

November 2023



# Calgary Performing & Visual Arts Foundation



# PVA

## *Newsletter*

November 2023

CPVAF Meeting Dates  
Teachers' Wish List  
Welcome New Teachers  
PVA 20th Anniversary  
PVA Events Calendar  
photos, a video and more

# CPVAF The **C**algary **P**erforming and **V**isual **A**rts **F**oundation

## Our Mandate.

To support and advocate for The Centre for Performing & Visual Arts (PVA) at Central Memorial High School so students can excel **artistically** and **academically**.

## Our Objective.

To support the staff and students in each PVA discipline with resources (e.g., funding) and volunteers.

## How are the meetings?

Honestly? They are pretty good. Lots of parents with kids in the PVA Programs like to get involved and do things like work the ticket tables at shows, make costumes, hang banners, raise funds and donate money if they can.

Michelle Crimmins, the PVA Learning Leader, comes to every meeting and gives us an update on what the various programs are doing. We have some laughs, we get things done and it's a great way to stay up to date on what your kids are working on in their various PVA passions. **You can come, just listen and leave and we'd be thrilled to have you!**

## How do we do what we do?

By fundraising and then allocating those funds to help get things on the PVA Instructor's Wish Lists which include things like lighting and sound equipment, art supplies, guests instructors and all kinds of other things that enhance your student's experience in the PVA programs that are not otherwise covered through other means.

## When do we meet?

The second Wednesday of most months - unless otherwise posted - at 7:00pm - in person or online.

Meeting details will be in the PVA Newsletters, weekly Ram Reminder and sent via email to PVA parents.

### *What can I do?*

*Life is busy!! So ... as much, or as little, as you like! **Keen? Fill this out for us.** Thank you!*



# Our Two Incredible Parent Groups - CMMPA & CPVAF

The Performing Visual Arts Program at Central Memorial High School is a unique public-school opportunity unlike any other in the city, perhaps the province.

The band program came first. It started when the school opened in 1968 and soon after its marching band garnered recognition for its level of excellence.

**CMMPA - Central Memorial Music Parents Association** was created to support this program.

In 2003 the Performing and Visual Arts program was born initially offering Dance, Band, Choral, Strings, Drama and Visual Arts. Over the next years the program grew to be what it is today including Media Arts, Fashion and Tech Theatre.

CMMPA was already well established in the fundraising efforts to aid band, string and the vocal programs, they had their own bingo and casino licenses in place. Parent fund-raising efforts were directed to follow their students through their time at CMHS.

In 2010, a second parent organization was created to help support all PVA disciplines and the growing student population coming to Central to pursue their passions. This new group, **CPVAF, Calgary Performing and Visual Arts Association**, rallied at times to ensure that the emerging PVA program thrived. CPVAF's advocacy and efforts contributed to the decision that allowed students from across the region to apply and enrol as a PVA student at Central.

CPVAF and CMMPA work collaboratively to ensure that all PVA streams get the support they need and deserve. It's a huge program with big dreams and needs so while CMMPA raises funds and coordinates volunteers to support the music programs, CPVAF focuses on all streams of PVA - theatre, theatre tech, fashion, dance, visual arts, music, and media arts.

**As a parent/caregiver/guardian of a PVA or Standard music student, you are a CMMPA member, and as a parent/caregiver/guardian of any PVA Discipline (including music), you are a member of the CPVAF. If your student is in both music (of any kind) and another PVA program, you are a member of both and we are thrilled to have you.**

# CPVAF Meetings

**Wednesdays throughout the year at 7:00pm**

Most meetings are online [at this ZOOM link.](#)

At the beginning and end of the school year, when the weather is good, we like to meet in person when we can.

A reminder will go out the week before - via email and in the RAM Reminder - every meeting so you know where/how to join in.

## Meetings Dates This Year

November 29 - online [HERE](#)

January 10

February 14

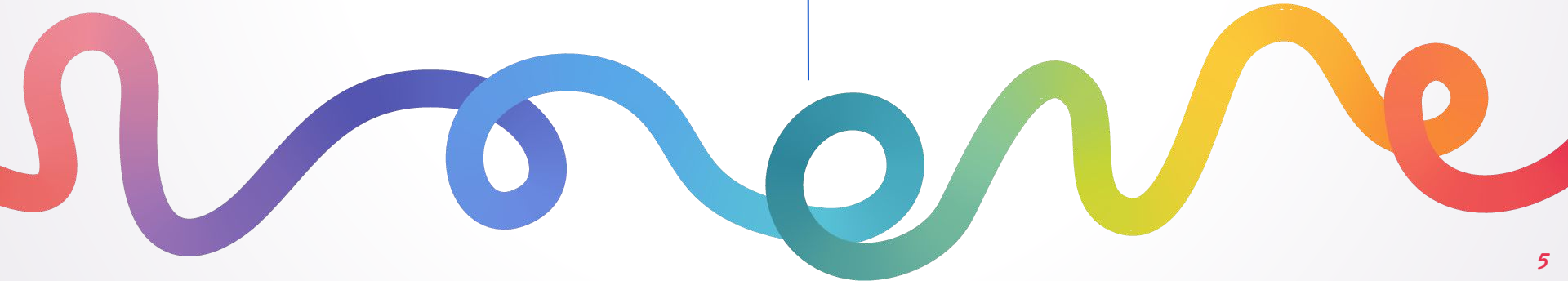
March 13

April 10

June 12

Questions?

Email our Chair, Sheri Bolitho [Chair@cpvaf.org](mailto:Chair@cpvaf.org)



# CPVAF Chair Report

Hello,

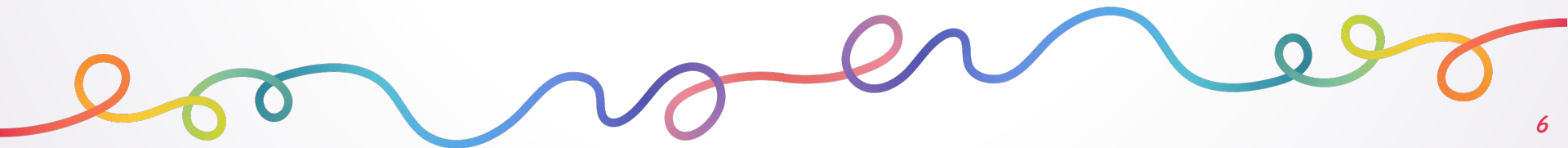
My name is Sheri and I am the newly appointed Chair of the CPVAF at Central. For those of you who may be new as well, the CPVAF is a parent and community run foundation that supports the PVA programs at central through fundraising, advocacy and support.

Calgary Performing and Visual Arts Foundation is a great way to get involved as a parent and everyone is invited to participate in a way that works best for them. From attending meetings, to volunteering and to supporting the fundraising opportunities. All of these things make our community stronger.

If you have any questions about how CPVAF works or ways you can get involved reach out to me anytime - [chair@cpvaf.org](mailto:chair@cpvaf.org). I would love to see you at a show or meeting soon!

## **New this year!**

As a way to support the PVA programs we have launched a new FUNdraiser this year! at the live theatre shows this year we will be selling 50/50 tickets - with a new winner each night! 1 ticket for \$3.00, 5 tickets for \$10 and 20 tickets for \$20. get your tickets live at each show - cash only!



# CPVAF Board & Support

## **Officers**

Chair – Sheri Bolitho

Vice Chair – Lisa McDowell

Treasurer – Jacqui Bloxom

Secretary – Marzena Feuchtwanger

## **Directors**

Past Chair - Kathy Bauer

Past Treasurer – Brenda Hughes

## **Committee Chairs**

Fundraising Committee Chair – Jagrita Shekhar

Public Relations Committee Chair – Loretta Gerow

## **Liaisons**

School Council – Mikale White

Dance – Samantha Holroyd

Fashion – Carla Myers

Media Arts – Michelle Paries

Music – Carolyn Frew

Theatre Arts – Angela Jobs

Visual Arts – Martina Laird-Westib

## **School Staff**

PVA Learning Leader – Michelle Crimmons

**Graphics/Web Content** - Joni Millar

**Contract Support** PVA/CPVAF Admin – Patti MacNeil



# Short on time but want to help?

Whether you volunteer to sell flowers a show, hem a costume, donate time or money, take a position with CPVAF or simply come to an event once in a while and have fun supporting your student, we appreciate **any**, and **every**, thing our families do to support our the PVA Programs.

You can help the PVA program continue to thrive at Central by promoting it!

**Here are a few ways that won't take a lot of time:**

**POST** about us on Social Media Platforms and tag us **@pvacentral**

Use our social media graphics - **HERE** - and **SHARE** a testimony on your page.

**Send an email** to your child's favourite junior high teachers and tell them about how your child is settling into the program and what they are learning. **Ask them to tell their students about us!**

**Put up** some of our PVA **posters** in your neighbourhood, local studios and arts and community centres, junior high schools.

## **Does your company do donation matching?**

Ask them to sponsor us this year and make a donation through our Shoot for the Stars Letter Writing Campaign (October – December) or the Arts & Entertainment Raffle (February – May).

CPVAF is a registered foundation and writes **tax deductible receipts** for donations.

Want to know more?

Email our CPVAF Chair, Sheri Bolitho,  
[Chair@cpvaf.org](mailto:Chair@cpvaf.org)



# Have a bit more time to help?

We are creating a volunteer database of people with special skills, talents or desire to help the CPVAF achieve our goals this year! By offering your support to the programming offered and contributing to promoting the unique programs - we can work together to get people helping in meaningful and effective ways that align with their skills and talents.

[FILL OUT THE FORM HERE](#)

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Please invite people with  
Grade 9 students to come to our  
PVA Open House  
December 13th from 5:30 - 8:00pm

**Share this info with friends and on your social media platforms**

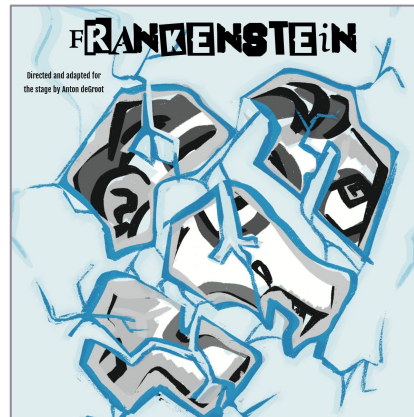
# PVA Theatre Arts Productions 2023-2024



November 21 - 25/2023  
Blackbox Studio 171



December 5 - 9/2023  
Main Theatre



April 16 - 20/2024  
Blackbox Studio 171



May 7 - 11/2024  
Main Theatre



On sale approximately one month before shows open.

Tickets online at [centraltickets.net](https://centraltickets.net)

# Our Annual 'Shoot for the Stars' Campaign

Our fall fundraiser, **Shoot for the Stars**, is now underway - and we hope you can join us in supporting the amazing PVA students by

Through **Shoot for the Stars** this year we hope to fund such amazing things as... a mini grand piano, choreography benches, costume pieces, Indigenous lead artist in residence experiences, specialized printer, mirrored demo table, artist easels, LED theatre lights, wireless communication system and other tools and equipment to enhance the student learning experience in PVA.

**Our goal with this campaign is to raise \$20,000.00** in honour of the PVA's 20th anniversary. 20 years of shaping the future through the arts.  
**We are at just over \$4,000.00 We can't do this without your support!**

Every dollar makes a difference, and we ask you to please share this request with family, friends, and personal networks that recognize the importance of supporting the arts in education.

Thank you for your generosity, and we look forward to sharing the campaign progress with you over the next several weeks!



**Scan to donate**



# Welcome new PVA teachers !

## Visual Arts

**Emily Tatulis** joined Kelly Isaak and Jill Tuttle in the Visual Arts department at the beginning of the year.

Emily comes to Central having taught art at all levels and, as a Learning Leader, she developed a vision of school wide well-being for learning.

Emily has experience supporting students with Mental Health and programming and helping students reach academic success.

## Theatre Arts

Jennifer LeBlanc in PVA Theatre Arts has gone on maternity leave while we await news on the birth of her child!

We welcome **Rachel Hanbury** (Nov-January) and **Braden Griffiths** (February to June) to the Theatre Arts team!

We also have **Constantine Anastasikis** subbing weekly for Ms Goutsis and are delighted to have him on the Theatre Arts team also.



# PVA Event Calendar

Nov. 21 - 25	Theatre Arts Fall Play - <i>'She Kills Monsters'</i> - Blackbox Studio 171	Various Times	<b>Sold Out</b>
Nov. 21	PVA Vocal Jazz & Jazz Band Performance - Main Theatre	7:30pm	
Dec. 4	Fall Music Concert at Jubilee Auditorium	7:00pm	Tickets Online
Dec. 5 - 9	Theatre Arts Fall Musical – <i>'Mean Girls, the Musical'</i> - Main Theatre	Various Times	Tickets Online
Dec. 8	CBE Sings Sr High Choral Festival at CMHS	School Hours	
Dec. 13	CMHS/PVA Open House	5:30 - 8:00pm	
Dec. 20	Grade 12 Music Recital at CMHS	7:00pm	Tickets Online
Jan. 12	PVA New Student Applications/Portfolios	Due by Midnight	
Jan. 17	Dance Fusion in CMHS Main Theatre	7:00pm	Tickets at the door only
Jan. 19	CBE Sings Jr High Choral Festival at CMHS	School Hours	
Jan. 23 - 26	PVA New Student Auditions/Interviews	School Hours	
Feb. 3 - 8	PVA Grade 12 New York City International Trip	All Weekend	
Feb. 14 - 16	Jr. High Jazz Honour Band Festival at CMHS	School Hours	

**Tickets online at [centraltickets.net](http://centraltickets.net)**

# PVA Event Calendar – continued

Mar. 15	CADME Vocal Jazz Conference at Joane Cardinal Schubert HS	School Hours	
Mar. 18 - 20	PVA Dance Central - Main Theatre	7:00pm	Tickets at the door only
Apr. 16 - 20	Theatre Arts Spring Play – ' <i>Frankenstein</i> ' - Blackbox Studio 171	Various Times	Tickets online
Apr. 19	CBE Music Percussion Event at CMHS	School Hours	
Apr. 28	Vocal Jazz Performance - Ironwood Stage & Grill	Time TBC	Tickets at the door only
May 7 - 11	Theatre Arts Spring Musical – ' <i>Urinetown</i> ' - Main Theatre	Various Times	Tickets online
May 15	Concert Choir at Knox United	7:00pm	Tickets online
May 16	Orchestra Concert at Knox United	7:00pm	Tickets online
May 22	Band Concert at Rosza Centre at University of Calgary	7:00 pm	Tickets online
May 23	Gala of The Arts Fundraiser Preview Night Art/Media/Fashion	6 - 8:00pm	Tickets online
May 24	Gala of The Arts Fundraiser Performance Night All Programs	6 - 9:30pm	Tickets online
June 4	Dance Fusion in CMHS Main Theatre	7:00pm	Tickets at the door only
June 11	CMHS Fine Arts Awards	6:00pm	
June 14	Grade 12 Visual Arts Showcase, NVRLAND Boutique, Inglewood	Evening	
June 15	Grade 12 Visual Arts Showcase, NVRLAND Boutique, Inglewood	Daytime	

**Tickets online at [centraltickets.net](https://centraltickets.net)**

# PVA Celebrates 20 years!

The Music Program at Central Memorial has a rich history as one of the longest running music programs in Alberta. Central Memorial ensembles are recognized worldwide at festivals and contests, maintaining a world class standard of excellence. The music program has been at Central well over 50 years.

In 2003 the Performing Visual Arts program was created adding Theatre Arts, Dance, Visual Arts, Vocal and Strings to join the music stream.

Fashion and Media Arts joined in 2015 and while Theatre Tech classes have been offered for 20 years, it became an official full-time PVA option this year.

**Here is what the teachers have to say about their programs:**





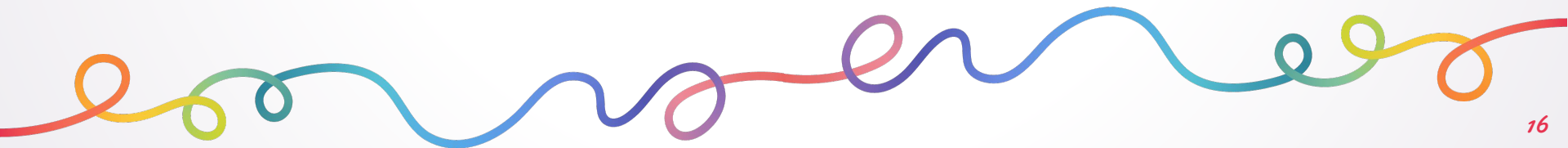
# BAND

Adam Mailman

We have won awards at festivals, taken part in many workshops with leading musical artists, and are bringing percussion to the forefront in Calgary by hosting the Alberta Day of Percussion. We also contribute to the community by hosting a conducting workshop in the spring for teachers. Most recently, we performed for the ERDI Conference at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel for superintendents from across the country, where we received a long standing ovation.

The band has a dedication to balancing new music by composers who we get to interact with as we prepare their works, especially indigenous and other under-represented composers, as well as classic band literature from the history of our art form.

This year, we're actually growing our Spring Concert Series from two nights at Knox by adding a night at the Rosza Centre at the U of C, and an afternoon Jazz Brunch at the Ironwood and we're also commissioning new works for all of our ensembles by Canadian composers from across Western Canada.





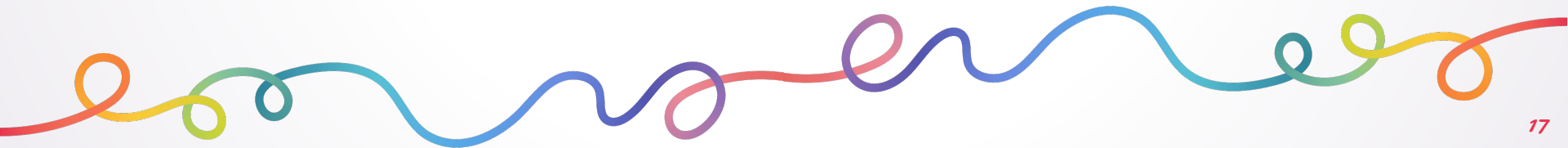
# ORCHESTRA

Katrina Greenbow

When the teachers that created PVA looked at some of the best fine arts schools and programs in Canada and in the US, they noticed there was often an orchestra program as part of the offerings. So they made the wise, but perhaps unorthodox, decision to offer it here at Central. This makes orchestra at Central unique as the longest running orchestral strings program in the CBE. In the early years, the program ran with as few as 4 or 5 kids. Since I inherited the program nearly 10 years ago, it has grown from about 8 kids to an orchestra of about 25 and a beginner program of about 15 a year. The program offers instruction in violin, viola, cello, and double bass.

We are the only CBE school in Calgary to offer a levelled string program, with classes for beginner, intermediate (we call them “Standard” strings) and advanced (the PVA class). Our orchestra has been on tour with the music department to places like Halifax, Whistler, England, and Austria.

Last year in Halifax we won a gold award for our performance at the Atlantic Festival of Music. Our advanced PVA class includes advanced students who perform solos and chamber pieces, and often play in other ensembles like the Calgary Youth Orchestra and the Calgary Fiddlers. Standard strings is for intermediate students with at least a year of experience, and is a place for them to expand their technique and capacity on their instruments. Our beginner program is open to all students at our school and offers a path to music in high school without the need for previous experience.



# A peek at PVA Strings

Filmed, produced & edited by strings student, Kizzy O



# VOCAL

## Amanda Hillestad

The Vocal Programs at Central Memorial High School are comprised of Concert Choir (non-auditioned), PVA Vocal (auditioned), Standard Vocal (non-auditioned), and Vocal Jazz (auditioned). Concert Choir and the Standard Vocal Program are open to all students. Through these programs, students are able to learn technique and gain a better understanding of their instrument and healthy singing.

Over the past 20 years we have developed a unique program where students learn to develop their craft as an individual and ensemble singer. Understanding the voice is complex and continuous throughout one's lifetime, and the Vocal Program has become focused in supporting young singers on this journey.

In the past, we have toured in Europe, Canada and the United States. We have entered into many festivals where we have won awards and have participated in cultural sharing. The Vocal Program at Central Memorial High School has also started the CBE Sings Festival to celebrate community and song. We collaborate with the vocal community in Calgary through performances with the Spiritus Chamber Choir, Luminous Voices, and an upcoming collaboration with the Canadian Chamber Choir. We have also collaborated with the community through senior residence performances and performing at the Field of Crosses.

The vocal program works to support Canadian music through performing music by Canadian composers and integrating Indigenous ways of knowing into our community. We are excited and honoured to have the opportunity to have commissions from Canadian composers writing for our ensembles this year.



# CBE SINGS

Amanda Hillestad

**Junior High/Middle School festival on January 19th** from 2:15-6:30pm! We will be launching a new division of the CBE Sings Festival to support Junior High and Middle School choirs! This event will be hosted at Central Memorial High School, supported by the Central Memorial Student CBE Sings Committee, and spearheaded by choral conductor, Karla Smith!

The **High School Festival is on December 8th** is from 10am-4:30pm. Over 400 students from 10 different CBE High Schools will come together to sing for each other, with each other, share a meal, and play team building games. Luminous Voices will be back again this year for CBE Sings to run clinics and perform!

The CBE Sings Teacher Committee also has some exciting news. The Canadian Chamber Choir will be touring Alberta at the end of February, and our CBE Sings Schools have the opportunity to collaborate with them and Luminous Voices! All CBE Sings participants will also receive a joint ensemble workshop with the Canadian Chamber Choir on either **February 22nd or 23rd**. Schools will come together once more for a 2 hour workshop on vocal health, technique, improvisation and play, as well as a rehearsal on a massed ensemble piece commissioned for this event and composed by Kathryn Parrotta, for the Canadian Chamber Choir and Luminous Voices performance on **February 25th**. Thank you to Taylor Berry who will be supporting the organization of these workshops!! Students will then have the opportunity to sign up on Eventbrite to participate and perform with the CCC and LV on the 25th if they would like.

Junior High/Middle School ensembles who participate in CBE Sings will receive a discount code so they can sign up for the community workshop Saturday morning on **February 24th** and the performance if they choose. They will also have the opportunity to perform in the massed ensemble! The massed ensemble piece commissioned for this event and composed by Kathryn Parrotta will be workshopped at CBE Sings for both the High School and Junior High/Middle School ensembles with Kathryn!

We encourage all families to join us on **February 25<sup>th</sup>** at Knox downtown for this exciting culminating performance! The performance features the Canadian Chamber Choir and Luminous Voices with the final piece being our collaborative commission. See you there!

# DANCE

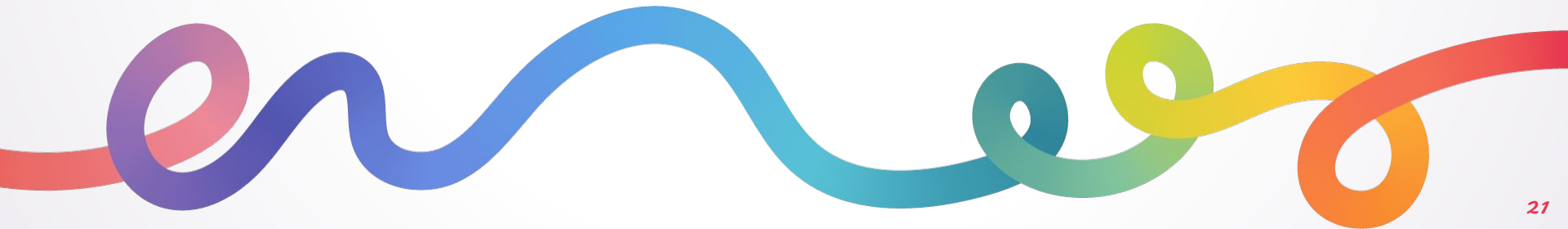
Christie Preston & Suzanne Demers

One of the original graduates of the very first class of PVA Dance, Edgar Reyes, went on to star on So You Think You Can Dance, is one of the co-founders of ILLFX dance studio in Calgary, works internationally with a variety of artists and came back to PVA to be a guest teacher this year.

Many PVA Dance grads are all over the world working as dancers.

We also continue our partnerships we have with Decidedly Jazz Danceworks and ILLFX. We are the only high school with these relationships. The true focus of our program is introducing our students to the huge world of dance as well as to let them see the possibilities for them in dance beyond high school.

We accept all different dancers, not just extremely trained ones. We love working with dancers from all different levels and experiences at Central.



# VISUAL ARTS

Kelly Isaak , Jill Tuttle & Emily Tatulis

The Visual Arts program has doubled in size in the last 5-10 years. As a result we have been able to hire two new Art Teachers AuArts Show Off Competition. CMHS have has winners in a variety of categories and have been awarded many scholarships to post-secondary programs.

Off campus Grad Exhibits– Nvrland & Leighton centre.

Visiting artists come in to work with our students every year is different capacities (workshops, artist talks, etc.)

Many students have continued into post-secondary programs in Canada, the US and internationally.

CMHS got funding to build our own gallery a few years ago. Grade 12 students curate and hang shows in CMHS gallery space. We also bring in professional shows into the gallery through the Alberta Society of Artists Trex Program.

Stampede Poster Contest – participants in top 30 and a top place award winner went to a program graduate.



# FASHION

Katrina Op de Beek

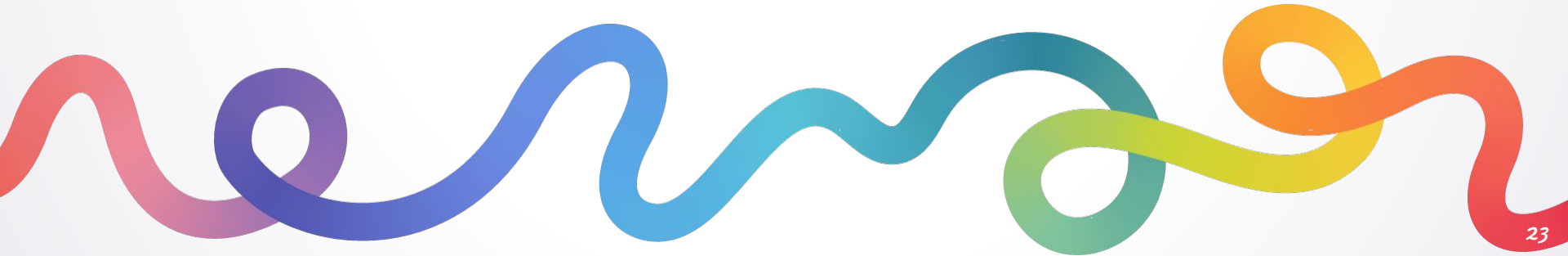
Fashion joined the PVA Programs in 2015.

We've had 1<sup>st</sup> place winners at the annual '*paper dress competition*' at Southcenter and Sunridge Mall.

PVA sewers have qualified to participate in Skills Canada at the Regional level several times.

The fashion students create garments, accessories and alterations for Dance, theatre and school spirit events.

Students have access to industrial machines, equipment and construction practices.



# MEDIA ARTS

## Lane Turner

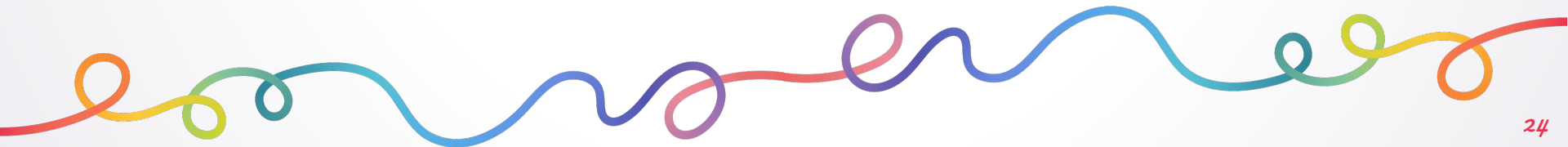
Media Arts also joined the PVA Programs in 2015.

Last year we had 13 PVA Media students compete in the Alberta Provincial Skills Competition where students went to SAIT and the Edmonton Expo Centre to compete in two-day challenges to produce, shoot, and edit media projects in Audio/Video Production, Photography, 2-D and 3-D Computer Animation.

Winners from these competitions went on to represent Team Alberta in the National Skills Competition in Winnipeg where 2 of our PVA Media students won a National Bronze Medal after winning gold at provincials in Edmonton.

Within a 12-hour time limit, these students had to develop a short story, design and animate a character who would sit to stand within a scenario using story items and sound files given at competition.

Our team created two short cartoons with the Alberta gold-winner featuring a bird's interaction with a whoopee cushion, and the national award-winner featuring a character's shock encountering a spider.





# THEATRE ARTS

Michelle Crimmins, Kelly Goutsis, Jennifer LeBlanc & Len Simon

There have been 65 stage productions and 20 radio plays over the last 20 years, only done 2 shows were done twice, so 63 different productions.

With an average of 35 students per production (30 in each play and 40 in each musical) 2000+ students have performed on our stages, and received applause from their families and community in 300+ shows (each production runs multiple nights).

Len Simon, PVA's Technical Theatre teacher, joined PVA in 2005 and since that time he has filled the role of Technical Director for 63 productions and 20 radio plays.

Theatre Tech classes include – stage management, lighting, sound, costumes, make-up, props, set design... everything but acting. The PVA Theatre Arts productions have always included excellent technical elements.

**This year, Theatre Tech joined PVA as a full-time stream of daily classes as well as after school support for productions and school events.**



# 20 Years of PVA Stage Productions

Wizard of Oz

Guys & Dolls 2004

I'm A Little Bit Country & I'm A Little Bit Rock & Roll

The Nightmare Before Christmas

The Outsiders

Seussical the Musical (x2)

Shape of a Girl

Women & Wallace

The Crucible

MMMBeth

Scapino

Scaramouche

The Imaginary Invalid

Faithless

Awesome Girl & Radical Boy

The Albright Pact

Little Women

Urinetown

Beauty & the Beast

Anne

Anything Goes

Our Town

James and the Giant Peach

Crazy For You

Jesus Christ Superstar

Almost Maine

Tongues

The Sound of Music

Thoroughly Modern Millie

Wedgie

Westside Story

Cyrano and Roxanne

The Third Wave

Into the Woods

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Annie The Musical

A Christmas Carol

The Giver

Legally Blonde

The Adding Machine

The Oresteia

Fiddler on the Roof

Les Miserables

Peter Pan

A Midsummer Night's Dream (x2)

Shakespeare's Dog

High School Musical

The Little Mermaid

Treasure Island

Other Worlds

Spoon River Anthology

Mamma Mia

Oliver

The Prom

The Witches

Side Show

The Addams Family

First Act 1 Acts

The Radium Girls

Progress

Rent

Mean Girls

She Kills Monsters



# SHE KILLS MONSTERS

Theatre Arts Fall Play Photos, **thank you Joni Millar**

Click [HERE](#) to see all the photos



# Fine Arts Land Acknowledgement

Central Memorial High School stands south and west of where the Bow and Elbow rivers meet, on the traditional territory and in acknowledgement of the traditional practices of the Blackfoot confederacy which includes the Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani, as well as the Tsuut'ina, Stoney Nakoda First Nations and Metis Nation (Region 3). This land is known by many names to many people, including Moh'kinsstis. We are grateful to the Indigenous caretakers of this land for the opportunity to call it our shared artistic home, as we are all peoples of Treaty 7.

We are committed to working alongside all Nations, Indigenous and non, who live, work, create, and play on this land. We will establish spaces where all are recognized and encouraged to use their voices and find belonging. We know that this work does not end with acknowledgements but instead it starts with each of us making the commitment to pause and listen, seek understanding, and apply actions that amplify the collective voice within our community year after year.

