (Where the skating rink is) at 2:00.

There is a parking lot with free parking as well as non permit street parking nearby.

Hope to see many of you there !

The Janus Social Committee

MC Osterrath (403) 830-9561
Erin Zilavec (403) 804-8252



PLEASE HELP US OUT

As many of you may have been noticing, we have all been fighting against a cold/flu virus for the past few weeks. We encourage our staff members to stay home if they are not feeling well as to guard against spreading this sickness to others. We would like to take this opportunity to encourage parents as well to do the same with your children. We are having many children show up to school sick and this is causing it to spread throughout the school. Please help us guard against this and keep your children home if they are sick or look like they are coming down with something. **THANK YOU!**

Reminder: please call into the school as early as possible and leave a message or talk to Karli if your son or daughter is going to be away. Due to many of our children using Access Calgary, we can become worried if they are not on the bus and cannot get a hold of anyone at home. If there was an emergency or an incident on the bus, we would not be aware of it until we got confirmation from you. Thank you for your consideration.

Class in profile- Classroom 3 Jr. High/Senior High

The students in classroom three start every day excited and ready to learn. All of the students are working hard on their vocational programs; assembling pop cups and coffee cups, changing menu stands, and filling salt and pepper shakers. The students are also learning how to load and unload the dishwasher or how to set the table and increase their independence with personal care and self help.



The weekly cooking classes and grocery shopping trip are a hit with the whole class. On our walks to and from the local store, we practice crossing the street, following street safety signs and walking appropriately in the community.



Once we are at the grocery store, everyone takes turn carrying baskets for groceries, retrieving the items from a visual shopping list or paying the cashier. However, the most exciting part takes place back at school where they work on cutting, spreading and stirring to make wonderful creations. We are never quite sure what wonderful master piece will emerge from the cooking room.

We have seen many great things from all of our students as they all continue to expand on both their receptive and expressive language; as well as developing independence and interactive leisure skills. Our Wednesday computer class with Bev has been a great success and everyone looks forward to the new and exciting activities she has for us to do.



All of the students really enjoy the weekly field trips. In the month of February, we went to Canyon Meadows Movie Theatre and watched Planet 51, which was a hit and on the last Friday of the month, we went to the Soccer Center. Of course our monthly trips to Altadore Gymnastics Club and Southland Leisure Center for swimming are still the favorites. During February, we also had a Valentine's Day Dance that was put on by Kelsi, our music teacher from JB music. This was our second dance of the year and all the students had a great time and are looking forward to the next one.

STUDENT WORKSHOPS

Come April, we will be conducting our third and last 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.

ELEMENTARY SITE

Below are a list of students who **will be** attending the workshops on **Apr. 12 & 13:**

Blake, Joshua, Christiaan, Malcolm, Nicholas, Akito, Patrick, Muffy, Charlie, Mitchell, Brent, Matthew, Maya, Jade, and Eric

(Calum, Lily, Hashir, Enayat, Keira, Raneem, John, William, Tanner, Thomas, Samuel, Hanz, Owen, and Marc are not required to attend school on Apr. 12 & 13.)

Below are a list of students who **will be** attending the workshops on **Apr. 15 & 16:**

Calum, Lily, Hashir, Enayat, Keira, Raneem, John, William, Tanner, Thomas, Samuel, Hanz, Owen, and Marc

(Blake, Joshua, Christiaan, Malcolm, Nicholas, Akito, Patrick, Muffy, Charlie, Mitchell, Brent, Matthew, Maya, Jade, and Eric are not required to attend school on Apr. 15 & 16.)

JR. HIGH/SR. HIGH SCHOOL SITE

Below are a list of the students who **will be** attending the workshops on **April 12 & 13:**

Mary, Adam, Kyle, Tim, Greg, Geoff, Connor, Brennan

(Jesse, Daniel M, Justin, Daniel J, Beverly, Jackson, Josie) are not required to attend school on March 12th and 13th.)

Below are a list of the students who **will be** attending the workshops on **April 15 & 16:**

Jesse, Daniel M, Justin, Daniel J, Beverly, Jackson, Josie

(Mary, Adam, Kyle, Tim, Greg, Geoff, Connor, Brennan are not required to attend school on March 15th and March 16th)

If you have any questions regarding workshops please feel free to call the school and talk with Paige or Koren. Due to the difficulty in scheduling student workshops we request that if parents need certain days for their children to have workshops or not have them, that you let us know at least 4 weeks in advance of the next set of workshops. We will do our best to accommodate you in the future.

- ✓ Please fill out this form if you have not previously done so. We will not make any assumptions on if students will be returning. Please do the same and not assume we know!

2010-2011 ENROLMENT

Student name: _____

- My son/daughter WILL BE returning for the 2010-2011 school year (an enrolment agreement will be sent home by the school in late March)
- My son/daughter will NOT be returning for the 2010-2011 school year.
- Undecided (deadline is May 1st, however we would appreciate a decision as early as possible as we are unable to respond to other families applying for a spot, until we know our final numbers)

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Wednesday, March 24 and Thursday, March 25, 2010

We would ask that parents do their best to come on this date as alternate dates are not available. 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. We also request that students and siblings not be present at Parent/Teacher interviews, as we have limited time for each student.

Thank you for your understanding.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Student: _____ **Parent:** _____

Please indicate your 1st and 2nd choice below.

Times Available:

Wed. March 24, 2010

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

Thur. March 25, 2010

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

For Office Use Only.

Your P/T interviews are confirmed for:
